

Wutor Mahama Baleng



I am Wutor Mahama Baleng, one of the 2018 graduates of Educational Pathways International (EPI) scholarship program at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). I studied Medicine (MBCh.B).

I come from a large extended family and unfortunately lost both of my parents before I was 11 years old. With this background, I have always known that education is the only way to break the vicious cycle of poverty. I have therefore been unrelenting in my academic pursuits.

I graduated from the Tumu Junior High School in 2008 and was awarded together with 19 others the Presidential Award for the Best Performing Students at the Basic Education Certificate Examination, which provided a scholarship for me in senior high school. After four years, I graduated from Nandom Senior High School in the northern region of Ghana, obtaining distinction and so got admission to read Medicine at KNUST and University for Development Studies. Having stayed in the northern part of Ghana all my life, I decided to come to KNUST, so I could experience the culture and life of the south.

First year of medical school was quite tough as I had to struggle not just because of the new environment but because of financial constraints. However in my second year, I joined the EPI program and it has been one of the life-changing events in my life.

The scholarship program did not only provide financial support but also academic mentorship and training through the Program Director. It was exciting to meet with other scholars, students with very similar backgrounds as me and to share and discuss ideas in their various fields of study. This, to me makes the EPI scholarship program distinctive from other programs in the school.

Medical school has been demanding, but on the day when our final results were released, and we knew that we were finally Doctors, the joy was like that of a mother in labour who has just given birth, you suddenly forget all the pain that you went through. Being the first in my family to obtain university education, the entire family was

ecstatic. I look back and can only be thankful to EPI for the support they gave me. If not for their support, it would have been extremely difficult to get to obtain no less a university degree than an MBCh.B.

I can finally see all the dreams I have nursed over the years actually coming to pass. Now, after school, I would be doing two years of housemanship at a teaching hospital to bring healing and to consolidate my knowledge in Medicine. While in school, one area of medicine that really interested me much was the interaction between medicine and the community. How poverty, climate change and pollution turn to affect the health of individuals and populations. After my house job therefore, I intend to take up a residency or a PhD in Public Health to help create better health systems and policies not just for individuals but for the community.