

“For my field work for the Minor Crossing Borders, I volunteered for the NGO Baby Hope House, which is in Durban, South Africa. The Baby Hope House’s mission is to take care and provide abandoned children in the age of 0-24 months a temporary home until they will be adopted. The Baby Hope House ensures with great passion and empathy that the abandoned children receive everything children need to develop healthily and to live a happy life. During my time at the Baby Hope House I was able to gain so many valuable and beneficial experiences in working with newborns, babies and children. I could accompany the daily routines of the children. Next to my practical tasks I worked on my field study research that had the aim to investigate the underlying causes of child abandonment to design an intervention that will help to reduce these causes and to fight the high and rising rate of child abandonment in Durban. It was a highly beneficial experience to conduct my research within the country and to be onsite and witness the problem. The University of Twente offered great support in form of my supervisor, who was always there to assist with everything via emails from overseas and in form of the TMF, which was a huge financial support to fund the time in South Africa. I am so grateful for the time in South Africa and for everything I learned. I will definitely benefit from it and I can recommend everyone who is thinking to go aboard with the Crossing Borders Minor to do it because it will be an experience you will never forget.”

