

Education for All Morocco

Education for All



WE WANT TO GIVE GIRLS THE CHANCE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION IN MOROCCO BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IF YOU EDUCATE A GIRL, YOU EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION AS WELL.

Minister of Social Development Visits Dar Asni

12 Girls Start College at Talat n'Yacoub
We are pleased to announce that our new house in Talat n'Yacoub opened successfully with an intake of 12 girls in their first year. Turn to page 2 for more news.



- ### Highlights
- Visit from the Minister of Social Development
 - 12 Girls start at Talat n'Yacoub
 - New volunteers— Liz, Karima, Nicola, and Ilaria
 - Spotlight on...

On Saturday 5 December 2009, Latifa and the girls were thrilled to be visited by the Government Minister for Social Development, Mme Nouzha Skalli. Mme Skalli was visiting a large number of projects in the region, accompanied by the Governor of Al Haouz, M. Bouchaib El Mou-taoukil.

Welcomed by drummers and traditional dancers outside the house, Mme Skalli arrived with a huge entourage of aides, officials, and press! Latifa gave her an excellent tour of the house and introduced her to some of the girls. Mme Skalli urged the girls to study hard, so that they might be a Minister one day too.



We had two days to prepare. The always-spotless house was cleaned even more thoroughly than usual; information and photographs were displayed on our boards; banners and flags decorated the building; food and drinks were prepared.

The visit lasted a whirlwind 20 minutes. Latifa did a wonderful job representing EFA and we had incredibly positive feedback from Le Caid who told us that Mme Skalli had never seen a project like it and was incredibly impressed.



Get involved!

- Want to get involved? Here are some ideas:
- Visit our website at <http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/donate/index.html> for tips on how to donate
 - Are you a company looking to support us? Join our corporate sponsors
 - Are you participating in an event and looking for a charity to donate your funds to? Visit <http://www.justgiving.com/efam/> to make a page where your funds go directly to the girls
 - Financially adopt a girl to ensure that she has the opportunity to complete three years of college education

“Alone we can do little, together we can do much”

News from Talat n'Yacoub

Our house in Talat n'Yacoub opened in the first week of October with 12 girls starting in their first year at secondary school.

Talat n'Yacoub is one hour further into the High Atlas mountains than Asni and at a higher altitude – which means it's a lot colder! We have had a lot of rain and snow in recent weeks, so the first priority has been to make some changes in the house to keep the girls warm. When it has been sunny and warm, the girls have been able to make use of the big roof terrace for activities or studying in the sunshine, which is a great advantage for them.

The girls at Talat n'Yacoub have real difficulties at school. They come from very poor, very remote villages where primary education is of a very

low standard. As a result, despite being bright and capable girls, they enter secondary school at a low starting point and a great disadvantage.

As well as supporting the house mother in her day-to-day duties, my main focus has been to help the girls with their studies to improve their marks in class. We have also had some teachers coming to the house to give extra lessons to the girls, which has been great. And recently, a local nurse (and former teacher) has volunteered to help the girls in her spare time.

We have faced some challenges in the first few months. But we have



great support from the school and the local community and we can already see that the girls are making progress in their studies. And there has also been a lot of good times and laughter for everybody in the house!

Karima Targaoui

International Volunteers (and only one of them is an Aussie!)

This year, EFA and the girls are benefitting from an internationally diverse group of volunteers.

In September, **Liz Toole** arrived from London to spend 4 months with the girls at Dar Asni. Liz visited Morocco for the first time in April last year and was particularly struck by the warmth and generosity of the Berber families in the poorest areas of the country. The EFA project provided an opportunity for Liz to give something back.

In early November, **Karima Targaoui** volunteered to help establish

the new house at Talat n'Yacoub. Born in France to Moroccan parents, Karima speaks Tachelhit (the girls' Berber language) and brings a unique insight and understanding to the project. As always with a new venture, there have been some early challenges, and we are very grateful to have had Karima's highly capable support at Talat n'Yacoub.

Nicola Johnson carries the flag for Australia this year! She has just arrived to take over from Liz at Dar Asni and intends to spend almost 6 months with the girls and Latifa. Re-

cently TESOL qualified, Nicola will continue with the girls' English lessons and indoctrination into all things Aussie(!)

And **Ilaria Pignatelli** will be with us soon for two months as part of a gap year before university. Ilaria visited Dar Asni when she was a pupil at Bristol Grammar School. She will be arriving from England, but boasts a combination of Polish and Italian roots, which should provide some interesting times for the girls!



Spotlight on:

Name: Loubna Ait Bouihia

Age: 12

School Year: 1st year at Talat n'Yacoub

Home: Tagmout

Mother's occupation: Housewife

Favourite subject: French

When I am 20, I see myself: Continuing my studies to become a teacher.

Dar Asni Gripped by Knitting Fever!

In October, another welcome visit from Sam brought knitting fever to Dar Asni! Armed with a pair of needles for everybody and a huge bag of wool donated by friends and family, Sam set about teaching the girls to “knit-one-pearl-one”. The girls took to it with huge enthusiasm and varying degrees of success, resulting in some unique creations, some knotty tangles, and not a little frustrated unravelling as they started all over again! But they persevered, helped along when Liz’s mum visited in November, and Dar Asni echoed with the “click-click” of needles for several weeks...



But vaccinated for « La Grippe »

In December, both houses had a visit from doctors offering all the girls the option of an H1N1 vaccination. A Government-sponsored initiative, it was not obligatory for the girls. They were fully informed and encouraged to make their own decision. A large number of brave girls had the jab—but a few couldn’t overcome their fear of the needle! We hope that all the girls will continue in good health this year.

Spotlight on:

Name: Zahra Ait Raimi
 Age: 13
 Home: Imlil
 School Year: 1st year at Asni
 Mother’s occupation: Housewife
 Favourite subject: Arabic
 When I am 20, I see myself: Studying to be a doctor—inch’allah!



The Big Birthday Party!

On 19th October, the girls at Dar Asni threw a “Big Birthday Party” to celebrate all the girls who had birthdays in September and October. There were cakes, balloons, fizzy drinks, music, dancing (lots of dancing!) and Liz organised some very lively party games. If decibels are a measure of success, then Liz’s future as a party planner is assured!



Things To Look Forward To...

Cairo American College

The Cairo American College will be visiting Dar Asni again this year in the spring, as part of the College’s Week Without Walls programme. We look forward to welcoming them.

St Dominics International School

At the end of March, we may have a group of volunteers from St Dominics International School in Portugal coming to share insights and fun with the girls.

Bristol Grammar School

BGS will be making a welcome return to Dar Asni at the beginning of April. The girls look forward to thanking them in person for their continued support and incredible fundraising.

Sotogrande International School

In April, a group from the Sotogrande International School Dar Asni will be visiting us again. We look forward to a typically lively cultural exchange—or musical mayhem...?!

This is just to mention a few... **A huge thank you** to all the schools, our sponsors, and everyone else who gets involved with EFA by fundraising to support the girls in their continuing education. If you would like to get involved, visit the website at: <http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/get-involved/index.html>



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**EDUCATION FOR ALL
MOROCCO**

*If you educate a girl, you
educate the next
generation as well.*

Thank you, Liz!

Liz (our first British volunteer!) joined the girls at Dar Asni in September 2009. Recently qualified as a TESOL English teacher, Liz organised a programme of English lessons for the girls, helped with their homework (when it wasn't in Arabic!) and introduced some fun and games to the house—particularly at the Big Birthday Party in October (see above).



Coming from a background in communications, Liz has been a big help in the work of the Committee and hopes to stay involved in the future of EFA. Her next adventure will take her Down Under, where a (re)union with Dar Asni's previous volunteers, Linda and Zoe, is in the pipeline—if her new career as a party planner hasn't taken off by then...

Upcoming Events

We are pleased to say that our annual events are becoming a regular feature in the diaries of our sponsors and supporters. If you are new to EFA and you would like to get involved, these occasions are the ideal way to join in with our activities. Here are those key dates for your diary in 2010...



- The **Annual Charity Bike Ride** takes place for one week, starting on **Saturday 27th March 2010**, based in and around Marrakech and the High Atlas mountains. Follow this link for further details:

<http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/get-involved/events/bike-holiday.html>



- The **Dar Asni Open Day** will take place on **Sunday 25th April 2010**. Visit the house in Asni and then join us and the girls for a mechoui lunch at the Kasbah du Toubkal.

For more details and to reserve your place, contact Mike McHugo at: mike@educationforallmorocco.org

If you would like to organise an annual fundraising event for Education for All Morocco, we'd love to hear from you!

Education for All www.efamaroc.org
Morocco

Volunteers Required



Education for All have two boarding houses for girls in Asni (45km from Marrakech) and Talat n'Yacoub (100km from Marrakech). We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to live and work in our houses to support the house mothers in both house and administrative duties.

- Your work in the house will involve cooking, sharing cultural experiences and teaching basic English and computer skills.
- You should be open to trying new things and willing to share your own customs and recipes.

Do you have 3 or 6 months to give to help girls in rural Morocco?

- Your working conditions will be flexible to accommodate the aspects you would like to focus on during your stay.



Recruiting now for **2010 and 2011**.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist the girls in Morocco, please contact info@educationforallmorocco.org