



June 2017  
#21

# NEWSLETTER

**EDUCATION**  
*for all*



## **10** YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Education For All timeline

## **MARRAKECH ATLAS ETAPE**

They made it !

## **VOLUNTTEERS FEEDBACK**

Share with them their wonderful  
experience

**W**elcome to a very exciting edition of the EFA newsletter. We are celebrating our 10th birthday this year! We wanted to share this celebration with all of you with some fun times down memory lane, as well as some ideas to continue to support us into the next stage of our future. We will hear about how it was in the beginning, show some old photos, share stories from girls who have been with us from the beginning and are now at Uni, and share about some future projects as well as thank those who have supported us to grow from strength to strength!



# 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY—HIGHLIGHTS

2007



## Sept 2007

Welcoming the first girls to a rented apartment in Asni .

« First meeting with the committee members and the first 10 girls. New job, new environment for me. »

*Latifa Aliza*

2008

## April 2008

Official opening of Dar Asni1.

« Meeting with many interesting volunteers engaged in EFA. »

*Latifa Aliza*



2009



Girls from Dar Asni1 with Latifa Aliza and Sonia Omar—May 2016



2009



Girls from Dar Tinmel—May 2016

2010



**Sept 2009**

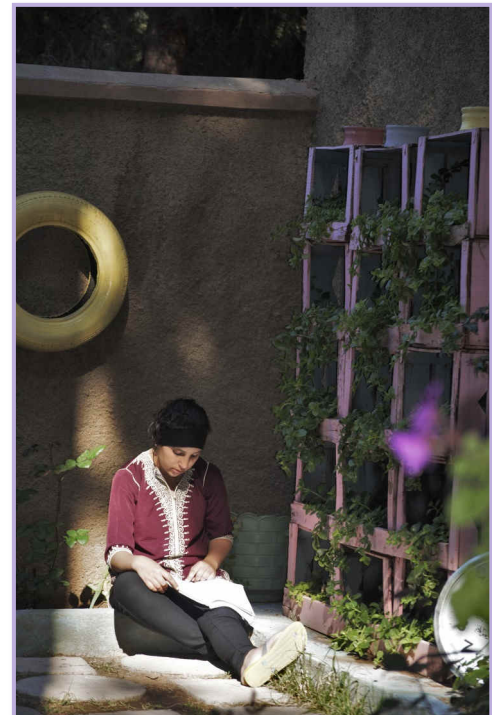
2nd house rented, opened in Talat n'Yacoub—Dar Tinmel

2011



**Sept 2010**

3rd house built in Ouirgane - Dar Ouirgane



One of the girls, studying in Dar Ouirgane's garden—May 2016

### Sept 2011

His Excellency Mr Clive Alderton, British Ambassador to Morocco, becomes patron.



### July 2013

The first girls obtained the baccalaureate and went to university in Marrakech.



### Sept 2013

4th house rented Asni - Dar Asni 2



Aïcha, Dar Asni 2 house mother

Sept 2016

5th house built in Asni - Dar Asni 3



Since 2007 almost **300 girls** had access to an education through our organisation and **THANKS TO YOU.**

**Next step — Let's build house number 6!**

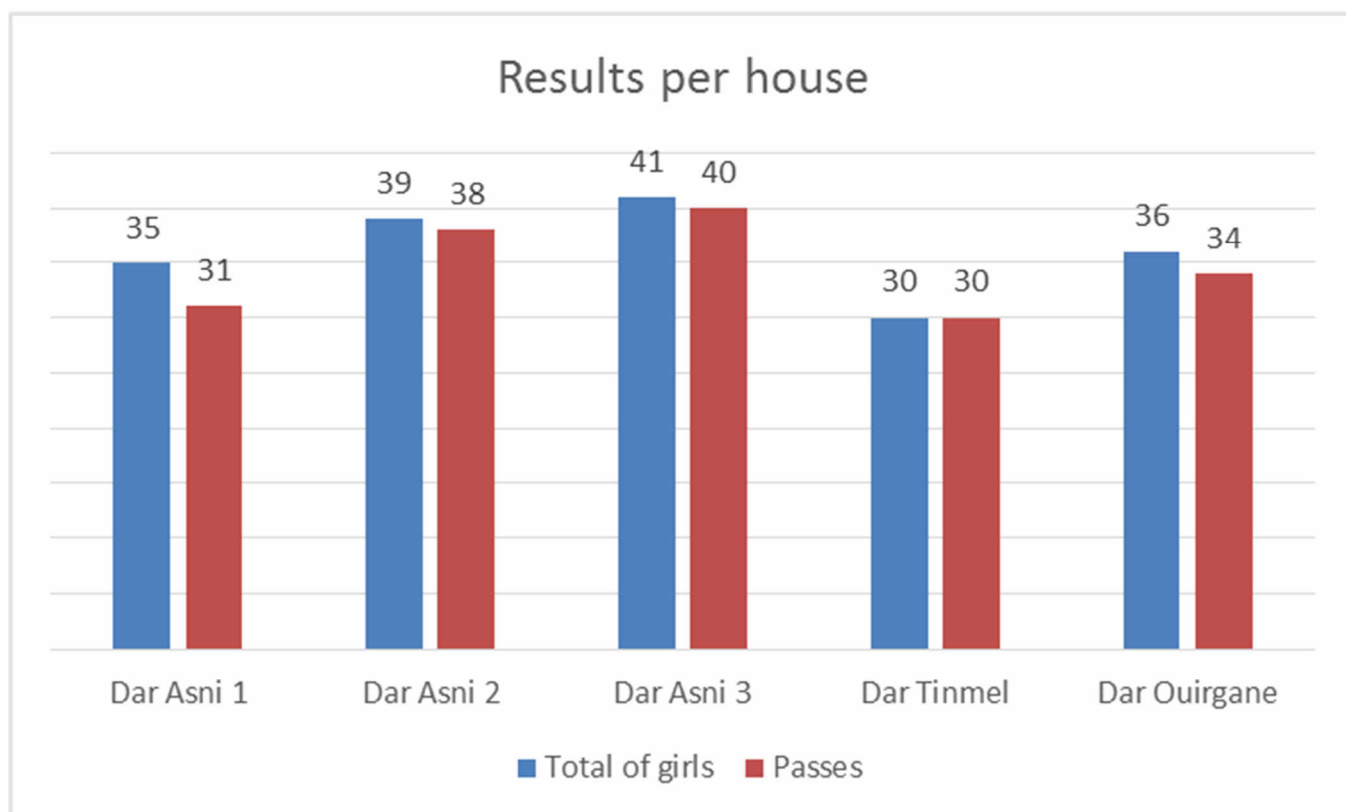
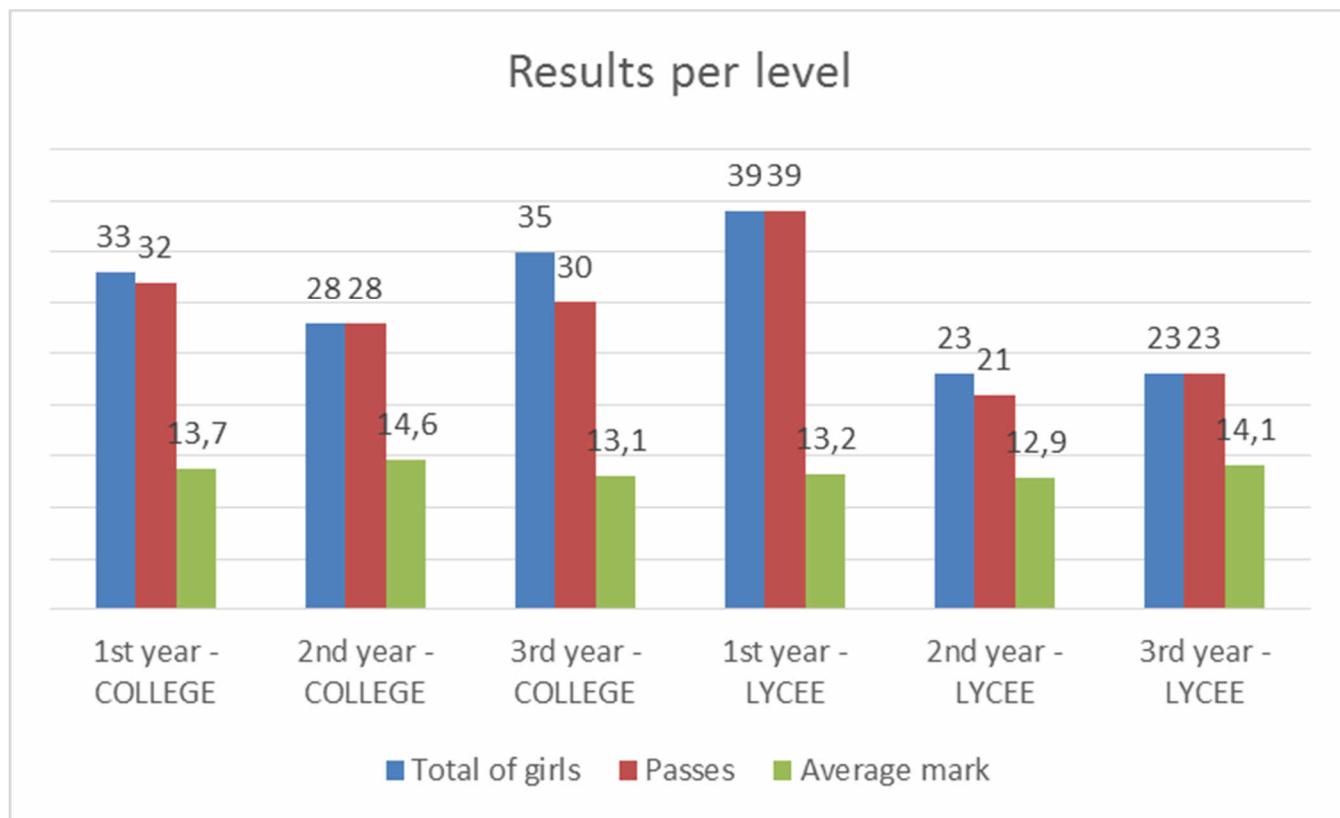


**W**e will launch our 10 year anniversary with a new fundraising campaign. The goal is to raise money to **build our 6th house by Sept 2018!** You can check the fundraiser out here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/efam/sixthboardinghouse>

**Check it out and share it with friends!**

**B**elow are the latest **results** of the first semester 2017. The girls are now passing their exams to validate their school year, we wish them good luck !



# MARRAKECH ATLAS ETAPE



**O**n Sunday 30th April we had another successful Marrakech Atlas Etape - our annual cyclosportive which starts from the exotic city of Marrakech up to the ski resort of Oukaimden in the High Atlas Mountains was again full of men and women in lycra of all ages and 10 different countries. We even had 7 EFA girls taking part this year who just learned to ride bikes less than a year ago! We would love to see this event grow as part of the proceeds go directly to EFA- so you can enjoy not only a personal achievement but ensure a collective one too! You can see more photos and updates here. Please share it with your friends who like to ride a bike competitively or simply like being out on two wheels amidst breath-taking scenery: <https://www.marrakech-atlas-etape.com>





## SOME WORDS FROM OUR GIRLS WHO MADE THE MAE THIS YEAR



Kalthoum, on the left

« My name is Aïcha, i'll sit the baccalaureate ( A'level equivalent) this year. I participated this year in the Marrakech Atlas Etape (MAE)- it was an amazing and new experience, I was so excited !! I made it to 52 km. When i came back to my village, everyone was surprised and did not expect me to make it. I'm proud of myself !

I took my number, my medals and the flyers and I hung them up in my house, so that everyone who comes to visit us sees it. I'm the only one in my village who took part in a biking race. »

« My name is Kalthoum, I'm also studying the baccalaureate. The MAE was so great, it's the first time that I participated in a race. I've made it to 52 km like Aïcha, we did not expect to make it.

I hope that more girls will participate next year. And next year we will go up to Oukaimden, for sure ! We'll just need to have better clothing to make it to the top! Thank you for giving us this chance. »



The girls made a first step into the world of cinema this year at school. They studied the different trades around this theme and two of our girls participated in making a movie ! The movie talks about the girls in the remote villages and the berber life in general. Kalthoum was one of the actresses and Meriem was the producer. This is a new experience which gave them more ideas and inspiration for their future...

Latifa Aliza has been involved since the beginning . She saw the number of girls and houses raise over the years. We wanted to know more about her feelings over these 10 years and what she sees for the girls' future.



**When you started working with EFA what did you hope/expect it would become and how do you feel it has progressed?**

I never thought that EFA would be so successful, especially because I'm from the same area and I know how the parents were reluctant to let the girls continue their studies. It's wonderful now, all the parents want their girls to continue their studies in the EFA's boarding houses.



**You started as a house mother but what is your work now?**

I started as a house mother and now I'm the head of the house mothers, in charge of the coordination of all the houses. I'm still the house mother in Dar Asni I, I love to be near my girls.

**What do you see as its future?**

More girls at the university. More girls returning to their village to spread their knowledge and educate the girls/women in their villages. Many organizations asks us for information to do the same project in other areas, this will change the education system in Morocco and took the villages out of isolation.

**Could you please tell us what you think the five or six high points have been over the last decade.**

*September 2007:* First meeting with the committee members and the first 10 girls. New job, new environment for me.

*April 2008:* official opening of Dar Asni I. Meeting with many interesting volunteers engaged in EFA.

*October 2008:* First meeting with Linda, the first volunteer. I was running the house like it was my home with my girls and Linda did a great job by helping me to organise things in the house and create new rules etc... It was a big challenge for me and a major change in the house.

*Feb 2013:* first time that we had the results from 6 different levels, from the first year of college to the baccalaureate. I remember that I said to myself that nothing is impossible, the girls reached the last year of lycee and they had good results.

*July 2013:* The first girls obtained the baccalaureate. Meeting with the English ambassador who organized a ceremony to congratulate them.

*Sept 2016:* I felt so happy to see many girls coming with their parents and so sad to have to choose and exclude some girls because of the lack of space.



**How do you feel having seen some of the young girls who first started at Asni ten years ago now finish university?**

I'm so proud of them, they worked so hard to be there. I am particularly proud of them all because when I first met these girls in their villages they were all crying and didn't understand why their parents accepted to let them go so far with strangers. I'm confident for their future, they will be good women/mothers for their children and a good example for girls who will know that when you educate a girl you educate the next generations as well.



**What have some of the girls who didn't go to university done since they left school?**

The girls who did not go to university started projects in their villages to educate girls/women. They also spread our message and push the girls to continue their studies after the primary school. Some of them are married, but I'm sure that they will push their children to follow their studies.

**Do you feel proud of the work you have done to help girls from poor homes who would never have had an education?**

When I see the girls' progress and personal change, I'm really proud of what I've done. It's not only a job for me, it's a part of my life, I need to help them, touch them and make a change in their life.

# FUNDING OVERVIEW

We have continued for 10 years due to all the financial support we have received over the years. As well as the many individuals who fundraise by getting on a bike, doing a long walk or trekking from mountains to desert to raise funds for us, we also are fortunate to have received ongoing funding from some key major donors, such as 4 Acres Trust, Communitas, The Dutch4Kids, PURE, and CEGID. Repeat donations like this mean we can plan ahead and expand our vision to reach more and more girls who would otherwise be without an education and a future they deserve. If you would like to make a major donation, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our fundraiser:

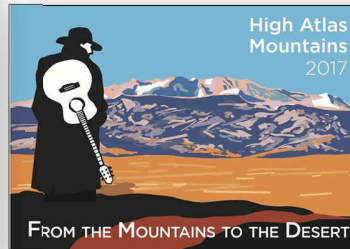
[sonia@efamorocco.org](mailto:sonia@efamorocco.org)

## Sponsor a Girl in 2017- the best birthday gift!



What better way to celebrate our **ten year anniversary** than opting to sponsor a girl for 2017! It's so easy to set up a sponsorship. You can either make a one off donation of \$1000/£800 or set up a monthly standing order of £60! We will then gather updates about the girl you are sponsoring so you can witness first-hand the progress and empowerment they are receiving.

## Walking from the Mountains to the Desert the courageous story of Steve Carter!



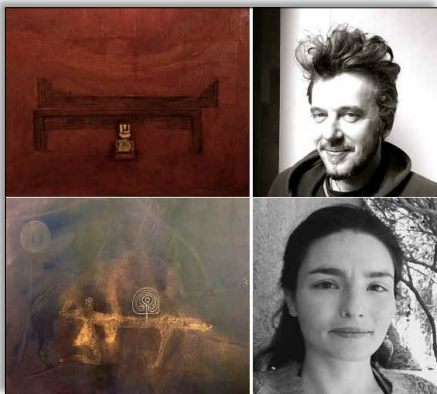
**Steve Carter** has just raised over £3000 by walking from the High Atlas mountains to the desert of South Morocco. Read about what inspired him to take on this courageous challenge...."In a world full of catastrophes and disasters - why an education charity in Morocco? For me

the choice is not a real one, doesn't it make sense to both want to respond to immediate disasters and to help in a little way to make the future more positive for people? And Education is probably the most powerful way to make the world a better place. As the father of three wonderful daughters (and one right on son!) I am aware that they have been brought in a world which although not yet perfect they have had opportunities denied to most girls in most of the world..."

Read more from Steve's blog [here](#)

If you feel moved to donate, his fundraising page is [here](#):

## An Unexpected Gift! Hear about how an exhibition dedicated to EFA came to be in Marrakesh by French artists Sophie Gabrielle Marie and Christophe Souques



After visiting EFA in October 2016, two artists from South West France had the opportunity to exhibit their work in Marrakesh and were moved to use it as a platform to raise awareness and celebrate the work of Education For All. Read about their experience:

[Christophe] "Simply we were touched by the profound value and the direct meaning of EFA's mission; we say 'mission', because we all have a mission in this life, and it was a chance to meet intimately the mission of others. When that happens, it opens us up. It pushes us farther, closer. With " Education For All ", and all the women, it's like that. When we paint, we like to give everything, and that's what they do too. Morocco, these young students, the meeting with Abdellatif at Riad Dar Cherifa which preserves a sacred heritage... all of this was a crossroads, like several rivers that converge. And it becomes a more powerful river headed directly to the ocean. It is a poetic way of seeing life!

As a young Moroccan said to me about his respect for the Amazigh people: "An Amazigh is someone who every day is looking for solutions to live as a king without politics."

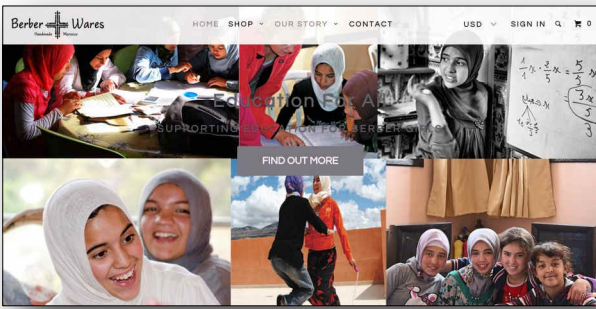
We are all here to support our projects of collective consciousness, this "trip" to the ocean. The young students, with their house mothers and those who lead the mission, came to see the exhibition before the opening night. We went around the exhibition together. It was good to see how they actually look. In their eyes, everything is fresh, and shining with discovery. When we take a new path, we become more receptive, it is the unlimited gift!"



[Sophie] "Like a river of humility, courage and authenticity, the meeting with the girls from Education for All is a powerful lesson in life, which speaks of a generosity of being that benefits everyone; something priceless. The project of creating, exhibiting and thus contributing to this association is a profound gift."

## COPORATE SPONSORS UPDATE

### Berber Wares



We continue to be supported by small businesses who are turning their profit power into empowerment for girls. We spoke to Berberwares, a new addition to our list of corporate supporters, and they share here why they chose EFA...

"Why EFA? It's so simple!" **Berber Wares** is a company that offers an exquisite collection of quality handmade goods lovingly crafted by Berber artisans of Morocco's High Atlas Mountains. We work very closely with these artisans helping them understand our clients needs and expectations. By doing so we have come to appreciate how much training and education they need. We discovered that this not only applies to work situations but carries over into their family and private lives as well. We especially noticed how keen young Berber girls were on receiving an education. Thinking about their future. For this reason we wanted to give back to the Berber people that have helped and done so much for us over the past years. We decided that we wanted to donate part of our profit to them and started looking for a charity that combined all of this. We came across Education for All which, we believed, incorporated exactly what we wanted by supporting Berber families & Education. Having lived in Morocco for some years we have also seen the progress and solid commitment that EFA sustains. We fell in love with their commitment to these girls and felt their mission, among other things, of building boarding houses and enabling Berber girls to attend school was just fantastic. Not only do we want our financial contribution to help EFA upkeep their good work and grow but by donating a percentage from our customers purchases we also aim to raise awareness of such a worthy cause among our clients.

### Amaz



The girls loved meeting **Fadella** and seeing the new Moroccan inspired sneakers. Fadella, the Founder of **@AMAZsneakers** explained why she was inspired to use her business to support girls education and why she loved EFA. She also encouraged them to go for their own dreams! The sneakers will soon be available in Morocco. We can't wait to get some!

[www.facebook.com/AmazSneakers](http://www.facebook.com/AmazSneakers)

## SCHOOLS UPDATE

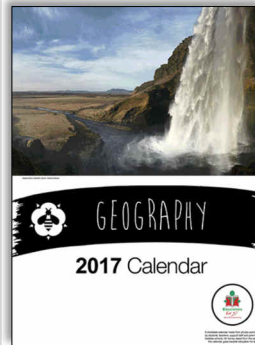
### A message from long-term supporters

#### Bristol Grammar School



The **Bristol Grammar School** autumn term was full of charity events and fundraising for Education for all Morocco. Every Friday we had a staff cake sale and that gave us a steady flow of money. As well as the cake sales, all members of the charity committee were selling and wearing EFA Morocco badges. Our first major raiser was clearing up Canford Park after their fireworks display, as well as helping the local community we were able to raise £200. This followed by a non-uniform day, where pupils brought in £2 and raised over £2000. The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the BGS Christmas Market, the great hall was transformed with over 30 stalls from local businesses, students, parents and staff selling gift ideas, homemade treats and home accessories. We also created a BGS wildlife calendar and a colouring book to sell at the market. Our final fund raisers of the term was our bucket collections at various theatrical events in our theatre. From all our efforts, BGS raised a £4267.27. It has been a pleasure supporting Education For All Morocco and hope to continue to support the charity in coming years.

### Fancy a great fundraising idea for your school?



Sevenoaks and Bedales school make a **geography calendar** each year, with photos from students, parents, teachers and support staff. They chose the best pictures and produce a calendar which they **sell and donate all the profits to EFA!**

**Could your school try this?**

<http://gbedales.bigcartel.com/product/2017-geography-calendar>

<https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/education-for-all-morocco>

We are inviting schools across the UK to join in our **UK wide fundraising campaign this year**. We have many school supporters but this is the first time we are bringing everyone together to celebrate the power of students to contribute to the life and future of other students. **We plan to bring together 40 schools** with a target each that, if reached, will mean we can look towards **building a new house in 2018!** The students will also be added to a Facebook group so they can connect and share their tips and activities together, inspiring one another. If you are a teacher and would like to participate, please contact Sonia [sonia@efamorocco.org](mailto:sonia@efamorocco.org) for a fundraising pack and more details.

# VOLUNTEERS



**Meryam spent 3 months as a volunteer with EFA. Here she shares her top 5 benefits of volunteering with us.**

- You become culturally diverse, you are involved in a culture that introduces you to a variety of new perspectives that otherwise you wouldn't easily get living in other parts of the worlds such as the United States for me.
- You are not just a teacher, you also become a role model for these young girls so you learn how to act accordingly. You become their big sister that they look up to.
- You learn that small things go a long way! You teach the girls a small thing such as new



English words and they learn how to plug those words in their daily lives so they can practice them more and more and make you, the teacher, appreciated as well as gaining confidence in themselves!

- I've learned that by being part of these girls lives, you don't just teach, you learn from them as well! You learn their hardships and their circumstances that give you a different perspective on how hard it could be for some. You become an active listener.
- You learn how to adjust quickly since these girls and the staff make a wonderful cozy environment that's easily adaptable! You also learn love, courage and acceptance.



**Sophie our volunteer from Sevenoaks School - her experience fundraising for us and now volunteering for us.**

I arrived at the boarding house nervous about what to expect, what the girls would be like, how our lessons would run and how I would adapt to life at Dar Asni. However, as soon as I walked through the door, Latifa introduced me to the girls and they shouted out to me: "hello" and "good morning", keen to welcome me in my native language. Immediately, I knew that I had nothing to worry about and both the girls and the staff welcomed me in with open arms. I spent the first day adjusting to the boarding house and looking around the town, buying any supplies I'd forgotten at home. That evening Latifa went through my timetable and what my routine would be. I was slightly nervous once again as I hadn't really met the girls since this morning. As I sat in the kitchen alone, I heard a noise from next door so I wandered in to see what the girls were up to. They were all rearranging the chairs towards the TV in order to watch it together. As soon as one of the girls noticed me, they excitedly beckoned me over to sit with them, right in the middle. Despite some of the girls never having seen me, they huddled up to me and we all watched the show happily. I was so grateful for that moment. To me, that evening sums up my whole experience with the girls. Never have I met such a loving, enthusiastic and kind group of girls. I was honoured to work with them and to help them in any way that I could. They are so loving and supportive of each other, always looking after one another and even me. They were never late to class, were keen to read with me in the evenings, learn as much English as possible and also to teach me Arabic! All this was reiterated when I spent a week at the senior house and all the girls are a real credit to EFA. I am so grateful for the incredible experience that they gave to me and I know that I will miss them all dearly.



To everyone involved with EFA from the girls to the staff, thank you.

## **A day of awarness on reproductive health**

In January, Alana and Natalie Bennett of the Canadian organization **The Red Tent Project** came in to EFA and taught the girls an overview of their reproductive health, with a focus on menstrual cycles, teaching the girls about various menstrual hygiene management options including menstrual cups. They talked about the importance of self care and hygiene to ensure the girls stay healthy and happy so that they can continue to attend school.

The Red Tent Project supports girls in developing communities by providing them with the menstrual hygiene supplies and knowledge they need to comfortably attend and participate in school. The girls were very curious and asked many intelligent questions.

<http://projectredtent.org>





Having spent two months volunteering in Dar Asni 3 in 2015 I couldn't wait to come back. Even though I've only been here for just under three weeks it's been the most wonderful experience. It was just great to see Khadija, the housemother, and Khamisa and Latifa, the cook and cleaning lady again and of course all the girls who were still in the house. I was given such a warm welcome that I felt as if I were coming home! There were lots of new faces but they were all as keen as ever to improve their English and French, so I did a lot of extra classes when they were free during the day as well as helping with homework in the evening and generally chatting. There were many changes in Asni 3 as it had only recently opened when I was last here. Now there are computers, sofas in the entrance hall, pictures on the wall, curtains and so many plants in the garden which is looking beautiful. The other change is the arrival of two bicycles which the girls are crazy about, so I've been taking them out to practise, around the house. It's been just brilliant when some of them have learnt to ride for the first time – no mean feat when you are 16 or 17. I've taken others on the road to Imlil which is equally challenging as it is remarkably steep. So what with that and doing keep fit with the girls as well as walking it's been a pretty energetic few weeks! The other highlight has been going to Marrakech with Khadija to visit the girls who have moved on to university. They welcomed us with a delicious lunch of couscous in their house and it was just great to find out how they are getting on as it is a big jump to go from little Asni, not to mention their villages, to the big city and all the challenges of university. But I could see that being together in a house supported by EFA has made a huge difference to them. So all in all it's been a wonderful three weeks and I just wish I could stay longer. If you are thinking about volunteering here I can't recommend it highly enough. It's one of the most rewarding things I've done and I can't wait to come back next year!



Jean



To continue to help us building the new house, Jean organised a brilliant party with lots of Scottish dancing! They raised over over £2000. Everyone was incredibly generous. Thank you all !



### **Linda—our first volunteer, came back to visit Latifa**

Latifa is one of the best friends I have ever had, she's like a sister, really, We had some tricky times at the beginning and I'm so lucky that she and the girls were so accepting of my quirks.

My favourite memory was our first trip to the souq. When I arrived we would get a weekly delivery of fruit and vegetables by donkey. If we needed anything during the week we would call on local men to buy them for us. Latifa did an amazing job of making the best of what she received – and we were never sure exactly what she would receive – but with so many people to feed we realised we needed a better system. Together we hatched a plan to create a menu, make a shopping list and go to the souq to buy what we needed ourselves. A very adventurous thing to do in a small Moroccan mountain town at that time.

When EFA began, it was an exercise in trust. The committee, Latifa, Hajj Maurice and a few brave pioneering parents took a chance to ensure girls from remote villages had access to education. It was their humble hope that the girls would strive to succeed in their education while being nurtured in a home away from home. With five houses now full of girls and parents lining up to ask EFA to accept their daughter, EFA has certainly succeeded. EFA is not just about safely housing girls for the duration of their education. The work of the organisation has changed the way local people view girls and their education. Villages are asking for more EFA houses to be built, and we must continue to provide opportunities for the most remote and poorest girls so that every girl can be educated.

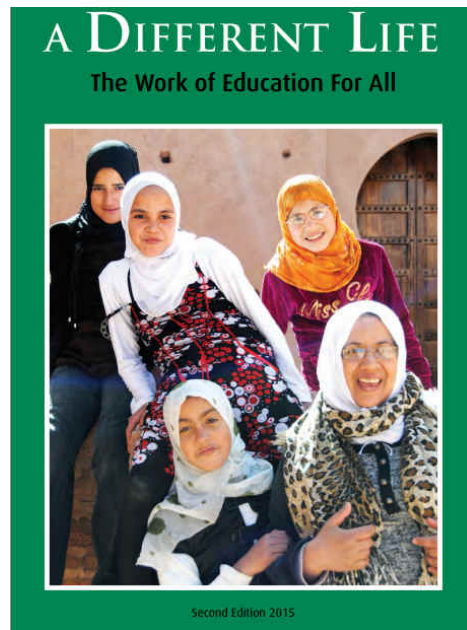




Want to know more about **Education For All?**

The **SECOND EDITION** of the excellent and thoroughly researched booklet written by **Derek Workman** can be downloaded by using the link below:

[www.efamorocco.org/p/ADifferentLife.pdf](http://www.efamorocco.org/p/ADifferentLife.pdf)



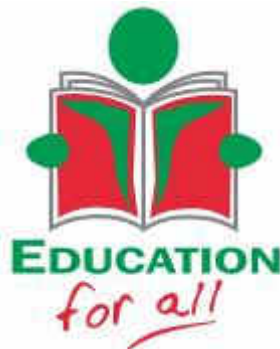
Want to get involved?  
Here are some ideas:

- 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.
- Visit our website <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.

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*Do you have at least 3 months to give to help girls in rural Morocco?*

**If you  
educate a  
girl, you  
educate the  
next  
generation**

## **Volunteers Required**

Education for All have five boarding houses for girls, three in Asni (45km from Marrakech), one in Ouirgane (60 km from Marrakech) and one in Talat n'Yacoub (100km from Marrakech).

We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to live and work in each of our houses to support the girls with their studies.

- **Your main job** will be to help the girls with their homework and give them **extra French lessons**.
- You will also **help the housemothers** with their daily tasks.
- **Help EFA** to be connected with the donors.



**Recruiting now for 2017-2018.**

If you are interested in volunteering to assist the girls in Morocco, please contact

[info@efamorocco.org](mailto:info@efamorocco.org)