



NEWSLETTER

October 2017
#22

EDUCATION
for all

image by Shannon Dunn @salttoclay



**TIME TO
CELEBRATE !**

*10 years anniversary
Girls' successes*

**VOLUNTEERS AND
FUNDRAISING**

Updates

LATIFA VISITS UK

*Read about her visit
around schools in UK*

**SCHOOL
RESULTS**

We are happy to publish our latest newsletter at the time of the new academic year. This is always an exciting time, as we are selecting the new girls to start in their first year with us. It is such a big step for them, leaving their villages during the weekdays to live in the EFA houses where they have access to books, computers and more importantly- schools! And because we have been running houses for 10 years, they can borrow the trust of the many girls who have been with us over the years. So in this edition, we celebrate them and the successes that a positive learning environment is bringing about for these girls and indirectly their families and communities too. We celebrate the families who also take the leap of doing something radical and different to the traditions they grew up with. And we celebrate all of you- our supporters- without whom none of this would be possible.



It has been an exciting year so far. Not only are we celebrating the 10 year benchmark, but we have some proud moments to celebrate! We are so proud of Dallale Ait Nasser and Aisha IsLamin who have been accepted to the Benguerir Lycée! This government 'Lycée d'Excellence' focusses on students with exceptional capacity for science and technology.

Only 130 students a year from all over Morocco are selected!

We think this shows how the EFA environment and house mothers really support rural girls to reach their potential. Thanks to your donations and sponsorship, we are seeing girls who will change the future of Morocco! Good luck Aisha and Dalalle!

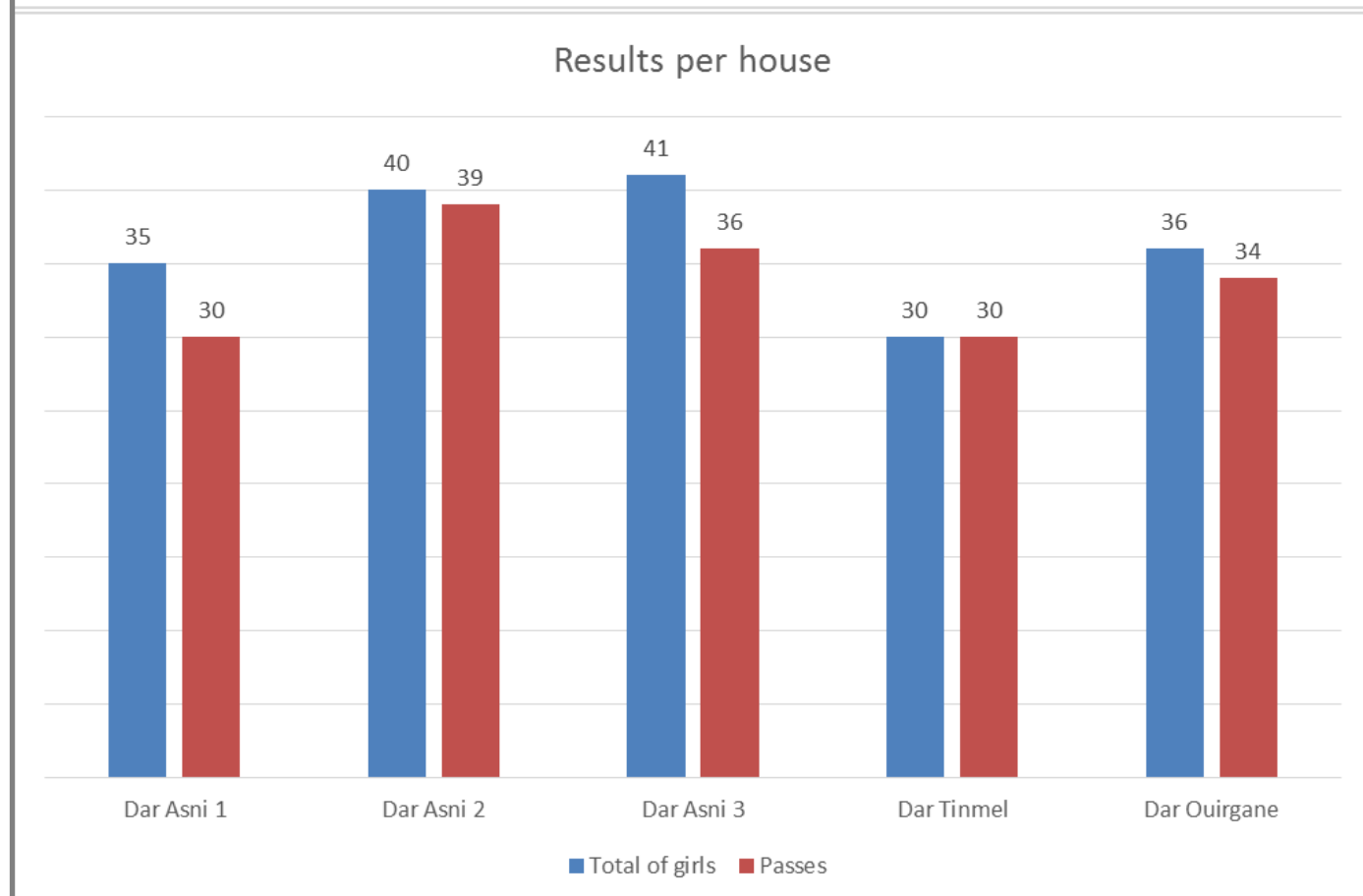
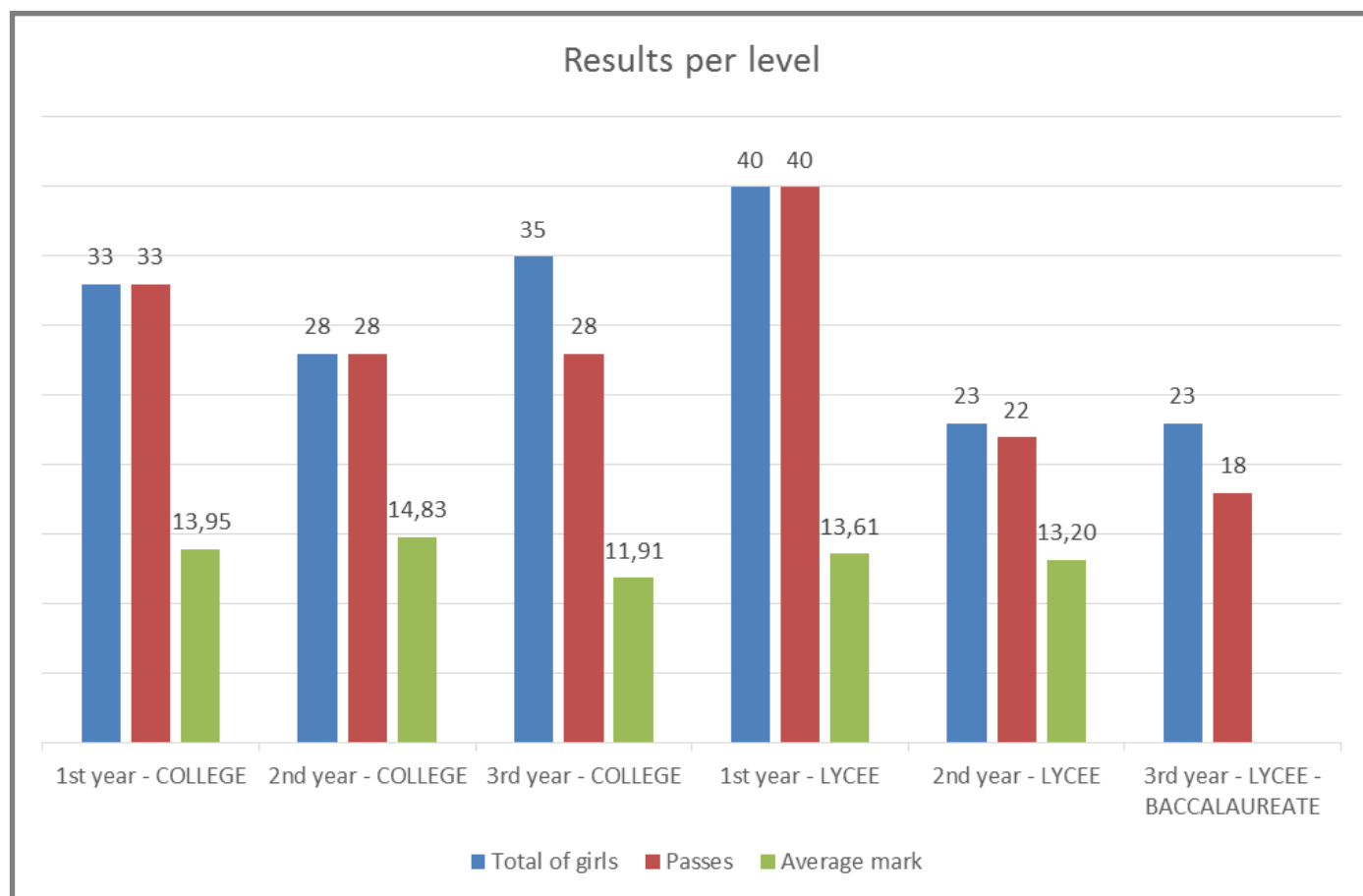


The new term is also an exciting time for the girls who leave the EFA houses after studying their Baccalaureate (A Level equivalent). What is their next step? Many start university supported by EFA, so they can focus on the big lifestyle change and increasing study demands. And others take vocational courses and a few go back to their



villages to start families, however even this looks radically different as they set up gite businesses with the new skills an education gives them. For example Fatima Azta just got her degree in Economics! We can't wait to see what she does with it. She is the first in her village to graduate from University and this is only possible because she was able to live at the EFA boarding houses. And they only run thanks to your donations! **So together we are making a positive change to society and the empowerment of women.** That is something to celebrate!

We are proud to present you the last results of 2016-2017 school year. Congratulation to all the girls !



More girls—Help us to build our 6th house !

We are delighted to have the highest intake so far, with all **5 houses at full capacity**. We now have a total of 194 girls (up 12 from last year) and 52 post baccaulaureate girls who are at University and vocational colleges—bringing us to a total of **246 girls** receiving support from EFA

The more girls we support, the more funds we need!

We are still passionate to build our 6th boarding house in the very remote village of Talat N'Yacoub. There is a plan to build another lycée there next year, so we would love to build a house for the older girls. This would support the girls there who currently have to travel far away to our houses in Asni to access the lycée there. And it would also mean we can increase our overall intake of girls to 230+!

If you are interested in **sponsoring a girl**, or making a substantial donation to EFA towards our House 6 project, please contact sonia@efamorocco.org for an information pack or visit our [Justgiving Page](#).



Fundraising book

We are excited to be collaborating with a female author from the USA who was so inspired by our work that she wanted to co-author and co-illustrate a book with girls from EFA to tell the story of their lives and the impact of the opportunity to go to school. We are so happy that Hayat will co-illustrate the book.



Here she is drawing scenes from her village life. The idea is the book sales will generate funds for EFA and be used as a teaching aid around the world to raise awareness of the importance of educating girls around the world.

Stay tuned for more updates!



EFA in the News

TheNewArab

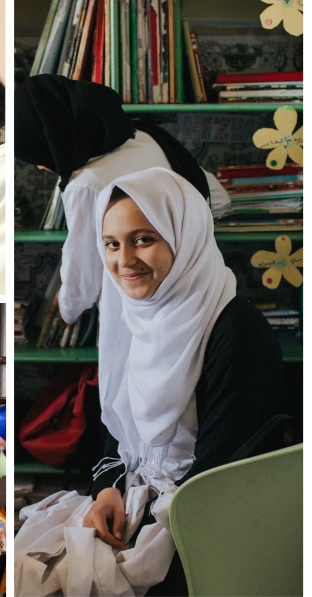
EFA has been in the Press a lot this year! Enjoy this article from [Al Araby](#) and on [Polish TV](#) (starting from 16mins).

Join our Schools Campaign

We are lucky to have many UK schools who fundraise for us regularly, through multi-days, selling calendars (Link to Sevenoaks) and other fun challenges. This year we are inviting more schools across the UK to participate in a nationwide fundraising activity!

We would love to bring other students together to creatively fundraise so girls the same age as them in Morocco can be sponsored through school. The more schools who participate, the more girls we can sponsor. And we will connect the students on a Facebook group to share their ideas and develop a dialogue of awareness regarding the importance of education opportunities for all.

Contact Sonia for a schools fundraising pack: sonia@efamorocco.org



New Corporate Partner: Oum Rugs



Founded by Ismail Tazi in Boston, Massachusetts, in March 2017, Oum Rugs Co. (<https://www.oumrugs.com/>) is the culmination of its founder's efforts to offer the finest selection of authentic rugs while also giving back to the communities in which the artisans live themselves.

Prior to launching Oum, Ismail travelled extensively throughout the Atlas Mountains, staying several months in the villages where the rugs are woven by hand, learning as much as he could, from dreaming up the design to weaving the final thread.

Ismail encountered a collective experience among the women weavers: many never received a formal education and thus are illiterate. While the tradition is revered and cherished, weaving was not a livelihood of choice, but of financial necessity in order to provide for their families. Questioned about the future of today's girls, many weavers said they would prefer for their girls to receive an education first, and to weave by choice, not obligation.

Ismail comes from a family of teachers and believes education is the key to social and economic advancement. After weeks of researching local Moroccan NGOs, Ismail discovered that Oum and EFA possess a shared goal to empower girls through education.

Oum means *mother* in Moroccan. It is the company's intention to honor all of the women artisans who weave these special rugs. As part of this mission, Oum donates a portion of its revenues to EFA Morocco for each rug sold.

Other thanks

A big thank you to **PURE Life Experiences** who hosted another successful event and raised funds again for EFA

And a big thank you to our major donors:

The Dutch4Kids, Four Acre Trust, Communitas, CEGID

If you would like to support our work and help us get more girls into school, please make a donation via our [website](#) or contact us for more information.

Sonja



My name is Sonja, i'm 52 and i come from Germany, next to Düsseldorf where I work as an administrative officer. In 2017 i had the chance to take a sabbatical year. Besides traveling, my intention was also to make something useful. That's why i choose to volunteer with EFA. I think that the girls support is really important.

I speak German, French and English and i easily communicate in those languages. I also love the Moroccan culture, i'm so happy to be in Asni!

I'm really busy with the girls, but recently we had a break and visited the Anima-Garden. We met André Heller the famous artist who created the garden and gave us free entrance. It was a lovely day and the girls liked it a lot!

Mei



Hi I am Mei Zhang and from China. You also can call me May. I recently finished my master study in UK. I took a gap year to make some volunteering and I hope I can offer help for these girls.

I arrived in October and everything is perfect. These girls are so lovely. I like spending time with them. I mainly give some English lessons for them now.

We also spent some time walking and playing games. We had so much fun at the entertainment part where the girls played games, it was the first time for them !

I love listening to the girls singing traditional songs.



Sonja and Mei, visiting one of the girls' house with Nicola and Ann who volunteered with EFA and came back for a visit.

Through the Eyes of a Father - Sonia



As EFA's fundraiser, I often reflect on the great leap it is for girls and their families to do what no girls from their villages have done in the generations before - go to secondary school. Last spring when I was visiting the EFA houses, I took a walk around Imlil village and I came across a man working in a carpet shop. When he knew I was connected to EFA he stopped me to thank me for the opportunity for his daughter to be in school. He admitted to me that he had tried to convince his daughter at 17 years old to finish with school and get married, but that she had been firm with him saying, "Dad, I really want to finish school first." He said he was surprised at first, and then he understood how much it meant to her, and that EFA was bringing a positive impact to his daughter's life and the life of his village. Stories like this are heart-warming and remind me of the importance of the EFA houses to bring change and development to the area.



Free To Run Morocco- US Athletes visit the EFA houses

In September, [Free To Run Morocco](#) travelled to Asni as part of a special sports education tour. The EFA girls also got the chance to meet with American Athletes and hear from them about their career and how sports can help in their education as well as achieve their dreams. This included some circuit training on the roof tops which was fun!



Chike Ike

We really enjoyed meeting Chike Ike, Nigerian actress and Goodwill Ambassador, who visited us in May this year as part of her tour on girls' empowerment. She visited the EFA houses and gave a presentation about the importance of girls finishing school and reaching their goals.



Great News- Just In!

We wanted to share some good news! We just found out that Fatima Aztat, one of our girls who graduated this year from University, has just been accepted to do her Master's degree in Economics. She is the first EFA girl to reach this stage- and the first person from her whole valley!

We are all so proud of her. When we asked her how the experience has been, she said that "it wasn't always easy, but every obstacle I faced motivated me more and more". Fatima would love to eventually start her own finances business. But she is keen to get her Phd first!

Read an article by Jordan Katz from the [Souljourn Yoga Foundation](#)- a US non-profit whose mission is to raise funds and awareness for girls' education in developing countries through global yoga retreats- and their experience of visiting the EFA houses.



Morocco, a place of imagination, mystery, and in my humble opinion, the epitome of exotic travel has been a top destination for those seeking out of the ordinary. Getting lost in the medina or staring up at the stars amidst the endless sand waves in the Sahara have always been romantic experiences. Yet, like the rest of the world, education for girls is still not a promise for the inspiring and talented young women that comprise this multifaceted nation.

This past June, Souljourn Yoga Foundation held our first ever yoga retreat to Morocco where we invited our participants to be the change-makers to support Education For All Morocco. Included in the tuition to attend our course was a \$300 tax-deductible donation in which we raised \$1100 and ended up supporting the annual tuition of one female student so that her mind and opportunities can flourish to the best of her abilities.

We had the honour and privilege of spending an afternoon at one of the dorms in Asni. We were welcomed with open arms from Latifa, the ever inspiring and kind housemother who shared her story of being the first university educated woman from her village. She is living proof of how powerful EFA's dedication and mission. After a delicious homemade lunch where the girls proved that their English was far superior to our French, let alone Arabic, we all had a good giggle as we played memory, board games, and even got to listen to some impromptu Berber drumming and singing as the girls played on the table. It's these kind of simple connections comprised of eye contact, laughter, and of course keeping an open mind and heart in which we are able to break down our perceived notion of "us" versus "them." We are not so different after all because at the end of the day we all strive to be seen, to be loved, and to love. And that starts with education, having the multitude of choices to follow one's aspirations and dreams.

"The world has not promised anything to anyone," says an old, Moroccan proverb. And while the world may have not promised anything to anyone, we can promise to continue to uplift and support girls' education on this journey together. Thank you so much EFA for all that you do and we look forward to returning in 2018!





I feel so lucky to have visited the UK In September. I was invited by an amazing group of teachers from **Hounslow** who visited our boarding houses 2 years ago. Ms Maureen Buckby Spring Grove Primary invited me to the UK for a schools tour. **I visited 9 primary schools in 7 days** to speak about the work of EFA.

The 9 schools involved in the partnership are: Spring Grove, Alexandra School, Ivybridge, Chatsworth, Smallbury, Belmont, Isleworth, Worple, Hounslow Town.

All the head teachers took great care of me- I was given a tour of the schools with the students in the morning, and in the afternoon I presented about EFA to students from 10-11yrs. I was really surprised by the organization of the schools, the dedication of the teachers for their students. They were all working from their hearts. I was impressed how many different nationalities were present at the schools- in Hounslow Town they recorded 63 languages!

They had lots of questions! They were so sweet and interested. Many of the children didn't know about Morocco and that girls have obstacles to go to school here. They didn't realize that there were only 2 schools in our whole region (when they have 10 just in their local areas).



They asked so many intelligent questions- such as:

“Why don't the parents move to live in the cities?

If the families are poor, why do they have many children?

Why do you help girls and not boys?”

I learned a lot from them! I can say they have influenced some changes in the way I will do my work.

They were also really passionate to connect with the EFA girls and sent messages and photos from them.



Some of them had fundraised for EFA and Belmont Primary school presented me with a £500 cheque! Ms Buckby also organized a quiz night for EFA with all the teachers of the 9 schools. There was also a raffle and some nice prizes to raise money for EFA.



At the end of an exciting week, I had a chance to do a little sightseeing in London. It was an amazing experience. I couldn't believe the amount of different nationalities there. I also took the lift to the top of the Shard building and I was shocked how quickly it climbed 34 stories- I felt a bit unwell as I never had this experience before! London Bridge looked so tiny from up there. I was also amazed by the different food from all over the world. Southall was like visiting India! And I also popped to Buckingham Palace to say hello to the Queen :)

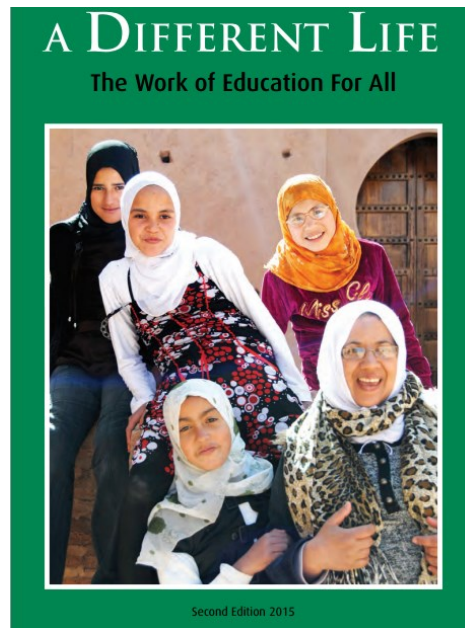
Thank you to all the teachers, and especially to Ms Buckby who organized the trip and welcomed me into her home. It was so eye-opening for me and everyone took great care of me.



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



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