



November Edition

A HEART WARMING YEAR

Welcome to the November edition of the EFA Newsletter. It is amazing to reflect on the year, starting with 12 months ago when we celebrated our 10 years' anniversary in London. Since that enjoyable event, we have had so many more reasons to celebrate. Starting with a visit by personality chef Chef Moha who gave a cooking master class with the EFA girls and house mothers (who were later interviewed on national TV), and a visit from Morocco's Education Minister, Said Amzazi, (along with more TV camera crews!).

It has also been an exciting year for fundraising, with ongoing grants from our long-term donors and some new sources of funding. In addition, a team of staff from Intrepid /PEAK climbed mount Toubkal and raised lots of money with EFA supporter's generous donations. And to top it all off, we have now secured funding to go ahead with our dream of building our 6th boarding house.

It truly has been a heart-warming year, and we thank you all for the part you have and will continue to play in EFA's success.

Enjoy reading about these highlights in more detail, as well as news from our volunteers.

Best wishes, Sonia, EFA's Fundraising and Communications Manager



ZAHIRA'S EMBASSY SPEECH

It was a proud and defining moment when Zahira, invited by our Patron His Excellency Thomas Reilly, gave a speech at the Rabat Embassy as people gathered to celebrate the Queen of England's birthday in June. Zahira gave the speech in English (her fourth language after Tashlehet, Arabic and French!).

Everyone had goose bumps as she described her own journey with EFA, how she was a child of over 14 siblings, that her mother had no education, but when the opportunity came for Zahira to be at the EFA houses, her mother encouraged her, saying "I will live my dreams through you."

We would like to thank Thomas Reilly for this invitation so Zahira could truly shine and have a voice that many girls from this region do not have. Zahira also went on to receive the 3rd top mark for her Baccalaureate in the region, and is now at University. Watch this space!

Building House Number 6

A Beautiful Legacy

In February 2018 we received the news of the passing of Mark Wynn. Mark had a personal connection with the area in which EFA is based. He completed the Marathon des Sables in 2015 and this endurance event and the country left a strong impression on him. He also holidayed in Marrakech with his wife Leila and daughters Isabella and Nyah, who both attend Bristol Grammar School.

Bristol Grammar School have supported EFA since the start of the charity in 2007. The family were therefore aware of our work and decided that they would like to donate the cost of building a new boarding house in Mark's memory. Mark believed firmly in the importance of education. He had a kind heart and he would have approved of the work of EFA.

We had already found out that there was a new Lycée being opened near one of our houses in Talat N'Ya-coub, and so the process began of securing some land and receiving planning permission, and building has now commenced. We plan to open the doors to house number 6 in time for the new school year in September 2019.



Chalking the area where house 6 will be built



Mark Wynn at the Marathon Des Sables, 2015

We are so grateful to the family for this donation which truly is a gift for the 50 girls who will live there, and the local community, who will feel the impact for generations to come.

If you are interested in legacy donations, please contact sonia@efamorocco.org

Turn your Festive Shopping into Donations

We all love the spirit of giving at Christmas, and it is growing more popular to give ethical gifts that make a difference in the world. Here are some easy ways to turn your Christmas presents into donations to EFA:

The [Go Raise](https://www.goraise.co.uk/education-for-all) platform is entirely free to use, and if you do your online shopping from here, you will automatically generate donations to EFA. There are many big high street stores featured here. Happy Shopping!<https://www.goraise.co.uk/education-for-all>

GoRaise



AMAZ Sneakers

We are still loving these amazing women's sneakers made by ethical Moroccan company AMAZ. Every pair sold funds a day of a girls education in Morocco. They come in many different colours and designs, are vegan and can be shipped all over the world. To find out more visit their website: <https://www.amaz-store.com/>



We've goat another great idea!



These fun goat toys are from the inspired [You Goat Me](https://www.yougoatme.com/) company based in the US. Set up by Simmo, originally from Morocco, he was determined to create a toy that also created donations. Simmo says:

"I wanted to raise money to help these girls and at the same time do something fun to make more people aware of their situation. I thought about my life as a child... in the argaan oil forests of Morocco near to where I grew up live some strange goats who like to climb trees. I loved goats and still do... so I set out to create a squawking rubber toy that represents this legendary animal. One that I could sell to raise money and help these girls get a better education. That's when YouGoatMe and Gabi the Goat was born."

Sonia met with Simmo (both with the EFA girls in the top right photo) in May and embarked on a tour of the EFA houses and a photo tour for Gabi the Goat. Not only was Gabi a hit with the girls, we hope she will be a hit with shoppers this Christmas. Please share the word with any of your goat-loving friends!

As well as the toy which comes in a sweet and informative packaging, there are also t-shirts to please family members! [Check out the goat-goodies here!](https://www.yougoatme.com/)

Embassies Taking The Lead



British Embassy
Rabat

We have been extremely fortunate to be successful with a large first time grant from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) who are prioritising education in the Middle East and North Africa region and invited us to apply for funding.

They also offered us capacity building workshops around grant- reporting and data collection which is enabling us to have a more robust approach to our grant-writing and understanding the importance of data collection as we are one of the pioneering organisations with the longest track record for girls boarding houses in the High Atlas Region.

We are hoping to continue this relationship with the FCO's grant scheme in the future and to see whether we can eventually scale up our work to reach more girls and more areas in the future. One step towards this is to cooperate in some research being conducted by FCO on this topic, which we look forward to sharing the results of with you.

New Zealand Embassy Sponsor House

The New Zealand Embassy has sponsored our house in Ourigane this year. We thank the Embassy for their commitment to supporting girls access to school in



Visit from Morocco's Minister of Education



The Minister of Education, Said Amzazi, visits EFA in May, and expresses his appreciation for the work of EFA in this region.

PureLife Experiences



We have been lucky to have the support of Luxury Travel Company PureLife Experiences over the last few years. They have raised donations from their travel industry conference in Marrakech, which was extra special this year due to them celebrating their 10th anniversary. And not only was this a special event, but it generated a very special donation of £58,000 which was raised from all the participants attending the event.

This fantastic donation will go towards sponsoring 2 of our houses and goes to show how tourism really can have a positive impact on vital local projects, like ensuring girls are educated in the remoter regions of Morocco. We send Pure a huge thank you and look forward to see how we can continue to inspire and collaborate with one another in the coming years.

Jessica Den Boer, Marketing Manager for PURE said, "We are so thrilled to be supporting all the incredible work you are doing and are inspired so much, particularly after our visit in January."

New Partnerships: Intrepid

Moving Mountains



We had the amazing opportunity to team up with Intrepid teams from the UK and Morocco who did a charity climb of Mount Toubkal to raise funds for EFA. Intrepid were doubling all donations, so we quickly emailed our supporters, many of whom also gave generous donations to the campaign. The result was that we raised an incredible **£55,000!**

This donation will sponsor almost 2 houses for a year. We had planned to send 4 EFA girls on the trek with them, however due to weather conditions we decided to wait until next year, however we are so proud of the Intrepid Teams for their courage and reaching the Summit, and raising funds.

Background: We began partnering with Intrepid at the end of last year. They selected EFA to be one of their Foundation partners, raising awareness about EFA when they do their trips around Morocco, and inviting their clients to make a donation via the Foundation website. We are inspired by Intrepid's ethical model of supporting local projects with the least intervention. If you would like to make a donation and see it double, you can do so here:

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

Zina role models Moroccan women in work

We feel very lucky to collaborate with EFA champion, Zina Bencheikh. She is Moroccan and the General Manager for Intrepid Travel (Europe and Morocco) who we are partnering with this year. Zina attended the Women in Tourism Award Ceremony in Australia earlier this year, where she collected an award and spoke about her commitment to women's equality in Morocco.

In her speech she said "Education will change the lives of these girls. The power of education is something I learned from my parents."

Zina and her team are also working on offering internships to EFA girls who have completed their baccalaureate so they can gain experience working for an international company. A big thank you from all of us and for inspiring the girls to go for their dreams!!



Going for Gold

We are also delighted to announce that we have another EFA student accepted to do a Master's Degree!

Kabira is 24 years and studied Private Civil Law at University after completing her Baccaulaureate with us. She will do her Master's in Urban Politics and Land Engineering and is so happy to have had the chance to be educated.

Good luck Kabira and thank you for being such an inspiration to us and to the EFA girls past, present and future.



"A woman is half of society and provides an education to the other half. An educated woman like me has the chance to develop society and change it for the better."



[CLICK TO WATCH VIDEO OF KAWTAR WHO STARTED IN SEPTEMBER 2018](#)

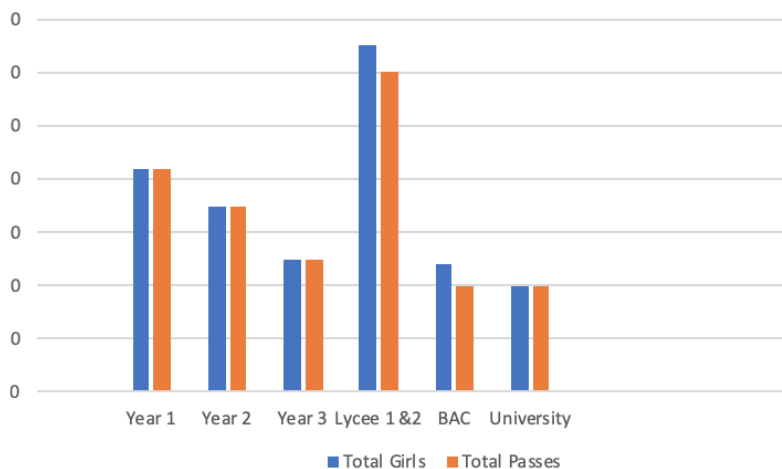
Exam Results in 2018

We have had another great year of exam results at the EFA houses!

- Girls passing College + Lycée exams- **90%**
- Girls passing their Bac- **83%**
- [National average for the Bac- **53%**]
- Girls passing Bac and then enrolling at University- **100%**
- Girls enrolled at University in Sept: **20**
- Total Girls studying Master's: **2**
- Girls attending selection day: **147** (for only 45 places)*

***Donate here so more girls can go to school:**

Exam Results 2018



In our words



Salma

My father always put all his hopes in my two older brothers. They would graduate from university and become engineers or doctors, he thought. But when they showed no interest in pursuing their studies, while I was constantly begging him to continue mine, he saw my motivation and allowed me to follow my dreams. Thanks to EFA, I can educate myself and have even bigger dreams!

When I was in elementary school, my father said that he didn't want me to finish my studies because in my grandfather's culture, it is unnecessary for a girl to go to school. A girl's role is to stay in the house, cook, clean, and be a good wife, never to leave the house. I cried every day to my father to let me go to school, and finally he agreed.

My perseverance and excellent performance in school has changed his mind on the role of women and the importance of education for girls. He says he is now excited to see how far I will go in life and what great things I will attain.

My father didn't go to school because of my grandfather's wishes, so now he gets to live through me. I live 15 km away in Torord, and I dream of becoming a criminal detective so I can live a life of adventure.

Samira



Malika

It's 4.30 AM in the dark mountain valley of Azzaden. I quickly pack-up my clothes and without a noise and head outside where my uncle and brother are already waiting for me. In the car, the fresh air of September is blowing in my face. I know I am leaving for a new life. Yet, in the back of my head, I can't help myself but thinking: How will my father react, when at dawn he discovers I am no longer there? "Where is Malika? Is she already working in the field?" I can hear him ask. No Dad. today I am taking my future in both hands and will not let go of it. This isn't the life I want; school is where I belong, it's where we all belong. My thoughts are rapidly cut short, as I am starting to catch sight of the school. I take a last look at the sky, knowing my mother is looking down on me from above, and take a long deep breath and say goodbye to my uncle and brother before walking into my classroom.



SPONSOR A GIRL IN 2019



Sponsor a Girl Today

**FOR £75 PM YOU CAN
EDUCATE A GIRL**

And Transform An Entire Village

Contact us for more information:
info@efamorocco.org



If you would like to make a difference to a girls life, you can sponsor her through her education. For only £800 (\$1000) per year, she will have 3 hot meals a day, cosy lodgings, access to computers and books, transport home at the weekends, a uniform and sports bag.

You can sponsor a girl with a one off payment or in monthly installments of only £75 per month.

In return, we will send you updates, including video messages a bit like the one below!

If you are a business who wishes to make a contribution to EFA, please email us for a corporate sponsorship package sonia@efamorocco.org



VOLUNTEER WITH US

If you wish to get involved in daily life at the EFA houses, immerse yourself in Moroccan culture and share your time and skills to EFA, why not join our volunteer programme. You can find **more information on our website**, and if it sounds like something you would like to do, and have the qualities we are looking for, you can apply via our **online application form**:



TAKE PART IN THE MARRAKECH ATAS ETAPE!

Registration is open for our charity cycling event, taking place on **Sunday April 28th** 2019. Enjoy stunning views and raise money for EFA through your registration. Visit the page and commit to get fit for 2019! : <https://www.marrakech-atlas-etape.com>

