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Letter from the Editor

July or the fasting month, that's my aka for this month because of Ramadan. Ouch I have to say because it was quite tough for me this time to be honest, but I guess for many people as well; isn't it Fina? It was a very special month and one of the highlights has been Fina's baptism. It was amazing, the baby is amazingly lovely, her name is lovely (Maimouna), people came dressed all lovely, the food was lovely, so everything was brilliantly lovely. Find some pictures below.

There was not many celebrations this month, almost all the artists took a break; maybe was because they were saving their energy for the Ramadan or simply they wanted to behave Saintly which is nice, respect to you guys. You know in Senegal during this month most of roisterers, thieves, bad guys or whatever, behave Saintly. You will hear some people saying, "You know I always do things that are not allowed for a Muslim, so for this special month I will try and be very cool." The very religious people dedicate more time and effort in doing good and praying than before, respect!

Our volunteers made a tour to Touba, one of the most religious cities in Senegal and to the desert of Lompoul. Louise House (UK) shared a beautiful blog about "la Lutte" (wrestling), the number one sport in Senegal. The Human Rights office are doing great job regarding the free courses that they offer to the locals. In our Care centre we have seen great motivation from the



little street children about the courses they are receiving every day. Ida Marie Flobert and Lotte, former Care volunteers and professional nurses, have left a great prescription at HLM street children centre for the future volunteers, that way they can know what to do for different types of wounds.

The Microfinance Project held a ceremony to deliver a certificate to the first Talibes that has completed his reimbursement for the loan received to run a cell phone business. The summer care kindergarten has welcomed four volunteers now helping the Tatas in keeping the kids busy with activities such as colouring, singing and drawing.

June 2013, Two Week Special volunteers completed their great project.

Lots of donations for the Talibes this past month.

Find in this Edition Nina Olsen's story.



Always great to give you news from Senegal and to receive your feedback.

Have a good read

One love

Habib and Fina



Care Update

Lotte van Oosterbosch and Ida Marie Floberg former volunteers at the Care



Project in Senegal established some general procedures for the infirmary and also wound dressing procedures. This is important because there are a lot of volunteers passing through and everyone should learn the same things.

"With procedures written down, we avoid things getting forgotten or lost,"

said Ida.

Ida and Lotte helped a lot the Amina (the nurse at the centre) in explaining the new volunteers without nursing experience how they should do the wound dressing

Two Week Special June 2013



Our Two week special volunteers Rachel and Pauline have completed their great project. They were only two, but with incredible motivation. They managed to paint the dormitory and classroom at a Daara with the

help of the painter El Hadj, who supervised the work. They also did great work at the centre for street children by helping with healthcare and teaching.



Before leaving, They had the privilege of being among the first to receive a Projects Abroad Senegal T-shirt from Moctar, our country director, with another volunteer, Lisa who was about to leave too.

Yes! Our t-shirts are now available and from now on each volunteer will have theirs once in the destination, cool, isn't it?

Have a look at the work of our Two Week Special volunteers before and after the renovation.



before the renovation



After the renovation

More photos at :

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.565084846868306&type=1>

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.562581960451928&type=1>

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.562040300506094&type=1>



Human Right update



We attended a really interesting course about Children's Rights with our Human Rights volunteer Rob Cole (UK). Every Wednesday, Thursday and Monday, people from different ages and from different areas in Saint Louis come to attend the classes in order to learn about their rights. "The courses are very important that's why I always do my best to attend them," said Marie Madeleine, one of the students. There were many points that Rob talked



about, like when people started to be interested with children's rights? What are the children's rights according to the 1989 convention? Who is considered a child? The classes, which are run by volunteers and our Human Rights office

coordinator Mrs. Naty Faye, are open to everyone interested in Human rights



Young Sheffield resident spends one and half months volunteering in Senegal



After having a really great time doing volunteer work in England, Frances McLoughlin (19) wanted to experience volunteering again, but this time in a different country. She wanted to do something productive while learning about a new culture; so she decided to become a volunteer with Projects

Abroad and travel to Senegal.

Frances participated in the Care Project where she worked in a centre for street children (Talibés) located in the suburb of Saint Louis. Many children, from different neighbourhoods in Saint Louis, come to the centre to have a shower, brush their teeth, have their wounds cleaned and dressed, learn English or to simply play and interact with the volunteers.

Frances had a number of responsibilities at her placement, such as healthcare and education, depending where there was a need, and worked full time from Monday to Friday. "Each day had a different set of jobs but they included cleaning and dressing the wounds of the Talibés, cleaning the Daaras (where the Talibés stay), preparing snacks, helping the Talibés brush their teeth, organising games and teaching English," she said.



Helping out at the centre by being an extra pair of hands and relieving some of the workload from the permanent staff made Frances see that she was making a difference at her placement.

By observing the Talibés, Frances also gained a lot herself from the experience, “I learnt a lot about getting on with things because even the youngest Talibés get on with everything without complaining.”

Staying with a local host family in Senegal allowed Frances to be fully submerged in the Senegalese culture. She enjoyed eating local food, chatting with her host family, seeing how they go about their daily lives and walking in town.



Her most memorable experiences during her time in Senegal was working with the Talibés and visiting Touba, a religious city in the region of Diourbel.

The staff at the centre were very impressed with Frances’ contribution, “Frances was a great worker; she was very helpful at the centre. She was

involved in all the activities such as care, teaching and colouring. One day she and the other volunteers organised a sand mural workshop for the Talibés and it was a success. The Talibés were very happy. We say thank you to her for her great contribution at the centre and wish her a safe trip back home!”



To everyone that wants to have a similar experience, she has these words of advice: "Come to Senegal and enjoy it!"

Summer kindergarten project

Busy, busy in our summer Care Project with our volunteers Simone



Odenheimer, Inès de Capèle, Clémence Radenez and Marie Laure Pinson! Together with the "Tatas", they do activities such as singing, writing, colouring, dancing and playing with children between three to eight-

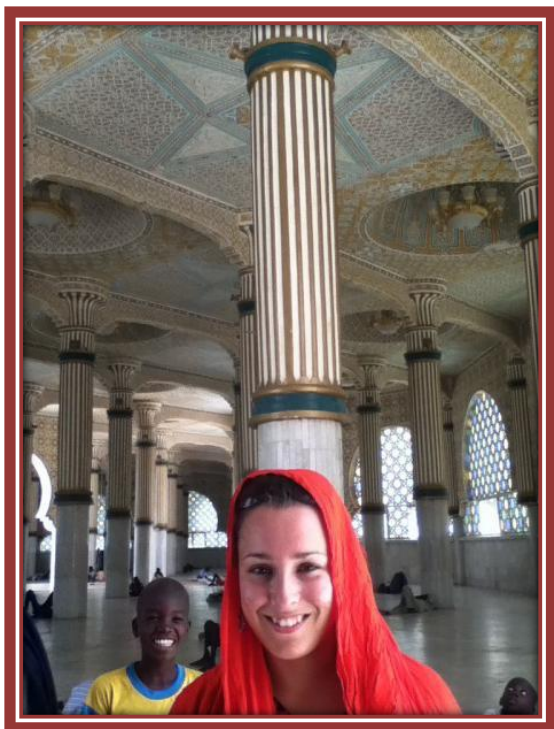
years-old. The Tatas are the teachers at the kindergarten. Parents are very happy to see that the project is still continuing. For them it will be a way to occupy children usefully during the holiday and will prevent them from hanging out in the streets which can be dangerous for children.

Take a look at the pictures!



"Touba" by Louise House (UK)

I visited Touba, Senegal's most sacred city, with about 16 of the volunteers.



Touba was founded by Sheikh Ahmadou Bamba, who was a religious leader and founder of the Mouride brotherhood in 1883. The trip was organised by a local man who hosts volunteers, so he was able to tell us a lot about the history and Bamba's life which is so interesting. His sister lives near Touba so we stopped there for breakfast and lunch after our visit.

Touba has the biggest mosque in Senegal, which is in the centre of the city. Once a year, Muslims in Senegal make a pilgrimage to Touba on the day that Bamba was exiled to Gabon. He was exiled by the French as they thought he was trying to start a revolution instead of teaching the Quran. The mosque is beautiful and is made from material from many other countries. The stunning ceiling in my photo was made in Morocco. The mosque is constantly being re-built, expanded and restored, as you can see from the scaffolding in my other photo.

Ramadan



Ramadan is the sacred month in Islam when it was believed that the first verses of the Koran were presented to the Prophet Mohamed PSL by God. During this month, Muslims abstain from eating, drinking and smoking. Volunteers who spent the month of July here in Senegal got to see how life changed!

People woke up around 5:00 or 5:30 to eat breakfast and drink water, preparing their fast for the coming day. When the sun sets around 19:30, people broke their fast with dates, bread and coffee. After praying, families sat down to eat dinner.

Have a look at our Photos album :

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.senegal/photos/>

Have a look at the videos taken in our projects on our YouTube Channel!

Sports Football Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtWkkV5HLs4>

Care Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwlfgrOVsEY>

Music and Culture Project :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUzWh2eSXmk>



Microfinance Project :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaP4GakDTkk>

Stay In Touch With Us! 😊

Read our monthly newsletter

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/senegal/newsletters-from-senegal/>

Want to contribute in our newsletter?

Each month we will be featuring a photo from Senegal in the newsletter.

If you are a former volunteer your photos are also welcome. Show off your best shots!!

Send your pictures to: habibdiaw@projects-abroad.org, finasenghor@projects-abroad.org

