

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR GIRLS, MOROCCO

The overall educational aim of this project is to help the girls in the boarding houses to achieve the highest level of achievement possible for them, to enable them to progress successfully to the next stage of their education.

Comments are based on the work of volunteers during the period 2011-2013, and are derived from questionnaires completed by the projects and reports written by the volunteers. New aims and actions, if any, are shown in **green** and these have either been identified from requests made by the projects or have arisen from the work done by volunteers. Any completed aims or actions are shown in **red**.

AIMS	ACTIONS AND COMMENTS
<p>1. To help the girls develop a higher level of competence, confidence and enjoyment in their learning of French.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All volunteers identified that many of the younger girls need help to bring their French up to the standard expected, and this was also identified as an issue by their house mother. This is largely due to the quality of French teaching in the rural primary schools. Fluent French speakers can help to give the girls confidence and practice in speaking this language. This is the major aim – without fluent oral and written French the girls will not succeed at a higher level of education. • A folder of activities has been produced by one volunteer, designed to consolidate understanding of grammar and vocabulary and to apply and practise the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The aim of this is to review, repeat and reinforce French which should have been taught in the primary schools, and is based on a review of primary school French books. Modern Language specialists should aim to add new material to this folder of activities. However volunteers should note that they are not taking formal lessons – they work with the girls in their free time, so consolidation of grammar through activities, games and conversation is the preferred approach. • Dictionaries have been bought for three of the four houses (French/Arabic and French/English) though the new second house at Dar Asni needs more. Volunteers could help to develop and consolidate the girls' dictionary skills. • The writing of European script has been identified as a problem for some girls. Volunteers could help to provide the opportunity every day for the girls to practise writing in the European script (this could be done in French or English). The girls have now been provided with a special exercise book for use with volunteers which will provide the girls and future volunteers with information to ensure continuity of learning.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers who are non-language specialists could work with the girls on the French books used in the primary schools, allowing the girls to teach them French, and in this way helping the girls to gain in confidence and consolidate their understanding of the language. Copies of these books are available at each of the boarding houses.
2. To help the girls to achieve a good level of conversational English to support their formal learning of English at school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers have used a variety of approaches to encourage conversation in English at an appropriate level for the girls in the group. This has generally occurred informally through chatting to them in the evenings, taking them for walks, sharing their meals and playing games with them. This approach should be continued by future volunteers. With girls who are learning English at school, conversational work should be based around and develop vocabulary from topics currently being taught in class. Volunteers report that there are some useful English books at the boarding house which can be used to practise basics for beginners. School books can be used to help them with homework. With younger girls, volunteers should work out activities, e.g. songs and games, to enable girls to learn vocabulary they will encounter near the start of their English course, thereby giving them confidence in their ability in this subject.
3. To help the house mothers to develop a programme of personal, social and health education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One volunteer made a start on putting together suggestions for activities which could be used to provide a weekly programme of PSHE for the girls. Her plan was that the programme should include sex education, health education, personal hygiene, careers advice, choices and self-motivation. She also introduced the idea of a self-assessment process, which involved an end-of-term review for each of the girls (also to be carried out in Arabic). Completed self-assessment forms were to be kept in the girls' record files, along with other relevant information which the house mother needs to record. Following discussion with the house mother it has been agreed that this is not a necessary aim for the volunteer programme and that such a programme implemented by foreigners could be culturally inappropriate. The house mothers are in a better position to address these issues and there are plenty of opportunities for the girls to discuss issues of this nature in small groups.
4. To help develop a range of extra-curricular activities for the girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The house mother is keen to develop a range of enjoyable extra-curricular activities for the girls, to include craft activities, painting, modelling, music and games. Volunteers could help to develop this aim by contributing ideas for new activities and helping to source materials.

<p>5. To help the girls develop competence and confidence in their use of IT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers could work out a structured programme of activities for the girls to enable them to practise keyboard skills, including the opportunity for independent work. One volunteer gave all the younger girls the opportunity to write a text in Word, to edit and improve it, adding images and colour where possible, and arranged for these texts to be printed and stuck in their exercise books. • The girls could be encouraged to produce as much of their work as possible through the use of IT. • Volunteers could continue to show the girls how to use the Internet for research. The house mother has plans to introduce communication via Facebook and Skype. • Volunteers could use a variety of computer-based activities to encourage enjoyment and enthusiasm for the use of IT. The girls need training in the appropriate use and care of hardware. • The girls could be encouraged to display neat copies of their work and to take a pride in the work they produce as well as the mark it achieves.
<p>6. To help the house mother to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for the girls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One volunteer highlighted the fact that the girls needed her not just for academic help but also for company; that they were pleased to have someone new to interact with. Future volunteers should realise the importance of helping to support the girls socially as well as academically. • All volunteers provided some help for the girls in doing their homework. This could include any subject (although most textbooks are in Arabic); for example one volunteer was able to provide a lot of support with Maths. • The house mother highlighted the value of having an experienced, older volunteer, particularly one who had been a housemother, as she understood the issues that arose in dealing with teenage girls.

<p>7. To achieve a good level of co-ordination between the work of successive volunteers ensuring a good level of progression, and to help facilitate good communication between the house mothers and EFA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A successful form of liaison needs to be worked out between Education For All and People and Places to ensure that volunteers from the two organisations complement each others' skills and are aware of each others' roles and strengths. This should include the passing on of reports written by volunteers from one organisation to volunteers from the other in advance of their placement. • It is important that volunteers liaise directly with housemothers as they have the best knowledge of the girls' individual needs etc. • Volunteers are encouraged by the house mother to write up the work they have done and leave a copy in the volunteers' corner of the workroom to avoid unnecessary repetition between the work of successive volunteers. Work produced by one volunteer was written up and copied in triplicate for each of the boarding houses. Future volunteers should add to this folder of resources and catalogue all resources produced so that they can easily be used by successive volunteers. Another left a resume of what she did on the volunteers' computer in the IT room, filed under her name. • One volunteer helped the house mother to produce a monthly report for EFA. Future volunteers could help with this if required. • Volunteers could help the house mothers to maintain up-to-date records of the girls' academic progress and other activities and achievements. The house mother does not think this will be necessary in future.
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