

Note from *people and places*: this volunteer's placement was designed specifically for them – they went through our full matching process, as we've been doing with you. The placement report indicates their particular skills and experience – yours may be similar or completely different – your own placement will make best use of **your** experience and skills. Every volunteer is different – in what they give and what they gain. Reports from previous volunteers serve to give you as good a picture as possible about the project. If you have any questions about any of the detail in this report please do not hesitate to contact me at [dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk](mailto:dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk)

[This report covers two placements done by Diana over 12 months](#)

## Diana Stern

### Placement as an e volunteer in Morocco 16th November 2020 - 1st March 2021

I volunteered because it looked interesting and I felt that I had some suitable skills. Also I was impressed by how People and Places had responded to the Pandemic and continued to offer support to countries where it must be so badly needed.

Helpful information from Dianne and Karima and background information on the project and girls likely to participate were useful. (Dianne is *people and places* Placement Director and Karima is Volunteer Co-ordinator for Education for All)

I will send some pictures that I used for the girls to talk about and ask questions. Two fellow volunteers with more experience were extremely helpful in sharing ideas and tips. The review meetings were useful as was email contact.

The sound and vision was extremely poor to start with and so it was several weeks before I felt to really get going. I wondered if a weekly quick check on the technical situation and report back would have helped? Some machines there were obviously better than others.

(Note from *people and places*: Diana was one of the first e-volunteers for the project in Morocco. We were all learning the best way to work together online and feedback from our first e-volunteers on issues such as technical difficulties was invaluable. Good computers have now been set aside for online work and volunteer contributions have been used to buy headphones)

The fact that we limited numbers to three (though not always the same!) made a huge difference and made for much better sessions. I soon realised that it would not always be the expected three and that follow on work and consolidation was not always possible. I think that this could have been made clearer. I needed flexible record keeping and planning!

(Note from *people and places*: the girls work with volunteers when they do not have timetabled lessons at school. At the time of Diana's placement schools were just reopening after the pandemic – teachers frequently organised extra lessons at school to help the girls catch up and these had to take priority over lessons with volunteers. In addition, schools were only allowed to open on a 50:50 basis – one week in

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school, one week at home, to allow for social distancing. Both these factors inevitably meant different girls were available for online lessons every week)

The photos of Asni helped me to have a picture of what the town is like.

I enjoyed the laughs that we had at times!

It was a very rewarding if brief experience for me. I am glad to have done it and would recommend it anyone.

I was attracted to the scheme because it seemed such a useful thing to offer to a place and people who must be so badly hit by this pandemic as in so many parts of the world.

I would happily to some more e volunteering in the Summer or Autumn if it is needed having a bit of experience of how different it is! I only just feel to have got going.

Thank you for the opportunity. Diana Stern 03.03. 2021.

## **Second On line Placement at Dar Tinmel in Talaat n'Yakoub, Morocco.**

### **November 2021 to February 2022.**

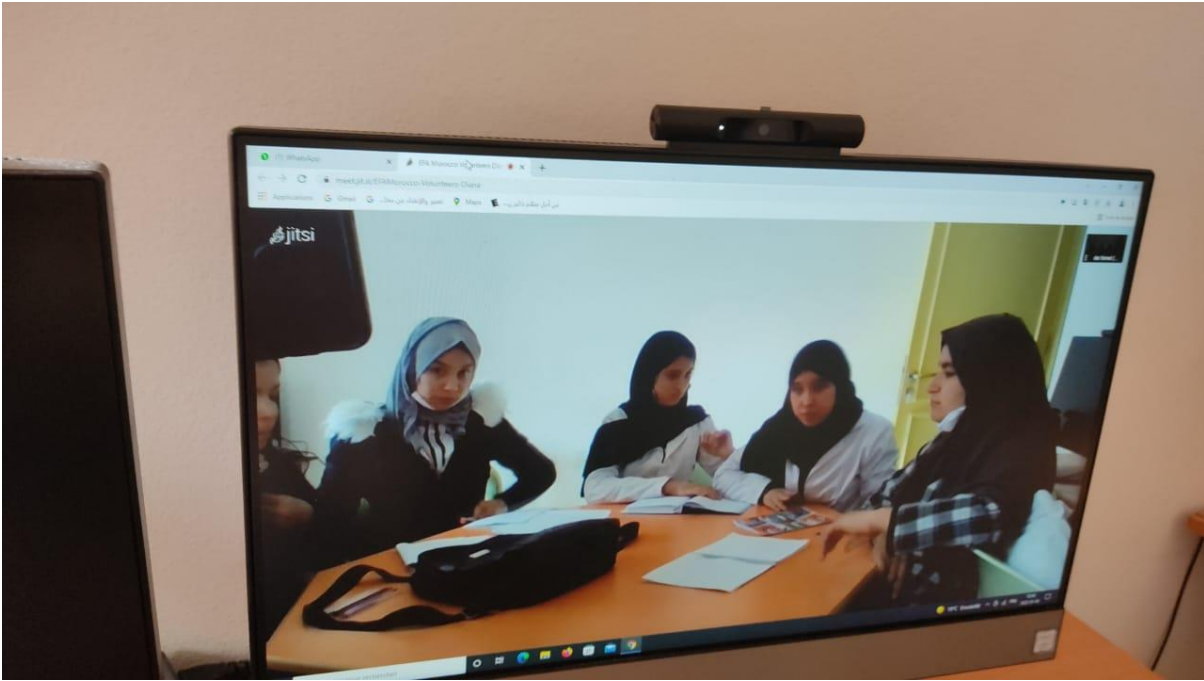
I felt that this placement at Dar Tinmel went much better than the previous placement at Dar Asni.

This was mostly because I felt much more skilled in the techniques needed to do the job on line. I am grateful to the fellow volunteers for tips and ideas for prompts etc

A big factor making it better was the fact that the technology worked well.

The sound and picture quality was excellent throughout, maybe there was the odd short glitch but Fatima (house-mother at Dar Tinmel) was soon there with a friendly wave to sort it out. The poor quality of sound and picture last time was frustrating and sapped a lot of the spontaneity and energy from the sessions.

Also it was helpful when Karima was there to find out that the girls were kept late at school one week.



I had the same 5 girls on each of the Tuesday and Thursday sessions and that helped the continuity even when one or two were missing. We could repeat and consolidate vocabulary. Five is a big enough number for it to work well.

*(Note from people and places: from September 2021 schools and boarding houses were able to open to full capacity – this made it much easier to have consistent groups from week to week)*

The chat box in the bottom left hand corner helped when something written was needed both by me and one of the girls!

I was sometimes frustrated by the last minute changes to times. I understand that this needs to happen because the school set up extra teaching but volunteers need to be aware that this may happen.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to do this work in these difficult times and am full of admiration for the girls and the work of Education for all.

Thank you Dianne, Fatima and Karima for your help.

Diana Stern 21.02.22

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