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WORLD CONNECT SITE VISIT REPORT: SENEGAL

World Connect has launched 60 projects in Senegal since 2012 with \$125,000 (43% health, 35% educational, 17% income generation, and 5% environmental). Senegal is a predominantly Muslim country with a majority in polygamous relationships. More than 40% of the country lives in poverty, life expectancy is 66, and major challenges include maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and poor infrastructure: water, sanitation, roads. Dakar, the capital, is five times as big as it was in the 1970s, and unplanned urbanization makes it crowded and chaotic. But Senegal is a stable country in a region struggling with instability. There are more girls in school than boys, though males are still more literate than females. In three weeks in March 2016, World Connect visited 20 of our 60 project sites. Highlights are below.



Over half of the country practices polygamy and in many rural areas, more wives means more labor for the households and the villages. Most of the women we visited were working dusk to dawn, pulling water from wells many times per day, going to the market to buy food, cooking all the meals, fetching firewood, and caring for children. In 2014, we awarded a \$650 grant to a Peace Corps Volunteer in the community of Latmingue who has been working with a women's association for the past year to increase their capacity to grow food for their families and sell it for profit at local markets. A second grant of \$500 was awarded to establish a local business that would support the women to increase production and sales of the moringa tree, known for its nutritional benefits and for its positive impact as a food additive for malnourished children.

In Forou Serer, Forou Bobene, and Forou Peuhl, Senegal, there is no electricity or running water and only eight households had functional bathrooms. A \$9,755 grant from World Connect helped install 80 household latrines and one at the local Health Hut. Prior to the project, the vast majority of the community openly defecated and few children knew the importance of hand washing. Diarrhea was widespread, crippling the capacity of local health workers. A women-led hygiene committee held health education sessions on safe water storage, hand washing, sanitation and hygiene, and additional funding helped women form a soap-making economic cooperative.



Fama, pictured here, is the first woman in her family to have a job. She works at the Gabou Resource Center, which World Connect helped launch with a \$2,300 grant in 2015. Fama works six days a week and was trained by a Peace Corps Volunteer in basic computer and financial literacy. The Center has a selection of books, two computers and a printer, internet access, and an outdoor study space. Fama hopes to add a projector in order to teach classes as well as more books. The Center is already generating steady revenue by charging for print jobs and internet usage.





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Kaffrine, Senegal is a town of 40,000 that, like many cities across Senegal, has a big trash problem. There are no recycling facilities and limited municipal trash pick-up. A Peace Corps Volunteer collaborated with a local community group to start a trash pick-up service with a grant of \$2,500 from World Connect. In just three months, there were already 200 families enrolled, the group had recorded \$777 USD in revenue, and the Peace Corps Volunteer is discussing with other Volunteers in the region the possibility of expanding to nearby towns. The group also plans to launch a recycling component of the project.



Temey Lewa, a small village in northern Senegal, has a population of 686 people, the majority of whom are uneducated and illiterate. The local Health Hut serves the surrounding four villages and received a \$1,772 grant in 2014 to upgrade its facilities, which did not have electricity or water. Without electricity, the health hut was unable to be used for nighttime health emergencies, including childbirth, and without water the overall quality of care was severely limited.

This is the nurse from the Health Hut in Temey Lewa, who herself lost a baby because it was ill equipped to provide the services she needed. The Health Hut now has running water and electricity for the first time. Faucets and solar panels were installed, and the Health Hut was repainted inside and out. Baby scales, blood pressure machines, and mattresses were purchased, and a garden is in development adjacent to the Health Hut that includes eleven types of vegetables, aloe vera, and moringa. Murals were painted around the health hut to teach the community about sanitation, malaria, proper nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, and AIDS.

In Keur Wack Dia, Senegal, a Peace Corps Volunteer wrote to World Connect about a classroom in her community constructed with millet stalk that kept getting destroyed during every severe rainstorm. She applied for and received a grant of \$8,351 from World Connect to build a permanent classroom. Teachers will not come to teach if there are not suitable facilities. The community made 2,500 bricks as their contribution to the project.

