



CorpsAfrica's All-Country Conference in Morocco October 4 through 15, 2016



Thanks to our generous sponsors:



WEEK 1 – WORKSHOPS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND RECEPTION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016

17:00– 20:00 Welcome Remarks, **Introductions; Review of Conference Schedule**,
by Liz Fanning, Hiba Tazi, Nadia Diouri, Mamadou Sarr

The conference began with introductions and a review of the schedule and expectations for the following eleven days. Liz Fanning told the story of CorpsAfrica followed by an explanation of CorpsAfrica’s special tribute to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. The Morocco and Senegal Directors gave brief overviews of their programs and we showed the Malawi video and made a short video message for the Malawi staff and Volunteers, who were stuck in South Africa.



20:00 **Dinner at the Bourgogne cafeteria**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016

08:00 – 09:00 **Overnight Mail** (an optional session led by Garrett Mason to discuss thoughts on previous day’s sessions.)

09:00 – 09:30 **Ice Breaker led by Garrett Mason**

Volunteers silently gathered in groups by country, then alphabetically by first name, then by birth date, then by gender, etc., to demonstrate the challenge and power of non-verbal communication.

09:30 – 12:30 **Setting Expectations for CorpsAfrica Volunteers and their Host Communities**

In small groups, Volunteers were able to understand the importance of recognizing their own expectations of CorpsAfrica service, their communities’ expectations of them, CorpsAfrica’s expectations of the Volunteers, etc. Volunteers and alumni shared stories and experiences during their service. This was followed by an open discussion about the significance of expectations, how they evolved over time,



and how to manage them.

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch and Icebreakers**

14:00 – 16:00 **Blogs and storytelling; sharing the CorpsAfrica experience**

Volunteers attended a blog session led by Liz Fanning to learn how to tell a good story, the importance of blogs (to share the experience with a variety of audiences), and ways to expand the reach of their blog. CorpsAfrica alumni, Ali El Kassas, led a course on photography and videography to teach Volunteers ways in which they can capture the essence of their service in their respective communities.



16:00 - 17:00 **Experiences working with youth in public service, by Marc Douglas**

Marc Douglas shared his vision of how service with CorpsAfrica leads to questions about globalization and localization, economy and politics as well as current global issues related to matters ranging from climate change and public health to imperialism. The session concluded with a comprehensive analysis on how serving local communities in Africa can have a real impact on the world at large, by redefining development with the appreciation of unity: Unity in Diversity.

18:00-19:00 **CAS/ Explore Morocco Presentation, by Mourad Abdennebi**



Casablanca American School (CAS) introduced a new program for Middle School students called “**Junior CorpsAfrica (JCA)**.” This youth development program will provide students with the opportunity to work directly with a CorpsAfrica Volunteers and experience service and voluntary work first-hand from a young age. Eight students were selected for the first group.

19:00 **Icebreakers, sightseeing then dinner at a nearby cafe**

Volunteers visited Morocco’s largest mosque, Mosque Hassan II, and dined at a nearby restaurant.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

08:00 – 09:00 **Overnight Mail**

09:00 – 13:00 **Project Development with Prof. Hassan Boutjdir**

Volunteers attended a session concerned with identifying, prioritizing and responding to the top priority needs of the local communities where they serve. The talk included topics ranging from community ownership of projects, funding sources, and the implementation of the best practices. Later, Volunteers participated in an open discussion and benefited from an opportunity to ask Prof. Boutjdir questions



directly related to their respective sites.

13:30 – 15:00 **Lunch then icebreakers**

15:00: CorpsAfrica/Malawi Volunteers and staff arrive!



15:00 – 19:00 **Human-Centered Design & Monitoring and Evaluation: Working with Your Community to Design Experiments and the Tools to Track Progress - "Ideas to Experiments to Ideas," by Garrett Mason and Amath Ba**

Volunteers are trained in **Human Centered Design** (formerly known as "Design Thinking"), a problem-solving approach which CorpsAfrica utilizes as the foundation for its work in asset-based community development. During Pre Service Training and In Service Trainings, Volunteers are taught how to engage in and empower their communities to collectively address unmet needs. Through Human-Centered Design, Volunteers understand their role as facilitators for community development at their sites.



19:00 – 19:15 **Icebreaker**

19:30 **Dinner**

20:00 – 21:30 **Skype call with St. Martin's students and CorpsAfrica Volunteers, by Garrett Mason at Mourad Abdennebi's apartment nearby.**



Friday, October 7, 2016

08:00 – 09:00 **Overnight Mail (optional)**

09:00 – 09:55 **Journeyman International presentation, by Ismail Elkasmi**

Ismail Elkasmi shared Journeyman International (JI)'s platform, connecting volunteer architects, designers, engineers and project managers with humanitarian project needs, similar to those CorpsAfrica Volunteers are involved in. JI is CorpsAfrica's newest Development Partner.

10:00 – 12:30

OCPF Presentation
M. Tarik El Fehri, Ms. Meryem Bouabid,
M. Rachid Tber



OCP Foundation staff shared their work as it relates to CorpsAfrica in promoting Africa’s youth and their role in serving as a solution to poverty. CorpsAfrica Volunteers were able to better understand their role in assisting OCP Foundation on the field by creating solutions to community challenges.



12:30 – 16:00

Couscous lunch at
CorpsAfrica/Maroc President
Omar Laafoura’s home in
Casablanca



16:00 – 17:00

Human-Centered Design & Monitoring and Evaluation: Working
with Your Community to Design Experiments and the Tools to
Track Progress - "Ideas to Experiments to Ideas" (today and Sunday
morning) By Deborah Hall, Mamadou Sarr

This workshop consisted of an introduction and general background on CorpsAfrica’s methods of Monitoring and Evaluation. The details of CorpsAfrica Malawi’s pilot/start up Monitoring and Evaluation program (The “Impactor”) and the tools the staff and Volunteers have used during each phase served as examples for other CorpsAfrica country offices.

19:00

Cultural Night: Country skits and food sample dinner from the three
countries.

CorpsAfrica Volunteers from each country cooked a meal from their respective countries, and followed the dinner with a skit and performances representing their culture and heritage.



Saturday, October 8, 2016

09:00 - 10:00 Introducing the CorpsAfrica Alumni Association

The session was led by a panel of CorpsAfrica alumni and included a presentation of CorpsAfrica’s Alumni Association’s Board. The Alumni events, activities and website were shared with current Volunteers. The Entrepreneurship Incubator was also presented. Two Volunteers serving in other countries, Adnane Sounni (Senegal) and Abdellah Azizi (Malawi) spoke of the opportunity to serve in other CorpsAfrica countries.



10:00 – 11:00 Translating Your CorpsAfrica Experience in the Job Search

Led by Nicole Dewing, this session served as an opportunity for Volunteers to learn how to define their CorpsAfrica service in a way that they and their future employers can clearly understand, wherein they can connect the lessons they learned in their countries of service to their professional careers. Nicole Dewing presented ways in which volunteers can translate new skills and techniques, soft and hard, to the workplace.



12:30 – 15:00 Lunch and Reception Preparations

16:00 – 19:00 Volunteer Presentations and Reception at A Ma Bretagne

CorpsAfrica hosted an elaborate presentation ceremony and reception at A Ma Bretagne. Two CorpsAfrica Volunteers from each country (Morocco, Senegal and Malawi) and two Moroccan Exchange Volunteers shared their experiences through presentations of their sites and projects with almost 120 guests, including corporate prospects, Development Partners, prospective Volunteers, members of the press, and others. We also announced the new CorpsAfrica Alumni Association and signed a convention with the Casablanca American School to launch the new “Junior CorpsAfrica” program. Eight “JCA’s” from the Middle School introduced themselves to the audience. They will be matched with CorpsAfrica Volunteers and visit them at their sites and help with community development projects.





Sunday, October 9, 2016

After an early morning M&E session, everyone took the buses to El Jadida to visit a site of a former OCP Foundation Volunteer, Ali El Kassas. There was a formal presentation by local authorities, school officials and CorpsAfrica, then a tea reception and a tour of the library project, which was a collaboration between CorpsAfrica Volunteers Ali El Kassas, Abderrahim Boualy, and Rachida Chadid as well as a Peace Corps Volunteer and the British Council Morocco.



Monday, October 10, 2016

A much-needed day off in Essaouira.



Tuesday, October 11 thru Friday, October 14, 2016

The CorpsAfrica Volunteers spent three nights in the High Atlas Mountains. We took the bus to Asni, then small transports to Tassaouirgane, then hiked up the Azzoden Valley. Half the group stayed in Tiziane and the other half continued on to Tizi Oussem. The Volunteers visited sites, saw current and past CorpsAfrica projects, and stayed in village guests houses. Each village family warmly welcomed the groups and made communal meals that everyone gathered around, making for a unique memorable experience for all the Volunteers and staff. During the day, there was training and exercises in Human Centered Design and Monitoring and Evaluation. The Volunteers broke into small groups to conduct surveys and interviews to measure the impact of recently completed projects. In the evenings, there were group meals and local music festivals.



20:00 – 23:00 Final Dinner in Marrakech

CorpsAfrica hosted a final dinner for the Volunteers and staff at a small rooftop deck of a restaurant near the Jmaa El Fna. We distributed signed certificates to each Volunteers. Liz Fanning, Mamadou Sarr and Adam Gaskins made short and moving speeches, and Liz read remarks sent by Marc Douglas:

“Congratulations to each Volunteer, especially, and to everyone else involved with the first All Country Conference! I am confident that this convening will have historical significance, and that each of us will work tirelessly, in our minds and hearts, to make it so. Connecting, as has transpired these past two weeks, with like-minded folks is part of the formula to recharge our batteries, share experiences, learn new knowledge, methods and skills, reflect on core values, create and deepen relationships, and much more. I miss my time with the group, and especially the dialogue that resulted. I trust that this dialogue, like our friendship and collaboration, can and will continue. I challenge each of you - as I do myself - to heighten your awareness of the tremendous resources at your disposal, and the opportunity behind CorpsAfrica and what it represents. By continuously learning, doing, and teaching, you can use each moment to make the world a better, more sustainable, and harmonious place. Again, congratulations on achievements to date, and lets work together for many more!”



Saturday, October 15, 2016

Sad good-byes. We took the bus to Casablanca from Marrakech in the morning. The Malawi staff/Volunteers left on Saturday afternoon and the Maroc and Senegal staff/Volunteers left on Sunday.

