

Diary august 31:

The Formation des Formateurs started on July the First. The 28 students are from Mauritanie, Maroc, Mali and Senegal. The candidates from Guinee could not come, unfortunately, because of the Ebola. The course is held in Maison des Sourds (House of the Deaf) in Nouakchott and will take in total approximately 4 months. The 28 students already did an intensive training to learn ASL (American Sign Language) adapted for the African culture by African Deaf people. Khalifa (from Togo) is an experienced teacher Sign Language and an interpreter. He really knows to motivate the students for the lessons. Each student has received a personal report in which appreciation and advice. For the rest of the course Khalifa will be the interpreter, to translate spoken language to sign language for the deaf students. He will also assist in the written part of the course. Therefore all students can participate on the same level.

31 of August 'Langue Colorée', the second part of the course, started.

Langue Colorée is divided in 5 parts:

The deaf child and its development

The deaf child in class

Visualisation

Communication

Cercle Rouge (the red circle) (learning to read and write for deaf children)

Today we started the first lesson.

After a long journey from Holland to Mauritania, Arlette (the interpreter Dutch=French and teaching assistant) and I landed by airplane into a warm blanket.

The next morning we were surprised to notice that big parts of the city are flooded because of the late and heavy rainfall in this otherwise very dry land. Maison des Sourds also was flooded (with mud). It is not easy to reach it and the smell is not agreeable. The air is heavy of the ominous rain. After 5 minutes you can wring your clothes.

The heat is intense, we have to get used to that.

The group is enormously enthusiastic. After the introductions and the announcements we start the lessons.

Everybody works hard. We have given information about:

1 respect for each other, the school and the materials

2 the deaf child has to enjoy to learn

3 the classroom layout

4 which materials are necessary

5 how to involve the pupil to the lesson

We have given information and discussed about this in small groups and in the whole group. This gave surprising outcomes. With respect for the child, its parents and its environment, these subjects are thoroughly debated.

Fotos:



Where necessary Khalifa helps with translations for the deaf students. Khalifa (from Togo) teacher Sign Language



Arlette translates the lessons into French.



Taxicabs are more expensive, they make detours to come to the destination. This flood is right in front of Maison des Sourds Public transport also hampered because of the flood.



After the theoretical part of the lesson the students work in small groups
The deaf children are doing a concentration game
Deliberation between deaf and hearing participants



A stroll to the beach
Preparing dinner

