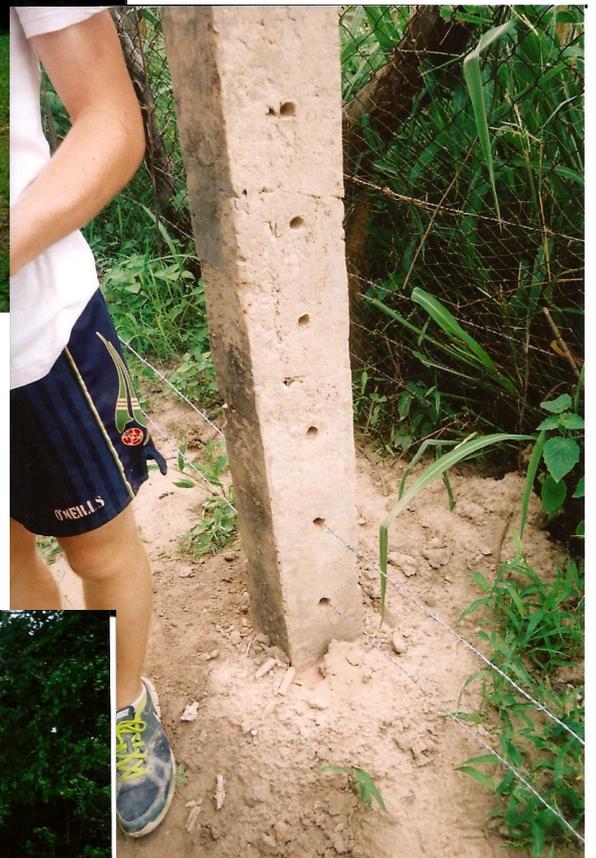


Gambia 2014 – THANK YOU!!!

Thank you so so much for giving me your generous donation to fund me going to Gambia. It was a trip of a lifetime and I had the most amazing time. We managed to complete building the fence which ran along one side of the women's garden. It was 63 concrete posts long with 10 holes for barbed wire. During the first week we made the wooden moulds which were used to shape the concrete posts and digging the holes in the ground for them to be stable. During the second week we started making the concrete posts by mixing the concrete and pouring them into the moulds. Then by week three the concrete was set so we could peel off the wooden boards. We were only meant to make the posts as the barbed wire for some reason wasn't covered by our insurance so we only did 2 out of 10 lines to get them off to a head start ☺ heres our final product...



← The team!

As well as completing our project, we also got the chance to go up county and explore the markets as well as their wildlife out there, including monkeys, snakes, crocodiles and even hippos (!!) which was incredible! I have included some photos of them at the bottom too. The biggest shock for me personally was seeing all the wild animals, mainly dogs, goats and donkeys which all just wonder around everywhere. It is very different out there and a pet animal is non-existent. They see and treat animals so differently compared to us and when I told them about all my pets they were shocked! Thought the two dogs were wearing artificial fur which we had dressed them in because they had only ever seen the one breed of dog which they have out there (some kind of mongrel I think)! The pet which they were most shocked about and found very funny was the pet gecko lizard as out there, lizards just wonder about and no one takes any notice of them so the fact that it lives in our house they found very funny! Haha!

I loved joining in with my family in the everyday chores such as cooking and cleaning as they do things so differently compared to us... I will add a photo of their cooking area below. I was very lucky as I was staying with a comparatively rich family so I actually had a toilet seat! However it didn't flush and leaked everywhere... but when compared to some of my friends' compounds that was luxury! I also got a fan which I wasn't expecting and I was extremely happy about as I don't know how I would have got to sleep at night without it. Electricity is very new to the area as Marlborough has been developing Gunjur for a long time now and the recent project has been giving everyone electricity. All the lights inside the house were quite scary though as they were always blowing up and just open sockets everywhere!

Thank you so much once again for helping me to fund for this experience.. I would have never been able to go if it wasn't for you! Here are a few pictures from my trip ☺ ENJOY!



← The women's garden – it was huge! Around 12 acres in total.



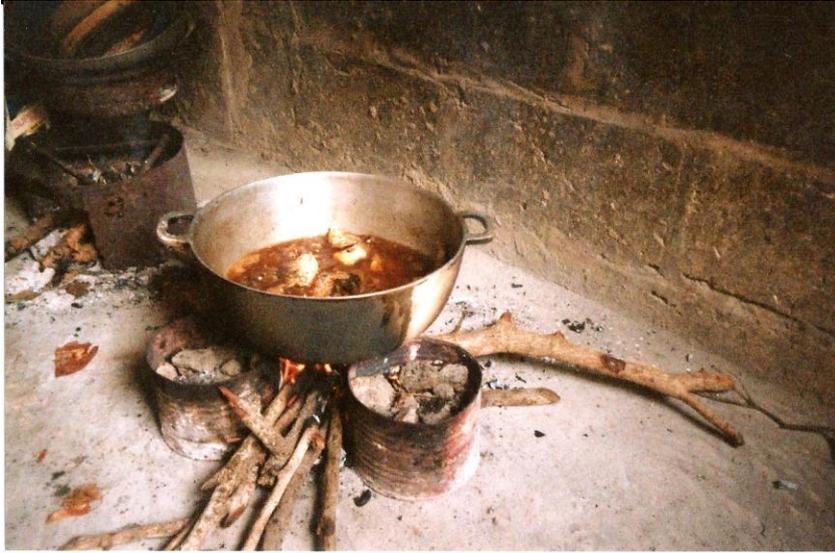
← My compound
(more like a
bungalow)



← My room



← The garden in
my compound (this
was very rare, all
my friends
compounds didn't
have a garden as
all the women
used the
community garden
– which we were
building the fence
for)



← Cooking area



← Some children from my compound and some of their friends. Everyone out there is very family and friends orientated so every day there was about 20 people constantly around my compound even though only 5 people lived there.



← My Family



← The local market



← Crocodiles!



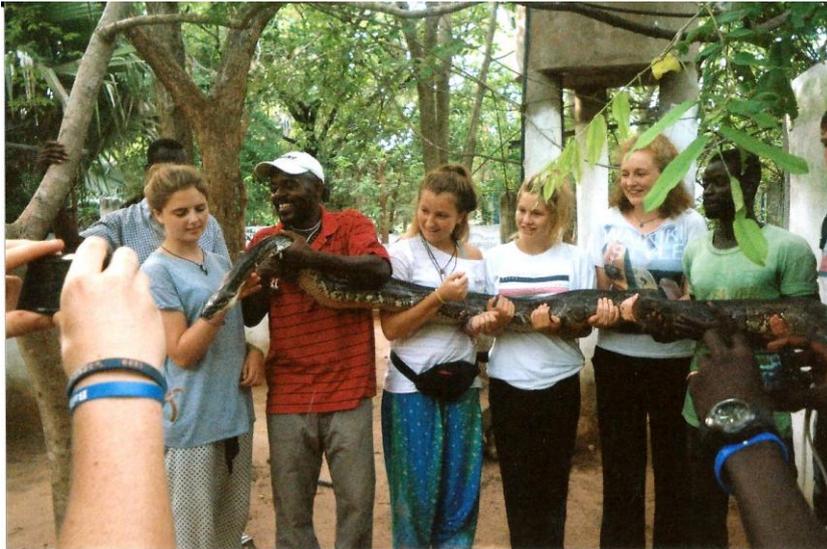
← Monkeys





← Some very laid back monkeys!





← I was hugeeee!! And I had to hold the head! I was so scared! 😊



← We were lucky enough to get invited to see the koreteh prayers to celebrate the end of Ramadan.





← The busy markets



← Fell in love with this adorable baby!



