

“Taliberté Senegal” Project

SECTION:
HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

LOCAL PARTNER:
Associazione Taliberté

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS:
Fondazione Cantonuovo

BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT:
2011

PROVIDED RESOURCES:
800 € (first phase)

COUNTRY, CITY:
Senegal, St. Louis

THE STORY:

In August 2011 a volunteer of Fondazione Cantonuovo visited the city of St Louis, Senegal, to help “Association Taliberté” with its activity. On that occasion, he witnessed the extreme poverty in which the children called “Talibé” lived. These children coming mostly from distant regions and whose number is estimated around the tens of thousand, are students who have been entrusted by their poor families to teachers, supposedly to learn the Koran. However, the teachers are unable to support and take care of them properly and the children, often barefoot and dressed in rags wander the streets in search for food or money for their teachers’ pockets. The malnutrition and the hygienic conditions in which these kids are forced to live are appalling. Control by the authority is non-existent, partly for lack of financial resources, but mostly to avoid conflicts with the teachers themselves who enjoy great respect and have found in these kids a source of money and power. In 2006 some volunteers from Senegal and France founded “Association Taliberté”, recognized and authorized by the Government of Senegal. “Association Taliberté” in addition to assisting the Talibé children with medical treatments, medicines and clothes, aims at offering them a way out of destitution by providing a basic education, courses to learn French, a job for the oldest kids and, whenever possible, by reuniting them with their own families. However, for the time being “Association Taliberté” is only able to provide

medical treatments on the streets or directly in the Koranic schools attended by the children when the teachers allow to do so. “Association Taliberté” is planning to open in St Louis a center to accommodate and educate such children, a center that could become a shelter for all kids in need of medical treatments and education and who have nobody to take care of them.

From September 2011 Fondazione Cantonuovo has been helping “Association Taliberté” with a contribution of € 800 to purchase desks, chairs, a blackboard, ecc. to facilitate the opening of the center so that it could become a place to give hope to hundred of Talibé kids. Beside providing an opportunity to escape slavery, the center will also represent a meeting point for Talibé and local kids in order to fight against the isolation and the prejudice that nowadays affect the Talibé children.



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FOTO:



1) Medical treatment near the market



2) Young Talibé students



3) Medical treatment at school



4) The volunteer, Marco Galli, with young Talibé



5) Emergency treatment



6) Basic education courses