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 **World Renew Senegal**
@worldrenew_sen
God we #pray for our partners as we switch some programming. We pray for enough funding for the change. #PrayMonday



  11 Jul

 **World Renew Senegal**
@worldrenew_sen
As the rainy season approaches, we #pray for enough rain to sustain your creation and your people O Lord #Pray #PrayMonday

  04 Jul

Dear Friends,

As I wrote in April, World Renew and partner SLDS organized a First Aid and Nursing course as part of our Vocational Training activities. This course took place in 2014, and we find that participants are now starting to find jobs as a result of this training. In 2014 and 2015, many of the participants did internships in local clinics or volunteered for the Red Cross, and they are now in a good position to work with local clinics.

Thirty-five youths participated in the training. They were selected from the previous year's Adolescent Health Groups and Youth Action Groups. Youth Action Groups consist of former participants and their friends who are interested in health and community advocacy. Some of these have more education than the girls who were in the Adolescent Health Groups, and some of them are boys. Still, because of poverty and a lack of (family) connections, they also find it hard to break through and find a job and a place in society. Mohamed Sankaré was one of them. This is his story.

My name is Mohamed Sankaré. I am 24 years old, from Yeumbeul in Dakar, Senegal. My father is a retired driver, and my mother sells vegetables in our neighborhood. I live with my parents and siblings. I have completed my high school education and have my diploma.

I have been a participant of the Adolescent Health Program since 2012. At the time, the youth of my neighborhood organized a discussion to learn more about HIV. I found it interesting and participated.

From that day I have been a member of our Youth Action Group. When we were invited to organize other 'tea-debates' and some mass community activities, I figured I could learn a lot here and serve my community.

At that time I was a junior in high school, so I talked about the events with my father. He allowed me to become a member of the



Mohamed Sankaré (l) practices tying a sling during the First Aid course organized by World Renew Senegal partner SLDS. Dakar, Senegal.

Youth Action Group, as long as it would not interfere with my studies.

In 2014 I was chosen as one of the youth who could participate in the First Aid course. Over the course of three months, four trainers from the Red Cross of Pikine taught us twice a week. Our group of 35 worked hard. We had a lot of fun, and we learned a lot. In 2015, I finally passed my high school exam [in Senegal the passing rate for the national high school exam is about 35 percent, and it is common for students to try several years in a row; unfortunately many also have to give up]. Unfortunately I could not continue with higher education because my parents did not have money to pay for my tuition and transportation to downtown Dakar.

After a number of unsuccessful job applications, I applied for military service in Saint Louis, and they told me to include my First Aid diploma in my file. This turned out to be very important in my acceptance; soon they sent my file to the fire department. This year I became a firefighter at the camp in Guédiawaye, the neighboring suburb of Dakar.

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I never regretted my participation in the Adolescent Health Program, because today I have much practice in public communication and in how to behave in a group. The program has shaped my personality; I am more open and attentive than before. I am very proud that I am in a Youth Action Group, and I will always be one of them.

I thank all those who are responsible for the Adolescent Health Program, who have given me much knowledge, and who then gave me the opportunity to find a profession.

Joys and Challenges

- All vocational education programs (catering, hairdressing, sewing, first aid) are in their final months of classes. SLDS will give practical support to participants as they take next steps.
- I was able to travel to Eastern Senegal last month to prepare for program activities that should start in 2017.
- All 16 CECS Adolescent Health Groups completed training and are now preparing community events that will take place in September and October.

SLDS: *Services Luthériens pour le Développement au Sénégal (Lutheran Development Services of Senegal) was formerly known as EELS: Église Évangélique Luthérienne du Sénégal (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal)*

CECS: *Comité Évangélique de Coordination pour la Santé (Evangelical Coordinating Committee for Health) is an association of the 3 protestant denominations in Senegal, put in place through World Renew consultation and support. The association works with local communities that do not yet have the capacity to manage HIV & AIDS, malaria, adolescent health and other health programming.*



Participants in the SLDS First Aid course watch Mohamed Sankaré and two others practice lifting a patient. Dakar, Senegal.



Mohamed Sankaré (r) and two other participants practice lifting a patient. Dakar, Senegal.