

Safia in Burkina

Day 2, Tuesday morning October 26

Safia continued work for us on Tuesday, starting with a meeting at the hotel with Guémilatou, in her first year of formation as a topographer. Guémilatou was a member of our soccer team. We promised the coach, Boubié, that we would finance higher studies for any of the team members who passed the baccalaureate exam. Guémilatou was the first to do so.



Flashback: Safia met with Guémilatou on her last visit to Burkina Faso in August.



She said, and Boubié confirmed, that her parents separated when she was an infant. She was raised by an aunt.



Christine visited her home earlier; there are seven children aged 8 to 23. Guémilatou sleeps on a tidy mat on a tile floor.



This past summer, she had an internship with one of her professors, surveying a road from Ouagadougou to Zorgho.



It was hands on.



Flash-forward: Her objective, she says, is to have her Master's degree in five years and her own business in 10. We wish her luck.



Safia then traveled four miles outside the center of Ouagadougou to Tampouy and the home of Téné and her husband, who is a schoolteacher. They had a comfortable home.



Safia was surprised that Téné was visibly pregnant. Uh-oh. Was she attending classes? From time to time, she replied. Her husband added that she's following a few courses remotely. Safia thought she looked tired.



We will ask the university if she can postpone her studies for a year without losing the tuition that we'd already paid in full. If not, she will have to struggle to pass her first year in economics. Safia is worried about her.



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