



**WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND**  
**HEALING WOMEN, RESTORING LIVES**

## **Social Reintegration at the Danja Fistula Center**

Last week, a group of medical and administrative professionals arrived at the Danja Fistula Center to assist with surgeries and other hospital programs. It is always wonderful for our staff and volunteers to see the tremendous strides the Nigerien staff has made at the DFC. The newest program at the hospital is the social reintegration program.

One of the challenges of conducting social reintegration programming in Niger is that less than 15 percent of women there are literate, but we are undeterred from developing comprehensive educational and vocational training. Currently, there are 38 women participating in our program at the DFC, and all of them take daily educational classes in literacy, numeracy, and entrepreneurship. Our goal is to give each of these women the basic skills necessary to be independent and confident to conduct the small business transactions that are commonplace in Niger. We are also initiating health, hygiene and land management workshops which will provide additional skills and knowledge that are relevant to all occupations and living situations.



*Ellie teaches literacy in the patient village.*

We have also teamed up with a women's empowerment organization in the nearest city of Maradi. This program offers training in several income-generating trades that have proven successful for many women in Niger. These include sewing, soap making and embroidery. Our patients in this program select three trades based upon their personal interests and skill sets and the marketability of each trade in the region where they live. In the first two months, participants hone their skills in all three trades. At the end of the second month, they meet with their instructors and select one trade to pursue fully, dedicating the third month of the program exclusively to that vocation. At the end of the third month, patients receive a certificate that will assist in their pursuit of work. They also receive a micro-loan to help them purchase the necessary equipment to launch their own small business. Participants schedule follow-up meetings with our social reintegration manager one, three, and six months after completing the program for additional support and mentoring. This kind of education and support will be life-changing and long-lasting for these women.

Please stay tuned to our [blog](#) for more news out of Danja, stories of the women we've served and updates on our progress.

To continue supporting the Danja Fistula Center – and help bring healing and medical care to thousands of women living with the agony of obstetric fistula – **please make a tax-deductible one-time or recurring gift today.** We thank you for your incredible generosity.

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