

## "Thanks to APTE-Sénégal, I was able to save my mother."

Adama DIEDHIOU, 23, is an APTE learner in 2<sup>nd</sup> year textiles at CFP Sindian, in the district of Bignona, Ziguinchor region. Adama has gone through difficult periods in her life, gaining a reputation as a belligerent girl pampered by her father, but also affected by the illness of her parents. Upset, she decided to stop her studies to go and work as a domestic servant in Dakar in order to care for her mother. But the advent of the APTE project would change the course of his life. *"I decided to stop studying to go and work as a domestic servant in Dakar to help my mother because she was suffering too much,"* she confides to her APTE teacher, Mrs. Oulimatou BADJI, who answers her in these



words: *"Adama, you can't train a dog and take it hunting the same day."* She went home to think: *"I remembered that APTE taught me that you have to be patient, but also have personal values"* she said. After much contemplation, she decided to stay and fight to earn a living and help her mother. This began with trade: *"I sell 'fatayas'<sup>i</sup>, yassa<sup>ii</sup>, to help my mother. I achieved this with patience because she is now in good health. I was nicknamed 'borom fataya<sup>iii</sup>' or 'borom yassa<sup>iv</sup>', I heard difficult words but I didn't answer, because APTE taught me to be patient, to respect and to save."* With her savings, this brave girl was able to care for her mother and improve the family situation. When her father fell seriously ill, she decided to sew. *"I figured I can't stick to fatayas and yassas. I have profits, of course, but that's not enough for me. I went to get my father's machine back and repaired it with the profits from fatayas and yassas. I reconciled sales and sewing. I go to school and when I return at 3pm, after eating, I sew and if I don't have clothes to sew, I make fatayas and yassas and it is with these profits that I treated my father."* Adama's radical change surprises those around her. *"My older brother used to say to me, 'but you're not working, you're just a simple learner; where is this money coming from? I only know you for your warmongering. Why did you change to make all this happen?' I replied: I hadn't understood anything in life, I didn't have a project or clear set objectives. But when I joined CFP Sindian, I was only taught good things and it was those good things that I put in my head. Before, my vision was very short. But today, with APTE, I have become ambitious. He responded: 'I will thank your APTE teachers because I never imagined that you would change'".* Adama admits to having stopped studying in high school because of a lack of supervision; supervision that she found with APTE. From then on, Adama has excelled. She is patient, communicates better, respects others and is more involved in the work. Her efforts paid off, as she is first in the Sindian centre and was awarded a prize at the IEF1<sup>v</sup> day of excellence in Bignona with an overall grade point average of 16.32. Aware of the importance of the Project, for which she is very grateful, Adama exclaimed: *"I hope the APTE-Senegal Project continues on for my future grandsons"*.

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<sup>i</sup> Small flour-based pockets filled with meat

<sup>ii</sup> Spiced dish with onions and marinated chicken or fish.

<sup>iii</sup> Fatayas seller

<sup>iv</sup> Yassa seller

<sup>v</sup> Departmental Education and Training Inspectorate