Mon Service au Burkina Faso
(My service in Burkina Faso)

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Mouniratou tƏ mɛ zlen
En promouvant le lavage des mains, j’ai travaillé à l’école (To promote handwashing, I worked at the school)
Mon Travail à l’école contre le paludisme
(My work at the school against malaria)
Mon travail au CEG
(My work at the middle school)
Mon travail avec les groupements des femmes (my work with the women’s groups)
Le transport au Burkina Faso (Transportation in Burkina Faso)
Mes amis au village
(my friends in village)
La musique traditionelle (traditional music)
La danse traditionelle avec des masques
(traditional dance with masks)
La Nourriture
(Food)
Les Champs (the fields)
La Pluie (the rain)
D’autres choses (other things)
Les Vacances
(Vacation)
“The toughest job you’ll ever love…”

Positives:
• Learning a new language and culture
• New friends
• New perspective on life, love, time and what is important
• Enriched sense of adventure
• Inner strength
• Inner peace

Negatives:
• Ethics of development work
• Is it my place to come in and instruct people from a different culture
• Colonial legacy
• White savior complex
• Cultural appropriation
• Learn more than you teach
• Peace Corps is held up as a “gold standard” of development (vs voluntourism/mission trip etc.) yet work still to do
• Difficulties with the trainer of trainers model
• Struggles with the power brokers in the village
• Discrimination and sexism
In Conclusion

• Would I go back and do it again… absolutely, nothing but gratitude and love more my experience and the people I met.

• Having done it, in the future I will seek different but related opportunities that are more tailored to my values.