

10th, December, 2007

Today we (Vítor and Sofia) have taken two separate tracks... it's necessary to accomplish results from the volunteers in the field... therefore the honeymoon finished ☺.

Vítor has spent all the morning in the market where the negotiation is a true art, comparing prices and trying to obtain a discount arguing with the fact that the goods are for the children of the Dhaka Project. And the result is worth of that argument being possible to achieve discounts from 10% to 30%. Surrounded by curious people who have never seen an occidental guy dealing in the market (or trying) with the help of Omar, another volunteer, the language barrier has been jumped, we have even been able to persuade the dealer to take a picture with us. The most interesting has been when we bought meat from a butcher, placed on a sidewalk. We have completely loaded 2 rickshaws with corn, spices and meat. Being a well fulfilled morning, I was already missing the children thinking about the promise I had done to Mosharof, to play a Badminton match with him.



Sofia has gone to perform the visits to the remaining houses, accompanied by the children who live in those houses. After analyzing all houses supported by the Project, talking about their needs, we came up to these frightening numbers:

- 27 beds
- 86 mattresses
- 23 fans
- 82 desks
- 69 chairs
- 55 boxes
- 58 shelves
- 53 kitchen shelves
- dishes for 35 families
- kitchen tools for 16 families
- 98 bed sheets
- 98 towels
- painting for 60 houses
- fixing the doors of 9 houses
- 79 mosquito bed nets
- fixing ceilings in 27 houses
- and yet... rent new houses to accomplish a transition for 10 families who live in bamboo huts without minimal conditions for humans.



Found in the slums on Dec, 10th
suffering from Scabies

Today we have been looking for houses to rent to the families needing a transition, having already found 5 available houses, whose rent contracts are going to be assigned tomorrow. Here, it is like that... see and act fastly once the needs are urgent, they can't wait.

As for the remaining, we are trying to obtain prices and budgets for the diverse items as well as defining priorities, to better see the way how to spend the donations from Portugal and Burjuman in Dubai as well as Emirates Foundation. We will send news about it!

The emergencies turn up behind each corner. Today, while visiting a slum, Sofia and Maria found a baby suffering from a very awfull skin disease on face and body. The family wasn't aware about the severity of this disease and thought it was necessary to ask support from a doctor. The emergencies appear as we turn each corner. Today, Sofia and Maria, when visiting a slum, found a baby suffering from a skin disease in face and body having a very awfull aspect. The family wasn't aware of the severity of this disease and didn't think to be necessary to seek help from a doctor. Maria and Sofia immedatley told the parents to take the child to Dhaka Project's doctor and the diagnostic is "Scabies"! A highly infectious skin disease! Maria didn't know that this disease takes from 4 to 6 weeks to incubate and now is concerned about it and all who have had contact with this child have to be diagnosed, Maria included.

In the afternoon Sofia had to go out to bay fruits

200 oranges and 200 apples a recommendation from the new nutritionist contracted by The Dhaka Project. It has been an interesting experience, in which she has been among about 30 men who possibly had never seen an occidental face!

As for the meals, it's all on the knee (improvised) Maria says she will appear

for having lunch but is always doing a thousand things at the same time, the Guest House recalls Rossio (*an overcrowded place in Lisbon*), in a continuous getting in, getting out, at every minute... and as a result, this night we took an hour to go out and eat a roast chicken in a place situated some 15 minute rickshaw trip from the Project, but fearing to cross the fast highway we gave up the rickshaw. In a relaxing moment we took the time to visit the toilets, common to men/women, it's unspeakable... Back to the quarter at around 10 PM we have gone to visit a family whose 3 children wanted to come with us and sleep in the Guest House. After playing and laughing with them, they got asleep, and we got back to work. Around 1 AM we are still finishing this diary, answering emails, finishing a few administrative tasks and making plans for tomorrow.



Fastly Maria sent her to Project's doctor!!!