



For nearly 30 years, buildOn has worked to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education. We do this by mobilizing youth from some of the most under-resourced schools in the United States to transform their communities through service learning and by working alongside community members in economically developing countries to build much-needed schools.

buildOn Global



buildOn's Global Programs partner with rural communities in developing nations to build equal access to education. Through our participatory methodology, buildOn has mobilized villages in some of the economically poorest countries on the planet.

School Construction: Communities, where we work, have no adequate school structure – students are squeezed into dark and crumbling mud buildings, have to walk many miles to a neighboring village, or can't attend school at all. buildOn provides funding, engineering, materials, skilled labor, and project supervision. We are breaking ground on a new school every two days with the help of parents and grandparents who have provided 3.3 million volunteer workdays. We are currently building schools in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Senegal.

Gender Equality: Our methodology puts gender equality at the forefront and the community in control. In many of the countries where we work, girls are not traditionally educated, and there are few opportunities for adult women. buildOn's agreement with each village ensures that girls are sent to school in equal numbers with boys and that women have access to adult education. Right now, 49% of students in buildOn schools are female.

Enroll: In rural communities, many factors prevent children from attending school, including costs associated with education, child labor, and gender and ethnic discrimination. buildOn's Enroll program collaborates with community leaders to overcome these barriers by creating strategies to bring children back to school. By influencing parents, creating accelerated learning opportunities for older children, or covering school supplies through microenterprise initiatives, the Enroll program helps ensure equal access to education.

Adult Literacy: Taught in the evenings, in the same schools their children attend by day, the Adult Literacy Program gives parents and grandparents the education they need to build a better life for themselves and their children. In each class, students spend the first six to twelve months learning to read, write, and do basic math. Students then put these skills to use through income-generating activities such as beekeeping, animal husbandry, and textile production. 22,708 adults have participated in the program, over 77% of them women.

2,012

Schools Built

3.3 Million

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS
CONTRIBUTED BY
BUILDON COMMUNITIES

297,824

CHILDREN, PARENTS
AND GRANDPARENTS
ATTEND BUILDON
SCHOOLS EVERY DAY