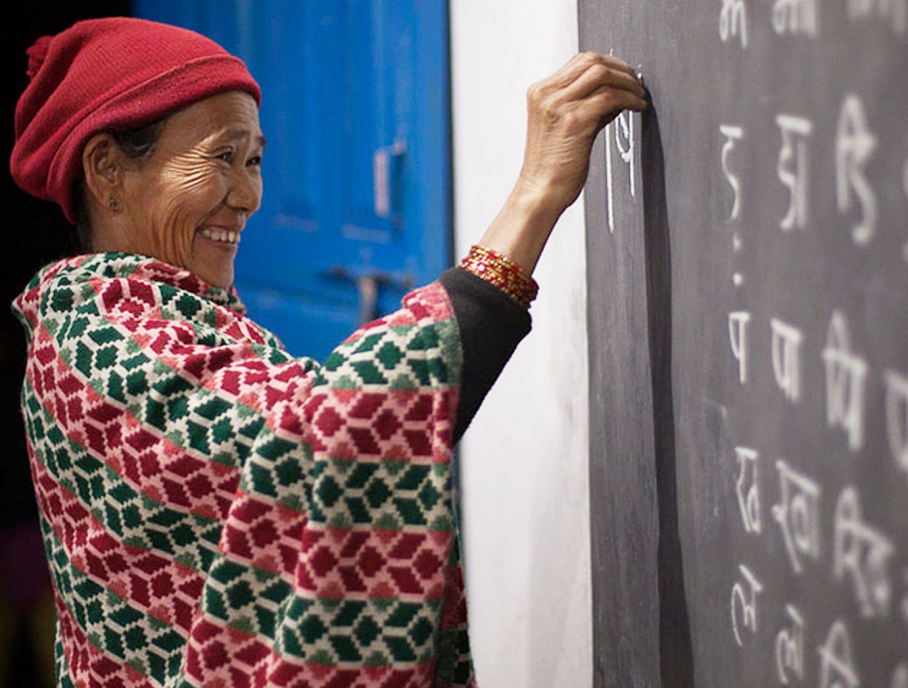


# buildOn

## ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM



1 in 5 adults across the globe cannot read or write. Two-thirds of these adults are women. With the ability to read, write and do basic math, individuals are able to improve health conditions, develop more efficient farming techniques, and gain a stronger voice in society.

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. buildOn currently conducts Adult Literacy Programs in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Senegal and Nepal.

**Literacy is just the beginning.** Through the promotion of basic education, The Adult Literacy Program addresses the problems of poverty, disease and injustice. In each class, students spend the first six to twelve months learning to read, write and do basic math through the lens of health, agriculture, and relevant life skills. Participants then put these skills to the test through income generating activities. First, communities tell us what they want to learn. Then buildOn works with villagers to inventory their resources and create a strategic action plan for progress. Income generating activities have included dry-season gardening, animal husbandry, and textile production.

**Classes are taught by literate community members who are themselves trained by buildOn.** buildOn selects two educated community members for our facilitator training program, in which they engage in a 30-day intensive program about how to teach adults to read and write. Facilitators receive a monthly stipend to teach 50-75 adults, six nights per week, two hours a night, for six months a year (participants take school breaks during farming and holiday seasons) over a one to two year period.

### Adult Literacy Program Investment:

Haiti - \$8,500

Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, & Senegal - \$6,000

### Participants gain knowledge in:

- Reading & Writing
- Basic Math & Numeracy
- Health & Nutrition
- Family Planning
- Improved Agriculture
- Income Generation

### Program Success:

- **33,513 adults** have completed the Adult Literacy Program,
- **79%** of all participants have been **women**.
- **Literacy levels** have increased in all program communities across the board.

# SUCCESS STORIES



## Shishaya, Nepal

### *Using new skills to start a business*

After buildOn constructed a school in the small Nepalese village of Shishaya, several adults quickly enrolled in buildOn's Adult Literacy Program. After completing the program, a small group of women led by Jyoeshena Chaudhary decided to use their new literacy to start a sewing business. They trained with local textile workshops, developed a business plan, and are now earning an average of \$3 a day from the items they manufacture. Jyoeshena has said that the Adult Literacy Program provided her with the rudimentary skills and the confidence she needed as both a woman and an individual to organize her sewing business. The Adult Literacy Program is enabling Jyoeshena to bring herself and her village out of extreme poverty.



## Latyr, Senegal

### *Working together to increase student attendance*

Through buildOn's Adult Literacy Program men and women in the village of Latyr learned how to read and write as well as basic math and business skills that they immediately put to use to address challenges in their own community. Every year, children in Latyr were starting school late due to a lack of pens and exercise books. The Adult Literacy participants of this village, who were realizing the power of education through their own classes, knew that it was vital that the children of their community start the school year on time. In order to generate income to purchase school supplies, the Latyr Adult Literacy Program decided to take action in a way that might seem unlikely to some—by making soap. After selling the soap they made, the participants used their new business and accounting skills to work together as a team to set up their own school supplies store where children could purchase the items they needed for 25 percent cheaper than they could in town. Not only were the Adult Literacy Program participants able to increase the number of school days attended by children in their community by eliminating financial barriers, they also donated any profits made back to the school in Latyr.