buildOn had a landmark year in 2022! Globally, we broke ground on 239 schools—that’s a new school every 36 hours—and there are currently 73,518 students enrolled in those schools, over half of them girls. Our Adult Literacy Program continues to thrive and expand as well with 135 programs currently active, bringing education to those who have previously been denied a seat in the classroom.

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past few years, we had to temporarily halt our Trek program. But 2022 saw the return of this essential buildOn experience! These face-to-face programs are invaluable, they help us all feel connected, and they allow us to see, first-hand, the power of our impact.

Our world has faced unprecedented challenges over the past few years—from political corruption, to economic crises, environmental disasters, and more—but the strength buildOn has shown to rise up in the face of these difficulties shows how significant and essential our work really is. We are One buildOn, and when we work together—as staff, students, and supporters—we accomplish so much. We’re grateful for the incredible achievements we made in 2022 and can’t wait to expand our reach in 2023!

Djibril Ouattara
Chief Program Officer, Global
239 Schools Broke Ground

73,518 Students Enrolled*

51% of Students are Female

21,707 Out-of-School Children Enrolled**

71 Grades Added

135 Adult Literacy Programs Running

7,590 Adult Literacy Participants

83% of Adult Literacy Participants are Female

531 Income Generating Initiatives

187 Teachers Added

2022 Milestones

*The number of students enrolled at the 239 schools that broke ground in 2022. This number does not include out-of-school children.

**Children that were not attending school and were identified and enrolled through buildOn's Enroll Program.
Building a Better World Together

In 2022, we broke ground on 239 new schools across our eight partner countries and continued to expand the reach of our Enroll and Adult Literacy Programs.

*Total Enrollment includes the number of students attending schools that broke ground in 2022, the number of out-of-school children enrolled, and the number of participants in Adult Literacy Programs.
SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
In 2022, buildOn partnered with rural communities in eight countries to break ground on 239 schools. 73,518 students are attending classes at these schools each day and 51% of those students are female.

Each buildOn school came equipped with latrines, helping to both decrease the risk of disease and improve attendance, particularly among female students. When needed, boreholes and hand-washing stations were also provided.

Since 1991, parents and grandparents have now contributed more than 4 million volunteer days toward the construction of schools in their communities—building a better future for their children and generations to come.

Community participation and leadership are at the forefront of every buildOn construction project. A team of six women and six men oversees each school build, managing supplies, recruiting volunteers, and ensuring the overall success of the project.

Through buildOn’s partnership with SCB—the world-leading, low carbon commodity company—solar panels were installed on 10 buildOn schools in Malawi. Today, more than 6,000 children and 700 adults have benefited from the increased access to education that these lights and classes have provided.

This year, 1,428 students attended buildOn’s two secondary schools in Mali and Malawi. These schools are putting hundreds of students on a path to higher education. 155 students graduated from both schools in 2022!
For over 25 years, José Antonio Flores (pictured left) has been the driving force behind the efforts to build a proper school in his community of Cerro Verde, Nicaragua. As a child, José said his parents never thought about sending him to school. He says his father, “only cared about teaching me to work with the machete,” and believes that the little he does know today came from his own effort. “At least I can sign my own name,” he adds. That’s why, when he became a parent, José was committed to enrolling all nine of his children in school.

Initially, his children and their neighbors had to walk more than three miles down a jagged path to another community for classes. That’s when José requested a state-trained teacher from the government, and Cerro Verde’s first school was born.

At first, the school’s structure was made from sticks and plastic, but within six months, the plastic sheets gave out, causing numerous leaks. José and his neighbors managed to obtain zinc sheets for roofing, and after several changes to the school’s location, rallied for more construction materials.

Then buildOn came.

While some of José’s sons thought he was too old to help with the school’s construction, he responded, “No, son. I want to see something in my community. If we don’t pull forward, progress is never going to come here.”

His persistence paid off. The long journey to a proper school finally came to an end. Now that the work is done, the days of water leaks, dirt floors, darkness, and overcrowded classrooms are over. In addition to the new classroom structures, a new road was also formed to get the materials to the site. “To me, it was a joy to see this school in Cerro Verde,” says José. “It has been fruitful work, and it is permanent. It is work that can only be destroyed by the Lord, the Almighty.”

Finally, after decades of hardship and setbacks, Cerro Verde and its future generations have renewed hope through education and opportunity.
A RETURN TO GLOBAL SERVICE

In 2022, buildOn reopened our Trek program. In close consultation with our long-time advisors at International SOS, our deeply experienced Global team, and other health authorities, the Trek and Global teams launched a series of pilot Treks in multiple countries. The pilots were quite successful and gave us the insight we needed to fully open the program with confidence. In March, we hosted the first Alumni Trek—consisting of more than a dozen buildOn U.S. Alumni, our CEO Jim Ziolkowski, and NY Board Member Rassaan Parris.

Since those early successes, the Trek team has navigated the complex and constantly changing international travel landscape to bring 37 Treks to our partner communities in 2022. More than 400 Trek participants have come alongside buildOn global communities this year, helping to build 37 schools.

In 2023, we are looking to accelerate our program and return to pre-pandemic Trek levels. We are nearly doubling the number of Treks we plan to run and going deeper into the impact areas where our Global team continues to make enormous gains to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy!

John Sorek
Trek Director, buildOn
When I step back and reflect on the long-term impact this organization has had on my life, I think of buildOn as a catalyst. It ignited a passion for service that has oriented my entire life path.

—Antonia De Michiel, buildOn Alum

This year, 13 buildOn alumni from across the U.S. came together to build a school in the small Senegalese community of Keur Mamadou Ndao as part of buildOn's first-ever Alumni Trek. As high school students they contributed thousands of hours of service in their own neighborhoods and traveled with buildOn to construct schools in some of the economically poorest places in the world. Today, these passionate young adults are college students and working professionals, but despite the different paths their lives have taken, they still have one thing in common: their passion for service and education.

“Everyone on the Trek was really committed to buildOn and really passionate about buildOn’s mission, and they’re also all doing amazing things with their lives that probably wouldn’t have been possible if it wasn’t for buildOn,” says Bay Area alum, Antonia De Michiel (pictured above). “Everyone—regardless of whatever profession they were in or wanted to go into—would say something like ‘I decided to become a nurse because I wanted to help others’ or ‘I want to be a police officer so that I can contribute to the community I grew up in.’ Everyone was very oriented towards service as a part of their personal identity and it was really cool to be a part of that energy for 10 days.”
Antonia and her fellow alumni put their passion for service into action as they worked side-by-side with the women and men of Keur Mamadou Ndao to build the community’s first proper school. It was these relationships, and the passion and courage she saw, that got Antonia through the long days of making bricks in the sweltering heat.

“Every day on the worksite the moms would say ‘education is the future’ and talk about how important it was to educate their children.”

For teammate and buildOn Boston alum, Sendy Lamour (pictured right), it was the conditions of the old school and the dedication of its sole teacher that made the biggest impression on her.

“The teacher in the old school traveled a long distance on his motorcycle to come and teach the kids in a school made out of palm leaves. I was just so happy that he got to witness the buildOn team working on the worksite to build a more sustainable school for him to teach in, even during the rainy season,” says Sendy. “I think our presence on the worksite and how hard everyone worked might have been encouraging to him—just to know that he was not alone in helping the village build a brighter future.”

And build a brighter future they did. Today, the children of Keur Mamadou Ndao are learning in bright, spacious buildOn classrooms where they no longer have to battle dust, snakes, and rain on a daily basis. Antonia and Sendy haven’t stopped serving either. Antonia is leading efforts to fund an Adult Literacy Program in Senegal so that women, like the passionate mothers she met on the worksite, can also have a chance to learn and become literate. Meanwhile, Sendy has joined buildOn’s Boston board, where she is helping students in under-resourced high schools experience the transformative power of service and take action on the issues most affecting their communities.
ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM
buildOn’s innovative Adult Literacy Program is giving women and men in rural communities the opportunity to gain crucial skills in literacy and numeracy, all taught through the lens of agriculture, health, and enterprise. This year saw the launch of our first-ever Adult Literacy Classes in Burkina Faso, with 300 participants, including 261 women.

Adult Literacy Programs in Progress*

*buildOn follows the standard adult literacy curriculum in each country, which varies in length from location to location.
Adult Literacy Participants put their lessons into practice through income-generating activities such as beekeeping, soap and textile making, and soya bean production. Profits earned were reinvested in their communities and used to help provide school uniforms and supplies for children in need.

In Chinguwo, Malawi, Adult Literacy participants grew soya beans and used their profits to help provide school uniforms for four orphaned children.

In Guilla, Burkina Faso, participants learned how to make traditional tie-dyed fabrics which will be used to purchase school supplies for children in their community.

Number of Income-Generating Activities Currently Running

- **Burkina Faso**: 12
- **Haiti**: 72
- **Senegal**: 44
- **Nepal**: 170
- **Mali**: 127
- **Malawi**: 106
When Awa Sagne (pictured on the right) first arrived in Senegal’s capital city of Dakar at age 25 she was astounded by her new environment. But it was more than just the crowds and tall buildings that caught her attention—it was the ease in which other women her age were able to use mobile phones and read newspapers to understand current events.

As a child, Awa had never learned to read or write because there was no school for her to attend in her small community of Nerane Diarrere. Like many families living in rural Senegal, Awa’s parents struggled to provide for themselves, so Awa chose to leave the community and find work as a maid in Dakar in order to support her family. “It hurt me not to know how to read and write so I went to see a teacher who held evening classes for students at a nearby school,” remembers Awa. “I agreed to pay the teacher 1,500 FCFA per month (roughly US $2.50) and I did my classes in the evenings from 6pm to 8pm because I had to work in the mornings.”

For Awa, these classes were the first step on her journey towards receiving an education. She could finally write her own name and even learned to operate a mobile phone.

After some time, Awa ended up returning to Nerane Diarrere where she married and became the proud mother of four children. It was through her return home that Awa, now 36, got the unexpected opportunity to continue her education once again. When Awa heard of the Adult Literacy Program at the newly constructed buildOn school in her community she immediately signed up. Through her Adult Literacy Classes Awa not only learned to read and write in her first language of Serrere, she was also able to use the skills she gained to start a small business. “With the money I received through the Adult Literacy Program’s Income-Generating Initiative, I was able to buy milk, millet, shoes, and bedsheets which I then sold in the village market,” says Awa. The adults in Awa’s class also made and sold traditional Senegalese tie-dyed fabrics. By giving women like Awa the opportunity to contribute financially to their households and communities, buildOn’s Adult Literacy Program is also ensuring that they are given a voice and seen as leaders by the men in their villages.

Today, Awa feels a greater sense of independence and self-sufficiency. She takes great pride in the fact that she can be more involved in her children’s education, often helping them with their homework at night. She says, “I am very happy with the change in my life now.” To other women thinking about pursuing an education later in life Awa adds, “I want you to know that you should never give up even if it is difficult sometimes. You can do it. Believe in yourself, you are strong!”
ENROLL PROGRAM
A lack of quality classrooms, long distances to the nearest school, gender discrimination, and poverty have all led to high rates of out-of-school children in the remote rural regions where buildOn works.

Poor learning conditions and overcrowded classrooms lead many children to drop out of school or never enroll in the first place. That’s why the first step towards enrolling out-of-school children is to make sure that they have safe, modern structures to learn in. buildOn classrooms are spacious and earthquake resistant, and come equipped with desks, blackboards, and two latrines.

In order to address these challenges and ensure that every child receives the education they deserve, buildOn has developed five key initiatives as part of our Enroll Program. In 2022 alone, this crucial program has helped buildOn bring 21,707 previously out-of-school children back in the classroom.

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

Poor learning conditions and overcrowded classrooms lead many children to drop out of school or never enroll in the first place. That’s why the first step towards enrolling out-of-school children is to make sure that they have safe, modern structures to learn in. buildOn classrooms are spacious and earthquake resistant, and come equipped with desks, blackboards, and two latrines.

**SENSITIZATION AND ADVOCACY**

As the new school is being constructed, buildOn staff and community leaders go door-to-door and talk to parents about the importance of educating their children. They also advocate on behalf of the community and speak to government officials about adding additional teachers and grade levels at the school, and allowing older children to still enroll.
After the out-of-school children in a community are identified, those that are behind in their education are enrolled in Accelerated Learning Courses that allow them to catch up on the lessons they have missed so that they can rejoin their peers in mainstream classes.

buildOn works closely with parents and Adult Literacy participants in each community to create income-generating activities such as animal husbandry, soya bean production, and the making of traditional fabrics and soaps. The profits from these endeavors are used to address the financial barriers that keep many children from the classroom by providing them with much-needed school supplies and uniforms.

In buildOn’s partner countries, birth certificates are required in order for a child to be allowed to take the primary school exit exam. buildOn works with local municipalities to ensure that children have the birth certificates they need to take these exams and advance in their education.
Extreme poverty and a preference for educating sons often leaves girls growing up in rural Mali with limited options for their futures, forcing many into early marriages or child labor. These challenges are usually exacerbated by poor learning conditions in rural schools that make dropping out and the hope of increased family income even more appealing. Until recently, Ramatou Diakite, a young girl growing up in the village of Tamassé, found herself on a similar trajectory.

Like many families in Tamassé, Ramatou’s parents struggled to provide for the family on the meager profits they earned from subsistence farming and charcoal production. To help make ends meet, 10-year-old Ramatou dropped out of school and headed to the nearest city to try to search for a job as a domestic worker. Underage and without much of an education, she felt that this was the only career path open to her at the time. For three years Ramatou spent her days doing domestic chores for wealthier families, while sending whatever small earnings she made back home to support her own family.

Then, in 2022, buildOn partnered with the community of Tamassé to build a new school in the village. Ramatou, who happened to be home at the time, joined her parents on the worksite, eagerly helping to build the new classrooms. Thanks to their time on the construction site and the thoughtful conversations they had with buildOn staff, Ramatou’s parents were convinced to re-enroll her in school. She is currently taking Accelerated Learning Courses through buildOn’s Enroll Program and will soon be ready to rejoin her peers in mainstream sixth grade classes. “I really look forward to continuing my education,” she says. Through buildOn’s Enroll program thousands of girls just like Ramatou are getting a second chance at an education and a better future for themselves and their families. In 2022 alone, buildOn enrolled 21,707 out-of-school children and 49% of those students were girls.
After losing his parents at a young age, Madalitso Banda went to live with his grandparents in Nsolora, a small rural village in the Kasungu region of Malawi. Madalitso’s grandmother brewed and sold a local beer called Kachasu, but the little income this provided barely kept the family fed and clothed, and Madalitso struggled to receive an education. “As an orphan my major problems were how to source school materials such as notebooks, or pay for my examination fees and school uniform,” remembers Madalitso, who eventually dropped out of school in the 7th grade. “Sometimes we would go to sleep with empty stomachs which made it difficult for me to focus on my lessons. Additionally, peer pressure was a major reason for my dropping out of school—my best friend dropped out of school and that influenced me to do likewise.”

Madalitso’s story began to change two years later when he ran into one of his old friends who was now attending a nearby secondary school. “The boy inspired me and I changed my mind to go back to school so that one day I could be in secondary school like him,” says Madalitso. “Therefore, when buildOn staff members told me about the Enroll Program, I did not hesitate to get registered and join.” Through buildOn’s Enroll Program, Madalitso was able to take Accelerated Learning Courses at the new buildOn school block in Nsolora. These innovative classes allowed him to catch up on the education he had missed so that he could successfully complete primary school. “Later, I was promoted into mainstream classes where I worked really hard until I got selected to go to secondary school. On my primary school Leaving Certificate Examinations, I even got five A’s and one B,” says Madalitso, with pride.

Today Madalitso, now a student at Chayamba Secondary School, dreams of using his education to become a doctor. With his family’s economic situation Madalitso knows the path won’t be easy but he is determined to succeed and to encourage other children to follow in his footsteps. “I want the other students in buildOn’s Enroll Program to know that if they work very hard they can also go on to secondary school,” he says.
<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
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<td>1,136</td>
<td>1,425</td>
<td>3,287</td>
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RISING TO THE CHALLENGE
As inflation rates spiked across the globe, buildOn encountered drastic increases in the cost of construction materials and school supplies such as desks and chairs. Additionally, buildOn’s commitment to constructing schools in remote, rural communities was deeply impacted by rising fuel costs and shortages. To address these challenges, our Global team sought out new vendors or worked to peg prices with existing suppliers. They also strategically planned their travel to communities, to ensure maximum fuel efficiency and avoid exceeding budgets.

**Political Instability**

This year saw several buildOn partner countries dealing with challenges related to politics and insecurity. Haiti was the most affected, with large swaths of the country now controlled by gangs, worsening fuel and food shortages, and the resurgence of Cholera. Security concerns that were once isolated to Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas have made their way to other parts of the country. Because of these safety concerns and challenges in securing fuel, buildOn’s Haiti team was severely limited in their ability to travel. Yet, they never gave up and were still able to construct all scheduled schools and successfully run eight Adult Literacy Programs.
In order to mitigate the impact of external challenges, buildOn staff have been working closely with communities to create income-generating initiatives that can withstand the fluctuating economy and the disruptions caused by COVID-19 lockdowns and fuel shortages. In Senegal, Adult Literacy participants utilized the demand for hygienic products to their advantage, making hundreds of bars of soap which they were able to sell easily. The profits they made supported their communities through times of economic hardship and ensured that no child missed out on an education because their family couldn’t afford school supplies.

LESSONS LEARNED

Leveraging Local Partnerships

Reinforcing existing partnerships with local governments, media, and municipalities was key to the successful implementation of buildOn’s Global programs in 2022. In Guatemala and Nicaragua, the municipalities provided significant support through road repairs to help with the delivery of construction materials in remote communities, as well as providing additional skilled workers. In Burkina Faso, local television and radio networks have proved to be effective tools in raising awareness about buildOn’s work and the importance of education and gender equality. Strong collaboration with local governments also played an important part in bringing more teachers to the rural communities where buildOn works. In Mali alone, the government assigned an additional 166 teachers to buildOn schools, reducing teacher-to-pupil ratios and ensuring that every child gets the instruction they need to succeed.

Retaining Newly Enrolled Students

This year, buildOn’s Global Team learned the importance of continuous monitoring and sensitization in order to ensure that out-of-school children that are enrolled in classes have the support they need to stay in school. Most children who require donated school supply kits in order to be enrolled in the first place will continue to need school supplies in their successive academic years. The income-generating activities done through buildOn’s Enroll and Adult Literacy Programs are now being implemented as an innovative way to address the need for school supplies year over year by providing families and communities with sustainable sources of income.

Building Resilience

In order to mitigate the impact of external challenges, buildOn staff have been working closely with communities to create income-generating initiatives that can withstand the fluctuating economy and the disruptions caused by COVID-19 lockdowns and fuel shortages. In Senegal, Adult Literacy participants utilized the demand for hygienic products to their advantage, making hundreds of bars of soap which they were able to sell easily. The profits they made supported their communities through times of economic hardship and ensured that no child missed out on an education because their family couldn’t afford school supplies.
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We’re Never Giving Up

Globally there are still 244 million children and adolescents who aren’t enrolled in school. That’s why buildOn isn’t giving up until every child has a seat in a classroom and the opportunity to gain the education they need to lift themselves, their families, and their communities out of extreme poverty. In 2023, we will be breaking ground on 285 schools, our most ever in a single year. We have learned that structures alone cannot bring every child to the classroom, so we’ll be forging strategic partnerships with local governments and working side-by-side with community leaders and educators to break down the systemic and economic barriers that keep children out of school. Next year, our goal is to enroll 25,000 out-of-school children, in addition to monitoring the progress of the 55,000+ children who were newly enrolled in 2021 and 2022. We know that parents who are educated are much more likely to send their children to school—and to have the means to support their education—so we’re also going to be launching 84 new Adult Literacy Programs in 2023.

None of this would be possible without the courage and determination of the communities we partner with, and the support of people like you. Thank you for helping to make 2022 one of our best years yet and we hope that you’ll join us on the road ahead as we work to bring the transformative power of education to more children and adults around the world.
WE ARE NOT A CHARITY.
WE ARE A MOVEMENT.

buildOn