

buildOn Trek

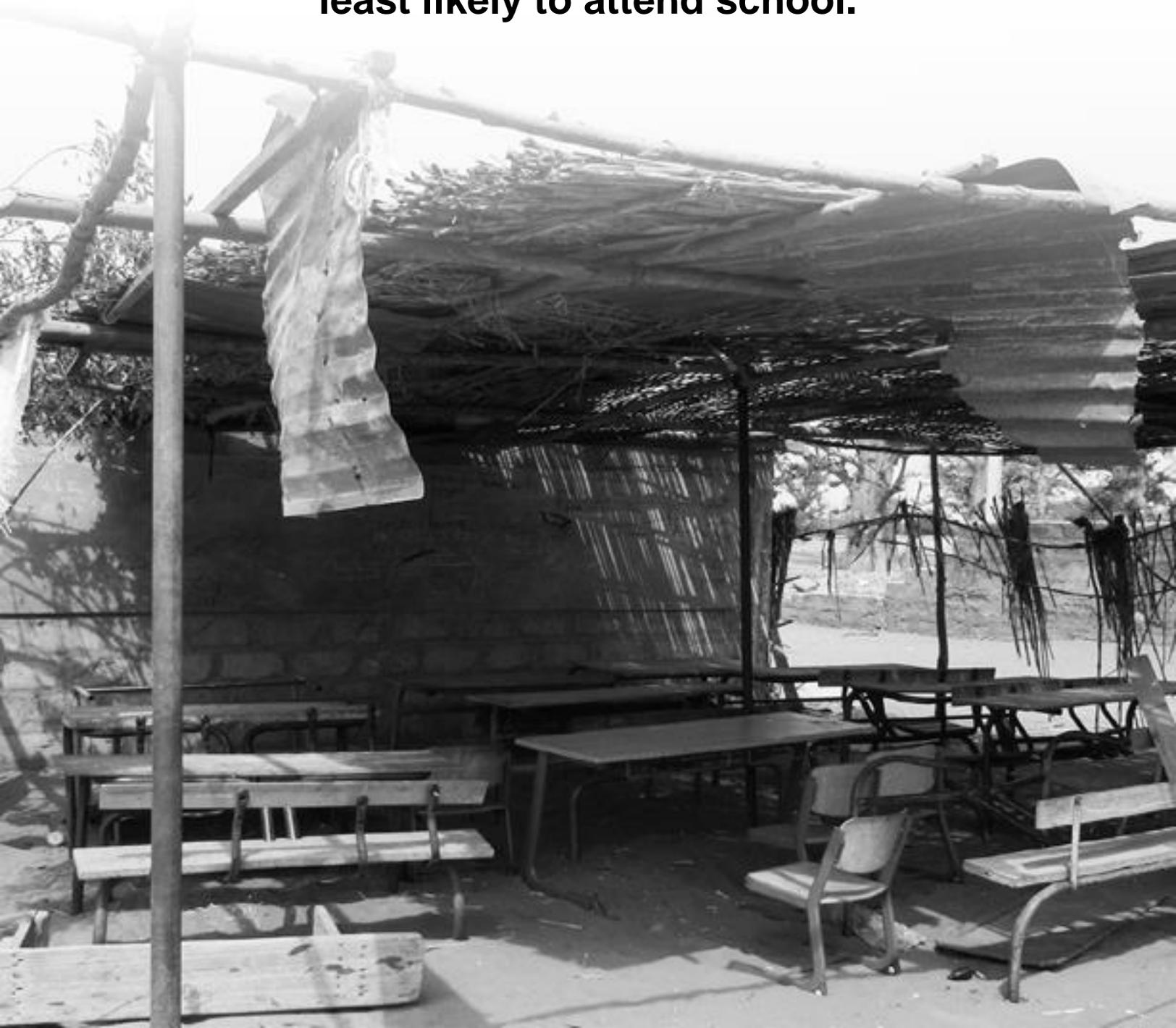
Global Service Learning Program



Education Crisis

Worldwide, nearly 750 million people cannot read or write.

Education is a basic human right. Yet those who need education the most – children living in poverty – are the least likely to attend school.



Service That Makes a Real Impact

For nearly three decades, buildOn has engaged high school and college students in breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by partnering with communities to build primary schools in the developing world.



buildOn Treks are transformational **global service-learning opportunities** for students and educators. Participants immerse themselves in the **local culture** and customs of a rural village, **live** in the community, and **serve** by physically helping to construct a buildOn primary school. buildOn puts the “**learning**” in “service learning” by engaging participants in dynamic **cultural workshops**, in-depth reflection activities, and thorough explorations of issues facing the host community.

The opportunities for growth are enormous, as students learn the value of service and education while developing a deeper understanding of the world and of themselves as agents of change. When students witness firsthand the incredible enthusiasm for learning from children who lack access to it, they gain a renewed appreciation for their own educational opportunities.

Our Sustainable Methodology

Most communities where we work have no adequate school structure. Students are squeezed into dark, and crumbling structures, or are taught under trees when the weather permits, or have to walk many miles to a neighboring village, or can't attend school at all. buildOn's methodology puts community members in control and gender equality at the forefront. The real power of buildOn's methodology resides in the fact that buildOn classrooms are constructed in partnership with the very people who will be benefiting from them.

For every buildOn school:

- The partnering community and buildOn sign a covenant stating each party's contribution to the project.
- The covenant says that buildOn provides the engineering, materials, skilled labor and project supervision for the school.
- The community provides a gender-equal leadership team, voluntary unskilled labor, land for the school, local materials and a promise that girls and boys will be sent to school in equal numbers.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT





Trek Itinerary

Day 1

-Participants depart home

Day 2

- Arrive in host country
- Travel to buildOn office
- Welcome and Orientation
- Overnight at hotel



Day 3

- Travel to community
- Welcome ceremony
- Ground-breaking
- Overnight in the community



Days 4 – 9

- Physically build the school
- Experience everyday life in the community
- Daily culture & education workshops
- Daily group reflection, journaling, and reflection activities
- Visit a finished buildOn school



Day 10

- Depart the community
- Travel to the capital
- Overnight in the capital

Day 11

- Shopping
- Depart the country

Day 12

- Arrive back home



*This is a general schedule and is subject to change.

A Typical Day in the Community

In most buildOn partner communities, the day starts with sunrise. After the morning rituals and breakfast, you will start working on the school!



Worksite Shift: The work consists of digging the foundation, sifting sand, mixing concrete, making bricks, carrying water, and tying rebar. It is physically hard work. Everything is done by hand, and you will probably have blisters and sore muscles.



Cultural Education: You will participate in a cultural workshop in your community each day. The workshops are different in each village based on the resources of the community.



Reflection: In addition to working and learning together, participants will engage in deep reflection activities concerning their current experiences with culture, inequality, education, privilege, and service



Engage with Community Members: You may find yourself learning to cook on a wood fire, playing games with the children, doing laundry, carrying water, playing soccer, singing or dancing, and teaching basic English. These moments with the community are often considered the most valuable part of your experience!

Where We Trek

The Trek experience is currently offered in five buildOn partner countries.



Guatemala: Treks are offered year round except during Easter week and Christmas. Guatemala's rainy season runs from May to October. Temperatures are generally in the 70's and 80's but it can get cooler at night in the mountains. Cultural activities can include: Coffee farming, making tortillas, or learning Spanish or Mam, an indigenous Mayan language.



Malawi: Treks are offered year round except during Easter week and Christmas. Malawi's rainy season runs from December to April. In June through August temperatures are usually milder and nights can be cool. Cultural activities can include: Visiting a tobacco farm, pottery making, dancing, or speaking with community elders.



Nepal: Treks are offered from September to April in order to avoid the monsoon season. The winter months can be quite cool- you'll probably need a coat- while temperatures in March and April can near 100 degrees. Cultural activities can include: Pottery or basket making, yoga, or harvesting rice.



Nicaragua: Treks are offered year round except during Easter week and Christmas. Nicaragua's rainy season runs from May to October. Temperatures are generally in the 70's and 80's but it can get cooler at night in the mountains. Cultural activities can include: Coffee farming, learning Spanish, milking a cow, or learning to make traditional Nicaraguan treats.



Senegal: Treks are offered year round except during the Muslim holidays, including Ramadan. The rainy season runs from June to September. It is generally warm year round with temperatures ranging from the 70's to 100's depending on the month. Cultural activities can include: Drumming, wrestling, farming, or getting a henna tattoo.