# The Global Education Crisis

## Introduction

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

## The crisis by the numbers

Worldwide, 773 million people cannot read or write.

Two thirds of illiterate adults are female

59 million primary school aged children are not in school. 20% will never attend school.

## The crisis around the world

# Countries where buildOn works rank among the lowest of the 187 countries ranked by the UNs Human Development Index (HDI).

* Haiti: HDI Rank 163. Nearly half of all Haitians over the age of 15 are illiterate.
* Guatemala: HDI Rank 135. The HDI ranks Guatemalans as the third poorest country in the Western hemisphere.
* Nicaragua: HDI Rank 126. A disproportionally large number of those living in poverty are women.
* Senegal: HDI Rank 170. Because of the country’s high illiteracy rate (more than 40%), high unemployment, and widespread poverty, Senegalese youths face dim prospects.
* Mali: HDI Rank 186. Half of Mali’s population lives below the poverty line of $1.90 a day.
* Malawi: HDI Rank 169. Nearly half of all primary school-age children drop out before advancing to secondary school in Malawi.
* Nepal: HDI Rank 143. Caste and ethnicity still exclude many from education.
* Burkina Faso: HDI Rank 184.

## Why are children missing out on quality education?

Lack of local schools: Getting to school means walking long and dangerous distances

Poor quality schools: Many kids learn in dark, crumbling huts exposed to extreme weather.

Female exclusion: Among children not attending school there are 2x more girls than boys.

Need to work: Many children in the developing world must help support their family’s survival by working.

High cost: In places like Burkina Faso, many schools are not free and can cost almost 1/3 of the average family income.

buildOn constructs schools in communities that have previously had no adequate school structure, rallying community support for education, securing commitment to gender equality, and organising adult literacy programmes that benefit the entire community.

## Why fighting illiteracy matters

1. $1.19 trillion dollars saving to the global economy if illiteracy were eliminated.
2. 7 million cases of HIV/AIDS could be prevented each year if all children completed primary education.
3. 171 million fewer people would live in poverty if all children acquired basic reading skills - a 12% reduction in global poverty.
4. Children born to educated mothers are 50% more likely to survive past 5 years old.
5. If all girls completed primary education, the number of child brides married before the age of 15 would be reduced by one-sixth.

buildOn is fighting the global education crisis and breaking the cycle of poverty.