



WORLD CONNECT

FAQ



Country: Tanzania
Project: Electricity
Investment: \$4,450

Country: Tanzania
Project: Beekeeping & Avocado Trees
Investment: \$2,888

What is World Connect?

World Connect is a nonprofit that identifies local leaders all over the world and invests in their initiatives to drive transformative change in their communities. World Connect recognizes that the capacity and ingenuity necessary to solve development challenges lies in the knowledge, talent, connections, and sustained commitment of local leaders. We build dynamic relationships and partnerships at the local level, investing in local knowledge and initiative and supporting women and communities to prioritize and tackle their own development challenges in their own unique ways. Each year World Connect invests in 100+ projects, pitched to us by local leaders and often in collaboration with supportive Peace Corps Volunteers. Projects are carefully vetted by World Connect staff, and those selected for funding receive extensive guidance and technical support to ensure success.

In 1,200 projects, we have built health clinics, installed green energy infrastructure, improved water access and sanitation systems, launched women-led businesses, and promoted youth-led entrepreneurship. At World Connect we do not prescribe or import solutions, rather, we listen to local priorities and work to identify and reinforce strong local institutions, initiatives, and individuals across a wide range of sectors. World Connect also introduces students in the United States to international project work to promote global citizenship, cross-cultural exchange, and activism.

Questions? Contact Julia, Director of Education and Outreach @ jhaney@worldconnect-us.org



Country: Cambodia
Project: Clean Water
Investment: \$10,901



Country: Zambia
Project: HIV Education & Empowerment
Investment: \$1,742

What percent of the money we raise will go directly to the project?

100% of the money raised by students goes directly to projects in the field.

What types of projects do you invest in?

We invest primarily in women and children in the Global South in a diverse set of sectors: health, education, economic opportunity, and the environment, empowering local leaders to target local priorities.

Do you do domestic work?

Although we do not currently invest in projects in the U.S., we hope one day to expand our efforts to every country. Today, we work with American Peace Corps Volunteers, students, schools, and programs in the United States.

What is the age range for participants in a World Connect program?

The World Connect program is built for all students, K-12, though it looks different for each age group. We hope to also expand into colleges in the coming years.

How do schools get involved?

Schools can get involved in a variety of ways—World Connect is built to be malleable so it can fit into a wide range of school types. Across all schools, students pick a project to learn about, connect with, and take action to support, often through a World Connect Club, campus-wide initiative, or integration into the classroom. To get started, check out the accompanying guide!

How do we pick a project?

Go on our website and check out our projects. You can then email the World Connect Director of Education and Outreach, Julia, @ jhaney@worldconnect-us.org and request the complete application!

Complete applications are an important educational component of World Connect. Reading them allows students to develop a holistic understanding of the community, local leaders, and project.

We do a lot of local service, how is World Connect hands-on?

World Connect is a hands-on global philanthropy program and can either be integrated into existing local efforts or can exist as a supplement to local efforts. Local community service teaches a student to find shared experience, embrace diversity, and ignite positive change within her own community—World Connect shares similar goals on a global scale. By connecting to project leaders directly, a student broadens her understanding of her world, develops a sense of global citizenship, and feels empowered to take part in positive change in her community and beyond!

How long does a World Connect initiative last?

The short answer is however long you want it to! World Connect works best with rotating student leadership on a semester, or annual basis, but the length of the program is entirely dependent on the type of involvement you choose and your school's timeline.

How does fundraising work?

Fundraising is a meaningful way for students to hone leadership and organizational skills, support a project, and make a tangible impact on a community. Oftentimes, fundraising is best when it is organized as a team effort, removing pressure from individual students. Still, fundraising should never limit schools or certain students from getting involved with World Connect and is not required. Additionally, when students choose a project, cost of a project is *never* a limiting factor. Students should choose the project that excites them the most, even if they do not plan to fundraise in full, or at all. A school can always choose to incorporate the educational aspects of the program without the fundraising.

What if the timeline of our World Connect program is different from the timeline of the project?

We have several grant cycles throughout the year, during this time we receive applications from communities around the world. It is important to us that we get money in the hands of those whose projects are accepted as quickly as possible; momentum is key to get projects up and running efficiently. That being said, we do not want a project's timeline to limit a World Connect program. In the case that students want to raise money for a project but are unable to complete the fundraising by the time the community requires funding, World Connect will front the money and your fundraiser will offset it.

How do we connect directly and work with a community?

The World Connect Director of Education and Outreach, Julia, will put you in contact with the Peace Corps Volunteer or field partner leading the project directly, then it's up to you! You can Skype, email, send videos, or write letters—whatever you both choose! Peace Corps Volunteers *love* speaking with students!

Can we go visit a project?

World Connect does not lead student trips into the field. It is very important to us that we keep the communities' needs and wishes at the center of everything we do without intruding on them. *However*, if your school would like to go visit a project that you have either supported or connected with, and if the community is able and willing to host you, we will help facilitate the connection!



Country: Senegal
Project: Clean Environment
Investment \$2,468

World Connect at a Glance

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, there was approximately \$150B in global development aid disbursed in 2015 year and less than 1% went directly to local leaders.

The Basics

- **1,200+** projects in **30 Countries (100+ Projects per year)**
- 85% of projects in **partnership with the Peace Corps**
- Average project is **\$2,500**
- **\$4M** Invested
- 100% of projects launched in partnership with **local community and grassroots leaders**
- **92% of projects report** achieving all or most of their intended project results
- Average duration of a project from design through to completion: **6 months-1 year**

Grants (two types of **grant cycle**)

International Projects: Projects accepted in Health, Education, Environment, and Economic Opportunity; all projects must focus on women and/or children. Our aim is for women to have the ability to lead healthy, productive lives and for children to enjoy childhood, embrace their creativity, and become leaders. We consider applications requesting up to \$5,000; the average grant for a first time grantee is \$2,500.

Accelerator Projects: Projects accepted to: grow the reach and revenue of women-led businesses and cooperatives, provide seed capital for social and environmental enterprise, support the livelihoods and work of community health workers, promote sustainable schoolyards: gardening, nutrition, composting, recycling, education. The average grant awarded through the Accelerator Grants Competition is \$500, the maximum is \$750.