

# WORLD CONNECT

E d u c a t e , C o n n e c t , E m p o w e r



Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Project: Classroom Construction  
Investment: \$10,968

At World Connect we believe in empowering local leaders to drive change in their communities. This belief is ingrained in each U.S. partnership as well. Because each group operates differently, World Connect can be integrated in a variety of ways.

1



Club

2



Campus-wide Initiative

3



Classroom Integration

**WORLD CONNECT CLUB:** A World Connect Club can stand on its own or integrate into a relevant preexisting club. World Connect Clubs are led by students and supported by faculty advisors. A World Connect Club is a powerful way to engage an intimate group of students. Members read grant proposals, think about project implementation and

## Student Testimonials

“I started working for World Connect when I was in middle school and the organization taught me at a very young age that I could be someone who makes a difference in global issues that I care about, like education and the well-being of children.”

- Lauren

“From eighth grade through high school, World Connect has empowered me to lead, learn, and explore. Because I have been able to choose which projects I’d like to support, my work with World Connect has allowed me to gain a better understanding of the issues I am most passionate about in a very real and personal way.”

- Marina

“To me World Connect represents growth. On a personal level, I feel that joining World Connect in middle school helped expand my world view.”

- Gen

sustainability, hone leadership skills, and develop a sense of global citizenship and connection with communities around the world.

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**CAMPUS-WIDE INITIATIVE:** Campus-wide initiatives are led by an individual or group (a group of students, teachers, or even a World Connect Club!) who elect student leaders to be the point people to the student body.



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

As in a World Connect Club, students learn about, present, and vote on projects around which to center their education and fundraising efforts. Important lessons about leadership, philanthropy, and cultural sensitivity are built into campus-wide initiatives, inspired by a tangible connection between communities.

**CLASSROOM INTEGRATION:** World Connect can be introduced to students as part of a lesson plan. Teachers find that World Connect can make curriculum tangible and exciting for their students!

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## GET INVOLVED STRATEGIES

Below are strategies that our partners have used in the past. This section is meant to serve as inspiration for your World Connect partnership! We will work with you to address your specific goals and environment.

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**Leadership Lesson:** At World Connect, we believe students have the power to change the world. Using a World Connect project as inspiration, a teacher designs a curriculum around leadership, that culminates with interested students running for leadership positions in the World Connect initiative.

**Global Philanthropy Lesson:** World Connect teaches students how to think sensitively about global philanthropy and service in general, and creates a space for them to form thoughtful ideas about how to be responsible and engaged global citizens. With these themes in mind, a teacher designs a curriculum around global citizenship.

**Grant Proposals:** Students read complete grant applications for projects that interest them. Reading and evaluating grant applications not only teaches students what indicators to look for in a project (feasibility, sustainability, community support, possible rippling effects, etc.), it teaches them what qualities make for a strong application in *general*.

**Discussions:** A teacher arranges time for open discussion about social, political, environmental, economic, or health issues at play in the chosen community or country, incorporating current events.

**Cross-cultural Exchange:** If both communities choose (and logistics permit) to open a channel for communication, classrooms Skype, email, and send pictures and videos to project leaders, creating a space for symbiotic learning and deep connection.

**Speakers:** World Connect will support schools to find interesting and relevant speakers to give presentations—a returned Peace Corps Volunteer or a professor of Global Studies, for example.

**Movies/Books/Articles:** It is often helpful to integrate relevant documentaries, movies, books, and current events into any World Connect program, engaging students through a variety of mediums.

**Fundraising:** Groups design and organize a rolling or culminating fundraising event to benefit the project of their choice. Fundraising empowers those involved to make a powerful and tangible difference in another community while educating their own. Designing fundraisers requires groups to think creatively and practically, and structuring them instills responsibility and hones organizational and leadership skills. Some fundraising ideas can be found below.



County: Tanzania  
Project: Clean Water  
Investment: \$2,700

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## FUNDRAISING IDEAS

100% of money raised by groups goes directly to projects!

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**Great Coin Race:** A competition between grades, classes or campuses; choose a project to support and collect change from family and friends. This is a spirited, inclusive, and team-focused way to fundraise. Group/ Student leaders are responsible for reporting on the progress of each team and brainstorming creative initiatives throughout the duration of the coin race to continuously engage the community.

**Raffle:** Groups identify and request donation items from local families and businesses, then they host a raffle! Raffle tickets can be sold at a campus-wide event or throughout the year to family and friends.

**Bake Sale:** Always a fun and simple way to raise funds!



Country: Senegal  
Project: 83 Latrines  
Investment: \$9,755

### **Walkathon, Danceathon, Anything-a-thon:**

Collect commitments from family and friends per lap/mile/minute and participate together in a fun campus-wide event! See below for an example of how this type of fundraiser could be built out—

- Make T-shirts for the whole community or individual teams
- Incentivize the top three individuals fundraisers or the team that raises the most in a creative way
- Ask local businesses for gift cards or items to raffle; enter the names of people who donate into the raffle- this will incentivize people to give and the raffle will add a fun element to the event

• If you decide to split into teams, make sure you meet as a team several times before the walkathon to encourage participants to collect donations, pool resources/ideas, and have fun!

- Partner with a local restaurant to sponsor your event
- Encourage those involved to give presentation at the walkathon about the project you are supporting and why its important
- Show a relevant documentary in the week before you event at a school and/or a local community center
- Make sure to have music

Questions? Email us at [info@worldconnect-us.org](mailto:info@worldconnect-us.org)

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