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# **The Bridge Mission**

Our mission is to give millions of children a life-changing education.

We are committed to helping achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

By providing a life-changing education to children in underserved communities, we help put children, their families and their countries on a different development path.

We believe that education is one of the most effective ways to end the cycle of poverty; enabling growth and prosperity. It reduces conflict, enhances stability and strengthens nations.





#### **About Bridge**

Since 2008, Bridge has educated over 300,000 children through more than 520 academies across Africa and India. We believe every child has the right to a high-quality education. So, we work in partnership with governments, communities, teachers and parents to deliver high quality, affordable nurseries and schools.

We are data driven and evidence based and our model adapts to the needs of individual governments. In countries such as Kenya, we run affordable schools; whereas in Liberia we are part of a public private partnership, and; in Andhra Pradesh — eastern India — we have an infrastructure partnership. We are flexible whenever we can serve more marginalised communities and improve learning outcomes for children.

### The Global Challenge

Education is in crisis in many countries around the world. It is estimated that 264 million children and young people are out of school, and 330 million children are in school but not learning. In addition, an extra 69 million teachers are needed to achieve the 2030 UN education goals.

Many education systems are plagued with inadequate materials and poor management systems, all leading to chronic teacher absenteeism and a lack of learning. Education reform is challenging but it is urgently required if we are to prevent another generation of children missing out.

Bridge believes there should be enough great, truly free public schools for all children. However, in reality, this is far from being the case. So, we work in partnership with governments, NGOs and non-state actors to address the huge education imbalance between what is available and what is needed right now — we work to bridge the gap.

By demonstrating that high-performing schools are possible even on a developing country's limited budget, Bridge has enabled governments and others to make informed decisions on how to improve learning.





#### **Bridge Learning**

Bridge is delivering proven learning gains consistently and at scale. Over three consecutive years — 2015, 2016, 2017 — Bridge pupils in Kenya have significantly outperformed the nationwide average in the primary school leavers exam, the KCPE. In 2017, Bridge pupils exceeded their peers nationwide by over 10 percentage points. This outperformance is impressive since the nationwide average includes elite private schools. The longer a child is at Bridge the better they perform. Pupils who studied at Bridge for five years had a pass rate average of 69%.

In 2014, independently administered tests in Kenya showed that for reading in early grades, the gains from attending Bridge are equivalent to 64 more days of learning in a single school year. For mathematics, the gains are equivalent to 26 more days.

In Liberia, a randomised-control trial of Partnership Schools for Liberia (PSL) revealed learning gains of over 60%. While students at Bridge run PSL public schools learnt almost twice as fast in English, and over twice as quickly in maths; which together is the equivalent of an additional year of learning, every year.

In Uganda 100% of Bridge pupils passed the PLE with 93% of Bridge pupils being placed in Division 1 or 2 compared to only 56% nationally, this national average falls to just 44% in the impoverished Eastern region where Bridge pupils sat the exam.

We are confident of replicating these successes across all the countries we serve when Bridge pupils take their national exams.

# **Bridge Pupils**

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to fulfill their potential irrespective of their economic status. We are proud to admit any child into our nurseries and schools and around 10% of our poorest pupils have fully sponsored places. Children at Bridge can be as young as 3. Globally, around 50% of our pupils are girls.

We believe that co-curricular activities are an important part of learning and many of our pupils take part in sport, music, drama and dance.

Our pupils significantly outperform their peers in nearby schools and often go on to secondary education. Many win scholarships both for schools in their own country and for prestigious American schools.





### **Bridge Families**

We believe parents have the right to choose a school for their children and we enable families to enjoy seeing their children learn, improve and flourish at Bridge schools. We locate our schools in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world. Families in our communities can be earning just \$1.90 per person a day; a level the World Bank notes is at extreme poverty.

In communities where we are not part of a public private partnership, our very low fees — a global average of \$7 a month per child — mean that the vast majority of the families near our schools can afford to send their children to Bridge. In Kenya, this means 90% of the local community.

By putting learning at the centre of all we do, Bridge has become an extremely popular choice for underserved families and low-income communities.

# **Bridge Teachers**

Bridge is empowering a new generation of trained and supported teachers. We believe that with the right support and resources, average teachers can become great teachers, and great teachers can change lives.

All of our teachers are professionally trained at a Bridge International Training Institute and supported throughout their career with continuing professional development programmes inside and outside the classroom. Bridge teachers deliver interactive lessons, lead small groups and use one-to-one instruction, creating a rich teaching environment that helps our pupils learn.

All of our teachers use handheld e-readers that provide them with high quality lesson plans. International agencies around the world use teacher guides, as they have been demonstrated as one of the most effective ways to improve learning outcomes in developing countries.





#### **Bridge Technology**

Bridge leverages innovative wireless technology. By using the power of connected devices we deliver professionally developed, up-to-the-minute lesson plans that provide every teacher with the core foundation needed for a successful learning experience in each subject, every day.

This frees Bridge teachers from time-intensive planning and administrative tasks, creating more time for them to focus on pupils learning, and to help pupils where they are struggling.

Our technology platform processes 100 million data points every year. We track performance and attendance — for pupils and teachers — in every single school. We use that data to make evidence based decisions that continually improve learning.

### **Bridge Schools**

Bridge nurseries and schools are clean, simple and learning-focused with a low teacher to pupil ratio.

Every single school follows the national curriculum of the host country.

Bridge strongly believes that school performance should be measured by outcomes not inputs. We focus on, and invest in, the teaching that is happening in our classrooms and the learning gains being achieved by our pupils.

Our schools always meet local standards and legal requirements, and keeping our buildings basic helps keep our schools affordable for parents.



### **Our Global Network**

Bridge International Academies

Bridge Partnership Schools for Liberia Public Schools





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