



Groundbreak Report

KID*to***KID**

build**On**

UPTOWN
CHEAPSKATE

Bromba, Mali

Mali, a landlocked country in West Africa, is home to over 14 million people. It is the 12th poorest country in the world according to the United Nation's Human Development Index. Mali also suffers from one of the globe's lowest literacy rates at 38 percent, and only 17 percent for females.

The village of **Bromba** is located in the Sikasso region of Mali. It is 28 kilometers from a main road. The community members practice Islam and speak the local language of Bambara. Most people generate income as small scale farmers and grow crops such as cotton, millet, peanuts and rice.



With your help, the people of **Bromba** now have increased access to education that will help effect change in the lives of children, parents, and grandparents for generations. Each new school helps Mali increase literacy rates one community at a time.

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



Photo: The current schoolhouse in Bromba, Mali

At the time of construction, **Bromba** had one government supported primary school, with 113 students (50 girls and 63 boys). Three teachers taught four grade levels in three temporary classrooms. Students walked as far as seven kilometers to another community with suitable classrooms for learning.

BUILT BY COMMUNITY

Before breaking ground on a new school, every member of the partnering community, both men and women, must sign the buildOn Covenant. The Covenant is a solemn promise between buildOn and each village outlining their respective contributions to the project.

Each Covenant embodies the consensus of an entire community, and for many of the women in the village, it will be the first time they have been asked to sign their name. Even as many must sign with a thumbprint, everyone is overjoyed to pledge their commitment to a school that will end illiteracy for their children, their grandchildren, and themselves.

buildOn contributes the engineering, materials, skilled labor, and project supervision. Each village provides the land, local materials such as sand, and the unskilled labor to build the school. Additionally, every village promises to send girls and boys to school in equal numbers.

The community of **Bromba**, Mali broke ground on their new school on July 2nd, 2015.

