

# Service Projects

## Purpose

Service projects are a hands-on way for us to practice 1 Peter 4:10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” The purpose is to use the skills of the team to meet a practical need of the community. Since every community is different and has different needs, service projects vary.

## Goal

Some people build relationships face-to-face through conversation while others build relationships side-by-side, accomplishing a task together. Service projects allow teams and community members to strengthen their relational ties by “doing” something together while also solving a need.



## Things To Bring

Materials or tools for the project will be provided by The 410 Bridge staff in-country. If the team needs to bring a specific item (like gloves to protect their hands or trash bags), it will appear on your detailed itinerary.

## How It Works

- Service projects are identified by the leadership council of the community you’re serving in.
- Examples include building or repairing structures such as a home, church, or school, laying down cement, planting or gardening, and repairing roads or bridges.
- Before a service project starts, a budget is created for the community and partners to contribute certain amounts. The 410 Bridge will communicate funding requirements for projects beforehand.
- If your team would be a good fit to help with a project, it will be part of your detailed itinerary.
- The team does not need to bring materials unless specifically asked by 410 staff before your departure.
- Build relationships! Chances are there won’t be tools for every person on the team and every community member, take that as an opportunity to talk with people.
- Most service projects do not require a certain amount of skill other than getting your hands dirty.

## Things To Remember

The goal is not to complete the project – remember the point of the service project is to build relationships. Your team should be talking with community members, learning from them, and not be afraid to sacrifice the completion of the project for the sake of building relationships with them.

If you do not finish your service project, don’t worry – our work on the ground happens with or without teams present. It will be completed by the community as they take ownership of their own development efforts.