



What to Expect

Room to Read* On a Room to Read Field Trip

Thank you for taking the opportunity to see our work first hand! The information below is meant to give you an idea of what to expect on a Room to Read field trip.

Itinerary

All visits to a Room to Read project includes the following activities to ensure visitors have a balanced visit that provides access to our knowledgeable local staff and the communities where we work.

- Meet Room to Read local staff for a brief orientation of what will happen during the visit and on Room to Read programs specific to the country you are visiting.
 - This meeting typically takes place at the Room to Read country office, your hotel or in transit to the Room to Read project you are visiting.
- Greeting the school
 - When you arrive at a school supported by Room to Read, you will typically meet with the school principal, head teacher, and/or government officials. This can range from a very simple introduction outside the school or in an administrative office to an elaborate welcome ceremony including the whole community.
 - Please note that welcoming visitors is a very important aspect of many of the local cultures where we work. Room to Read does not always have advance warning of the type of welcome that will take place as it is the school's decision how it would like to greet its visitors.
- Participation in learning activities and discussions
 - Schools are empowered to plan the activities they would like to take place during a field trip, and our local teams encourage them include interactive learning activities typical to what takes place during a normal school day.
 - Please note that many students are eager to show off what they have learned, which can lead to more performances and less interaction with the students.
 - You will have a chance to engage in discussions with students, teachers, Room to Read staff as well as possibly government officials and parents.
- Farewell
 - At the end of the visit, you'll be invited to say a few parting words to the school, thanking them for the visit and reinforcing the value of education.
 - You are encouraged to ask your Room to Read field trip leaders further questions after the visit about what you experienced and our work.

Transportation

- Room to Read typically organizes and covers the cost of transportation from the meeting point to the project and back. For larger groups, we may request that you make these arrangements for your group.
- We do our best to book relatively comfortable vehicles with functioning air conditioners whenever possible. However, transportation and road conditions in most of the countries where we work is typically less comfortable than what you might be accustomed to.

Communication

- The level of English spoken by in-country staff, school administrators and others you may meet may be basic or heavily accented. Please speak slowly and enunciate when communicating. When needed, our local staff will provide translation support.

In addition to these notes, please remember that a high functioning school in one of our countries of operation will still differ from schools in developed countries. Thank you for adjusting your expectations accordingly.

Before you go your field trip, think of the different people you may have the opportunity to speak with, such as teachers, students, social mobilizers, and parents. Below are several questions to help guide your conversation.

Guiding Questions for Girls' Education visits:

Questions for Students:

1. What were you or your family struggling with before you started attending life skills classes and working with your social mobilizer?
2. How do you use your life skills in everyday life? Can you share an example?
3. What difficulties has your social mobilizer helped you work through?
4. What did you think your future would look like before you started the life skills classes?
5. What do you hope for your future now?

Questions for Social Mobilizers:

1. What do you think children/families are struggling with most in this community?
2. Why do think most girls drop out of school?
3. How do the life skills classes help? Can you share an example of a girl who applied these skills in her life?
4. How does the community feel about girls going to secondary school and university?
5. How do you encourage parents and elders to encourage young girls to pursue their education?
6. What do you enjoy most about being a social mobilizer?

Questions for Parents:

1. Where did you grow up and what your childhood was like?
2. Did you attend school? How important was education to your family?
3. What challenges did you experience when sending your daughter to school?
4. How have these life skills classes helped your daughter? Can you think of an example where you noticed her growth?
5. How has your perspective on education changed since your daughter started these classes?
6. What do you hope for your daughter's future?
7. Why are you proud of your daughter?

Guiding Questions for Literacy Program visits:

Questions for Students:

1. How do you feel when you visit the library? What's your favorite part?
2. What's your favorite subject and why?
3. Tell me about your favorite book. Why do you enjoy it?
4. Do you take books home? Do you read to your parents or siblings?

Questions for Parents:

1. Where did you grow up and what your childhood was like?
2. Did you attend school? How important was school to your family?
3. What were some of the challenges you experienced in sending your child to school?
4. How has the library made your child's after-school life more enjoyable?
5. How has your perspective on education changed since you started attending the community meetings?
6. What do you hope for your child's future?
7. Why are you proud of your child?

Questions for Teachers:

1. How long have you been teaching?
2. How has Room to Read's training and curriculum helped you as a teacher?
3. What do you think children/families struggle with most in this community?
4. Can you share a story about a student who has significantly progressed this year? What helped them improve?
5. What do you hope for your students' future?