



Fair Trade & Education 101

Use these facts to educate yourself and others about how Fair Trade supports education

Fair Trade supports access to education for children around the world. Communities have invested their Fair Trade premiums in school construction, scholarship programs, school supplies and uniforms, and many other education-focused projects.

Fast Facts

- UNESCO estimates that **24 million children** will never enter a classroom.
- According to the UN, worldwide, **103 million young people** (ages 15–24) are illiterate.
- Over **98 million children and youth** work in agriculture. Many of them do not attend any form of school.
- Ensuring basic literacy and numeracy skills for young people in low-income countries could lift **171 million people** out of poverty, resulting in a **12 percent** cut in global poverty.
- **Tens of millions of dollars** in Fair Trade premiums have been spent on social and community programs, including education.

Fair Trade and Education

- Impoverished farmers and workers often need their children to work in order to make enough to support the whole family. Fair Trade helps provide farming families with the income and stability they need to keep their children in school, instead of in the fields.
- Fair Trade standards prohibit child labor, providing greater opportunity for children to go to school.
- Among a group of **2,000 cocoa farmers** in the Ivory Coast, primary school education levels increased from about **65 to 80 percent** in 2013 due to the effective spending of Fair Trade premiums on education initiatives.
- Communities use Fair Trade premiums to fund education-focused projects, like building new schools, purchasing school buses, and providing scholarships for students to attend high school and college.
- Fair Trade premiums also support educational opportunities for adults, such as adult literacy programs and management scholarships for farmers who want to continue their education at universities.

Fair Trade Premiums Support Education

- In **Brazil**, the coffee cooperative Unipcafem provides school uniforms and coats to its community's students.
- In **Paraguay**, sugar cane farmers from Coopertiva El Arroyense used Fair Trade premiums to purchase books, uniforms, and a computer for their school. They also created a tutoring project to benefit learning-disabled students.
- In **Ghana**, the Kuapa Kokoo cocoa cooperative used Fair Trade premiums to build four schools and two daycare centers for their children.
- In **India**, tea estate workers for the Nilgiri Estate provided the local elementary school with craft supplies and math materials. They also voted to use Fair Trade premium funds to buy school buses so that students who live far away can get to classes. Premium funds are also used to pay for a hostel for students who live even further from the school.

