



Fair Trade & Health Care 101

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

Fair Trade promotes access to health care around the world. Fair Trade standards require health and safety protections, and communities use Fair Trade premiums improve access to health care, through projects like building clinics, hiring doctors and dentists, providing mobile health services and medical insurance.

Fast Facts

- The WHO Constitution states that the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every human being.
- **Over half** of the world's population doesn't have access to essential health services. **800 million** people spend at least 10 percent of their household budget on health expenses, enough to push many into extreme poverty.
- Every day, around **800** women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.
- More than **three million** people die from vaccine preventable-diseases every year.
- According to the UN, there is a close connection between the strengthening of health systems and other development priorities.

Fair Trade and Health Care

- Farm work is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. It's ranked among the ten most dangerous in the U.S.
- Fair Trade farmers and workers receive vacation, sick and maternity leave benefits.
- Workers at Fair Trade farms are guaranteed access to cool water and shade, to protect against heat stress.
- Fair Trade farmers and workers are provided with medical care in case of work-related illness or injury.
- Fair Trade standards require that pregnant or nursing women are not assigned hazardous work.
- From the purchasing of ambulances to the creation of employee health care benefits, communities have been able to use Fair Trade premiums to better health care conditions in their communities.

Fair Trade Premiums Support Education

- In **Arizona**, Wholesum Harvest invested in health insurance for workers, leading to an increase from 5 percent to 88 percent enrollment in the employee-provided health insurance program.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, cocoa cooperative CONACADO used Fair Trade premiums to pay for a clinic, free medical checks and clean water projects that are improving health in the community.
- In **India**, workers at the Sewpur Tea Estate use some of their premium funds to purchase medicines for the Sewpur Tea Estate hospital.
- In the **Ivory Coast**, enterprise cooperative ECOOKIM provides social support by assisting members with health care costs and providing hospital transport for seriously ill patients.
- In **Ghana**, the Kuapa Kokoo cocoa cooperative provides mosquito nets to the community of Kumasi to help combat malaria.
- In **Pakistan**, workers at a Fair Trade certified bedding factory used their Fair Trade premium to open and run a health clinic that is available to over 7,000 workers and their families.

