

# Summary

This report is conducted by The Swedish Organization of Fair Trade Retailers with the purpose to raise awareness about women's rights in relation to Fair Trade. The study focuses on Bolivia, Cambodia and Kenya in order to demonstrate the spread of Fair Trade in those continents where the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) operates. Fair Trade is in this report defined by the definition of Fair Trade according to WFTO and Fairtrade International. The study focuses on WFTO-affiliated producers since there is a current lack of knowledge about WFTO in Sweden.

In 2015 the world leaders agreed on 17 sustainable development goals that should be met by year 2030. The fifth goal is about achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The welfare of a society increases when women and girls can contribute under the same premises as men and boys. This report reveals that women's rights violations such as sexual violence, trafficking and a lack of statutory rights occurs in all three countries studied for this report. The conventional trade system is currently very competitive and transnational companies contribute, in several cases, to human rights violations.

At least 400 000 people work in the textile industry in Cambodia, whereof 90 % are women. The low minimum wages has led to women being trapped in poverty and to violent demonstrations, in some cases with a deadly outcome. In Cambodia on the other hand, Fair Trade means higher wages and improved safety nets such as health insurances. One example of a Fair Trade-organization is VillageWorks. Within VillageWorks the workers sew bags, scarves and other accessories and several of the workers have different forms of functional impairments as a consequence of polio disease.



Women in Bolivia have over a long period of time been victims of sexual violence and discrimination. Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and is on a second place after Haiti regarding violence against women. The Bolivian Fair Trade organization ASARBOLSEM was founded in 1989 and produces clothes, hats, gloves etc. Many of the women in the organization are abandoned wives, single mothers and victims of domestic violence, with small chances of finding work. Solidarity, good working conditions and flexible working schedules have strengthened the women's position and improved the economic situation for all members of ASARBOLSEM.

The organization Undugu in Kenya produce mainly soapstone products, and have about 120 female artisans connected to them. The workers who often come from poor backgrounds now have good working conditions and wages 15% higher than the statutory minimum wage in Kenya. Undugu has been working with enabling women to get higher positions and to reduce child poverty in Kenya.

In all three case studies the workers' children

are now able to go to school as well as to continue studying at the university, thanks to the women's flexible working hours, capacity building and higher wages. Many of the women have not themselves been able to go to school but are proud that the work they do today contributes to their children's schooling.

Fair Trade has shown to be a solid tool for women to get out of poverty and get decent working conditions. The more involved consumers, journalists and politicians get regarding Fair Trade, the sooner we can create a development for women in low-wage countries and pave the way for sustainable production with high quality goods.

