



Remarkable Women In Fair Trade

The story of ASARBOLSEM



Asarbolssem, are an organization of artisans with cultural identity in Bolivia and globally who have led the work of Fair Trade, through different actions to ensure that groups of small organized artisans are able to contribute to the family economy working in different areas of production, manufacturing, handicrafts and food. We try to build up an organization model with a common thread, the production and commercialization of handicrafts, under participatory democratic principles of transparent management, tirelessly seeking the economic empowerment of women.

What are you doing now with Fair Trade?

We work in a collective construction of relationships of trust between producers, between Latin American organisations, with our commercial partners that work under the principles of Fair Trade complying with the codes of practice and codes of ethics, to achieve the trust of the brothers, complying with orders from our business partners, our customers.

What you consider are your main achievements?

We achieve a solid organization with contacts, in stable long-term business relationships, we have the recognition of public and private organizations, to our strategy of concentrating the commercial offer.

What are your future plans?

Based on our strength, on our traditional uses and customs, we hope to transmit our experiences to young people, in order to engage and promote Fairtrade here in Bolivia as a way that allows the inclusion of historically excluded social sectors, both in the urban and rural areas.

Antonia Rodriguez, Director of Asarbolssem Bolivia



The story of Aderina Singitia – KICK Artisan, Kenya



Aderina, a married mother of three, is one of KICK Trading's most gifted wire artisans. Women tend to shy away from wirework making her one of the only five artisans in a field dominated by men. She excels in producing jewellery, like the best-selling dancing girl earrings, hand-made cards and ornaments that are sold in Fair Trade markets in Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA. Born into a family of 11 children, she only had a year of schooling after her father lost his job.

Life changed and she had to work on menial jobs from the tender age of 8 years in Nairobi, earning 3 dollars a month. Aderina however found her passion when she started producing jewellery and ornaments in 2016, following a chance encounter with one of KICK's artisans in

Manyatta, Kisumu, where she had moved with her husband.

She learned her skills through apprenticeship over a two-year period. *'I was unemployed. It helped me because I had no job'*. The money she earns supports the education of her two daughters and son and contributes to food and household expenses. Working from home gives her the flexibility to earn a living from crafts, while being a wife and a mother. *'If people ask me what I do, I tell them that I am an artisan-it's my job'*.

The Kisumu Innovation Centre (KICK Trading)

The Kisumu Innovation Centre (KICK Trading) is a social enterprise working with women, men and young people to recycle, re-use and innovate for environmental sustainability.

<https://kicktrading.org/>



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The story of Ana Catalina Alvarado Tapuy, Fundacion Sinchi Sacha, Ecuador



Ana Catalina Alvarado Tapuy is a Kichwa Canelo woman. She was born 58 years ago in the Tsarka Wasca community in the Amazonian province of Napo. Both of her grandfathers were shamans. She grew up in an environment typical of the indigenous communities of the tropical humid forest, where she shared different daily activities within an extended family. Ana maintains a nurturing dialogue with the forest and its inhabitants; the animals, birds, plants, and people who make up a true living body. It is no coincidence that when Ana is asked about the source of her inspiration for her beautiful geometric designs that she paints on clay bowls used for drinking chicha, she says that they are images that have grown with her. The images include intertwined vines, leaves, roots, birds' tails, and rhombuses from turtle shells. She is inspired by the shapes that appear daily in the lives of forest inhabitants.

Ana is currently teaching her daughters how to model clay. She says that her sons could also support her in this art, but in Kichwa communities, clay modeling is a purely female activity. This is why her husband and sons only participate in painting the mukawa, and not in working with clay.

The Sinchi Sacha Foundation, an organization certified by the WFTO (World Fair Trade Organization), has supported Kichwa Canelo women for 30 years in the enhancement and marketing of these precious ceramic bowls. These women value fair trade because they have seen how it has been possible to maintain commercial relationships of transparency and trust for many years, now, with the Sinchi Sacha Foundation.



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The story of Sagrario Angulo

Sagrario Angulo



Sagrario is the Coordinator of the Fair Trade Organisation, Camari, in Ecuador.

She is President of the WFTO Ecuadorean Platform and has led and taken part in various Fair Trade Advocacy initiatives in Ecuador.

She was a key organiser of the 2022 Fairtrade cities event in Quito.

She has been active in Fair Trade for 10 years.

Camari

Camari – meaning "pleasing" in Quechua – was established in 1981 as a marketing organization that acts as a bridge between groups of producers and the final consumer - both locally through its own shops and internationally to Fair Trade organisations.

It provides marketing and production support and advice to producers through regular training courses, aiming to create high-quality products that will fetch a good price. Camari trades in cereals, nuts and handcrafts (balsa wood, ceramics, silver and black coral).

www.camari.org