



Remarkable Women In Fair Trade

Five stories from UNDUGU FAIR TRADE

The Undugu Society of Kenya was established in 1973 by the late Father Arnold Gol to assist children living and working on the streets of Nairobi. These days it focuses on Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of children and youth as well as the socio-economic empowerment of poor communities throughout the country.

<https://undugusociety.org/>

Rebecca Bosibori Matara



I am 62 years old married with children all grown up. I have been a producer of Undugu Fair trade for 28 years involved in soapstone production specialising in animals, ornamental boxes, coaster and sculptures. I mainly do sand washing, and final polishing supporting my group of producers of 4 male carvers 1 designer and 6 women. I am the manager of the workshop supported by my husband. Through the work I get from Undugu, it has supported sustainability of my family's livelihood through fair prices, guaranteed work , trainings and capacity building in business management and skills.

Drusilla Obara



I am 60 years old, married with children all grown up , some with their own families and others are still staying with me. I have been a producer of Undugu Fair Trade for the last 8 years. I own a soapstone domestic whole sale shop in Tabaka. Apart from producing for Undugu, I buy semi-finished products from carvers which I sell to other local dealers for finishing. I met Undugu through their Fair Trade advocacy on Child Labour as a local facilitator of No Child Labour within the local community. I have benefited a lot through the Fair Trade principles and good business practices that ensure equal opportunities to all.



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Everline Nyambeki



I am 40 years old married with children some still in primary and high school. I have been a producer of Undugu Fair Trade for 10 years specialising in production of Heart boxes. I manage a production workshop of 5 male carvers, 2 male artists and 4 women. I am also involved in production by sand washing, colouring and polishing of products. I was enlisted as a producer of Undugu through their affirmative action of supporting upcoming young women entrepreneurs in the soapstone industry. Through the work from Undugu Fair Trade I have been able to put up a decent house for my family and, very important, to support my children's education and meet my basic needs. I have also gained from trainings offered by Undugu Fair trade in business management and production skills as well as protection of the environment.

Elizabeth Nyabwari Kwamboka



I am 51 years old married with children. I have a soapstone shop in Tabaka selling semi-finished products and also a family workshop of 3 male carvers and 3 women. I have been a producer for Undugu for 10 years. I help in sand washing, colouring and polishing of products. Just before Covid 19 I was getting very good orders from Undugu that made me start building a brick house that is yet to get finished as orders are now very low from 2020. I am very optimistic with assurance of Undugu managers that the situation is improving and look forward to better days soon.



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MARY SARANGE OGWANKWA



I am 58 years old married with children some have completed college while others are still at college. I have been involved with Undugu Fair Trade for 18 years . I work with my husband in the family workshop of 8 male carvers, 2 male and female artists and 6 women doing sanding washing, colouring and polishing of products. In my own capacity I produce birds, cats, angels, soapdishes and eggs for Undugu Fair Trade. The fair prices and sustainable work provided by Undugu has helped me to support my husband in offering better living standards to our family as well as supporting the poor within and out of our larger family. I have gained a lot from capacity building trainings offered by Undugu Fair Trade and that has enabled me to become a responsible woman community leader in matters of women , youth, children and health.