

# Would Paul Farmer like BanaPads?

## An Assessment of Social Enterprise as a Women's Health Intervention

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### Abstract

The social enterprise BanaPads Limited fulfills many of the criteria of a successful intervention as laid out by Paul Farmer and goes a step further by focusing on other key issues like women's entrepreneurship, women's rights, and the value of peer-to-peer last-mile distribution.



Source: Robert Finocchio

### Dr. Paul Farmer Global Health Expert

Paul Farmer has dedicated his life to ensuring that everyone receives the health services that they need. His organization, Partners in Health, has dozens of clinics in several countries including Haiti, Rwanda, Mexico and Malawi and has directly served over 2.5 million people.



Source: Partners in Health

### Farmer's Criteria for Successful Public Health Interventions



Source: Robert Finocchio

#### Development

People need to consider development on a local level, partnering with officials to reduce corruption and reform aid.

#### Human Rights

There needs to be a shift in the way we talk about human rights to include the rights of the poor.

#### Public Goods for Public Health

Some things shouldn't be reserved for those who can afford it.

### BanaPads Social Enterprise



Source: Robert Finocchio



Source: Richard Bbaale

BanaPads is a social enterprise in Mpigi, Uganda that manufactures and sells low-cost sanitary pads made from banana pseudostem fibers. They hire women to produce and sell the pads to girls and women in their community. The mission is to keep girls from missing school due to menstruation and to provide a livelihood for women.

### Activities      Outputs      Outcomes      Impact

Employ women	→ Hundreds of Champions	→ Women can spend money on family	→ Reduced poverty
Sell pads to girls	→ Thousands of pads sold	→ Girls stay in school	→ More women in Universities
Menstruation education	→ Dozens of workshops held	→ Break silence around menstruation	→ Greater female autonomy
Community Partnerships	→ Connected with churches & schools	→ Increased trust for BanaPads	→ Stronger community



Source: Keith Warner



Source: Robert Finocchio



Source: Ty VanHerweg

### Social Enterprise as a Public Health Intervention

The ideals of women's entrepreneurship, actualized women's rights and peer-to-peer last-mile distribution suggest that more can be done beyond

#### Paul Farmer

- ✓ Development    ✓ Human Rights
- ✓ Public Goods for Public Health

#### BanaPads

- ✓ Women's Entrepreneurship
- ✓ Women's Rights
- ✓ Peer-To-Peer Last-Mile Distribution

Farmer's proposals and that social entrepreneurship can be an effective mode of public health delivery.



Source: Jeremiah Kimbugwe



Source: Robert Finocchio

### Conclusion

As advocated by Paul Farmer, BanaPads is working towards development and human rights. But the BanaPads model suggests the public-goods-for-public-health paradigm does not work for every health intervention..



Source: Jeremiah Kimbugwe

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