



Women in Informal Employment
Globalizing and Organizing



WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing

Annual Report

April 2013 – March 2014

Front cover photo: *A Thai home-based worker serves up eggs. WIEGO has actively partnered with HomeNet Thailand on several activities discussed in this report, including the Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS), our Law and Informality initiative, and the Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers project. Photo M. Chen*

WIEGO's MISSION

WIEGO believes all workers should have equal economic opportunities and rights and be able to determine the conditions of their work and lives. WIEGO works to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy through increased organization and representation; improved statistics and research; more inclusive policy processes; and more equitable trade, labour, urban planning, and social protection policies.

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Letter from the Chair of the Board and the International Coordinator

Dear WIEGO Family and Friends,

The past year was a banner year for the WIEGO network – one in which our activities and accomplishments demonstrated once again WIEGO’s unique strengths: how we collaborate with organizations of informal workers in all we do and, in the process, enhance our mutual knowledge and capacities; how we bridge the day-to-day reality of informal work and mainstream discourses and practices; and how we put a human face on complex issues.

We are especially pleased about major achievements made by informal workers and their organizations during this year. The International Domestic Workers Federation was launched with support from the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF) and WIEGO. The National Association of Street Vendors of India and the Self-Employed Women’s Association in India succeeded in their efforts to have a national law passed in support of street vendors. HomeNet South Asia and the newly-formed HomeNet Eastern Europe shared knowledge through exchange visits with WIEGO’s help. And a delegation of waste pickers, facilitated by WIEGO, participated in the discussion on Green Jobs at the 2013 International Labour Conference.

We are also very proud that WIEGO, with our Inclusive Cities partners, published the findings from our 2012 study of what is driving change in the livelihoods of urban informal workers in 10 cities; that WIEGO and the ILO brought out the second edition of our joint statistical publication *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*; and that WIEGO and HomeNet South Asia, with data analysts in each country, completed four Statistical Briefs on the size and composition of home-based work in four South Asian countries.

Finally, it is gratifying to see how WIEGO – together with our members and partners – is effectively engaging with mainstream disciplines and practices in a range of domains, from collective bargaining, ethical and fair trade, occupational health and safety, official statistics, solid waste management, universal health care, to urban planning. In this way, we help to legitimize and highlight the perspective of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy.

We would like to thank the WIEGO Board for its wise counsel and stewardship; the WIEGO Team for their commitment, creativity and boundless energy; and the WIEGO members for their solidarity and trust. We would also like to thank all of the individuals and institutions that partner with WIEGO in our activities for sharing their skills and perspectives. And we would like to thank our funders for their moral and financial support. Last but not least, we want to thank the domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors, waste pickers and other informal workers who so openly and generously share their lives and livelihoods – and their precious time – with us, and from whom we gain such grounded knowledge and such an inspiring sense of purpose and direction.

With hopes that informal workers and their organizations, with support from WIEGO, will continue to go from strength to strength.



Renana Jhabvala
Renana Jhabvala
Chair, WIEGO Board

Marty Chen
Marty Chen
International Coordinator, WIEGO

September 2014



Shaping the Debate: WIEGO's Engagement with Formalizing the Informal Economy

Formalizing the Informal Economy? – A Policy Dialogue

Uruguayan President José Mujica spoke at the International Domestic Workers' Federation founding congress in Montevideo, October 2013. Photo: J. Shenker

WIEGO hosted "Formalizing the Informal Economy?" a policy dialogue held in Montevideo, Uruguay in October 2013. The event brought together informal workers, experts on the informal economy, and government representatives to share perspectives and search for common understanding. WIEGO included a question mark in the event's title to underscore that there are no quick and easy answers to the "formalization debate".



Two days earlier in Montevideo, the International Domestic Workers' Network organized an international congress that brought together worker representatives from more than 40 countries who voted unanimously to create the International Domestic Workers' Federation (IDWF) (see the section on Domestic Workers in this report). This significant step – the creation of the first global union federation run by women – had the support of Uruguayan President José Mujica. He told labour leaders and workers at this historic event: "Working collectively is our biggest strength."

WIEGO, a key supporter of the IDWF, organized our policy dialogue to build on this momentum. In opening the policy dialogue, Marty Chen, WIEGO's

International Coordinator, explained that discussions like this are urgent, given that most informal workers earn little, face great risks and are often denied their rights. She also noted that to be successful, formalization processes must take into account the specific needs of each occupational group. For this reason, representatives of domestic workers, street vendors and waste pickers were invited to present.

In her presentation, Elizabeth Tang Yin Ngor, General Secretary of the IDWF, said domestic workers do not receive the same rights and protections extended to other workers. While great gains have been made in recent years, much more must be done. Steps toward formalization include collective bargaining, appropriate legal protections and official counting of domestic workers by governments so their numbers and needs can be known. Strong organizing, she stressed, is key to ensuring domestic workers gain formal recognition. Challenges abound, however. Domestic workers are typically invisible and isolated. Also, trade unions often do not embrace inclusion of these workers – after all, some of the men typically in charge of unions are themselves employers of domestic workers, Tang said. And she spoke of the particular difficulty in formalizing migrant domestic workers, many of whom are hidden and undocumented. "No one knows the real picture of this group. We need to integrate them into the mainstream movements in order to get support from workers and allies."

WIEGO's Street Vending Sector Specialist Sally Roever spoke next. (Clarisse Gnahoui, a WIEGO Board member and the Treasurer of a trade union for street vendors in Benin had originally been scheduled to present but was unable to attend.) Formalization, Roever said, must be a gradual, ongoing process that recognizes

the significant economic and social contributions of vendors, and protects their basic rights. It must offer benefits for vendors, not just the costs associated with becoming formalized. For formalization efforts to work, Roever stressed, cities must recognize the value of public space as a foundation for livelihoods as well as for social and cultural interaction. However, in too many cases formalization has meant moving vendors off the streets or to spaces that are not economically feasible, and levying unaffordable taxes and fees.

“Where vendors are viewed as assets to cities, and are treated as partners in finding sustainable solutions, formalization can work for everyone,” Roever said. Her presentation is available on our website.

Walter Rodríguez, a waste picker and president of La Unión de Clasificadores de Residuos Urbanos Sólidos (UCRUS), a waste pickers’ trade union in Uruguay, also noted that recognition of waste pickers as workers who provide important services is crucial. He detailed efforts among waste pickers’ networks and allies to gain acknowledgment from the International Labour Organization (ILO) of waste picking as a profession. Without recognition, Rodríguez pointed out, formalization can mean the disappearance of livelihoods. He noted that incineration is on the rise in Latin America, where it is seen as a method of “formalizing” solid waste management. In Montevideo, he said, “formalization” of waste work has been strongly criticized by trade unions and waste pickers because it is synonymous with private companies taking over recycling.

Rodríguez discussed the importance of unifying waste pickers and creating solutions that benefit all groups. A beneficial formalization process would involve the creation and enforcement of mandatory recycling, government support for waste pickers’ cooperatives, as well as compensation for waste pickers as service providers.

Following this policy dialogue, WIEGO and our institutional members/partners planned a series of regional workshops to involve informal workers in answering some key questions – What does formalizing mean to workers? How can formalization work best? – in preparation for the standard-setting discussion on formalization at the 2014 International Labour Conference.



Elizabeth Tang, Sally Roever and Walter Rodríguez offered informal workers’ perspectives on how formalizing the informal economy could work. Photo P. Carney

WIEGO’s Board Sets Out Key Points

At a 2013 meeting, WIEGO’s Board of Directors also discussed the “formalization debate” in advance of the International Labour Conference in June 2014. The Board, which includes members from the WIEGO Network’s three constituencies – membership-based organizations (MBOs) of informal workers, researchers, and development professionals – stressed that any process of formalization must first consider the realities of different categories of informal workers. The Board determined that part of WIEGO’s role in the discussion will be to maintain support for the definitions of informal employment that are already internationally accepted and for important clauses that WIEGO and our partners advocated for in the Conclusions to the General Discussion on Decent Work and Informal Workers at the 2002 International Labour Conference.

Informal Workers Participate in Drafting Formalization Platform

For more detail on the information in this report and to access publications, presentations, videos and other resources, visit www.wiego.org.

WIEGO's Organization & Representation Programme and partners hosted a series of regional workshops in early 2014 to gather feedback from informal workers on issues relating to formalizing the informal economy. In advance of the standard-setting discussion on "Transitioning from the Informal to the Formal Economy" at the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2014, representatives of domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors, waste pickers, and others were brought together in Argentina, Peru, South Africa, and Thailand. A participatory approach was used to ensure the voices of informal workers – through their membership-based organizations – are being integrated into a common platform. The initial draft of the platform was authored by StreetNet's Pat Horn, with assistance from WIEGO. In total, 94 workers gave input into the final draft.

The platform sets out common core needs and demands for informal workers around organizing, voice and bargaining power; legal identity and standing; and labour, economic, and social rights, including social protection. It also outlines different categories of informal employment, offers a comprehensive framework for transitioning from the informal to formal economy, and puts forward sector-specific demands around formalization.

A WIEGO delegation, coordinated by our European Advisor Karin Pape and consisting of representatives of domestic workers, home-based producers, street vendors and waste pickers, will distribute the Platform at the 103rd session of the International Labour Conference in June 2014. This will help the authentic voice of informal workers to be heard at these discussions.

The full platform can be downloaded in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

WIEGO NETWORK PLATFORM
TRANSITIONING FROM THE INFORMAL TO THE FORMAL ECONOMY
in the interests of workers in the informal economy



What Do Informal Workers Need?

The working poor in the informal economy have a common core set of needs and demands, as well as those specific to their employment status, occupation and place of work. For all informal workers, formalization must offer benefits and protections – not simply impose the costs of becoming formal.

Produced through an international participatory process in coordination with informal worker organizations and supporters

The common core set of demands and needs excerpted from the Platform appears on the inside back cover of this report.

Strengthening Workers' Organizations

Domestic Workers Unite

The International Domestic Workers' Network transformed itself into the first global federation of unions and associations run by women: the International Domestic Workers' Federation (IDWF). The historic transformation took place at the network's founding congress in Montevideo in 2013, which was supported by WIEGO's "Advancing Domestic Workers' Leadership" project through the Organization and Representation Programme. On the final day, delegates from domestic workers' organizations unanimously voted to take this step by accepting the IDWF Constitution. The creation of the formal federation proves that all workers, no matter how isolated or overlooked, can be organized to fight for their rights.

Historically, those who work in others' homes have been invisible – overlooked as workers and denied basic rights. But through strong organization and sheer determination, domestic workers have made strides since their remarkable triumph at the International Labour Conference in 2011, where they secured the Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) and accompanying Recommendations.

Along the way, WIEGO provided financial and technical support, including leading the process of constitutional development and networking in Europe. In October 2013, WIEGO published "Yes, We Did It!" *How the World's Domestic Workers Won Their International Rights and Recognition* by Celia Mather. It details the road to success in getting employers, trade unions and government representatives to adopt C189. "Yes, We Did It!" is available in English, French and Spanish.

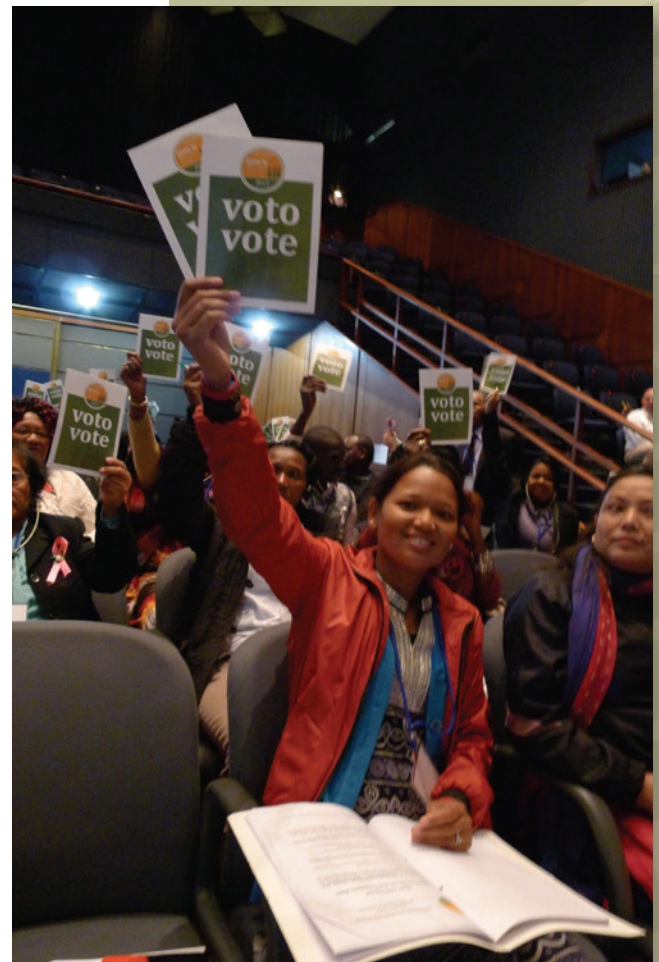
By March 2014, 15 countries had ratified C189 through their legislative processes. And in countries around the world – including South Africa, Guinea, Tanzania and in six states in India – campaigns have improved legislation, wages or working conditions for domestic workers. And at least 30,000 domestic workers have been recruited into unions – an increase of 17 per cent over December 2012, according to IDWF.

Domestic workers also united through the official launch of the Africa Domestic Workers' Network (AfDWN). Domestic workers' representatives from 17 countries came together in Cape Town in June 2013 to establish the new network. The goal: to strengthen coordination and solidarity among domestic workers' organizations in Africa, and use collective power to achieve ratification of C189 and improved legislation. Chris Bonner, WIEGO's Director for Organization and Representation, facilitated the session where guidelines for the operation of the AfDWN were developed and assisted a team in drawing up a declaration.

Advancing Domestic Workers' Leadership

518 domestic workers took part in 21 capacity building workshops held in Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Hong Kong/China, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru and Tanzania.

The International Domestic Workers' Federation (IDWF) was formed by a unanimous vote at the international organization's founding congress.
Photo: J. Shenker



Project Reduces Occupational Risks for Informal Workers

WIEGO's Social Protection Programme expanded its occupational health and safety (OHS) project for informal workers – already active in Brazil, Ghana, India, Peru and Tanzania – to South Africa in 2013. In partnership with Asiye eTafuleni (AeT), an NGO partner that supports street vendors and market traders in Durban, WIEGO is helping make Durban's Warwick Junction safer for informal workers, customers, and others in the area. After a Logical Framework Analysis workshop sparked the idea, OHS researcher Laura Alferts worked with Richard Dobson and Phumzile Xulu of AeT to develop a proposal focused on fire safety and first aid. As many as 8,000 informal workers make their living in the markets of Warwick Junction, but have little protection against workplace risks, which range from injuries to floods to fires. In June 2013, the Rockefeller Foundation announced the initiative was one of 10 projects worldwide to win a prestigious Centennial Innovation Challenge Award.

Now called the Phephanathi Project – *phephanathi* means “be safe with us” in isiZulu – the project involves trader organizations. Traders will form risk-management sub-committees in each of Warwick's nine markets to raise awareness and monitor health and safety issues. Elected representatives will be trained in basic first aid, fire safety and emergency procedures. As well, a Warwick Junction Risk Management Committee is expected to create a forum for dialogue between traders and the municipality.

India became the first country to adopt national legislation to protect street vendors' livelihoods, social security and human rights. Photo: J. Luckham

Laura Alferts and WIEGO's Social Protection Director Francie Lund presented on the work in Warwick Junction at the sub-conference “Urban Risk and Humanitarian Response”, part of the International Commission on Urban Health's 2014 conference in Manchester, UK.

WIEGO and AeT have also begun collaborating with the University of KwaZulu-Natal to explore working on the health issues of corn-on-the-cob (*mielie*) cooks in Warwick Junction.

India's Street Vendors Win the Fight of their Lives

In February 2014, the upper house of the Indian Parliament passed the long-fought-for Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, making India the first country to adopt progressive, centralized legislation in favour of street vendors. The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), both members of WIEGO, were at the centre of the decades-long struggle for this Bill, which has provisions that protect livelihoods, social security and human rights for more than 10 million urban street vendors across India. If effectively implemented, the legislation will spell an end to many barriers and the constant harassment by police and municipal officials in cities and towns across India.



Home-Based Workers Get Connected

Isolation is a significant issue for home-based workers, a vital but often invisible informal workforce. WIEGO's Strengthening the Movement of Home-Based Workers project is helping to overcome this by forging connections across borders and regions. In Latin America, home-based worker groups and support organizations held a first meeting in Lima, Peru in September 2013. The project also supported an exposure visit that saw home-based workers from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania and Turkey visit Ahmedabad, India, where they learned from SEWA and HomeNet South Asia. Other activities include training women leaders in South Asia, policy analysis and advocacy, and expanding our knowledge of, and connections with, home-based workers in "new" countries.

Women Fair Trade Producers Trained for Positive Change

Under an activity called Leadership & Business Skills for Women Fair Trade Producers, women producers in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda are being trained to better understand their rights as workers, improve their earnings and assume leadership roles. The activity is part of WIEGO's multifaceted *Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers* project, and is coordinated by our Global Trade Programme. In December, project partners met in Uganda to discuss accomplishments and chart the way forward. A cascading approach to training, in which local facilitators deliver training in their own communities, reached 1,384 women in 2013. They can now train other women, creating sustainability beyond the life of the project.

Locally developed training materials in leadership and business skills are being used to develop core, standardized project materials during 2014. The resulting online toolkit will make freely available a flexible, broad-based training package that seeks to maximize the benefits of trade to informal workers at the bottom of the chain.

Stories and videos about change among the women members of the fair trade producer groups involved in this project are posted to <http://wiego.org/wee/fair-trade>.



"The activities of this project have made the participating groups realise their hope of change in their lives."

Member of the Ugandan Federation for Alternative Trade (UGAFAT)

Members of the coffee co-operative Gumutindo in Uganda are being trained to better understand their rights as workers, improve their earnings and assume leadership roles.
Photo: B. Leifso

Waste Pickers and Green Jobs Highlighted at International Labour Conference

"Sustainable Development, Green Jobs and Decent Work" were on the agenda of the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2013. With its partners, WIEGO prepared a position paper – Waste Pickers: The Right to Be Recognized as Workers – and sent a small delegation including Lucia Fernandez, WIEGO's Global Waste Picker Coordinator, Karin Pape, WIEGO's European Adviser, and representatives from three strong waste picker organizations in Brazil, Colombia and India. The delegation wanted the recycling sector recognized as one of the key sectors within green jobs and sustainable development, and waste pickers named as a labour sector that deserves special attention. They actively engaged with the Workers' and Tripartite Committee on Sustainable Development. The delegation also presented

on the work of waste pickers to select organizations. Ultimately, participation in the ILC 2013 served to begin to build new or stronger relationships with unions, the ILO, and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), catching the attention of General Secretary Sharan Burrow.

Women Leaders Find Voice in Lima, Peru

In Peru, WIEGO and its partners are building on work done over the last four years, which strengthened capacity through training and helped worker organizations connect to government departments where their voices must be heard. New initiatives are expanding the scope of the first “Voice” project (2009-2012) to more categories of workers, including domestic workers, and in new regions of the country. By 2015, the project aims to help about 6,000 informal workers who live in poverty attain improved social protection reflected in new access to childcare, health coverage, and/or old age benefits. Key to achieving this will be stronger organizations engaged in more dialogue with the state, and increased voice for about 200 women worker leaders.

In addition to focusing on four districts of Lima prioritized by worker leaders – Independencia, La Victoria, Lima Cercado, and San Martín de Porres – the project has expanded into three cities in subnational regions of Peru: Arequipa, Chiclayo and Tarapot.

Gender Inequality in Waste Work Addressed

Sonia Dias, WIEGO’s Waste Picking Sector Specialist, has played an integral role in a project that looks at the multiple levels of discrimination women waste pickers in Latin America face, and illuminates the women’s needs. The Gender & Waste project is a partnership between WIEGO, the Women’s Research Center housed at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, the National Movement of Recyclers of Brazil (Movimento Nacional dos Catadores de Materiais Recicláveis – MNCR) and the regional network La Red Latinoamericana de Recicladores (RedLacre). Following a pilot in 2012, the project launched in 2013. It is creating resources for the empowerment of women waste pickers across Latin America. So far, it has led to a methodological guide for gender and waste workshops (in Portuguese), an

annotated bibliography of existing literature on gender and waste (in English), individual reports on each of the four workshops, and a list of teaching resources (videos, manuals, etc.) with summaries of each resource, key points and links. The ultimate goal is to create a toolkit for women waste pickers and their organizations.

“Women’s Empowerment, Gender Equality and Labour Rights – Transforming the Terrain” was the theme of a July 2013 Solidarity Centre Regional Meeting in São Paulo, Brazil. Sonia Dias and Global Trade Director Elaine Jones participated. In December, Dias also gave a workshop on gender empowerment at the annual gathering known as Expocatadores, which was organized by the Brazilian waste picker movement and brought together 3,000 waste pickers from 15 countries to learn from each other and celebrate their work.

Women waste pickers in Brazil described what autonomy for women is – at home, at work, within the co-operative and in the waste movement. Their answers were used to form an “autonomy tree”.
Photo: S. Dias



Finally, WIEGO's Urban Policies and Organization & Representation teams made critical contributions to help frame the Inter-American Development Bank's approach to a gender guide. WIEGO teams also assisted with the literature review and conducted a thorough review of the first draft of their guide.

Sustainability Training Given to Inclusive Cities Partners

In its lead role for the global Inclusive Cities Project, WIEGO lent its expertise and energy to ensuring its partner organizations have sustainable futures when the project comes to an end at the end of 2014. This has included working with our partners as they establish clear, comprehensive strategic plans and supporting them in building new relationships with funding partners. WIEGO's Global Projects Team conducted research into potential donors and provided our partners with referrals to funding partners.

We also offered direct, diverse assistance targeted to each organization's needs. This included, for example, intensive ongoing support for AeT in conceptualizing and writing funding bids. We assisted StreetNet in the hiring of a fundraising consultant to help develop proposals, gave workshops on fundraising and logistical frameworks to SEWA sister organizations, offered substantive advice on revising the SEWA Academy's overall budget and reviewed proposals done by SEWA Bank and SEWA Union. KKPKP and the Mahila Housing Trust benefitted from strategic planning sessions, as did HomeNet South Asia (HNSA), to whom Global Projects Director Rhonda Douglas offered an in-person strategic planning session. Our experienced communications professionals worked closely with SEWA Bharat on their communications planning and website development. The ability to accompany training with follow-up support has been critical to the progress our partners have made.

WIEGO also established and maintains the Fundraising and Sustainability for MBOs wiki, where notifications and summaries of current opportunities are housed. MBOs – Institutional Members and project partners of WIEGO – have accessed this resource site more than 2,000 times this year. An update to the wiki is being done to incorporate five languages, new workshop content, and donor lists. As our sustainability work winds down, we are developing a Sustainability Strategy Series of publications for MBOs. These materials will be an important legacy of the Inclusive Cities project. Several resources have already been completed, including the Proposal Elements Guide and a generic training around preparing grant applications.

Inclusive Cities Partners Prepare for Final Annual Learning Meeting

In preparation for the final Annual Learning Meeting of this phase of the Inclusive Cities project in April 2014, partners participated in a final project evaluation. This included the creation of detailed case studies highlighting areas where the project has had impact at the city level, as well as a quantitative overview of outputs and outcomes.

Inclusive Cities is a collaboration of membership-based organizations (MBOs) of the working poor, international alliances of MBOs and support organizations working together as partners to improve the situation of the working poor. Launched in late 2008, Inclusive Cities aims to strengthen MBOs in the areas of organizing, policy analysis and advocacy in order to ensure that urban informal workers have the tools necessary to make themselves heard within urban planning processes. See www.inclusivecities.org.

Inclusive Cities Partners

Asiye eTafuleni (AeT)

Avina Foundation

HomeNet South Asia (HNSA)

HomeNet Southeast Asia (HNSEA)

Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP)

Latin American and Caribbean Network of Waste Pickers

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

StreetNet International

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Women's Leadership Project Gets High Praise

WIEGO garnered high praise from PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the firm contracted to manage Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) grants given by the Government of the Netherlands:

WIEGO is a highly professional organisation, with a wide network of membership-based organisations (MBOs) of informal workers, research institutions, and international development organisations. This enables it to efficiently implement its programmes, including the numerous FLOW activities. WIEGO's strength lies in the combination of (action) research and university involvement and the participation of MBOs on the ground, which leads to a well thought-out institute that can effectively react to the needs of women informal workers and influence the legal community to achieve state level legal provisions to cover the economic and social rights of workers.

WIEGO's *Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers*, funded by FLOW, is a multifaceted project aimed at strengthening the organizing and leadership capacity of women working in informal employment. Implemented by WIEGO's partner networks and organizations, it has seven elements:

Through the Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers project, WIEGO has been encouraging home-based workers in Eastern Europe, like this embroiderer in Bulgaria, to build connections that will strengthen their organizations. Photo: V. Zlateva



- Strengthening the Movement of Home-Based Workers
- Advancing Domestic Workers' Leadership
- Developing Leadership & Business Skills for Women Fair Trade Producers
- Strengthening the Voice of Informal Women Workers on Social Policy Issues (Peru)
- Strengthening the Global Movement of Street & Market Vendors
- Law and the Informal Economy
- Women's Leadership Assembly 2014

The project site, wiego.org/wee, has news, stories, videos and updates.

Increasing Visibility for Informal Workers

Findings of the Informal Economy Monitoring Study Released

After two years of planning, training and conducting research in partnership with membership-based organizations and researchers across 10 cities, results from the Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) were compiled and analyzed. The study provides a deep understanding of how three groups of urban informal workers – home-based workers, street vendors, and waste pickers – are affected by and respond to economic trends, urban policies and practices, value chain dynamics, and other economic and social forces. Unique in its intention, scope and design, the IEMS challenges common assumptions about the informal economy and shows that urban informal workers play vital roles in the urban economy while helping keep their households out of extreme poverty.

Data were collected using both quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (focus group discussions) methods with:

- 447 home-based workers in Ahmedabad, India; Bangkok, Thailand; and Lahore, Pakistan
- 743 street vendors in Accra, Ghana; Ahmedabad, India; Durban, South Africa; Lima, Peru; and Nakuru, Kenya
- 763 waste pickers in Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Bogota, Colombia; Durban, South Africa; Nakuru, Kenya; and Pune, India

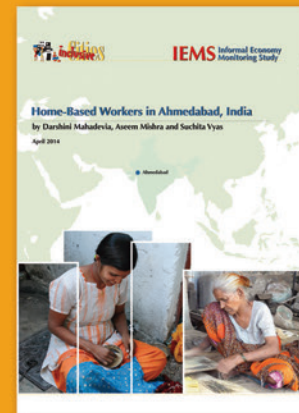
Findings from the IEMS began to be published in 2013. These include city-level reports specific to each city/sector. Three sector reports are in final production, and a Global Report will be published later in 2014. The IEMS is also putting the findings in the hands of informal workers and their organizations, as WIEGO turns the findings into city-specific advocacy briefs for the project's MBO partners.

The IEMS found most workers do not choose informality as a way to hide from regulations, but out of necessity. Among the study sample, the vast majority of workers' households rely on informal earnings for survival. These urban informal workers play vital roles in the urban economy and help keep their households out of extreme poverty.

The IEMS also explores the links between informal and formal economies and the contributions of the urban informal workforce to urban economies. In all cities and across the three occupational groups, study participants reported that the policies and practices of city governments hampered their livelihoods. Researchers conclude that informal workers, who make up the majority of the urban workforce in most regions, could make greater contributions if local policies and practices supported, rather than hindered, their work.

The research was unveiled in early April 2014 to a large and engaged audience at the World Urban Forum in Colombia, and garnered significant media attention around the world.

IEMS publications can be downloaded at both www.wiego.org and www.inclusivecities.org (more will be available in the coming months).



Collaboration Improves Statistics on the Informal Workforce

WIEGO's Statistics Programme continues its leading edge work in bringing visibility to informal economy workers through statistics by collaborating with a number of international bodies. In September 2013, WIEGO participated in the annual meeting of the UN-Economic Commission for Europe Expert Group on Quality of Employment Indicators. Françoise Carré, WIEGO's Research Coordinator, and Joann Vanek, Director of WIEGO's Statistics Programme, together with WIEGO member Rodrigo Negrete of the Mexican statistical service, contributed a background paper on using proposed indicators to measure informal employment in developed countries.

October 2013 saw the launch of *Measuring Informality: A Statistical Manual on the Informal Sector and Informal Employment* at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in Geneva. Statistics Director Joann Vanek played an integral role in the preparation of this manual, which was prepared in cooperation with the International Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (the Delhi Group) and published by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The manual is available in English, Spanish and French.

WIEGO's participation as an observer at the ICLS provided the opportunity to be part of discussions on a new framework for work statistics, as well as the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE) and other topics of concern to WIEGO (wage statistics, gender-mainstreaming in the production of labour statistics, statistics on work-related violence, informal employment and the informal sector, statistics on cooperatives and dissemination of statistics and data files by the ILO). There was strong consensus around the need for a revision of the ICSE to account for the latest developments in labour markets. The ILO and country delegates highlighted the problems encountered in classifying many new employment arrangements, including the variety of contractual arrangements. The revision will require wide consultations with tripartite constituents at all stages and WIEGO will be involved in this process.

In December 2013, ILO and WIEGO published *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, 2nd Edition*. This report provides, for the first time, direct measures of informal employment inside and outside the informal sector for 47 countries. WIEGO has produced a companion report with regional estimates: *Statistics on the Informal Economy: Definitions, Regional Estimates and Challenges* (WIEGO Working Paper #2) by Joann Vanek, Martha Chen, Françoise Carré, James Heintz and Ralf Hussmanns. The new estimates are more robust than the widely-quoted estimates in the 2002 publication and were published in WIEGO Working Paper No. 2 in mid-2014.



International
Labour
Office
Geneva



Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture



Second Edition



Home-Based Workers in South Asia Spotlited in Statistics Projects

Home-based workers – those who produce goods or services for the market from within or around their own homes – are among the most invisible of informal workers. WIEGO has long worked to change that by shining a light on these workers. International Coordinator Marty Chen and Statistics Director Joann Vanek assisted with two projects on the development and use of statistics on home-based workers and homeworkers. In the first, Ratna Sudarshan and Govindan Raveendran analyzed data from three surveys of employment and unemployment in India –1999-2000, 2004-05 and 2009-10 – to reveal trends in employment and changes in branch of economic activity.

The second, a project with HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet SouthEast Asia, used available national statistics in three additional countries to describe the numbers and characteristics of these workers. WIEGO Statistical Briefs were subsequently prepared on Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

New Statistical Briefs are available for four countries, including Bangladesh, where these two women are weavers.
Photo: M. Chen



Focus on Urban Informal Workers Planned for World Urban Forum

In preparation for the World Urban Forum in Colombia in April 2014, members of WIEGO's team worked closely with our Inclusive Cities partners to ensure informal workers were represented, their issues were articulated and their presence would be felt. Preparations included the creation of display (pictured right) and print materials under the theme "Inclusive Cities Work Better".

Sadly, as we finalized the materials and strategies, we received word that some members of our delegation – waste pickers from India representing KKPKP – would not be able to attend after they were refused transit visas due to the insecurity of their incomes.

As part of its preparation for World Urban Forum 7, WIEGO launched a new section on our website to highlight urban livelihood issues. Visit wiego.org/cities.

INCLUSIVE CITIES WORK BETTER

Urban informal work

- sustains families
- grows economies
- enhances social well-being



LAS CIUDADES INCLUSIVAS FUNCIONAN MEJOR

El trabajo informal urbano

- sostiene familias
- hace crecer a las economías
- mejora el bienestar social



HOME-BASED WORKERS

are invisible but vital players in global and domestic value chains.

TRABAJADORES A DOMICILIO

Permanecen invisibles pero son actores esenciales en las cadenas de valor a nivel nacional y global.



STREET VENDORS

enliven city spaces, offering affordable and convenient choices for consumers.

VENDEDORES AMBULANTES

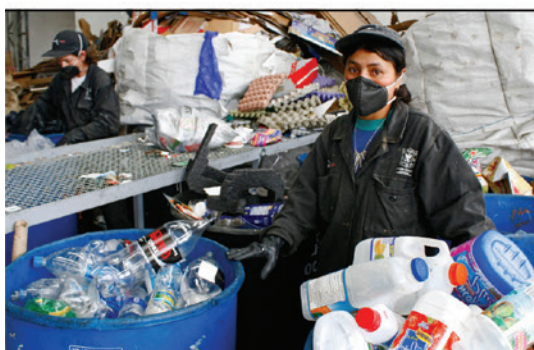
Enriquecen los espacios de la ciudad ofreciendo opciones asequibles y convenientes para los consumidores.



A MAJOR PART OF THE WORKFORCE

Statistics

Informal Employment as % of Total Non-Agricultural Employment 2004-2010



WASTE PICKERS

collect waste and divert material from landfills at little cost to city budgets.

RECICLADORES

Recogen residuos y desvían material de los vertederos a un bajo costo para los presupuestos de la ciudad.



PARTNERS



Social Media Reaches a Growing Audience

WIEGO continues to raise our profile and build an audience for our work and the work of our partners in the online development landscape. The Inclusive Cities project occupies a distinct and valuable place in the online urban landscape. Both WIEGO and Inclusive Cities partners engage daily on issues involving informal workers and execute social media strategies around celebrated calendar days (Waste Pickers Day, Street Vendors Day, Labour Day, etc.), major policy events (Street Vendor Law in India), and other significant events. Followers range from international organizations, development professionals and activists to urban planning professionals, researchers and journalists. The responsibility for using social media to communicate with diverse audiences is shared among our Communications and Programme teams.

The number of people following us on the WIEGO and Inclusive Cities Twitter accounts more than doubled to 5,600 between April 2013 and April 2014, while Facebook followers for WIEGO and Inclusive Cities pages continued a steady climb, rising to over 36,000.

News of Informal Workers Is Spreading

WIEGO gathers and disseminates news about the informal economy and informal workers broadly as part of WIEGO's Global Monitoring System. This system allows WIEGO to maintain a real time profile of particular places of concern ("hot spots") and of inclusive practice ("bright spots"). On average, 900 news items are scanned per week and over 140 are disseminated across four languages. Our partners receive the feed, facilitating both international solidarity and cross country learning. Awareness of issues is raised. Urban practitioners, development professionals, journalists and policymakers are also among our followers. Links to news items are posted to the Inclusive Cities and WIEGO websites, segmented by sector and country, and are searchable.

Getting the WORD Out

The WIEGO Organization and Representation Database – WORD – now contains more than 900 detailed entries of organizations, 150 of them new in 2013-14.



Find us at
<http://twitter.com/wiegoglobal>
and <http://twitter.com/InclusiveCities>



and on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/wiegoglobal> and
<http://www.facebook.com/InclusiveCitiesProject>

Building the Knowledge Base

Organizing and Collective Bargaining Explored

WIEGO and the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center in the USA have collaborated on research that looked at organizing in the informal economy. One project involved a study on sub-contracted garment workers in Bangladesh. Another project looked at collective bargaining in the informal economy. A team of researchers conducted an analysis and produced five case studies, found on the Collective Bargaining in the Informal Economy section of WIEGO's website:

- *Collective Bargaining Among Transport Workers in Georgia*
- *Collective Bargaining Negotiations Between Street Vendors and City Government in Monrovia, Liberia*
- *Negotiating the Recycling Bonus Law: Waste Pickers and Collective Bargaining in Minas Gerais, Brazil*
- *Collective Bargaining by Workers of the Indian Unorganized Sector: Struggle, Process, Achievements, and Learning*
- *Collective Bargaining and Domestic Workers in Uruguay (also in Spanish)*

An overview report was also published as a WIEGO Organizing Brief: *Informal Workers and Collective Bargaining: Five Case Studies* by Debbie Budlender, who led the research.

Also, a new project on collective bargaining in the street vending/market trading sector was initiated in collaboration with Pat Horn, StreetNet International Coordinator with some financial support from the Solidarity Center. The project will test StreetNet's guideline, called "Towards a model framework for a local level collective bargaining system for street traders", with as many organizations as possible. This project, which includes encouraging affiliates to push for negotiating forums using the framework, is still at an early stage. Information on 14 StreetNet affiliates has been compiled, with intensive support given to Umbumbano Traders Alliance (Durban, South Africa) to assist in setting up a forum and negotiating on important issues with the local municipality. Initial work with traders' organizations in Johannesburg was done. Case studies on the activities of vendors/traders and their relationship with city authorities in Durban and Johannesburg were written.

Results are captured in a report prepared for WIEGO and the Solidarity Center, to be published on our website.

Contract Labour in Global Garment Chains Examined

There is a low level of understanding among firms of the ways in which informal workers are inserted into global value chains in increasing numbers. WIEGO's engagement in the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) serves to bring an informal worker perspective to the analysis of the changing nature of employment relations and contractual arrangements.

In 2013, a research paper on *Contract Labour in Global Garment Supply Chains*

A new WIEGO publication examines the growing use of contract labour in garment and other global value chains. Photo: S. Tubsakul, HomeNet Thailand



was prepared by Man-Kwun Chan. Drawing both on existing literature and on primary research, the study examines the prevalence and drivers of contract labour use in key sourcing countries, the characteristics of labour contractors and contract workers, and the contractual relationships between them. The changing use of contract labour since the onset of the global financial crisis is discussed. The paper was presented to a corporate members' meeting of the ETI, where attendees agreed this was an issue across supply chains. Several companies committed to taking it forward. As a direct result, both company and NGO members called on the ETI Secretariat to ensure contract labour is included in ongoing strategic discussions.

Social Protection Programme Looks at Childcare

Francie Lund, WIEGO's Social Protection Director, is developing a stream of work on childcare and maternal social protection. Childcare is on the development agenda, but an informal worker lens is missing: How do informal workers arrange childcare? How many childcare providers are informally employed? Lund was invited by the ILO Regional Office – Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa – to bring an informal worker perspective to the workshop “The Economic and Social Benefits of Maternity Protection”, held in Johannesburg in December 2013.

In Phase One of WIEGO's Childcare Initiative, the Social Protection Programme is exploring the feasibility of a global campaign to integrate childcare, conceptually and in policy terms, as a core component of social protection, to make the link with informal work explicit, and to examine how a childcare provision could impact women's economic empowerment. In mid-2015, a strategic workshop will be held to assess this and, if feasible, develop a campaign plan and communications strategy.

Alliances for Better Social Protection Policy Forged

Relationships continue to develop with the emerging southern African social policy network, Southern African Social Policy and Economic Network (SASPEN), and through the African Union. With the support of Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung, WIEGO has been a key influence in getting social protection for informal workers on this regional map. For example, Francie Lund presented at the African Union Ninth Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission in Addis Ababa, April 2013, on “Labour Market and Legal Regulatory Framework of the Informal Economy”. In September 2013, she spoke about social protection for informal workers at a conference convened by SASPEN in Johannesburg. At the same conference, she presented “Occupational Health and Safety for Informal Workers: A WIEGO Project in Ghana, Tanzania, Brazil, Peru and India”.

More Access to Health Services through Mobile Phones Explored

WIEGO's Social Protection Programme took part in the mHealth Alliance/Vital Wave project on mobile health solutions for informal workers, looking particularly at how mobile phones could be used to improve access to health services and for health education. Francie Lund and Laura Alfors researched and wrote a report on mobile phone usage after interviewing MBO leaders and WIEGO members. They also helped organize a workshop in Johannesburg in March 2014, in which mobile phone solutions were presented for feedback to informal workers from the South African Domestic, Service and Allied Workers' Union, StreetNet, the South African Informal Traders' Association, the South African Informal Workers Association, and Asiye eTafuleni.

Options for Including Informal Workers in Mega Events Studied

Waste pickers in Belo Horizonte, Brazil – like this member of Comarp, shown sorting collected waste – are well organized and have made significant gains in recent years. A law now authorizes the use of public funds to compensate catadores for their environmental contributions on an ongoing basis. Photo: D. Tomich



WIEGO supported StreetNet International's World Class Cities for All Campaign (WCCA) in Brazil, in anticipation of the FIFA World Cup 2014 and Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. As well, WIEGO Waste Picking Specialist Sonia Dias provided Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, and the Labour and Society Institute IETS (an NGO based in Brazil) with possibilities for including waste pickers when such mega events occur. These organizations were tasked to develop a series of options for waste management facilities as "green job" anchors for waste pickers at the Gramacho Landfill with a focus on new redevelopment opportunities, in anticipation of the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, and in compliance with the new Brazilian Solid Waste Law. In addition she

has been following up the "Movimento dos atingidos pela Copa" (movement of people impacted by the World Cup) and the "Jogos Limpos" (Fair Play) campaign lead by Ethos Institute: providing information about StreetNet's WCCA, social media postings and occasional attendance of their local events.

Progress was made. Through a partnership between Brazil's National Movement of Recyclers (MNCR), Coca Cola Brasil and FIFA, 840 waste pickers were contracted in the 12 World Cup host cities to collect recyclables at the stadiums. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment opened a credit line for host cities to encourage the municipalities to set up selective waste collection that hires catadores (waste pickers) to work at official parties.

WIEGO Offers Expertise on Technical Waste Picking Issues

The WIEGO Urban Policies Programme regularly provides expert input on critical technical issues. Waste Picking Specialist Sonia Dias has been working on an action-research project focused on testing indicators of sustainability of segregation at source programmes. A joint collaboration of the University of São Paulo in Brazil and WIEGO, and involving waste pickers' representatives, the project is piloting a set of environmental indicators designed to assess the sustainability of municipal source segregation schemes that integrate waste pickers. Research and field work has been completed. Indicators are being consolidated in a database and preliminary reports have been published. In partnership with the Observatory of Inclusive Recycling, the team conducted a workshop in March 2014, when preliminary findings were presented to local NGOs, recyclers' MBOs and universities.

WIEGO also organized a half-day session in Belo Horizonte, Brazil that featured the Latin American representative for the Global Alliance Against Incineration (GAIA) and local activists of the Municipal Waste and Citizenship Forum and the Observatory for Inclusive Recycling. Attended by over 40 people, the meeting included a lively debate about the work WIEGO and GAIA carried out during the climate change negotiations and current global struggles against waste-to-energy technologies. Representatives of local MBOs appreciated this opportunity to learn about global struggles and engage with activists.

Urban Professionals Introduced to Urban Informal Economy

Urban professionals – urban planners, urban designers, architects and engineers – are central players in “city making”. Many urban professionals are unaware of the informal economy and most tend to be ill equipped to manage and support it. WIEGO targets urban professionals by engaging with faculty and students in institutions that focus on the built environment.

A Postgraduate Educational Toolkit on the Urban Informal Economy, developed by Caroline Skinner with the help of the Urban Policies team for the African Association of Planning Schools, continues to be popular. AAPS has made it available at www.africanplanningschools.org.za. Caroline Skinner has also contributed to two master’s programmes – in City and Regional Planning and in Urban Infrastructure Management and Design – offered at the University of Cape Town.

At the Government School of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, Sonia Dias’s syllabus “Waste, State and Development – Mainstreaming Gender and Participation” was taught for four consecutive semesters ending in December 2013. She also prepared a graduate course in Social and Environmental Sciences at the same university, exposing students to the variety of policy and organizational practices of informal workers globally.

Good Policies and Practices for Informal Workers Documented

WIEGO aims to document good policies and practices that have resulted in securer informal livelihoods. This documentation contributes to policy and academic debates. The following papers have been completed during the period under review:

Home-based workers: *Synthesis of HomeNet South Asia’s Seven Country Study on Urban Home-Based Workers* – Shalini Sinha helped to finalize these reports and also wrote up a policy brief synthesizing the findings on the urban service issues.

Street vendors: *Vending in Public Space: The Case of Bangkok* – Gisele Yasmeen and Narumol Nirathron, both experts on this issue, completed a policy brief that is reflecting on lessons learned from Bangkok’s approach to incorporating street vendors into urban plans.

Waste pickers: *Waste Picker Cooperatives Negotiating Improvements in their Working Environment* – Sonia Dias worked closely with local researchers to complete an analysis of this case, published as part of a suite of studies on collective bargaining on the informal economy.

On wiego.org, you can search more than 2,640 publications and resources.

Changing the Legal Landscape

Bogota Waste Pickers Win Major Legal Victory

At seven years old, Nohra Padilla was waste picking on a dump in Colombia. Decades later, in 2013, her activism on behalf of recyclers was recognized with the world's largest prize for grassroots environmentalists – the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. Along with her husband Silvio, also a recycler and activist, she has worked tirelessly to help waste pickers achieve respect as workers and to gain recognition for the services they provide to their communities. By combining organized strength with legal advocacy, Padilla and her colleagues have revolutionized both their work and Bogotá's waste management system.

In 1990, Nohra was part of a group that created the Asociación de Recicladores de Bogotá (ARB), today a strong WIEGO partner and member. She became ARB's Executive Director more than a decade ago. When a public bidding system was announced in Bogota that would take the role of recycling away from the informal workers and hand it instead to private companies for a 10-year period, ARB and its allies took the battle to the Constitutional Court of Colombia in a lawsuit filed by Nohra. The court cancelled the billion-dollar public bidding process. WIEGO, CEMPRE (a Colombian organization that supports recycling) and other allies then supported ARB and the Waste Pickers Trade Union Pact to formulate a comprehensive proposal that would include the entire waste picking community. Eventually, Bogotá's waste pickers were made part the city's waste management programme.

*Colombian waste picker leader Nohra Padilla, shown here at the awards ceremony with her husband Silvio Ruiz Grisales, received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in recognition of her activism.
Photo: M. Chen*

WIEGO's Waste Picker Coordinator for Latin America, Federico Parra, gave considerable support to help the recyclers implement their hard won right to tender for contracts. In 2013, ARB was part of another historic moment when the Mayor of Bogota mandated recycling, and announced a payment system for waste pickers to recognize the important environmental contribution and public service they have long made. Initially, Parra noted, the payment system meant almost 800 waste pickers saw their normal earnings rise dramatically. In 2013, WIEGO produced videos that depict how the recicladores in Bogota fought and won their battle for inclusion. These short videos are being disseminated broadly to serve as educational material and to inspire other waste pickers and are available on our website.

Despite these remarkable achievements, big challenges remain. Political contention and uncertainty in Bogota have put at risk the city's inclusion of informal waste workers. Nohra and her colleagues are continuing their fight.

Members of WIEGO's team accompanied Nohra to San Francisco and Washington, DC, where she accepted the Goldman Environmental Prize. At both award ceremonies, Nohra thanked the Mayor of Bogota and his advisors for agreeing to pay the informal recyclers, thus recognizing them as legitimate workers in the city's sanitation program. She also thanked the Constitutional Court of Colombia and its judges, "who now understand that the law," she said, "can change the world."



Law Project Informs Informal Economy Debates

For several years, WIEGO has had a multi-country project on Law and Informality, designed to understand which laws impinge upon informal workers and how they engage with legal reforms, and to support groups of informal workers in their struggles around the law. Through this work, WIEGO has found that law can be an effective tool for improving the lives of informal women workers. A focus on law and the informal economy cuts across all other elements of WIEGO's work. In late 2013, WIEGO added a new element on law to our *Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers* project, extending the work underway in Ghana, Peru and Thailand and adding India and South Africa to our countries of activity. Through this work, we want to challenge current legal frameworks that favour formal enterprises/workers over informal enterprises/workers, and men over women.

In early 2014, WIEGO expanded the information on the Law & Informality section of the website, which now includes gateways for workers, lawyers, researchers and policymakers, an observatory of legal documents on the informal economy collected from jurisdictions worldwide, and links to information about WIEGO's global projects on Law and the Informal Economy.

Impact of Law on the Urban Informal Economy Analyzed

MBOs have consistently identified the need for more information about the laws that shape their working and living environments. WIEGO has published a series of Legal Briefs that describe and analyze the legal environment facing informal workers, and the legal strategies and precedent-setting cases that may lead to more secure livelihoods.

Also, Sally Roever, WIEGO's Street Vending Specialist, and Caroline Skinner, Urban Policies Director, have been involved in a Cardiff University (Wales) project entitled "Law, Rights, Regulation and Street-Trade in the 21st Century". Over three years, comparative studies were done in cities – Ahmedabad, Cairo, Cusco, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Durban, Quito, and Tunis – to highlight the vulnerability of street vendors, who are subject to plural and often conflicting legislation. The research calls for reframing the urban legal order to promote equity and inclusion. Policy recommendations include a legal audit to identify contradictory laws, promoting national policies on street vending, and establishing legal rights to work in public space. At the final workshop in June 2013, Sally presented on WIEGO's legal work and Caroline presented a paper on Durban. The project director, Cardiff's Alison Brown, is pulling together a manuscript drawing on the conference papers and will write a synthesis of main project findings for the WIEGO Working Paper Series.

"We wanted legislation that would recognize and formalize our work so that we wouldn't be vulnerable to the police and other social persecution.

We needed the population to understand the environmental impact of recycling – that our work benefits not just us but the entire country.

The government has since accepted the necessity of recycling and Bogotá is now required to implement a recycling system that will preserve the natural resources of our country....

We have transformed the image of recyclers and won the acceptance of society, and Colombia is now the first and only country in Latin America where recyclers have constitutional protection to continue their work."

Nohra Padilla, in an interview for the Goldman Environmental Prize



WIEGO Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing

WIEGO Legal Brief N° 1

March 2013

Legal and Policy Tools to Meet Informal Workers' Demands: Lessons from India

Kamala Sankaran and Roopa Madhav¹

This Legal Brief, the first in the series, examines the ways in which informal workers fall outside of traditional employee-employer relationships and the potential for expanding the definition of a "worker" to include them. Drawing on a two-year Indian study, the Brief details how the legal and regulatory framework impacts informal workers—particularly domestic workers, fish workers, forest workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers—and how legal and policy tools have been used or can be used to address the diverse concerns of different sectors of workers in the informal economy.

Introduction

In 2008, WIEGO initiated the Law & Informal Economy project to contribute to the development of an enabling legal environment for informal workers—one that promotes work and economic opportunity, labour rights, benefits and protection. This paper highlights some of the key lessons learned from the pilot project in India regarding the nature of informal work and the manner in which legal and policy tools can address the concerns of informal workers.

¹Kamala Sankaran is Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and Roopa Madhav teaches at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. They can be contacted at kamala.sankaran@delhi.ac.in and roopa.madhav@tiss.edu respectively.



Around four thousand domestic workers gathered in Marina Beach (Chennai, India) demanding dignity of their work and life. This leader has led a struggle for minimum wages.

Informal Workers in Peru Make Legal Gains

WIEGO's Law and Informality project has been active in Peru, in partnership with Instituto Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (ISCOD), a Spanish trade union cooperation agency that works with informal workers. After consultation with domestic workers, market porters, street vendors, and waste pickers, the project team focused on capacity building for worker leaders from different organizations. Training modules were developed; courses on organizational skills and on the laws affecting particular groups ran weekly. Creative material was produced and disseminated, along with a background paper on Law and the Informal Economy in Peru. Also, a compilation of laws for each sector was made available in Spanish on a dedicated website.

The groups subsequently developed proposals for new laws or for enforcement of existing laws. And gains are being made. In early 2014, street vendors saw their concerted efforts result in a more favourable ordinance governing their work in Lima. Domestic workers are also more effectively pushing for ratification of the international Convention for Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189). Waste pickers have begun pursuing projects such as a recent proposal to build a recycling plant. All sectors are better able to advocate for enforcement of existing laws.

Street vendors in Lima have lobbied hard for a new and improved legal framework that offers more livelihood security. Photo: J.A. Venegas Sosa



Governance, Operations and Finance

Board of Directors

The current Board was established at the WIEGO General Assembly in 2010.

Directors

Renana Jhabvala (Chair), Self-Employed Women's Association, India

Kofi Asamoah, Trades Union Congress (Ghana)

Barbro Budin, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations, Switzerland

Debra Davis (Treasurer), Independent Consultant, UK

Clarisse Gnahoui, StreetNet International, Benin

Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University, USA

Lin Lim, Independent Consultant, Malaysia

William Steel, University of Ghana, Ghana

Jeemol Unni, Institute of Rural Management / Anand, India

Carmen Vildoso, Lima Municipal Authority, Peru

The WIEGO Board met in Montevideo, Uruguay in October 2013. A large part of its discussions centred on the need to better articulate WIEGO's niche, policy statements and the value we add to the areas in which we work. WIEGO's role as a mediating institution was reaffirmed, specifically our role in bridging informal workers/MBOs and mainstream discourses and policies as well as bridging academic disciplines; fields of practice; users and producers of statistics.

The Board subsequently met in London, UK in March 2014. At this meeting, the Board approved the budget for the 2014/15 financial year, discussed the need for increased, targeted fundraising, and made decisions regarding the upcoming 2014 General Assembly (see page 25).

Succession planning was also on the agenda. Recognizing that several of WIEGO's senior leaders are approaching retirement, the Board has put in place a comprehensive plan to ensure a smooth transition.

WIEGO's Network

As of March 2014, WIEGO had 177 members: 34 Institutional Members and 143 Individual Members in 41 countries.

Our members are drawn from three constituencies: membership-based organizations of informal workers; researchers; and development professionals.

WIEGO Team

Over the past two years, the WIEGO Team has remained steady at 35 members, only eight of whom work full-time for WIEGO. The rest work anywhere from one-third to four-fifths time for WIEGO; many have other affiliations (such as academic institutions), and some have chosen reduced hours to achieve a desirable life balance.

*In the Canelones Municipality of Uruguay, members of the WIEGO Team made a site visit to Ave Fenix, a co-operative formed as a result of a national packaging law that requires the producers of packaging to pay for their recyclable materials to be collected and sorted by a group of organized waste pickers.
Photo: P. Carney*

WIEGO Team		March 2014	
Segment of Team	Number	FTEs	
Secretariat (USA)	4	3.6	
Operations Office (UK)	6	4.5	
Programme / Projects (global)	10	6.5	
Inclusive Cities Project (global)	11	5.3	
Communications Team (global)	4	3.0	
Total	35	22.9	



Despite how dispersed WIEGO's Team members are, and the fact that many members have part-time contracts, WIEGO has instituted policies that provide for fair working conditions and compassionate leave. A Human Resources Sub-committee exists to address any concerns or issues that arise.

The annual Team Retreat offers an essential opportunity for our far-flung Team members to meet face-to-face to discuss achievements, challenges and future plans. At the end of October, 2013, we came together in Montevideo, Uruguay. There, we examined the need to further define and articulate WIEGO's particular niche and the specific value we add. In addition to our core niche – bridging the ground reality of informal workers and the mainstream discourses – we flagged the following as WIEGO's value added:

- closeness to informal workers with the ability to convey their concerns and needs
- capacity building of MBOs, including training them in how to be effective policy advocates and negotiators
- expanded two-way communications with MBOs
- improved official statistics and field research on informal employment

We considered strategic directions for individual programmes, striving to identify priorities as well as areas we might cut to better focus our energies. And we looked at honing our policy stances, and how we can distil messages for different audiences. We highlighted the need to come up with "Big Ideas" for each programme and for the informal economy as a whole, and explored several strategic issues around fundraising.

General Assembly 2014

In November 2014, WIEGO will host a General Assembly in Indonesia. Under the theme “Organizing for Change: Women’s Leadership”, WIEGO’s Board and Team will gather with delegates from each of our institutional members, along with individual members.

WIEGO General Assemblies, held every four years, offer a forum to share experiences and a public event called “Formalizing the Informal Economy?: Informal Worker Perspectives” as well as field visits to local informal workers, and their organizations, are planned.

A new WIEGO Board will be selected at the General Assembly.

“WIEGO... is a special, perhaps unique, organization that has built an organic network out of three elements: organizations of informal workers; innovative and committed researchers and statisticians; and development practitioners. Rather than cultivating an arm’s length relationship among the researchers and advocates and what’s being studied, WIEGO’s model depends on a combination of rigor and deep connection.

What stands out most to me is that the motivation and drive for WIEGO’s work comes from the day-to-day realities of workers’ lives: It is a direct connection to waste pickers, home-based workers and others that informs the priorities for research and advocacy. WIEGO researchers ... immerse themselves in the lives of the informal workers and listen carefully to the perspectives of the workers. They use those experiences to inform the research questions they pursue.”

Ruth Levine, Director,
Global Development and
Population Program

Financial Report: Year ended 31 March 2014

Financial Summary

The financial strategy for the year was developed to build on previous years' plans designed to ensure the sustainability and future viability of WIEGO. The strategy also took into account the deliberations of the internal strategic review, which analyzed the impact of activities in relation to resources expended. Moreover, the strategy recognized that as specific grants come to an end or finish within the coming 12 months, expenditure and activities must be carefully monitored to ensure maximum benefit and minimal disruption for beneficiaries and partners as projects and programmes reach completion. During the year, the total incoming resources were \$3,446,961 (including investment income and voluntary income) compared to \$10,197,075 (including investment income and voluntary income) in the previous fiscal year. Total resources expended were \$6,386,724 – a decrease of \$1,040,359 on the previous year. The difference between incoming resources and expenditure was due to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation disbursing grant funds ahead of the years to which grants are allocated.

The overall aim of the financial strategy is to ensure that resources are used efficiently to contribute to meeting programme and project targets and to achieving WIEGO's priorities. In furtherance of these objectives, the maximum possible level of resources is channelled directly to programmes to ensure delivery of quality improvements in research, policy advocacy and capacity building, while at the same time maintaining prudent financial management control over the resources of WIEGO as a whole. Budgetary and financial controls are reviewed continuously to reduce the risks of under or overspending and to mitigate the effect of a drop in income in any one financial year. This risk is underpinned by the building of reserves.

The figures for 2014 are extracted from the statutory accounts approved by the directors on 5 August 2014. The full statutory financial accounts, on which the auditors, Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP, gave an unqualified opinion, were delivered to the Registrar of Companies. These extracts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the company. For further information the full statutory accounts should be consulted together with the Auditors' Report and the Directors' Report.

The auditors have confirmed to the Directors that the 2014 figures extracted from the statutory financial accounts are consistent with the statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014.

The full annual accounts, together with the Auditors' Report and Directors' Report, are available from the Company Secretary at the company's registered office in Manchester, UK.

Revenue and Expenditure

The report combines the income received and expenditure incurred both in the US and the UK. The tables making up this report reflect the overall organization's results. We are very proud of the number of funders continuing to support WIEGO. The major Inclusive Urban Planning for the Working Poor project ("Inclusive Cities") supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which commenced in 2008, has made significant progress during the year in achieving its objectives and deliverables.

This year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Netherlands, under the Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women (FLOW) programme, has been our main source of funding.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Rockefeller Foundation, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Solidarity Centre have continued to contribute generously to the funding of WIEGO's core programmes and overall network and programme coordination. New funds were also secured from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Vital Wave, Shack/Slum Dwellers International and the International Institute for Environment and Development.

The expenditure charts summarize expenditure on the major projects together with core expenditure on WIEGO's five programme areas, network/programme coordination, and governance costs.

Financial Governance and Fiscal Sponsors

The Finance Committee of the WIEGO Board reviews the budgets and reports of all WIEGO funds and accounts, including those managed by the two fiscal sponsors in the USA and those managed by WIEGO in the UK.

In addition to funds managed by the WIEGO office in the UK, WIEGO has had two fiscal sponsors – Harvard University and the Tides Centre – in the USA for funds that cannot be routed via the UK. The WIEGO accounts at Harvard University are audited each year as part of the annual financial audit of Harvard University. Similarly our accounts at the Tides Centre have been audited each year as part of the annual financial audit of the Tides Centre. The Tides Centre account has now been closed.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	2014		2013	
	US \$000		US \$000	
Gates Foundation	0		7,275	
FLOW	1,961		1,208	
Sida	1,183		1,150	
DFID	0		234	
IDRC	70		154	
Solidarity Centre US	10		95	
Rockefeller Foundation	75		26	
Avina	0		17	
ILO	58		14	
Hewlett	50		0	
Other donors	20		17	
TOTAL FUNDING	3,427		10,190	

Supporters

Our thanks to the following organizations, foundations and governments for their generous financial support of WIEGO programmes and projects:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW), Government of the Netherlands

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Government of Canada

International Institute for Environment and Development

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The Rockefeller Foundation

Shack/Slum Dwellers International

Solidarity Centre of the American Federation of Labor–Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

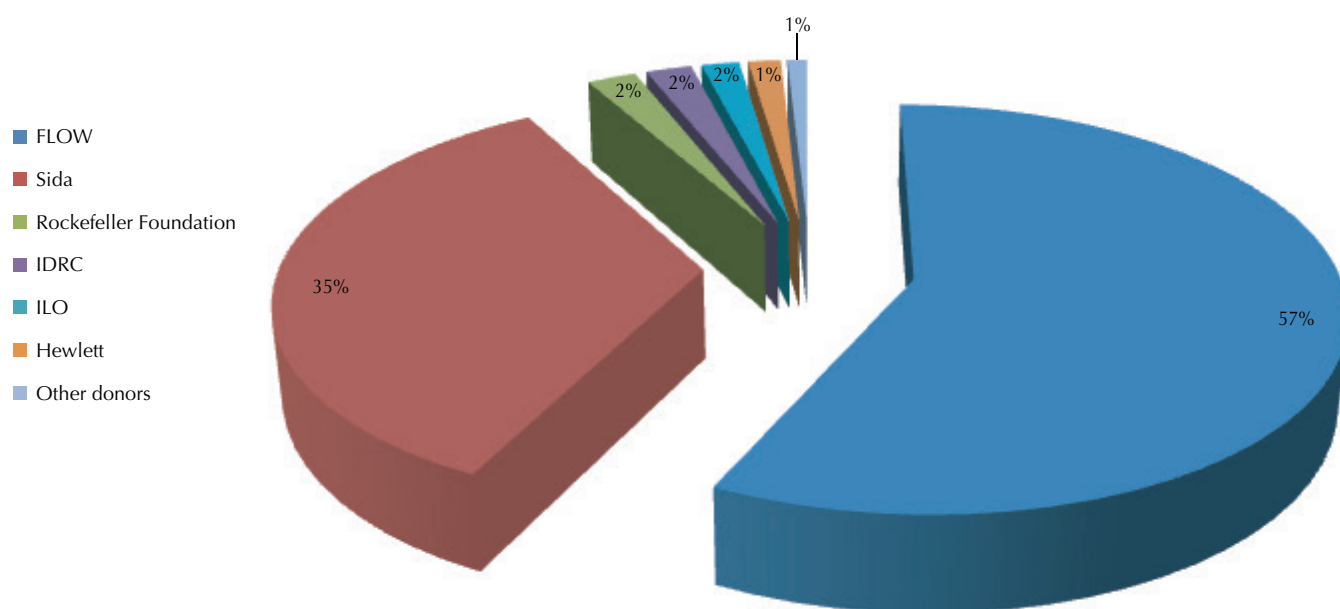
Vital Wave

USE OF FUNDS	2014	2013
PROJECTS	US \$000	US \$000
Inclusive Urban Planning for Working Poor	3,172*	4,756*
Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers	1,565*	510*
Strengthening Voice for Informal Workers in Social Policy	0	235
PROGRAMMES		
Network/Programme Coordination	637	710
Organization & Representation	282	441
Statistics & Research	223	156
Governance & Evaluation	156	122
Special Initiatives	111	111
Social Protection	101	151
Urban Policies	93	96
Global Trade	46	103
TOTAL USE OF FUNDS	6,386	7,427

* Adjusted for exchange rate gain/loss

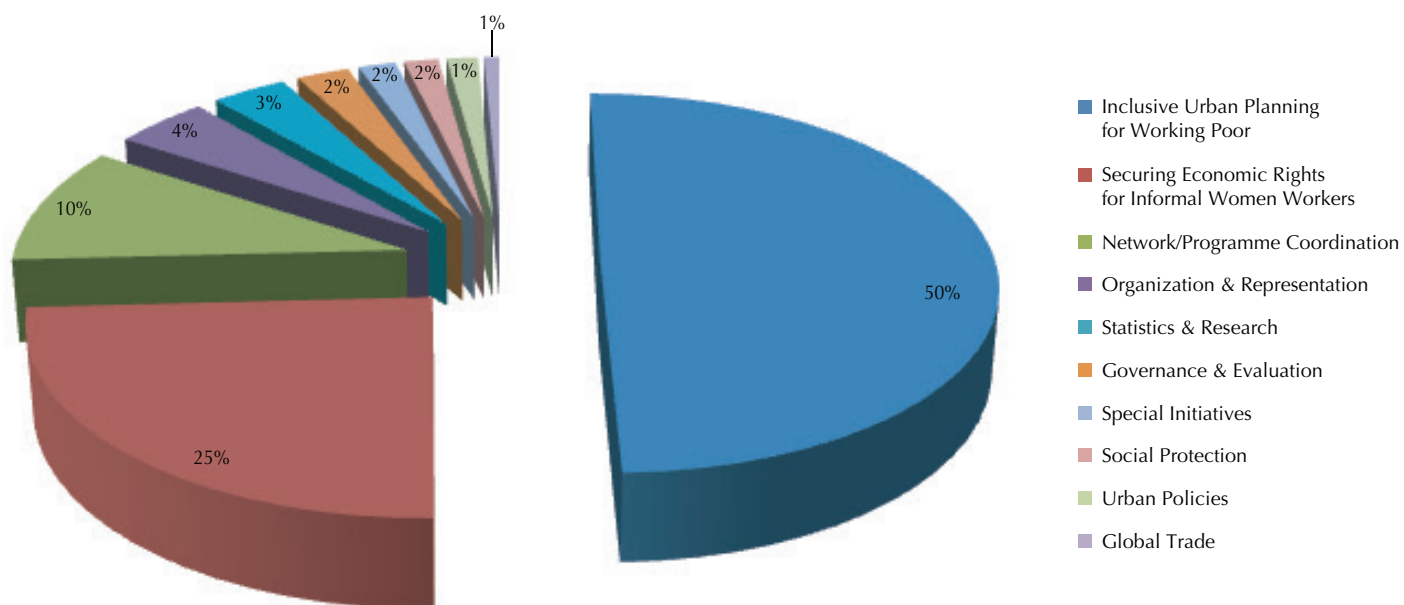
BALANCE SHEET	2014	2013
CURRENT ASSETS	US \$000	US \$000
Debtors	229	843
Cash at bank	4,319	6,870
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4,548	7,713
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	(430)	(655)
NET ASSETS	4,118	7,058
FUNDS		
Restricted Funds	1,144	6,514
Unrestricted Funds	2,974	544
	4,118	7,058

Source of Funds for Year 2013/14



Source: extract from the statutory accounts

Use of Funds for Year 2013/14



Publications & Resources

WIEGO continuously undertakes new research and produces a diverse range of publications and resources to address informal economy and worker topics. Written by members of the WIEGO Team or by commissioned experts, the WIEGO Publication Series can be accessed through our website, where we also maintain a comprehensive and growing library of materials produced by others. This constitutes perhaps the most comprehensive collection of work on the informal economy to date.

The following lists items that were published by WIEGO between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014.

WIEGO Publication Series

Working Papers

Alfers, Laura. 2013. *The Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme: Informal Workers and the Politics of Health Provision*. WIEGO Working Paper (Social Protection) No. 30.

Bonner, Chris and Françoise Carré. 2013. *Global Networking: Informal Workers Build Solidarity, Power and Representation through Networks and Alliances*. WIEGO Working Paper (Organization and Representation) No. 31.

Carré, Françoise and James Heintz. 2009 (update 2013). *Toward a Common Framework for Informal Employment across Developed and Developing Countries*. WIEGO Working Paper (Statistics) No. 26.

Chan, Man-Kwun. 2013. *Informal Workers in Global Horticulture and Commodities Value Chains: A Review of the Literature*. WIEGO Working Paper (Global Trade) No. 28.

Chen, Martha Alter. 2012 (translation). *La economía informal: definiciones, teorías y políticas*. Documento de Trabajo de WIEGO No 1.

Jain, Kalpana. 2013. *Health Financing and Delivery in India: An Overview of Selected Schemes*. WIEGO Working Paper (Social Protection) No. 29.

Meagher, Kate. 2013. *Unlocking the Informal Economy: A Literature Review on Linkages Between Formal and Informal Economies in Developing Countries*. WIEGO Working Paper No. 27.

WIEGO Briefs

Legal Briefs

Corrarino, Megan. 2012. *Using the Right to Information in the Informal Economy: A How-To Guide*. WIEGO Legal Brief No. 2.

Corrarino, Megan. 2013. *Using International Law and Regional Legal Systems and Rights Documents in Advocacy for Workers in the Informal Economy*. WIEGO Legal Brief No. 4.

Sankaran, Kamala and Roopa Madhav. 2013. *Legal and Policy Tools to Meet Informal Workers' Demands: Lessons from India*. WIEGO Legal Brief No. 1.

Souza, Bruno Miragaia, Juliana Avanci, and Luciana Itikawa. 2013. *A Experiência de Advocacy no caso dos Trabalhadores Ambulantes em São Paulo*. WIEGO Relatórios Jurídicos No. 3.

Organizing Briefs

Budlender, Debbie. 2013. *Informal Workers and Collective Bargaining*. Organizing Brief No. 9.

Carré, Françoise. 2013. *Defining and Categorizing Organizations of Informal Workers in Developing and Developed Countries*. WIEGO Organizing Brief No. 8.

Spooner, David. 2013. *Challenges and Experiences in Organizing Home-Based Workers in Bulgaria*. WIEGO Organizing Brief No. 7.

Policy Briefs

Alfers, Laura. 2012. *The Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme: Assessing Access by Informal Workers*. WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 9.

Lund, Frances and Laura Alfers. 2013. *Universal Healthcare Scheme in Thailand: Barriers to Access by Informal Workers*. WIEGO Policy Brief (Urban Policies) No. 11.

Heintz, James and Shahra Razavi. 2012. *Social Policy and Employment: Rebuilding the Connections*. WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 12.

Jain, Kalpana. 2012. *Health Insurance in India: The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana*. WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 15.

Obino, Francesco. 2013. *Housing Finance for Poor Working Women: Innovations of the Self-Employed Women's Association in India*. WIEGO Policy Brief (Urban Policies) No. 14.

Sinha, Shalini. 2013. *Supporting Women Home-Based Workers: The Approach of the Self-Employed Women's Association in India*. WIEGO Policy Brief (Urban Policies) No. 13.

Statistical Briefs

Akhtar, Sajjad and Joann Vanek. 2013. *Home-Based Workers in Pakistan: Statistics and Trends*. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 9.

Raveendran, Govindan, Ratna M. Sudarshan and Joann Vanek. 2013. *Home-Based Workers in India: Statistics and Trends*. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 10.

Raveendran, Govindan and Joann Vanek. 2013. *Statistics on Home-Based Workers in Nepal*. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 11.

Technical Briefs

Achtell, Ernest. 2013. *Waste Pickers and Carbon Finance: Issues to Consider*. WIEGO Technical Brief No. 7.

Ijgosse, Jeroen. 2012. *Remuneración a los recicladores por servicios ambientales: un examen crítico de las opciones propuestas en Brasil*. Nota técnica de WIEGO (Políticas urbanas) No 6.

Roever, Sally. 2011 (translation). *Comment planifier un recensement des vendeurs de rue*. Note technique WIEGO No. 2.

Roever, Sally. 2011 (translation). *Cómo planificar un censo de comerciantes ambulantes*. Nota técnica de WIEGO No. 2.

WIEGO Workers' Lives

Vryenhoek, Leslie. 2013. *Small World, Big Goals: A Home-Based Garment Worker in Delhi*. WIEGO Workers' Lives No. 4.

Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) Publications

For each city report, an accompanying policy/advocacy brief and an executive summary are also available.

Acosta Táutiva, Angélica y Rovitzon Ortiz Olaya. 2013. *Estudio de Monitoreo de la Economía Informal: Recicladoras y recicladores de Bogotá, Colombia*. Manchester, UK: WIEGO.

Anyidoho, Nana Akua. 2013. *Informal Economy Monitoring Study: Street Vendors in Accra, Ghana*. Manchester, UK: WIEGO.

Lubaale, Grace N. and Owen Nyang'oro. 2013. *Informal Economy Monitoring Study: Street Vendors in Nakuru, Kenya*. Manchester, UK: WIEGO.

Lubaale, Grace N. and Owen Nyang'oro. 2013. *Informal Economy Monitoring Study: Waste Pickers in Nakuru, Kenya*. Manchester, UK: WIEGO.

Additional Publications

Bonner, Christine y Dave Spooner. 2012. *La única escuela que conocemos: Aprendiendo de las experiencias organizativas en la economía informal*. WIEGO.

Cordosa Silva, Vera Alice. 2012. *Negotiating the Recycling Bonus Law: Waste Pickers and Collective Bargaining in Minas Gerais*. WIEGO Case Study.

Chengappa, Chaya. 2013. *Organizing Informal Waste Pickers: A Case Study of Bengaluru, India*. Inclusive Cities.

Goldsmith, Mary. 2013. *Collective Bargaining and Domestic Workers in Uruguay*. WIEGO Case Study.

Goldsmith, Mary. 2013. *Negociación colectiva y las trabajadoras domésticas en Uruguay*. WIEGO Case Study.

Inclusive Cities. 2013. *Carbon Finance for Waste Picker Organizations: Feasibility and Issues*. Summary guide.

Indian Sector for Self-Employed Women. 2012. *Collective Bargaining by Workers of the Indian Unorganized Sector: Struggle, Process, Achievements, and Learning*. WIEGO Case Study.

Inclusive Cities. 2013. *Financiamento de Carbono para Organizações de Catadores: Viabilidade e Outras Questões*.

Inclusive Cities. 2013. *Financiamiento del carbono para organizaciones de recicladores: viabilidad y cuestiones a considerar*.

International Labour Office and WIEGO. 2013. *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, 2nd Edition*. Geneva: ILO.

Jerenaia, Elza. 2012. *Bargaining Among Transport Workers in Georgia*. WIEGO Case Study.

Mather, Celia. 2013. « Ensemble, nous avons réussi ! ». *Comment les travailleuses domestiques dans le monde ont acquis leur statut et leurs droits internationaux*. WIEGO.

Mather, Celia. 2013. « ¡Sí, lo hicimos! » *Cómo las trabajadoras del hogar obtuvieron derechos y reconocimiento a nivel internacional*. WIEGO.

Mather, Celia. 2013. "Yes we did it!" *How the world's domestic workers won their international rights and recognition*. WIEGO.

Morillo Santa Cruz, Laura. 2013. *Home-Based Workers in Latin America: A Summary*. WIEGO.

Morillo Santa Cruz, Laura. 2013. *Trabajadores a domicilio en América Latina*. WIEGO.

Morillo Santa Cruz, Laura. 2013. *Trabalhadores Domiciliares na América Latina*. WIEGO.

Msuya, Flower E. 2012. *A Study of Working Conditions in the Zanzibar Seaweed Farming Industry*. WIEGO.

Weeks, Milton A. 2012. *Collective Bargaining Negotiations Between Street Vendors and City Government in Monrovia, Liberia*. WIEGO.

Wintour, Nora. 2013. *World Cup for All: A Portrait of Street Vendors' Organizations in the World Cup Host Cities in Brazil*. Inclusive Cities.

WIEGO. Annual Report, 2012-2013.

WIEGO. 2013. *Conducting a Policy Dialogue to Achieve Results*.

WIEGO. 2013. *Conduire un dialogue politique porteur de résultats*.

WIEGO. 2013. *Entablando diálogos de políticas para lograr resultados*.

WIEGO. 2013. *Realização de um Diálogo sobre Políticas para Atingir Resultados*.

WIEGO. 2013. *Les récupérateurs : le droit d'être reconnus comme travailleurs*. Position paper for International Labour Conference 2013.

WIEGO. 2013. *Recicladores: El derecho a ser reconocidos como trabajadores*. Position paper for International Labour Conference 2013.

WIEGO. 2013. *Waste Pickers: The Right to Be Recognized as Workers*. Position paper for International Labour Conference 2013.

WIEGO. 2013. IDRC Final Report: Legal Empowerment of the Working Poor.

Newsletters

Global Alliance of Waste Pickers. "Struggles and Victories: Waste Pickers on the Frontline." Four issues. (Available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese)

Inclusive Cities newsletter. Three issues. (Available in English, Portuguese and Spanish.)

Occupational Health and Safety Newsletter. June 2013. (Available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.)

Securing Economic Rights for Informal Women Workers Newsletter. Two issues. (Available in English.)

WIEGO Membership-Based Organization newsletter. Three issues. (Available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.)

WIEGO Newsletter. Two issues. (Available in English, French and Spanish.)

Factsheets

Impact Brief. 2013. Domestic Workers: A Victory for Decent Work.

Impact Brief. 2013. Colombia's Triumphant Recicladores.

Impact Brief. 2013. Winning Legal Rights for Home-Based Workers in Thailand.

Funding Leadership Opportunities for Women project. "Developing Leadership and Business Skills for Informal Women Workers in Fair Trade." (Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.)

From The WIEGO Network Platform “Transitioning from the Informal to the Formal Economy”

Common Core Needs and Demands

Organizing/Labour Rights

Workers in the informal economy must be able to effectively exercise their rights to organize and bargain collectively, as well as their other fundamental rights at work.

Voice and Bargaining Power

The working poor in the informal economy need individual voice and bargaining power founded in an awareness of their rights. They must also have collective and representative voice that allows them to negotiate on a continuing basis with the dominant players in the sectors or value chains in which they operate. Collective voice comes through being organized in democratic membership-based organizations. Representative voice comes through having representatives of these organizations participate in relevant policymaking, rule-setting, collective bargaining, or negotiating processes – including by means of direct representation in tripartite forums. Ideally, the representation of membership-based organizations in the relevant processes should be ongoing and statutory.

Legal Identity & Standing

The working poor want to be recognized as workers or as economic agents with a clear legal standing in all relevant policy-regulatory-legal domains. They do not want to be relegated, as the poor or vulnerable, to the social policy domain alone; they want to be recognized as legitimate contributing economic agents by policymakers who frame both macro-economic and sector-specific economic policies. This necessitates extending the scope of labour laws to categories of workers traditionally excluded (e.g. domestic workers, home-based workers, agricultural workers) and/or amending laws so they cover the full range of relationships under which work is performed.

Economic Rights

The working poor in the informal economy need and demand a wide range of labour, commercial, and land-use rights in order to: improve their employment arrangements and secure their livelihoods; make their economic activities more productive; and use their representative voice to achieve appropriate changes to the wider institutional environment that affects their work and livelihoods.²

Social Rights, including Social Protection

Social protection coverage must be extended to all workers in the informal economy through social assistance and/or social insurance mechanisms, as part of universal social security. ILO Member States should commit to this by adopting clearly elaborated Social Protection Floors. This includes rights to housing, education, health, food security, water, sanitation and social protection against the core contingencies of illness, disability, old age, and death, and against work-related risks. Maternity and child care should be addressed as a priority due to the over-representation of women in the informal economy.

Photo: Leslie Tuttle



² It should be noted that labour rights are premised on the notion of an employer-employee relationship. But many of the working poor are self-employed. For them, traditional labour rights are not always relevant. Instead, the basic right to pursue a livelihood, as well as commercial rights, are of greater relevance and importance.



Representatives from 17 countries came together in Cape Town in June 2013 to establish the Africa Domestic Workers' Network. Photo: S. Trevino.

WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing

Annual Report

April 2013 – March 2014

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