



Women in Informal Employment:  
Globalizing and Organizing



## Global Scope - Local Impact

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# WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:  
Globalizing and Organizing

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**Annual Report**  
*April 2017 – March 2018*

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## Planning for a Dynamic Future

In 2018, WIEGO concluded its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Internal Strategic Review. Organized around two themes – the Future of Work and the Future of Cities – the review process yielded an in-depth examination of 10 key strategies. These include campaigns and global movement building, migration, formalization of the informal economy and women’s economic empowerment, among others. Five-year plans are completed for all WIEGO programme areas and support teams.

This puts WIEGO in a confident position to carry on our mission of improving the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy for the *next* 20 years.

### 3 key priorities for the next 5 years:

- 1** Supporting local implementation of global policy frameworks (including the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and ILO Recommendation 204)
- 2** Strengthening the global workers’ movement
- 3** Capitalizing on 20 years of grounded experience, expertise and learning across our worldwide network

This Annual Report details just some of the impact that WIEGO’s work had on these three priorities between 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018.

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*Front cover photo: For more than 20 years, Stella Nkosi has worked as a domestic worker in Johannesburg. In 2015, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that there were at least 67 million domestic workers in the world – 80 per cent of them women. Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik, Getty Images Reportage*

**IMPROVE THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS**

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS**

**WIEGO**  
20 Years 1997-2017  
Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing

Timeline: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

### 20 Years of Milestones

It’s remarkable how much can be accomplished when passionate people from a wide range of fields and sectors work together with a common goal: to empower informal workers and help secure their livelihoods. To mark our 20th anniversary and celebrate the achievements, WIEGO designed a timeline highlighting the most significant milestones. You can take a brief journey through this history at [wiego.org](http://wiego.org).

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## WIEGO's Mission

**W**IEGO 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.

For more detail on the information in this report and to access publications, presentations, videos and other resources, visit [www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org)

### WIEGO's Leadership Transition



**After 20 years at the helm of the WIEGO Network, Marty Chen has stepped down as WIEGO's International Coordinator.**

Marty was a co-founder of WIEGO in April 1997, and throughout WIEGO's 20 years, she was a leading figure in defining the informal economy and its contributions, and in expanding the international discussion on securing informal workers' rights and livelihoods. Her knowledge, her passionate commitment, and her strategic skill at combining action and research to

cultivate policy change were instrumental in building a network of membership-based organizations, practitioners and researchers that is now truly global in scope and influence. Key to her success was the ability to define and clarify goals while engaging and activating others. As a sign of her leadership, to ensure a smooth transition, Marty initiated planning for her stepping down as International Coordinator several years ago.

On 1 January 2018 Sally Roever became WIEGO's International Coordinator (see page 3). Although Marty Chen has handed over the reins, she continues to serve as a Senior Advisor with WIEGO.

## Letter from the Chair of the Board

Dear WIEGO Family & Friends,

The past year was a time of celebration as we looked back at the significant achievements of WIEGO's first 20 years, and a time of anticipation as we looked to future opportunities and challenges.

For two decades, WIEGO has been at the forefront of putting the women and men of the informal economy on the global agenda. It has developed new concepts and methods for understanding and measuring the informal economy and has supported the formation and growth of global organizations of informal workers.

As this annual report attests, important progress has been made. The first-ever global estimates of the informal workforce were published early in 2018, and WIEGO continues to advocate – with international bodies and national statistical offices – for more refined definitions of employment status and more robust data. WIEGO's grounded research and its collaborative spirit is also influencing, for example, global discussions on informal workers' social protection needs, on innovative approaches to inclusive cities, and on looking at informal issues with a human rights lens.

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The WIEGO Network has supported the organization and mobilization of informal workers at national, regional and international levels. Their amplified voice and increased visibility through networks such as StreetNet, HomeNet and the International Domestic Workers Federation has helped them realize important victories.

That a relatively small organization like WIEGO could have such an important global footprint owes much to the leadership of Marty Chen. As our founding International Coordinator, she was instrumental in inspiring achievements that were unimaginable in 1997. WIEGO today is so vibrant and so relevant in large part because Marty has ensured a rigorous adherence to the high standards necessary to create foundational knowledge and an equally strong commitment to monitoring how trends are shaping livelihoods at the bottom of the pyramid.

On behalf of the WIEGO Network, I offer Marty our deepest thanks for her contributions over these 20 years, and for the contributions she will continue to make in the role of Senior Advisor.

At the same time, I welcome Sally Roever, who has taken over in 2018 as the WIEGO International Coordinator and who, I am confident, will continue the important contributions of WIEGO to the world.



The WIEGO Team and Network are larger than ever, and the work of our first two decades is being built upon by a new generation of passionate and dedicated leaders.

*Renana Jhabvala*

Renana Jhabvala  
Chair, WIEGO Board of Directors

October 2018

## Letter from the International Coordinator

This year the International Labour Organization (ILO) published the first-ever global estimates of informal employment based on official statistics. The main finding is striking: sixty-one per cent of all workers in the world – two billion people – earn their livelihood in the informal economy, where earnings are low and risks are high.

WIEGO's work is founded on this understanding: that informal workers can work their way out of poverty when they have a collective voice in the policy-setting and rule-making bodies that affect their work and lives; when they can use credible research and statistics to inform their strategies; and when they are recognized as legitimate economic agents who contribute to economies, communities, and households. This is especially true for women informal workers, who work at the bottom rungs of the economic pyramid and face additional barriers to recognition.

For 20 years, WIEGO's founding leaders have developed pathways for these transformative changes to take place.

As we reflect on WIEGO's first two decades, we see what it takes to build a genuine movement that has both a global scope and a grassroots base. We also see the great potential the future holds as the movement continues to grow and as its efforts increasingly translate into tangible, lasting gains for workers.

In this report, we highlight several ways in which WIEGO has made a significant impact in 2017-18: from shaping the way governments classify dependent workers in their labour force statistics to arming workers' organizations with the data needed to negotiate with municipalities around health; from building the leadership capacity of informal workers across our six Focal Cities to influencing, through research and advocacy, international policy frameworks. These highlights from the past year reflect WIEGO's unique ability to merge local realities with global debates, and they suggest what's in store for 20 more years of impact.



In all that we do, we work as a team with members, partners and allies in the struggle for economic justice. My deepest thanks go to the WIEGO team, board, and membership for their extraordinary commitment and unwavering dedication to the cause of the working poor in the informal economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Roever'.

Sally Roever, Ph.D.  
International Coordinator

October 2018

## Meet Sally Roever

On January 1, 2018, Sally Roever became WIEGO's International Coordinator. Sally has 18 years' experience studying the interaction between informal work, informal workers' organizations, and local and national laws, policies and politics. Through a focus on the perceptions and lived experience of the working poor, her research sheds light on the risks of own account work and the role of urban infrastructure and public space in supporting informal livelihoods.

In 2005, Sally joined WIEGO as a member of its research constituency, and in 2009 joined the WIEGO Team

as the Street Vendor Specialist. She coordinated the qualitative research for the 10-city Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) and in 2015 became Director of WIEGO's Urban Policies Programme. Sally holds a PhD in political science from the University of California at Berkeley and her research has been widely published. She is now based in Rome, Italy.



**Must read blog:** [Learning from the 'Real Experts': WIEGO's New International Coordinator on Leading by Listening](#) –

Q&A with Sally Roever (19 March 2018)



*Lucy Mokhele is a domestic worker in Johannesburg. WIEGO primarily focuses on domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers. Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage*

## Turning 20 Years of Experience into Influence

### The Power of Statistics

**F**ew, if any other, international advocacy networks or social movements have a dedicated programme to improve official statistics. At its inception 20 years ago, WIEGO put a priority on its Statistics Programme because we believe, as our founding chair, Ela Bhatt of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), put it, that "statistics in the hands of workers is power."

### Counting the World's Informal Workers

In 2017-18, Statistics Programme Director Joann Vanek worked with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as it compiled the first-ever global estimates of informal employment. The estimates are based on data from over 100 countries – developing, emerging and developed – comprising more than 90 per cent of the global population. The global picture: 61 per cent of the world's workers are informal, with over two billion people earning their livelihood in the informal economy.

WIEGO had prepared the earlier WIEGO/ILO estimates for developing regions and had placed a priority on an updated set of estimates based on more countries and on including agriculture and developed countries. We also contributed to these estimates by promoting the application of the concept of informal employment to developed countries and promoting the use of national electronic data files.

The full data were published in the third edition of [\*Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture\*](#) (ILO 2018). WIEGO is preparing a brief to highlight the main findings, it will be published in 2018.

## Bringing Together the Expert Group on the Informal Economy

WIEGO has been an integral part of a group of experts on statistics in the informal economy, long known as the “Delhi Group.” In 2017, WIEGO developed a strategy for maximizing the number of participants at a meeting, suggesting it be held in Geneva between other meetings to facilitate attendance. When the group met, attendance was better than at its 12 previous meetings. Participants included 20 people from 14 countries – including developed countries not usually represented in the group – plus representatives from international organizations. The Chief Statistician of India called WIEGO a partner with India and the ILO in organizing the meeting. The larger group supported WIEGO’s proposal to change the name to the Expert Group on the Informal Economy.

“ *Statistics in the hands of workers is power.* ”

Ela Bhatt

## Training to Improve Data Collection in Asia

In October 2017, WIEGO partnered with international agencies and the Government of Japan to train 25 national statisticians and labour ministry officials from 14 Asian countries. The training dealt with methods to collect and tabulate data on informal employment, groups of informal workers, and in the preparation of national accounts. It is expected this will lead to the collection of data on informal employment and

groups of informal workers in these countries using improved methods.

## Serving on the Working Group for Revision of International Statistical Standard

The International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) is the current international standard for developing statistics on the employment relationship. It classifies jobs by the degree of worker autonomy in decision making regarding the economic unit and the type of economic risk involved. It consists of two primary categories of workers: dependent (employees) and independent (self-employed, including those employing others and contributing family workers).

In 2013, the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) decided that the standard should be revised to better reflect changing types of work and contractual arrangements. A tripartite working group was established and charged with developing a proposal for a revised classification, to be presented at the 20th ICLS in 2018. Françoise Carré and Joann Vanek of WIEGO’s Statistics Programme are in this working group, on which WIEGO is the only NGO represented.

In the revision process, WIEGO has a particular interest in the classification of independent home-based workers, homeworkers and other contract workers who are economically dependent. Another focus is on the classification of sub-categories under the category “Employees” for workers who have less social protection due to their employment arrangement, including domestic workers and short-term hires. Finally, WIEGO has a specific commitment to making sure that place of work is taken into account in the revised



From market porters in Lima to basket weavers in Laos, over two billion people earn their livelihood in the informal economy. Photo (L): Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage. Photo (R): Marty Chen

standard. The expected result of these revisions is better data on employment, including many of the growing new forms of employment. It will also facilitate the identification of informal workers.

In July, we launched WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 17, "[Considerations for Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment](#)." The brief outlines WIEGO's main categories of concern in the revision process.

## Making Gains in Workers' Health

Our Social Protection Programme's focus on workers' health emphasizes Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). In this area, WIEGO is gaining influence and putting informal workers' health on the map worldwide.

One significant gain is WIEGO's growing relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO). This is an important step towards influencing an organization that traditionally has put little emphasis on "work" or "workers" in health terms. Central to this is our collaboration with the South African National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), which is itself collaborating with WHO on a project about occupational health and informal workers. Both NIOH and WHO are seeing WIEGO's strengths as a conduit to informal workers' organizations and as a source of knowledge on the informal economy. We were invited to contribute to a literature review for the project and to the systematic review of informal workers' access to health services being undertaken by WHO.

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### *WIEGO is...putting informal workers' health on the map.*

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With NIOH, WIEGO co-hosted the seminar "Finding New Solutions to Intractable Problems: Approaches to Occupational Health & Safety in the Informal Economy and the Extractives Industry". Globally, OHS practitioners are searching for new ways to approach difficult problems. This seminar was an opportunity to explore pressing questions with leading thinkers in the field. It featured presentations by the editors — one of whom was WIEGO Senior Advisor Francie Lund — of two special editions of [New Solutions: A Journal of Occupational & Environmental Health Policy](#).

Our influence also grew when WIEGO presented a paper on social protection at the ILO's Regulating for Decent Work Conference. The paper emphasizes that work-related social protection is still important. This

is contrary to the current tone of debates that argue increasing informalization of work has diminished the importance of work-related social protection. The paper had a broad influence: we were invited to submit it to a special issue of the *International Social Security Review* — a journal with a wide audience of policymakers — and the World Bank blog "What's new in Social Protection" singled it out for mention.

Finally, we have made important strides in developing much-needed data on the health status of informal workers. Our recent work with NIOH in South Africa, with SEWA in India, and with the Cuidar project in Brazil, as well as through a health survey designed for Accra, Ghana, is beginning to fill the gap in this area.



**Must read blogs:** [Universal Health Coverage: An Informal Worker Perspective](#) by Laura Alfors (11 December 2017)

[From Blood Tests to Aerobic Dance: Training improves workers' access to new Thai health fund — and their ideas are inspiring](#) by Chidchanok Samantrakul, Sarah Orleans Reed and Suntaree H. Saeng-ging (16 October 2017)

## Reflecting on Two Decades of Research and Identifying New Paths

As part of WIEGO's 20th Anniversary, and to identify new paths for research and thinking on the informal economy, WIEGO hosted a Research Conference in November. Held at Harvard University in Massachusetts, USA, the conference drew a range of experts from around the globe. During the conference, presenters, discussants and other participants reflected on how thinking and research on the informal economy has evolved over the past two decades.

Conference sessions were organized around four relevant disciplines: economics, political science, law and urban planning & design. To ground the discussions, the intersection of those disciplines with three groups of urban informal workers, home-based producers, street vendors and waste pickers, was examined. The conference provided a space for participants to identify future conceptual challenges and research gaps relating to the informal economy.

Find information and presentations at <http://www.wiego.org/wiego/special-initiatives-research>.



**Must read blog:** [The New "Gig Economy" Meets the Old Over Need for a Better Deal for Workers](#) by Marty Chen (7 August 17)

## Spotlighting Inclusivity at the World Urban Forum

In February 2018, WIEGO attended World Urban Forum 9 (WUF9) in Kuala Lumpur with workers and organizers from HomeNet Thailand and the Federation of Informal Workers of Thailand.

This year, WUF9 – the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, NGOs and practitioners in sustainable urban development and human settlements – focused on implementing the [New Urban Agenda](#) (NUA).

The delegation brought attention to the need for cities to work with informal worker organizations to achieve truly inclusive cities. A full slate of events brought home that message. For example, WIEGO, HomeNet Thailand, Oxfam, the New York Street Vendor Project, and the City of Songkla, Thailand, hosted a side event on how promoting decent work – particularly for informal workers – can contribute to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, addressing both the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the NUA.

A networking event highlighted forced evictions and explored innovative policies and practical approaches to increase spatial, social and economic inclusion. Another presented a case study of how a city slum in western India was redeveloped through a collaboration between a women-led community-based organization, private developers, and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.



**Must read blogs:** [Creating “Cities for All” Requires More than One-size-fits-all Regulation](#) by Mike Rogan and Sally Roever (18 December 2017)

[Nothing for Us Without Us: Participatory Processes and the New Urban Agenda](#) by Rhonda Douglas (20 May 2017)

[What’s the Legal Recourse for Street Vendor Evictions?](#) by Pamhidzai H. Bamu-Chipunza (19 September 2017) (includes audio)



*Informal workers contribute to vibrant, sustainable cities. Photo: Sarah Reed*



*Informal vendor Monica Agyei is one of the more than 2,000 members of the Makola Market Traders Union in Accra, an affiliate of the Ghana Trade Union Congress.  
Photo: Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage*

## Strengthening the Growing Global Movement of Informal Workers

**A**fter two decades of strengthening and building organizations and networks of informal workers, WIEGO and its members and partners are proud to report the global movement of informal workers now has national, regional and international networks of domestic workers, home-based workers, and street vendors with more than 215 affiliated organizations, while the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers represents 1,374 organizations. The total membership of all these combined: almost 3.7 million informal workers in 90 countries!

### Trainings for a More Empowered Future

WIEGO's Organization & Representation Programme affects significant change at the ground level by convening trainings and workshops for informal worker leaders and trade unionists working with informal workers. From planning workshops for home-based worker leaders in Uganda and Kenya to digital communication training for Latin American waste picker leaders, WIEGO and its partners share their knowledge and expertise to strengthen the global movement of informal workers.

One area that is showing significant promise for bringing change is collective bargaining training. This was done for street vendors in Cambodia, home-based workers in five countries in South East Asia, and informal workers across five sectors in Bangkok. In every case, prior to the training, workers said that they were largely unaware that formalized representative voice was a possibility for informal workers. And in each case, during the training there was a realization that collective and representative negotiation was possible – and that it could have real power.

## Helping More Colombian Waste Pickers Get Paid for their Services

In 2017, members of four Colombian waste picker organizations representing more than 850 waste pickers began receiving payments for waste collection, transportation, and recycling services. This means that the waste pickers who belong to these organizations now get a monthly payment for the services they provide, which offers them steady income and recognition. Previously, only members of waste picker organizations in Bogotá had been recognized and remunerated in this way.

The good news from this movement kept coming in 2018. By April, members from 10 waste picker organizations in Colombia were receiving payment.

This achievement builds on the long struggle of organized waste pickers in Colombia, spearheaded by the Asociación de Recicladores de Bogotá (ARB) and the Asociación Nacional de Recicladores (ANR), which led to a 2011 Constitutional Court decision that waste pickers must be recognized and remunerated. WIEGO has provided longstanding technical support to waste pickers in this fight.

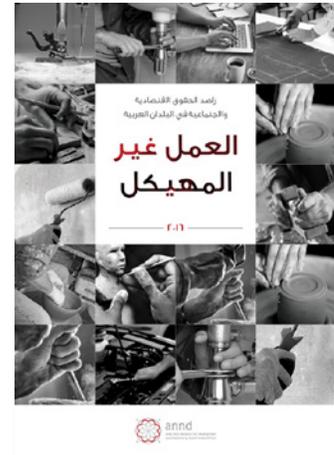
 **Must read blog:** [Waste pickers in Medellín, Popayán, and Montería receive their first payment as recycling public service providers](#) by Federico Parra (23 November 2017)



*Waste pickers in many Colombian cities are now receiving payments in recognition of the service they provide.  
Photo: Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage*

## Taking a Right-Based Approach to Informal Employment in Arab Nations

Network for Development, an Arab NGO, launched its [third issue of Arab Watch Report on Economic and Social Rights](#). Marty Chen was invited to write a paper on informal employment from a comparative global perspective for the volume, which focused on informal employment in Arab nations. She also participated in launch events in Lebanon and Egypt. The report takes a rights-based perspective, arguing that most informal workers are denied core civil and economic rights, such as those related to housing, social protection and decent work. It explores the struggle to achieve these rights, and the role of the state in providing them, while detailing new findings to challenge assumptions about informality in the Arab region.



## Ensuring Homeworkers are Recognized

WIEGO is committed to ensuring that homeworkers – a vital but too often invisible part of supply chains – are recognized as legitimate workers and that the conditions of their employment improve. In 2017, we helped ensure that homeworkers would be included in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines “Due Diligence Guidance for Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector”. WIEGO’s research and our work with the HomeNets (networks of home-based worker organizations) has underlined the needs of these workers and their right to earn a livelihood at home.

In 2018, Marlese von Broembsen, Director of WIEGO’s Law Programme, wrote a blog for the Ethical Trading Initiative’s Leadership Series asking “[How can international brands ensure that homeworkers are treated fairly?](#)” She also co-authored, with WIEGO’s Jenna Harvey, a paper on governance mechanisms for the Global Labour University, which was workshopped with unions and the OECD representatives for workers.

## Organizing for Rights: Latin American Home-Based Workers

Latin American home-based workers took an important step in creating a unified front to fight for their visibility and rights as workers. They formed the “Coordinadora Regional de Organizaciones de Trabajadoras/res en Domicilio en América Latina y el Caribe (COTRADO-ALAC)”, a regional partnership that will accelerate progress for home-based workers’ rights in the region.

The decision came during the Second Regional Meeting of Home-based Worker Organizations and Supporters in Latin America, organized by WIEGO and held in Santiago, Chile in May 2017. Home-based workers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay also exchanged information, discussed future activities, and developed a regional action plan. Highlights of their plans include putting pressure on national governments to ratify Convention 177 on Home Work; taking up the WIEGO Child Care Campaign; and coordinating information about national legislation on home-based workers. WIEGO is committed to supporting these efforts to help strengthen the regional movement.

 **Must read blog:** [Latin American Home-based Workers Celebrate Launch of New Regional Organization](#) by WIEGO (20 October 2017)

## Offering New Resources to Membership-Based Organizations

In July, new resources were made available on WIEGO’s Fundraising and Sustainability for Membership-Based Organizations (FSMBO) website. The aim of the FSMBO site is to support informal workers in their efforts to raise funds while strengthening their administrative and financial management, and establishing more effective planning, monitoring and evaluation systems. The site includes a donor database, a forum for open grants, and workshop materials for MBOs on fundraising.

New features include information about new donor trends and webinars on using logical frameworks and understanding indicators. MBOs of informal workers can access these resources and more at: [fsmbo-wiego.org](http://fsmbo-wiego.org).



*WIEGO’s research helped illuminate the human rights situation of waste pickers in Nicaragua, as well as the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Photo: Tania Espinosa Sánchez*

## Highlighting the Human Rights Situation of Latin American Waste Pickers

WIEGO helped give visibility to the human rights situation of waste pickers in a regional forum and gave waste pickers an opportunity to raise their own voices and be heard. WIEGO team members from both the Law and the Organization & Representation Programmes visited waste pickers in Nicaragua, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic to collect data for a report on the human rights situation of waste pickers.

The situation varied between dumpsites: workers in some locations were more organized and had articulated demands, which WIEGO reflected in a regional document. On other dumpsites, waste pickers had never before been consulted, so this visit helped them develop a voice. WIEGO shared the research findings at the regional summit “Latin America Recycles”. On the WIEGO panel, two waste pickers from Nicaragua and Guatemala described the human rights violations they have suffered.

This was also an opportunity to change mindsets. Six Harvard Law students participated in the research to learn about waste pickers and about how legal advocacy can extend existing rights to informal workers.

## Organizing South African Waste Pickers

In consultation with the South African Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA) and the environmental justice organization groundWork, WIEGO established a project called Waste Integration in South Africa (WISA). WISA is supporting waste pickers in Johannesburg, Tshwane and Sasolburg municipalities through policy research, organizing, and worker education and training. The goal is to build the capacity of waste picker organizations to effectively negotiate with city authorities for the integration of waste pickers into formal recycling and waste management systems.

Organizing and worker training has already helped waste pickers make progress. In 2017, livelihoods were threatened by new private recycling contracts in Johannesburg. Waste pickers came together, making their demands public through media and demonstrations; as a result, the city began discussions with the Interim Joburg Reclaimers Committee to explore the integration of waste pickers. Waste pickers defined how they see integration and recognition in a platform of demands.

Progress is also happening nationally. South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs is developing national guidelines for municipalities and industry



WIEGO produced a [memorial video](#) of street vendor leader John Makwicana, who died on 7 March 2018 at the age of 71. The video, "The Legacy of John Makwicana, South African Street Trader" captures a last interview with this remarkable man, who fought for the rights of informal workers to earn their livelihoods – and won a legal victory for street traders in South Africa.

on the integration of waste pickers. One goal is to improve working conditions. Three representatives from the WISA project have been chosen by the Interim Johannesburg Reclaimers Committee to represent their interests on the working group, giving waste pickers a voice in the national policymaking process.



**Must read blogs:** [Joburg's Reclaimers Win Important First Victory in Fight Against Privatization](#) by Carlin Carr (31 July 2017)

[Who Really Cares about our Earth? Neglecting Waste Pickers' Contributions, Promoting Huge Business Profits](#) by Lucia Fernandez (21 April 2017)

## Addressing Health Issues with Waste Pickers in Brazil

In WIEGO's previous work with waste pickers in Brazil, they identified health issues as a major concern. WIEGO has undertaken the Cuidar Project in Belo Horizonte to get a clearer understanding of these risks, and to examine waste pickers' coping strategies and access to health services. The ultimate aim of the project is to diminish health risks.

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*The ultimate aim of the project is to diminish health risks.*

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A joint initiative of WIEGO's Urban Policies and Social Protection Programmes, along with the network of waste picker cooperatives, Redesol, this participatory research action project is raising awareness both within waste pickers' cooperatives and externally. The project is creating and testing tools, activities and feedback methods, including the use of different media to share health knowledge on workers' and women's health issues and enhance waste pickers' connections to local partners in health. Group discussions and semi-structured interviews with cooperative leaders have been productive, with waste pickers enthusiastically engaged. Many have noted that talking about the issues is, in itself, therapeutic.

The data collected has been used by cooperatives in recent negotiations with municipalities. The Cuidar Project is also helping build relationships with leading national health research centers (FIOCRUZ and FUNED) in Belo Horizonte to broaden waste picker cooperatives' networks.



*A woman in Laos works to earn a living as a weaver while also attending to her child care responsibilities.*

*Photo: Marty Chen*

## Translating the Global at the Local Level

### WIEGO Global Child Care Campaign

In 2017, WIEGO launched a global Child Care Campaign in concert with informal workers' organizations and other important allies. The campaign builds on the work of our Social Protection Programme to address how women workers across regions and sectors struggle to gain access to quality child care services. A lack of quality public child care options reduces a woman's ability to earn a living. When women informal workers are forced to juggle paid work and unpaid care work their productivity and earnings often decrease – exacerbating existing income and gender inequalities.

As part of the Child Care Campaign, advocacy pamphlets, posters and stickers were produced in English, French, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai and Zulu. The materials were sent to all WIEGO Network organizations and made available for free on our website.

In November, a collective statement signed by informal workers' organizations, global union federations, and labour rights and child rights organizations was issued. The statement, which demands action on creating quality public child care services, came out of a meeting co-hosted by WIEGO and FES in Durban, South Africa.

### The Global Campaign Goes Local

In three WIEGO Focal Cities, WIEGO hosted events to connect workers and their local organizations to the global Child Care Campaign.

In Accra, Ghana, WIEGO supported membership-based organizations (MBOs) in drafting their childcare needs and demands and strategic plans to take the child care advocacy work forward.

In Mexico City, where the "right to care" had been introduced into the Mexico City Constitution, WIEGO and OXFAM Mexico jointly held a workshop on quality public child care for informal workers in July 2017. Street vendors, domestic workers, shoe-shiners, gas

station attendants and waste pickers discussed their challenges accessing child care and the impact of child care responsibilities on their paid work.

In Delhi in September, the workshop “Quality Childcare as a Right of All Workers: Collaborating for Action” was co-hosted by WIEGO, SEWA and FORCES (the Forum for Creches and Childcare Services). MBOs representing street vendors, waste pickers and home-based workers attended the meeting, as did representatives from the regional network HomeNet South Asia. In addition to raising awareness about the Child Care Campaign, the workshop provided space to reflect on the child care needs of informal workers and exchange examples of child care service promotion from FORCES, SEWA and other advocates and researchers.

 **Must read blogs:** [Quality Child Care is a Missing Piece of the Poverty-Reduction Puzzle](#) – A discussion with Mirai Chatterjee on SEWA’s holistic model and approach (8 January 2018)

[Five Innovations at SEWA’s New Worker Empowerment Centres](#) by Laura Alfes (15 May 2017)



*Quality child care facilities like this one in Delhi allow parents, and in particular women, to pursue livelihood activities knowing their children are well cared for.*  
Photo: Rashmi Choudhary

## R204 – Concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy

WIEGO played a vital role in making sure the voices of informal workers were heard at the International Labour Conference (ILC) when Recommendation 204 (R204) was drafted and adopted in 2015. Now WIEGO provides support and guidance to informal worker organizations that are seeking to ensure R204 is implemented appropriately in their countries to meet informal workers’ needs.

### R204 Workshop in Malawi: “Building workers’ power”

A three-day workshop in Malawi helped informal workers understand R204. To deliver the workshop, Pamhidzai Bamu, WIEGO’s Law Programme Africa Coordinator, and Vanessa Pillay, WIEGO’s Organization and Representation Programme Officer, worked with the Malawi Union for the Informal Sector (MUFIS).

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*They used the new knowledge gained from the workshop to build on those solutions.*

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Forty-one street traders from Malawi’s four regions took part. They were given information about national laws and bylaws that impact their livelihoods, and educated about the contents of R204. Participant knowledge was equally important to the workshop’s success. The gathering provided an opportunity for traders from different regions to tell their stories of successfully challenging authorities, and to share negotiating tactics and ideas with each other. They used the new knowledge gained from the workshop to build on those solutions.

In brainstorming sessions, workers – especially women – strongly articulated their child care needs. They formulated strategy on how MUFIS could take forward WIEGO’s child care initiative.

The workshop built solidarity and participants vowed to work together across regions to address their priorities. At the workshop’s close, participants said they had learned “the laws and how to take up our challenges,” “how to approach authorities,” and “the importance of building workers’ power.”

A future workshop hosted by MUFIS, WIEGO and StreetNet will focus on deepening the organizers’ collective bargaining and negotiation skills.



*Waste pickers in Delhi are defining a plan of action to drive their advocacy around the implementation of new solid waste management rules. Photo: Rashmi Choudhary*

## Building Momentum in Six Focal Cities

**F**ocal Cities are those in which WIEGO concentrates and intensifies its activities to support membership-based organizations (MBOs) in their efforts to improve livelihoods for informal workers in their city. WIEGO began this innovative approach in Lima, Peru in 2010 and in Accra, Ghana in 2012. Now, we have expanded it into Bangkok, Thailand; Dakar, Senegal; Delhi, India; and Mexico City, Mexico.

In each city, the work differs, based on the political context, MBO priorities, and stages of development. However, a set of common strategies are employed in all six cities:

- **Capacity-building and training** with informal worker leaders and their organizations in areas such as policy advocacy, communications and negotiation
- **Policy dialogues**, in which MBOs engage in dialogue and negotiations with city and national officials, allowing workers to share their experiences, advocate for their demands, hear officials' perspectives on key issues, and discuss how laws, regulations and policies could be shaped or improved
- **Knowledge exchange** by connecting informal workers across occupational sectors to engage around shared experiences and priorities, mobilize around common priorities and link workers with larger networks of support

 **Must read blog:** [From Lima to Bangkok, WIEGO Lays Out Strategy to Improve Conditions of Informal Workers in Six Target Cities](#) by Jenna Harvey (26 January 2018)

## Accra

Enhanced confidence and capacity of informal workers has contributed positively to their ability to engage decision-makers in their communities and workplaces to advocate for appropriate policies and systems.

### Waste Pickers Benefit from the “Pick-It” Project

Through the Waste Pickers Integration Project (known as “Pick-It”) launched in March 2017, WIEGO has been working to support the formation of waste pickers’ associations in two communities in Accra: Tema New Town and the Kpone landfill. The Pick-It project is a joint initiative of WIEGO, Fan Milk Limited, Environment360, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Capacity building and organizing activities have significantly changed the situation of waste pickers at Kpone landfill site and Tema New Town. We have built relationships with waste pickers at both sites, connected the two groups together, and provided training on topics ranging from leadership development to inclusive solid waste management systems. Both groups have organized, elected representatives and formally registered their associations. The change in organizational capacity is apparent with both groups. For example, at Tema New Town, a group of formerly unorganized, part-time street waste pickers (all women and most elderly) have proudly adopted a worker identity and formed the Biakoye Waste Pickers Association.



Waste pickers involved in the Pick-It project are gaining a greater sense of pride in their work. Photo: Jenna Harvey

At the Kpone landfill, the newfound confidence of Kpone Landfill Waste Pickers’ Association was demonstrated when they staged a press conference on International Waste Pickers’ Day and gave media interviews. This press conference was attended by the Head of the Waste Department of the Tema Municipal Assembly, who addressed issues raised by the workers.

Also through the project, a group of waste pickers have been registered at the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and provided with a comprehensive health screening.

Esther, the elected secretary of the Biakoye Waste Pickers Association, expressed what the support from WIEGO and the Pick-It Project has meant: “*Now we are respected in our community.... People who used to look down on us are now wanting to speak to us.*”

### Street Vendors Engage with Some Notable Officials

WIEGO continued its longstanding Focal Cities work with street and market vendors in Accra. This includes ongoing capacity-building and strategic support to the Informal Vendors and Hawkers Association of Ghana (IVHAG) and Greater Accra Markets Association. WIEGO also facilitates platforms where the vendors can present their issues to public officials in an effective forum. For example, after a “decongestion drive” in early 2018 resulted in city-wide evictions, confiscations and destruction of street vendors’ property, WIEGO organized a policy dialogue between vendor representatives and government officials, including a representative from the gender ministry and the AMA. As a result, some vendors from at least one market, Abokobi, were able to recover access to space for selling from the municipality.

Accra’s vendors also had a rare opportunity to engage with the First Lady of Ghana, who spent three hours one weekend with the workers learning of their issues.

## Bangkok

### Building Voice & Visibility in Bangkok

2017 saw the formation of the Network of Thai Vendors for Sustainable Development. Formed by current and former street vendors affected by city-wide evictions, the Network has 6,000 members from 21 districts in Bangkok. Its primary objective is to provide support and solidarity and to defend vendors’ rights in the face of unprecedented city-wide evictions. Street vendors in Bangkok now have representation at a city level for the first time and are building alliances for policy reform.

WIEGO, in partnership with HomeNet Thailand, played a key role in this development by co-hosting



*In 2017, Thai vendors formed a network that provides support and solidarity in the face of unprecedented city-wide evictions in Bangkok.  
Photo: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images Reportage*

and facilitating networking events with vendor leaders, civil society organizations and academics. We also provided our existing research on street vending and its contributions to the city, and worked with street vendors' leadership to produce new research on the contributions of street vendors to the city and the impacts of the city's eviction policy. The research we compiled has been used subsequently by researchers at the Thai Development Research Institute to make a case for rethinking vendor policy.

HomeNet Thailand (HNT) and WIEGO have provided ongoing technical support to the Federation of Informal Workers of Thailand (FIT). The Federation is composed of four MBOs: the HomeNet Thailand Association (representing home-based workers), the Network of Domestic Workers in Thailand, the Association of Motorcycle Taxi Drivers, and MuubaaNakila Service Cooperative (representing street vendors in MuubaaNakila Housing Estate). WIEGO's work has included training on negotiations and collective bargaining by specialists from our Organization & Representation Programme, a baseline study on the needs in four occupational sectors, and production of communications material. According to FIT leaders, these activities have led to greater voice, validity and visibility for informal workers in Bangkok and have strengthened organizational capacities.

WIEGO is also working with the Statistical Office of Thailand. The collaboration, initiated by the Coordinator of HomeNet Thailand in an effort to obtain data on home-based workers, involves WIEGO,

ILO and a member of the Thai Labour Statistics Team. It has led to improvements in the national labour force survey and the use of these data to test the criteria for the new categories proposed for revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93). Now, national data is being collected and tabulated on home-based workers (disaggregated by sub-contracted and self-employed), street vendors, and other informal worker sectors. A labour force survey is a better and more cost-effective way to gather this data than through ad hoc surveys.

**Must read blogs:** [Bangkok's Informal Workers Essential to Formal and Informal Functioning of City, Study Says](#) A Q&A with authors of the study (3 October 2017)

[What Bangkok's Crackdown Tells Us About the Roles of Street Vendors Everywhere](#) by Sarah Reed, Sally Roever and Narumol Nirathron (3 August 2017) (Published on Citiscope)

## Dakar

In 2017, WIEGO began to develop Focal City work in Senegal's capital. Here, the work supports local MBOs in their efforts to improve outcomes for urban informal workers in many occupational sectors, including street vendors and market traders, fish mongers, taxi drivers, laundresses, domestic workers, women producers, food vendors, carpenters, and waste pickers. Worker leaders have gained skills and confidence through training on leadership, negotiation and collective bargaining.

This work has already seen significant gains. First, workers have an increased awareness of the relevance of their numbers, and of the political and strategic role that they can play to formalize their sector and develop regulations that will extend to them social protection and dignity. This led workers to take an independent decision to formally create a multi-sectoral Advisory Council as a space where they can coordinate their advocacy strategies.

### Laundresses and Domestic Workers Form New Unions

WIEGO has worked to build awareness among two of the most vulnerable worker groups in Dakar – domestic workers and laundresses – about the social and economic value of their work. This has included capacity-building on the topic of social and legal protection.

One group, laundresses, are one of the most vulnerable groups of informal workers in Dakar: their tasks are physically difficult, they are hired on a daily basis and may have no source of earnings during periods



*Laundresses, one of the most vulnerable groups of informal workers in Dakar, formed their own union in 2018.*

*Photo: Gabriella Tanvé*

when there is no demand for their services. They most often work in the streets and face a constant risk of eviction. They also lack child care options, so children accompany them to work. Children either stay on their mothers' backs while they bend, scrub, wash, twist and dry cloths – which increases their effort and the risk for injuries for both the women and children – or stay nearby in streets that are often crowded and dangerous.

Over the first year of Focal Cities work, multiple exploration visits were conducted to meet laundresses, learn about the challenges they face, and support organizing efforts started by a local women's rights organization, Association des Femmes de la Médina and the local NGO REDA (Réseau Droit au Développement pour d'autres Alternatives). In early 2018, the laundresses formed their own union. WIEGO will support their efforts to engage with local government around health and child care, in addition to other priorities.

Another group, domestic workers, also made gains in organizing and a greater sense of being in solidarity with migrant domestic workers from outside Senegal. In March 2018, the domestic workers held a founding congress and formed a union.



**Must read blog:** [The Truth about How Dakar's Clothes Get Cleaned](#) by Carlin Carr & Gabriella Tanvé (3 April 2018)

## Delhi

The work in Delhi is taking shape in the context of multiple opportunities for change in urban policy and practice, including the ongoing revision of the city's "master plan" and an official housing policy that is being formulated.

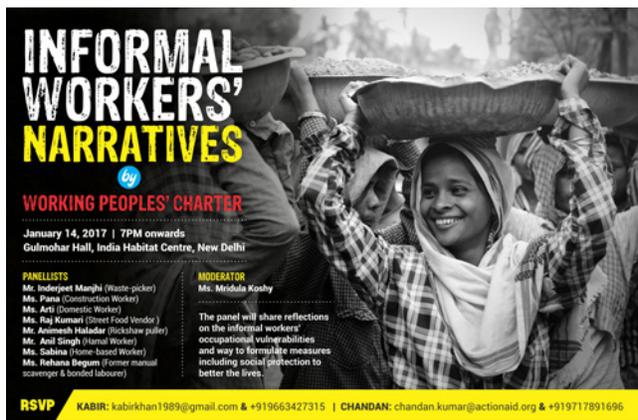
Research and scoping exercises expanded the knowledge base on informal work in Delhi and provided valuable, actionable evidence for partner organizations. We now have a better understanding of the informal economy in Delhi, the legal environment, and what challenges workers' organizations face in ensuring effective policy implementation at the local level. This new data is equipping informal organizations for advocacy, and has positioned WIEGO as an expert on promoting informal livelihood issues in the urban arena.

Positive outcomes in Delhi include increased community awareness about home-based work through an action research approach. With the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and HomeNet South Asia (HNSA), WIEGO undertook a study of the characteristics and experiences of home-based workers in four communities. Information collected was shared back with home-based workers and local NGOs, who helped analyze the findings. This has laid a foundation for HNSA to organize home-based workers in the four communities.

We also increased our understanding of issues facing informal workers in resettlement colonies. We made several visits to Savda Ghevda, where over 20,000 families have been relocated to make way for infrastructure projects in the city. WIEGO commissioned a research study in the colony, which will provide Mahila Housing Trust, a SEWA sister organization, with information to fuel its advocacy around land tenure rights in the colony.

A mapping exercise of waste picker organizations affiliated with the Alliance of Indian Waste Pickers (AIW) in the city fed into the process of organizing a city platform of waste pickers organizations called Delhi Roundtable on Solid Waste Management. Together, waste pickers have drafted a mission statement and are defining a plan of action for the coming year to drive their advocacy around the implementation of the 2016 solid waste management rules. Because the AIW affiliates are now connected and have a common goal, their voices will be stronger as they campaign.

WIEGO raised public awareness about informal workers through a radio programme hosted by the Focal Cities Delhi Coordinator, as well as through a two-part public dialogue "[Informal Workers' Narratives](#),"



organized with Working People’s Charter and AIW. Through this work, informal workers gained crucial experience with public speaking and sharing experiences in an effort to change public perceptions about their work.

**Must read blog:** [In Delhi, a Three-Pronged Approach Raises Informal Workers’ Priorities with Urban Decision-makers](#) by Shalini Sinha (26 March 2018)

## Lima

### Mesas with Government Officials Lead to Gains

WIEGO Focal Cities, with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), created a Mesa (roundtable) on Informal Employment and held the first three sessions. When organizing a Mesa, WIEGO and FES invite all government officials whose work concerns informal workers to sit together with the workers’ organizations themselves in constructive and facilitated sessions. These discussions often yield progress as officials are educated about the issues facing informal workers in the country.

The Government of Peru has a goal of cutting informal employment in half by 2021. The first Mesa presented data and proposals from workers’ groups and from WIEGO for ways to reduce informal employment – proposals that understand formalization as a positive means to improve income and working conditions for workers. The Ministry of Labour, which has started an ambitious programme called *Formaliza Perú*, shared its progress in developing a National Policy on Self-Employment.

Street vendors saw major gains after the first Mesa. The Mesa created a link to the *Formaliza Perú* programme, and officials began to include self-employed workers among their beneficiaries. Officials met with large associations of street vendors in the vendors’ workplaces and gained a greater understanding of the barriers to formalization that vendors face. They have

now visited two exceptional associations of Lima street vendors who, through their collective savings, have purchased land on which to build large markets and buildings. In addition, a sub-committee was created to address formalization of trade for street and market vendors. Its first meeting bridged conceptual and operational gaps between street traders and officials of Labour and the Metropolitan Lima Municipality.

The second Mesa addressed informal workers’ health as a collective theme and brought together workers’ federations with representatives from the Health Insurance System for the Poor. Organized domestic workers and shoe-shiners have now gained increased access to free health insurance coverage (SIS). The Federations have contacted SIS officials to have all their affiliates join SIS for free.

The third Mesa in January 2018 focused on old age pensions and child care for informal workers. It was attended by the Ministry of Social Development and its Social Program *Wawa Wasi* (which maintains child care centres with communities across the country), the Metropolitan Lima City Government (which runs child care facilities), SUMBI (a well-known not-for-profit child care provider), and the Bernard Van Leer Foundation (which supports work of all the above). A sub-committee has been created, and plans are underway to pilot a partnership with one workers’ federation that will run a child care facility with technical support from government.

The exchange of information and dialogue made possible by the Mesa and other capacity building



*Lima’s street vendors have met with officials to build understanding of the barriers to formalization that vendors face. Photo: Juan Arredondo/Getty Images Reportage*

programmes is translating into more independence of worker leaders to seek change on their own and take the lead on advocacy. For example, newspaper vendors are working with the current city government to achieve a new ordinance that will regulate their work.

There has also been a change in the understanding of government, especially in social development, of the need to have social programmes that emphasize the *urban* working poor as beneficiaries.



**Mustread blog:** [Across Peru, Municipalities are “Upgrading” Street Vendors to Roofed Markets. Is it Really Improving Conditions?](#)

by Lisette Aliaga (6 February 2018)

## Mexico City

In Mexico City, change was driven by the establishment of two Mesas with informal workers — one with a mixed group of self-employed workers including shoe shiners, artisans, musicians and others, and another with street vendors. Regular meetings offered both groups a chance to discuss issues and understand the current regulations that shape their work. The Mesas also helped strengthen the relationship between WIEGO’s Focal City Coordinator and the workers. Trust has been built and worker leaders are enthusiastic about participating in capacity building and collective bargaining training.

WIEGO began its work in Mexico City with a consultation with MBOs about their priorities and the issue



*In Mexico City, WIEGO helped facilitate a design project involving the Shoe Shiners Union and IberoAmerican University. Photo: Jane Barrett*

areas where they would most like to receive support from WIEGO. Based on what we learned, we convened periodic meetings with the groups that focused on current laws and legal empowerment of the workers.

WIEGO also facilitated contact between the Head of Design at IberoAmerican University and the Mexico City Shoe Shiners Union in order for design students to create prototypes for shoe shiners’ stalls that the union will use in negotiations with the municipality. Another initiative involved a photo shoot of waste pickers in Iztapalapa, which will become a photo exhibit at the Museo Memoria y Tolerancia.

When we learned that waste pickers’ livelihoods were threatened by plans for a new waste incinerator, WIEGO supported them to develop a strategy to respond, gathered information and met with allies, including the President of the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City and other concerned NGOs, to talk about the incinerator and possible next steps to be taken by the Commission. WIEGO also held a legal empowerment workshop with waste pickers.

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*Communications have been a major part of the activities in Mexico City.*

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Communications have been a major part of the activities in Mexico City, where the WIEGO team has drafted a comprehensive communications plan, launched a microsite on [wiego.org](#), and mapped the online, print and radio media to assess how best to disseminate messages and stories to the public.

Most significantly, the sense of agency among individual workers has clearly increased. In addition to the Mesas, the workers have been organizing on their own and have realized the possibilities and power that they have as a collective.



**Must read blogs:** [Mexico City’s Shoe Shiners are not “Visual Contamination:” Design Solutions for a Traditional Occupation in a Changing City](#) by Jenna Harvey & Tania Espinosa Sanchez (7 March 2018)

[Threat of A New Waste Incinerator in Mexico City Puts Informal Waste Pickers’ Livelihoods at Risk](#) – a Q&A with Tania Espinosa Sánchez (1 March 2018)

# Financial Report: Year ended 31 March 2018

## Financial Summary

The total incoming resources were US \$2.35m for the financial year ending 31 March 2018 compared to US \$6.079m in the previous year. Total resources expended were US \$4.252m, compared to US \$4.706m in the previous year.

The figures for 2017-18 are extracted from the statutory accounts approved by the Directors on 1 August 2018. The full statutory financial accounts, on which the auditors, Crowe U.K. LLP (previously 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.

The auditors have confirmed to the Directors that the 2017-18 figures extracted from the statutory financial accounts are consistent with the statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018.

For further information, the full statutory accounts should be consulted together with the Auditors' Report and the Directors' Report. These are available from the Company Secretary at the company's registered office in Manchester, UK.

BALANCE SHEET		2017-18	2016-17
		US \$000	US \$000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Accounts Receivable		286	138
Cash at bank		4,973	3,767
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,259</b>	<b>3,905</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Accounts Payable		-3,772	-515
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,487</b>	<b>3,390</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Restricted Funds		260	280
Unrestricted Funds		1,227	3,110
		<b>1,487</b>	<b>3,390</b>

Source: Extract from the statutory accounts

## Financial Governance

The Finance Committee of the WIEGO Board reviews the budgets and reports of all WIEGO funds and accounts. 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 further mitigated by the building of designated reserves, which currently stand at a level of \$621k. The Finance

Committee reports to the WIEGO Board for final decisions on budgets and risk management.

In addition to funds managed by the WIEGO office in the UK, WIEGO has a fiscal sponsor, Harvard University in the USA. The WIEGO accounts at Harvard University are audited each year as part of the annual financial audit of Harvard University.

## Revenue and Expenditure

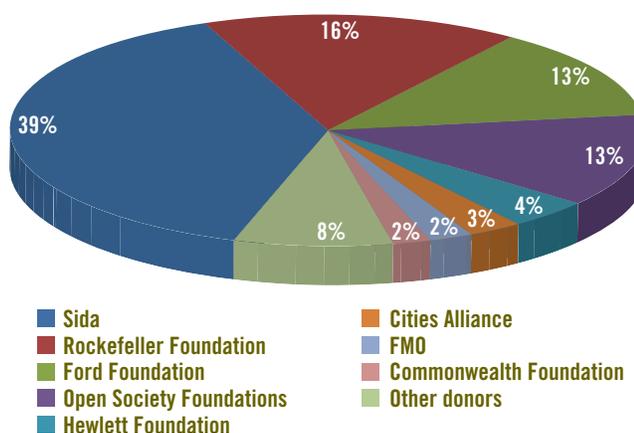
This report combines the income received and expenditure incurred through our accounts both in the US and the UK and reflects the organization's results overall.

### Source of Funds 2017-18

We are very proud of the number of funders who generously support WIEGO in our efforts to empower informal workers around the globe.

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

Source of Funds for Year 2017/18



SOURCE OF FUNDS	2017-18	2016-17
	US \$000	US \$000
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	105	4,312
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	922	925
The Rockefeller Foundation	375	350
The Ford Foundation	300	200
Open Society Foundations	299	0
Cities Alliance	60	59
FMO	50	0
The Commonwealth Foundation	39	39
Comic Relief	7	37
Other Sources	182	150
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>6,072</b>

Source: Extract from the statutory accounts

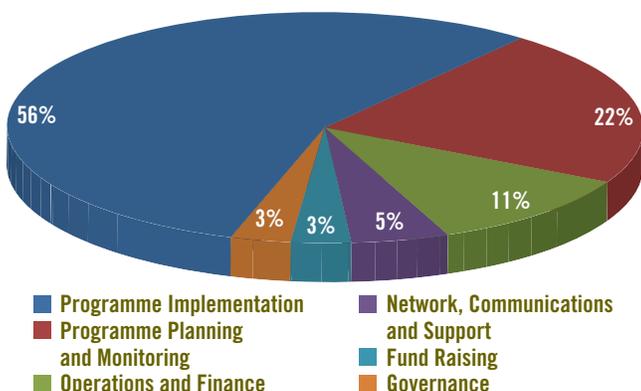
### Use of Funds 2017-18

The expenditure charts summarize expenditure on the core categories of the organization and a breakdown of the core programmes.

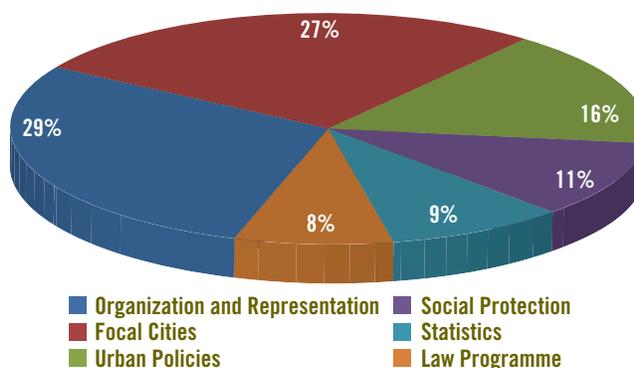
WIEGO's strategy is designed to ensure the maximum possible resources are channelled directly into our

programmes to meet the objective of delivering quality improvements in research, policy advocacy and capacity building.

Use of Funds for Year 2017/18



Programmes Expenditures for Year 2017/18





*Just Recycling*, WIEGO's animated video about the important contributions of waste pickers, is now available in French and Zulu, as well as English and Spanish.

## Communications & Dissemination

Communicating knowledge, concepts and facts in comprehensive, creative and far-reaching ways is essential to meeting not just internal needs but to promoting the goal of helping informal workers and their organizations build more secure livelihoods.

### Communications Teamwork

WIEGO's diverse, multilingual Communications Team provided strategic services, guidance, translation and training to WIEGO programmes, to WIEGO Network members, and in support of other partners.

### Understanding How Our Materials Are Used

In 2018, we surveyed all WIEGO contacts to learn how our audiences use our materials – and what we can do better to disseminate WIEGO's rich knowledge. We are grateful to the many users who responded. Their in-depth and varied answers gave us great insight that will help us maintain our high standards and improve access to our information. Most of the respondents said they worked in an academic organization or think tank (35 per cent), an NGO or civil society (26 per cent), or for a worker organization (15 per cent).

Many people told us they find WIEGO's materials very useful in their work – a "treasure trove of resources," one researcher said. However, several suggested more frequent contact and changes to make the website easier to navigate. WIEGO is using this valuable feedback to improve how we disseminate our materials, and to expand our reach to more policymakers, activists, the public and the media.

### Growing our Online Presence

Our English website, [wiego.org](http://wiego.org), had over 321,000 visits through the year, and the Spanish version of the site – which has been enjoying a surge in traffic recently – was the source for 34,000 of these visits.

Over 49,000 copies of publications and resources were downloaded from our sites.

Social media is playing a bigger role in engaging with stakeholders and promoting WIEGO's work. Our reach continues to expand, with the number of Twitter followers growing 14 per cent to over 6,600. Facebook followers remained at about 24,800.

### Talking to the World

Translation is a huge component of our work. Over the course of the year, WIEGO translated approximately 160,000 words into many languages including French, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai and Zulu. WIEGO's multilingual team is kept busy supporting communication at regional and international meetings, allowing workers, leaders and allies from around the world to share information with each other.

# Publications & Resources

## WIEGO Publication Series

### Working Papers

Carré, Françoise. 2018. [Applying the Concept of the Informal Economy to Labour Market Changes in Developed Countries: What Can Be Learned](#). WIEGO Working Paper 36.

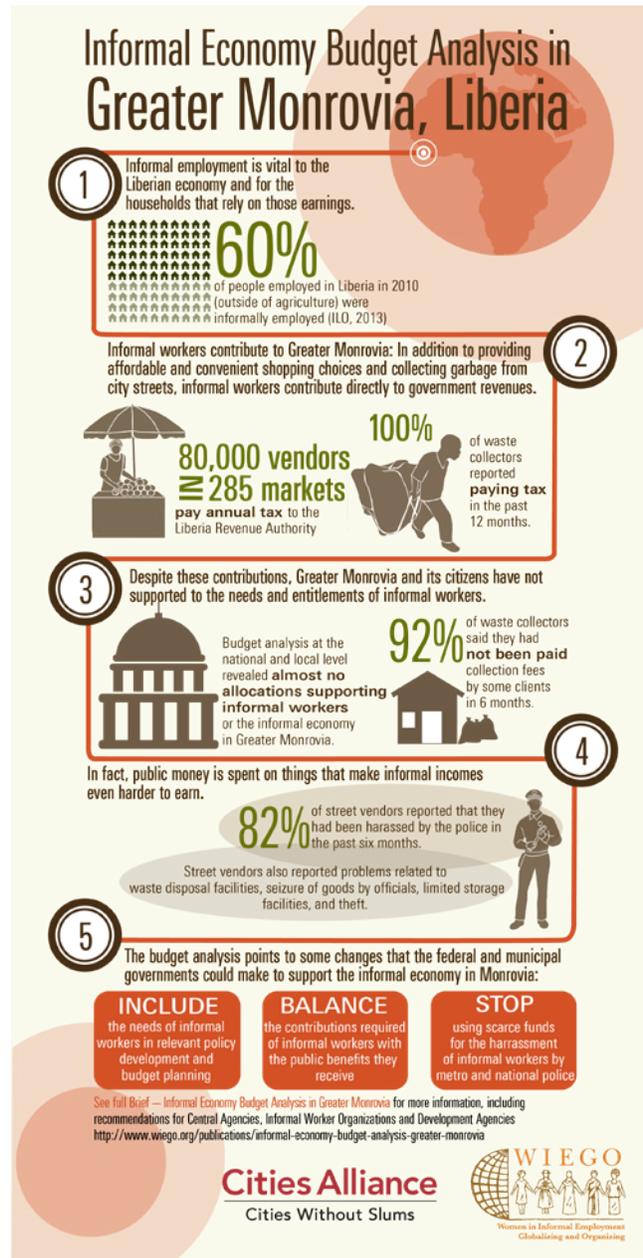
### WIEGO Briefs

Aliaga Linares, Lissette. 2017. [Statistics on Street Vendors and Market Traders in Metropolitan Lima and Urban Peru](#). WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 16. Cambridge, MA, USA: WIEGO.

Aliaga Linares, Lissette. 2017. [Estadísticas sobre vendedores ambulantes y vendedores de mercado en Lima Metropolitana y en el Perú urbano](#). WIEGO Nota estadística No. 16.

Budlender, Debbie. 2017. [Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Greater Monrovia](#). WIEGO Budget Brief No. 7.

Carré, Françoise, Rodrigo Negrete and Joann Vanek. [Considerations for Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment – ICSE-93](#). WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 17.



*Influencing the Influencers:*  
In July 2017, Namati, a global movement of grassroots legal advocates, tweeted to their 3000+ followers recommending WIEGO Technical Brief 10.

This infographic was created as an advocacy tool to complement the brief [Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Greater Monrovia](#), which summarizes research examining whether and how Liberia's national budget addresses the needs of informal workers, particularly street vendors, market traders and waste collectors. Cities Alliance provided funding for the study, while the Liberia Country Programme gave technical assistance.

Castaño, Pablo. 2018. [Laws, Legitimacy and Ongoing Struggle: Lessons from Bolivian Policies on Domestic Workers' Rights](#). WIEGO Policy Brief, No. 17.

Castaño, Pablo. 2018. [The Mobilization of Bolivian Domestic Workers](#). WIEGO Organizing Brief No. 10.

Kohn, Lauren. 2017. [Using Administrative Law to Secure Informal Livelihoods: Lessons from South Africa](#). WIEGO Technical Brief (Law) No. 10. Cambridge, MA, USA: WIEGO.

Nyemb, Jacques Jonathan. 2017. [Turning the Law into a Shield for Street Vendors in African Countries](#). WIEGO Legal Brief No. 4.

Raveendran, G. 2017. [Women and Men Operators of Enterprises in India's Informal Sector](#). WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 18.

## WIEGO Resource Document Series

Duminy, James. 2011. [Literature Survey: Informality and Planning](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 1.

Duminy, James, updated by Thembi Lockett. 2012. [Literature Survey: Mega-Events and the Working Poor, with a Special Reference to the 2010 FIFA World Cup](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 2.

Alfers, Laura. 2015. [Annotated Bibliography: Child Care and the Informal Economy](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 3.

Alfers, Laura. 2015. [Literature Survey: Childcare and the Informal Economy](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 4.

Budlender, Debbie. 2015. [Institutional Mapping of Child Care Actors](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 5.

Anyidoho, Nana Akua and William F. Steel. 2016. [Perceptions of Costs and Benefits of Informal-Formal Linkages: Market and Street Vendors in Accra, Ghana](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 6.

Nansamba, Aisha. 2017. [Informal Economy Budget Analysis: Greater Monrovia](#). WIEGO Resource Document No. 7.

## Other Publications

ILO and WIEGO. [Cooperation among workers in the informal economy: A focus on home-based workers and waste pickers](#) – A Joint ILO and WIEGO Initiative. Produced Summary in four languages.

Reed, Sarah Orleans, Ana Carolina Ogando, Poonsap Suanmuang Tulaphan, Chidchanok Samantrakul and Pannee Towakulpanich. 2017. [Informal Workers in Bangkok, Thailand: Scan of Four Occupational Sectors](#). WIEGO.

Reed, Sarah Orleans. 2017. [Informal Workers in Bangkok: Considerations for Policymakers](#). WIEGO.

Report from the [Second Regional Meeting of Home-based Worker Organizations and Supporters in Latin America](#) (Now available in English, Spanish and Portuguese).

[WIEGO Child Care Campaign](#) materials (pamphlet, poster, sticker) in seven languages and pages.

## Newsletters

July 2017 - Law and the Informal Economy Newsletter [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)

February 2018 - Law and the Informal Economy Newsletter [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)

October 2017 - WIEGO Newsletter [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)

January 2018 - WIEGO Newsletter [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)

February 2018 - MBO Newsletter [English](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)

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*Materials WIEGO published on informal trade in India inspired the Malawi Union for the Informal Sector. They used the information in negotiations with municipal officials and were successful in getting waste removed from the markets.*

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## The WIEGO Blog

The WIEGO Blog is a window into WIEGO's thought leadership on the informal economy. Curated by Carlin Carr with Rhonda Douglas, the blog features writing from our subject specialists on a wide array of topics – and links readers to rich resources. In early 2018, we committed to publishing a new high-quality blog post weekly; in addition to nearly doubling our content, our audience also grew by per cent over last year.



### More Must-Read Blogs from 2017-18

[Five Blogs from 2017 that Take on Big Ideas for Informal Workers](#) by Carlin Carr. 27 December 2017

[Five Blogs that Highlight Key Achievements for Informal Workers in 2017](#) by Carlin Carr. 27 December 2017



# WIEGO Board and Team

## Board of Directors

- Renana Jhabvala** (Chair)  
Self-Employed Women’s Association, India
- Juliana Brown Afari**  
StreetNet International, Ghana
- Barbro Budin**  
International Union of Food and Allied Workers, Switzerland
- Debra Davis** (Treasurer)  
Independent Consultant, UK
- Ravi Kanbur**  
Cornell University, USA
- Vicky Kanyoka**  
IDWF, Tanzania
- Lin Lim**  
Independent Consultant, Malaysia
- William Steel**  
University of Ghana, Ghana
- Jeemol Unni**  
University of Ahmedabad, India
- Carmen Vildoso**  
Independent Consultant, Peru

WIEGO’s “Golden Girls” — women who were instrumental in shaping WIEGO and who were now stepping back and passing the torch — put on a show at the Team retreat. They are (left to right) **Joann Vanek** (Director of Statistics), **Chris Bonner** (former Director of Organization & Representation), **Marty Chen** (International Coordinator from 1997-2017) and **Francie Lund** (former Director of Social Protection).

## WIEGO Team

WIEGO Team	March 2018	
Segment of Team	Number	FTEs
Secretariat (USA)	3	2.6
Operations Office (UK)	6	5.0
Programme/Projects (global)	29	21.1
Communications Team (global)	6	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33.2</b>



The WIEGO Team held its annual meeting in Manchester, UK in October 2017.



*Vending plays a variety of important functions in urban systems, by promoting safety and walkability, feeding consumers, contributing to local revenue, and attracting pedestrians to other local businesses.  
Photo: Pailin Wedel*

# WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:  
Globalizing and Organizing

## Annual Report April 2017 – March 2018

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