**WIEGO Publications**

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global network focused on empowering the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy to secure their livelihoods. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities, rights, protection and voice. WIEGO promotes change by improving statistics and expanding knowledge on the informal economy, building networks and capacity among informal worker organizations and, jointly with the networks and organizations, influencing local, national and international policies. This catalogue reflects the research, advocacy and organizing publications WIEGO has produced. WIEGO publications are freely available at www.wiego.org.

**WIEGO Publication Series Team**

Series editor: Caroline Skinner  
Editors: Yola Verbruggen and Bronwen Muller  
Publication management and coordination: Taluah Girard  
Translation management and editing: Renata Farias and Agustín Vélez  
Designers: Roberto Hernández, Julian Luckham and Anna Chappé

Cover photo: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images Reportage  
Catalogue design: Anna Chappé

If you have used WIEGO publications to inform your work or have comments about our materials, we would like to hear from you. Please contact us by email at wiego@wiego.org.
Contents

BOOKS AND SPECIAL ISSUES ................................................................. 2
Books and Special Issues ....................................................................... 3

PUBLICATION SERIES ........................................................................... 4
Working Papers ..................................................................................... 5
Briefs ....................................................................................................... 8
  Policy Briefs ......................................................................................... 8
  Law and Informality Insights .............................................................. 10
Organizing Briefs .................................................................................. 11
Statistical Briefs .................................................................................... 13
Technical Briefs .................................................................................... 15
Budget Briefs ........................................................................................ 16
Resource Documents ............................................................................. 17
Workers’ Lives ....................................................................................... 18

JOINT / PROJECT PUBLICATIONS .................................................... 19
COVID-19 Emergency Response .......................................................... 21
Child Care ............................................................................................. 24
Workers’ Health .................................................................................... 25
Public Space ........................................................................................... 26
Focal Cities ............................................................................................. 26
Women’s Economic Employment ......................................................... 27
Cooperation Among Workers ................................................................ 28

Technology & Informal Work ............................................................... 28
Inclusive Cities ......................................................................................... 29
Global Economic Crisis Study ............................................................. 30
Informal Economy Monitoring Study ................................................ 31
COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy 12-City Study .................. 34
Other Joint Publications ......................................................................... 35

TOOLS FOR MEMBERSHIP-BASED ORGANISATIONS ..................... 36
Strengthening Organizations ................................................................. 37
Enhancing Sustainability ....................................................................... 38
Conducting Policy Dialogues ................................................................. 39
Securing Social Protection ................................................................... 39
Navigating Fair Trade ............................................................................. 40
Bargaining Collectively .......................................................................... 40

WORKER GROUP ADVOCACY MATERIALS ..................................... 41

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS .......... 43

TEACHING RESOURCES ...................................................................... 44

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES, ANNUAL REPORTS AND NEWSLETTERS ...................................................................... 45
GANGA BEN VANITA leads a team of male labourers in the renovation of apartments. Previously a construction labourer with unsteady daily work, she attended a skills training programme offered by the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) and Mahila Housing Trust (MHT). Now, as a contractor, Ganga earns double her previous salary.

Paula Bronstein / Getty Images Reportage
In addition to the publication of numerous journal articles, WIEGO has edited special issues of journals and books. Notable examples are included here.


---

1 For a list of journal articles published by team members see Peer reviewed publications by WIEGO team members — 2019-2021

Access these publications online at www.wiego.org.
ANNA NKOBELLE, shown here working in her employer’s home, belongs to a community organization called Domestic Watch, which meets monthly to teach domestic workers to be aware and safe.

Jonathan Torgovnik / Getty Images Reportage
WORKING PAPERS feature research that makes either an empirical or a theoretical contribution to existing knowledge about the informal economy. Particular attention is paid to policy-relevant research. All WIEGO Working Papers are peer reviewed by the WIEGO Research Team and/or external experts.


Bonner, Chris and Françoise Carré. 2013. 
*Global Networking: Informal Workers Build Solidarity, Power and Representation through Networks and Alliances.*

Alfers, Laura. 2013. 
*The Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme: Barriers to Access for Informal Workers.*

Jain, Kalpana. 2013. 
*Health Financing and Delivery in India: An Overview of Selected Schemes.*

Chan, Man-Kwun. 2013. 

Meagher, Kate. 2013. 
*Unlocking the Informal Economy: A Literature Review on Linkages Between Formal and Informal Economies in Developing Countries.*

Carre, Françoise and James Heintz. 2013. 
*Toward a Common Framework for Informal Employment across Developed and Developing Countries.*

*Paisajes-basura: Dinámicas y Externalidades Territoriales del Reciclaje en Montevideo, Uruguay.*
Documento de Trabajo de WIEGO (Políticas Urbanas) No. 25.

Schanzer, Pablo J. 2012. 
Documento de Trabajo de WIEGO (Políticas Urbanas) No. 24.

Scheinberg, Anne. 2012. 
*Informal Sector Integration and High Performance Recycling: Evidence from 20 Cities.*

Goulart, Fabiana de Oliveira e Francisco de Paula Antunes Lima. 2012. 
*Eficiência e Solidariedade nas Associações de Catadores de Materiais Recicláveis.*

Watson, Vanessa. 2011. 

Lund, Frances and Anna Marriott. 2011. 

Chen, Martha and Shalini Sinha. 2019. 
*Home-Based Workers and Urban Plans, Policies and Practice: India in Comparative Perspective* 
WORKING PAPERS continued

Dias, Sonia. 2010.  
[Solid Waste Management, Waste Pickers, Participation and Citizenship – New Possibilities?]  
Gestão de Resíduos Sólidos, Catadores, Participação e Cidadania – Novas Articulações?  

Tokman, Victor. 2010.  


Salej, Ana Paula. 2010.  
Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Brazil and Belo Horizonte.  
WIEGO Working Paper No. 15.

Mumtaz, Khawar, Nadia Saleem, Sara Shujat and Junaid Qureshi. 2010.  
Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Pakistan and Ravi Town. Lahore.  

Aliaga Linares, Lissette. 2010.  
Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Peru and Metropolitan Lima.  

Casanova-Dorotan, Florencia G. 2010.  
Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Philippines and Quezon City.  

Budlender, Debbie. 2009.  
Informal Economy Budget Analysis in Brazil, Pakistan, Peru and Philippines.  
WIEGO Working Paper No. 11.  
ESPAÑOL: Presupuesto y Economía Informal en Brasil, Pakistán, Perú y las Filipinas


Informal Sector and Informal Employment: Overview of Data for 11 Cities in 10 Developing Countries.  

Esquivel, Valeria. 2010.  
The Informal Economy in Greater Buenos Aires: A Statistical Profile.  

Urban Employment in India: Recent Trends and Patterns.  

Wills, Gabrielle. 2009.  
South Africa’s Informal Economy: A Statistical Profile.  

Street Trade in Africa: A Review.  

Chen, Martha and Donna Doane. 2008.  
Informality in South Asia: A Review.  
WIEGO Working Paper No. 4.

Heintz, James and Imraan Valodia. 2008.  
Informality in Africa: A Review.  
WIEGO Working Paper No. 3.


Chen, Martha. 2012  
The Informal Economy: Definitions, Theories and Policies  
ESPAÑOL: La economía informal: definiciones, teorías y políticas.
WIEGO'S BRIEFS aim to provide user-friendly documentation for those involved in advocacy, policy and research on the informal economy. There are six types of briefs, each with a different focus.

BRIEFS

POLICY BRIEFS offer information on policies and organizational practices that affect the informal economy. This series supports advocacy processes and disseminates better practices and ideas, contributing to a worker- and livelihood-centred approach to development.

WIEGO and IDWF. 2020.
Domestic Workers, Risk and Social Protection in Nepal.
WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 20.

WIEGO and IDWF. 2020.
The Costs of Insecurity: Domestic Workers’ Access to Social Protection and Services in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 19.

Alfers, Laura and Chidchanok Samantrakul. 2019.
WIEGO Policy Brief No. 18.

Laws, Legitimacy and Ongoing Struggle: Lessons from Bolivian Policies on Domestic Workers’ Rights.
WIEGO Policy Brief (Urban Policies) No. 17.

ESPAÑOL: Leyes, legitimidad y lucha: lecciones de las políticas sobre derechos de las trabajadoras del hogar en Bolivia.

WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 22.

WIEGO, IDWF, SEWA. 2020.
Domestic Workers, Risk & Social Protection in Delhi National Capital Region.
WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 21.
POLICY BRIEFS continued


ESPAÑOL: Resumen del marco legal para la inclusión de los recicladores informales en el manejo de residuos sólidos en Brasil.

PORTUGUÊS: Visão geral dos Instrumentos Legais para a Inclusão de Recicladores Informais na Gestão de Resíduos Sólidos no Brasil.


ESPAÑOL: El Foro Municipal de Residuos y Ciudadanía: Una plataforma para la inclusión y la participación social.

PORTUGUÊS: O Fórum Municipal Lixo e Cidadania: Uma plataforma de Inclusão Social e Participação.


ESPAÑOL: Integración de los trabajadores informales en la recolección selectiva de residuos: El caso de Belo Horizonte, Brasil.

PORTUGUÊS: Integração de Trabalhadores Informais na Coleta Seletiva de Recicláveis: o Caso de Belo Horizonte, Brasil.


ESPAÑOL: La Política nacional de vendedores ambulantes urbanos de la India.

Law and Informality Insights

LAW AND INFORMALITY INSIGHTS reflect on our work supporting informal worker organizations to know, use and shape the law, and analyze statutory developments, law-making processes and jurisprudence that impact informal workers and their advocacy strategies. In 2019 they replaced our legal briefs.

Idiculla, Mathew and Roopa Madhav, 2021.
The “Right to the City” and Emerging Indian Jurisprudence: Implications for Informal Livelihoods.
Law and Informality Insights, No.3.

ESPAÑOL: El “derecho a la ciudad” y la jurisprudencia emergente en India: implicancias sobre los medios de subsistencia informales.

Law and Informality Insights, No. 2.

ESPAÑOL: El impacto jurídico de la COVID-19 sobre las personas trabajadoras en empleo informal: Revisión de 51 países.

Turning the Law into a Shield for Street Vendors in African Countries.
WIEGO Legal Brief No. 4.

WIEGO Legal Brief No. 3.

Corrarino, Megan. 2013.
WIEGO Legal Brief No. 2.

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

Informal Workers Gaining Recognition and Rights as Workers: Recent Publications and Resources.
Law and Informality Insights, No. 1.

ESPAÑOL: Publicaciones recientes y recursos centrados en la obtención de reconocimiento y derechos laborales para las trabajadoras y trabajadores en empleo informal.

FRANÇAIS: Publications et ressources récentes consacrées aux travailleuses et travailleurs de l’informel qui gagnent en reconnaissance et en droits.
ORGANIZING BRIEFS contain information on organizing strategies and practices in the informal economy. This series aims to support organizing efforts and disseminate better practices.


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

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


ESPÁÑOL: Organizando recicladores en Tshwane, Sudáfrica: Lecciones de las experiencias de arriba para abajo y de abajo para arriba.

FRANÇAIS: Organiser les récupérateurs à Tshwane, Afrique du Sud: Leçons apprises des approches descendante et ascendante.

PORTUGUÉS: Organizando Os Catadores de Recicláveis Em Tshwane, África do Sul: Lições das Experiências “Top Down e Bottom Up” (De cima para Baixo e da Base para Cima).

HINDI: स्टोम तथ्यों, अभिलेख प्रमाण के काश्मीर में काश्मीरियों। यह सब क्या कहता: हां, हां, हां!
Organizing on the Streets: A Study of Reclaimers in the Streets of Cape Town

By Koni Benson & Nandi Vanqa-Mgijima

International Labour Research & Information Group (ILRIG)

WIEGO Organizing Brief No. 4

Roever, Sally. 2010.
Organizing Street Vendors: “Gente de Confiar” Radio Programme, Lima, Peru.
WIEGO Organizing Brief No. 2.

Roever, Sally and Lissette Linares. 2010.
Street Vendors Organizing: The Case of the Women’s Network (Red de Mujeres), Lima, Peru.
WIEGO Organizing Brief No. 1.

Theron, Jan. 2010.
Options for Organizing Waste Pickers in South Africa.
WIEGO Organizing Brief No.3.

WIEGO Publications Catalogue / 12
The data presented in this brief are from the 2017-18 Periodic Labour Force Survey and the 2011-12 and 2004-2005 Surveys of Employment and Unemployment. All are conducted by the India National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO).

Table 1: Employment in Greater Accra, urban Ghana and Ghana nationally, by sex: Numbers and per cent of total employment (in parentheses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Women</th>
<th>Total Men</th>
<th>Total Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>4,702,739 (53.5)</td>
<td>4,081,655 (46.5)</td>
<td>8,784,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>4,702,739 (53.7)</td>
<td>4,081,655 (46.3)</td>
<td>8,784,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>4,702,739 (53.8)</td>
<td>4,081,655 (46.2)</td>
<td>8,784,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women in Informal Employment:

Informal employment is employment that is not covered, as in formal arrangements through formal arrangements through contract or entitlement to paid sick leave, pensions and medical insurance, or annual leave.

Home-Based Workers in India: A Statistical Profile.


Home-based Workers in the World: A Statistical Profile.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 27.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

José de Jesús Luján Salazar and Joann Vanek. 2020.

Women and Men Operators of Enterprises in India's Informal Sector.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 18.

Informal Workers in Ghana: A Statistical Snapshot.


Informal Workers in Ghana: A Statistical Snapshot.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 21.

Informal Workers in Urban South Africa: A Statistical Snapshot.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 19.

Informal Workers in Urban Thailand: A Statistical Snapshot.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 20.

Informal Workers in India: A Statistical Profile.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 15.

Home-based Workers in Mexico: A Statistical Profile.

Raveendran, Govindan and Joann Vanek. 2020.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 24.

Home-based Workers in Bangladesh: A Statistical Profile.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 25.

Home-based Workers in Pakistan: A Statistical Profile.


Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 17.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 16.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 15.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

Mehran, Farhad. 2015.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 20.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 18.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 18.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 23.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

José de Jesús Luján Salazar and Joann Vanek. 2020.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 22.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

Mehran, Farhad. 2015.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 14.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

Raveendran, Govindan and Joann Vanek. 2020.

WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 24.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 16.

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.


WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 17.
STATISTICAL BRIEFS continued

Mehran, Farhad. 2014. 
*Measurement of Employment-Related Income: Concepts, Data Sources and a Test of Methods.*
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 13.

Mahmud, Simeen. 2014. 
*Home-Based Workers in Bangladesh: Statistics and Trends*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 12.

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

PORTUGUÊS: IJgosse, Jeroen. 2019. *Incineração de resíduos e Catadores: Um guia técnico sobre tecnologias de recuperação energética de resíduos sólidos.*

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

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

Vanek, Joann, Martha A. Chen and Govindran Raveendran. 2012. 
*A Guide to Obtaining Data on Types of Informal Workers in Official Statistics.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 8.

Budlender, Debbie. 2011. 
*Statistics on Informal Employment in Ghana.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 6.

Budlender, Debbie. 2011. 
*Statistics on Informal Employment in Kenya.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 5.

Budlender, Debbie. 2011. 
*Statistics on Informal Employment in Brazil.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 4.  
ESPAÑOL: *Estadísticas sobre el empleo informal en Brasil.*  
PORTUGUÊS: *Estatísticas acerca do Trabalho Informal no Brasil.*

Budlender, Debbie. 2011. 
*Statistics on Informal Employment in South Africa.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 3.

Dias, Sonia. 2011. 
*Statistics on Waste Pickers in Brazil.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 2.

Tokman, Victor. 2010. 
*Statistics on Domestic Workers in Latin America.*  
WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 1.

*Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Brief.*  
WIEGO and ILO.
Technical Briefs

TECHNICAL BRIEFS provide guides for both specialized and non-specialized audiences. These are designed to strengthen understanding and analysis of the situation of those working in the informal economy, and of the policy environment and policy options.

IJgosse, Jeroen. 2019.
WIEGO Technical Brief No. 11

WIEGO Technical Brief No. 10.

Parra, Federico. 2015.
“Reciclaje: ¡Sí, pero con recicladores!” Gestión pública del aprovechamiento con inclusión de recicladores: Un nuevo paradigma en el manejo de los residuos en Bogotá, Colombia.
Nota técnica de WIEGO No. 9.

Nohn, Matthias and Bijal Brahm Bhatt. 2014.
WIEGO Technical Brief No. 8.

Waste Pickers and Carbon Finance: Issues to Consider.
WIEGO Technical Brief (Urban Policies) No. 7.

IJgosse, Jeroen. 2012.
Paying Waste Pickers for Environmental Services: A Critical Examination of Options Proposed in Brazil.
ESPAÑOL: Remuneración a los recicladores por servicios ambientales: un examen crítico, de las opciones propuestas en Brasil.

Robbins, Glen. 2012.
Major International Events and the Working Poor: Selected Lessons for Social Actors Stemming from the 2010 Soccer World Cup in South Africa.
WIEGO Technical Brief (Urban Policies) No. 5.

Chan, Man-Kwun. 2012.
WIEGO Technical Brief (Global Trade) No. 4.

Mixed-Use Zoning and Home-Based Production in India.
WIEGO Technical Brief (Urban Policies) No. 3.

Roever, Sally. 2011.
How to Plan a Street Trader Census.
WIEGO Technical Brief (Urban Policies) No. 2.
ESPAÑOL: Cómo planificar un censo de comerciantes ambulantes.
FRANÇAIS: Comment planifier un recensement des vendeurs de rue.

Budlender, Debbie. 2010.
How to Analyse Government Budgets from an Informal Economy Perspective.
WIEGO Technical Brief No. 1.
Budget Briefs

BUDGET BRIEFS are popular versions of longer informal economy budget analyses (IEBAs). Budget analysis aims to understand how government budgets address the needs and interests of informal workers, and investigates what opportunities exist for informal workers, or their representatives, to participate at different stages of the budget process.

Budlender, Debbie. 2019. Budgeting and the Informal Economy in Lilongwe, Malawi. WIEGO Budget Brief No. 8


Budlender, Debbie. 2015. Budgeting and the Informal Economy in Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Budget Brief No. 6.

Budlender, Debbie. 2015. Budgeting and the Informal Economy in Accra, Ghana. WIEGO Budget Brief No. 5.
Resource Documents

WIEGO RESOURCE DOCUMENTS include literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, and papers reflecting new empirical work. They aim to support advocacy, policy or research on specific issues.


Workers’ Lives

WORKERS’ LIVES uses descriptive profiles of individual workers to explore informal employment. The series illuminates, in different contexts, the living and working environments of informal workers and how they experience first-hand the impact of policies and organizing initiatives.


Dachs Muller, Bronwen. 2021 Hungry: A Migrant Domestic Worker in Cape Town, South Africa. WIEGO Workers’ Lives No. 10.

Heneck, Sarah. 2021 Undeterred in the Face of a Crisis: Profile of a Market Trader in Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Workers’ Lives No. 9.


Carré, Françoise. 2014. Location, Location, Location: The Life of a Refugee Street Barber in Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Workers’ Lives No. 5.


Carré, Françoise. 2014. Location, Location, Location: The Life of a Refugee Street Barber in Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Workers’ Lives No. 5.


Carré, Françoise. 2014. Location, Location, Location: The Life of a Refugee Street Barber in Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Workers’ Lives No. 5.


Carré, Françoise. 2014. Location, Location, Location: The Life of a Refugee Street Barber in Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Workers’ Lives No. 5.


AHMEDABAD, INDIA: Padma, a representative from the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), a trade union for poor, self-employed women in the informal sector, leads a nutrition programme for mothers at the BALSEWA Centre. The Centre holistically addresses issues for women working in the informal sector by providing affordable daycare, health check-ups and educational programmes. The Centre’s daycare allows SEWA members to earn essential income for their families while keeping their children in a safe educational space.

Paula Bronstein/Getty Images Reportage
The prevalence of the informal economy in many parts of the world, and pervasive trends towards higher levels of precarious and informal employment not only affects the current living standards and working conditions of the population but is also a severe constraint that prevents households and economic units trapped in the informal economy from increasing productivity, reducing vulnerabilities and finding a route out of poverty.

This publication, *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture* (Second Edition), provides, for the first time, direct measures of informal employment inside and outside informal enterprises for 47 countries. The publication also presents statistics on the composition and contribution of the informal economy as well as on specific groups of urban informal workers.

Non-technical language and clear, simple statistical tables will make the information easy to understand by a large and varied audience. This publication is intended to respond to the needs of different users, including researchers, statisticians, policymakers, employers' and workers' organizations, including organizations of informal workers.

For more information visit our sites:

www.ilo.org
www.wiego.org

International Labour Office  WIEGO Secretariat
Route des Morillons 4 Harvard University
CH-1211 Geneva 22  79 John F. Kennedy Street
Switzerland  Cambridge, MA 02138
USA

THE STATISTICS PROGRAM collaborates with official statisticians to develop statistics that make visible the size and significance of the informal economy, and the situation of those working in it. WIEGO collaborates closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO), which, under the international statistical system, is responsible for labour force statistics. WIEGO has either co-authored or played an advisory role in developing the ILO’s flagship publications on informal economy statistics.


COVID-19 Emergency Response

Monitoring Impact

As soon as governments implemented measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WIEGO assessed the impact on informal workers’ lives and livelihoods.

Informal Workers in the COVID-19 Crisis

A global picture of sudden impact and long-term risk

Moussié, Rachel, Laura Alfers and Jenna Harvey. 2020.
Informal Workers in the COVID-19 Crisis: A global picture of sudden impact and long-term risk.

ESPANOL: Trabajadoras y trabajadores en empleo informal: durante la crisis de la COVID-19

FRANÇAIS: Les travailleuse·eur·s de l’informel dans la crise de la COVID-19: Un panorama de l’impact brutal et du risque à long terme

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Inclusive Recycling in Brazil.

ESPANOL: Impactos da pandemia de COVID-19 sobre reciclagem inclusiva no Brasil

Overview of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Inclusive Recycling in Brazil.

ESPANOL: Panorama dos impactos da pandemia COVID-19 na reciclagem inclusiva no Brasil
COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE continued

Health guidelines for workers

As the pandemic took hold, it became apparent that few practical health and safety guidelines existed for workers in the informal economy. WIEGO researchers partnered with health professionals and worker organizations to develop materials.

FOR WASTE PICKERS
Coronavirus and Waste Pickers: Decreasing the Risks

FOR INFORMAL TRADERS
Resources: COVID-19 Health Guidelines for Informal Traders

FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS
Resources: Domestic Workers: Fighting COVID-19 Together
Social protection responses

WIEGO produced a series of briefs to analyze the social protection responses to COVID-19. The briefs aimed to support movements in their advocacy efforts to expand social protection to informal workers.

ISSUE #1
Government grants and cash transfers to informal workers
ESPÁÑOL: Subsidios gubernamentales y transferencias de efectivo a los trabajadores del sector informal
FRANÇAIS: Subventions publiques et transferts d’argent aux travailleurs du secteur informel

ISSUE #2
Alternative ways to reach informal workers
ESPÁÑOL: Caminos alternativos para alcanzar a las personas trabajadoras en empleo informal
FRANÇAIS: Moyens alternatifs pour atteindre les travailleuse·eur·s de l’informel

ISSUE #3
Informal workers and dialogue for social protection.
ESPÁÑOL: Las personas trabajadoras en empleo informal y el diálogo para la protección social
FRANÇAIS: Les travailleuse·eur·s de l’informel et le dialogue pour la protection sociale

ISSUE #4
Multi-dimensional approach to protect informal workers.
ESPÁÑOL: Enfoque multidimensional para proteger a las personas trabajadoras del sector informal
FRANÇAIS: Une approche multidimensionnelle pour protéger les travailleuse·eur·s informels

ISSUE #5
The role of digital technology in COVID social protection responses.
ESPÁÑOL: El rol de la tecnología digital en las respuestas de protección social a COVID
FRANÇAIS: Le rôle de la technologie digitale dans les réponses de protection sociale à la COVID

ISSUE #6
Addressing the care burden challenges amid the pandemic.
ESPÁÑOL: Abordar los desafíos del trabajo de cuidados en medio de la pandemia
FRANÇAIS: Relever les défis de la charge des soins dans le contexte de la pandémie

ISSUE #7
Expanding and upgrading social protection measures for informal workers.
ESPÁÑOL: Expandidiendo y mejorando las medidas de protección social para las personas trabajadoras informales
FRANÇAIS: Étendre et améliorer les mesures de protection sociale pour les travailleuse·eur·s informels

ISSUE #8
Measures to tackle gender-based violence amid the global pandemic.
ESPÁÑOL: Medidas para hacer frente a la violencia de género en medio de la pandemia mundial
FRANÇAIS: Mesures visant à lutter contre la violence basée sur le genre dans le contexte de la pandémie mondiale
A key focus of WIEGO’s Social Protection programme is research and advocacy on CHILD CARE for those working informally. These publications examine the importance of child care for informal workers and form the foundation for WIEGO’s global child care campaign. The campaign provides informal workers, especially women, with advocacy tools and training to help them improve access to quality child care.

Moussié, Rachel. 2020. Quality Childcare Services for Workers in the Informal Economy Policy Brief No. 1. International Labour Organization (ILO) and WIEGO.


WIEGO Publications Catalogue / 24
WORKERS’ HEALTH is another pillar of the Social Protection Program’s work. While poorer informal workers face the same problems in accessing health services as all poor citizens, they also face specific exclusions and barriers – and health is vital to their ability to work and earn income. This set of publications reflects research and advocacy materials on this issue.

Health Access for Informal Workers in Durban, South Africa: Xolisile’s Story. 2014.

Health Access for Informal Workers in Bangkok, Thailand: Koon’s Story. 2014.

Health Access for Informal Workers in Bangkok, Thailand: Kanchana’s Story. 2014.

Health Access for Informal Workers in Ahmedabad, India: Subhadraben’s Story. 2014.


ESPAÑOL: Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional y Trabajo del Hogar.
FRANÇAIS: Santé et sécurité au travail et travail ménager.
PORTUGUÊS: Saúde e Segurança Ocupacionais e Trabalho Doméstico.
SWAHILI: Afya na Usalama Katika Maeneo ya Kazi na Kazi za Nyumbani.


ESPAÑOL: Salud y seguridad ocupacional para proveedores de servicios de catering indígena en Accra, Ghana.
FRANÇAIS: Santé et sécurité au travail pour les traiteurs indigènes d’Accra (Ghana).
PORTUGUÊS: Saúde & Segurança Ocupacional para os Fornecedores Nativos em Accra, Gana.


ESPAÑOL: Salud y seguridad ocupacional para comerciantes feriantes y ambulantes en Accra y Takoradi, Ghana.
FRANÇAIS: Santé et sécurité au travail pour les commerçants et les vendeurs de rue d’Accra et de Takoradi (Ghana).
PORTUGUÊS: Saúde & Segurança Ocupacional para Comerciantes e Vendedores Ambulantes em Acra e Takoradi, Gana.
Access to PUBLIC SPACE is critical to the livelihoods of many informal workers, especially street vendors. In 2018, WIEGO consolidated and extended work on this issue through a project supported by the Cities Alliance. The project examined how public space can be more inclusive of informal workers, and developed tools for local authorities and street vendors.

In several cities across the Global South, WIEGO team members work alongside membership-based organizations (MBOs) building capacity and engaging in local policy and advocacy. Knowledge produced from this work feature in a range of WIEGO publications. The advocacy documents listed below were produced for ongoing advocacy in Delhi, Bangkok and Mexico City.

**Public Space**

2018. By Martha Chen, with Jenna Harvey, Caroline Wanjiku Kihato and Caroline Skinner.

Supporting Informal Livelihoods in Public Space: A Toolkit for Local Authorities.
2018. By Caroline Skinner, Sarah Orleans Reed and Jenna Harvey.

2018. By María Benítez, Jenny Grice and Jenna Harvey.
ESPAÑOL: Trabajar en el espacio público: Un manual para vendedoras y vendedores ambulantes.
FRANÇAIS: Trabajar en el espacio público: Un manual para vendedoras y vendedores ambulantes.

**Focal Cities**

2018. By Gautam Bhan, Tripta Chandola, Kinjal Sampat and Nidhi Sohane.

Trabajadores invisibles dentro del servicio de limpieza de la Ciudad de México.
2018. Por Tania Espinosa, Dean Saffron y Olga Abizaid, con la colaboración de Lucía Fernández.

Propuestas y demandas de las trabajadoras y los trabajadores en empleo informal para el nuevo gobierno de la Ciudad de México.
2018. WIEGO con organizaciones de trabajadores en empleo informal.

Informal Workers in Bangkok, Thailand: Scan of Four Occupational Sectors.

INFORMAL WORKERS IN BANGKOK: CONSIDERATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS.
THAI: แรงงานข้างถนนในกรุงเทพมหานคร: ข้อคิดพิจารณาสำหรับผู้บริหารนโยบาย
WIEGO has long been involved in women’s economic empowerment projects and policy processes, most notably through two projects funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the United Nations’ Women’s High-Level Panel (UN HLP). The UN HLP was a consultative process that culminated with the creation of an agenda for advancing women’s economic empowerment globally. WIEGO and SEWA worked to raise the visibility of women informal workers in this process, including through the production of multiple resources on women’s economic empowerment from the perspective of women in the informal economy.

**Enhancing the Productivity of Own Account Enterprises from the Perspective of Women in the Informal Economy.**
2016. By Martha Chen and Sally Roever.

**MORE WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PUBLICATIONS:**

**Empowering Home-based Workers in India: Strategies and Solutions.**
2016. WIEGO, HomeNet South Asia and Harvard University South Asia Institute.

**Building Capacity for Change: Developing Women’s Leadership and Business Skills.**
2016. By Elaine Jones, Carol Willis and Leslie Vryenhoek.

**Economic and Employment Rights: Advancing Domestic Workers’ Leadership.**

**Strengthening the Movement of Home-Based Workers.**
2016. By Kendra Hughes.

**Trading Our Way Up: Women Organizing for Fair Trade.**
2011. By Elaine Jones, Sally Smith and Carol Wills.

**ESPAÑOL: Progresando por el comercio: Mujeres organizándose en el comercio justo.**
Cooperation Among Workers

In 2016, WIEGO and the International Labour Organization embarked on an action research project to deepen understanding on the nature and role of cooperatives in formalizing the informal economy. This included a global mapping and survey conducted with members of existing cooperatives, complemented with a literature review of existing studies.

Technology at the Base of the Pyramid: Insights from Ahmedabad (India), Durban (South Africa) and Lima (Peru). 2016. By Laura Alfers, Namrata Bali, Mike Bird, Themis Castellanos, Marty Chen, Richard Dobson, Kendra Hughes, Sally Roever and Mike Rogan.

Summary of Key Findings from Cooperation Among Workers in the Informal Economy: A Focus on Home-Based Workers and Waste Pickers.

2017. ILO and WIEGO.

ESPAÑOL: Resumen de los principales hallazgos – Cooperación entre trabajadores en la economía informal: Los trabajadores a domicilio y los recicladres.

FRANÇAIS: Résumé des conclusions principaux – La coopération entre les travailleurs de l’économie informelle: Travailleurs à domicile et récupérateurs de matériaux.

PORTUGUÊS: Cooperação entre Trabalhadores na Economia Informal. Um foco nos trabalhadores e trabalhadoras domiciliares e catadores e catadoras de material reciclável.

Technology & Informal Work

In 2015, WIEGO and Practical Action undertook a collaborative project to investigate which technologies impact the livelihoods of the working poor; how they are responding to these impacts; and what technologies they need to enable their work. This was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Technology at the Base of the Pyramid: Insights from Ahmedabad (India), Durban (South Africa) and Lima (Peru). 2016. By Laura Alfers, Namrata Bali, Mike Bird, Themis Castellanos, Marty Chen, Richard Dobson, Kendra Hughes, Sally Roever and Mike Rogan.


2016. By Jonathan Casey and Jenna Harvey.


Inclusive Cities

THE INCLUSIVE CITIES PROJECT, supported by the Gates Foundation, was a major multi-year WIEGO project that brought together membership-based organizations (MBOs) of the working poor, regional/global alliances of MBOs, and research and technical support organizations. The project strengthened MBOs in organizing, policy analysis and advocacy, and upscaled WIEGO’s urban action research. Work completed within the Inclusive Cities Project informed much of WIEGO’s publishing on urban issues over the 2008-2015 period. A few highlights of project-related outputs are listed here.

Building Inclusive Cities: Highlights from the Inclusive Cities Project


ESPAÑOL: Construyendo Ciudades Inclusivas: Aspectos destacados del proyecto Ciudades Inclusivas.

Home-Based Workers Create City Dialogue in Bangkok.


Case Summary: Dialogue in Bangkok. 2015.


Case Summary: Better OHS for Market Traders and Street Vendors in Accra, Ghana. 2015.

ARB: Fighting for an Inclusive Model for Recycling in Bogotá.


Case Summary: ARB: Fighting for an Inclusive Model for Recycling in Bogotá. 2015.

Vending in Public Spaces and the Law: A Case Study.


Case Summary: Vending in Public Spaces and the Law: Summary. 2015.

Empowering Market Traders in Warwick Junction, Durban, South Africa.


Case Summary: Empowering Market Traders in Warwick Junction, Durban, South Africa. 2015.

Increasing Livelihoods for Home-Based Embroidery Workers in Delhi, India.


Case Summary: Embroidery Workers in Delhi, India. 2015.

SEWA Bharat and Street Vendors in Delhi.


Case Summary: SEWA Bharat and Street Vendors in Delhi. 2015.

Interventions by the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad, India.


Case Summary: Interventions by the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad, India. 2015.
In response to the 2008 Global Economic Crisis, WIEGO, working alongside Inclusive Cities partners, conducted a rapid assessment on the impact of the crisis on three categories of workers – home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers – in 10 cities. Research was conducted in early 2008/9 and again in 2010 to assess the lag effect. At the time, there was a widespread claim that the informal economy acts as a “cushion” in times of economic crisis. Through these reports, WIEGO was able to provide credible evidence to counter this claim.

The Global Economic Crisis Study was a precursor to the Informal Economy Monitoring Study.


ESPAÑOL: Afrontando la crisis: Recesión persistente, inflación creciente y la fuerza laboral de la economía informal.
PORTUGUÊS: Enfrentando a Crise: Recessão Persistente, Inflação Crescente e a Força de Trabalho Informal.

Fact Sheet: Global Economic Crisis and Informal Workers: The Impact of Immediate and Longer Term Economic Trends, Mid-2009 to Early 2010.

ESPAÑOL: Ficha técnica: La crisis económica global y los trabajadores de la economía informal: El impacto inmediato y a largo plazo de las tendencias económicas, mediados de 2009 a principios de 2010.


ESPAÑOL: Sin colchón que amortigüe la caída: La crisis económica global y los trabajadores de la economía informal.

Fact Sheet: No Cushion to Fall Back On: The Global Economic Crisis and Informal Workers.

ESPAÑOL: Ficha técnica: Sin colchón que amortigüe la caída: La crisis económica global y los trabajadores de la economía informal.
Informal Economy Monitoring Study

The INFORMAL ECONOMY MONITORING STUDY (IEMS) produced grounded evidence of a range of driving forces, positive and negative, that affect conditions of work in the informal economy. Fieldwork was conducted in 10 cities: Accra, Ghana; Ahmedabad, India; Bangkok, Thailand; Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Bogotá, Colombia; Durban, South Africa; Lahore, Pakistan; Lima, Peru; Nakuru, Kenya; and Pune, India. The study combined qualitative and quantitative research methods to provide an in-depth understanding of how three groups of urban informal workers – home-based workers, street vendors, and waste pickers – were affected by, and respond to, economic trends, urban policies and practices, value chain dynamics, and other economic and social forces.

HOME-BASED WORKERS

Informal Economy Monitoring Study Sector Report: Home-Based Workers.
Executive Summary: Informal Economy Monitoring Study. Sector Report: Home-Based Workers.
ESPAÑOL: La fuerza laboral informal urbana: trabajadoras y trabajadores a domicilio.
Policy Recommendations: The Urban Informal Workforce: Home-Based Workers.
INFORMAL ECONOMY MONITORING STUDY continued

STREET VENDORS

Executive Summary: Informal Economy Monitoring Study Sector Report: Street Vendors.
ESPAÑOL: Estudio de Monitoreo de la Economía Informal Informe sectorial: Vendedores y vendedoras ambulantes.
Policy Recommendations: The Urban Informal Workforce: Street Vendors.
ESPAÑOL: La fuerza laboral informal urbana: vendedores y vendedoras ambulantes.

Executive Summary: Street Vendors in Ahmedabad, India.
ESPAÑOL: Vendedoras ambulantes en Ahmedabad, India.
PORTUGUÊS: Trabalhadoras Domiciliares em Ahmedabad, na Índia.

Informal Economy Monitoring Study: Street Vendors in Metropolitan Lima. 2014. Por Themis Castellanos.
Executive Summary: Street Vendors in Metropolitan Lima
ESPAÑOL: Vendedoras y vendedoras ambulantes en Lima Metropolitana
PORTUGUÊS: Vendedoras e Vendedores de Rua da Região Metropolitana de Lima

Executive Summary: Street Vendors in Accra, Ghana
ESPAÑOL: Vendedoras y vendedoras ambulantes en Accra, Ghana.

Executive Summary: Street Vendors in Nakuru, Kenya
ESPAÑOL: Vendedoras y vendedoras ambulantes en Nakuru, Kenia.
PORTUGUÊS: Vendedoras e vendedoras ambulantes em Nakuru, Quênia.
Policy Recommendations: Nakuru’s Street Vendors: Realities & Recommendations

Executive Summary: Street Vendors in Durban, South Africa
ESPAÑOL: Vendedoras y vendedoras ambulantes en Durban, Sudáfrica.
PORTUGUÊS: Vendedoras e vendedoras ambulantes em Durban, na África do Sul.
INFORMAL ECONOMY MONITORING STUDY continued

WASTE PICKERS


Estudio de Monitoreo de la Economía Informal: Recicladoras y recicladores de Bogotá, Colombia. 2013. por Angélica Acosta Tauti a y Rovitzon Ortiz laya.
Executive Summary: Waste Pickers in Bogotá, Colombia ESPAÑOL: Recicladoras y recicladores de Bogotá, Colombia. PORTUGUÊS: Catadoras e Catadores de Materiais Recicláveis de Bogotá, Colômbia.
Policy Recommendations: Las recicladoras y los recicladores de Bogotá: Luchas y soluciones.

INFORMAL ECONOMY MONITORING STUDY

Executive Summary: Waste Pickers in Pune, India. ESPAÑOL: Recicladores en Pune, India. PORTUGUÊS: Catadoras e Catadores em Pune, na Índia.


Executive Summary: Waste Pickers in Durban, South Africa.
COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy 12-City Study

THE WIEGO-LED 12-CITY LONGITUDINAL STUDY assesses the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on specific groups of informal workers and their households. Round 1 assessed the impact of the crisis in April 2020 (the period of peak restrictions in most cities) and in June/July 2020 (when restrictions had been eased in most cities) in comparison to February 2020 (pre-COVID-19). The study results are distilled into city fact sheets and policy insights.

CITY FACT SHEETS

**Accra (Ghana).**

**Ahmedabad (India).**

**Bangkok (Thailand).**

**Dakar (Senegal).**

**Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).**

**Delhi (India).**

**Durban (South Africa).**

**Lima (Peru).**

**Mexico City (Mexico).**

**Pleven (Bulgaria).**

**New York City (USA).**

**Tiruppur (India).**

**Policy Insights**


Español: Trabajadoras y trabajadores en empleo informal ven un largo camino hacia la recuperación, a menos que los gobiernos actúen

Français: Les travailleuse·eur·s de l’informel prévoient un long chemin vers la reprise – à moins que les gouvernements passent à l’action –


Español: Las personas trabajadoras en empleo informal y la respuesta de protección social a la COVID-19: ¿Quién recibió medidas de alivio? ¿Cómo? ¿Marcaron la diferencia?

Français: Les travailleuse·eur·s de l’informel et la réponse de la protection sociale à la COVID-19 : Qui a reçu l’aide ? Comment ? Et cela a fait la différence ?

Other Joint Publications


Six of the 11 case studies in this Global Deal thematic brief are based on research commissioned from WIEGO.
Market porters sort corn according to quality and size at the Wholesale Market of Santa Anita in Lima. The workers wearing blue T-shirts are members of the union of market porters specializing in corn, SEGCHGMML (Sindicato de Estibadores Giro de Choclo-GMML), which forms part of the Federation of Market Porters and Manual Carriers, FETTRAMAP (Federación Nacional de Estibadores Terrestres y Transportistas Manuales).

Photo by Juan Arredondo/Reportage by Getty Images
Strengthening Organizations

These resources offer workers and their organizations information on organizing, workers’ rights, successful strategies and practical ideas.

The Only School We Have: Learning from Organizing Experiences Across the Informal Economy.
2012. By Christine Bonner and Dave Spooner.
ESPAÑOL: La única escuela que conocemos: Aprendiendo de las experiencias organizativas en la economía informal.

Organising in the Informal Economy: Resource Books for Organisers.
1. Recruiting Informal Workers into Democratic Workers’ Organisations.
2. Building and Maintaining a Democratic Organization in Informal Workers.
3. Handling the Day-to-Day Problems of Informal Workers.
5. Handling Disputes between Informal Workers and Those in Power.
6. Collective Action or Informal Workers.

Organizando en la Economía Informal: Libros de Referencia para Articuladores.
2009. Christine Bonner
1. Afiliando Trabajadores de la Economía Informal a Organizaciones Democráticas de Trabajadores.
2. Construyendo y Manteniendo una Organización Democrática de Trabajadores de la Economía Informal.
3. Manejo de los Problemas Cotidianos de los Trabajadores de la Economía Informal.

Le regroupement dans l'économie informelle: Livres de référence pour les organisateurs.
1. Recrutement des travailleurs de l'économie informelle dans des regroupements démocratiques.
2. Elaboration et maintien d'un regroupement démocratique pour les travailleurs de l'économie informelle.
4. Négociations collectives pour les travailleurs de l'économie informelle.
5. Gestion des conflits entre les travailleurs de l'économie informelle et les autorités.
6. Mouvement collectif pour les travailleurs de l'économie informelle.

Organização na Economia Informal: Subsídios Bibliográficos para Articuladores.
2009. Christine Bonner
1. Recrutando Trabalhadores Informais para Organizações Democráticas de Trabalhadores.
2. Criação e Manutenção de Uma Organização Democrática de Trabalhadores Informais.
5. Resolução das Disputas entre os Trabalhadores Informais e os Detentores do Poder.
6. Ação Coletiva para os Trabalhadores Informais.
Enhancing Sustainability

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS continued

Creating unions in the informal sector: Guidance for organizers.
1. Recruitment of informal workers in democratic organizations of workers.
2. Creating and ensuring the work of a democratic organization of workers in the informal sector.
5. Resolving conflicts between informal workers and management.

We Are Workers Too! Organizing Home-Based Workers in the Global Economy.
2010. By Celia Mather.

Sustainability for MBOs: Resource Books for Organizations.
BOOKLET 1: Writing a Project Plan Part ONE: Developing Outcomes and Objectives.
BOOKLET 2: Writing a Project Plan Part TWO: Measuring and Sharing the Impact of Your Project Results.
BOOKLET 3: Writing a Project Plan Part THREE: Operational Planning and Activity-based Budgets.
BOOKLET 4: Introduction to Proposal Writing.
BOOKLET 5: Transparent Financial Management for MBOs.

Sostenibilidad para OBM: Cuadernos de consulta para organizaciones.
Pauline Conley.
CUADERNO 1: Redacción de un plan de proyecto, primera parte: Desarrollo de resultados y objetivos.
CUADERNO 2: Redacción de un plan de proyecto, segunda parte: Medir y compartir el impacto de los resultados de su proyecto.
CUADERNO 3: Redacción de un plan de proyecto, tercera parte: Planificación operativa y presupuestos basados en actividades.
CUADERNO 4: Introducción a la redacción de propuestas.
CUADERNO 5: Gestión de finanzas transparentes para OBM.

Durabilité pour les OBM: des livres de référence pour les organisation.
Pamie Conley.
LIVRET 1: Rédiger un Plan de projet, partie UN: Développer des Objectifs et des Résultats.
LIVRET 2: Rédiger un Plan de projet, partie DEUX: Mesurer et partager l’impact de vos effets de projets.
LIVRET 3: Rédiger un Plan de projet, partie TROIS: La Planification opérationnelle et les budgets établis par activités.
LIVRET 4: Introduction à la rédaction de propositions pour des projets.
LIVRET 5: Gestion financière transparente pour les OB.
Conducting Policy Dialogues

Introduction to Policy Dialogues

What Is a Policy Dialogue?

A policy dialogue involves people from different interest groups coming together to focus on an issue in which they have a mutual, but not necessarily common, interest. It assumes that people in different positions and circumstances will have different perspectives on the same problem and that they may have access to different information and ideas about the issues. For example:

- A person providing a service may have more information about the services that are delivered than an informal worker seeking the service.
- A woman worker with children may have different health needs, and more difficulty accessing health services, than an administrator realizes.
- A street vendor and a city official may not agree on how public space should be used.
- A home-based worker may have different ideas about improving municipal services than those designing the services.
- A farmer may have more objections to a new public policy than an official that is proposing the policy.

A policy dialogue helps people to see problems from each other’s perspectives. This can lead to a better understanding and bring about meaningful improvements to policies or programmes.

When done well, policy dialogues can be powerful advocacy platforms for informal workers—and valuable sources of information and solutions for officials, too.

Power Differences

Within groups and between groups, there are always power differences. City officials, for example, are generally seen to have more power than informal workers. Policy dialogues help to acknowledge these differences, but seek to identify areas where it is in the best interest of all to make improvements and reforms.

Informal workers bring a valuable resource to the policy table: the insight into their work, their lives, and the realities of the city that they experience.

1 This material is adapted from a presentation given by Francie Lund, Director of WIEGO’s Social Protection Programme, at an Inclusive Cities Annual Learning Meeting in Chiang Rai, Thailand, held from 7-12 February 2013.

Securing Social Protection


Tools for advocacy: Social protection for informal workers

Francie Lund and Jillian Nicholson

WIEGO Publications Catalogue / 39
Navigating Fair Trade

Training Manuals: Developing Leadership and Business Skills for Informal Women Workers in Fair Trade.
2016. By Carol Wills and Elaine Jones.
INTRODUCTION & TRAINING MODULE 1: Understanding Gender and Employment Relations.
TRAINING MODULE 2: Understanding Women’s Economic and Social Contribution to Effective Poverty Reduction.
TRAINING MODULE 3: Promoting Democratic Participation and Accountability.
TRAINING MODULE 4: Enhancing Financial and Business Management Skills.
TRAINING MODULE 5: Understanding the Market.
TRAINING MODULE 7: Improving Innovation and Production Techniques.

Bargaining Collectively

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

Collective Bargaining and Domestic Workers in Uruguay.
Case Study. 2013. By Mary Goldsmith.
ESPAÑOL: Negociación colectiva y las trabajadoras domésticas en Uruguay.

Collective Bargaining among Transport Workers in Georgia.

Collective Bargaining Negotiations Between Street Vendors and City Government in Monrovia, Liberia.
BANGKOK, THAILAND: Dignity Returns is a unique workers’-owned garment factory on the outskirts of Bangkok. The 15 members form the Solidarity Group, a collective of former factory garment workers who decided to found a workplace based on fair wages and working hours. Their main income comes from sub-contracted work for a Thai polo-shirt company whose owner is willing to pay their higher rates. Through HomeNet Thailand, they have joined other home-based garment workers across the country to establish a garment cooperative.

Photo Credit: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images Reportage
HOME-BASED WORKERS

Myths & Facts About Home-Based Workers.  

Home-Based Workers in Latin America: A Summary.  
2013. By Laura Morillo Santa Cruz.  
ESPAÑOL: Trabajadores a Domicilio en América Latina  
PORTUGUÊS: Trabalhadores Domiciliares na América Latina

Promoting the ILO Home Work Convention (C177) and the  
Rights of Homeworkers: A Manual for Workers’ Educators and  
Facilitators.  
2012. By Dave Spooner and Celia Mather (Global Labour  
Institut ) for HomeNet South Asia.  
ESPAÑOL: Promoviendo el Convenio sobre el trabajo a  
domicilio (C177) de la OIT y los derechos de los trabajadores  
tercerizados.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Toolkit on ILO Convention 189 – The Domestic Workers’  
By Pamhidzai Bamu  
FRANÇAIS: Votre trousse d’outils su la C189 de l’OIT – la  
Convention sur les travailleuses et travailleurs domestiques  
PORTUGUÊS: Seu kit de ferramentas para a C189 da  
OIT a Convenção das trabalhadoras e dos trabalhadores  
domésticos.  
SWAHILI: Mwongozo wako wa Mkataba Namba 189 wa  
Wafanyakazi wa Majumbani.

“Yes, We Did It!” How the World’s Domestic Workers Won Their  
International rights and Recognition.  
2013. By Celia Mather.  
ESPAÑOL: “Sí, lo hicimos!” Cómo las trabajadoras del hogar  
obtuvieron derechos y reconocimiento a nivel internacional.  
FRANÇAIS: «Ensemble, nous avons réussi!» Comment les  
travailleuses domestiques dans le monde, ont acquis leur  
statut et leurs droits internationaux .

STREET VENDORS²

Street Vendors and Public Space: Essential insights on key trends  
and solutions.  
2020. By WIEGO.

Using South Africa’s Administratie Law to Protect the Rights of  
Informal Workers.  

2009. By Richard Dobson and Caroline Skinner with Jillian  
Nicholson.

Street Trading.  

WASTE PICKERS

WIEGO’s Reducing Waste in Coastal Cities Project. How Waste  
Pickers Prevent Marine Waste Pollution.  
2020. By WIEGO.

WIEGO’s Position on Dump Closures.  
2018. By Sonia Dias.  
ESPAÑOL: Postura de WIEGO sobre el Cierre de Vertederos.  
FRANÇAIS: Position de WIEGO sur la fermeture des  
décharges.  
PORTUGUÊS: Posicionamento da WIEGO sobre fechamento  
de lixões

Women Waste Pickers Toolkit.  
2015. By Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and  
Organizing (WIEGO), National Movement of Waste  
Pickers in Brazil (MNCR), Center for Study and Research  
On Women (NEPEM) of the Federal University of Minas  
Gerais and Instituto Nenuca De Desenvolvimento  
Sustentável.  
ESPAÑOL: Mujeres Recicladoras.  
PORTUGUÊS: Mulheres Catadoras.

ESPAÑOL: Financiamiento del carbono para organizaciones de  
recicladores: viabilidad y cuestiones a considerar.  
PORTUGUÊS: Financiamento de Carbono para Organizações  
de Catadores: Viabilidade e Outras Questões.

Waste Pickers: The Right to Be Recognized as Workers.  
2013. By WIEGO.  
ESPAÑOL: Recicladores: El derecho a ser reconocidos como  
trabajadores.  
FRANÇAIS: Les récupérateurs: le droit d’être reconnus comme  
travailleurs.

Refusing to be Cast Aside: Waste Pickers Organising Around the  
World.  
ESPAÑOL: Rechazando a Ser Excluidos: La Organización de los  
Recicladores en el Mundo.  
PORTUGUÊS: Excerto Recusando-se a Serem Deixados de  
Lado: Catadores se Organizando em Todo o Mundo.

²See, in addition, content on public space on page 23.
These publications were prepared for, or in advance of, the International Labour Organization's annual International Labour Conference.

**VIOLENCE AND INFORMAL WORK**

ESPAÑOL: Violencia y empleo informal Nota informativa.
FRANÇAIS: Violence et travail informel Note d’information.
RUSSIAN: Насилие и неформальный труд.*

**DECENT WORK FOR HOMEWORKERS IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS**

*Decent Work for Homeworkers in Global Supply Chains Platform of Demands. 2015.
ESPAÑOL: Trabajo decente para las trabajadoras y trabajadores a domicilio subcontratados en las cadenas mundiales de suministro. Plataforma de demandas.
FRANÇAIS: Travail décent pour les travailleuses et travailleurs à domicile sous-traités dans les chaînes d’approvisionnement mondiales Plate-forme de revendications.*

**FORMALIZING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY**

*Myths & Facts about the Informal Economy and Workers in the Informal Economy. 2015.
ESPAÑOL: Mitos y realidades sobre la economía informal y las trabajadoras y los trabajadores que laboran en ella.
FRANÇAIS: Mythes et réalités sur l’économie informelle et ses travailleurs.*

*WIEGO Network Platform: Transitioning from the informal to the formal economy in the interests of the workers in the informal economy.
ESPAÑOL: La plataforma de la red WIEGO: Haciendo la transición de la economía informal a la formal en beneficio de las trabajadoras y los trabajadores de la economía informal.
RUSSIAN: Платформа сети WIEGO: переход от неформальной к формальной экономике в интересах работников неформальной экономики.*
TEACHING RESOURCES

GENDER AND WASTE RECYCLING
From Theory to Action: Gender and Waste Recycling: A Toolkit for Teachers, Researchers and Practitioners.
2015. By Sonia Dias and Ana Carolina Ogando.
BOOK 1: Theoretical Considerations on Gender, Empowerment and Waste.
BOOK 3: Resources.

Género y reciclaje: De la teoría a la acción
Un manual para profesores, investigadores y profesionales.
Sonia Dias and Ana Carolina Ogando.
CUADERNO 1: Consideraciones teóricas sobre género, empoderamiento y reciclaje.
CUADERNO 2: Diseño, herramientas y recomendaciones del proyecto.
CUADERNO 3: Bibliografía.

Da Teoria à Ação: Gênero e Reciclagem de Resíduos Um Kit de Ferramentas para Professores, Pesquisadores e Profissionais.
Sonia Dias and Ana Carolina Ogando.
LIVRO 1: Considerações Teóricas sobre Gênero, Empoderamento e Resíduos.
LIVRO 2: Desenho do Projeto, Ferramentas e Recomendações.
LIVRO 3: Recursos.

PLANNING AND INFORMALITY
The Informal Economy: African Association of Planning Schools Curriculum Development Toolkits.
Multimedia resources

PODCASTS
WIEGO’s podcast series explores some of the most pressing issues faced by the world’s informal workers. It features experts from around the globe.

WIEGO’S YOUTUBE CHANNEL
WIEGO’s YouTube channel features video content that highlights informal worker issues, worker-led solutions, and backgrounder on the informal economy.

BLOGS
WIEGO has a comprehensive blog series covering issues faced by domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers, and on a range of topics including inclusive cities, organizing, social protection and global advocacy.

Reports and Newsletters

WIEGO ANNUAL REPORTS

WIEGO IN THE WORLD NEWSLETTERS

LAW & THE INFORMAL ECONOMY NEWSLETTERS

MEMBERSHIP-BASED ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTERS
These feature stories, resources, and other content for and about WIEGO’s member organizations.
About WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing is a global network focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. We believe all workers should have equal economic opportunities and rights. WIEGO creates change by building capacity among informal worker organizations, expanding the knowledge base about the informal economy and influencing local, national and international policies. Visit www.wiego.org.