

## Terms of Reference Research on Craft Supply Chains in Africa

November 2021

WIEGO's Organization and Representation and Law Programmes, in collaboration with the Africa Regional Platform of Home-Based Workers (ARP), are commissioning research on domestic and global supply chains in the craft sector in Africa.

### 1. Background to the Project

The HBW Africa Regional Platform (ARP) member organizations are engaged in the production of a variety of crafts for domestic and/or international markets (or were so before the pandemic). The ARP is made up of HBW representatives from five countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Some of the producer groups (CBOs, coops, SHG etc) are linked into fair trade supply chains and networks, marketing their products through fair trade intermediary organizations such as those affiliated to the Kenya Federation for Alternative Trade (KEFAT). Others are linked to a variety of different intermediaries.

Whilst there is a wide focus on, and advocacy for, decent work in global garment supply chains amongst NGOs, researchers, and within the WIEGO and linked HBW Asia networks, there has been less attention paid to craft supply chains and especially the situation of African Home-Based Workers (HBWs) in the chains. HBWs in the ARP countries- a large majority being women- are at the early stages of organizing as HBWs. How to "market" their products- whether through direct local selling or via intermediaries linked to national and international chains- is fundamental to their economic viability and security.

In July 2021 WIEGO and KEFAT organized a workshop exploring the issue of supply chains in the craft sector. Participants were members of the recently formed HomeNet Kenya- a network composed of producer groups from rural and urban areas in Kenya, most of which are women. The workshop highlighted the importance of, and dependence on, supply chains for the women's livelihoods; the very limited knowledge of where their products went after the immediate buyer; the disruption and hardship caused by the pandemic; and the need for more information in order to rebuild or identify alternatives. This has provided a starting point for further exploration of craft supply chains in selected African countries.

WIEGO and the HBW Africa Regional Platform (ARP) are planning a research project with the following objectives:

- To deepen the knowledge of HBWs and their support organizations around craft supply chains involving HBWs in selected African countries
- To help HBWs use the knowledge, experience and capacity built during their participation in the "project" to strengthen their organizations
- To build the capacity of HBWs and their organizations to engage with actors in the supply chains in order to improve their economic situation during and after the pandemic

This TOR is commissioning work for stage 1 of the project.

### 3. Description of Research

The research will have three components:

- 3.1. A literature review of the craft sector in Africa.
- 3.2. A mapping of different organisations in the craft sector in Africa
- 3.3. Ten Key informant interviews (to be identified in consultation with WIEGO)

#### 3.1. Literature Review:

The review of the literature on the craft sector in Africa should include global value chain literature (see especially “capturing the gains” project); development literature; and business studies and sociology/anthropology. The literature review should include peer-reviewed articles, books as well as reports by local and global development organisations, NGOs and government or quasi-government agencies. The review should cover the whole continent.

#### 3.2. Mapping of organisations in the craft sector in Africa

Through the literature review and through google searches, the consultant will identify craft organisations in Africa. The consultant will capture information in an excel sheet as part of WIEGO and ARP mapping craft organisations in Africa. These organisations will include both organisations of crafters, NGOs and government agencies that are training crafters and/or who are intermediaries in the chain. The variables to be collected will be agreed with WIEGO.

#### 3.3. Key Informant Interviews

Key informants will be identified through the literature review, the mapping exercise, and by snowballing (one key informant passing on information about another). Once the consultant has submitted the draft literature review and the excel spreadsheet that maps organisations in the craft sector, WIEGO, ARP and the consultant will together decide on which Key Informants should be interviewed.

The consultant will contact key-informants to request an interview, set up the interviews, and interview the key informants. The interviews should be administered by means of a semi-structured questionnaire that will be drafted by the consultant, with WIEGO and ARP’s input. All interviews will be recorded with the permission of the interviewee, transcribed and analysed for the final report.

### 4. Outputs

There will be three outputs:

- 4.1. A literature review
- 4.2. An excel spreadsheet that identifies craft organisations in Africa
- 4.3. A final report (that includes the literature review as well as an analysis of the Key Informant Interviews)

WIEGO and the consultant will agree on the overall structure of the final report . The report should include a full bibliography and a methods section. It is envisaged that the report might be

published as a WIEGO Resource document, and it should therefore conform to WIEGO's publication guidelines.



## 5. Timeline

Task/Output	Date of Completion
Literature Review + Mapping	28 January 2022
Agreement on Key Informants + setting up interviews	First week of February
WIEGO feedback on literature review	7 February
Revised literature review	14 February
Revised literature review	14 February
Final Report (including literature review and analysis of key informant interviews)	Monday 7 March
Feedback from WIEGO on report	Monday 21 March
Final Submission of report	Monday 4 April

**6. Application Instructions:** To apply for this consultancy please submit a resume, two writing samples, and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the position to [recruit@wiego.org](mailto:recruit@wiego.org) by the closing date of 26 November 2021