



# HOME-BASED WORKERS IN LATIN AMERICA

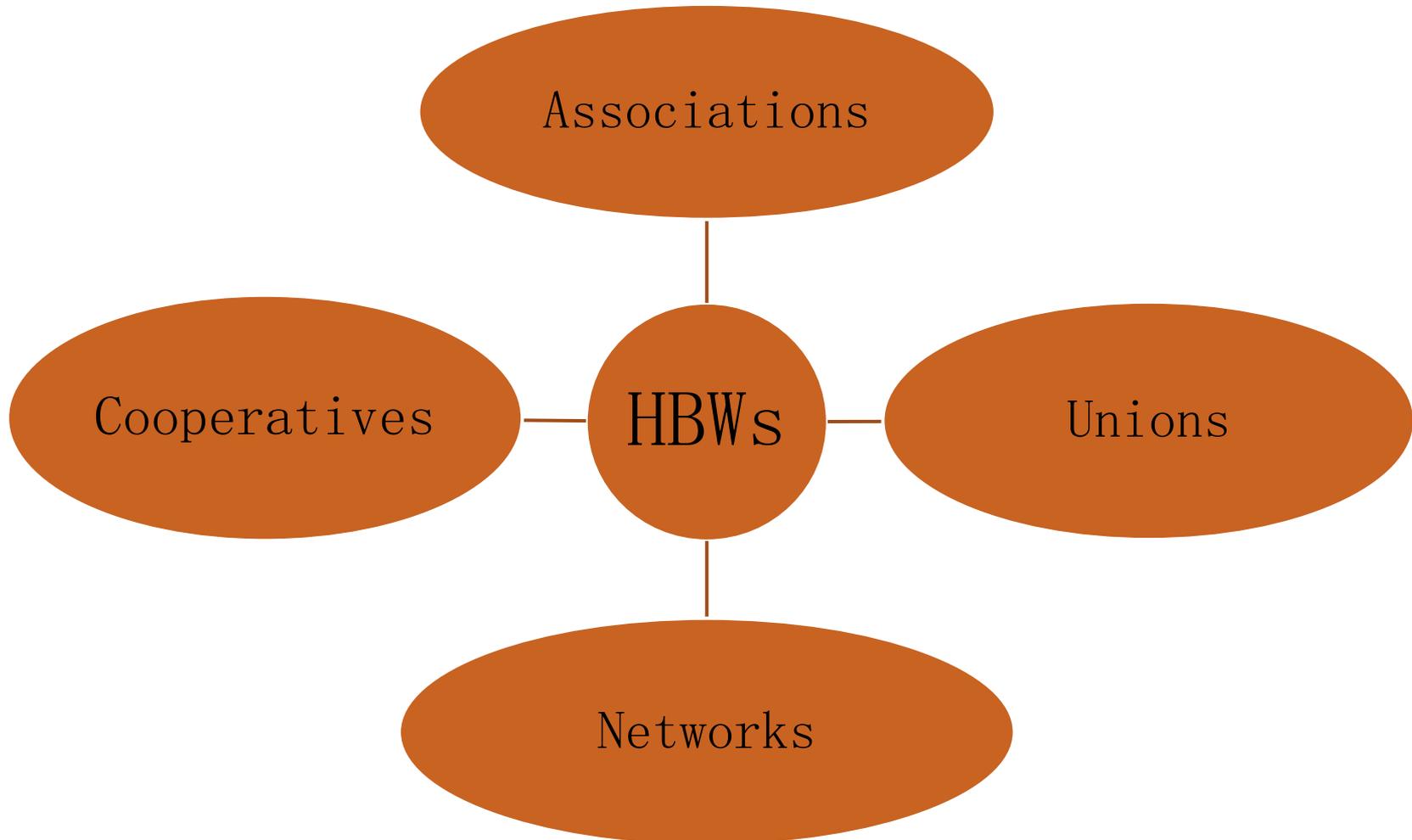
Delhi, February 2015

# Initial Mapping 2012



- Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Lima, Peru
- Managua, Nicaragua
- São Paulo, Brazil

# Type of organizations



## Organizing Challenges in Argentina, Brazil and Peru

- Home-based workers often do not see themselves as workers or do not have a common identity as home-based workers
- HBWs are organized but not specifically as HBWs.
- Organizations have often difficulties to sustain themselves
- There are no accurate statistics about HBWs
- Labour laws regulate Home-based work, but there are problems of compliance



## Buenos Aires Argentina

Confederación de  
Trabajadores de la Economía  
Popular CTEP

Cooperativa el Adoquín

ONG Asociación Lola Mora

# Buenos Aires Numbers and Gender

- 45% of workers are informal. 45% are women.
- 1 of every 2 women workers is an informal worker.
- Home-based worker Law 12 713 (year 1941), but low law enforcement.
- Draft Bill is being discussed in the Parliament.
- Argentina ratified ILO Convention 177 (July 31st 2006).

# Confederación de Trabajadores de la Economía Popular- CTEP



It is a national organization which affiliates federations of different sectors. It has approximately 20,000 affiliates.

Cartoneros, farmers, artisans, hawkers, feriantes, workers of popular markets, factories, recovered enterprises and cooperatives, and micro-entrepreneurs.



Cooperativa Sabino  
Navarro Quilmes



Asociación Civil La  
Fábrica de Avellaneda

# Cooperativa El adoquín

**COOPERATIVA DE TRABAJO**  
**“EL ADOQUÍN”** LTDA.  
ARTESANOS, ARTISTAS, MANUALISTAS Y MICROEMPREENDEDORES DE SAN TELMO  
**trabajo digno hecho a mano**  
CTEP



Founded: February 2011

300 members, all of them HBWs

They work at home and also in a workshop sharing machines, tools, and space.

Goals:

- Recognition of the working space they presently occupy
- Recognition of rights
- Individual and collective productive projects
- Knowledge sharing
- Union with other similar organizations and the labor movement
- “DECENT WORK MADE BY HAND”





Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing

# Cooperativa El adoquín



## Home-based work:

- Crafts, goldsmiths, silversmiths and jewels
- Design and manufacture of clothing
- Screen printing and stamping
- Drawing and painting
- Weaving
- Pottery
- Shoemaking
- Pyrography and techniques in leather
- Cardboard recycling.

# Cooperativa El adoquín



Difficulty:

- In 2012 the Government of Buenos Aires regulated new "fair" spaces. Members of El Adoquín Cooperative were left outside of the scope of the law. Since then, we fight for 4 blocks of public space to commercialize products.



# Lima Peru

Red de Trabajadoras  
y Trabajadores  
Autoempleados

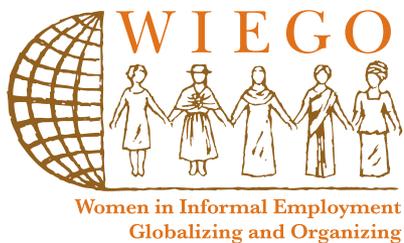
- Informal Employment is 75% of total employment in Peru.
- No stats on home-based workers.
- Women represent:
  - 45% of informal employment
  - 45% of self-employed workers
  - 67% of un-paid family workers
- Law N° 728, *Law of Productivity and Labor Competitiveness*, in articles 87° to 96° regulates Home-based Work, but it is unknown and of difficult enforcement.

# Network of Male and Female Self-Employed Workers



**RENATTA**





# Network of Male and Female Self-Employed Workers

- Formed in 2004. Composed of 17 networks by zone in Lima, and 8 networks in the provinces of Peru.
- 780 affiliates: 538 women and 242 men
- Organize workers through Training Workshops for production activities.
- Joined the Trade Union Confederation CUT to defend rights.
- Our Objectives:
  - To strengthen the work of the women leaders
  - To promote healthy economic activity that increases women's income and improves their quality of life
  - To influence public policy

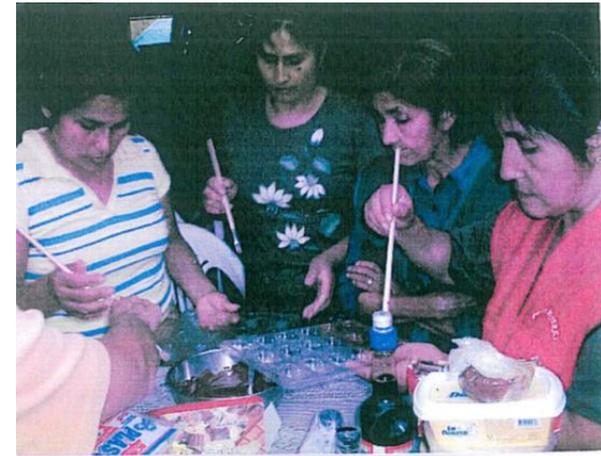


# Network of Male and Female Self-Employed Workers

## Home-based Work:

- Garments production and finishing
- Silver handicrafts and ceramics
- Bijouterie
- Chocolate production, and catering for parties
- Weaving
- Fixing and washing of clothes
- Care for pet dogs, hosting them for days

## Metropolitan Lima – Baking and catering



## La Victoria Garments



## Lima North Embroiders



## Care and hosting of pet dogs



## Garments for dogs



## Weaving



## Handicrafts, silver and bijouterie





Trade Fair in Miraflores



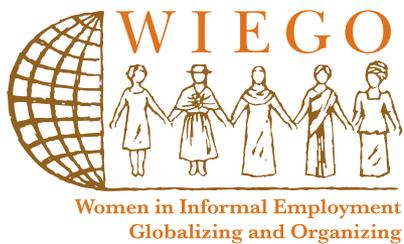
Trade Fair in Cercado de Lima



Trade Fair in Independencia



Trade Fair in Ventanilla



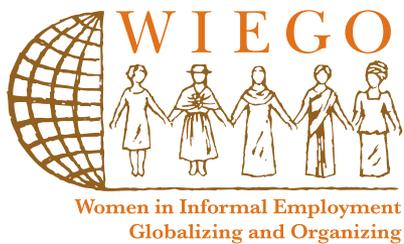
# Network of Male and Female Self-Employed Workers

## Progress:

- Training, adding value to products, and campaigns “Bread with Dignity”, “from the Farm to the Market”.
- Participation in “ferias” (trade fairs) in coordination with Municipalities
- Participation in dialogue: City Ordinance on street trade

## Difficulties:

- Local economic development does not consider the creation of spaces where to work
- Those in informality are under attack
- Even with economic growth, home-based work is invisible
- Lack of social protection and social security



# Network of Male and Female Self-Employed Workers

## Proposals:

- Recognition of women's contribution to family livelihoods, and to local economic development
- Strengthen production skills to increase women's income
- Promote organization, and build capacities in leadership and negotiation of women home-based workers
- Fight the invisibility of the work of HBWs
- Influence public policy through work done via national and international networks



# São Paulo Brazil

ONG Agência de  
Desenvolvimento Solidário  
– Conexão Solidária

Central Única dos  
Trabalhadores CUT

There is no exact statistics of Brazilian Home-based workers.

Formalized HBWs: 1,2 million

Informal HBWs: up to 4,8 million

Only 25% are registered at the Federal Government

50,2% are women: from 600.000 up to 1,2 million women HBWs

*Consolidacao das Leis do Trabalho* (CLT) Brazilian Labor Law gives equal benefits for formal and informal workers (HBWs)

Home-based work:

- Home craftwork
- Food: catering, lunch box
- Textile-apparel /garment

Organizations that supports home-based workers in different areas:

- Solidarity Economy network: 33 518 microenterprises
- Forced Labour: Reporter Brasil, Centro de Apoio ao Migrante (CAMI), Centro de Direitos Humanos e Cidadania do Imigrante (CDHIC)
- Trabalho Decente: Agência de Desenvolvimento Solidário e Instituto Observatório Social da CUT (IOS/ADS-CUT), DIEESE;
- Comercialização - Conexão Solidária.



Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing

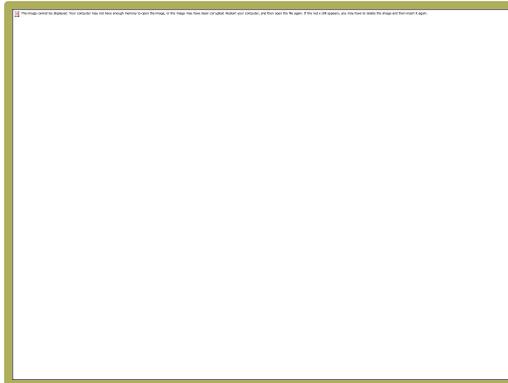
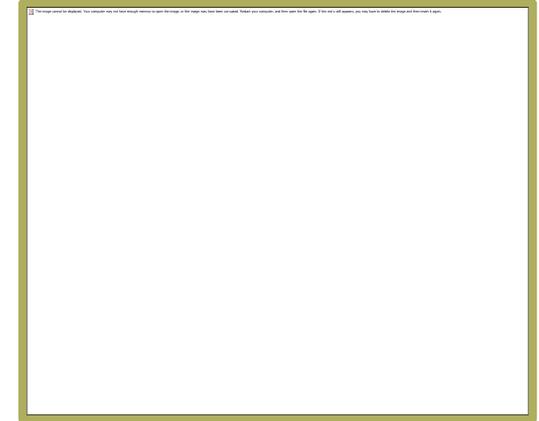
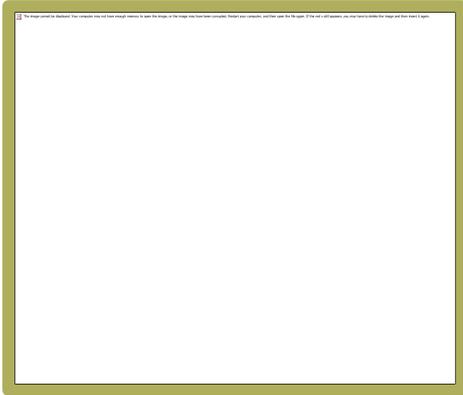
# São Paulo Cooperativa Osasco





Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing

# São Paulo Cooperativa Maesol



## Progress:

- Law for Own-account workers: *Microempreendedor Individual* that includes Social Protection and skill building support
- “Lista-suja” (dirty-list of enterprises), which is a national list of enterprises that has already had forced labour subcontracted workers (included HBWs) on their value chains
- National network of Solidarity Economy (cooperatives that included HBWs)
- Urban Planning City Statute that promotes security of tenure and public social housing which includes work in the communities

## Proposals:

- Law for subcontracting work that provides work and land security for HBWs
- Law for own-account workers that includes diversity of the HBW
- Build a national coalition of Home-based Workers with Gender issues
- Improve HBW statistics in the workplace not household basis with work conditions, urban, gender and economics issues
- Avoid overlapping and missing support to workers: plan and negotiate support of organizations at a national bargaining channel (brazilian MODEL: quatripartite and three-scale channels)
- Support the formation of a network with other urban social movements (strengthen solidarity and power to urban workers)

## Links:

### Argentina

- Confederación de Trabajadores de la Economía Popular

<http://ctepargentina.org/nosotros/>

- Conferencia de Prensa de la cooperativa "El Adoquin": Trabajo digno hecho a mano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btMNV3osC1c>

- Asociación Lola Mora

<http://www.asociacionlolamora.org.ar/>

### Brazil

- Conexão Solidaria

<http://www.conexaosolidaria.org.br/>