

Agarwala, Rina. 'Reshaping the social contract: emerging relations between the state and informal labor in India', *Theory and Society*, 2008, 37(4): 375-408.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/75j646583w481733/>

**Abstract:**

This article focuses on informal construction and *bidi* (local tobacco) workers in India. Informal workers in these sectors can be categorized as casual employees or industrial outworkers. Over 90% of the lowest rung of workers in both sectors is composed of women contract workers. Seven informal workers' organizations are examined in the article. Six of the organizations are trade unions, registered under the Trade Union Act, and one is a nongovernmental organization (NGO), registered under the Trust and Societies Act.

The unions use industry-specific tripartite Welfare Boards to negotiate with the state and the employers. At first the unions regarded the government as a potential mediator between labour and capital. However, as a result of failed efforts to address the employers, the unions are now directly addressing the state. This signals a turn from defending the members' rights as employees to a focus on their rights as citizens. Instead of asking the state to make employers respect their rights as employees, the unions are using the concept of citizenship in order to make direct claims to the state for better welfare. One of the major achievements has been the provision of state-certified identity cards to informal workers. These ID cards acknowledge their status as workers even when employers are unwilling to do so, and are a key to provision of a range of welfare services such as access to healthcare and education. Significantly, these benefits are extended to workers regardless of who their employer is.

**Keywords:** India; citizenship; neoliberal reform, state-labour relations, trade union

Agarwala, Rina. 'Resistance and compliance in the age of globalization: Indian women and labor organizations', *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 2008, 610: 143-159.

<http://ann.sagepub.com/content/610/1/143>

**Abstract:**

This article focuses on informal construction and *bidi* (local tobacco) workers in India. Informal workers in these sectors can be categorized as casual employees or industrial outworkers. Over 90% of the lowest rung of workers in both sectors is composed of women contract workers. The study finds that as the unions have been unable to use collective strength to bargain with informal employers' in order to protect the members' rights as workers, they are increasingly addressing the state and appealing to the members' rights as citizens. The study relates the findings of the case study to a broader discussion on social movement unionism.

**Keywords:** India, citizenship, social movement unionism, neoliberal reform, state-labour relations

Ahn, Pong-Sul. 'Organising as a catalyst for promoting decent work in the informal economy in South Asia', *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 2008, 51(4).

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/gurn/00353.pdf>

**Abstract:**

By analysing measurable indicators of decent work in the informal economy, this study argues that organising is a critical entry point towards achieving decent work. The study looks at three case studies of unorganized informal workers, migrant workers in agriculture and ship-breaking in India; ready-made garment workers in Bangladesh; and workers in private sector in Sri Lanka. The existing decent work deficits in all the case studies are analysed, and organising is recommended as a way of addressing these problems. Moreover, it is argued that organising at grassroots level is the first step towards social dialogue and a potential policy framework that enhances decent work in the informal economy.

**Keywords:** South Asia, decent work, garment industry, ship-breaking industry.

Alila, Patrick O. and Mitullah Winnie. *Enhancing Lobbying Capacity of Women Street Vendors: The Challenges in the Kenyan Policy Environment*. International Development Research Centre, 2000.

<http://idl-bnc.idrc.ca/dspace/bitstream/10625/35604/1/127484.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This broad study examines street vendors associations in four Kenyan cities: Nairobi, Kisumu, Migori and Machakos. The report is mainly based on a survey and focus group discussion approach. In total, 91 associations were covered, most of them being small or medium size organisations focusing on welfare provision and savings and credit. The small associations were mainly described as rotating savings and credit associations (ROSCAs) that functioned also as sort of insurance schemes. These associations are especially common among female street vendors, and are generally weak and incapable of addressing broader issues such as harassment and lack of recognition of street vending activities. These associations did not usually have contact with government officials.

Only a total of five street vendors associations which focus on street vending issues and advocacy to policymakers were found. They included: Kenya Street Traders Society (KSTS), Kenya National Hawkers Union (KENAHU), Kisumu Hawkers Association (KHA), General Street Traders (GST) of Kisumu, and Migori Small Traders Society (MSTS). The associations that deal with advocacy tended to be larger in size and can be divided into national or umbrella associations (KSTS and KENAHU), and regional organisations (GST and MSTS). Their relations with government officials have been sporadic issue-based negotiations, and no official forum for representation exists.

**Keywords:** street vendors, Kenya, women, urban governance, credit and savings associations.

Anand, Jaya S. *Addressing Poverty through Self-help Groups: A Case Study of Kerala*. Institute of Management in Government (IMG), Kerala, India. 2002.

<http://www.img.kerala.gov.in/docs/papers/jsa1.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This study focuses primarily on the effect that self-help groups have had in poverty reduction in Kerala, India. The report does not differentiate the membership base of the studied groups among occupation categories or sectors. The groups are categorized as associations of self-employed people earning their living in the informal economy, with specific focus on women. The self-help groups are primarily organizing people by helping them access micro-credit programs. The associations have also aimed to develop political consciousness of the members through education programs and encouraging the members to participate in local political meetings. However, it was rare that the groups would be able to bring up issues that were of importance to their livelihoods. It is then argued that while these groups have been able to address poverty on a micro level, they need to become more powerful in influencing policy making on a macro level.

**Keywords:** self-help groups, India, micro-credit, savings association,

Andrae, Gunilla & Björn Beckman, 'Alliances across the formal-informal divide: South African debates and Nigerian experiences', in Lindell, Iida, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This paper examines a potential merger between a trade union and an informal economy organisation in the Kaduna province in Nigeria. It takes the case of the Tailors' Union – an informal association that is not registered as a trade union – and the National Union of Textile Garments and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria, NUTGTWN. Both the formal and informal garment sectors have shared interests in defending the local conditions for production, such as access to affordable water and electricity, as well as restricting foreign imports. The union needs to expand its membership numbers by organising in the informal economy in order to finance its operations as well as to maintain political strength. However, it is questioned whether the union would be able to integrate the people in complex labour arrangement in the informal economy; the small entrepreneurs and their employees and apprentices. The fact that the informal tailors are also part of an entrepreneurs association that offers them business development services further complicates their potential membership in an employees association. The paper provides an interesting case study for discussing how informal labour relations affect collective organising in the informal economy.

**Keywords:** labour relations, trade union, garment industry, class, Nigeria.

Barrett, Jane. *Organizing in the Informal Economy: A Case Study of the Minibus Taxi Industry in South Africa*. SEED Working Paper, No. 39. Geneva: In Focus Programme, ILO. 2003.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---ifp\\_seed/documents/publication/wcms\\_117698.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_117698.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This article analyses the informal minibus taxi industry in South Africa by introducing two national organisations – the Southern African Transport and Allied Workers' Union (SATAWU) and the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO). Both associations can be seen as driving for some kind of formalisation of the transport industry. SANTACO is an employers association, with vehicle owners as members. While promoting the business interests of the members by negotiating bulk prices on fuel etc., it also provides a potential platform for collective bargaining with labour.

SATAWU is an affiliate of the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (COSATU), and is a registered trade union. The bulk of SATAWU membership is concentrated in the formal economy, with members in the taxi sector being the exception. The informal members are employees, but their employment usually does not include wage, but is based on other payment arrangements such as a percentage of profits. SATAWU is organizing around several issues including attempting to bring about collective bargaining agreements on local and national levels; addressing the Department of Labour around the question of minimum employment standards; and representing workers who have individual grievances. One of the organizing challenges is to make taxi drivers aware of their status as employees and the rights that this status brings.

**Keywords:** Transport, collective-bargaining, South Africa, SATAWU.

Baruah, Bipasha. 'Earning their keep and keeping what they earn: A critique of organizing strategies for South Asian women in the informal sector'. *Gender, Work and Organization*, 2004, 11(6): 605-626.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-0432.2004.00251.x/full>

### **Abstract**

This article looks at the existing literature on informal women's organisations in South Asia. It compares the different strategies in order to evaluate the challenges and opportunities of this kind of organising. The organisations that are mentioned include Proshika and BRAC in Bangladesh, AWARE, SEWA, WWF, and CDF in India and the Aga Khan Rural Support Program in Northern Pakistan. These organisations range from unions to NGOs; cooperatives; and financial institutions, often blurring the boundaries and operating on several levels. Organising strategies that are covered include service provision (access to housing or training programs); advocacy to government; help in business management; access to credit and other financial assistance; and negotiations with employers. It is argued that the women's organizations face the double challenge of promoting gender equality in the society at the same time as advocating for pro-poor policies.

**Keywords:** South Asia, women's organisation, overview, cooperative, NGO, trade union.



Baruah, Bipasha. Gender and Globalization: Opportunities and Constraints Faced by Women in the Construction Industry in India, *Labor Studies Journal*, 2010, 35: 198-221

<http://lsj.sagepub.com/content/35/2/198>

**Abstract:**

This article examines the challenges and opportunities faced by female construction workers in India. More specifically, it analyses the impacts of construction training programs conducted by the SEWA housing trust. The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is a registered trade union organizing women in the informal economy. Construction workers comprise about 8 per cent of SEWA's urban membership. SEWA's organizing has had several strategies, including advocacy for issuing of identity cards and for a national legislation that protects the rights of construction workers. As a registered trade union it has been able to use official negotiation channels with the government to advocate these issues. SEWA insurance cooperative has started a special accident insurance for construction workers. SEWA has provided training to its construction worker members through a sister organization, SEWA MHT, which was established in 1994 to focus on the members' housing and infrastructure-related needs. MHT training modules have aimed at enhancing the skills needed in construction work, but also literacy skills and training in conflict resolution and bargaining with contractors and employers. While these education initiatives are seen as important for empowering women construction workers in the local context, it is argued that they need to be accompanied by strategies that address inequalities at national and multinational scales.

**Keywords:** India, construction work, SEWA, women workers, education

Bennett, Mark. *Organizing in the Informal Economy: A Case Study of the Clothing Industry in South Africa*. SEED Working Paper, No. 37. Geneva: In Focus Programme, ILO. 2003.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_emp/@emp\\_ent/@ifp\\_seed/documents/publication/wcms\\_117699.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/@ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_117699.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This ILO study on the informal clothing industry in South Africa compares the experiences of two organisations, SACTWU and SEWU. SACTWU is a registered union and the largest organiser within clothing industry. Since 1999 it has also been organising informal workers, and its constitutions does not differentiate between the informal and formal, or the employed and self-employed members. SEWU is registered as a non-governmental organisation, meaning that it does not possess some of the rights limited to trade unions. Its membership consists mainly of self-employed women who are engaged in informal survivalist activities. As a registered union, SACTWU has access to some influential negotiation on central government level, whereas SEWU has had local government as its main negotiating counterpart, especially in issues relating to access to markets; facilities; and tenders for the supply of clothing products. SACTWU has organized informal members by offering them services such as access to healthcare, education programs, and retirement funding. The longer term strategy includes attempts to establish bargaining relationships, as well as formalization of informal work. It is argued that for SEWU one of the difficulties has been to identify specific issues around which to organize. SEWU has been educating its members in organizing and bargaining, so that they can build organizing from below and identify and tackle the problems they are facing.

**Keywords:** South Africa, trade union, ILO, clothing industry,

Bhowmik, 'Street vending in urban India: The struggle for recognition', in Cross, J. C. and Morales A. (Eds.) *Street Entrepreneurs: People, Place and Politics in Local and Global Perspective*. London: Routledge, 2007.

[http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter analyses the role of street trading in urban economy and examines how street traders are demanding recognition for their positive role. It does not focus on a specific organization, but builds upon the author's experiences from SEWA and National Alliance of Street Vendors of India. The paper discusses India's national policy on street vendors, and the organising strategies of vendors. Most of the street vendors' associations are said to be local, organizing in specific areas of the cities by aiming to defend the vendors from evictions. However, larger organisations that are linked to the trade union movement – such as the two abovementioned – do also exist. The unions have organized protest meetings and demonstrations as well as taken court action to defend the vendors. There is no official platform for the street vendors to address the government.

**Keywords:** Street vending, India, urban policy, trade union.

Boampong, Owusu. 'The possibilities for collective organization of informal port workers in Tema, Ghana', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter looks at collective organising of subcontracted informal port workers in Tema harbour, Ghana. The casual workers employed by the two largest labour subcontractors have formed their own local unions, which are affiliated to the Maritime and Dockers Union (MDU). The local unions do collective bargaining with the employers, even though the employees do not have formal labour contracts, and the legal status of the employees is not protected in the labour act. The union then informs the employees of basic wages, overtime rates and transport allowances through notice boards. The situation is complicated by the fact that MDU is the majority shareholder in the largest labour subcontractor, Ghana Dock Labour Company.

**Keywords:** subcontracted workers, Ghana, dock workers, collective bargaining.

Bonner, Christine & Dave Spooner. 'Organizing in the Informal Economy: A Challenge for Trade Unions', *International Politics and Society*, 2011, Vol. IPG 2/11.

[http://astrid-online.com/--il-lavor/Studi--ric/Bonner\\_Spooner\\_International-Politics-and-Society\\_02\\_2011.pdf](http://astrid-online.com/--il-lavor/Studi--ric/Bonner_Spooner_International-Politics-and-Society_02_2011.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper provides an overview of political organising in the informal economy, with a specific focus on the possibilities for trade unions to organise informal workers. Two common strategic issues around which organizing can occur are discussed: labour rights and representation, and economic/business development. Organizations often combine the two, and it is not uncommon that a union forms a cooperative or that a cooperative addresses political issues. The paper brings up several organizational models, including trade unions that extend their reach into the informal economy; unions formed by informal workers; cooperatives; non-governmental organizations; member based organizations; and community-based organizations. Furthermore international networks of informal workers' associations are discussed. The paper also discusses the international trade union movement and the informal economy. Through a wide range of examples it is shown that international union movement is realising the importance of organizing people in the informal economy who have traditionally been outside of the reach of union membership.

**Keywords:** Trade unions, International labour movement, cooperatives, NGOs,

Bonner, Chris. *Organising Informal Transport Workers*. Overview Report, International Transport Workers' Federation, London. 2006.

<http://www.itfglobal.org/infocentre/pubs.cfm/detail/7984>

**Abstract:**

This broad overview report combines general information with information from four case studies: National Union of Transport and Allied Workers (NUTAW) and Zambia Bus and Taxi Workers' Union (ZBTWU) in Zambia; National Transport Workers' Union (NTU) in Philippines; and Syndicat National des Zimidjan du Benin (SYNAZEB) in Benin. In addition, other examples from different contexts across the globe are brought up more briefly. The report analyses the organizing experiences, strategies, and methods of unions organizing informal transport workers.

The unions that are examined in this report organize people in a wide range of working arrangements in the informal passenger transport industry, ranging from vehicle owners and owner-drivers to employed drivers and drivers who rent or lease vehicles. While some of the unions draw a line into only organizing employees, the boundaries between the different categories are often blurred. There are three major issues around which the unions try to organize: improvement of incomes and working conditions; provision of welfare services; and development of financial support systems – such as formation of cooperatives. The unions also often engage in negotiations with different levels of government.

**Keywords:** Transport, International Transport Workers' Federation, Zambia, Philippines, Benin.

Bonner, Christine. *Domestic Workers around the World: Organising for Empowerment*. Paper prepared for the Social Law Project Conference, 7-8 May 2010, Cape Town.

[http://www.dwrp.org.za/images/stories/DWRP\\_Research/chris\\_bonner.pdf](http://www.dwrp.org.za/images/stories/DWRP_Research/chris_bonner.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper examines a number of organising models and strategies of domestic workers. The organizations include trade unions; cooperatives; networks; alliances; non-governmental organizations; member based organizations; and community-based organizations.

Furthermore, the paper analyses the links between organisational models and strategies, leading to some conclusions about the primary strategies of specific types of organisations: grassroots organising and base building are used by unions, MBOs, CBOs, and cooperatives; collective negotiations and representation are used by unions and MBOs; economic and livelihood development is a strategy associated with cooperatives; policy, legal and rights advocacy are used by NGOs, CBOs, networks, and alliances; mobilisation and campaigning are used by networks, alliances, and unions; social, welfare, training functions are linked to NGOs and CBOs. While these can often be regarded as primary strategies, the organisations often use multiple strategies and sometimes blur the lines between different organizational models.

**Keywords:** Domestic workers, community-based organizing, migrant workers, empowerment

Bonner, Chris; Pat Horn & Elaine Jones. *Lessons from Practical Experience of Organising Workers in the Informal Economy in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Beyond: The World of Work, Livelihoods and Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Development (Work in Progress)*. GLU conference in Campinas, Brazil on Global Development: Challenges for Union Strategies. 2008

[http://www.global-labour-university.org/fileadmin/GLU\\_conference\\_Unicamp\\_2008/Submitted\\_papers/Pat\\_Horn.pdf](http://www.global-labour-university.org/fileadmin/GLU_conference_Unicamp_2008/Submitted_papers/Pat_Horn.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper provides a thorough overview of how different groups of informal workers are organizing themselves and networking with other movements, using a broad variety of examples from Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere. The occupational groups examined include the following: Street-, market vendors and hawkers; home-based workers; waste pickers and recyclers; agricultural, forestry and fish workers; domestic workers; transport workers; construction and related workers; sex workers. For each occupational group the paper analyses the priority issues and key challenges; geographic reach; organizing challenges; and main forms of organization. In addition existing organisations are used to illustrate the case. Second part of the paper analyses broader political and social issues and challenges concerning organizing in the informal economy. Moreover, international networks and social movements that may provide alliances for informal workers are discussed. It is argued that informalization can be seen as part of broader changes affecting labour processes, brought about by globalization. Therefore it can be seen as a logical option for movements of informal workers to aim to address these broader social and political issues.

**Keywords:** Social movements, globalization, sustainability, trade unions,



Brown, Alison (ed.). *Contested Space: Street Trading, Public Space, and Livelihoods in Developing Cities*. Rugby: ITDG Publishing, 2006.

[http://www.amazon.com/Contested-Space-Livelihoods-Developing-Management/dp/1853396303/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919628&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Contested-Space-Livelihoods-Developing-Management/dp/1853396303/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919628&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book examines street trading in Ghana, Lesotho, Nepal, and Tanzania by using a livelihoods approach that focuses on the role public space has for the urban poor earning a living in the informal economy. Much of the focus is on urban policies and the governance of urban public space. The book promotes a policy framework that focuses on the livelihoods of the urban poor, and for academic focus on the economic role of public space. Even though the book does not directly focus on political organisations amongst the street vendors, associational life is brought up sporadically in the book.

**Keywords:** street trading, public space, livelihoods framework, Ghana, Lesotho, Nepal, Tanzania

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Brown, Alison; Michal Lyons & Ibrahima Dankoco. 'Street Traders and the Emerging Spaces for Urban Voice and Citizenship in African Cities', *Urban Studies*, 2010, 47(3): 666-683

<http://usj.sagepub.com/content/47/3/666>

### **Abstract**

This article explores characteristics and influence of traders' associations in four case study countries: Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania and Lesotho. In Senegal, associations have mainly been linked to Muslim brotherhoods. Two larger independent associations are mentioned, UNACOIS (Union Nationale des Commerçants et Industriels du Sénégal) has 100,000 members and runs a co-operative, workshops and educational programmes, also providing micro-insurance, credit and savings fund for traders. La Chambre du Commerce de Dakar mainly represents powerful wholesalers and carries out negotiations with the municipality on behalf of its members. Both of the groups can be seen as representing larger business interests, leaving the poorer fractions of traders to smaller, less influential organisations. In Ghana, the study brings up market associations – formed by the retailers of specific products – that provide welfare or loans and deal with the practical aspects of market management, sometimes also functioning as co-operatives. Market committees bring together the leaders of different market associations in solving disputes and negotiating with the municipality. In Tanzania, two umbrella organisations of traders associations, VIBINDO (Association of Small Businesses) and KIWAKU (an association of clothes sellers) have aimed to defend traders from evictions with little success. In Lesotho, some small-scale associations have aimed to defend traders against government hostility towards street trade. However, they have remained largely ineffective.

**Keywords:** street trade, market associations, evictions, urban citizenship

Brown, Alison & Michal Lyons, 'Seen but not heard: Urban voice and citizenship for street traders', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter compares traders associations in four cities - Dakar, Accra, Dar es Salaam and Kathmandu. Focus is on the value of individual and collective social capital gained from formally registered associations as well as from informal social networks. In Dakar, associations are to a large extent controlled by Muslim brotherhoods. Both informal and formal traders are embraced by the associations. Powerful wholesalers have their own association that has been in conflict with hawkers. After riots by hawkers in 2007, the president helped establish a national federation of street traders. Market organisations in Accra are structured along product lines. These associations are often single-sex, single ethnicity, chaired by hereditary market queens. The product associations often have welfare functions and help members with saving and loans, as well as deal with the practical aspects of managing the market space. In addition, the markets have market committees representing all product associations in advocacy to the local government. In Tanzania, informal traders are represented by many small associations that come together in two umbrella organisations, VIBINDO (Association of Small Businesses) and KIWAKU (an association of clothes sellers). These have aimed to defend traders from evictions with little success. Representation of informal traders in Kathmandu is relatively weak. The strongest advocate for rights of the poor is a national NGO, Bhrikuti Mandap, which provides social welfare benefits for the poor. Some markets have traders associations that collect rents and invest in the market space. The Nepal Union of Street Vendors is affiliated with the national trade union movement. However, the organisation is still new, and the unions have suffered from political repression.

**Keywords:** traders' associations, social capital, Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, Nepal, social networks.

Çelik, Ercüment (2010) *Street Traders. A Bridge between Trade unions and Social Movements in contemporary South Africa*, Nomos Universitätschriften, Freiburg i. Br., 2010,

[http://www.amazon.com/Street-Traders-Contemporary-Universitätschriften-Soziologie/dp/3832957219/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919658&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Street-Traders-Contemporary-Universitätschriften-Soziologie/dp/3832957219/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919658&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

In this book, Ercüment Celik identifies street vendors as a bridge between trade unions and social movements. Relationships between street vendors' organisations in Durban, the shack dwellers movement, and COSATU – a South African trade union federation – are examined together with the “World Class Cities for All” (WCCA) campaign. The ground for an alliance between street vendors associations and trade unions is seen to emerge from the emergence of new democratic street vendors movements that have aspired for inclusive planning and recognition of their members as workers. They have been organising their members by advocacy to local government for right to livelihoods and to trading in public spaces. However, the associations have not been able to find sustainable platforms for representation. The worker identity of the street vendors influences closer relations with the union movement, whereas the blurring of the boundary between the concepts of work place and community makes the vendors association resemble social movements. Thus these associations can be seen as a link between unions and social movements. It is argued that trade unions can help street vendors' organisations in gaining legitimacy and official recognition, whereas the street vendors' organisations can help the unions in becoming more representative of the poorer workers.

**Keywords:** Trade union, street vendors, social movement unionism, South Africa, World Class Cities for All, Durban, StreetNet.

Çelik, Ercüment. *Rethinking Street Traders as a Promising Agent of Re-empowering Labour Movement in Contemporary South Africa*. 7th GLU Conference, 'The Politics of Labour and Development' 28-30 September 2011, Johannesburg, South Africa.

[http://www.global-labour-university.org/fileadmin/GLU\\_conference\\_2011/papers/Ercuement\\_Celik.pdf](http://www.global-labour-university.org/fileadmin/GLU_conference_2011/papers/Ercuement_Celik.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper makes the argument that in order to remain relevant, the South African labour movement needs to find ways of engagement with new social movements, the unemployed, and the 'new working poor'. The street traders' movement is then examined as having potential to empower the labour movement in this context of social movement unionism. By examining the emerging links between the labour movement and new social movements, the paper asks which group – trade unions or social movements – do the street traders' associations fit into. It is argued that as 'the movement of the marginalised labour force', they can be seen as part of both, and therefore offer great potential for social movement unionism.

The street traders' associations that are part of the study have been advocating their members' rights to trading by marching against police crackdowns on street traders and aiming to address local government. However, no official platform for representation has emerged. These associations have also formed networks with international movements through StreetNet. This paper brings to focus the World Class Cities for All campaign that has brought together trade unions, street traders' associations and other social movements.

**Keywords:** Street vendors, South Africa, social movement unionism, World Class Cities for All, Durban, StreetNet.

Chen, Martha; Renana Jhabvala; Ravi Kanbur; & Carol Richards (eds.). *Membership Based Organizations of the Poor*. London: Routledge, 2007.

[http://www.amazon.com/Membership-Organizations-Routledge-Development-Economics/dp/0415770734/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332919375&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Membership-Organizations-Routledge-Development-Economics/dp/0415770734/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332919375&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

The chapters in this book analyse different types of membership based organizations of the poor (MBOP). The book is characterised by a conviction that MBOPs play a central role in reducing poverty and achieving equitable growth. MBOPs are accountable and democratic organisations that respond to the needs and aspirations of the poor. These include some trade unions, cooperatives, worker committees, credit and savings associations, community based associations, and producer groups among others. These can be further divided among those that organize members around work and livelihood related issues and those that organize around other issues. It is argued by the editors that organizing around the worker identity has the advantages of focusing policy attention on the poor as economic agents and minimizing other identities that can be used to divide people. Furthermore, the worker identity brings to the fore the basic needs of earning a living and having a sense of dignity. A central theme of the book chapters is upon the successes and failures of the studies organisations, and on the determinants of success. The variables studies range from internal democracy and finances of the organisations to the external policy environment.

**Keywords:** cooperative, trade union, membership based organization, empowerment

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Chen, Martha Alter. 'Women in the Informal Sector: A Global Picture, the Global Movement', *SAIS Review*, 2001, 21(1)

<http://info.worldbank.org/etools/docs/library/76309/dc2002/proceedings/pdfpaper/module6mc.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This article examines the linkages between gender, informality, poverty and growth. Moreover, it argues that women who work in the informal economy are often the most vulnerable workers, who paradoxically are also making a significant contribution to economic growth. The article then moves on to introduce global movements of informal workers. Since the 1980s international networks of trade unions, grassroots organizations, and non-governmental organizations have emerged through the shared goal of organizing people working within the informal economy. The focus is on HomeNet, an organisation of home-based workers; StreetNet, a street vendors' organisation; and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). These organizations share the goal of influencing more sustainable policy making in the local, national, and global levels in regards to informal workers. They have developed links with UN organizations and other civil society actors, and are working with research institutions. Furthermore, they aim to strengthen political organizing of people in the informal economy on a grassroots level.

**Keywords:** global movements, gender, poverty, StreetNet, HomeNet, WIEGO



Chen, Martha. *Towards Economic Freedom: The Impact of SEWA*. Self-Employed Women's Association. Ahmedabad. 2004

<http://www.sewaresearch.org/Impact.PDF>

**Abstract:**

This booklet analyses the impact of SEWA, Self Employed Women's Association, on its members. SEWA is an officially registered trade union with a membership of over 700,000 self-employed women working in the informal economy in India. SEWA's impact is analysed by looking at eleven points that are a key focus of the organisation: employment, income, assets, nutrition, health, housing, child care, organised strength, leadership, self-reliance, and education. SEWA's organising strategies include organising members into trade groups or cooperatives; advocating policies that benefit members; collective bargaining on behalf of members; helping members develop their leadership skills. In addition SEWA offers following services to its members: financial services such as savings, loans and insurance; social services including child care, health care, and education; infrastructure services; and capacity building services.

**Keywords:** SEWA, India, self-employment, trade union, cooperative,

Chen, Martha. *Self Employed Women: A Profile of SEWA's Membership*. Self-Employed Women's Association. Ahmedabad. 2004.

<http://www.sewaresearch.org/eng-researchesdownload.htm>

**Abstract:**

This booklet provides a thorough analysis of the membership of SEWA, Self Employed Women's Association. SEWA is an officially registered trade union with a membership of over 700,000 self-employed women working in the informal economy in India. SEWA's membership is very broad in terms of industries and employment categories, but is divided into four categories by the organization: vendors and hawkers, home-based workers, labour or service providers, and rural providers.

**Keywords:** SEWA, India, self-employment, trade union, cooperative,

Chikarmane, Poornima and Laxmi Narayan. *Rising from the Waste – Organising Wastepickers in India, Thailand and the Philippines*. Committee for Asian Women. 2009.

<http://www.inclusivecities.org/pdfs/Asian%20Wastepickers.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This study looks at organisations of waste pickers in India, Thailand, and Philippines. Most of the organisations included in this study function as cooperatives, or help the members in establishing cooperatives. In India, the associations negotiate contracts on waste management with municipal government and private actors. Some of the associations are entirely market driven. These associations also provide members with ID cards and help in access to credit. One of the organisations is a registered trade union, and while it also functions as a cooperative, it focuses a lot on promoting the identification of waste pickers as workers, and defending their rights as workers. In Thailand, most of the organisations are built on personal relationships between the members, and function as cooperatives or private companies. In Philippines, associations of waste pickers have promoted their members importance in protecting the environment. This has improved the status of waste pickers and encouraged businesses and civic organisations to support community based waste management programs. Waste pickers in Philippines have also formed cooperatives and negotiated contracts with municipal government and gated communities

**Keywords:** waste picking, India, Philippines, Thailand, cooperatives, market-based organisation

Chikarmane, Poornima, and Laxmi Narayan. *Organising the Unorganised: A Case Study of the Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (Trade Union of Wastepickers)*. WIEGO, 2005.

[www.wiego.org/program\\_areas/org\\_rep/case-kkpkp.pdf](http://www.wiego.org/program_areas/org_rep/case-kkpkp.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper provides a thorough case study of *the Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat* (KKPKP), an Indian trade union of waste pickers. The union was registered in order to promote establishing waste pickers as workers, and waste picking as work that contributed to resource recovery, cost saving for the municipality, and environmental protection. In the beginning, the organization did not offer any tangible benefits or services, but attracted members by appealing to the idea that collective action could end the stigma experienced by waste pickers and improve their social position. Since then, the union has evolved to use a combination of mass struggle and development activities, and is now offering the members a range of insurance schemes and financial services through a savings cooperative. At the same time it is mobilizing collectively against injustices such as police harassment; extortion by local officials; and child labour. The union is also aiming to incorporate the members into sustainable urban management policies, and to incorporate their activities into official garbage collection schemes. The union membership includes both men and women, recognising and addresses the gender inequalities.

**Keywords:** waste pickers, India, trade union, cooperative.

Coskun, Gulsum. 'Building Women Homebased Workers' Organizations in Turkey', *Global Labour Journal*, 2010, 1(1): 212-217.

<http://digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=globallabour>

**Abstract:**

This article introduces Turkey HomeNet, an organisation of homebased female workers in Turkey. Turkey HomeNet is a national umbrella organization of local organizations, and part of the global HomeNet movement. Most of the local organizations are income generating organizations, but there are also rights based organizations. Turkey HomeNet is a rights based association that is building national and international networks with NGOs and labour movements. It is also discussing and evaluating the possibility of forming a trade union.

Turkey HomeNet has been arranging workshops where members can tell about themselves and their working conditions, drawing attention to how their problems are not individual problems, but are common. One of the aims of the organization is that home based workers help each other in collective organizing. The organizing is based on deep discussion whereby the members can bring up their problems and possible solutions.

**Keywords:** homebased work, women workers, Turkey

Cross, John C. 'Co-optation, Competition and Resistance: State and Street Vendors in Mexico City', *Latin American Perspectives*, 1998, 25(2): 41-61.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2634061>

**Abstract:**

This article examines the relationship between street vendors and the state in Mexico City in the early 1990s. As a result of neoliberal policies, an increasing number of people started to look for livelihoods in the informal economy. Faced by clampdowns and state offensives the street vendors started to organize themselves in order to defend their right of self-subsistence. City officials would agree to sporadic individual meetings with leaders of the established associations, influencing clientelist relations. In defending their rights to public space the vendors also used protests and sit-ins to promote their cause. While the associations tried to play the politicians against the competing associations, the politicians attempted to use competition between associations to weaken the cause of the vendors. However the article shows how competition between different associations in fact aided the vendors' cause by compelling the leaders to work hard for their associations, thereby creating more space for vendors. In order to increase the influence of their associations, the leaders allowed more vendors to enter the areas they controlled and join their associations.

**Keywords:** Street vendors, clientelism, Mexico, public space.

Croucher, Richard. 'Organising the Informal Economy: Results and Prospects. The Case of Ghana in Comparative Perspective'. in G. Wood and C. Brewster, (eds.) *Industrial Relations in Africa*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007: 209-218.

[http://www.amazon.com/Industrial-Relations-Africa-Geoffrey-Wood/dp/023001366X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332926326&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Industrial-Relations-Africa-Geoffrey-Wood/dp/023001366X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332926326&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This chapter analyses the challenges and prospects of trade union organising in the informal economy by looking at three case studies in Ghana, the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU), the StreetNet Ghana Alliance (SGA), and the National Inland Canoe Fishermen's Association (NICFA). The GPRTU is a registered trade union organising mainly in the informal transport sector. It organises vehicle owners, owner/drivers, employed professional drivers, porters, and lorry guards. It is thus an organization for both employers and employees. It provides members with unemployment relief, provides work, and settles disputes between employees and employers. The GPRTU also collects taxes for the authorities from informal operators. The SGA is supported by the Ghana Trades Union Congress. It functions as an umbrella organization of informal traders' associations. It has organised around health, insurance and pensions issues, also aiming to provide members with training and micro-loans. The NICFA is an association independent from the trade union movement. It has two main functions: buying goods in bulk and providing training on efficient and environmentally friendly fishing methods.

**Keywords:** trade unions, Ghana, transport, trading, fishing.

Davis, Charles L.; Edwin E. Aguilar & John G. Speer. 'Associations and Activism: Mobilization of Urban Informal Workers in Costa Rica and Nicaragua', *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, 1999, 41(3): 35-66

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1548-2456.1999.tb00103.x/abstract>

**Abstract:**

This paper examines political mobilisation of informal workers during the early 1990s in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The focus of the paper is on the significance of informal worker's associations on party politics, while less is being said about the characteristics of these organisations. In Nicaragua the associations include cooperatives, religious groups, and mass organizations. Groups of informal workers that are mentioned are taxi drivers, street vendors and market traders. In Costa Rica, cooperatives and solidarity movements – set up by informal firms to provide loans and other services to their members – are the dominant form of organising among informal workers. These organisations are seen as a non-confrontational alternative to the union movement and are thus supported by the government.

**Keywords:** party politics, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, cooperatives



Devenish, Annie and Caroline Skinner. 2004. *Organising Workers in the Informal Economy: The Experience of the Self Employed Women's Union, 1994-2004.*

<http://www.ifwea.org/@Bin/148860/2004SEWUExperience.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This research report provides a very thorough picture of the activities of the Self Employed Women's Union (SEWU) in South Africa, analysing how it has organized women in the informal economy. SEWU organizes self-employed women involved in informal economic activities, who have a maximum of three employees. Members can be involved in e.g. home based production, small-scale farming, or street trading. One of the challenges faced by SEWU is that many join the union temporarily when facing a crisis, but do not make a long term commitment to membership. SEWU has been engaged in a number of activities, including, advocacy for the street vendors' right to public space; participating on a plethora of policy making platforms on local, national, and international levels; providing training to members on skills required in their employment as well as skills that assist on organising and socioeconomic empowerment; assisting members in accessing credit and saving facilities; aiding the members in becoming leaders within the organisation; conducting research; and building alliances on international, regional, and local levels.

**Keywords:** gender, South Africa, trade union, self-employment.

Dibben, Pauline & Sara Nadin 'Community Unionism in Africa: The Case of Mozambique', *Relations Industrielles – Industrial Relations* 2011, 66(1): 54-73.

<http://www.erudit.org/revue/ri/2011/v66/n1/1005105ar.html?vue=resume&mode=restriction>

### **Abstract**

This article focuses on the relationship between ASSOTSI, an informal economy organisation, and OTM, a national federation of trade unions. ASSOTSI represents 40,000 informal workers, the majority of whom are women. The members include business owners; self-employed; and informal employees. One of the main initiatives of ASSOTSI has been to establish market committees in city marketplaces. The committees collect fees from stallholders and provide basic infrastructure such as water and toilets, carry out maintenance work, organize cleaning and security, access to selling space and solve labour conflicts arising from the breaching of informal work contracts. It is an affiliate of a national trade union federation, the OTM. OTM assists ASSOTSI in providing training courses on legislation, business support and microfinance, lobbying government on issues such as including informal sector workers in the national insurance scheme, and networking with international organizations. ASSOTSI engages in negotiations with the local government whereas the union federation deals with government in higher levels.

**Keywords:** Trade union, Mozambique, community unionism, market traders

Folkerth, John & Tonia Warnecke. *Organizing Informal Labor in India and Indonesia: A Discussion of Barriers and Best Practices of Overcoming Them*. 7th GLU Conference, 'The Politics of Labour and Development' 28-30 September 2011, Johannesburg, South Africa.

<http://rdw.law.unimelb.edu.au/download.cfm?downloadfile=F7E54E62-5056-B405-517740BEC13A29EA&typename=dmFile&fieldname=filename>

**Abstract:**

This paper examines the potential that organising has for facilitating decent work in the informal economy. This is done by looking at the case studies of Self Employed Womens' Union (SEWA) in India and the National Network of Friends of Women Homeworkers (MWPRI) Indonesia. SEWA is a registered trade union that has taken a complex approach to organising informal self-employed women by developing institutions that serve the poor in terms of their financial and educational needs; doing advocacy locally and globally; and building partnerships with local and global actors.

In Indonesia, organizing in the informal economy is in many cases facilitated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that focus on micro-financing, but also raise awareness of the injustices associated with informal work. 42 NGOs collaborate with MWPRI, an organisation that wants to extend social protection to informal workers. It has taken a two way approach in its quest by pressuring the government on the matter while also developing indigenous social protection schemes that offer health, savings, and loan services. The organisation has also built collaboration networks with HomeNet (an international NGO of home-based workers), governmental organizations, international activists, and academics.

**Keywords:** India, Indonesia, home based workers, SEWA, international organising,

Gallin, Dan and Pat Horn. *Organizing Informal Women Workers*. Paper prepared for UNRISD Gender Policy Report. 2005.

[http://www.globallabour.info/en/2007/11/organizing\\_informal\\_women\\_work\\_1.html](http://www.globallabour.info/en/2007/11/organizing_informal_women_work_1.html)

**Abstract:** This article starts by examining women workers' organisations in a historical perspective, looking at the emergence of women's unions in different geographic contexts since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It then moves on to analyse the significance of organisations focusing on women workers, and relates this to the current context of the informal economy. It focuses on three trade unions that organise informal women as case studies, the Self-Employed Women's Association in India; The Korea Women's Trade Union in South Korea; and the Self-Employed Women's Union in South Africa. The article also introduces more briefly different kinds of associations and unions that organise women workers across the globe.

**Keywords:** Gender, trade unions, women's organisations, labour history.

Gallin, Dan. 'Propositions on Trade Unions and Informal Employment in Times of Globalization', *Antipode*, 2001, 33(3): 531-549.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8330.00197/pdf>

**Abstract:**

This article argues for increased trade union involvement in the informal economy and makes suggestions on how trade unions could go about organising informal workers. It introduces cases where unions have extended their reach to informal workers, as well as cases where new unions have been created specifically to organise informal workers. In addition, international networks of informal economy organisations are introduced. It is suggested that trade union activities in the informal economy should build upon these existing organisational networks, and that stronger alliances should be built between the international trade union movement and movement of informal workers.

**Keywords:** trade unions, international labour movement,

Garay, Candelaria. 'Social policy and collective action: Unemployed workers, community associations, and protest in Argentina', *Politics and Society*, 2007, 35(2): 301-328.

<http://pas.sagepub.com/content/35/2/301>

### **Abstract**

This article examines associations of unemployed and informal workers in Argentina. The focus is on movements that emerged as a reaction to the government's workfare program in the late-1990s. Collective organising was encouraged by dissatisfaction with the program, its low supply (only covering 8 per cent of the unemployed), and the absence of clear criteria for beneficiary selection and for determining the renewal or nonrenewal of benefits when the contracts ended raised opposition. At the same time the programs aided the emergence of new community based organisations because based on the terms of the programs, community associations could administer program benefits by starting projects aiming to create employment. Associations that emerged sought to address issues such as access to housing and food, but also to negotiate with the government in order to demand a broader distribution of benefits. Negotiations were only accepted by the government after the associations mobilized and set up roadblocks and demonstrations. The paper also discusses linkages between the new community based movement and party politics.

**Keywords:** social policy, unemployed, Argentina, party politics.

Garcia-Rincon, Maria Fernanda. 'Redefining rules: A market for public space in Caracas', in Cross, J. C. and Morales A. (Eds) *Street Entrepreneurs: People, Place and Politics in Local and Global Perspective*. London: Routledge, 2007.

[http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter discusses street vendors struggles for public space in Caracas, Venezuela. Street vendors' organisations are discussed more briefly as part of the study. The street vendors organisations in Caracas have negotiated with the Municipal Office over rights to trade in the street. They have also tried to get more media attention to the situation of the street vendors. More recently the municipal authorities have created space for coordinators acting as a link between the street vendors, vendors' organisations, and the authorities.

**Keywords:** Venezuela, street vendors, politics, public space.

Ghartey, Nana K. T. and David Kwabla Dorkenoo. 'Unionizing informal workers in Ghana'. *Labour Education*, 2002, 2(127): 38-42.

<http://ilo-mirror.library.cornell.edu/public/english/dialogue/actrav/publ/127/127e.pdf>

### **Abstract**

This article very briefly introduces the Ghanaian informal economy and some of the organisations that operate within it, making recommendations for trade unions on how to organise informal workers. Some examples of organisational strategies mentioned are providing access to credit and information, as well as assisting informal garment manufacturers in marketing their products.

**Keywords:** trade union, Ghana, financial services, union strategies.



Goldman, Tanya. *Organizations in South Africa's Informal Economy: An Overview of Four Sectoral Case Studies*. SEED Working Paper, No. 60. Geneva: In Focus Programme, ILO. 2003.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---ifp\\_seed/documents/publication/wcms\\_117671.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_117671.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper brings together and analyses case studies from four sectors of South African informal economy: clothing, construction, street trading, and taxi industries. The report discusses challenges of organising informal workers, such as the complexity of informal labour relations and the fluidity of employment. Short and long term strategies for organizing informal workers are also discussed, including service provision and advocacy for better working conditions. Moreover, the importance of establishing institutional arrangements for representation of informal workers' organizations is emphasized.

**Keywords:** South Africa, clothing, construction, street trading, transport.

Goldman, Tanya. *Organising in the Informal Economy: A Case Study of the Building Industry in South Africa*. Seed Working Paper No. 38. Geneva: International Labour Organisation. 2003.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_emp/@emp\\_ent/documents/publication/wcms\\_093977.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_093977.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This research paper documents attempts of organizing informal construction workers in South Africa. The focus of the study is on the perceptions that informal workers have of trade unions. In addition other organizations offering job placement and legal services are mentioned, but the experiences of informal workers on these are mainly negative. At the time of the study, trade unions were not encouraging informal workers to join. The four registered trade unions that are part of the study are introduced below. Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers of South Africa has made the concession of allowing informal members to pay their fees over the counter. However, their membership fee is the same as everyone else's, and this may be a hinder for membership. The union does not have any specific services for the informal members, but they may be interested in the job placement service provided by the union. Members are recruited at construction sites, and members are encouraged to recruit others. Building and Construction Workers' Union has since 2001 started organizing smaller companies and subcontractors, both formal and informal. It was not yet clear what the strategy for organizing informal workers would look like. Building Woodwork and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa organizes members through spreading pamphlets and calling for meetings in the workplaces or in town. It has no specific strategy for organizing informal workers. Likewise, the National Union of Mineworkers was still in the process of developing a strategy for informal workers.

One thing that the unions shared in regards to the informal economy was that they all wished for policies that would encourage informal employers and subcontractors to organize. The paper also examines the organizing strategies of these groups. Most of the existing employers' associations have traditionally been for Whites in the formal economy, whereas most of the informal business owners are Blacks. Two organizations that are organizing informal employees are profiled in the report: the South African Subcontractors' Association (SASCA) and the African Builders' Association (ABA). ABA is encouraging people to join mainly by helping them get contracts. However, sustaining a membership has been a challenge unless ABA can keep providing new jobs for the members. SASCA is a registered employers' association, and is assisting its members in legalizing their businesses. It provides members with legal, accounting, employment agency and quantity surveying services, as well as entrepreneurship training. In addition, it raises awareness amongst the members on their rights and obligations as employers.

**Keywords:** South Africa, construction industry, trade unions, ILO, employers' organizations.

Harriss, John 'Middle-class activism and the politics of the informal working class - A perspective on class relations and civil society in Indian cities', *Critical Asian Studies*, 2006, 38(4): 445-465

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14672710601073002>

### **Abstract**

This article compares political activism amongst members of the middle class and the informal working class in three Indian cities, Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai. Furthermore, the article examines the linkages that exist between these different organisations. One of the findings is that members of the middle class are more likely to participate in politics through their own organisations and activism, whereas informal workers were more likely to plea to political parties for help.

Most of the informal workers' organisations mentioned in this study can be seen as slum dwellers' associations that connect two causes, housing rights and rights to livelihood. Some middle class women's organisations sought to establish links with informal worker's organisations, based on their shared goals of improving women's position in society on several levels. According to the author, the women's movements appear to supply the backbone of the mobilizations of informal workers in Chennai. Some of the organisations even share leadership between slum dwellers' organizations and women's organizations.

**Keywords:** India, civil society, class relations, slum dwellers' association, women's organization.

Heckscher, Charles and Françoise Carré. 'Strength in Networks: Employment Rights Organizations and the Problem of Co-Ordination', *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 2006, 44(4): 605-628.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8543.2006.00516.x/pdf>

### **Abstract**

This article examines the significance of 'quasi-unions' – organisations of marginalised temporary or informal workers, as well as informal movements of established workers – and their potential for building networks with established trade unions in the USA. For most of the quasi-unions, service provision is the primary strategy, whereas advocacy has been rarer. Service provision can be seen as a means for making workers interested in the membership. Political action and pressure has been used to advocate for labour legislation that protects the rights of precarious workers. Legal action has been used to establish the status of contract workers as employees. Sometimes the organisations can apply pressure directly to the employer, and examples are given of cases where this has been successfully done to companies higher up in the supply chain, i.e. companies indirectly using the services of outsourced day labourers. It is argued that although some of these quasi-unions have made some significant achievements they remain very far from attaining enough power to make major changes in employer policies and practices, even with limited industrial or geographical scope. Therefore these movements are seen to be able to benefit greatly from establishing networks with trade unions.

**Keywords:** 'quasi-unions', USA, social movement unionism, union networks.

Hill, Elizabeth. *Worker Identity, Agency and Economic Development: Women's Empowerment in the Indian Informal Economy*. London: Routledge, 2010.

<http://www.amazon.com/Worker-Identity-Agency-Economic-Development/dp/0415566096>

**Abstract:**

This book documents the situation of informal women workers in India with a focus on the social foundations of economic development. The book builds upon the experiences of the members of SEWA, an Indian trade union of self employed women earning a living in the informal economy. The empowerment of SEWA members is discussed through examining the links between worker identity, agency, and worker engagement in the political economy in detail. It is argued that SEWAs struggle to build a strong identity of its members as workers has been an important start for their empowerment, giving them a sense of pride and building strong solidarity. SEWA has been organising self-employed women in the informal economy by using a two-fold strategy of advocacy for pro-poor policies and service provision including insurance, help in establishing cooperatives, education, health, and financial services. This book focuses more on the advocacy aspects of SEWAs strategy, linking the experiences of SEWA to a broader debate about empowerment and economic development.

**Keywords:** worker identity, class, India, empowerment, trade union, economic development

Horn, Pat. 'New forms of Collective Bargaining: Adapting to the informal economy and new forms of work', *Labour, Capital and Society*, 2005, 38(1&2): 208-224

[http://www.lcs-tcs.com/PDFs/38\\_12/Horn.pdf](http://www.lcs-tcs.com/PDFs/38_12/Horn.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This article analyses the limitations of existing collective bargaining structures in the context of increased informalization of livelihoods. This article draws upon the author's experience of organising in South Africa as well as the experiences of SEWA in India. It is argued that a challenge for trade unions is to organize people who have no legal recognition as workers. Therefore, these kinds of organizing initiatives should start from an effort of those in the informal economy to establish their status as workers. After self-organizing, alliances can be built between the formal and informal workers' organizations.

One of the key issues in organizing in the informal economy is the difficulty of establishing lasting structures that support collective bargaining. One of the obvious reasons for this is the common lack of a direct employer to bargain with. Negotiations often take place with local government on an ad hoc basis. However, without clear forums for these kinds of negotiations, the decisions made are not always acted upon, and sustainable policy agendas are not achieved.

**Keywords:** Collective bargaining, trade unions, labour relations.

Horn, Pat. *Voice Regulation in the Informal Economy and New Forms of Work*. ILO, 2006.

[http://www.globallabour.info/en/2007/09/voice\\_regulation\\_on\\_the\\_inform.html](http://www.globallabour.info/en/2007/09/voice_regulation_on_the_inform.html)

**Abstract:**

This paper draws comparisons between the situation of Black workers in Apartheid South Africa and workers in the contemporary South African informal economy. It argues that both groups share the challenge of organizing in a legal environment that does not recognize them as part of the labour force. Furthermore, it is argued that the labour movement can only represent informal workers, if they are integrated into the structures of the movement. The article analyses the following models of organising: trade unions, associations, and cooperatives.

**Keywords:** South Africa, voice regulation, trade union, cooperative.

Jason, Arthur. 'Organizing informal workers in the urban economy: The case of the construction industry in Dar es Salaam', Tanzania, *Habitat International*, 2008, 32(2): 192-202.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197397507000495>

### **Abstract**

This article introduces a United Nations Volunteers project that aimed to organise informal construction workers' and to promote social dialogue between the workers and the government in Dar es Salaam. Those included in the project were mainly construction workers, but also people selling construction materials. They were mainly self-employed, working for individuals building houses. The project brought together 38 groups of workers into negotiations with the government and other stakeholders. The paper does not provide much information on what basis these organisations were formed or what their tasks were. Majority of these groups were mixed trade, but some were specialized in e.g. plumbing, carpentry, aluminium and glass fitting. Discussions with the groups and the government focused on legal recognition and the related financial and social benefits, and access to space. Negotiations with the trade union lead to an agreement that the informal construction workers could establish an umbrella organization that would be able to become a union affiliate.

**Keywords:** Tanzania, construction work, social dialogue, UN



Jhabvala, Renana and Ravi Kanbur. *Globalization and Economic Reform as Seen from the Ground: SEWA's Experience in India*. SEWA, 2002.

<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/poverty/kanbur/Jhabvala-KanburMITPress.pdf>

### **Abstract**

This paper looks at four industries in India, the construction sector, the garment industry, the forestry sector, and insurance. Focus is on SEWA, a trade union of poor, self-employed women. Moreover, the paper looks at the effects that globalisation and economic reform have had on these industries, and how SEWA aims to ensure that its members gain rather than lose from globalization and economic reform. SEWA uses several strategies to aid its members, organising for collective strength; help in access to financial services; capacity building; and social security. In construction and garment industries, SEWA has provided training to its members in order to help them adjust to the changing needs of the market. In both of these sectors as well as in forestry, SEWA has also aimed to influence government policies. In insurance sector, the organisation has pushed for policies that protect the ability of the poor to get insurance, as well as aimed to establish its own insurance company. It is argued that ensuring that poor people gain from globalization requires active measures and pro-poor policies from the government. One of the key issues is that membership based organisations of the poor are given a forum where they can affect policy making.

**Key words:** Globalization, India, trade union, liberalization, SEWA.

Jhabvala, Renana; Sapna Desai and Jignasa Dave. *Empowering Women in an Insecure World. Joining SEWA Makes a Difference*. SEWA, 2010.

<http://www.inclusivecities.org/pdfs/SEWA%20Book.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This paper examines what significance membership in SEWA has. SEWA, a trade union of self-employed poor women, uses several strategies to aid its members: organizing for collective strength; help in access to financial services; capacity building; and social security. Based on the findings of the Gujarat Social Income and Insecurity Survey this paper argues that members of SEWA have relatively better access to credit and other financial support. Furthermore, members of SEWA feel empowered and share a feeling of control over their income.

**Keywords:** India, SEWA, income levels, self-employment.

Jimu, Ignasio Malizani. 'Self-organized informal workers and trade union initiatives in Malawi: Process, challenges and directions of organizing the informal economy', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This study compares self-organising by informal workers with trade union initiatives of organising in the informal economy in Malawi. Street vendors associations are used as examples of the prior, and Malawi Union for the Informal Sector (MUFIS) and the Construction, Industrial and Allied Workers Unions (CIAWU) of the former.

The two street vendors' associations studied emerged in the mid-1990s out of a spontaneous mobilization for rights to trade in the streets. The associations have then been engaging with the local government and the general public, promoting a more positive image of street trade. In addition to advocacy, the associations have developed insurance schemes for their members. MUFIS is characterized as a 'non-workers' union that represents vendors, job seekers, pensioners and widows. CIAWU has only recently started expanding its membership to informal economy. Both unions are members of Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU) and have similar organising strategies that depend on donor funding from international networks. They have provided members with training in business management, access to financial services, and advocacy for the rights of informal workers.

**Keywords:** Malawi, street vendors, trade union, non-workers union.

Jordhus-Lier, David Christoffer. 'Moments of resistance: The struggle against informalization in the city of Cape Town', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter examines how trade unions have resisted neoliberal policies and the resulting informalization in Cape Town. One part of the union strategy adopted by the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) has been to extend its membership to outsourced workers in informal employment in order to better represent the sector and build working class solidarity. The union has not rights to collective bargaining for outsourced workers who do not fall under the municipal workers' bargaining council. However, it does have mandate on organizational health and safety issues. SAMWU was also challenging the scope of the bargaining councils in order to bring outsourced municipal workers under the same collective bargaining agreement as the rest of the municipal workers.

**Keywords:** subcontracted workers, liberalisation, informalization, South Africa.

Joynt, Katherine and Edward Webster *The growth and organisation of a precariat: Working in the clothing industry in Johannesburg's Inner city*. 7th GLU Conference, 'The Politics of Labour and Development' 28-30 September 2011, Johannesburg, South Africa.

[http://www.global-labour-university.org/fileadmin/GLU\\_conference\\_2011/papers/Edward\\_Webster\\_Katherine\\_Joynt.pdf](http://www.global-labour-university.org/fileadmin/GLU_conference_2011/papers/Edward_Webster_Katherine_Joynt.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper outlines the effects of liberalisation on the clothing industry in South Africa, emphasizing how the casualization and informalization of labour processes have led to the growth of a new precarious labour force, challenging unions organising in the sector. Furthermore, the study examines how unions have attempted to rise to this challenge and organize the precarious workers in small informal firms. The South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), has started to organize workers in the informal economy. At first, SACTWU used similar tactics to organize informal and formal workers. However, more recently it has developed services specifically targeting informal workers. These include a range of healthcare services as well as education programs for the workers' children. According to the union, its strength has been in advocating for better work conditions by pressuring retailers to only by from manufacturers that comply with labour regulations.

In addition to trade unions, the paper also examines religious organisations that are popular among the informal workers. It is argued that these organisations are also serving a social function, helping their members in finding jobs and housing, as well as in some cases assisting them in access to social grants and other official documentation such as birth certificates and ID cards. It is the author's view that because they enjoy deep support among the informal workers, these religious organisations are a potential source of power for the informal workers' movement, and that the union would benefit from building collaboration with these movements.

**Keywords:** South Africa, clothing industry, trade union, faith based organisation, liberalisation.

Levin, Mark. 'Cooperatives and Unions: Joint Action for Informal Workers', *Labour Education*, 2002, 2(127).

<http://ilo-mirror.library.cornell.edu/public/english/dialogue/actrav/publ/127/127e.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This article discusses the possibilities of building networks between trade unions and cooperatives operating in the informal economy. It draws on a variety of examples from across the globe on situations where joint trade union-cooperative arrangement exists. The article promotes the idea that trade unions should support informal workers' in establishing cooperatives, and that alliances should then be formed between these cooperatives and trade unions.

**Keywords:** Cooperative, trade union, union networks, ILO

Lindell, Ilda (2011) 'The contested spatialities of transnational activism: gendered gatekeeping and gender struggles in an African association of informal workers'. *Global Networks – A Journal of Transnational Affairs*, 11(2): 222-241.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1471-0374.2011.00319.x/pdf>

**Abstract:**

This article examines the gender roles and the related tensions in an association of informal vendors in Maputo, and in an international organisation of vendors. The vendors' organisation in Maputo has mainly women members, but the leadership consists almost exclusively of men. While the discourse of the association is all about gender equity, it has not been integrated into the association's internal hierarchy. It is argued that women in the association should nonetheless not be seen as subordinate or lacking agency. They are aware of the gender hierarchy and have created a women's department in order to create space for influence. The international umbrella organization has gender equity as one of its core principles. This has led to some conflicts with the Mozambican association, since the male leaders have been unwilling to send female representatives to international meetings. The findings of the study warn against seeing international networks as having unrestrained mobility and fluidity, and instead point out the restrictions and power structures that may delimit the reach of such networks.

**Keywords:** Gender, transnational activism, Mozambique, vendors,

Lindell, Ilda. 'Informality and Collective Organising: identities, alliances and transnational activism in Africa', *Third World Quarterly*, 2010, 32(2).

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01436591003711959>

**Abstract:**

This article draws upon case studies from several African countries, examining the formation of collective identities and political subjectivities by informal actors. Furthermore, it analyses how these relate to attempts of building alliances between informal workers' organisations and trade unions and other actors on national and transnational scales. The author argues that the informal economy should be seen as comprising of a multiplicity of class relations and multiple fields of power. Collective identities of actors in the informal economy should then not be taken for granted, but should be seen as constructed and negotiated. Moreover, this has consequences for how we understand alliances between 'informals' and for example trade unions. The article also draws upon an analysis of scalar complexity in the politics of informal economy, arguing that informal actors are no longer confined to the local in their organising and alliance building, but may also choose to focus on building international networks and alliances.

**Keywords:** Africa, trade union, collective identity, class, power relations, networks.



Lindell, Ilda. 'Glocal' Movements: Place Struggles and Transnational Organizing by Informal Workers', *Geografiska Annaler series B-Human Geography*, 2009, 91B(2): 123-136

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-0467.2009.00310.x/pdf>

**Abstract:**

This article examines the collective organising of informal women on different scales, from local to global. The empirical part of the paper uses an example of ASSOTSI, a vendors association in Maputo, Mozambique, in order to analyse the importance of international connections for the local politics of informality. While the association is one concerned with practical aspects of managing market places, politically its main task is to address the local government in order to defend its members' rights to urban space, and thus right to livelihood. The association has built up solidarity between vendors in different markets and has been able to mobilize its members when needed. Furthermore, it has become a member of StreetNet International, a global network of associations and unions of vendors. The effects that this global network has had on local politics in Maputo have been positive for ASSOTSI. International experience gives members of the association concrete ideas of what they are striving for. Foreign visits to Maputo have put pressure on the local government, making them aware of the international solidarity that is backing the association, and forcing them to realize that they are not dealing with an isolated group.

**Keywords:** Transnational movements, vendors, Mozambique, StreetNet International

Lindell, Ilda. 'The multiple sites of urban governance: Insights from an African city', *Urban Studies*, 2008, 45(9): 1879-1901.

<http://usj.sagepub.com/content/45/9/1879.full.pdf+html>

**Abstract:**

This article examines urban governance in Maputo, with specific focus on governance of Markets. One of the sites of governance examined is a vendors' association. This association was established with the help of a trade union federation, and has then been registered and acquired legal status. The association is headed by an executive committee that is responsible for supervising and co-ordinating activities. On a lower level, the association has established market committees that provide infrastructure (water, toilets, etc.), maintenance and security services, and organise cleaning in their respective markets. The committees also control access to selling sites, and arbitrate conflicts, including labour conflicts such as breaches of informal work contracts. Most of the market vendors are self-employed, but informal employment occurs as well. The association has a seat in the national forum of trade unions, and this affiliation is regarded as giving it visibility and strength when dealing with the government. It is also networking with an international organisation of informal workers.

**Keywords:** Mozambique, markets, governance, trade union.

Lindell, Ilda. 'Building Alliances Between Formal and Informal Workers: Experiences from Africa' in Bieler, A., Lindberg, I. & Pillay, D. (eds.) *Labour and the Challenges of Globalization: What Prospects for Transnational Solidarity?*, London: Pluto Press, 2008.

[http://www.amazon.com/Labour-Challenges-Globalization-Transnational-Solidarity/dp/0745327567/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332929740&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Labour-Challenges-Globalization-Transnational-Solidarity/dp/0745327567/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332929740&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter provides an overview of relations between trade unions and informal workers organizations in Africa. Examples are drawn from South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Uganda, Ghana, and in a larger extent – Mozambique. It is argued that cooperation between trade unions and informal workers' organizations is not common, but that they do exist in a variety of arrangements in different contexts. In Mozambique, an informal vendors association, ASSOTSI, is a fully affiliated member of a national trade union federation. ASSOTSI organizes vendors by dealing with practical aspects of managing market places and by advocating for the rights of informal workers.

**Keywords:** trade union, Africa, Mozambique, formal-informal alliance, vendors.

Lindell, Ilda & Jenny Appelblad, 'Disabling governance: Privatisation of city markets and implications for vendors' associations in Kampala, Uganda', *Habitat International*, 2009, 33(4): 397-404.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197397508000945>

**Abstract:**

This article looks at vendors' associations in Kampala, Uganda, with special focus on how privatization of city markets has affected these associations. Traditionally, market associations have been responsible for managing the markets and providing services to their members. As a result of changes in legislation and privatization of the markets, associations are no longer allowed to be in charge of managing their markets, and have been replaced by private companies or cooperatives. Some of the associations have formed companies or cooperatives, but most have been excluded from managing the markets. In some markets, associations are no longer allowed. As a result of privatization, the vendors are experiencing harder working conditions and feel like they can no longer appeal to the City Council that tends to side with the companies running the markets.

This article compares the cases of two markets, one that was taken over by a private company, and one that is now managed by a cooperative. While the vendors are satisfied with the management of the market by a cooperative, it is problematic that the cooperative only has a small membership, as compared to the market association that was open for everyone. As a consequence of privatization, the market vendors are increasingly losing their representative body. However, attempts by the National Union to build stronger links with informal workers may offer some hope for stronger future organization amongst the vendors.

**Keywords:** Privatisation, market, cooperatives, trade union, Uganda

Lyon, Fergus 'Trader associations and urban food systems in Ghana: Institutional approaches to understanding urban collective action', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 2003, 27(1): 11-23

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-2427.00428/pdf>

### **Abstract**

This article uses an institutionalist approach to analyse associations of vegetable wholesale traders in a number of Ghanaian urban markets. In the markets, there is an association for each product. Each association is headed by a market queen, with the self-employed market traders forming the membership base. The associations have several responsibilities: they distribute information about prices, production, reputation of other traders and farmers, and transport; they help with welfare, for example assisting members with funeral costs; they settle disputes; and they control the supply of goods and number of traders allowed to sell at a specific time in order to keep the prices steady. These associations help in supporting the women members by limiting the economic risks of the individual members.

**Keywords:** Ghana, market associations, agricultural products, institutional approach.

Lyon, Fergus. 'Institutional perspectives on understanding street retailer behaviour and networks: cases from Ghana', in Cross, J. C. and Morales A. (Eds) *Street Entrepreneurs: People, Place and Politics in Local and Global Perspective*. London: Routledge, 2007.

[http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter looks at the diverse organisational forms and the interrelated political, economic, and social relationships of street and market vendors in Ghana. In terms of political organising and associational life, the focus is on product associations found in Ghanaian markets. Each association is headed by a market queen, with the self-employed market traders forming the membership base. The associations are in charge of allocation of market space and other day-to-day issues related to managing the markets, as well as negotiating prices with wholesalers. They also lobby to the local authorities and settle disputes between the traders. According to the members, the associations provide welfare services, mainly referring to assistance with funeral costs.

**Keywords:** traders, Ghana, market associations, institutional approach.

Lyons, Michal & Simon Snoxell. 'Sustainable urban livelihoods and marketplace social capital: Crisis and strategy in petty trade', *Urban Studies*, 2005, 42(8): 1301-1320.

<http://usj.sagepub.com/content/42/8/1301>

**Abstract:**

This article analyses the significance that social capital has for economic sustainability of market traders in Senegal and Ghana. Two types of organizations are briefly analysed in terms of their membership benefits as experienced by the members: savings groups and welfare or market associations. It was noted that membership of the savings associations attracted some of the most vulnerable groups. The members appreciated the financial benefits of the membership, but felt that nearly as important were the social ties to fellow members. The social benefits of a membership, i.e. the opportunity to make friends in the marketplace, were seen as the most important reason for joining a welfare association. Access to information and decision making were also seen as important reasons, followed by the possible financial benefits. It is then argued that these groups are significant for their members' social and economic capital, simultaneously facilitating trading and socialising in the marketplace.

**Keywords:** Ghana, Senegal, market association, social capital.

Mather, Celia (ed.). *Out of the Shadows: Organising and protecting domestic workers in Europe: The role of trade unions*. European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Brussels, 2005.

[http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport\\_domestic\\_workers.pdf](http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport_domestic_workers.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This report is based on a conference organized by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). It introduces different kinds of efforts to organize informal and formal domestic workers in a number of European countries. While the focus is on trade union campaigns, the paper also introduces efforts by different kinds of actors to improve working conditions. One example is the Emergim project in Spain, which has brought together local governments; two trade union federations; an employers' organization; a professional organization; a local university; women workers' groups; and domestic workers' associations in an effort to get formal recognition to domestic work. Other examples used in the report come from Belgium, France, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, and Italy. Elsewhere as well trade unions have built networks with social movements and NGOs, as well as used local media in defending domestic workers rights to decent work. In some of the countries, domestic workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

**Keywords:** domestic work, migrant workers, trade unions, Europe,



Meagher, Kate, 'The politics of vulnerability: Exit, voice and capture in three Nigerian informal manufacturing clusters', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter examines whether informal economic associations provide an effective mechanism for political voice. Moreover, the effects of economic and political liberalisation on associations within the informal economy are discussed. These questions are assessed by studying associations of small producers in three informal manufacturing clusters in the town of Aba in Nigeria, specializing in the production of garments, shoes, and cosmetics.

The associations deal with maintenance of law and order, dealing with local government and police, and social welfare assistance. Some of the associations have also attempted to regulate quality and prices. Most of the associations lack legal recognition, although one is registered nationally and some on state level. The associations do not offer business services such as credit and savings, due to lack of resources. There have been conflicts between the well-established economic position of the leadership and the survivalist needs of the poor members. The garment associations are aiming to overcome the divide between tailors and mass producers. They have also expressed an interest in pursuing links with the national textile workers union (NUTGTWN) and Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) regarding their common opposition to Asian textile imports. The cosmetics associations were plagued by low density, and divisions between the male leadership and the predominantly female membership, as well as between the more established and the survivalist producers.

The case studies represent real difficulties of raising collective voice through the associations. In the case studies, the associations tend to represent the interest of the leadership, and fall into clientel relations with the local authorities. The complex interaction between occupational, communal, religious and class identities is seen as important in explaining the dynamics of political organising. Despite the difficulties faced in the three clusters, the paper sees potential in this kind of organising and points out that channels for the expression of a collective voice can only emerge over time and are a result of persistent struggles.

**Keywords:** Small-producer associations, Nigeria, collective voice, liberalisation, class.

Meagher, Kate. 'Informal Economies and Urban Governance in Nigeria: Popular Empowerment or Political Exclusion?' *African Studies Review*, 2011, 54(2): 47-72

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/african\\_studies\\_review/v054/54.2.meagher.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/african_studies_review/v054/54.2.meagher.html)

**Abstract:**

This article examines the influence that business associations in three Nigerian industrial clusters have on urban governance. All the associations studied are business owners associations that provide a range of basic services such as dispute resolution, night guards within the cluster, and basic social welfare assistance. In the Aba shoe cluster, there are six associations that come together under an umbrella organization to negotiate with the government. Their relations with the government are characterized by a tendency toward collusion and kickbacks rather than economic demands and representation of member interests. This has led to disillusionment and mistrust among the rank and file of shoe producers. In the Aba garment cluster, the association has attempted to develop formal channels for engaging with the state. Part of this strategy was forging links with the Nigerian Association of Small-Scale Industrialists (NASSI), and assisting firms to register formally. However, the association's influence was relatively small, and the aims of the leaders did not match with the needs of the rank and file members, due to the large income gap between the leadership and the members. The association fell apart in 2007. The Ilorin weaving cluster is dominated by a weavers' guild, dating back to pre-colonial times. This association has been limited to cliental relations with the state in the form of tax exemptions and hand-outs to the leadership. A newer association has been formed that aims to solicit enterprise assistance from federal government. However, the association has had little success or influence. The article calls for increased attention to not only creating associations that can bring people in the informal economy into negotiations with the government, but also into empowering those associations to make effective claims on government, and to creating sustainable platforms for representation.

**Keywords:** Garment industry, Nigeria, Business associations, collective bargaining, governance, social capital, empowerment.

Medina, Martin. *Waste Picker Cooperatives in Developing Countries*. Paper prepared for WIEGO/Cornell/SEWA Conference on Membership-Based Organizations of the Poor, Ahmedabad, India, January 2005.

[http://depot.gdnet.org/cms/conference/papers/3rd\\_day2\\_15\\_medina.pdf](http://depot.gdnet.org/cms/conference/papers/3rd_day2_15_medina.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper gives a comprehensive picture of the situation of waste pickers in developing countries. It is argued that waste pickers lose a significant amount of profits to middlemen who sell the recyclables to industry and that by establishing cooperatives waste pickers can circumvent the middlemen and increase their profits. The study introduces several cases where waste pickers have successfully established cooperatives in Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Philippines, India, and Indonesia, where the members of the cooperatives benefitted from increased incomes. In some cases it was mentioned that a cooperative was also providing welfare services such as scholarships and insurance. Furthermore, the cooperatives helped to dignify waste picker activities. One of the most important lessons learned from these studies is the importance of NGOs in assisting waste pickers to establish cooperatives.

**Keywords:** Waste pickers, cooperatives, NGOs, Latin America, Asia.

Mitullah, Winnie V. 'Informal workers in Kenya and transnational organizing: Networking and leveraging resources', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter examines the influence of transnational networks on local working conditions for people in the informal economy by looking at the case of KENASVIT, a national civil society organisation in Kenya. KENASVIT was established with the support of the Institute for Development Studies of the University of Nairobi and transnational organisations including StreetNet and WIEGO. Membership of the organisation is formed by street vendors and informal traders. KENASVIT aims to organize and empower street vendors and informal traders, in order to improve their business through training, access to credit, dialogue with local authorities and other relevant organizations. It also aims to develop networks on national, regional, and international levels. While the article emphasizes the significance of transnational networks for local struggles, it argues that local engagement and capacity building is the key to sustainable organizing.

**Keywords:** traders' association, transnational networks, capacity building, Kenya.

Motala, Shirin. *Organizing in the Informal Economy: A Case Study of Street Trading in South Africa*, IFP/SEED Working Paper No. 36. Geneva, ILO, 2002.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_emp/@emp\\_ent/@ifp\\_seed/documents/publication/wcms\\_117700.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/@ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_117700.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper analyses organization strategies of street traders in South Africa. It focuses on three organizations: the Informal Trade Management Board (ITMB), the Gauteng Hawkers Association (GHA), and the Self Employed Women's Union (SEWU). ITMB was formed in Durban as a response to the need for small traders' organizations to have "one voice". The members are all traders who have a trading stand. It is a non-registered voluntary organization that addresses local government in order to improve the traders' working conditions. It interacts with the local government in the Trader Representative Forum, set up by the Informal Traders Small Business Opportunities Department, of the Durban Municipality. It also assists the members in obtaining trading sites. GHA is a registered non-profit organization of hawkers in Johannesburg. It provides members with training, legal support, help with harassment, storage, and bargaining with local government by participating in the Informal Traders Forum. SEWU is operating like a trade union, organizing self-employed women working in the informal economy in Durban, but also in other cities across the country. SEWU works towards empowerment of women in the informal economy by providing members with training in literacy skills, negotiation and lobbying. It has also been active in policy work and research, as well as established channels of cooperation with a wide range of actors and institutions at the national and international level.

**Keywords:** Street trade, South Africa, urban governance, trade unions, international network.

Nchito, Wilma S., & Karen Tranberg Hansen. 'Passport Please: The cross-border traders association in Zambia', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter examines The Cross-Border Traders Association (CBTA) in Zambia, focusing on the networks of influence that the association has with a range of local, national, and international actors. The CBTA membership comprises of informal traders of many different commodities from across the region. It interacts with a range of influential regional bodies such as the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as local and national governments. CBTA functions on three levels, firstly by bringing together cross-border traders and providing them with a platform for communicating with one voice. Secondly, it lobbies for its members on issues relating to tariffs and customs duties as well as other costs relating to cross-border travel. Thirdly, it seeks to educate its members on issues concerning their financial and physical wellbeing. It also provides a platform on which regional bodies, government agencies, and private sector actors can interact with cross border traders.

**Keywords:** Cross-border trade, liberalization, Zambia, business association.

Pillay, Devan 'Globalization and the informalization of labour: the case of South Africa, in Bieler, A., Lindberg, I. & Pillay, D. (eds.) *Labour and the Challenges of Globalization: What Prospects for Transnational Solidarity?*, London: Pluto Press, 2008.

[http://www.amazon.com/Labour-Challenges-Globalization-Transnational-Solidarity/dp/0745327567/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332929740&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Labour-Challenges-Globalization-Transnational-Solidarity/dp/0745327567/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332929740&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter provides an introduction on the challenges that globalization and informalization are posing on organized labour in South Africa. It is argued that the unions have been unable to organize atypical vulnerable workers, especially women. The article then briefly introduces some organisations of informal workers. One of the organisations discussed is SEWU, which was involved in negotiations with the local government over street vendors' access to urban infrastructure. The article also discusses the prospects of unions building alliances with or otherwise reaching out to people earning their livelihoods in the informal economy. It is argued that the ambiguity of informal actors is a challenge to political organising amongst them; should they be seen as small entrepreneurs or workers.

**Keywords:** trade union, globalization, South Africa, new social movements.

Prag, Ebbe, 'Women leaders and the sense of power: clientelism and citizenship at the Dantokpa market in Cotonou, Benin', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter focuses on women's market associations at the Dantokpa Market in Cotonou (Benin). It discusses how the leadership of the organisations has networked and bargained with different levels of government, in advocating for the interests of the members. Moreover, the focus is on how the associations have exercised their collective voice to influence the management of the market. The article also discusses gender aspects of market organisations. The local market women's associations are federated in the *Union Nationale des Commerçantes du Bénin* (UNACOBÉ). In addition to advocacy to the local government and the market management, some of the associations are developing international networks. International aspects of organising, cooperation with StreetNet and Union Network International (UNI) are central for the association's capacity building attempts, such as battling illiteracy.

**Keywords:** Market associations, Benin, trade unions, international networks, party politics, market management.



Rauber, Isabel. 'The Globalisation of capital and its impact on the world of formal and informal work: Challenges for and responses from Argentine unions', in Bieler, A., Lindberg, I. & Pillay, D. (eds.) *Labour and the Challenges of Globalization: What Prospects for Transnational Solidarity?*, London: Pluto Press, 2008.

[http://www.amazon.com/Labour-Challenges-Globalization-Transnational-Solidarity/dp/0745327567/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332929740&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Labour-Challenges-Globalization-Transnational-Solidarity/dp/0745327567/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332929740&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter looks at the effects of neoliberalism and structural adjustment policies on Argentinian society in general and Argentine trade unions in particular. It looks at how traditional unions have attempted to adapt to the changes and introduces an alternative union movement, Argentine Workers' Federation (CTA). CTA organizes formal and informal workers across industries, as well as the unemployed. Its practical organizing strategies are not brought up in the paper, but the organization is said to practice a form of political unionism. It is fighting for an alternative to neoliberalism, and is building alliances with other movements that share the same ideals.

**Keywords:** Argentina, neoliberalism, unemployed, trade union, political unionism.

Roever, Sally & Lissette Aliaga Linares. *Street Vendors Organising: The Case of the Women's Network (Red de Mujeres)*, Lima, Peru. WIEGO, Urban Policies Briefing Note No. 2, July 2010.

[http://www.inclusivecities.org/research/WIEGO\\_PB2\\_Roever\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.inclusivecities.org/research/WIEGO_PB2_Roever_FINAL.pdf)

**Abstract:**

Street vendors' organizations have a long history in Lima. However, many of these organizations are currently struggling to sustain their membership and activities, and some are creating networks and other new organisational models in order to survive. This paper focuses on one such network: the Women's Network of Street and Market Vendors of Lima. The network aims to tackle the lack of representation that women have faced in the traditional organisations. Although the majority of street vendors are women, these organisations have been led by men. The Women's Network does not aim to lobby the government on vending issues, but rather to try to advance women's position in the existing street vendors' associations, and to empower women vendors economically and socially. The network organises workshops and training in skills related to income-generating and leadership. It is not trying to challenge the existing organisations but is rather working parallel with them, and trying to strengthen them through developing gender equality. The network has been funded through NGOs and it is also linked to a Peruvian trade union.

**Keywords:** street vendors, gender, Peru, empowerment.

Roever, Sally. *Street Trade in Latin America: Demographic Trends, Legal Issues, and Vending Organizations in Six Cities*. WIEGO Urban Policies Programme, 2006.

[http://www.inclusivecities.org/pdfs/Roever\\_Street\\_Trade\\_in\\_LAC.pdf](http://www.inclusivecities.org/pdfs/Roever_Street_Trade_in_LAC.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper looks at street vending in six major Latin American cities: Bogotá, Colombia; Caracas, Venezuela; Lima, Peru; Mexico City, Mexico, Santiago, Chile; and São Paulo, Brazil. The paper analyses demographic trends and working conditions among street vendors; the legal framework governing street vending; and street vendors' organizations. The paper does not go into detailed analyses of the organising strategies in different cities, but rather comments upon the influence that the vendors' organisations have on urban policy making in the different cities. Where organizational strategies are discussed, the organisations tend to focus on solving conflicts between members, as well as representing the members' interests to local officials. In some of the cases, the organisations are closely linked to the broader labour movement, whereas some organisations choose to build alliances with political parties.

**Keywords:** Street vending, Latin America, urban policy, trade union, party politics.

Samson, Melanie. *Organizing Reclaimers in Tshwane, South Africa: Lessons from Top Down and Bottom Up Experiences*. WIEGO Organizing Series. 2010.

<http://www.inclusivecities.org/pdfs/Organizing%20Reclaimers%20in%20Tshwane.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This paper examines attempts to organize reclaimers/waste pickers in the landfills of Tshwane municipality in South Africa. The paper first looks at top down attempts by the municipality to help the reclaimers by creating work programs and creating privately owned buy-back-centres where the reclaimers could sell their goods. However, the work programs failed due to their economic unsustainability, and the launch of the buy centres failed because the companies running them tried to exploit the situation, with the result that the centres did not help the reclaimers.

The paper also examines a city wide network of landfill committees formed by people working in the landfills. Each landfill has a committee that negotiates with employers and managers if such exist and work to maintain an orderly and safe working environment. They also control access of reclaimers to the landfill. The Tshwane Network was established to negotiate more effectively with buyers over prices. The advantage of a city wide network is that buyers cannot play the different landfills against each other in pressing for lower prices. The network also engages with the municipality. The reclaimers do not have an official platform for negotiations with the municipality, but they have met with the municipality and feel that as representatives of the network they have more authority than as representatives of individual landfills. In addition, the network addresses issues at specific landfills; promotes establishing of cooperatives; and facilitates exchange of information between the landfills.

**Keywords:** waste pickers, South Africa, cooperatives, urban governance, market-based initiative

Samson, Melanie (ed.). *Refusing to Be Cast Aside: Waste Pickers Organising around the World*, WIEGO, Cambridge, USA, 2009.

<http://www.inclusivecities.org/pdfs/Refusing%20to%20be%20Cast%20Aside-Wastepickers-Wiego%20publication.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This book examines organizing among waste pickers from different perspectives. Examples are drawn from around the world and the focus of analysis ranges from life-stories of waste pickers to waste picking in the context of a global trend of privatization of waste management. However, the key theme is waste pickers' organizations. The organizations that are studied include mainly cooperatives, but also a trade union, and a private company. Furthermore, one of the chapters analyses broader networks and federations of waste pickers' organizations, bringing together waste pickers regionally, nationally, and globally.

**Keywords:** waste pickers, co-operatives, Latin America, Asia, South Africa, global networks.

Sandoval, Salvador A. M. 'Alternative forms of working-class organization and the mobilization of informal-sector workers in Brazil in the era of neoliberalism', *International Labor and Working-Class History*, 2007, 72: 63-89.

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&pdfType=1&fid=1423828&jid=ILW&volumeId=72&issueId=01&aid=14238209>

**Abstract:**

This article analyses on the one hand the weakening of the trade union movement in Brazil, and on the other the emergence of new forms of popular organizing amongst informal workers. Three case studies are examined: The landless workers movement; Street vendors; and passenger-van owners operating informal bus services. The landless workers movement has organized people who have been unable to get access to farmland. It has used occupation of land as a strategy, but has also organized significant demonstrations against neoliberal policies and used the tactic of mass marches from agrarian settlements to urban centres. The street vendors in this case study are vendors who sell small electronic appliances; computer accessories; small tools; etc. They have organized around issues relating to access to public space, and have mainly used mass demonstrations and occasional riots as a tool. The vendors have been in a conflict with shop owners as well as shop employees, who are concerned by the competition. This has placed the vendors against members of a commercial workers' union. Similarly, the informal bus service operators ended in a conflict of interest with the members of the bus drivers' unions, who became worried for their jobs as a result of the increased competition. The informal bus operators organized around the issue of having a right to their business, but eventually ended fighting against the bus companies, bus drivers' unions, and city authorities. The passenger-van owners used individual and collective resistance in the forms of riots and demonstrations.

**Keywords:** Brazil, landless workers' movement, neoliberalism, trade unions,

Scheld, Suzanne. 'The "China Challenge": The global dimensions of activism and the informal economy in Dakar, Senegal', in Lindell, Ilda, (ed.) *Africa's Informal Workers. Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2010.

[http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Africas-Informal-Workers-Collective-Transnational/dp/1848134525/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1332919596&sr=1-1)

**Abstract:**

This article examines the organizing strategies of traders' associations in the informal economy of Dakar in the context of market liberalization and the emergence of Chinese actors in to the market. Organising in the informal economy of Dakar is examined in a historical perspective, as well as in the current context. UNACOIS is a traders' association that has arranged strikes against value added tax on informal sales and challenged government monopoly on rice sales. Although it is registered as a business association, it has had a reputation of a militant labour union. More recently it has become a more moderate association focusing on providing financial services and insurances to its members. The dual identity of trade union and business association is evident in how UNACOIS has built networks with StreetNet and ILO on the one hand and with The Centre for International Private Enterprises on the other.

**Keywords:** traders' association, liberalization, Senegal, business association, trade union.

Skinner, Caroline. 'Challenging City Imaginaries: Street Traders' Struggles in Warwick Junction', *Agenda*, 2009, 82: 101-109.

[http://africancentreforcities.net/download/assets/challenging\\_city\\_imaginaries.pdf](http://africancentreforcities.net/download/assets/challenging_city_imaginaries.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This paper examines how street vendors working in Warwick Junction, Durban, have through collective organizing struggled to integrate themselves into urban planning. Furthermore, the paper analyses recent developments, suggesting that as a result of increased private property investments and modernist city visions the vendors position as being able to influence planning processes is facing difficult challenges. A branch of the Self Employed Women's Union (SEWU) operating in the Warwick Junction area has been engaging directly in negotiations with local authorities. As a result of the collective struggles, SEWU leaders had secured agreement from the Durban City Council to install water supplies and temporary toilet facilities for street traders. SEWU had also managed to build a structured relationship with the Council's Informal Business Unit. However, in the build-up to the FIFA World Cup, the council engaged in a project with private investors planning a mall in Warwick Junction. SEWU has been engaged in advocating against the plan that would disadvantage the vendors at the Junction. However, the vendors have been largely excluded from the planning process in the interest of the private property investors.

**Keywords:** street trading, women workers, South Africa, modernization, urban planning



Staudt, Kathleen. 'Street vendors at the border: From political spectacle to bureaucratic iron cage', in Cross, J. C. and Morales A. (Eds) *Street Entrepreneurs: People, Place and Politics in Local and Global Perspective*. London: Routledge, 2007.

[http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This chapter examines street vending in two border cities, El Paso, USA, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Focus is on the relations between the vendors and the municipal government. Street vendors' associations are discussed in this context, however, their organizational structures or strategies are not examined in depth. In both cities the organisations mediate between the regulations and the vendors. In El Paso, the association has been institutionalised into negotiations over trading rights. Nonetheless, street vending is very tightly regulated and access to vending space is restricted to few vendors. The paper discusses the relationship between urban planning and street vending, asking what space there is for street vending in a planned city.

**Keywords:** Street vendors, urban planning, bureaucracy, USA, Mexico

Theron, Jan. *Options for Organizing Waste Pickers in South Africa*. WIEGO Organizing Series. WIEGO: Cambridge, USA, 2010.

[http://wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Theron-Organizing\\_Waste\\_Pickers\\_S\\_Africa.pdf](http://wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Theron-Organizing_Waste_Pickers_S_Africa.pdf)

**Abstract:**

This booklet discusses the organising possibilities of waste pickers in South Africa. It is written as a guide for waste pickers and others in the informal economy contemplating organizing. Different types of organizations are discussed along with other practical aspects of building informal workers' organizations. The paper also briefly introduces a case study of a waste pickers' cooperative in Sasolburg, South Africa. The cooperative aimed to decrease the waste pickers' need to compete with each other, and thus build solidarity and increase their productivity.

**Keywords:** organizing manual, South Africa, waste pickers,

Varcin, Recep. 'The conflict between street vendors and local authorities: The case of market traders in Ankara, Turkey', in Cross, J. C. and Morales A. (Eds) *Street Entrepreneurs: People, Place and Politics in Local and Global Perspective*. London: Routledge, 2007.

[http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Street-Entrepreneurs-Politics-Perspective-Routledge/dp/0415770289/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332924962&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter discusses the management of market space in Ankara, Turkey, and the relations between municipal government and the traders' association. The Chamber of Marketplace Traders (CMT) is a membership based association of the traders that was originally in charge of the distribution of stalls and spatial location of traders in the marketplace. However, local politicians have increasingly started to use stall distribution to expand their access to patronage. As a result a conflict has emerged between the CMT and the city council. The CMT has used strike action to protest against the city council, and more importantly the traders have used their relationships with their customers to spread their message, collecting signatures from their customers to put pressure on the city council.

**Keywords:** market vendors, public space, urban governance, Turkey.

Vaux, Tony and Francie Lund. 'Working Women and Security: Self Employed Women's Association's Response to Crisis', *Journal of Human Development*, 2003 4(2).

<http://wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Vaux-Lund-Working-Women-Security.pdf>

**Abstract:**

This article examines how SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), a registered trade union of informal self-employed women in India, has responded to natural disasters. It is argued that the approach taken by SEWA has often been more appropriate than that of governments and aid agencies. SEWA has consistently focused on sustaining the livelihoods of its members by developing instruments such as insurance schemes, housing projects, savings and credit institutions. These tools all have an increased value at times of disaster. It is argued that the membership base of SEWA has a good understanding of disaster, as they are vulnerable to crisis in their everyday lives and can thus be regarded as experts. Furthermore, SEWA is experienced in dealing with different kinds of crises, and in working for sustainable livelihoods. SEWA has also aimed to influence the government for more pro-poor disaster policies, and participated in government commissions and committees.

**Keywords:** India, SEWA, disaster relief, human security, women.

War on Want. *Time for a New Deal: Informal Economy and Social Dialogue in Zambia*. War on Want, London, 2007.

<http://www.waronwant.org/overseas-work/informal-economy/hidden/inform/14744-time-for-a-new-deal>

**Abstract:**

This article examines how informal economy organizations in Zambia have managed to engage in social dialogue with local and central government. The three organizations studied are the Cross Border Trader Association (CBTA), the Lusaka Informal Traders' Association (LITA) and the Zambia National Marketeers' Association (ZANAMA). The paper also introduces the Tripartite Labour Council, where the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) represents workers. However, representation of informal workers has been rather weak, facilitated by Alliance for Zambia Informal Economy Associations, an affiliate of the ZCTU.

The CBTA has about 35 000 members in the Lusaka region. It has been welcome by the local authorities, as it helps in managing informal trading in the city. It has also been lobbying to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, and claims to have a good 'partnership' with the ministry. LITA, an organization that represents street traders in Lusaka, has had less positive experiences of negotiating with the government. The government does not allow street trading in the city and is therefore unwilling to negotiate with LITA. However, the organization has had some success in negotiating for rights to trade from specific kiosks. ZANAMA organizes market traders across Zambia. It has been negotiating market stall levies and organizing non-compliance campaigns amongst the traders. The initial approach was rather confrontational, but since the organization has earned respect from the government, it has been able to focus more energy on negotiations.

**Keywords:** Zambia, Social dialogue, market association, trade union, urban governance.

War on Want. *Forces for Change: Informal Economy Organisations in Africa*. London: War on Want, 2006.

<http://www.waronwant.org/component/content/article/16331>

**Abstract:**

This paper examines informal economy organisations in four countries: Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. It looks at eight case studies in these countries, examining the organizational and advocacy strategies of the studied organisations, as well as analysing their relations with local and central governments. *The StreetNet Ghana Alliance* (SGA) is a national umbrella organization of street vendors' associations. It cooperates with the Ghana Trades Union Congress (GTUC). The SGA negotiates with the local and central governments on behalf of its members. It also arranges workshops for its members where they are educated on negotiation skills among other things. *The Local Market Banana Sellers Association* (LMBSA) in Ghana was established with help from the GTUC. The organisation negotiates with wholesalers and other stakeholders on behalf of its members. *Malawi Union for the Informal Sector* is a registered trade union of informal traders. It organizes members through awareness meetings and holding consultation meetings with other associations. The organisation also aims to help its members in accessing financial services. *The Limbe Street Vendor Association* in Malawi organises street vendors in the Limbe business district. It is not a legally registered association, but nonetheless is consulted by the local authorities as the representative body of the street vendors. The association aims to mobilize street vendors in order to improve their status and to protect them from police harassment. *The Association of Informal Sector Operators and Workers – ASSOTSI* – is a full affiliate of Mozambique's trade union federation, OTM. It organizes market vendors by representing their interests to the government, assisting them with credit, organizing health education workshops, and mediating in conflicts between marketeers. It is reported to have good relationship with central and local government. *Association of Informal Sector Traders and Importers – Mukhero* – is a legally registered association representing people involved in informal cross-border trade. It aims to lobby the government in issues such as visa fees, tolls and import taxes. *The Alliance for Zambia Informal Economy Associations* is an umbrella organization of informal workers organizations representing different types of workers. It lobbies the central government for better social dialogue with informal workers and legal and social protection. *The Cross-Border Trader Association* in Zambia is an association that represents informal cross border traders and seeks to lobby their interests in regards to customs and visa regulations. It also provides members training in health issues and language skills; it has a welfare function; and also helps members in acquiring travel documents,

**Keywords:** overview study, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, advocacy to government.

Webster, Edward. 'Trade unions and the challenge of the informalisation of work', in Buhlungu, Sakhela (ed.) *Trade unions and democracy: Cosatu workers' political attitudes in South Africa*. HSRC Press: Cape Town, 2006.

[http://www.amazon.com/Trade-Unions-Democracy-Political-Attitudes/dp/079692127X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332941132&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Trade-Unions-Democracy-Political-Attitudes/dp/079692127X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1332941132&sr=8-1)

**Abstract:**

This book chapter examines trade union strategies of dealing with informalisation of labour in South Africa, by looking at the case of Cosatu, a trade union federation. The paper examines three groups of non-standard workers: subcontracted casual workers, informal workers, and small and micro enterprises. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has successfully regulated the use of outsourced casual labour through collective bargaining. It has introduced clauses that determine the primary employer – that is the mining company – as fully responsible for the casual outsourced workers. It has also been agreed that only registered labour brokers can be used and that the employer must provide a basic coverage of benefits. However, the unions have not been able to do the same in the docks where casualization has been a major problem. Some of the unions organizing dock workers were active in establishing a national dock labour scheme to regulate the use of casual workers. However the scheme was neither influential nor long-lasting. It is speculated that organising the dock workers is made difficult by the fact that there are many unions organizing in the sector.

The paper also discusses the case of self-employed informal workers. Self Employed Women's Union (SEWU) has been organizing informal workers by advocating for a more inclusive policy environment that would benefit street vendors and home-based workers. The Mineworkers Development Agency (MDA) was established by the NUM to support the formation of rural cooperatives by mineworkers who had lost their jobs. While the MDA has been successful in providing training and financial services to its members, it has not been able to provide access to markets due to rural poverty. One problem has been that the organization has not identified a negotiation partner for its agenda of rural economic development. The author discusses how SEWA and MDA have examples have different ideas about their constituencies. While SEWU identifies its members as workers, MDA identifies them as entrepreneurs. This is then related to a broader discussion about the significance of labour relations for collective organising.

**Keywords:** subcontracted workers, casualization, trade union, South Africa, dockers, labour relations, class.