

**Informal workers**, who form the majority of the workforce in most cities of the Global South, contribute to **urban economies** and in multiple other ways. Waste pickers, for example, provide vital **environmental services** to cities. Others, like artisans, performers, or food vendors, foster rich urban **cultural life**. Despite these contributions, informal workers are most often not recognized or included in urban planning processes. Sometimes, their work is stigmatized and penalized through evictions, restrictions and fines.

In WIEGO's five Focal Cities - Accra, Ghana; Dakar, Senegal; Delhi, India; Lima, Peru and Mexico City, Mexico - informal workers are mobilizing against negative stereotypes and unjust practices and policies, and approaching governments with **solutions that have the potential to benefit all who live in the city**.

The work in each Focal City is determined by the local context and worker priorities. These strategies cut across all five cities:

Strengthen **CAPACITY AND SKILLS** in priority areas, identified together with worker organizations based on their needs. Common areas across cities include:

- Collective bargaining
- Administrative law and legal empowerment
- Strengthening leadership and democratic organizational capacity
- Context-specific trainings on policies/regulations affecting informal workers



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Expand **LOCAL NETWORKS AND SOLIDARITY** within and across different sectors of workers (including street/market vendors, waste pickers and home-based workers, as well as other groups that vary by city) and with allied groups to build supportive local networks. This includes the creation of:

- Roundtables for sustained exchange and coordination of efforts among informal workers
- Local networks of journalists, lawyers, allied academics and civil society organizations
- Coalitions between worker and civil society organizations around shared priorities

Increase **PUBLIC AWARENESS** of informal workers' contributions and struggles, as a way to challenge negative stereotypes and build support for informal workers among city residents and government officials. This work varies by city, including:

- Image campaigns on workers' positive contributions to cities
- Issue-based campaigns
- Public projects such as photo exhibitions
- Communicating to broad audiences through television, radio, online and print publications



Photo: Jenna Harvey



Facilitate **DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND WORKERS** through support to workers' organizations during every phase of the process, including:

- **Preparation:** Supporting workers' organizations in building advocacy capacity and confidence, outlining and framing arguments, obtaining evidence and cultivating key allies.
- **Dialogue:** Facilitating engagement between workers and government officials in a range of productive formats ranging from information sharing to negotiation.
- **Accountability:** Coordinating efforts with workers' organizations to ensure commitments made are kept, or to advocate for continued dialogue.



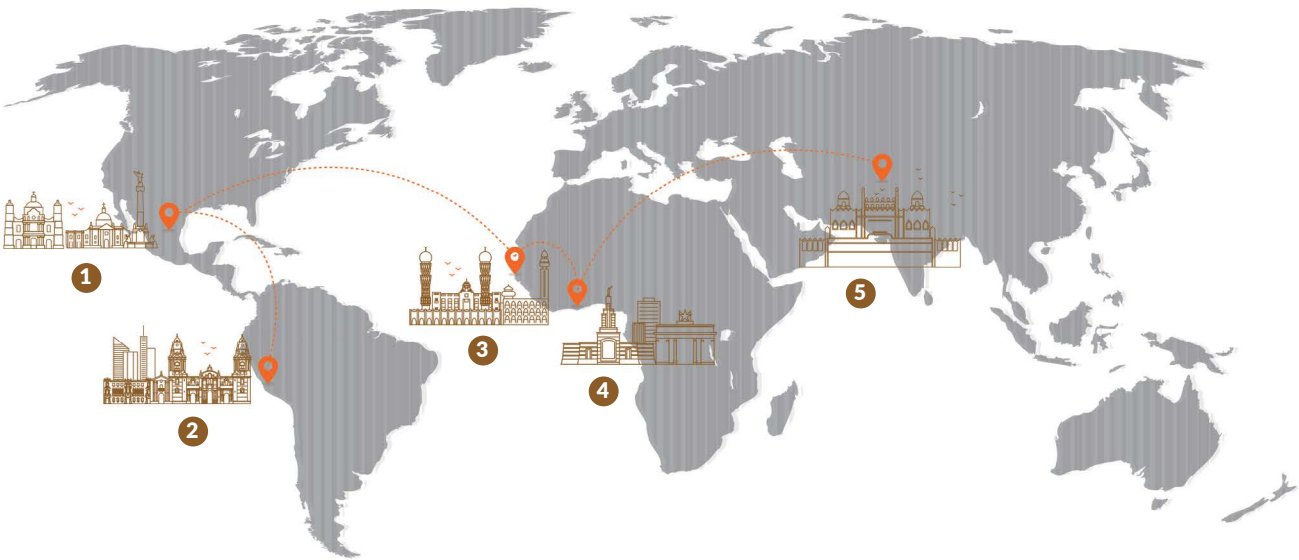
Photo: Rashmi Choudhary



# Focal Cities



Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing



## The Focal Cities Team

<b>1. MEXICO CITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Tania Espinosa</b>, Focal Cities Coordinator, Mexico City</li><li>● <b>Yuleina Carmona</b>, Project Officer, Mexico City <a href="http://wiego.org/CDMX">wiego.org/CDMX</a></li></ul>	<b>4. ACCRA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Dorcas Ansah</b>, Focal Cities Coordinator, Accra</li><li>● <b>Karim Saagbul</b>, PickIt Project Officer, Accra <a href="http://wiego.org/Accra">wiego.org/Accra</a></li></ul>
<b>2. LIMA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Carmen Roca</b>, Focal Cities Coordinator, Lima</li><li>● <b>Edith Anampa</b>, Project Officer, Lima <a href="http://wiego.org/Lima">wiego.org/Lima</a></li></ul>	<b>5. DELHI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Shalini Sinha</b>, Focal Cities Coordinator, Delhi</li><li>● <b>Avi Singh Majithia</b>, Project Officer, Delhi <a href="http://wiego.org/Delhi">wiego.org/Delhi</a></li></ul>
<b>3. DAKAR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Adama Soumaré</b>, Focal Cities Coordinator, Dakar</li><li>● <b>Maguette Diop</b>, Reducing Waste in Coastal Cities Project Officer Dakar <a href="http://wiego.org/Dakar">wiego.org/Dakar</a></li></ul>	<b>Jenna Harvey</b> , Global Focal Cities Coordinator
	<b>Contact us</b> Email: <a href="mailto:FocalCities@wiego.org">FocalCities@wiego.org</a> f <a href="#">wiegoglobal</a> <a href="#">wiegoglobal</a>

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**WIEGO's Focal City** approach supports informal worker organizations to engage with government officials to secure more inclusive laws and regulations, improved urban services and a voice in urban planning and policy-making processes.