



Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing



Challenging Systems in the Changing World of Work

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023

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Front cover photo: Grace Avemegah is a waste picker and chairs the Women's Committee of the Kpone Landfill Waste Pickers Association in Accra, Ghana. **Photo credit:** Julian Luckham

About WIEGO

Empowering Workers, Securing Informal Livelihoods

WIEGO is a network of organizations of workers in informal employment and the researchers, statisticians and development practitioners who support them. WIEGO's mission is to improve the working conditions of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. We do this in two ways. First, we provide statistics, research and policy analysis on the informal economy. This information can be used for advocacy: **Data in the hands of workers is power.**

Second, we find and link up individuals and workers' organizations to build regional and global networks. We are building a social movement: **Stronger together.**



The Year in Review



Mirai Chatterjee
Chair, WIEGO Board of Directors

Dear WIEGO Family and Friends, After last year's recognition of our 25th anniversary, WIEGO took the first steps into its next quarter century in the midst of conflict, climate-change impacts and cost-of-living pressures. Rarely is the need for systemic change so clear. For women workers in informal employment, this change can come only through organizing, building their unity and increasing their collective power.

Collective power and action will reshape the global systems that have produced inequality, injustice and exploitation on every continent. Through informal women workers' solidarity and unity, we will have a voice in changing these global and national systems. Governments must put new rules in place to ensure a more equitable distribution of the world's productive resources. Multilateral organizations must commit to fairer rules that compel meaningful change.

WIEGO's next five-year strategic plan sets out the role we will play within this context. We developed the plan through extensive consultation with our membership, reflecting the principle of placing women workers and their democratic, representative organizations at the centre of everything we do. Our inclusive and accountable structures were evident as we celebrated our 8th General Assembly in Mexico City, Mexico, in November 2022, where the plan was adopted.

We enter this new strategic period with an expanded Board of Directors, welcoming Juana del Carmen Britez of the International Domestic Workers' Federation; Marty Chen of the Harvard Graduate School of Design; Simel Esim of the International Labour Organization; Lorraine Sibanda of StreetNet International; Poonsap Tulaphan of HomeNet Thailand; Julie Duchatel of the International Union of Food and Allied Workers; and Imraan Valodia of the University of the Witwatersrand. We are pleased to welcome back continuing board members Lin Lean Lim, Uma Rani and Debra Davis.

We thank Barbro Budin, Biff Steel, Elizabeth Tang, Gabriela Calandria, Luciana Itikawa and Patrick Ndlovu on our outgoing board for their excellent service and look forward to continued engagement with them for our common cause, and for our movement for voice, visibility and validity for all women workers in informal employment around the world.

Mirai Chatterjee

Mirai Chatterjee
Chair, WIEGO Board of Directors
August 2023



Sally Roever
International Coordinator

As we settle into our second quarter-century of work, we are taking a hard look at the systems that prevent workers from realizing rights. Challenging these systems in their present form calls us to intensify our movement-building activities. As space for organizing continues to narrow around the world, we stand by workers who are persecuted for their fight against injustice.

Our partnerships remain strong and give us a foundation for challenging systems. WIEGO, its founding member SEWA, and its four global network members – the International Domestic Workers’ Federation (IDWF), HomeNet International (HNI), StreetNet International, and the emerging International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP) – began the financial year on a united front with the release of a [joint position paper](#) on the social and solidarity economy (SSE) to support [participation](#) in the 110th International Labour Conference.

The paper calls for the promotion of a distinct identity for the SSE that distinguishes it from the public and private sectors based on joint and collective worker control and ownership. We see alternative models and logics within the SSE as essential for defining a new, people-centred future of work oriented toward equity and justice.

A more just future of work also depends on a more unified and better coordinated movement with strong accountability structures, representation and leadership. Launching the [WIEGO School](#) was one of many steps we took this past year to contribute to this effort. We also prioritized carefully supporting the constitution-building process of the International Alliance of Waste Pickers and the move toward independence for HomeNet International.

Building on input from our members and partners, our five-year strategic plan aims to push forward this vision. In the period ahead, we will invest in strengthening and streamlining our research and advocacy in support of workers and their organizations, engage more deeply with climate change and technology, and continue to challenge orthodoxies that underpin systemic injustice.

I am more confident than ever in our growing and dynamic team, network and movement. It is a privilege to work alongside each and every one of you.

In solidarity,

**Sally Roever, Ph.D.,
International Coordinator**

REMEMBERING ELA RAMESH BHATT 1933 - 2022



In Memoriam

Ela Bhatt

**Founder of SEWA, Co-Founder
and Founding Chair of WIEGO**

Ela Ramesh Bhatt, the founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of India, passed away on November 2, 2022. Known as the "gentle revolutionary", Ela-ben (as she was affectionately known) is recognized around the world for her Gandhian values, visionary ideals, pioneering work and quiet-centred humanity. SEWA is the largest trade union in India and the largest union of workers in informal employment in the world with over two million women members from multiple trades. Established in 1972, it is a sisterhood of institutions, including a cooperative bank, an insurance cooperative and over 100 producer and service cooperatives. SEWA is world-renowned for its unique and effective blend of trade union activism and development interventions, with the building of institutions that are owned and managed by working-poor women as its core function.

Ela Bhatt was a member of the Indian Parliament and the Indian Planning Commission. She was a member of The Elders and served as a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation. She co-founded

“Ela-ben was the guiding star of the movement of women in informal employment, and the description of her as 'the gentle revolutionary' speaks to the transcendent power of her brilliant intellect, expressed in her quiet and gentle voice.

– Sally Roever

and served as chair of two global networks: Women's World Banking and WIEGO. She was a pioneering leader of – and abiding inspiration to – four global movements: the women's movement, the micro-finance movement, the labour movement, and the movement of workers in informal employment. She received many awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Right Livelihood Award, as well as honorary degrees from Harvard University, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Yale University and other academic institutions.

Ela-ben was the moral compass – the North Star – of WIEGO, making sure that we focused on workers in informal employment and served as a "hand maiden" to the movement of workers in informal employment. We cannot imagine SEWA, WIEGO – or the world – without her gentle moral presence.

– Excerpt from *Marty Chen's tribute*

REST IN PEACE & POWER
MYRTLE WITBOOI
1947 - 2023



In Memoriam

Myrtle Witbooi

Co-Founder and General Secretary of SADSAWU and President of the IDWF

Myrrtle Witbooi was an inspirational, principled, respected and much loved domestic worker leader, in South Africa and internationally. She died at the age of 75 on January 16, 2023, after 52 years of advocating for domestic workers' rights.

Myrtle started working as a domestic worker in Cape Town at the age of 17. In 1971, she wrote to a local newspaper asking, "Why are we different, why are there no laws, why are we not seen as people?" Her biographer, Jennifer Fish, said that Myrtle's leadership role was set with the letter's publication. After co-founding in 1986 a national domestic workers' union, Myrtle helped form the thriving South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU) in 2000 and served as its General Secretary until her death. The union's struggles led to changes in South Africa's laws covering domestic workers – for example, SADSAWU members chained themselves to Parliament railings in 2000 to demand inclusion in the state's unemployment insurance fund and two years later the law was amended to include domestic workers.

Myrtle became a partner and friend to WIEGO when the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) announced in 2008 that a discussion on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, possibly leading to a Convention, would take place in 2010-2011.

“ I want you to remember me, unite and organize. I want you to remember: if I can do it, you can do it, and together we can sing, **Amandla!** **– Myrtle Witbooi**

Time was of the essence – mobilization of domestic workers was urgent and Myrtle emerged as the natural leader of the international domestic workers' movement that was built. Domestic workers and others instinctively trusted and followed her. Representatives of domestic workers across the world formed the International Domestic Workers Network, with Myrtle at its helm leading the campaign for an ILO Convention. And in 2011, the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) was adopted. WIEGO had the privilege of providing support for the campaign and the movement building.

In 2013, domestic workers inaugurated the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF). This was a lifetime ambition reached for Myrtle, who was elected as its first President and re-elected in 2018. IDWF, under her leadership, achieved much for domestic workers: international recognition, increased legal protection and, importantly, providing domestic workers worldwide with self-confidence, self-respect and dignity.

We have lost an icon, a leader, a comrade, a worker, a mother, a grandmother and a friend.

See [WIEGO's tribute](#)



Top: Incoming and outgoing WIEGO Board Members at the 8th WIEGO General Assembly in Mexico City. **Photo credit:** WIEGO
 Bottom, from left: Poonsap Tulaphan, Board Member of HomeNet Thailand Association, and other institutional members vote during the Institutional Members Constituency Meeting at the WIEGO General Assembly. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | General Assembly
 participants speak with Social and Solidarity Economy Specialist Federico Parra about WIEGO's work in the waste sector. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | International Coordinator Sally Roeber, Board Member Lin Lim, and Law Programme Director Marlese Von Broembsen in a panel discussion at the Individual Members Constituency Meeting. **Photo credit:** WIEGO

The WIEGO General Assembly

November 12-14, 2022

In the year that WIEGO turned a quarter of a century, over 140 delegates from 39 countries came together for the network's 8th General Assembly (GA): The Next 25 Years. Held in Mexico City from November 12-14, 2022, the GA gathered worker leaders, activists, researchers and policy makers to recognize achievements and chart the course ahead.

The GA convenes our individual and institutional members every four years. As a key pillar of WIEGO's governance structure, the event provides an opportunity for individual and institutional members to discuss progress, review WIEGO's plans and budget for the next five years, and approve candidates for the new Board.

Consultative and Participatory Internal Strategic Review Informs WIEGO's Strategy

Prior to the GA, members of the WIEGO Team and network participated in a months-long Internal Strategic Review (ISR), which involved online consultations, surveys and external inputs to inform WIEGO's strategy for the next five years. The process culminated in a significant level of consensus on the way forward.



Top: Participants at the 8th WIEGO General Assembly in Mexico City. **Photo credit:** WIEGO
 Bottom, from left: WIEGO unveils the Platform on Economic Recovery for Workers in Informal Employment alongside workers from various sectors at the Public Event at the Comisión de Derechos Humanos. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | Arturo Granados Frías, Secretary General of the Unión de Comerciantes y Tanguistas leads a visit to the public market in Mexico City. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | Janhavi Dave, International Coordinator of HomeNet International presents at the Home-Based Worker Sector Exhibition. **Photo credit:** WIEGO

New areas proposed during the ISR for the WIEGO Team to explore over the next five-year strategic period include work on digital labour platforms, agriculture, climate change, and just transitions. Other ISR recommendations focused on areas that need more dedicated emphasis, such as the social and solidarity economy, strengthening partnerships in Asia, gender analysis, and formalization processes. These themes informed WIEGO's five-year planning process, which also involved intensive discussions across the WIEGO network.

GA Delegates Look Back and Forward in WIEGO's 5-Year Strategy

GA participants received an overview of WIEGO's five-year strategic plan and budget. Through sector-specific presentations, the membership exchanged knowledge and experience on the strategies, policies and practices that are helping workers to realize their rights and gain access

to resources and social protection. Delegates engaged one-on-one with the WIEGO Team through thematic booths in an exhibition hall. These booths featured WIEGO's work on social protection, progress in developing the WIEGO School, its city-based Focal Cities work and other key themes. Parallel constituency meetings gave members the chance to dig more deeply into the plans for the next five years, ask questions and offer ideas to strengthen the plans.

In a public event co-hosted with the Human Rights Commission in Mexico City, workers in informal employment from Mexico City presented a [platform of demands for post-pandemic economic recovery](#).

A motion to change WIEGO's Articles of Association was passed, increasing the number of worker representatives from the institutional member constituency on the WIEGO Board from three to four, in order to allow more representation from membership-based organizations of workers in informal employment (MBOs).

Following their election at the GA, WIEGO welcomed new board members:



Juana del Carmen Brites is President of the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF). She leads the Union of Auxiliary Personnel of Private Houses and is the Director of Health Care Provisions at OSPACP (Auxiliary Personnel of Private Houses Health Insurance) in Argentina.



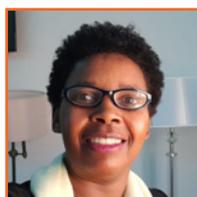
Marty Chen steered WIEGO from its 1997 inception until 2017 and is currently an advisor. She is a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and an Affiliated Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



Julie Duchatel is the gender equality and projects international officer at the Global Union Federation, the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant and Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), based in Geneva, Switzerland.



Simel Esim heads the ILO's Cooperatives Unit (COOP). She is a political economist who has worked on social justice and decent work for over 30 years and has been involved with WIEGO since 1997. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee of WIEGO's Organization & Representation Programme.



Lorraine Sibanda is President of StreetNet International – the first woman to hold this position since StreetNet's inception. She is also the President of the Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations, a pioneering organization that has revolutionized the struggle for the rights of workers in informal employment in Zimbabwe.



Poonsap Suanmuang Tulaphan is a board member of HomeNet Thailand, a membership-based organization of around 5,000 home-based workers, and the Director of the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (FLEP), which advocates for the rights and well-being of workers in informal employment.



Imraan Valodia is Professor of Economics, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Climate, Sustainability and Inequality, and Director of the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.



Top: Waste pickers at the Kpone Landfill in Accra, Ghana. **Photo credit:** Dean Saffron
 Bottom: International Alliance of Waste Pickers' demonstration in Nairobi, Kenya, on International Waste Pickers' Day (1 March 2023). **Photos credit:** Federico Parra

Building Working-Class Unity, Collective Organization and Solidarity

WIEGO believes in the transformative power of the collective and supports workers in informal employment to build democratic and representative organizations that can shift systemic inequalities and injustice. This continues to be core to our mission. In 2022, after years of support from WIEGO, the newly formed [International Alliance of Waste Pickers](#) adopted its constitution. The last step in its formation will be the elective congress scheduled for 2024, after which IAWP can set up a secretariat and apply for non-governmental-organization accreditation for the International Labour Conference (ILC). The accreditation would mark a milestone in securing waste pickers' ability to speak for and represent themselves at the ILC, and for visibility of the sector among governments, unions and employers attending the conference.



At a time when all four sectors – domestic workers, home-based workers, street and market vendors, and waste pickers – have organized globally, WIEGO’s emphasis is now shifting to workers’ education and building solidarity across these sectors. The **WIEGO School** – launched with an online pilot programme in June 2022 – was attended by 75 participants representing domestic workers, home-based workers, street

vendors, waste pickers, kayayei and sewing workers from 16 countries across three regions. The School aims to build the knowledge and confidence of workers in informal employment, and forge lasting solidarity among participants within a geographic region and across different sectors of the informal economy. It will enter its second phase next year.

Testimonies:

“ I learned about transparency and sustainability for our organization and how to build a democratic leadership”
Domestic worker, Africa

“ It was well-thought that all the sectors are brought together in this forum so that we exchange ideas and push for our organizing collectively”
Home-based worker, Africa

“ I am going to implement the recruitment process to maintain a democratic organization where regular feedback would be prioritized and accountability can be ensured. I would also work in order to increase the number of members in our organization”
Asian participant

“ I will bring this information we learn to my union”
Domestic worker, Latin America

WIEGO’s cross-sectoral support focuses on strategies to achieve the implementation of ILO Recommendation 204 on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy (R204) at national level. The objective is to support worker organizations to realize rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining and for the recognition of public space as a workplace,

as well as the provision of livelihood-supporting infrastructure, among other demands. WIEGO will continue this work in South Africa, Brazil and Senegal, while expanding strategically to other countries in consultation with HomeNet International, StreetNet International, IDWF and the International Alliance of Waste Pickers.



Social Justice, Decent Work ▶ Justicia s



At the International Labour Conference, Sonia George (Secretary General of SEWA Kerala), Lorraine Sibanda (President of StreetNet International), Alberto Santana (Vice-President of StreetNet International) and Oksana Abboud (International Coordinator of StreetNet International) join the call for an end to violence and harassment at work. **Photo credit:** WIEGO

WIEGO’s Engagement in the Big Debates of Our Time

We believe that all workers should be able to realize their right to safe, healthy and decent working conditions. But significant challenges remain in achieving this goal. Policies and practices of corporations, financial institutions and many governments continue to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few and deepen poverty for the global majority. Women workers in informal employment are dealing with the impact of multiple crises – including armed conflict, the pandemic, rising inflation and climate change – coupled with a changing world of work. In new alliances with other movements, women workers and their organizations are calling for an overhaul of the global systems that underpin extreme inequality. And WIEGO, alongside the movement of workers in informal employment, is joining this call for change.

This pivotal moment has strengthened WIEGO’s resolve and sharpened its focus to engage in the big debates of our time: How can governments extend social protection to workers in informal employment? Are workers in informal employment paying more than their fair share of taxes? How can workers take action to mitigate the impact of climate change on their livelihoods? How are workers in informal employment using and/or being impacted by digital employment platforms? In sum: What would a more just, inclusive and sustainable economic system look like in practice?

The following themes represent areas of strategic focus for WIEGO in the 2022/23 fiscal year and beyond:

Challenging Economic Orthodoxies that Undermine Universal Social Protection

Critical to creating better quality employment is ensuring that all workers have access to social protection. Findings from WIEGO's **new research** challenge dominant ideas that may hold back the expansion of social protection and prevent its extension to all workers. We aim to ensure that global development policy makers in key institutions working on social protection and informality have access to this new evidence.

Together with the ILO, WIEGO is conducting a study that identifies pathways through which social insurance may lead to economic multiplier effects, as a way to challenge the idea that social expenditure is economically unproductive. We are also **countering the assumptions** behind the idea that social protection systems that combine social assistance and social insurance encourage informalization. WIEGO's groundbreaking **survey** of taxes paid by the informal sector in Accra, Ghana, revealed that informal sector operators already pay a range of taxes, permits, levies and fees, and that the ratio of taxes to earnings is substantially higher than that of the formal sector – concluding that there is little room for further taxation or contributions. This challenges the belief that additional taxes placed on workers are a viable way to pay for social protection.

WIEGO is embarking on a three-year learning and capacity-building journey to enable social protection leaders within the WIEGO network to better understand the political economy of social protection, to push back against harmful narratives, and to build a vision for fairer forms

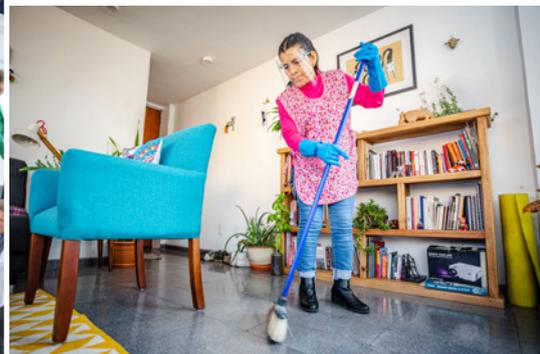
of social protection. We continue to disseminate our findings and engage in global fora to advance the discussion.

Strengthening WIEGO's Work on the Social and Solidarity Economy

As **noted by the ILO**, "Recent global economic and political instability has served to underline the shortcomings of our current development system and further confirm the necessity for an alternate or complementary development paradigm. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a viable solution to re-balancing economic, social and environmental objectives."

The SSE serves as an important model for workers in informal employment with its capacity to enable workers to fight against exploitation, overcome exclusion and secure decent work standards. Many workers in informal employment have come together in organizational forms specific to the SSE, such as cooperatives and trade unions. Bolstered by both its potential and the encouragement of WIEGO members to place greater focus on the SSE, we will deepen our support for initiatives by workers who fall within the SSE over the next five years.

In the lead-up to the 110th International Labour Conference, WIEGO developed a **joint position paper** with the global networks of workers in informal employment that called for governments to recognize the SSE as a socio-economic sphere in its own right, capable of transforming economies, contributing to decent working conditions and leading to more secure livelihoods.



From left: Dekonor Divine chairs the Kpone Waste Pickers Association in Accra, Ghana. Fatima Bonza is a member of the association's Welfare Committee. **Photo credit:** Julian Luckham | WIEGO and Nets delegation at the International Labour Convention 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | Raquel Martínez, a domestic worker in Mexico City. **Photo credit:** César Parra

WIEGO has appointed a **Social and Solidarity Economy Specialist** to help gain a deeper understanding of the various intellectual currents around the SSE and make these discussions accessible to worker organizations. Through collective reflection spaces, strategic exchanges of experiences and case studies, WIEGO will support the networks as they influence global discussions on the relationship between workers in informal employment and the SSE.

Deepening Our Work on Climate Change Mitigation and Just Transitions

As the United Nations Environment Programme recently **stated**, “The science is clear. The world is in a state of climate emergency, and we need to shift into emergency gear.” Climate change severely impacts workers with low and unstable incomes. Many live in informal settlements, which are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather. Street vendors and waste pickers, who work long hours and are often unsheltered, are particularly exposed to extreme heat and cold, as are home-based workers, who often lack adequate housing. These struggles threaten workers’ well-being, **health** and productivity.

For many years, through its research, capacity building and global advocacy, WIEGO has aimed to raise the visibility of the role that waste pickers play in climate change mitigation and the need for these workers to participate in policymaking processes that affect their livelihoods. In

Brazil, working alongside membership-based organizations, WIEGO has been mapping the impacts of climate change on waste pickers in Belo Horizonte, Manaus and Salvador. The results are informing advocacy work to secure climate-resilient infrastructure and other gains.

WIEGO is also exploring the impact on other sectors of workers in informal employment and the climate-resilience strategies they use. Its **Home as Workplace** work aims to support organizations of home-based workers in their advocacy and facilitate engagement with architects and urban planners, including on climate resilience. This work includes documenting the practical interventions of the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust in India to promote energy efficiency and improve infrastructure and climate resilience, a review of urban planning and design literature, and mapping that shows how and where workers in informal employment in Delhi use homes as workplaces.

On a global level, WIEGO accompanied delegations of waste picker leaders to climate change negotiations, including the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP)**. At the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings on plastic pollution, the delegation demanded the meaningful inclusion and recognition of waste pickers as environmental workers who are contributing to climate change mitigation. Their success is shown in the UN Plastics Treaty to End Plastic Pollution statement being the **first environmental resolution** that mentions informal recyclers.



From left: Social and Solidarity Economy Specialist Federico Parra. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | Group of women home-based workers in Ahmedabad, India. **Photo credit:** Mahila Housing Trust | International Alliance of Waste Pickers' official delegation with Espen Barth Eide, Norway's Minister of Climate and Environment and UNEA President (second from left) at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly. **Photo credit:** International Alliance of Waste Pickers

Members encouraged us to deepen our work on climate change mitigation and just transitions over the next five years, exploring new ways to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on workers in informal employment, and highlighting strategies used by workers to mitigate risks and secure livelihood gains.

New Ways of Working: WIEGO's Work on Platform Employment

Digital labour platforms are rapidly transforming the world of work. The pace and scale of technology-related change creates a challenge for workers' organizations to formulate effective strategies for defending workers' rights. At the same time, some workers in informal employment are using digital technologies to access markets and their organizations are experimenting with models that enable worker ownership of digital platforms.

Given that digital labour platforms were highlighted as a key issue in WIEGO's ISR and by the MBO constituency, WIEGO will undertake a two-year process to monitor trends and study the intersection of digital platforms and informal employment in the global South. In partnership with researchers, the policy community and MBOs in the WIEGO network, an appointed specialist will work to increase understanding of platform employment and its impacts on workers in informal employment within the WIEGO network. This will support preparations for the 2025 ILC standard-setting discussion on decent work in the platform economy.

Increasing the Visibility of Workers Through Statistics

Improving statistics that make workers visible – a powerful tool recognized by WIEGO's founders – continues to be a central focus of the organization's mission. WIEGO's key partner on statistics is the ILO, which is responsible for labour force statistics. Through this partnership, WIEGO works to improve classifications, concepts and methods for data collection on informal workers and informal enterprises. WIEGO's Statistics Programme participated in the ILO Working Group for the Revision of Statistical Standards on the Informal Economy and the Engendering Informality companion initiative (2019-2023). The group developed definitions and classification criteria as well as indicators to accurately measure total and women's informal employment, for example, and to identify contributing family workers.

Statistical reports are developed in response to a need identified by global networks of workers: an ILO-WIEGO brief examining domestic work worldwide was created for the IDWF, and a flyer on home-based work for HomeNet International's 2023 Congress. Briefs covering main groups of informal workers in **major cities and at national level** were prepared at the request of HomeNet International to support in-country advocacy and WIEGO work where relevant. The brief on the collection of data on waste pickers in **Colombia** provides an important example of a new field of statistics, citizen-generated data, which in this case refers to the involvement of waste pickers in the data collection efforts.



From left: Anna Nkobe, a domestic worker cleaning the home of her employer in Johannesburg, South Africa. **Photo credit:** Jonathan Torgovnik/Getty Images Reportage | A member of the waste picker cooperative Planeta Verde in Colombia. **Photo credit:** Federico Parra | A human-powered vehicle called 'zorro'. **Photo credit:** Federico Parra

WIEGO assists in the development of practical guidance as well as the training of statisticians in methods of data collection and tabulation. These activities are important for the production of reliable data harmonized across countries as well as increasing the availability of data. WIEGO is currently collaborating with the ILO and its office for the Middle East and North Africa and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) in a project to develop labour statistics with a focus on informal employment in Arab countries. The project has brought statisticians from the Arab countries into the preparation process for the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) and will develop a questionnaire for the Arab countries that implements the recent standards of the ICLS.

Research Highlights

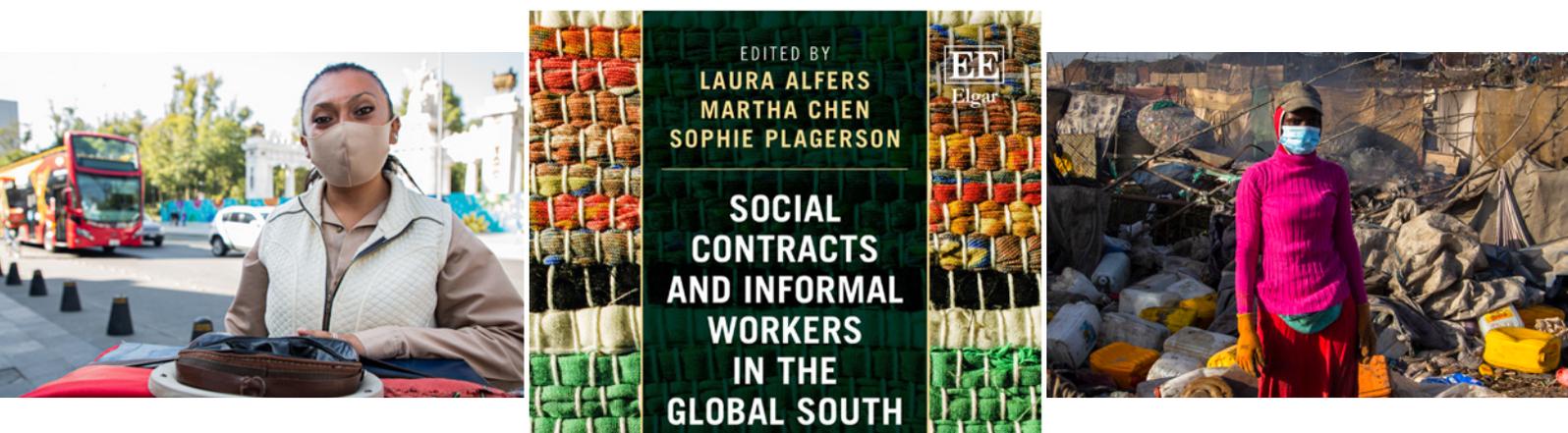
Research continues to be a core pillar of WIEGO's work and this section provides highlights of its larger research projects.

The findings of round 2 of WIEGO's [COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study](#) were launched in July 2022 and cited as a flagship publication by the International Development

Research Centre, which has partnered with WIEGO on a follow-up project. The findings continue to inform advocacy.

A forthcoming joint UNU-WIDER-WIEGO volume on COVID-19 and the Informal Economy will be published by Oxford University Press. Several of the chapters draw on the WIEGO study. This content will also be featured in a forthcoming UNU-WIDER massive online open course (MOOC) on sustainable development targeted at policy makers.

The open-access book [Social Contracts and Informal Workers in the Global South](#) illustrates how existing social contract models stigmatize workers in informal employment and [advocates](#) for bottom-up initiatives focused on the demands of the working poor. Laura Alfery, Director of WIEGO's Social Protection Programme, and Marty Chen, WIEGO Board Member, are among its editors. Illustrating how current social contracts may be considered inadequate, irrelevant or unjust, the book draws on the accounts of workers in informal employment to advocate for radically new conceptualizations of state-society, capital-labour and state-capital-labour relations characterized by recognition, responsiveness and reciprocity.



From left: Viridiana, an organ grinder in the historic centre of Mexico City. **Photo credit:** César Parra | Cover of Social Contracts and Informal Workers in the Global South, with co-editors including Social Protection Programme Director Laura Alfery and Board Member Marty Chen | Bigué Cissé, a waste picker at the Mbeubeuss dumpsite near Dakar, Senegal. **Photo credit:** Marta Moreiras

Worker Wins Domestic Workers

Domestic Workers in the Caribbean Rekindle Efforts to Build Regional Solidarity



 Shirley Pryce

Chairperson of the Caribbean Domestic Workers Network, IDWF Executive Member, and President of the Jamaican Household Workers Union, speaking on the sidelines of the first-ever Caribbean conference of domestic workers.

Domestic workers in the Caribbean have re-ignited their efforts to organize at a regional level and have re-established the Caribbean Domestic Workers Network (CDWN). The network was first established in 2011 with six countries and was a multi-functional platform in the region until 2015. Important in this revitalization process was a conference organized in Jamaica in October 2022 by WIEGO and the IDWF with domestic worker leaders from eight Caribbean countries. The aim was to establish a joint advocacy strategy for domestic workers across the Caribbean leveraging ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment to realize rights for domestic workers and build solidarity in the region and internationally.

The conference was part of WIEGO's **Making C189 Real** project, which aims to increase understanding of the Convention among domestic workers and trade unions, supporting them in building strategies to use these Conventions in their organizing and advocacy.

“ [Domestic workers] don't have decent working conditions, they don't have fair wages, they have long working hours, they don't have social protection. With this conference and the awareness of all the laws and what they should be doing in their respective islands, they are going back to start the work from the action plan that we are going to be developing here for each Caribbean island.”

To governments across the region, Shirley's message was: “Put the laws in place. Domestic work is work. And we are saying we are workers like any other workers. Invest in us, invest in your domestic workers, ratify Convention 189, ratify Convention 190.”

“I know that we are fighting for the right reason: domestic workers' rights. And we are fighting for decent work because decent work is everybody's business ... it's for me, it's for you, it's for all of us.”

**Sources: CVM TV; The Labour Spokesman*



From left: Shirley Pryce, who chairs the Caribbean Domestic Workers Network, addresses domestic workers at the IDWF workshop in Jamaica in October 2022. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | Participants at the IDWF workshop in Jamaica. **Photo credit:** WIEGO | Shirley Pryce joins other delegates at the International Labour Conference in calling for social justice. **Photo credit:** WIEGO

Worker Wins Home-Based Workers

Homeworkers Gain Inclusion in European Commission Draft Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence



 Zehra Khan

Founder and General Secretary of the Home-Based Women Workers Federation – the first trade union of home-based workers in Pakistan – explains why it is important for the EU Directive to include homeworkers.

“[The fight in Pakistan’s Sindh province for legislation that recognizes home-based workers in supply chains as workers entitled to labour rights and social protection] was a struggle of 12 years. We’re proud that we took up home-based work as a class issue, rather than just considering it a gender issue. That was what led to our success. We worked together with the Labour Department and legislators and they gave home-based workers labour status. The important step in our struggle was to bring these workers under the purview of labour laws, as home-based workers don’t fall under the definition of labour because of their employers’ invisibility and their workplace is not defined in any law as an establishment. The link between the employer and the employee was missing.”

“The most important thing is that labour law should be applied to all supply chain workers and this is our basic demand to the EU. Considering home-based workers as part of the supply chain is the most important thing: they need recognition, their employer should be visible. Transparency in the whole supply chain is much needed – even workers don’t know who they are working for. This will also enable workers to earn a minimum wage.”



Nearly two-thirds of the world’s home-based workers are in Asia & the Pacific, and well over half are women. Centre photo: Zehra Khan, Founder and General Secretary of the Home-Based Women Workers Federation of Pakistan, during discussions at the International Labour Conference. **Photo credit:** Jane Barrett | (left) Home-based workers from Thailand. **Photo credit:** Supranee Tubsakul | (right) A home-based worker in India. **Photo credit:** HNSA

Ghana's National Childcare Policy Includes Provisions to Promote Participatory Management of Childcare Centres in Markets and Other Informal Workplaces



Mercy Naa Afrowa Needjan

President of the Greater Accra Market Association (GAMA), tells how women vendors at Makola Market took charge of getting the child care they needed:

After several years of work, elements of WIEGO's [guidelines for childcare centres](#) in and around markets were integrated into Ghana's national policy on early childhood care and development. The guidelines were developed through a participatory process supported by WIEGO, which included parents of children in childcare centres in urban marketplaces and representatives of worker organizations.

In Ghana, market and street vending represents nearly 40 per cent of women's employment in Greater Accra and urban Ghana and nearly 30 per cent nationally. These women are often left with no choice but to take their infants and toddlers with them to work. This not only puts the children at risk, it impacts their mothers' overall work and earnings. The guidelines create a foundation for the participatory management of childcare centres in informal workplaces, ensuring greater trust as well as services that respond to workers' needs.

“Since 2001, when the Accra Metropolitan Assembly took over the childcare centre in the Makola Market, traders at the market became increasingly unhappy with the care provided for their children.

“Unfortunately, our children were not properly taken care of. We told the Assembly, we are going to take over the school and make it to our liking, for the benefit of our children and with teachers that take good care of them.”

A parent-teacher association, together with elected representatives from GAMA, is now in charge of the centre that caters for 140 children. *“Usually schools open from 8 to 2. We open from 6 in the morning till 6 in the evening, from the opening of the market till closing time.”* This means that the traders can do their daily trading knowing that their children are taken care of. *“By the grace of God, everything is going really well.”*

Aunty Mercy is pleased that the market vendors took matters into their own hands. *“I am a proud leader of our organization, where women come together to take decisions for ourselves.”*

While childcare teachers' fees were covered when the Assembly was in charge, families now pay for the costs of running the centre. Traders have implemented support systems such as a flexible payment system, subsidies and free spaces for families who cannot afford the fees.

As the government looks to implement its early childhood care and development policy, market traders and their organizations continue to advocate for better access to high quality and affordable childcare services in and around markets across Ghana. This ongoing advocacy shows how workers in informal employment can challenge service provision systems that do not meet their needs as workers and care providers.

Sources: WIEGO in-person interview and UN Women report: Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World

Worker Wins Waste Pickers

IACHR Special Rapporteur Recognizes Key Role of Waste Pickers as Public Service Providers



 **Soledad García Muñóz**
Former Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, shares her experience of the meeting:

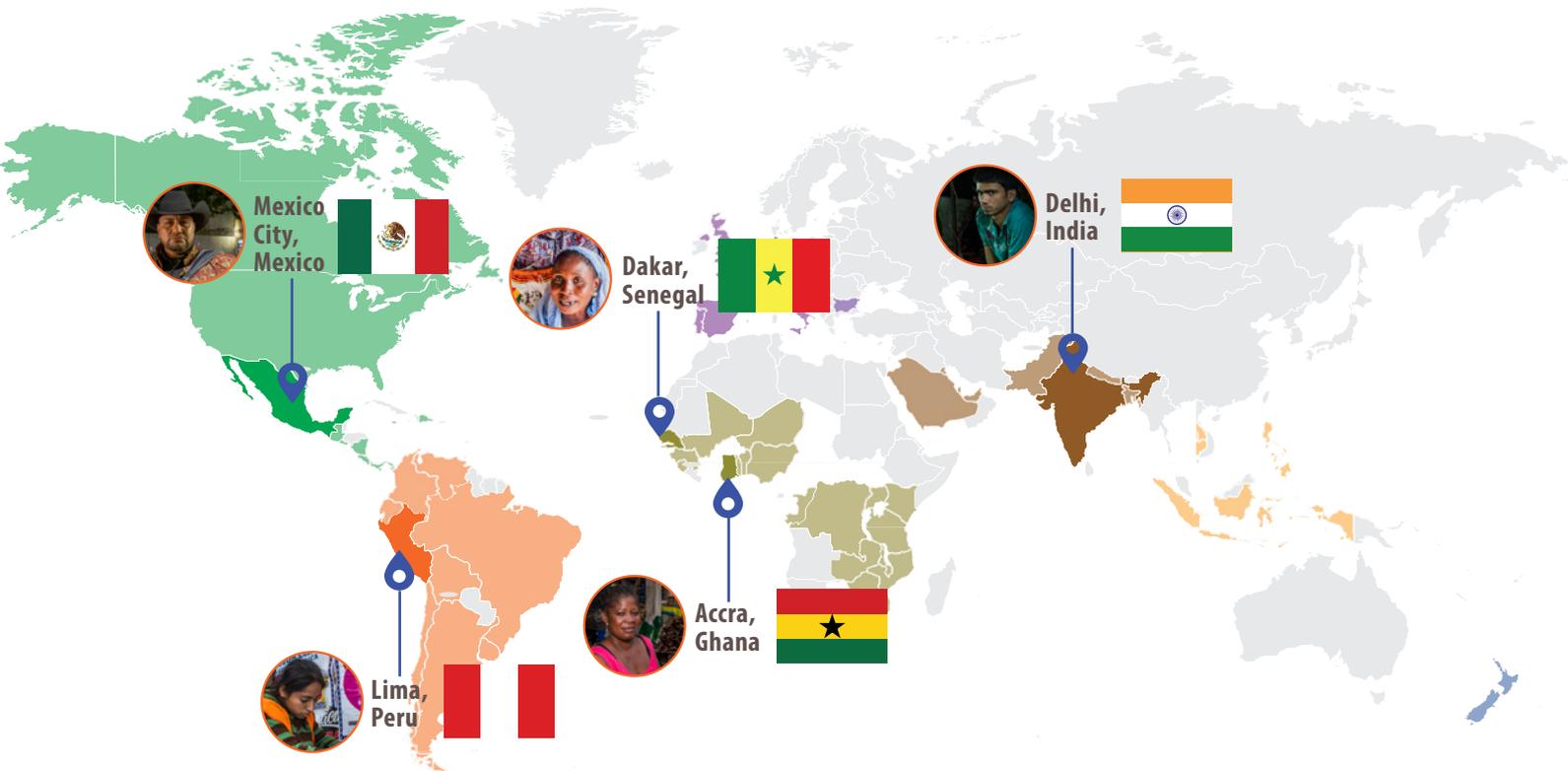
After six years of **engagement** with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on a potential thematic hearing on human rights violations experienced by waste pickers, the IACHR Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights agreed to an **exchange** with Peruvian waste picker leaders, facilitated by WIEGO's team in Lima. The Rapporteur and her team accompanied waste pickers from 15 municipalities in Metropolitan Lima on their daily collection routes and to a collection and segregation centre. Following the visit, momentum has grown. The Rapporteur publicly recognized the key role waste pickers play in providing a public service and the IACHR's 2022 Annual Report called for the inclusion of waste pickers in public policies, the preservation of their jobs, the protection of their work and their freedom of association.

“Today, to share the reality of ... waste pickers in Lima, we had a meeting organized by an NGO named WIEGO and we met with the leadership of all Lima. The [waste pickers from Lima] explained how they do their work. Through recycling materials that the people in Lima throw away, they are providing benefits for citizens' wellbeing as well as the environment, because they are ensuring that these recyclable products are actually being recycled and that they are not just being thrown away.”

“Several people from the team came here to try to raise awareness about the important work that they are carrying out. For sure, this work has been very important to make us realize the importance of human rights of waste pickers and other people who work in informality, they are the immense majority of the people who work in Latin America. They deserve special attention.”



Waste pickers shared their experiences with former Special Rapporteur Soledad García Muñóz (centre photo) during her visit to Lima, Peru. Photo from Instagram video | (left) A waste picker from the Asociación Vida Verde de los Olivos in Lima. **Photo credit:** Victor Malqui | (right) Waste pickers from the Asociación de Recicladores Ambientales Santiago del Surco in Lima. **Photo credit:** WIEGO



Focal Cities Highlights

WIEGO's Focal Cities approach supports organizations of workers in informal employment to engage with government officials to secure more inclusive laws and regulations, improved urban services and a voice in urban planning and policymaking processes. WIEGO's five Focal Cities are Accra, Ghana; Dakar, Senegal; Delhi, India; Lima, Peru; and Mexico City, Mexico.

Responding to Vendor Evictions in Accra and Dakar

An ongoing focus of WIEGO's work in cities is to support worker organizations in negotiating the right to work in moments of crisis. This year, the Focal Cities teams supported street vendors in Accra, Mexico City and Dakar in successfully negotiating a return to workspaces with local authorities after eviction drives had displaced them.

Evictions in Accra are part of the city's aim to "clean" the streets under its "Clean your Frontage" campaign, which has been criticized by Amnesty International for human rights violations. WIEGO is working with trader organizations to increase their understanding of the legal framework governing street vendors' work, vendors' rights and their options for recourse against punitive enforcement. In parallel, WIEGO supports vendors' organizations in engaging the

state in dialogue around solutions by building relationships with middle-level bureaucrats and technocrats to increase their understanding of workers' lived experiences at work, so that they can help shift punitive discourses and policies.

In Dakar, evictions are driven by urban modernization and large infrastructure projects, illustrating that urban planning authorities have failed to include street vendors in these plans. Given the hostile environment, street vendors in Dakar understand that it is critical that they speak with one voice. As a result, 17 separate trader organizations in the city have come together in the Platform of Actors in the Informal Sector (PASI) and WIEGO is creating spaces where they are able to engage with national and local authorities. As a result of one such dialogue, national urban planning agency staff recognized that street vendors had not been included in the consultations for these projects.

Centring Workers' Voices in Policy Frameworks in Delhi and Lima

In Delhi and Lima, WIEGO's work focused on increasing government accountability and transparency in the implementation of regulations.

In Delhi, the Focal Cities team supported street vendor organizations to use evidence to ensure the fair delineation of town vending committee boundaries and vending zones as part of their negotiations with authorities over the implementation of the Street Vendors Act. Worker organizations used the first-ever **mapping** of weekly markets, produced by WIEGO and partners, in these negotiations.

In Lima, WIEGO supported waste picker organizations in successfully negotiating to put in place a requirement for the government to provide clear and timely responses to waste pickers' registration requests.

Advocacy Gains in Mexico City

In Mexico, the National Human Rights Commission created a standing **mesa** (round-table discussion) on informal work as a result of WIEGO's activism, and convened multiple sessions with our partner **workers' organizations**. Representatives of domestic workers, non-salaried workers, women metro vendors, street vendors and waste picker collectives shared with the Commission the barriers they face to increasing their earnings and security at work. This is a significant milestone in putting informal workers' rights on the agenda of the highest human rights body in Mexico.

In Mexico City, WIEGO produced a documentary on waste pickers' working conditions, which was screened at a gathering of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, at the commission's request. This was part of the **Lxs Rifadxs de la Basura** (Champions of Recycling) campaign, launched in March 2023 and led by Mexico City's waste pickers, who are considered volunteer workers by the government as an excuse to deny them salaries, contracts and labour rights. The campaign has empowered workers to demand that their labour rights be respected and helped the city's residents to better understand waste pickers' working conditions. The Lxs Rifadxs de la Basura campaign and advocacy continued in fiscal 2023/24 and workers have achieved milestone improvements to their working conditions.



From left: A weekly market in South Delhi, India. **Photo credit:** Rashmi Choudhary | Market vendors in Dakar, Senegal. **Photo credit:** Dean Saffron | Gregoria de Lucio, a waste picker from Mexico City's Iztapalapa Municipality. Still photo from the "Lxs Rifadxs de la Basura" documentary

WIEGO's Programmatic Priorities for the Next 5 Years



Law Programme

The Law Programme strives for the recognition, inclusion and protection of all workers' rights in international instruments, national and local laws and regulations. It works to build the capacity of workers in informal employment and their organizations to use the law to fight for secure livelihoods and labour rights. In the next five years, our priorities are to:

Work with worker organizations to **realize rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining and for the recognition of public space as a workplace**, as part of the **Administrative Justice and R204** projects. Together with other WIEGO programmes, we will continue to do this in Dakar and Accra, while expanding the work to cities in Brazil and Zimbabwe.

Support workers to **realize the Domestic Workers Convention 189** by providing trade union members with technical assistance to submit reports on the application and implementation of C189 to the ILO; and facilitating cross-learning, including through a podcast. To support domestic workers with their legal needs and enable them to protect their rights, we are training worker organizers as community paralegals.

Influence a community of practice to **advocate for core labour rights to apply to self-employed workers**, including through establishing a joint research project with the ILO to document collective bargaining negotiations and agreements between worker organizations and local authorities, and producing a handbook.



Organization & Representation Programme

The Organization & Representation Programme helps organizations of workers in informal employment build their organizational and leadership capacity, connect to each other and align with allies as they fight to improve the working conditions of their members. In the next five years, our priorities are to:

Support the consolidation of the International Alliance of Waste Pickers, while at the same time embracing the growing autonomy of the Alliance. We will support the preparation of its elective Congress, regional networking and national organizing in the sector as a prerequisite for a strong base of the Alliance and its advocacy efforts.

Advance the implementation of ILO Recommendation 204 through work in Senegal, South Africa, Brazil, Zimbabwe and, to a more limited extent, in Chile and India.

Firmly establish the WIEGO School, including through the creation of a WIEGO School advisory committee, the appointment of a coordinator, and the development of a needs analysis and implementation plan.



Social Protection Programme

Workers in informal employment need access to social protections that will protect and mitigate risks to their incomes and help them cope after an event or shock. The Social Protection Programme is committed to helping workers in informal employment access these rights. In the next five years, our priorities are to:

(Re) Build our Occupational Health and Safety work, through the development of research, grassroots action and advocacy strategies.

Strengthen our research for policy influence, including through the implementation of a regional study on social dialogue for social protection in South-East Asia, and research to expand on our successful first round of research to challenge the orthodoxies undermining universal social protection.

Conceptualize our work on health and child care more holistically, and link into debates on the democratization of the public sphere.



Statistics Programme

The Statistics Programme collaborates with official statisticians to improve statistical methods that will make visible the size and significance of the informal economy and the situation of those working in it, and to prepare the data in formats that are accessible to a wide set of users. In the next five years, our priorities are to:

Collaborate with the ILO, the regional commissions and countries on the implementation of the recommendations of the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians through the development of operational definitions, criteria and methods as well as through training activities.

Prepare further Statistics Data Briefs on Informal Employment and Groups of Workers at the country and global levels. Planned global briefs include an updated version of *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Brief* – a flagship joint publication with the ILO – and an ILO-WIEGO global brief on informal employment in developed countries.

Explore the contents and limitations of existing enterprise surveys with the objective of preparing tabulations to show the share of enterprises that are small informal operations and their characteristics, in order to support improved policies.



Urban Policies Programme

By working with worker leaders, policy makers and urban practitioners, the Urban Policies Programme strives to secure better incomes, more secure places to live and work, and the capacity to negotiate sustainable gains in urban policies and practices for workers in informal employment. In the next five years, our priorities are to:

Use research to support worker organizations to strengthen their strategies for infrastructure, tax reform, COVID-19 recovery and climate change. This is based on WIEGO's mapping of climate-change impacts on waste pickers in Brazil, the Accra household tax survey, data from the [COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study](#), and livelihood-supporting practices in South Asia.

Formulate livelihood-centred planning and design as alternatives to evictions and other practices harmful to workers, and demonstrate the costs of evictions to governments. We will do this with waste pickers in Brazil, around dump closures in WIEGO's Focal Cities, and through learning exchanges between cities.

Advance conversations with global change agents. We will continue to engage UNU-Wider and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as we move forward our taxation work. In our waste work, we aim to influence processes around the UN plastics treaty and the circular-economy roadmap. We are targeting key communities of practice through academic publications and conferences.



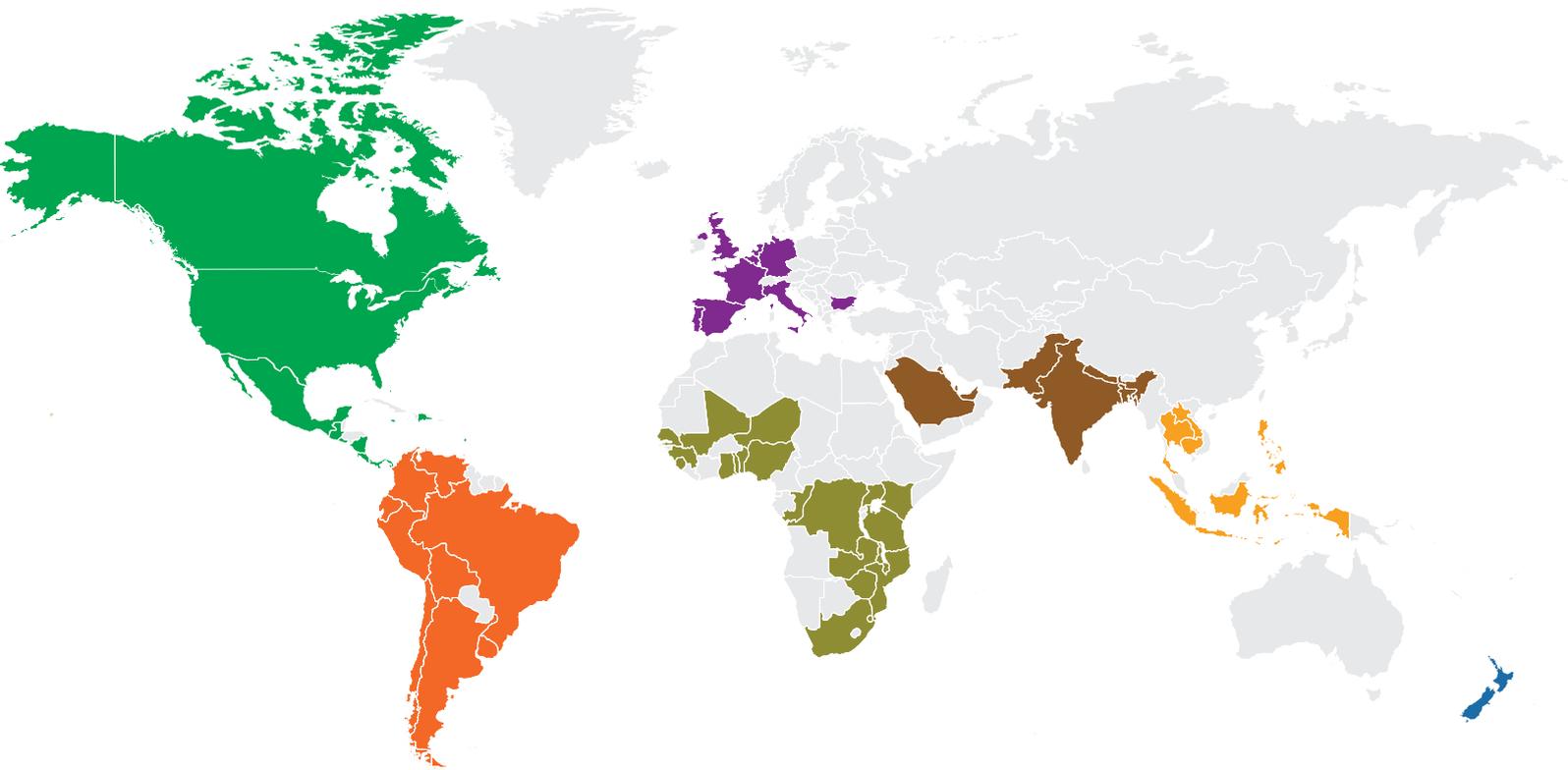
Focal Cities Initiative

In WIEGO's Focal Cities, the teams will work to:

Accelerate progress towards independence and sustainability of worker organizations through facilitating linkages with broader networks of support. In **Delhi**, we will continue financial and technical support to city-level networks of home-based workers and waste pickers. In **Accra** and **Dakar**, we will continue to play a bridging role between our partners and central trade unions. In **Mexico City**, we will continue our strategy of working with strong technical partners to increase the evidence base available to worker organizations.

Support dialogue and negotiation between partner worker organizations and governments. In **Accra**, we will work to facilitate spaces for dialogue on the fair distribution of public space. In **Dakar**, we will continue to support the local and national level dialogue around progressive formalization through the implementation of R204. In **Lima**, we will support engagement in the existing national dialogue space and continue to advocate for the institutionalization of a national mesa on informal employment. In **Mexico City**, we continue to support engagement with the local and national human rights commissions.

Our teams will engage in **learning exchanges to foster closer regional networks of exchange** and strengthen a culture of learning across Focal Cities and the Urban Policy Programme.



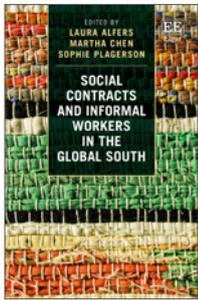
Where WIEGO Worked in 2022/2023

- Argentina
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Laos
- Kuwait
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Spain
- Saint Lucia
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Togo
- Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Other European Countries

Publications and Resources

Highlights from Peer-Reviewed Publications

WIEGO researchers continue to contribute to peer-reviewed academic publications. For a complete list of edited volumes, book chapters, journal articles and peer-reviewed working papers, visit our [website](#).



Alfers, Laura, Martha Chen and Sophie Plagerson (eds). 2022. *Social Contracts and Informal Workers in the Global South*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Highlights from the WIEGO Publication Series

Working Papers feature research that makes either an empirical or a theoretical contribution to existing knowledge about the informal economy. All WIEGO Working Papers are peer reviewed by the WIEGO Research Team and/or external experts.



Anyidoho, Nana Akua, Max Gallien, Ghida Ismail, Florian Juergens-Grant, Mike Rogan and Vanessa van den Boogaard. 2022. *Tight Tax Net, Loose Safety Net: Taxation and Social Protection in Accra's Informal Sector*. WIEGO Working Paper No. 45

Briefs aim to provide user-friendly documentation for those involved in advocacy, policy and research on the informal economy.



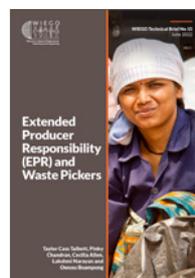
Policy:

Sinha, Shalini, Malavika Narayan and Avi Majithia. 2022. *Claiming Space for Informal Work in Master Planning: Reflections from a People's Campaign in Delhi*. WIEGO Policy Brief No. 28



Statistical:

Ramírez, Tomás, Renato Carcelén, Carmen Roca and Joann Vanek. 2023. *Informal Workers in Peru: A Statistical Profile, 2015-2021*. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 34



Technical:

Cass Talbott, Taylor, Pinky Chandran, Cecilia Allen, Lakshmi Narayan and Owusu Boampong. 2022. *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Waste Pickers*. WIEGO Technical Brief No. 15

Law and Informality Insights reflect on our work supporting informal worker organizations to know, use and shape the law, and analyze statutory developments, law-making processes and jurisprudence that affect informal workers and their advocacy strategies.



Ossom, Aminta. 2023. *Defending Waste Pickers' Livelihoods: Lessons from Litigation in Latin America*. Law & Informality Insights No. 7

Resource Documents include WIEGO-generated literature reviews, annotated bibliographies and papers reflecting the findings of new empirical work. They provide detail to support advocacy, policy or research on specific issues.



Cappa, Andrés, Ariel Bertellotti, Mariano Murad, Julieta Campana, Paula Basílico, Florian Juergens-Grant. 2023. *Efforts of Argentina's Informal Waste Pickers to Finance Decent Work and Social Protection through Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation*. WIEGO Resource Document No. 34

Highlights from Research on Challenging the Economic Orthodoxies that Undermine Universal Social Protection

This research is based on the belief that access to social protection for all workers creates better quality employment. WIEGO produced various papers that challenge dominant ideas that may hold back the expansion of social protection and prevent its extension to all workers.



Calligaro, Florencia and Oscar Cetrangolo. 2023. *Financing Universal Social Protection: The Relevance and Labour Market Impacts of Social Security Contributions*. WIEGO Working Paper No. 47



Seira, Enrique, Isaac Meza, Eduardo González-Pier and Eduardo Alcaraz Prous. 2023. *Did Mexico's Seguro Popular Universal Health Coverage Programme Really Reduce Formal Jobs?* WIEGO Working Paper No. 46

Social Protection COVID-19 Briefs

Social Protection Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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



WIEGO. 2022. Issue #5: *A regional approach to Universal Social Protection: The case of the African Union Protocol*

Informal Economy Podcast: Social Protection

The podcast series is a source of accessible information that raises awareness about research and debates on social protection for workers in informal employment.

Episode #31: Online capacity building on social protection for informal workers.



The [WIEGO Publications Catalogue](#) provides an overview of the WIEGO publication series since it was established.

Financial Report: Year Ended 31 March 2023

Financial Governance

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the WIEGO Board and has responsibility for overseeing the financial management and audit of the accounts, to ensure the sustainability and future viability of WIEGO. This includes review of annual budgets, as well as continuous review of budgetary and financial controls to reduce the risk of under or overspending, and to mitigate the possible shortfall in income in any financial year. This risk is further mitigated by the building of designated reserves largely for the General Assembly, which is held every four years. Consequently, in the current financial year, a provision has been made for US \$100,000 as per the approved 2023/24 budget, and yearly provisions will be made to meet the costs of the General Assembly to be held in November 2026. Additionally, free reserves as at March 31, 2023 are US \$583,000 and will be used to maintain core programmes for a three-month period in the event of cash flow uncertainties arising from funding problems, as well as other uncertainties.

The Finance Committee reports to the WIEGO Board of Directors for final decisions on budgets and risk management.

Financial Summary

For the year ended March 31, 2023, WIEGO received an unqualified opinion from its auditors, Crowe U.K. LLP. The figures in the financial summaries for the Balance Sheet, Source of Funds, and Use of Funds, are extracted from the statutory accounts, which were approved by the Directors on November 15, 2023. The auditors have confirmed to the Directors that the extracts are consistent with the statutory financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023.

These extracts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the company. Therefore, the full statutory accounts should be consulted together with the Auditors' Report and the Directors' Report, which are available from the Company Secretary at the company's registered office in Manchester, United Kingdom. Additionally, the full statutory accounts will be available online, after completion of all regulatory filings.

Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET	2022-23	2021-22
	USD \$000	USD \$000
CURRENT ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable	1,186	129
Cash at bank	30,550	32,101
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	31,736	32,230
CREDITORS		
Accounts Payable	-1,313	-3,046
NET ASSETS	30,423	29,184
FUNDS		
Restricted Funds	22,635	25,757
Unrestricted Funds	7,788	3,427
	30,423	29,184

Source: Extract from the statutory accounts

Source and Use of Funds

The total incoming resources were US \$14.4 million for the financial year ending 31 March, 2023, compared to US \$33.1 million in the previous year. Total resources expended were US \$13.2 million, compared to US \$10.3 million in the previous year.

Source of Funds

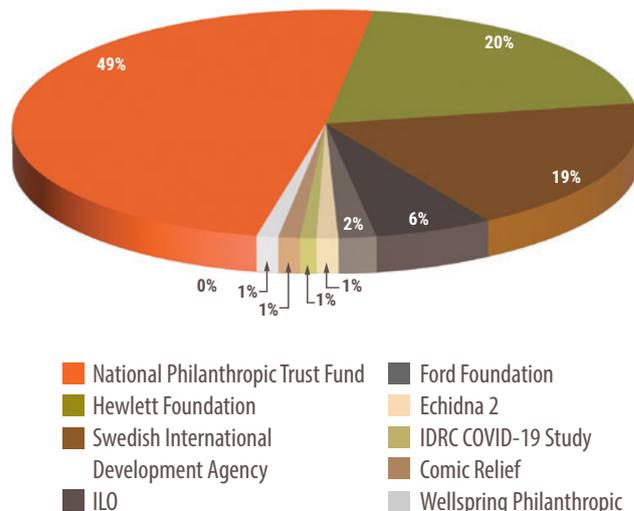
Over the last 26 years, WIEGO has received support from several funders in our efforts to empower workers in informal employment around the globe. During the financial year ended March 31, 2023, WIEGO received funding from 13 institutional funders, including a one-time unsolicited gift of US \$7 million from the National Philanthropic Trust Fund, which will be used to fund unrestricted activities. Additionally, US \$617,000 was received as interest income and is included in "Other Sources."

WIEGO is grateful to the organizations, foundations and governments for their generous financial support over the years.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	2022-23	2021-22
	USD \$,000	USD \$,000
Ford Foundation	296	25,200
Swedish International Development Agency	2,684	3,765
The Open Societies Foundation	0	3,015
Echidna 2	125	375
IDRC COVID-19 Study	185	314
Comic Relief	137	121
DFID	0	92
Wellspring Philanthropic	200	50
International Labour Organization	10	11
USAID	0	10
Hewlett Foundation	2,900	0
National Philanthropic Trust Fund	7,000	0
Other Sources	866	187
TOTAL FUNDING	14,403	33,140

Source: Extract from the statutory accounts

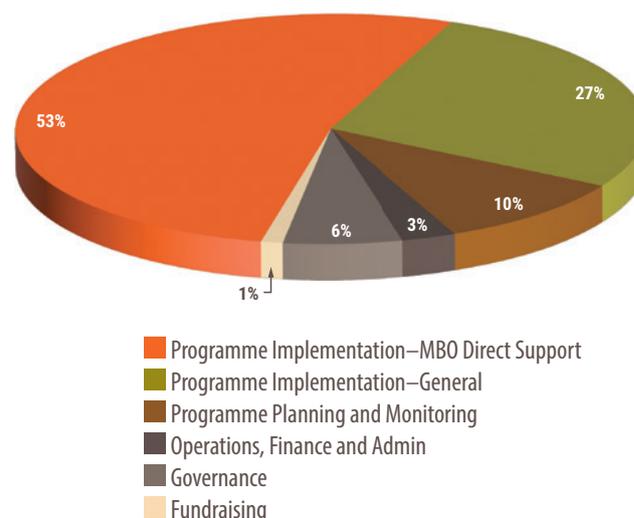
Source of Funds for Year 2022/23



Use of Funds

WIEGO's strategy is designed to ensure that the maximum possible resources are channelled directly into programmes to meet the objective of delivering high-quality improvements in research, policy advocacy and capacity building. It is worth noting that 90 per cent of resources were expended in the direct and indirect support of MBOs for programme implementation, planning and monitoring.

Use of Funds for Year 2022/23





WIEGO's Work

[Annual Reports](#)

[WIEGO Digest](#)

[WIEGO Membership-Based](#)

[Organizations Newsletters](#)

[Law & Informality Newsletters](#)

WIEGO Online Resources



[Blogs](#)



[Videos](#)



[Webinars](#)

WIEGO Social Media Channels

