



StreetNet News

No 14 November 2008

StreetNet News is the newsletter of StreetNet International, an international federation formed to promote and protect the rights of street vendors. Address: N228 Diakonia Centre, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001 South Africa. e-mail stnet@iafrica.com visit the website: www.streetnet.org.za

StreetNet News No. 15 www.streetnet.org.za/english/page5.htm

Contents:

- **FUTRAND: Informal economy union wins battle for recognition in Venezuela**
By Blanca Llerena, General Secretary, FUTRAND
- **GEFONT, Nepal hosts conference of Asia trade union women**
- **KENASVIT: Leading consultation on new law for informal sector in Kenya**
By Peter Odhiambo Okello, National Secretary, KENASVIT
- **Labour and Globalisation Network at the European Social Forum**
- **CTCP-FNT: moving from the informal arena to the formalisation of work in Nicaragua**
By Adrian Martinez, Secretary General, CTCP
- **SEWA: Rescue and mopping up operations after bomb blasts in Ahmedabad, India**
- **KOSC: After 20 years street vendors still fighting for rights in South Korea**
- **CNTS: After negotiation vendors see new stalls built in Senegal**
- **Market traders negotiate for land to be allocated for re-development of Kampala Market, Uganda**
By Nakayemba Jacenta, Secretary St Balikuddembe market stalls and lock up shop owners' association, NUIEWO, Uganda
- **FEDEVAL: Opposing the forced eviction of street vendors in Lima, Peru**
By FEDEVAL Steering Committee
- **MUFIS: Organising in new regions of Malawi**
By Davies Chimombo, General Secretary, MUFIS

FUTRAND: Informal economy union wins battle for recognition in Venezuela

By Blanca Llerena, General Secretary, FUTRAND

Background of FUTRAND

In Caracas, from the 17 to the 24 March 1992, the XV WORLD CONGRESS of CIOSL, (now CCI) was held, with the main theme of Work in the Informal Economy. Amongst the conclusions reached, was the pledge to create a Federation, by means of a National Congress, which was held on 28 November 1992. In the presence of leaders of organisations of workers in the informal economy from all the states in the country, the FEDERACIÓN ÚNICA DE TRABAJADORES NO DEPENDIENTES Y AFINES DE VENEZUELA, FUTRAND, was formed by five unions and four union associations. Today, there is a listed membership of more than 3 992 affiliates and more than 1 000 000 workers in our organisation.

Institution

FUTRAND is duly legalised and registered in the National Inspectorate and Collective Workers Affairs under No 315, Folio No 177, of the appropriate Registration Book.

Statistics

In Venezuela, according to the National Institute of statistics INE, for the second trimester (May - 2007):

Total population was 27 109 465 persons; the workforce included 13 459 909 persons. Of these, 2 386 756, (13,9%), belonged the public sector, and 9 307 550 (86,1%) to the private sector; of these workers 6 921 794 (53,4%) worked in the informal economy. Expressed in a different way, out of every 10 workers, one belonged to the public sector, one to the private sector, one was unemployed, and seven struggled in the informal economy. In the social panorama the variables indicated that seven of every ten workers in the informal economy, were women.

Objectives

On the occasion of the National Constituent Assembly of 1999, FUTRAND, the organisation affiliated to the CTV, with the participation of the affiliated unions, put forward a proposal in which we justified the existence of this workers' sector at all economic and social levels throughout Venezuela. This resulted in the introduction of article 87 of the new Constitution, where the State of Venezuela recognised own-account workers and offered them the

opportunity to establish new structures for the development of the Social Security System and its development.

Our union organisation, always attempting to improve the workers' situation, has been developing strategies which orient them to planning with the intention of equipping them on the basis of their own potential and creativity in economic and social matters so that they are able to develop activities through the construction of their own infrastructure.

The main aim is to develop Multiple Service Centres planned and built by the workers themselves; we estimate at least one of these in every parish in the main cities, with sufficient comfort, a crèche for the workers' children and for poorer social sectors, medical services for workers and their families, a social club, where the workers and the community could relax and have some fun, offices where municipal authorities can offer public services, banking offices, a union office and an office for social services, as well as 30% of the area to be dedicated for the incorporation of new workers.

Another FUTRAND policy is to train affiliated workers in the area of new union organisations, cooperative associations, registration, business administration, accounting, administration of the payment of municipal taxes, development of capabilities for negotiation with public and private organisations. For this we rely on the Foundation for the Education and Training of workers in the Social and Economic matters (FUDESTRAND).

FUTRAND believes that with the education and the development of new knowledge, the incorporation of the Internet information system and the creative ability of the workers, they will be in a position to establish their own growth policy without the participation of the State. We have observed that when there is a change of government, the new government can change everything.

In the same way, Municipal Ordinances should be approved referring to the activities of workers in the informal economy, in which are created the rights and duties, both for the municipal authorities and for the workers, in which taxes could be fixed which later are to the advantage of the workers and the community in general. These should also take into account the contents of Article 87 of the Constitution presently in force.

As far as social protection of workers in the informal economy is concerned, the new Social Security Act and the ILO Resolution of 2002, concerning Decent Work exhorts all economic sectors that are involved in one or other way in the activities of these workers, as well as the State, to reach agreements so all make the payments of fees to the social security system in the form of priority subsystems or regimens such as health, education, old-age pensions and housing policies, for which the pro-rata fee could be made up of:

- a) state contribution (municipal, regional or state);
- b) an imposed measure which affects providers of services to workers (who provide goods and services equivalent to between Bs. 0,25% and 0.75% for every hundred Bolívares (Bs. 100) of invoices for the sale of merchandise), together with the contribution of the union organisations;
- c) the contributions of the worker.

FUTRAND proposes a census of the economic and social information and activities which each worker carries out, so that the collection for the social security system may be made through the workers' organisation, and that would be deducted from the municipal tax. Following this measure, we are asking for the creation of a Department of Own-account Workers, that would act as an organ of the Ministry of Labour with the representation of municipalities, workers, suppliers and the authorities of this Ministry, with an autonomous budget dedicated to monitoring, supervision and collection of these contributions.

GEFONT, Nepal hosts conference of Asia trade union women

The ITUC has called all its affiliates to mark the Year 2008 as the year for Decent Work. The ILO has set a Global Campaign targeting the Year 2009 as the 10th year anniversary of its gender equality action plan under the theme - Gender Equality at the Heart of Decent Work. Connecting its sentiments and initiatives with this campaign, GEFONT organised a regional conference of Trade Union Woman in South Asia from September 20-22, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal under the theme of "Together we will Achieve: Decent Work and a Better South Asia".

The conference gathered some 500 participants, including around 30 foreign delegates from 16 countries, as far away as South Africa, Sweden and New Zealand.

The International Co-ordinator of StreetNet, Pat Horn, talked about Rights at Work in the context of the informal sector. Horn said that there there are fundamental rights demanded everywhere: The right to organise, recognition of our organisations, collective bargaining rights, protection from discrimination, protection against forced labour and child labour, and a healthy and safe working environment.

She added that where there is an undemocratic ruling culture, the right to democracy, equality and public services must also be taken into account. "Organise, organise, organise!" That is still the main message, Pat Horn said. Women have to be organised both as women and as workers, and it is important to build women workers' leadership.

Source: GEFONT report on regional conference of Trade Union Women in South Asia and website.

KENASVIT: Leading consultation on new law for informal sector in Kenya

Peter Odhiambo Okello, National Secretary, KENASVIT

This report is written in respect of the workshop which I attended in Senegal from 26th - 30th March 2007. The StreetNet workshop on Collective bargaining in the informal economy and laws and litigation strategies in street vending sector required affiliates to draw a work plan for their country. As KENASVIT's delegate, I proposed at the workshop a work plan on the Draft Micro Small Enterprise (MSE) Bill, 2007, to the workshop. The Bill will affect informal economy workers in Kenya. The Bill was drafted by the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development of Kenya.

KENASVIT management committee meeting on the 12th April 2007, adopted the work plan drafted at the Senegal workshop. The management committee sanctioned the implementation of the work plan by the following strategies described below.

A resolution was passed that a letter was to be written to various KENASVIT local partners and collaborators inviting them to attend and assist KENASVIT in pushing the MSE Bill 2006 to the validation stage which was pending.

KENASVIT organised a workshop on the MSE Bill on 26th - 27th July 2007, in Nairobi. The workshop was attended by 27 representatives from the following organisations.

1. Four delegates from all seven Urban Alliances;
2. Community Organization Practitioners (COPA- Kenya);
3. Kenya Private Sector Alliance;
4. Institute for Development Studies - University of Nairobi;
5. Ministry of Labour.

The main goal of the workshop was to facilitate a thorough understanding of the draft MSE. Bill by street vendors and informal traders, leading to the development of their position on the new law affecting the sector.

The workshop was successful and necessary amendments were made to the draft law by participants. A MSE Bill steering committee was elected to liaise with various stakeholders and to push for the Bill's enactment of the Bill. KENASVIT came up with a position paper on the MSE Bill which was presented to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development and the Attorney General's office to be considered.

A resolution taken that urban alliance leaders should contact the area members of Parliament and discuss the Draft Bill with them as the General election was coming up.

KENASVIT in partnership with MSE Bill Steering Committee, organised a stakeholders' workshop that was held on 30th November 2007, in Nairobi. The following stakeholders were invited and attended the workshop.

- (i) Jua Kali Federation of Kenya
- (ii) Maasai market traders
- (iii) Disabled small scale traders
- (iv) Fisher folk

The main objective of the forum was to bring the various informal sector stakeholders to share views on the MSE Bill and find agreement on the divergent issues. The meeting was a very important preparatory activity for the MSE Bill validation process, when informal sector traders needed to speak with one voice about key provisions of the bill. Most of the stakeholders had not had an opportunity to discuss the Draft Bill and the forum gave them the opportunity to do so.

Way forward

They agreed that an Inter MSE Association committee should be formed, to carry forward the MSE Bill consultation with all stakeholders represented. All stakeholders were asked to organise a meeting with their sector's leaders to come up with a position on the MSE Bill, that should be presented at KENASVIT steering committee focal point meeting by 15th December 2007. The forum also resolved that the revised draft MSE Bill was to be forwarded to other informal sector groups that were not present at the workshop. These include handloom weavers, freelance photographers, *boda boda* (bicycles) group excluded from the bill because it was considered to be part of the transport sector).

A joint meeting of the stakeholders was scheduled to be organised by government to enable them to bring together their position and develop the MSE Bill. The next joint stakeholder forum was to be held by 15th January 2008.

The last proposed workshop on the Draft Bill was not held due to post-election violence after the December general elections.

KENASVIT still appeals to the willing partners to assist in mobilising resources in order to enable them to implement the remaining process on the MSE Bill and eventually the Act when it is eventually approved by parliament.

Labour and Globalisation Network at the European Social Forum

From September 17th to 21st 2008 the European Social Forum (ESF) was held in Malmö, in the south of Sweden. The forum was by far the biggest meeting event for social movements and for construction of a progressive civil society in Europe - aiming to create a better Europe and a better world. More than 20 000 people participated in the Malmö ESF. During five days over 200 seminars and workshops took place, mixed with cultural activities, film, music, informal meetings, activism and demonstrations.

StreetNet's Co-ordinator Pat Horn participated in a Labour and Globalisation meeting held in in Malmo on 19th September 2008, following the first discussions StreetNet had had with the Labour and Globalisation Network in January 2007 at the World Social Forum Nairobi, that consisted of two parts, as follows:

- European Network Discussion
- Discussion of North-South solidarity.

CTCP-FNT: moving from the informal arena to the formalisation of work in Nicaragua

By Adrian Martinez, Secretary General, CTCP

Introduction

During the past six years the CTCP has carried out a series of activities with workers in the informal economy of Nicaragua, actions which point towards the creation of a new path that will lead the workers towards new horizons, and towards a new destiny.

To reach the summit is a challenge, because it requires to break conditions and ideas which are closely linked to the neo-liberal economic model, which, to sustain itself, has created ideas and systems which erode and corrupt people's feelings, behaviour and actions of the people. To break through this barrier it is necessary to construct the organisational capabilities to resist, and develop the necessary instruments that facilitate the change of social and economic relations in the sector.

Our strategic object is the development of a new economic and social system which guarantees the proper application of the Rules established by Law: free technical education, social security for all Nicaraguans, decent work and right to employment. This can be reached through an equitable distribution of income, a security system for all, the recognition of own-account workers as new political actors who generate wealth, and need, to improve

themselves, education, health, financing, technical assistance and basic services.

The CTCP, following its desire and responsibility to build such capacities and change the existing system into a new one, has carried out a series of studies and diagnoses, with the technical assistance of academic organisations such as CIPRES, ISACC, CES, CINASE and others. The studies received financial support from solidarity organisations such as UGT, FOS Belgium, LO of Norway, the Danish Council of Unions and the ILO. The results helped a lot in developing this new path, this new horizon, through a process that aims to improve the workers' capability.

This process meets the needs of training and of preparing leaders to enable them to propose alternatives to the current situation, to plan actions, to direct work, to administer resources, and to follow up and to have control of the execution of the work plans.

The efforts made and the resources employed so far have brought good results, especially for the unity of the sector, the union's organisation, the cohesion of its members in the territory, the participation and mobilization of workers: all of which indicate that great advances have been made. However, the management, dialogue and negotiation aspects could be improved. In the same way, the development of micro and small businesses belonging to workers, that can be converted into small units could have a major effect on the socio-economic development of the country.

In order to develop a new economic and social system, it is necessary to overcome the exploitive, and exclusive nature of resources, knowledge, technology and the market. To achieve this requires the support of the state of Nicaragua and its institutions.

To be able to reach the summit requires much effort, and starts with being able to achieve power to influence public policy and opinion and policy-making institutions. For this a powerful union organisation is required, where people have access to knowledge, technology, capital and land. That is to say, to have the necessary means to advance in a sustained manner, because it is about dealing with actions that workers have to carry out in their daily duties.

The points mentioned above show the great potential that the informal economy has in Nicaragua for the economic and social development of the country. However, the objective is not to expand this type of economy, but to take advantage of its potential to generate wealth and employment. That means moving from the informal arena to the formalisation of work. From this perspective we have established the following objectives.

Specific objectives

To move forward with the transition process the CTCP proposed to achieve the following objectives:

- Training own-account workers and raise their education and technical levels so that they can improve the performance of their micro- and small enterprises and make the transition from informal to formal workers more rapidly.
- Dealing urgently with the fundamental causes of the increase and persistence of the informal economy, breaking the barriers which impede the formalisation of this economy, as it represents an important pillar in the socio-economic development of the country.
- Providing the resources to these workers, the means and the technical knowledge to enable them to make suitable use of this potential, and also establish a special system of social protection that allows own-account workers to be rapidly incorporated into the social security system.
- To promote discussion and approval in the National Assembly of an Act which recognises own-account workers as political subjects that participate in the creation of wealth and that are part of Government statistics, and in this way have the power to defend their right to economic opportunities.

Activities Carried Out

With the aim of achieving the objectives established by the organisation, the following activities have been carried out:

1. Negotiations were entered into with the Local Government of the City of Managua, the main objective of which was to establish the working and participatory mechanisms in the decision-making process in the Municipal Rubbish Dump of the City of Managua (LA CHURECA), where the recycling workers union held a strike which lasted 33 days until the form of participation of the workers in this project was defined.
2. Negotiations have been carried out with the private company Centro Comercial Metrocentro, the proprietors of which are members of the Pome family of El Salvador, concerning the construction of the Commercial Area for Own-account Workers: finally 22 workers benefited from the construction of mobile commercial modules which guarantee order, hygiene, an attractive the environment and personal security in the area where these working comrades would be located.
3. The organisation of 1 800 workers in the Las Mercedes Open Industrial Zone Market on the periphery of Managua, that will permit improvements in working conditions, hygiene and personal security, and in the process

negotiation with the central government for 45 micro-credits through the Zero Profiteering Program which benefits the women workers.

4. The CTCP, with the intention of raising the capacity of its national leaders, is developing a two-year Special Diploma course on Management of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with the participation of 26 leaders, to end on the 16 December 2009.

5. With the intention of raising the cultural and technical level of the workers of the CTCP-FNT, a program of Formal Education (secondary studies) with the participation of 172 workers, as well as accelerated primary education with the participation of 43 workers, an activity which has the support of the National Agricultural University (UNA) and the Independent National University of Nicaragua (UNAN).

6. Due to the lack of access to micro-credit to perform its activities and convert its units into small companies generating wealth, the CTCP has promoted the creation of the Multiple Services Cooperative, R.L. (COOVIN), through which 435 micro-credits have been authorised to an equal number of beneficiaries, by means of a revolving fund supported by the Joseph Comaposada of Catalunya and the Danish Council of Unions. This fund has provided means for Own-account Workers to change to a new perspective on development.

SEWA: Rescue and mopping up operations after bomb blasts in Ahmedabad, India

18 bomb blasts struck Ahmedabad on the 26th of July, all in public places, killing 54 people and injuring about 120. The most deadly blast happened in the trauma ward of the Civil Hospital as the victims from other blasts were beginning to arrive for treatment. Most sadly, all the bombs were placed in the working-class areas of Ahmedabad and most of the people who died or were injured were workers. At least 20 of those killed or injured were from families of SEWA members - families of construction workers, vendors and service providers in Ahmedabad.

People afraid to go out

The immediate effect of the blasts was an atmosphere of fear that covered the city. People were afraid to send their children to school, afraid to go out to social occasions and afraid to go to work. It affected many SEWA members as the bombs had exploded in areas fairly close to places where they live or work. SEWA members' employment has been affected badly, especially amongst certain groups. The worst affected were paper and rag collectors, who were instructed to stay away from garbage piles, which were suspected to contain a bomb.

Assisting members

SEWA leaders and members reacted as soon as they heard about the bombs. SEWA leaders fanned out in the areas to find out about injuries, to take people to hospital, and to make sure they would get the best treatment. Individual SEWA members too, reacted immediately to help. For example, one SEWA member who was visiting a relative in Civil Hospital when the blast occurred went immediately to buy medicines for the injured.

SEWA leaders took the message that all its members should be calm and make sure there was no violence in their areas. We had meetings in the Shanti Path (Way of Peace) centres of SEWA where Hindu and Muslim members discussed the incident. One member said, "In these blasts both Hindus and Muslims have died. The terrorists have no religion - they are anti-people. We must get together and defeat their designs of dividing us".

From SEWA newsletter no 16

SEWA website: http://www.sewa.org/images/Bomb_blasts_in_Ahmedabad.pdf

KOSC: After 20 years street vendors still fighting for rights in South Korea

KOSC's 20th Anniversary Rally

The KOSC held its 20th anniversary on 13th June in 2007. We have celebrated the struggles and activities of the KOSC and demanded the Seoul Metropolitan government to stop its unilateral regulating policy on street vendors and to guarantee the rights of living and working for street vendors.

Election

Through the Congress of the KOSC which was held on 6th December 2007, new leaders were elected. During this Congress, the KOSC was able to elect a woman leader to represent women members.

Goyang struggle

The city government repressed street vendors relentlessly. Mr Geun-jae Lee (food street vendor in Goyang city) burnt himself to death on 12th October 2007 because of the violent crackdown. The KOSC struggled for nearly over a year against the city government to stop the violent crackdown. During the struggle, many members and executives of the KOSC were injured and arrested.

Special Regulating Policy on Street Vendors

On 28th February 2007, the Seoul Metropolitan government declared at a press conference that it had changed from the previous policy prohibiting street vending policy to one that is a regulatory, named the Special Regulating Policy on Street Vendors. However, this policy did not mean to guarantee the rights of the street vendors, but to clear the streets. The policy included:

- 1) Those who started vending since the policy became the target of crackdowns because the policy states that no trade should be made on the streets.
- 2) Every one or two year years, licensed street vendors should themselves reregistered again and the requirements are very strict. For example, street vendors who own more than 100 000 USD are excluded (considering the prices of South Korea, this is too low).
- 3) Street traders can only trade after 4pm.
- 4) Trading near bus stops, subway stations or pedestrian crossings is strictly prohibited.
- 5) Only a low number of food vendors are acceptable.

It neither recognises street vendors as the members of the unions/societies nor the rights of the workers in informal employment. Therefore, the KOSC is organising the struggle to fight against this policy.

Street vendors in Dongdaemun Flea Market forced to relocate again

In 2004, street vendors in Cheonggye-chon were forced to move to the Dongdaemun Stadium (now Dongdaemun Flea Market) because of the ex-mayor's development project. But Mr Myeong-bak Lee broke his promise in 2005 and Mr Se-hun Oh, the newly-elected mayor, relocated the street vendors from the market to isolated places which were used before as a middle school. At the Dongdaemun Stadium the Seoul Metropolitan government is planning to build a park and a complex.

This is not just the problem of street vendors in that particular Market, but for all street vendors in South Korea, because the consequences of the policy are going to spread to other places.

CNTS: After negotiation vendors see new stalls built

After the StreetNet workshop on collective bargaining and litigation for workers in the informal economy in Saly, Senegal, in 2007, leaders of CNTS met, with the purpose of finding new strategies for the implementation of experience acquired in Saly.

New programmes

Due to the fact that CNTS already had 2 200 members affiliated, who are informal economy actors, and up to date with their dues in various unions, we organised a general meeting of the informal economy workers, with the purpose to report back and also to prepare the ground for future work such as:

- new recruiting strategies of informal economy workers and methods to improve;
- train-the-trainers seminars that should be organised in future;
- evaluation of the implementation of the agreements signed between local authorities and street vendors;
- management of new conflicts;
- new strategies to bring street vendors to union activities.

New activities

A) Existing commissions were reinforced in order to:

1. Recruit new members who are informal economy actors.
2. Assist street vendors' organisations in their negotiations with the authorities.
3. Motivate street vendors to get united for a better protection.

B) The union department in charge of training and education has organised a three-day seminar from 16-18 May 2007 at Faidherbe hotel of Dakar for capacity building of informal economy women leaders.

C) The commission in charge of recruitment has done great work as it managed to recruit 800 new members in a period of one month of sensitisation and information (general meeting of 1st May at Sandaga market which is one of the biggest markets in Dakar).

D) The monitoring commission has assisted street vendors of Sandaga Market in many negotiations with local authorities (the Director of Halls and Markets as well as Mayors of communes d'arrondissement) for better management of the situation of market and street vendors who trade in the main arteries of the city without authorisation.

Negotiations with Municipal authority

The negotiations have ended positively as the municipal authority of Dakar has allowed vendors to occupy temporarily, streets and arteries of Sandaga, without disturbing the pedestrians and vehicles' circulation. They must also not obstruct shop fronts or formal business fronts.

Thereafter, the municipal authority has shown us a way forward to avoid further confrontations with the municipality, when it might decide to evict vendors. The municipal authority told us to contact the Crédit Municipal of Dakar which is the financial institution of the city of Dakar, and to open a savings blocked account in order to get cubicles and *souks* (stalls) built by the municipality. This way, all vendors who have an account with that

financial institution are recorded. The municipality has also put them in contact with promoters who have already started to allocate trading spaces in commercial centres that are being built throughout the city.

A very important is that displaced vendors receive a subsidy from the municipality and only have to make small deposits to qualify for *souks* (5% of their value). The remaining amount has to be paid little by little according to the signed agreement with the promoter.

Market traders negotiate for land to be allocated for re-development of Kampala Market

By Nakayemba Jacenta, Secretary St Balikuddembe market stalls and lock up shop owners' association, NUIEWO, Uganda

Market traders in Kampala faced the crisis of being evicted from the markets where they had traded for 20 years in order to clear a space dedicated to private development and urban renewal by Kampala local government in 2005.

When the eviction plan was made, the market leaders from all the markets in Kampala sought audience with the President and the Minister of Local Government and requested that, as sitting tenants, they should be given priority to redevelop the market rather than it being sold to an individual investor.

Kampala City Council

The land is owned by Kampala City Council. Kampala City Council together with the Ministry of Local Government, is responsible for redeveloping the city following required standards and is also responsible for identifying viable investors to do so. Kampala City Council has the powers to gazette land for a different purpose, including redeveloping markets to meet the required city standards. After the representation by market vendors the policy to this effect was passed and a letter was released on 21st June 2007.

Plan for new market

As a result, instead of the old market being demolished a new market will replace the existing market infrastructure which is located on a seven-acre plot, M244 Nakivubo Road. In 2006, the plan for the market redevelopment was started. Following the terms of the plan, all the traders of the old market are to be accommodated in the new centre and there should be space for more informal traders in the bigger structure.

The Balikuddembe (OWINO) Market Redevelopment Project underway is being spearheaded by St Balikuddembe Market stalls and lock up shop owners' association limited.

Plans submitted to council

The existing market hosts 6 500 stalls and 750 lockup shopowners and 2 500 vendors within open spaces (corridors) and parking areas. Plans for the new market drawn up in consultation with TFK Consult Uganda Ltd, have been submitted to Kampala City Council. The new six-storied structure will have more space for storage space and modern toilet facilities to meet the needs of both traders and customers, as well as additional features, including a hall, clinic, offices, shops and parking. The new market centre will have 50 000 working spaces.

Investment plan for traders

Traders have drawn-up an investment plan for stalls in the centre. Initially, the traders will contribute with one million Uganda shillings (approximately US Dollars 650) to go towards buying the land. Then the cost of buying the completed lock up will be UGX nine million (approximately US dollars 5530) This money will be financed through a long term loan to the vendors. Currently the vendors are paying between UGX 150,000 to 500,000 (USD 92 -306).

One of the advantages for Kampala municipality will be creation of employment and more informal trading spaces and also higher revenue from the taxes that informal traders pay to local government.

Visit the redevelopment project website: <http://www.stbalikuddembemarket.com>

FEDEVAL: Opposing the forced eviction of street vendors in Lima By FEDEVAL Steering Committee

FEDEVAL have carried out defence actions since the start of the new administration of the new mayors of Metropolitan Lima. Below we detail these activities and the requests we made to the mayors.

1. In the districts of la Victoria (Gamarra), Puente Piedra, Carabayllo and San Martin de Porres, FEDEVAL has requested the mayors to have a dialogue concerning collective negotiation, and a written agreement, that would include formalisation proposals that FEDEVAL has for its affiliated organisations. However, the mayors have never responded,
2. We staged a Protest March to persuade Mayor Freddy Ternero to receive

us in his office and through dialogue, to try to find solutions for street vendors, but the mayor did not agree to receive us, and escaped by the back door the Municipality. This is the way in which this bad mayor behaved, carrying out a major eviction in the month of May.

Later, Fedeval, in coordination with the organisation of vendors (Defence Front), carried out a vigil and Press Conference in the area in which the eviction occurred, from 7:00 pm until 12:00 in the Caquetá Area.

3. In the district of Puente Piedra, in a situation involving 1 500 street vendors, the problem is different. It concerns excessive charges applied to the stalls, which are set by the administrator of the Huamantanga Market (who is the district mayor's mother). Fedeval and Cut - Peru, requested an interview with the administrator and asked her to show the deed to the property where the market is located, which permits the letting of the stalls to vendors. She did not agree to the interview, and neither present the title deed, and to date she has not troubled the vendors nor increased the rent to the vendors.

4. Fedeval, with the support of CUT, relies on the Centre for Legal Support for the Informal Economy, for which the responsible person in that office is the Social Development and Promotion Secretary of the CEN of CUT, Mr. Manuel Sulca Escalante. FEDEVAL has brought protective actions and preventive measures against the municipalities of San Martin de Porres, Carabayllo, Puente Piedra. In the Municipality of San Martin de Porres, we brought about the dismissal of the official in this municipality Carlos Mendieta, because he fomented a brutal and illegal eviction of the street vendors in that district.

5. Fifteen days ago, FEDEVAL, as an affiliate member of CUT, requested from that organisation the support of the Union for the defence of the vendors of Caquetá in reclaiming their stalls. CUT by agreement of CEN accepted this request and sent two proposals, which we in turn were sent to the Defence Front of Caquetá for them to evaluate.

They informed us that they were in agreement with the proposals:

- a. To carry out a public demonstration obstructing the streets in front of the municipality of San Martin de Porres, and to hold a Press Conference, to persuade the mayor to enter into dialogue with us in his office.
- b. During working hours on the 7 of October during the world campaign for Decent Work, to arrange a public demonstration of unionised workers, street vendors and social organisations of the Cono Norte in front of the municipality of San Martin de Porres, and protest against the abuses committed against street vendors affiliated to FEDEVAL.

So far no response was given to Cut by the street vendors of Caquetá, to say whether or not they accept them.

Our principle and our duty is to defend our affiliates. For this reason we ask for solidarity from the affiliate members of StreetNet and their support to work with International labour and human rights organisations, as CUT did offering, their support when requested, and following up if their proposals are accepted.

Finally, we have carried out many protective actions, legal, administrative and struggle actions in the field, and are always supporting or assisting in all districts where there is abuse or any attempt against the work of street vendors, whether or not they are affiliated to FEDEVAL.

MUFIS: Organising in new regions of Malawi

By Davies Chimombo, General Secretary, MUFIS

Organising

In 2007, all branches of MUFIS were visited, new branches were established in the Central Region and women's committees were elected in most of the branches. Two new branches were established in the central region of Malawi, covering the following markets: Salima, Lumbadzi, Mponela, Mchinji, Nkhotakota, Kasungu, Dedza, Ntcheu and a further two in the southern region in Blantyre and Thabwa in Chikwawa. There is a need to have follow up meetings with all branches already organised. Now we need to organise the northern region and we need to provide assistance to the existing members and to enable others to join the union.

Seminars/workshop/meetings

MUFIS officials attended international workshops and meetings in Senegal and South Africa but failed to attend the StreetNet International Congress in Brazil and IFWEA Conference in India due to visa problems.

StreetNet International

The General Secretary for MUFIS was assigned duties by StreetNet as assistant co-ordinator and completed them in April 2007.

Stakeholders

MUFIS held meetings with different stakeholders in Blantyre and Lilongwe. The major issues discussed were how MUFIS could work with them and what opportunities could be obtained and shared. Government officials included

those from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, National Aids Commission, Ministry of Trade. Members of the private sector Malawi Business Coalition Against HIV/AIDS and CISP, an Italian organisation working in Malawi which offers training to people having and running small businesses. Further meetings were held with:

- Fred Parry, ILO workers' representative based in Zimbabwe at the ILO regional office, on informal economy workers' organisation by MUFIS.
- The General Secretary of the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions on the subject of the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MUFIS.
- Formal unions whose offices are in Blantyre on how they could support each other in organising informal economy workers.

War on Want and colleagues from other organisations involved in the production of the book "Forces for Change".

Informal Policy Draft

Ministry of Trade and Private Sector informed MUFIS that the informal economy policy draft is not yet ready but MUFIS would be involved in input to the process when the technical committee is ready.

IFWEA workers' education training manual

Workshops with the new IFWEA workers' education materials for informal economy workers and trade unions were carried out in over 20 locations.

StreetNet exchange visit

A MUFIS delegation went to the Eastern Cape in the Republic of South Africa in 2006. This visit is now bearing fruit as some of MUFIS members went to Umtata in 2007 to sell their goods and met their counterparts.

Removal of vendors from streets

During the year vendors were removed from streets to places which were not ready for occupation, despite the promises made by government officials to MUFIS, all Malawians and to the international media, that the markets would be ready with all amenities before removal.

NENO evictions challenged

One of our branches in Neno District was notified that they had a seven-day deadline before demolition of their structures for the the Clinton /Hunter project. This was rejected by the MUFIS executive. Part of the Executive

went to Neno and raised the following concerns with the District Assembly Officials on the following:

- That the notice was so short that even the officials themselves were not aware of it;
- A new operational area should be found to replace it;
- Vendors shall be compensated for the demolished structures;
- Prioritise those evicted in the relocation first.

After the discussion, the District Assembly reversed their decision and as work was in progress, the notice was extended. The vendors that had their structures demolished were compensated. Another assurance made is that priority will be given to those people who were at the market first. The action taken by MUFIS boosted morale in that more members joined the Union.