



# StreetNet News

No. 17 November, 2009

## Office developments and achievements in 2009

By Nozipo Lembede – Office Administrator, Streetnet International

StreetNet International managed to raise funds for the activities that it had planned for. As a result we have undergone a number of needed changes this year, including moving our office and expanding the administration operation and organising capacity.

### Programmes and activities supported

Funds were raised from the Gates Foundation USA, for the implementation of the international and country activities, salaries and office administration, under the project title: Strengthening Organisations of Informal Workers in the Urban Public Space. There are four major activities covered in the budget, namely, organising, campaigns, capacity building and projects. The budget also covers the indirect costs that enabled StreetNet to move the office to new premises with more space and to expand its administration capacity to meet new demands that have resulted from administering a much bigger budget for organisational programmes and activities.

Funds were also raised from FNV Mondiaal, of The Netherlands for the production of the newsletters and documentation. This also covers salaries, affiliates' exchange visits, International Council meetings and theme workshops such as, "Employment relations among informal traders" that was held in Durban, in May 2009.

The Canadian Labour Congress has agreed to fund workshops in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Nigeria and Angola.

### Organisational development (OD) support

Due to the expanded workload and transformation and expansion of StreetNet International administration department, a consultant was engaged for the administration support for speeding up the implementation of the administration tasks according to the year's work plan.

### New staff members

These are:

- The administration and finance manager, Ruby Essack who joined Streetnet at the beginning of October 2009.
- The financial administrator Flick Isaacs who joined StreetNet in January 2009.
- The office assistant / receptionist Mdu Phenyane who initially worked on a temporary basis but since October has been employed full-time.
- Two organising assistants Sibailly Douhoure and Monica Garzaro Scott for organising and overseeing affiliates' country activities in Latin America, USA, Africa and Asia. They joined StreetNet in January, 2009.



From left to Right: Ruby Essack, Mdu Phenyane and Flick Isaacs, who have joined StreetNet office Photo: StreetNet

World Class Cities Campaign (WCCA) organisers also joined StreetNet on a temporary basis. They are:

- Durban WCCA Campaign coordinator, Phumzile Xulu in Ethekwini Metro municipality;
- Nkosinathi Jikeka, WCCA Cape Town campaign; and
- Paul Shambira for different municipalities and provinces.

## Communication

StreetNet also had a mini switchboard installed with an additional telephone line and each department has an email address.

## New contact information

Coordinator: [coordinator@streetnet.org.za](mailto:coordinator@streetnet.org.za)

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## StreetNet represented at 10th Congress de COSATU, South Africa and CUT Brazil



**Jalile Fundile, Eastern Cape Street Vendors Alliance, and Pat Horn, Coordinator of StreetNet at the 10th COSATU Congress, in Johannesburg held from 21-24 September 2009** Photo: StreetNet



**Juan Jimenez, FUTJOPOCIF, Dominican Republic, represented StreetNet at the 10th national congress of CUTH Brazil held from the 17-19 July 2009, with Sidumo Dlamini, COSATU President, in Sao Paulo** Photo: FUTJOPOCIF

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WIEGO Inclusive Cities Project: Zoe Horn

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## StreetNet affiliates' country activities move forward

Affiliates have been requested by regional organisers to plan country workshop activities and to draw up budgets for the activities that they have planned. The affiliates who have submitted plans and budgets for country activities and which have been approved so far for 2009 are listed below.

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
FUTJOPOCIF	National leadership training
AZIEA	Gender workshop
MUFIS	Leadership and Negotiations Workshop
LDFC	Capacity Building Workshop
SIVARA	Negotiations training
FEDEVAL	Leadership workshop
USYNVEPID	Leadership & Negotiation Workshop
FOTSSEIH	Leadership training
NASVI	Negotiations training
SEU	Leadership training
FEDEVAL	Leadership workshop
MUFIS	HIV & Negotiations workshop
KENASVIT	Negotiation training
NEST	Negotiations training
UGSEIN	Negotiations training
SYVEMECOT	Negotiations training
Eastern Cape Street Vendors' Alliance	Leadership Skills Training
ASSOTSI	HIV & capacity building workshop

### StreetNet Field Trips to DR-Congo and Niger



Members of ASSOVACO DR-CONGO at the workshop held from 19-21 August that was facilitated by Assistant Organiser, Sibailly Douhoure during a field trip to DR-Congo  
Photo: StreetNet



A negotiations workshop was facilitated by Street-Net Assistant Organiser Sibailly Douhoure in Niamey, Niger with affiliates UGSEIN and FENASEIN on 19 October 2009 during a field trip to Niger  
Photo: StreetNet

### Campaign launches in Cape Town

By Nkosinathi Jikeka, WCCA organiser Cape Town



The general assembly at Cape Town City Hall, on October 12, 2009  
Photo: StreetNet

Following several weeks of organising street vendors in and around Cape Town the Street Vendors' general assembly was held in the packed Cape Town City Hall on Monday 12 October, 2009. The mayor of Cape Town Dan Plato made several promises to the people which were recorded on

video and voice recording – and broke one the same afternoon when street vendors on the Cape Town Parade were issued with notices that they will not be allowed to trade on the Parade in May or June 2010 while FIFA organises a Fan Park there – with no alternatives mentioned!

A Cape Town Coalition of street vendors has been formed and its first move was to call for a meeting with the mayor. A meeting was held on Monday 22 October, 2009. The Coalition demanded a moratorium on all evictions, confiscations and harassments from City, Metrorail, and Intersite owned and managed properties.

The interim committee of the Coalition also started discussion with the Mayor on the concerns in an open letter to the Mayor and the Premier of the Western Cape that calls for the city to adopt an inclusive notion of World Class Cities, for consultation and negotiations and to agree that no evictions take place in the preparations of the FIFA World Cup without alternatives being provided.

Workshops are being planned in the Western Cape for “Welcoming Africans to a Xenophobia-free FIFA World Cup”.

### Durban - Warwick Early Morning Market struggle continues

By Phumzile Xulu, WCCA Campaign organiser Durban

Four court cases and an interdict have been filed with the Durban High court to stop the demolition of the Early Morning Market (EMM) by the city and developers to build a supermarket linked to FIFA World Cup deadlines. The cases have been filed by the street vendors trading outside the EMM, barrow pushers and the EMM traders. These cases will be heard on the same day and the date for the hearing is yet to be set.

The eThekweni Municipality has intensified its strategy to confuse and divide street traders from EMM traders and other markets. A public meeting was called to witness a signing of a memorandum of understanding between the City and some street traders' organisations. However, this in turn backfired on the City as it came out that the leaders of the street vendors that signed did not receive a mandate from their members.

On the 27th August 2009, the anticipated report by the KwaZulu-Natal Province Task Team (PTT) tasked to resolve the dispute between the city and the EMM traders was presented. However this was a major disappointment, giving as it does the green light to the eThekweni municipal officials and the capitalist property developers to fast track their plans to confiscate the market site, demolish the market and build in its place a mall. The report pretends to save the market by stating limply “Where

should be made to incorporate the (EMM) buildings in the development”. The intention to place the 99year-old EMM into private hands is unacceptable, and is a pathetic attempt to mask the theft of historic, public land.

Though the PTT recommended that consultations need to happen with all Warwick stakeholders and that all “illegal traders” who were chased away by the City need to be given permits and be allowed to trade as a matter of urgency, this was flatly ignored by the City.

Warwick stakeholders have taken it upon themselves to meet and discuss with architects, a design for the Warwick development, which aims to accommodate all informal traders in this area. This development plan could be used as basis for full consultations and negotiations, something the City has failed to do in planning for this development.

The WCCA Campaign Task Team has been compelled to question the role of the Unicity Informal Traders Stakeholders Working Group whose poorly attended march to demand that the mall development go ahead, used city (public) resources.

Update on the struggle for Warwick Market:  
<http://www.streetnet.org.za/wccacampaignnews.htm>

## Advances made with host cities

By Paul Shambira, WCCA Campaign organiser

Host cities Mangaung (Bloemfontein), Mbombela (Nelspruit), Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage), Polokwane, Rustenburg and Tshwane (Pretoria) have been requested to meet to negotiate on the WCCA Campaign demands.

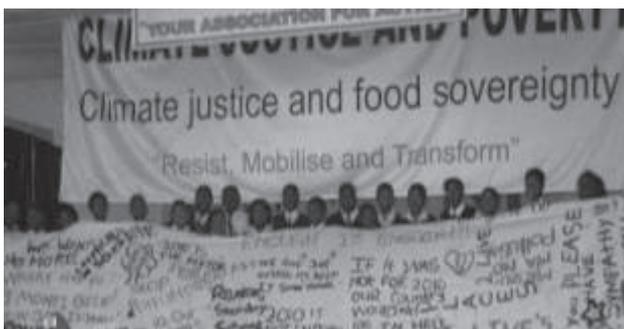
Two meetings were held in Rustenburg on the 27 May and 3 July. An agreement was reached to work together on the Campaign Demands. Street vendors in the meantime have been demanding better conditions and registration. A crisis arose when they were confronted with eviction and police harassment. They obtained an interdict which allows them to continue trading until the issue is resolved.

Two meetings were held in Polokwane on the 30 June and 14 August 2009. The Municipality has undertaken to firstly, build a market to be called African Market which will house the vendors and secondly, to build a car wash centre to accommodate all car wash businesses on the streets. Issues on how the FIFA World Cup will affect informal traders are on the agenda of the next meeting.

In Mbombela, one meeting has been held and the municipality is co-operating with the Campaign. It is constructing cubicles for vendors and has plans to create vending malls where vehicle access will be sealed off. Plans are underway to have a vendors' forum.

Requests to open the door to discussion in Mangaung, Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay continue.

## Residents moved to toxic landfill



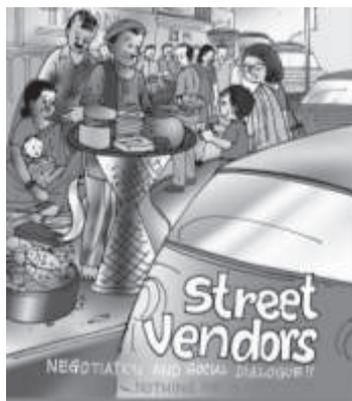
Climate Change Hearings, in Durban

Photo: StreetNet

At a Hearing on Poverty and Climate Change in South Durban on August 20 2009, former residents reported that their houses in Umlazi D Section were demolished to make way for the expansion of the Umlazi Stadium for 2010 FIFA Games. The residents were removed to live in temporary shacks on a toxic landfill site with no services, far away from hospitals and clinics – in an area where ambulance services are not willing to venture. The WCCA Campaign Task Team is taking up the issue.

## NASVI takes WCCA Campaign to the people of India

By Arbind Singh, NASVI Coordinator



In India almost every city is preparing itself to build a so-called 'world class city', competing with each other for investment. In India, the four important metropolises namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are doing city beautification but are leaving no hope for the lives of

the urban poor in the process, especially street vendors, street children, beggars and others. National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), with the support of StreetNet International, is advocating that the world class cities should be created by treating the street vendors as a special component of the urban development/zoning plans and as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system through its World Class Cities FOR ALL Campaign.

The campaign has started from Delhi (capital of India), where the livelihood of around 200 000 street vendors are threatened due to the preparation for hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2010. The WCCA Campaign aims to ensure that street vendors in Delhi will find a permanent space in the Commonwealth City (World Class City) and to earn their decent livelihood.

NASVI had submitted a detailed proposal on the integration of street vendors through innovative model markets to the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

## Campaign vehicle



The campaign vehicle (pictured left) is designed and made to take the message of "World Class Cities FOR ALL" to the people of India. The vehicle has started to visit the street vendors and public in

Delhi to organise mass meetings, distribute campaign posters and pamphlets, screen documentary movies and to hold press meetings. Campaign activities also involve organising mass meetings to create pressure on Government for social dialogue and negotiations.

## SIVARA, Argentina exchange visit with FOTSSIEH, Honduras

By Eugenio Rodriguez, General Secretary, FOTS-SIEH, Honduras, Roberto Silva, National President, and Nancy Godoy, General Secretary SIVARA, Argentina

Oscar Roberto Silva and Nancy Godoy from the Argentinean union, SIVARA, shared experiences with our union FOTSSIEH in Honduras from 17-24 January, 2009. The exchange visit was part of Streetnet's programme and strategy to strengthen the linkage and relationship between the self-employed workers' sector in the informal economy between countries and regions in Latin and Central America.

The visit was also an opportunity to have meetings with organisations, leaders and authorities, with whom there was an exchange of experiences and policies and to learn about the context and reality of the informal economy, the vision of the sector and its relationship with CUTH Honduras, to which FOTSSIEH are affiliated nationally, and to learn about the framework of government policies.

### Activities

**18 January:** We meet with teachers and students from the Vocational Technical School of FOTS-SIEH.

**19 January:** The visitors were taken to meet the informal traders of Villanueva Cortes in the Plaza Lempira who faced an eviction order from the local authorities. For the remainder of the day the delegation met with worker organisations (from the Yoro Department in the City of Progress).

**20 January:** We travelled to the capital Tegucigalpa to meet with Minister Arcadia Gomez and members of the Technical Unit of CONHIALBA at the Presidential House. Later the delegation met the members of the Executive Committee of FOTSSIEH and then had lunch at the Presidential House. At the same time Oscar Silva was interviewed by the media. Later, another meeting was scheduled with the rural movement organisation CONHIALBA, and we returned to San Pedro Sula, where FOTSSIEH is based, that night.

**21 January:** The visitors were taken to see the main port from where goods are exported and imported into Central America, and then to a tourist beach near Omoa.

**22 January:** The visitors saw the square where typical handicraft sellers earn a living. In the afternoon a meeting with leaders and grassroots members of FOTSSIEH was organised where the problems of self-employed workers in Honduras was discussed.

**23 January:** The day was fully taken up with a meeting with the companions of the project CUTH-LO/FTF and members of the Executive Committee of the CUTH.

### Conclusions

- The visit allowed us to share important information that let us see in a comparative way, the progress of the two organisations in each country, as well as defining the category of self-employed worker and the characterisation of those who fall into this category.
- The problems shared by our affiliates are part of the restricted system that is incapable of generating decent opportunities for all.
- We need to fight seriously for a united sector and for strategies for each sector represented by trade union centres.
- We need to further enhance the process of partnerships and regional integration.
- It was agreed to make a return visit, by FOTS-SIEH, Honduras to SIVARA, Argentina.
- We must affirm our membership and participation in StreetNet's policies and strategies and in turn have its support and companionship, in our national organisation's demands.



The SIVARA visitors were taken to the Presidential House in Honduras by hosts FOTSSIEH

Photo: FOTSSIEH

### FEDEVAL, Peru, country activity



FEDEVAL, Peru, held a workshop in Lima on leadership development on 22nd June, 2009

Photo: FEDEVAL

## ZCIEA – Informal Economy Rights Awareness Project

By Wisborn Malaya, ZCIEA

ZCIEA has developed a paralegal manual on rights and the informal economy. We began with workshops in several areas in 2008. With the funds from Streetnet we were able to continue the programme and in August 2009 the following areas were covered: Victoria Falls; Kariba; Kwekwe; Sanyati; Mashava; and Gwanda.

All in all, 166 participants attended, made up of 92 women and 74 men. The workshops were facilitated by paralegal officers from the ZCTU and ZCIEA Management Committee.

### Workshop Objectives

- To raise awareness amongst informal economy workers about their rights;
- To encourage them to participate in the developmental process that will facilitate unlocking of policies which perennially kept and continue to keep them locked out.

The paralegal officers took the participants through the Rights Awareness and the Paralegal Manual. Participants then shared their experiences of harassment by the police and local authorities. There were questions on whether the “National Healing” talk by the government means that people were going to be compensated for their goods destroyed by ‘Operation Murambatsvina’ which took place in May 2005.

There was discussion on the constitution-making process in Zimbabwe. ZCIEA has advocated a

legitimate constitution citing that “It is only through a people-driven constitutional making process that a constitution becomes legitimated and deserves respect by both present and future generations”.

### Resolutions

1. ZCIEA to hold a convention with mayors and town clerks of different local authorities in order to look into the issue of user friendly by laws.
2. To meet with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority to discuss tariffs, taxes and the overcharging of people in the informal economy.
3. The Zimbabwean Constitution should recognise the micro-business sector. There should be an Act which protects the informal economy and governs it.
4. There must be representation by a ZCIEA member in the steering committee of the constitutional-making process.
5. Intensify capacity building workshops for the betterment of the ZCIEA.
6. ZCIEA will improve networking strategies and information dissemination to its members.
7. ZCIEA to intensify the rights awareness programme.

After the reportback from the six workshops, the Management Committee approved printing of 800 more paralegal manuals and the preparation of campaign materials in the form of t/shirts, flyers and brochures. It was also agreed to have more rights awareness workshops in the remaining areas of Guruve, Mutoko, Bindura, Beitbridge, Binga, Plumtree, Gokwe and Chipinge. The President of ZCIEA and her team will make evaluation visits to all areas and their structures to check if people now understand their rights.

## SIVARA, Argentina, Workshop



**SIVARA, Argentina held a workshop on Organisation and Negotiation with local government in Buenos Aires from August 5th to 7th 2009**

Photo: SIVARA

## FOTSSIEH, Honduras, Workshop



**FOTSSIEH, Honduras held a workshop on Leadership and Internal Democracy on 7th and 8th September 2009, in San Pedro Sula**

Photo: FOTSSIEH

## **WIEGO Research on global recession shows informal economy hit hard**

**By Zoe Horn, Inclusive Cities programme, WIEGO**

The current global recession has hit the world's working poor particularly hard and it may have longer lasting effects on informal workers than on those employed in the formal sector. This is the conclusion of a recent study carried out by the partners of the Inclusive Cities Programme, including affiliates of StreetNet International.

Participants in the study were: Asiye eTafuleni, AVINA, Latin American Network of Waste Pickers, Lima Federation of Street Vendors (FEDEVAL), Homenet Indonesia, Homenet Thailand, and Homenet Pakistan,

In the year-long study, a range of different gathering methods was used – focus group discussions, one-on-one interviews with workers, and key informant interviews with membership-based organisations staff and organisers. Two research instruments were developed in consultation with the technical advisory committee – a focus group discussion schedule and a questionnaire. The research, completed during June and July 2009 investigated the broad changes for informal workers and their households over the previous six months, as well as specific impacts on three groups of informal workers: home-based workers, street vendors, and waste pickers.

The research shows that informal firms and wage workers are affected in many of the same ways as their formal counterparts. Informal workers suffer directly and indirectly: from shrinking consumption and declining demand, crucial to their livelihoods. They also face increased competition as more people enter the informal economy and/or as more and more jobs are informalised. Respondents reported being forced to overwork, take on additional risks, cut back on expenditure (including food and health care), and still saw their incomes decline.

The evidence strongly suggests that the global recession is pushing informal workers and their families further into impoverishment.

### **Call for governments to stop evictions**

An effective response by government, non-governmental organisations, and local associations of informal workers to alleviate the effects of the crisis must be informed by the short-, medium- and long-term view. This includes emergency measures like soup kitchens but also a moratorium on state actions – like evictions – that make livelihoods even more vulnerable. Sector-specific rescue plans should be developed in consultation with informal occupational groups. Access to low interest loans and a focus on job creation for women, including incentives and skills development are needed to break the cycle of personal and household debt aggravated by the crisis. In the longer term, it is critical to develop social protection for informal economy workers and their dependants.

Finally, it is essential to start thinking differently about the informal economy and its workforce. The working poor must be made *visible* in economic statistics and policies, have a stronger *voice* in economic decision-making, and be seen as having *validity*, or legitimacy, as economic agents and targets of economic policies.

In addition to continuing to monitor and study the impacts of the crisis, WIEGO and the Inclusive Cities partners are working to engage a global dialogue between policy makers, academics and stakeholders in the informal economy. So far, the findings of the study have been shared at several conferences focused on the impacts of the crisis on the poor and vulnerable. Notably, findings from the report were cited by Ban Ki-moon in an address to the UN General Assembly in September.

Subsequent reports and information from this year-long study will be posted as they become available: [www.inclusivecities.org](http://www.inclusivecities.org) and [www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org).

## **NEST- Members list problems and learn about negotiations**

**By Narayan Neupane, Chairperson NEST**

Two two-day negotiation training workshops were held by NEST in collaboration with StreetNet to enhance the capacity of its members. The workshops were conducted at Kathmandu and Lalitpur on 27 and 28 May, and on 5 and 6 June 2009.

More than 70 union members from different parts of Nepal participated. The training was facilitated by Bidur Karki-GEFONT, and Narayan Neupane, chairperson of NEST.

During the training, facilitators used different tools to facilitate the training. The programme, on the first day, covered the introduction of StreetNet and the future activities of NEST, the rights of trade unions and the responsibility of union members.

In the following sessions on problem identification, participants worked in groups and reported back for the general discussion, listing 25 problems that they face in their day-to-day work situation on the street and in the market. On the second day, the workshop moved onto collective bargaining and negotiation, guiding participants on how to prepare for negotiations and the negotiations paper, using best practice examples of negotiation to illustrate.

## **MUFIS: members' workshops build capacity and leadership**

**By Mwanda Chiwambala, MUFIS organiser**

MUFIS held a programme of workshops for building organisational capacity from July 7 -31 2009.

The workshop activities had the objective of training committee members:

- in leadership and negotiations;
- to conduct meetings and confidence-building among themselves;
- to know their constitutional rights, and in awareness of HIV/AIDS.

The activities were carried out with funding from StreetNet International. MUFIS branches were invited to attend the workshops. Five workshops were held in the three regions of Malawi: Liwonde and Blantyre in the southern region, Mchinji and Salima in the central region and Mzuzu in the northern region. We planned for 77 people to attend the workshops but a total 94 people attended, represented by 56 women and 38 men.

Local authority officials also attended workshops in some centres, giving encouragement to members, and assuring participants that their doors were open and urging them to visit the local authorities' offices if MUFIS members have problems relating to workplaces. Some local authority officials surprised participants when they said that marketers pay more money per year through market fees than annual licenses paid by superettes or big shops in the cities, towns or major trading centres. They also admitted that vendors are not served by the present

council by-laws. For many marketers this was the first time that they had heard about negotiating, leadership, detailed talk about HIV/AIDS, and about knowing their own needs and demands in the informal economy.

### **Recommendations**

During evaluation MUFIS was tasked to:

- follow up on all the branches which sent participants to workshops, as to what is done in their branches;
- promote the relationship between local authorities and branches;
- lobby local authorities to establish social dialogue fora;
- have more activities to reach out to membership in other branches;
- train members on local authority by-laws or legal framework and rights;
- to continue involving more women in its training and activities to enable women to attain confidence in their daily undertakings;
- hold joint workshops with relevant stakeholders for proper sensitisation;
- have workshops on HIV/AIDS since vendors feel sidelined in HIV/AIDS workshops, and meetings organised by other organisations.

The workshops sent a message to people that informal economy workers have their own organization; that MUFIS is building their skills for resolving the problems experienced in the workplace, for workers' to fight harassment from local government and to educate each other on health concerns such as that of HIV/AIDS that affects everyone.



**MUFIS held a second series of workshops between 6 September – 3 October 2009. Several MUFIS branches were invited to attend . Five workshops were held in three regions of Malawi these were Neno and Dyeratu in the Southern Region, Mphate and Kasungu in the Central Region and Jenda in the Northern Region. Participants at one of workshops are pictured above**  
**Photo: MUFIS**

## Eastern Cape Street Vendors Alliance (ECSVA) - Leadership training workshop

By Monica Garzaro Scott, Organising Assistant  
StreetNet International

The leadership training workshop was completed with support of StreetNet International as part of the Country Activities Programme. The design of content and material for the workshop was done with the assistance of Chris Bonner (WIEGO Organisation and Representation). The training took place in Mthatha, from 25 - 26 August 2009. The workshop was facilitated by Monica Garzaro-Scott and Fundile Jalile, General Secretary of ECSVA.



Participants at the ECSVA leadership workshop in Mthatha  
Photo: StreetNet

The workshop was attended by 20 participants, most of them being women, from the municipalities of Queenstown, Port St. Johns, Mqanduli and Mthatha.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Share experiences about the problems and issues of concern to ECSVA members.
2. Identify organisational challenges, strengths and weaknesses in the Eastern Cape Alliance.
3. Begin to strengthen the Alliance.
4. Empower leaders to become more effective.
5. Clarify the roles and responsibilities of leaders.
6. Plan the way forward.

To get to know the actual situation of the Alliance it was necessary to discuss the problems and main issues of concern. All participants were asked to prioritise three issues they would like to discuss and take forward. The issues raised were:

- relationships with municipal officials, harassment and better stalls, shelters and storage facilities;

- training on business management and fund-raising;
- improving working conditions and income.

### Organisational Challenges

In regard to organisational challenges, strengths and weaknesses, the following were raised:

- need to create a functional structure;
- building unity and new leadership;
- electing an Executive Committee and meeting more frequently to discuss how to tackle problems and find solutions;
- members said that they were willing to contribute to the organisation and stressed the need to work for unity and democracy. They felt that they were responsible and should lead by example.

### Strengthening the Alliance

It was agreed that in principle, they would have to apply what is mandated in the ECSVA Constitution and have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the members of the Executive Committee. The General Secretary had been carrying out most of the tasks and it was now necessary to have a formal working structure whose members have specific responsibilities to work together towards improving conditions. It was agreed to choose an interim committee that will work for three months. A General Assembly would be called by the Interim Executive to ratify decisions and to elect a new organisational structure.

### Interim committee

The workshop took forward the most important task ie appointing members of the Interim Committee with representatives from Queenstown, Port St. Johns, Mqanduli and Mthatha, who are tasked to meet regularly for the next three months before holding the General Assembly.

## **LDFC holds workshop to build management and leadership**

**By Angélique Kipulu Katani, General Secretary LDFC , DRC**

The programme of capacity building for the members of LDFC was taken up in a three-day leadership workshop from the 14 -16 July, 2009, titled 'How to lead an organisation'. It was facilitated by Mayaya Aimee Pemba Maswamba Anastasie and held at la Paroisse Ste Agnès in the Commune de Ndjili in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **Motivation for workshop**

It is a problem that a large part of the civil society groups that form a part of LDFC and its member associations do not function effectively in their interventions on behalf of those to whom they are responsible.

This problem is mostly a result of the weak capacity of the leaders of organisations in managing activities and organisations and their limited knowledge of leadership.

The global objective was that by the end of the workshop the participants would have mastered the management of an organisation.

The specific objectives were for participants to be able to define the concepts of management, organisation and leadership and to understand theories of these and, thirdly, to develop management that is appropriate for their organisations.

## **NASVI - 7<sup>th</sup> AGM and National Conference on vendors in urban India**

**By Arbind Singh, NASVI Co-ordinator**

The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) organised its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Delhi between 28 and 30 July 2009 along with two-day National Conference on "Integrating Vendors in Urban India" to promote the street vendors as an integral, legitimate and special component of urban development in India. The Conference was attended by policymakers, vendors, planners and other guests.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July the "All India women's conference" addressed the challenges faced by women vendors and the following day 29<sup>th</sup> July the conference theme was "Laws, Policies and Implementation".

A Street Food Festival was held on 29 July where street food vendors from all parts of the country offered an array of foods to the elite policy-makers planners and administrators to raise the visibility of street food vendors and break the misconceptions on food vending.

The Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi gave the conference Inaugural speech.

The result was that at the end of the workshop, 30 participants (managers or leaders of NGOs and associations who are members of LDFC) had gained an understanding of organisational management. The participants also exchanged experiences on the administration of their respective organisations.

The workshop combined different approaches – exposure and discussion, brainstorming, group work, synthesis and evaluation and analysis of experiences.

Introducing the workshop, the Secretary General of the LDFC thanked StreetNet for providing financial support for the workshop and also presented a report on the Millenium Development Goals and the rights of the informal workers and LDFC members.

On the first day the workshop learnt about the concepts of: leadership of organisations; management; organisation, and vision. The workshop then broke into three groups for an exercise on developing the vision for a hypothetical organisation, mission, strategies and activities. On the second and third days the workshop participants discussed styles of leadership, administration of resources and time management in their organisations.

The workshop, while building knowledge and know-how on organisation, is not enough to assure the performance of the organisations and associations; other activities to build their capacities need to be organised for their progress.



**Delegate of NEST, Nepal, and StreetNet organiser, Sibailly Douhoure at the NASVI AGM**

**Photo: StreetNet**

The work progress and Audit Report for 2008-2009 was presented at the Executive and Annual General Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July and the Action Plan 2009-2010 was approved.

## StreetNet Ghana Alliance and WIEGO collaborate on occupational health and safety

By Juliana Brown Afari, Ghana StreetNet Alliance

On the 22 September 2009, representatives from the StreetNet Ghana Alliance (SGA) and the Madina Market Trader's Association met with a WIEGO research team at the GTUC to begin collaboration on the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) for Informal Workers Project which WIEGO has recently started in Ghana.

The OHS for Informal Workers Project is looking at ways to improve the health and safety conditions in which informal workers live and work. OHS as a discipline does not usually include informal workers. It looks only at the health and safety problems at formal workplaces, not at the places where many informal workers work – on the streets, in markets and in their own homes. The WIEGO OHS project wants to look at ways in which to change OHS so that it better meets the needs of informal workers. It also wants to explore new forms of support for informal workers, from both government and employers, in creating and maintaining a healthier work environment.

In order to begin this process and to create a platform on which to build future dialogues with local

and national government and employers, it has first been necessary to find out more about the health and safety risks faced by different groups of informal workers during their everyday lives. A focus group held on the 22 September at the GTUC with the SGA and Madina Market Trader's Association helped the WIEGO research team understand more about the risks and hazards faced by market traders in Accra.

The results of the discussion showed that informal market traders face many different health and safety hazards in their places of work, ranging from fire through to problems with crime and assault and mental stress. The focus group participants all agreed that more government intervention was necessary in order to solve many of the above mentioned problems. Other solutions suggested include more resources for education and training in health and safety (particularly for fire), as well as increased security at the markets.

The collaboration between WIEGO and SGA will continue when the WIEGO research team meets groups of workers from the other trader associations of the SGA, including the Kantamantu Banana Sellers Association, the Pedestrian Shopping Mall Association, the Takoradi Market Traders Union, and the Makola Market Traders Union. After the focus group research is over, SGA will continue to play an active role in the OHS project. Two SGA representatives – Juliana Brown Afari and Yemoteley Quaye sit on the project Reference Group.



**Meeting between SGA and WIEGO to discuss the workplace occupational health and safety concerns for market traders**  
Photo: WIEGO

## TOGO FIELD VISIT 14th to 16th July 2009



**Visit by StreetNet co-ordinator, Pat Horn, and organiser, Sibailly Douhoure to StreetNet affiliate in Togo, SYVEMACOT**  
Photo: StreetNet



**Visit to the market NUKAFU built in 1998 with the assistance of the women traders who belong to association AREMAN, affiliated to SYVEMECOT**  
Photo: StreetNet