



StreetNet News

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World Class Cities for All Campaign rallies vendors in 100 zones in Delhi, India

By Arbind Singh, Coordinator of NASVI

The World Class Cities for All campaign has been successfully organised in the national capital Delhi with the promise of taking the movement forward. This was the first ever campaign launched by the National Alliance of Street Vendors (NASVI) in Delhi, covering all Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) zones.

The main objective behind this campaign was to make the policy makers aware of the condition of the street vendors in Delhi, on the one hand, to include their concerns in the macro-level planning, to mobilise local organisation and to provide them a platform to raise their voices before the authorities concerned. The Campaign was successful as NASVI had the opportunity to meet with the Governor of Delhi, the MCD commissioner and other top officials from various departments to discuss both problems and solutions for the vendors of Delhi on 17 November. Furthermore, the campaign brought together various local organisations working in different areas of Delhi into a single fold. Organisations of the extreme left and the right in politics joined the campaign, forgetting their individual organisational concern, and showed unity for the cause of the vendor. All also accepted the leadership of NASVI and agreed to work under its guidance and direction. NASVI called a meeting at its office on 7th November 2009, 2009. Leaders of 11 different organisations were present at the meeting. It was felt that one mechanism

should be developed in Delhi which would promote collective bargaining with the authorities. It was felt that it is possible to build a joint alliance of organisations and to launch a joint movement and add new allies to the alliance. Following thorough discussion it was

agreed to form "Delhi Rehdi Patri & Saptahik Bazaar Hawkers Sangharsh Morcha". The alliance also chalked out a charter of demands on which there was mutual agreement of all the allies.



WCCA Campaign poster sends a clear message to respect the rights of street and market vendors as Commonwealth Games approach in India

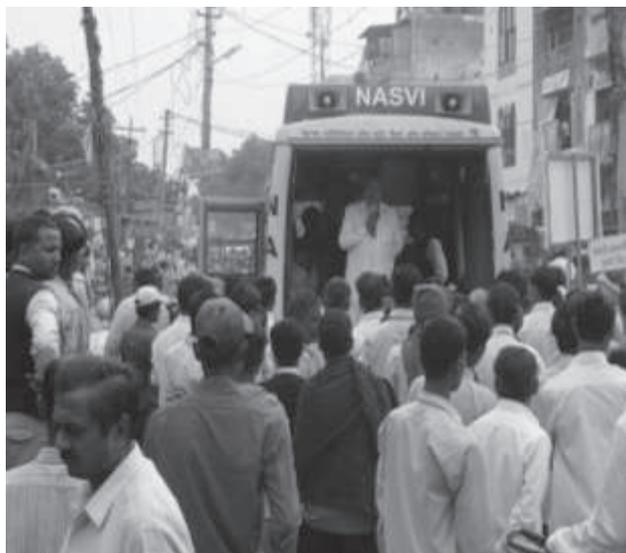
The Charter makes demands for the implementation of the provisions of national policy on social security, licensing and zonal committees, new model markets, illegal raids and fining of street vendors. The following WCCA Campaign Call is the first demand: **In the preparation of Commonwealth Games-2010 and beautification of cities, no vendor should be evicted without providing alternative space for vending.**

The Campaign was kick-started on 11 November 2009, at Narela Ward No 1 through a Campaign Inauguration ceremony at

which around 150 vendors and local leaders gathered for the occasion. After that the Campaign vehicle was taken to different markets of Narela and street meetings were organised at many places.

During the 12-day Campaign in Delhi around 100 street meetings were organised at different agreed places and at vendors' markets. The message of the Campaign was very loud and clear. The posters and pamphlets related to the Campaign were distributed in all the places.

Despite their busy schedule of selling goods, all promised to be assemble at the Town Hall on 20 November at a meeting to show solidarity, unity and strength of vendors.



WCCA Campaign vehicle has travelled around 100 zones in Delhi to spread the message Photo: NASVI

South Africa - WCCA Campaign calls for Xenophobia-free Games

The WCCA Campaign in South Africa is planning to hold a programme of Anti-Xenophobia Forums between February –May 2010 in six of the host cities. To celebrate Africa's first World Cup ever, being hosted in South Africa, StreetNet's affiliate from different parts of Africa will be invited to talk at the forums about the importance of including the urban poor in plans for international sports events, and about Xenophobia at the forums.

Objectives

- Create awareness among informal economy workers of the risks of xenophobia during the world cup 2010 in the context of the recent attacks against foreigners;
- Promote an understanding of the goals of the WCCA campaign;
- Plan activities for All Africa Day and celebrate African heritage.

The forums will target street vendors and market vendors associations and organisations of the informal economy, including Taxi operators' associations, taverners' associations and civil society organisations of the urban poor. International Women's Day on March 8th 2010 will be celebrated in Durban by the WCCA Campaign to give visibility to the impact of xenophobia on women informal economy workers and to highlight the specific vulnerabilities of women informal economy workers within the context of the preparations for the 2010 World Cup.

Source: WCCA Coordinator Planning Report

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Latin American field visit covers five countries

By Monica Garzaro, StreetNet International Organiser for Latin America, Southern and East Africa

The Latin America field visit took place from 17 September to 22 October 2009 and included the countries of Nicaragua, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Guatemala. Initially, Honduras was also considered to be part of this field visit but due to political instability in the country, it was not possible to travel there.

The main objectives of the field visit were:

- visit StreetNet affiliates in countries where StreetNet has affiliates, and get to know their environment. This was the case of CTCP in Nicaragua and FUTRAND in Venezuela.
- do exploratory work in order to recruit new member organisations in countries where StreetNet does not yet have affiliates. This is the case of the countries of Ecuador, Colombia and Guatemala.
- initiate processes of establishing national alliances where there are a large number of organisations in the street/market vending sector.
- learn about participation of different stakeholders in the informal economy;
- find out levels of awareness and participation in organised structures by street vendors and market vendors in Latin America.
- find out about the training processes, powers, roles and capacity of women in the informal economy, and promote women's leadership;

The time in Nicaragua was devoted to helping in organising the Latin American Regional Workshop (See report on page 5). CTCP, Nicaragua, who hosted the workshop, did very good work organising this big event for StreetNet's Latin American affiliates.

Colombia

Following the Regional workshop, I travelled to Colombia, to Bogota. I had the opportunity to understand and gather information on the working conditions and organisational reality of this sector in meetings with CGT, which is organising informal sector workers and the trade union centres' informal economy organisers for CTC, CUT as well as Public Services International. In Colombia the process of forming local alliances has started with a unity process led by CUT where it does not matter if organisations are members of different union centres. We agreed with the informal department of CUT, that will keep us updated on the developments.

Ecuador

Following my visit to Colombia I travelled to Quito, Ecuador. I met with Congressman Marco Murillo, who is in charge of a Specialised

Commission on Collective Rights, and leaders of informal economy organisations, General Secretary of the Market Vendors Association, representing the indigenous groups. I also met SERPAJ, a non profit organisation that is working with youth leaders on conflict resolution, and lately on labour rights to get decent work. They explained the implications of the Draft Law on Informal Economy that is been discussed in the Congress where workers would not be allowed to negotiate their conditions as an organisation, but as small or medium enterprises. As in Colombia, there are strong policies protecting public space and here 'Plan Recovery' does not allow street vendors to sell anything on the streets. Women from the Executive Committee of Asociacion Tahuantinsuyo shared the problems they have in trying to earn a living. Street traders are illegal.

Venezuela

In Venezuela, StreetNet International affiliate FUTRAND General Secretary, Blanca Llerena, had arranged a schedule of meetings with leaders of the organisation. One of the first problems that were drawn to my attention was that of political repression of trade unions under President Hugo Chavez who has passed a law which makes it illegal to collect union subscription fees. This has the expressed objective of weakening the union movement in Venezuela. I was taken to meet an interesting initiative PROCATIA which is working in the recycling and waste management field. I had the opportunity to meet with the General Secretary of CGT-FETRALCOS (Federación de Trabajadores Latinoamericanos del Comercio, Oficinas y Empresas Privadas de Servicios) a Latin American trade union federation for workers in the commercial sector who have been working for unity in the informal sector.



Blanca Llerena, General Secretary FUTRAND and leaders of market vendor's organisation

Photo: StreetNet

Guatemala

The last country I visited on the field trip was Guatemala. The first meeting was with two representatives of Proyecto Pilar from the Global Fairness Initiative, a project that is part of the framework for the commercial agreement CAFTA, in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Their objective is to improve government capacity to collect data on the informal sector, at the same time encouraging formalisation and extending labour rights to workers in this sector. Three other organisations I met to discuss informal economy organisation and support included Fundacion Mario Lopez Larrave, which offers worker education to formal and informal economy workers, CEADEL, an organisation that is working with market vendors on child labour issues. Jorge Peralta, General Secretary of FENTRAVIG, a leader working toward the formation of Federacion de Vendedores por Cuenta Propia, a national level organisation supporting the rights and struggles of street and market vendors in Guatemala, organised

a meeting with leaders of the Federation. I had the opportunity to talk to them about StreetNet and its policies. They said they were very interested to apply for membership once the Federation has consolidated.

During the Latin American field trip I found a similar situation in all the countries I visited where local and national governments, in the name of so called 'beautification' or 'cleaning up public space' have given informal workers alternatives to trading on the street that are not working and which are frequently repressive. The people I met learnt about StreetNet International and our efforts to strengthen organisation, encouraging vendors' organisations to form local and national alliances so they can join StreetNet. In terms of the main objectives of this field trip was successful in information gathering for starting the processes of encouraging new organisations to be part of StreetNet, and in supporting the affiliates' members in the Latin American Region.

ILO Regional Conference: "The Social Economy – Africa's Response to the Global Crisis"

By Gaby Bikombo, StreetNet International

The ILO held an international workshop on the Social Economy in Boksburg, South Africa Johannesburg from 19 – 21 October 2009. The aim of the conference was to bring together experts and civil society activists and practitioners from around the world to discuss the "Social economy concept", exchange experiences and develop a plan of action. More than 250 participants from ILO (25%), Africa and elsewhere participated.

The Social Economy is defined by ILO as a system that "puts people and their community, rather than profit, at the centre of its goal. Social economy entities do not primarily pursue the goal of profit, but aim to create economic and social surplus. Examples of social economy organisations are cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations and social enterprises. They are run like businesses, producing goods and services pursuing economic, social and societal goals. Social economy enterprises enable their members to take part in the market and defend their economic and societal interests".

Regions were given an opportunity to talk about their experience of the social economy in their respective countries and regions and reported very different experiences. We then broke into two regional group sessions (SADC, West Africa, East Africa, North Africa and the rest of the world) to first design and propose a more inclusive and acceptable definition of the concept of Social Economy and then to propose a plan of action. The afternoon of the 21st was dedicated to discussing and agreeing on the plan of action at all levels.

Plan of Action for the Promotion of Social Economy Enterprises and Organisations in Africa included the following Strategic Objectives:

- **At Global Level** - To increase the recognition and partnership of social economy enterprises and organisations
- **At Regional level** - To increase knowledge related to the promotion of social economy enterprises and organisations and the reinforcement of African social economy networks.
- **National Level** - To establish an enabling policy, legal and institutional environment for social economy enterprises and organisations as well as strengthening and promoting social economy structures at national level.
- **At Micro and Meso Levels** - To ensure social economy enterprises and organisations are more effective and efficient and contribute to the needs of the population in terms of income creation, social protection, employment promotion, rights at work, food security, environmental protection, fight against HIV-AIDS and able to mitigate the impact of the crisis.

A discussion on the contribution of the social economy enterprises and organisations to the Decent Work Agenda will be tabled during the International Labour Conference. For the full text of the Plan of Action go to the ILO website: http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/afpro/addisababa/pdf/se_planofaction_en.pdf

Latin American Regional workshop

By Monica Garzaro StreetNet International Organiser for Latin America, Southern and East Africa

The StreetNet Latin American Regional Workshop was held from 28 September to 2 October 2009 in Managua, Nicaragua. I travelled to Nicaragua a week before the Regional Workshop where I worked with StreetNet affiliate CTCP, who hosted and organised the event. This gave me a chance to meet with the CTCP work team to discuss the planning of logistics for the event and progress on the different tasks.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- Meet in order to share and expand knowledge of the characteristics and realities faced by StreetNet's member organisations in the region.
- Define the regional structure of StreetNet in the Americas and its operating mechanisms;
- Define the lines of action for growth of StreetNet affiliates in Latin America and the visibility of the organisation.

The workshop was attended by delegates from StreetNet Latin America affiliates: FEDEVAL, Peru; FOTSSIEH, Honduras; FNOTNA, Mexico; FUTJOPOCIF, Dominican Republic; FUT-RAND, Venezuela; SIVARA, Argentina; Street Vendor Project, New York; CTCP, Nicaragua.

On the first day of the event CTCP organised a press conference on the StreetNet International Latin American Regional Workshop where StreetNet briefed the media on its work of building the rights of street and market vendors and the importance of the regional workshop. The agenda for that day included a public conference attended by Nicaraguan organisations and invited speakers. The Minister of Labour of Nicaragua, Janeth Chavez, speaking to the delegates emphasised the importance of the initiative of organisation and networking, given the conditions of the informal economy both in Nicaragua and in other countries of the world. The General Secretary of FNT, national trade union centre of Nicaragua, said it was a concern that the majority of informal workers live in marginalised conditions although their contribution to the national economies is significant. Orlando Nuñez, Assessor to the Presidency, characterised the sector as own-account workers who are exploited by the economic system. He emphasised

the importance of workers organising from a strong class position to build a solid social economy.

On the second day affiliates had the opportunity to present their organisations, their experiences, the challenges they face and the gender policy of their organisations. Affiliates reported that as a result of building their organisation they are negotiating with local and national governments to improve their situation and that training for members to learn negotiation and technical skills is ongoing. The training processes have introduced a change in their organisations, particularly for women who have benefitted from demanding equality as workers.

On the third day, participants worked in groups to discuss the Latin American Regional Structure, its working structure and focal point organisation. Pat Horn, Co-ordinator of StreetNet International explained the Terms of Reference for establishment of Regional Structures. She emphasised that more important than the focal point organisation, was the co-ordinating structure.

The proposal from one of the groups was taken forward, which involved creating a co-ordination structure that would reproduce the relevant aspect of StreetNet regionally. There would be an executive committee, centralised in the focal point organisation, and a regional council comprising representatives from all the affiliates in this region. The regional structure will meet once a year to discuss issues arising from the different affiliates.

Delegates chose CTCP, Nicaragua, to be the regional focal point organisation for Latin America.

The delegates drafted and passed a Resolution on Honduras, in solidarity with FOTSSIEH, and those working to return the country to peace.

On the fourth day delegates made a field visit to market and street vendors on the outskirts of Managua, which prove to be interesting to learn about the Nicaraguan culture and working conditions of this sector.

We believe that the Regional Workshop objectives were fulfilled and CTCP, Nicaragua did very good work organising the event for all Latin American affiliates and also assisted StreetNet to follow up with organisations in countries in Central America that represent street and market vendors.



From left to right: Orlando Mercado, Sandra Flores, CTCP-FNT, Adrian Martínez, General Secretary CTCP-FNT, Dr Janeth Chávez, Minister of Labour, Pat Horn, Coordinator StreetNet International, José Ángel Bermúdez, Executive General Secretary FNT
Photo: StreetNet

Expansion of StreetNet to Eastern Europe

By Pat Horn, International Coordinator, StreetNet International

After two strategising meetings with WIEGO and ITUC-PERC in November 2008 in Warsaw and in April 2009 in Bratislava, a field visit to make further contacts in November 2009 to Kyrgyzstan, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Turkey, was undertaken.

The field visit resulted in the following recommendations being circulated to the members of the International Council, for discussion at their next meeting in May 2010:

1. To work with the following organisations with a view to securing their affiliation:
 - Bulgaria – Commercial Workers Union (PODKREPA) and KNSB's relevant union structure, in discussion with UNI;
 - Croatia – Union of Market Vendors & Open Spaces (HUS) and look more into HUS union of bench sellers "Sindikato ProDavaca Na Klupama";
 - Kyrgyzstan - Union of Commercial, Hotel & Restaurant Workers;
 - Moldova – Moldova Business Sind, who have submitted an affiliation application to StreetNet.)
2. To adopt Russian as a fourth official language, ie the website and newsletters should be produced in Russian as well as English, French and Spanish – for improved reach and accessibility of organisations in this region.
3. To engage in further field work in Turkey with a view to get more substantial information about street and market vendors' organisations (including cross-border traders) throughout the different districts of the country.
4. StreetNet should engage as a partner in the planned Danube Boat Trip project of the Clean Clothes Campaign.



Street traders in the Moldovan city of Chisinau

Photo: StreetNet

StreetNet and DITSELA hold second workshop on organising in the informal economy

DITSELA and StreetNet International jointly organised a very successful Train-the-Trainer workshop on Organising in the Informal Economy for organisations in the South African Development Community (SADC) in July 2007, and agreed to organise a follow-up workshop for all the South African worker organisations that are grappling with organising workers in different sectors of the informal economy. The workshop was held from 8th - 12th February 2010, at Booyens Hotel in Johannesburg and was attended by over 30 organisers.

The aims of the workshop were:

1. To create worker education capacity for vulnerable workers in South Africa including those in the informal economy.
2. To strengthen the organisation of vulnerable workers, including those working in the informal economy, in South Africa.
3. To provide worker education for existing organisations of vulnerable workers.
4. To provide worker education for new initiatives for organising unorganised categories of formal and informal workers in vulnerable situations.
5. To promote organisational solutions to counter the measures of globalisation which are squeezing workers out of secure formal employment.

Source: DITSELA and StreetNet invitation

SYVEMACOT holds workshop on negotiations in the informal economy

By Théophile Folly Amouzou, SYVEMACOT

SYVEMACOT, Togo, held a workshop on negotiations in the informal economy for its members in Lome from 29-30 August, 2009 at the office of the Fédération des travailleurs du Bois et de la Construction du Togo (FTBC). The workshop was facilitated by Ayao Gbandjou and Abass Kes-souagni.

Thirty (18 women, 12 men) participants took part from four organisations SYVEMACOT, ARE-MAN, SYTREBACT, FAINATRACIT. The workshop objectives were to build skills in negotiations, leadership capacity and internal democracy of the organisation. Further it was hoped that the result would assist in building membership and to strengthen dialogue between the local authorities and administration in Togo.

The workshop programme covered, the structure of the informal economy, negotiating techniques in the informal economy, management of conflicts in the informal economy, social protection and HIV/AIDS in the informal economy.

African Union meeting on the Informal Economy notes the vulnerability of informal economy workers

The Seventh Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union, held from 28 September-2 October, 2009, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the Theme: "Impact Of The Global Crisis On Employment and Labour Markets In Africa" noted that the "The lack of or insufficient recognition and legal protection of the informal workers under legal and regulatory frameworks is fuelling their high level of vulnerability and poverty".

The meeting was the "Follow-Up On The Recommendations of the 6th LSAC on the Study on Informal Economy in Africa: The Programme on

the Informal Economy". The meeting was attended by trade unions, Ministers of Labour, Associations of Employers and the ILO. StreetNet affiliate UGSEIN from Niger participated at the meeting.

The report states that there is a need to foster "representative, democratic and functional organisations in the rural and informal economy. National and local governments are key in improving the enabling environment of the Informal Economy particularly an effective representation of workers in the sector". Under the question of "Lack of Recognition" the AU report recommends that cooperation be sought with international organisations of informal workers, including StreetNet International and SEWA and NASVI in India.

Source: African Union Report on the meeting 28 September-2 October, 2009

On 5 October 2009, the Eastern Cape Alliance rep-

Eastern Cape Alliance, South Africa, visits CTCP, in Nicaragua

By CTCP, Nicaragua

StreetNet's objectives include strengthening of affiliates by generating an exchange of information and ideas to seek ways to solve the problems that own account workers face every day. Within this framework of priorities, the exchange visit between CTCP, Nicaragua and Eastern Cape Street Vendors Alliance (ECSVA), South Africa, took place from 1 - 5 October 2009, in the city of Managua, Nicaragua.

The objectives were to share informal sector experience on workplaces, culture, and organisational strategies. On 1 October 2009, the visiting delegation from ECSVA, Fundile Jalile and Evaliswa Ndesi, and StreetNet International Coordinator, Pat Horn, participated in a meeting of CTCP-FNT's National Executive Committee at the union's offices where they were informed how CTCP is organised, its mission, vision and objectives.

On 2 October 2009 the visitors were taken to the union of Chureca to learn about the work of the members who work in the municipal landfill and the energy that it has given them to make a better life.

The following day they met with vendors of the municipal market at Tipi Tapa's springs and held a meeting with the market union.

The group did a tour of Israel Lewites's market on 4 October 2009, where we exchanged experiences with vendors and visited the non-profit drug store in the market. On the same day we visited the union of money exchange traders and the traffic light vendors at the bus station of Metro-centro.



An informal worker in a market in Nicaragua

Photo: StreetNet

representatives returned to their country. We believe as organisations of the self-employed that the exchange of experiences taught us how we can deal with different situations and to understand different contexts that exist in different countries, and this is an important part of learning how to solve the problems we experience in the informal economy as organisations.

StreetNet affiliates' programme of country activities

The table below shows the progress made in 2009 with the programme of country activities by StreetNet's affiliates. It reflects the status of activities, those completed and those affiliates that did not submit budgets and plan for their activities despite the encouragement and support by the assistant organiser for West and Central Africa and Asia, Sibailly Douhoure, and for Latin America and Southern and East Africa, Monica Garzaro. It is hoped that all StreetNet affiliates will take advantage of the opportunity to hold programmes for development of their organisations.

Source: Report by StreetNet International Coordinator

Status of country activities undertaken by StreetNet affiliates	Region	Countries	Affiliates	Total activities
Activities completed and all reports received (<i>Zambia, S. Africa, Malawi, Kenya, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Ghana, Togo, Niger, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Peru, Argentina, Honduras</i>)	Southern & E. Africa	5	5	6
	W. & Central Africa	5	6	5
	Asia	3	3	3
	Latin America	3	3	4
			16	17
Activities completed but reporting not complete (<i>Mocambique, Lesotho, Benin, Dominican Republic</i>)	Southern & E. Africa	2	2	2
	W. & Central Africa	1	2	1
	Asia	-	-	-
	Latin America	1	1	1
		4	5	4
Total activities completed		20	22	22
Activities submitted but failed to meet requirements for funds transfers (<i>Tanzania, Uganda, Namibia, Guinea, Senegal, India</i>)	Southern & E. Africa	3	3	3
	W. & Central Africa	2	3	2
	Asia	1	1	1
	Latin America	-	-	-
			6	7
No activities submitted (<i>Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Brazil, Korea</i>)	Southern & E. Africa	-	-	-
	W. & Central Africa	-	-	-
	Asia	1	1	-
	Latin America + NY	5	5	-
			6	6
Total affiliates/countries who failed to undertake country activities		12	13	-

Self Employed Union (SEU), Bangladesh, builds union leadership skills

By China Rahman, Acting General Secretary SEU

Self Employed Union (SEU), Bangladesh organised two leadership development seminars as part of the capacity building of its members in Dhaka in 2009 with the financial support of StreetNet as part of the programme for organisation development. The first seminar was held from 20-22 November 2009, and the second from 27-29 December 2009.

The objective of the programme was to develop leadership knowledge and skills among the trade union leaders in the street vending sector. The seminars were attended by 44 leaders from different branch committees of SEU and Bangladesh Sinnamon Hawker Samity. Women were in the majority, with 22 women and 15 men completing the training seminar programme. The programme included the following issues: the rights of hawkers, collective bargaining, how to handle grievances of union



SEU workshop participants

Photo: SEU

members and responsibilities of leadership. The seminars were coordinated by China Rahman, Acting General Secretary of SEU. As a result of the training by SEU there are leaders who are equipped with leadership skills to work at the respective branches and organisations.

AZIEA holds workshop on gender mainstreaming

By Mike Chungu, AZIEA

In 2008 a gender conference was held to study the gender ministry and its relevance to women in the informal economy. AZIEA decided that a follow-up workshop should be held to see how organisations have responded in putting in place gender policies in their organisations.

The Alliance for Zambia Informal Economy Associations (AZIEA) has resolved to introduce a policy of 30 % representation by women in all decision-making structures and 50% in all programmes.

The workshop on Gender Mainstreaming was held from July 9-10, 2009, and the main objectives were to discuss the national gender policy in the country and the bill on gender based violence, to identify barriers to women's empowerment in organisations, and to generally build women's confidence in leadership and a platform for advocacy on gender issues.

On the first day, the workshop programme included sessions on defining the terms sex, gender and gender-based roles and on gender-based violence and the law. Lilian Malunga of the Women's Committee of the Zambian Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) presented the Zambian policy on mainstreaming gender formulated in 2000, recognising the discrimination against women in development issues and programmes. The policy calls for equal participation by women and men at all levels of development. The following day gender mainstreaming in trade unions and the importance of considering the gender implications for the impact they have for men and women, respectively, for decisions, policies and programmes was discussed. Affirmative action for the empowerment of trade union women was discussed as a means to strengthen the participation of women. In the final session, the gender policies of AZIEA and its affiliates were discussed. Three of the affiliates have yet to implement a quota for women in participation and decision-making.

The workshop was successful in building understanding of gender and gender policies and law, and of the meaning of gender equality between men and women members in trade unions. The General Secretary encouraged participants to put what they have learnt to good use by building gender equality in their organisations.

Ghana StreetNet Alliance holds capacity-building workshop

By Juliana Brown Afari, StreetNet Ghana Alliance

A two-day capacity building workshop on organisational development was held by Ghana StreetNet Alliance (GSA) on 29 and 30 October, 2009 at the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), Madina, Accra. The workshop was organised with assistance of the ILGS and attended by members and executive members of the Alliance. The workshop aimed to:

- Introduce participants to the basic concepts and practices in organising membership associations;
- Familiarise participants with the objectives, and activities of GSA;
- Build capacity of members to exert influence on the policies and actions of authorities in their activities;
- Enhance members' skills in organising including communication, accounting, advocacy and networking;
- Strengthen collaboration amongst members and encourage them to proactively to engage key actors in their local environment.

Twenty six participants attended the workshop (eight men and 18 women). The participants were mainly Executives and Members of the Ghana Street Net Alliance drawn from four Market Centres in the Country namely Makola, Circle, Ga East (Madina) and Takoradi.

Health and Safety concerns

During workshop the members of the GSA through the Director of the ILGS sent a resolution to the Minister of Local Government. The Resolution highlighted the need for consultation and co-operation with the associations of market traders. Members of the GSA were urged to draw up policies on health and safety to protect the entire membership. It was noted that Part 15 of the Labour Law 2003 (Act 651) has legal provisions for health and safety environment at the workplace. It was agreed that the formation of safety committees at the workplace or by the associations will help control the occurrence of health and safety issues in the markets.

KENASVIT: Workshop on the Practice of collective negotiation for informal traders

By Gladys Kiptum-Yegon, KENASVIT

A three-day workshop on negotiations in the informal economy was conducted from 24 - 26 September, 2009 at Royal Palms Hotel in Nakuru. The training was conducted by Gladys Kiptum, (Advocate) and Lawrence Apiyo (Community Organiser and Peace Building Consultant with KENASVIT).

The workshop was primarily organised to target the National Executive Committee of KENASVIT, elected in April 2009, representing the seven urban Alliances executive members, numbering 20. The expectations of the Executive were to acquire knowledge and skills and to learn how to use negotiations to build relationships in order to increase "our voice, unity, strength and peaceful co-existence". The overriding goal was to ensure that all the participants at the workshop were able to learn what collective negotiation for informal workers entails and how to practically utilise the acquired skills in their various urban alliances. The primary tools were the materials developed by StreetNet International on "Collective Negotiation for Informal Workers".

The participants, with the trainers, took part in an exercise to identify issues affecting the urban alliances who they were representing and at the end of the workshop they were given assignments to go and prepare to conduct actual negotiations within a given time frame.

From the presentations of the members on the assignments they had been given, it was apparent that the members are equipped to conduct collective negotiations and with more training, will be able to conduct training of other members at the urban alliances level.



KENASVIT Collective Negotiation workshop: The principal facilitator handing certificate to the National Chairman of KENASVIT Simon Sangale Ole Nasieku, who was one of the participants in the seminar
Photo: KENASVIT

Exchange visit between ASSOTSI, Mozambique and LDFC, DRC

By ASSOTSI, Mozambique, and LDFC, DRC

A delegation from ASSOTSI, Mozambique, comprising Ramos Vasconselho Marrengula, President, Laura Uquei, Coordinator of Women and Armindo Alexandre Guatavo, Leader responsible for Youth, visited StreetNet affiliate Ligue pour le Droit de la Femme Congolaise (LDFC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between 29 September and 4 October, 2009 to exchange experience between the organisations in the informal economy.

On the 29th September 2009, the visiting delegation from Mozambique arrived in Kinshasa and were taken to the LDFC office to meet the LDFC executive committee who welcomed them.

On the 30 September 2009, the LDFC and the group from ASSOTSI met the mayor of Kimbanseke. There was an exchange on the problems experienced by street vendors. LDFC and ASSOTSI introduced their organisations and gave an explanation of StreetNet International and its work to organise the informal sector and the responsibility of each affiliate to work with local government. The President of ASSOTSI asked what was the relationship that exists between the mayor and the street vendors. Laura Uquei raised the importance of women in their countries and said that women had to play many roles and played their part alongside men in the war of liberation. Today 80% of the country's women work in the informal economy. Armindo Alexandre, organiser of the youth, suggested that the government play a stronger role in working with the organisations of the informal sector to develop appropriate policies.

The mayor said that 85% of the people in Kimbanseke, the biggest section of the capital city, work in the informal economy (65% women and 20% men). Despite the undeniable part played by the informal economy, it is not organised. However, through the example of ASSOTSI and working with the LDFC, an effort could be made to ensure markets are properly administered. He noted that the majority of women have trouble finding credit and are also illiterate. He also noted the assistance that LDFC is providing in this regard. It was agreed that in Africa Africans need to promote their culture and support African products and food to overcome poverty.

The mayor invited LDFC and ASSOTSI to visit Ngandu Market which was being built by the city to accommodate street vendors who will be moved from the main street, Boulevard Lumumba, to prevent traffic accidents. The ASSOTSI delegation praised the city for building a market which will provide adequately for the activities of the informal economy.



The visitors had meetings in the markets in DRC
Photo: ASSOTSI

The following day, 1 October, the delegation met with trade union partners Confédération Syndicale du Congo who organise workers in the informal economy. ASSOTSI introduced itself and a discussion on the SADC region and informal economy took place. It was noted that in the SADC, the informal economy was very strong and needed to be debated among the countries. Later the group went to meet ADECOM (Association pour le Développement Communautaire) and LUNACOP (Lutte Nationale contre la pauvreté) in KIVU in the east of DRC, who are partners of LDFC working on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty by 2015. They were shown the health and education projects of the organisation. At a meeting with youth, experiences of Congo and Mozambique were exchanged which highlighted the lack of support to create self-employment, and at the same time to fight against poverty and to combat HIV-AIDS by youth

The following day, 2 October 2009, the visitors were taken to see tourist sites of the DRC and the central market. Later they visited Marché de Mاته where the visitors heard that there are problems with the market administration as traders have been harassed by police. LDFC has been trying to organise traders in the market as people do not have a structure to represent them.

Next, LDFC took the visitors to meet the Vendeurs des Mitraille (sellers of recycled materials) where a discussion was held on working together to solve shared problems. The delegates visited the tables where car parts were for sale. It was noted that there is no shelter or storage space. At Vendeurs de Marché des rebelles, the next place visited, the visitors learnt that the traders here had similar problems, the issue of the taxes imposed, police harassment and the lack of shelter. At Marché de Liberté Kabila/Masina, the visitors enjoyed the mood and bustle of the fruit, vegetable, smoked fish, and meat traders. On Saturday 3 October 2009, the delegation met with market administrators from 32 quarters, and members of the LDFC's member associations where it was noted that policies that regulate

in the interests of market traders in Mozambique, are necessary in DRC. Later, the delegation went to visit one of the LDFC projects, a piggery. On Sunday 4 October, the last day of the visit, the visitors were taken to see the LDFC's rural project where cultivation takes place on 64 hectares of land.

The exchange visit was a success on all counts, with the programme agreed upon by the LDFC completed. The only problem occurred on arrival when the ASSOTSI group were not allowed to leave the airport until LDFC intervened because they did not have their quarantine certificates. In conclusion, the LDFC and ASSOTSI recommend to StreetNet, that a structure be formed for affiliates who are in the SADC to address the problems of the informal sector.

Africa Day 25th May, 2010

A WCCA Campaign Meeting will be held back to back with the StreetNet International Council meeting in Maputo, Mozambique on 6-7 May, 2010. Streetnet affiliates in Africa will coordinate WCCA campaign plans to mark All Africa Day on 25th May and to support the South African WCCA Campaign call for a xenophobia-free 2010 World Cup.

StreetNet meetings and dates 2010

May 1st : International Workers' Day 3rd : Executive Committee Meeting, Maputu, Mozambique 4th-5th : StreetNet International Council Meeting, Maputu Mozambique 6th-7th : World Class Cities For All Campaign Africa meeting, Maputu, Mozambique 25th : Africa Day
June –July 11th June- 11th July: FIFA World Cup, South Africa
August 9th :Executive Committee Meeting , Cotonou, Benin 10th-12th :Third International Congress of Street-Net International, Cotonou, Benin 13th - 14th :Theme meeting on World Trade, Cotonou, Benin
October Date to be set - Asia Regional Workshop
December 1st : Global AIDS Day

World CLASS CITIES FOR ALL CAMPAIGN - South Africa

Western Cape Informal Traders' demand a stop to the evictions



WCCA Cape Town and Western Cape Informal Traders Coalition picketed in front of the mayor's office 24 November 2009, and presented a memorandum to His excellency, the Hon Dan Plato, Executive Mayor, City of Cape Town calling for a Moratorium on evictions, confiscations and harassments from City, Metrorail and Intersite-owned and managed properties.

Photo: StreetNet

Durban - WCCA Campaign calls for end to violence against women and children

Women informal traders filled Justice Hall on 9 December 2009, to listen to and share concerns on the issue of violence against women and the need for health and safety in the informal work place, such as in the markets and on the pavements where they earn a living. The need to organise so that workplaces are free from all forms of sexual and other forms of harassment such as the abuse of the rights of women informal traders by local government and police, was emphasised by speakers from WCCA Campaign partner organisations including SASEWA, COSATU, SANCO, SACP, FED-UP and MATU. Phumzile Xulu, Durban WCCA Campaign organiser explained the WCCA Campaign's objective is to defend the rights of informal traders



The WCCA Campaign workshop discussed the problem of gender violence in the workplace and at home

Photo: StreetNet

No to demolition of Warwick Early Morning Market!



On 18 November 2009 a protest march was held by street traders' organisations and committees that do not support a mall development in Warwick that the City is planning. A memorandum listing the objections was handed to the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Economics and Tourism, Mike Mabuyakhulu, and was accepted by Leonard Mabaso, from the office of the Minister.

Photo: StreetNet

and the urban poor against eviction in the preparations by cities that are hosting international sporting events.

On the 15 December, 2009, the Warwick Early Morning Market (EMM) Association and Support Group celebrated 99 years existence and staged a play as part of the national 16-Days Campaign against Women and Child abuse. Ninety-nine lamps were lit to mark the number of years the market has been in existence and the struggle to keep the market open against the efforts by the City to demolish it to build a multi-million shopping mall and taxi rank in time for FIFA World Cup in 2010.

Source: StreetNet website www.streetnet.org.za

Campaign launches in Nelson Mandela Bay **By Paul Shambira, WCCA Campaign organiser**

The World Class Cities FOR ALL Campaign was launched in Nelson Mandela Bay on 17 November 2009, at the City Hall. The WCCA Campaign called for no evictions of street vendors and the urban poor take place without alternatives being provided, as well as for social dialogue and negotiations to take place in preparation for 2010 FIFA World Cup. A reportback was given on the meetings that have been held so far between WCCA Campaign and the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality. Informal traders' organisations, and WCCA partners' COSATU, SANCO, SAMWU, SACP, and taxi associations were represented at the launch. The Nelson Mandela Bay WCCA Campaign launch followed the launch of the Campaign in Cape Town on 12 October 2009.