



StreetNet News

No. 19 August, 2010

World Class Cities for All (WCCA) Campaign rallies vendors to oppose FIFA exclusion zones

By Nora Wintour, WCCA Campaign Co-ordinator

The WCCA Campaign was launched in 2006, by StreetNet International, and other organisations of urban poor, including slum dwellers, migrant and refugee communities and sex workers. With the South Africa FIFA World Cup in 2010 in mind, its aim was to help create greater global awareness about the need to rethink urban planning and services so as to actively support the needs and interests of informal economy workers and indeed create World Class Cities for All.

The global economic crisis has compounded the situation of the urban poor, making precarious livelihoods yet more perilous. Sporting events, viewed by governments and formal businesses as a golden opportunity, can destroy the livelihoods of street traders.

In 2010 the main demand of the WCCA Campaign has been to call on municipalities across the world to set up vendors' bargaining forums, where the main demands, concerns and proposals of vendors and informal traders can be put forward for discussion with the relevant authorities.

In South Africa, the WCCA Campaign has also called on the FIFA Local Organising Committee in South Africa and the municipal governments of the nine Southern African host cities to rethink the policy of creating exclusion zones around the fan parks and stadiums and to actively promote opportunities for informal traders.

It was agreed that All Africa Day, May 25th, would be marked by expressing solidarity with the street traders of South Africa by StreetNet affiliates and to call for Xenophobia-free Games.



Africa Day, 25th May, 2010, celebration in Port Elizabeth. Mama Majola, Chairperson of Nelson Mandela Street Vendors Association, talking about the problems faced by street vendors Photo: Maria Hedman

In the build up to All Africa Day, five Anti-Xenophobia workshops were organised by Paul Shambira and Nkosinathi Jikeka, WCCA Campaign organisers in five cities where games have been hosted. Leaders from StreetNet's African affiliates were guest speakers at the workshops (see page 3).

Affiliates were encouraged to call for respect for the

basic rights of street vendors and informal traders and for the establishment of municipal bargaining forums from local governments. On Africa Day, affiliates' solidarity actions with street vendors in South Africa was widely publicised (see page 12).

All Africa Day celebrations were held in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg in South Africa. StreetNet received messages of solidarity from OTM and SATUCC.

World Leaders Support StreetNet demands

On the occasion of All Africa Day, Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Ela Bhatt, founder of SEWA India, wrote to Sepp Blatter, the FIFA President, supporting StreetNet's demands for trading opportunities for informal traders during the World Cup and offering to hold a meeting with FIFA to discuss a longer term strategy so that FIFA can develop a different approach in the next World Cup in Brazil (see page 6). The letter of support received considerable attention. No reply had yet been received from FIFA when the newsletter went to print. A few weeks later, in a meeting of Kofi Annan's "Elders", with Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, the situation of street vendors and the goals of the WCCA Campaign were also raised.

Over the World Cup month in South Africa, a series of rallies and meetings were planned in order to press the municipalities to provide trading opportunities in the fan parks and other areas near the stadiums for informal traders which have been difficult to organise. Some municipalities have agreed to give permits to members of street vendors' associations while others have been prohibiting vendors from the fan park areas. StreetNet has established a "Host Cities Watch" which provides up to date information from the different

host cities. A successful march to protest against the diversion of funds from social projects to the extravagant expenditure on World Cup infrastructure in Durban was organised by the Durban Social Forum on June 16th, Youth Day in South Africa, in which StreetNet participated. On the same day in Port Elizabeth a youth rally and meeting were organised by StreetNet. StreetNet has made a call to FIFA for an allocation of 0.7% of its much publicised profits to go to traders who have lost their source of income as a result of the "exclusion zones".

Evaluation Workshop and National Alliance Planning Meeting

A workshop to evaluate the campaign and to plan for setting up a national alliance of street traders in South Africa will be held on July 19th-21st in Port Elizabeth. Two representatives of the CUT Brazil will attend so that they can hear about the campaign in South Africa and use the lessons learnt for their own World Cup campaign.

In order to carry out the campaign activities, StreetNet contracted the services of Paul Shambira and Nkosinathi Jikeka from January until mid-July. They were assisted in the facilitation of some of the workshops by Themba Sokhula. Maria Hedman a StreetNet intern was based in Port Elizabeth and assisted with the workshops and other activities. The campaign has been supported throughout by Streetnet staff, in particular Gaby Bikombo who has worked on the events in Durban.

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The future of the WCCA Campaign in Brazil 2011-2014

By Nora Wintour, WCCA Campaign Co-ordinator

The WCCA Campaign will be continued and carried forward to Brazil starting in 2011. The initial discussions with the CUT in Brazil have shown there is considerable interest in carrying out work with StreetNet International. It is hoped to build an effective alliance with the CUT municipal workers' trade unions.

Support from Global unions

The programme will also be coordinated with the Building and Construction Workers (BWI) unions and possibly other global unions in the hotel and tourism sector and the transport sector.

Programmes that include the urban poor

The strategy with FIFA would be to look at the damaging negative impact of exclusion zones and how FIFA can start thinking now of how to work with the Brazilian government to put in place "innovative" programmes in 2014 such as:

- systems of permits for informal traders in key places around Stadiums and fan parks;
- training programmes on small business skills;
- hygiene and sanitation;
- special services for informal traders, such as child care; secure and subsidised transport from shanty towns;
- storage facilities;
- improved economic security, such as minimum income guarantee;
- insurance programmes for both health and accident and for damage to goods.

WCCA Campaign hosts Anti-xenophobia Workshops

By Nora Wintour, WCCA Campaign Co-ordinator

StreetNet organised a series of five workshops on hosting a xenophobia-free World Cup between January and June 2010. The purpose of the workshops was, firstly, to create awareness among street vendors about the risks of xenophobia, secondly, to put forward demands to the municipalities concerning trading opportunities during the World Cup and, thirdly, to strengthen the organisation of street vendors in South Africa.

The workshops were held as follows:

- (1) Nelson Mandela Metro (Port Elizabeth) 24th-25th February, with the participation of Benjamin Moyo, ZCIEA Zimbabwe, and Maria da Gloria Joquim Nhavine, AS-SOTSI Mozambique;
- (2) Johannesburg 29th-30th March, with the participation of Hassan Chamzin, TUICO, Tanzania, and Gladys Mpondo, MUFIS, Malawi;
- (3) Cape Town 29th-30th April, with the participation of Anne Matondo, LFDC, Congo, who participated also in the May Day Rally in Cape Town;
- (4) Tshwane (Pretoria) 29th-30th April, with the participation of Clarisse Gnahoui, USYN-VEPID, Benin, who also participated in the May Day Rally in Tshwane;
- (5) Mbombela 20th-21th May, with the participation of local authorities, SA Council of Churches and others.

The participation at the workshops varied between 30-110 participants and in all events, the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) collaborated together with migrant workers' organisations.



Rustenburg informal traders under Kgetse Ya Tsie gathered to protest eviction prior to the World Cup by the Host City and to give support to Xenophobia-Free Games

Photo: StreetNet

WCCA Campaign for the Commonwealth Games, India - NASVI demands a halt to evictions

NASVI commenced the second phase of its World Class Cities for All Campaign in February 2010. The campaign is scheduled to end in August just before the start of the Commonwealth Games which take place in New Delhi in September. As in the case of South Africa, the sporting event has been the cause of an intensified attack against street vendors, with evictions and harassment of vendors in the centre of the city and near the sports grounds. There are approximately 300 000 street vendors working in and around the centre of New Delhi.

The Government of India adopted a National Urban Vending Policy in 2009 which is a progressive policy providing for the regulation and licensing of street vendors and the establishment of town vending committees which could act as negotiating forums for vendors' demands. The legislation also foresees provisions for social security schemes for street vendors.

However, as India has a Federal system of government, much of the legislative power is invested in

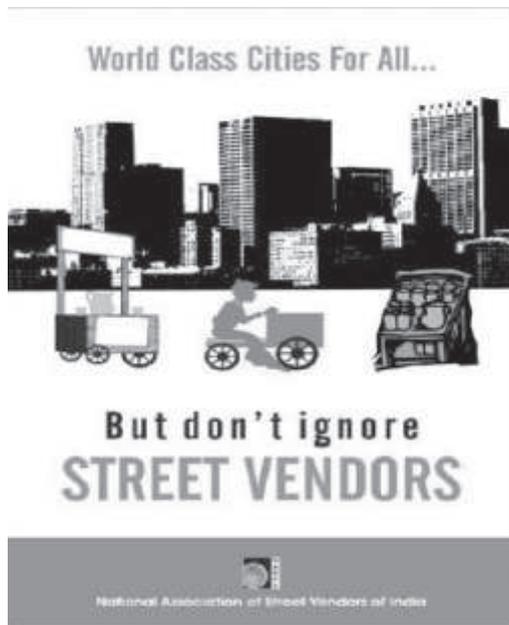
the State governments so for this policy to be put into practice, it needs to be enacted into a State level law.

Main Demands

At State level, NASVI is demanding that the State governments implement the National Urban Vending Policy by enacting a law on street vendors in conformity with the National Policy. It is also calling on the Municipal governments to establish Town Vending Committees and to begin the process of issuing licences to street vendors.

The campaign was conducted in Tamil Nadu State between 8th April -27th April and between 30th April and 6th June in Karnataka State and there have been a number of key meetings with State level authorities to call for the implementation of the National Urban Vending Policy, which have been accompanied by mass rallies and meetings which were widely reported in the local press.

NASVI has also written a letter to the organisers of the Commonwealth Games and Indian authorities calling on them to set up a body to review the policies towards urban vendors during the Games in order to prevent further evictions and harassment.



WCCA Campaign Maputo Declaration

The WCCA Campaign Maputo Workshop was held from May 6th-7th 2010 following the meeting of the International Council and attended by the Council members, ASSOTSI and OTM from Mozambique, five global union representatives, SATUCC, representatives of South African street vendors, donor organisations and StreetNet staff. There were a total of 42 participants. The workshop was designed to brief Council members about the WCCA Campaign, to share perspectives with global union partners on the campaigns and to strategise about the plans for all Africa Day. A communications workshop was also held to explore the use of new media techniques and mobile phones and to discuss ideas about creating a campaign message. The workshop adopted a final declaration with three main demands which was read out in the presence of Mozambican government officials by StreetNet Vice-President Clarisse Gnahoui.

This workshop demands:

- **South African host cities during the FIFA games, work with the local vendors' organisations, representing some of the poorest and most marginalised communities of the urban poor, to give them the trading opportunities, service delivery and other support they deserve.**
- **Governments at national and municipal level agree to set up street vendors' bargaining forums in order to develop policies and programmes which support street vendors and provide them with social protections.**
- **Future FIFA agreements, and in particular the agreements for the FIFA games in Brazil in 2014, provide specific arrangements to permit local street vendors, through their representative organisations, to benefit from the trading opportunities the FIFA games offer and to set up bargaining forums in all the host cities.**

WCCA Campaign Celebrates Africa Day 25th May 2010



LDFC, DRC, holds a march in solidarity with street vendors in South Africa Photo: LDFC



Solidarity by market traders in Maputo, Mozambique during the WCCA Campaign Workshop, 6th-7th May Photo: StreetNet



The WCCA Campaign Africa Day meeting in Mbombela, South Africa. From left, Maria Hedman and Paul Shambira with informal traders Photo: StreetNet



Informal traders at the Africa Day celebration meeting held by the WCCA Campaign in Port Elizabeth, South Africa Photo: Maria Hedman



The Africa Day meeting held by the WCCA Campaign in Durban, South Africa, was concluded with Rwand-ese Burundian traditional dance by a group from the Union of Refugee Women Photo: StreetNet



The WCCA Campaign marched with members of the Durban Social Forum to protest on June 16th, South Africa Youth Day, against the extravagance of the FIFA World Cup and the exclusion of the urban poor Photo: Gustavo Prepelitchi

Renowned world leaders Mary Robinson and Ela Bhatt call on FIFA President to support StreetNet demands

Writing to the FIFA President, Sepp Blatter, on the occasion of All Africa Day, Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Ela Bhatt, founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association, strongly commend the proposals developed by StreetNet International, through their World Class Cities for All Campaign. The text of the letter is below.

24 May, 2010
Mr. Joseph S. Blatter
President
FIFA-Strasse 20
P.O. Box 8044 Zurich, Switzerland
Via e-mail: contact@fifa.org

Dear Mr. Blatter,

We are writing to you as global leaders engaged in ensuring that the impact of globalization addresses the needs of the most marginalised. We believe this is not only right in itself but is essential to global sustainable development.

It has been well documented that global sporting events through their social impacts have the potential to either support or damage such development. The longer term implications of this merit a serious and cohesive strategy that we would be pleased to discuss with you at a later stage. We would strongly commend the good practice proposals being developed by StreetNet International through their World Class Cities for All (WCCA) Campaign. This campaign was launched in 2007, to develop a constructive approach to urban trading that could be transformative and provide a catalyst for sustainable development, a focus of which is the broader socio-economic implications of international sporting events. They have developed a number of specific, practical proposals that we would commend to you.

This campaign has a particular gender focus, as it is women who are most likely to lose their livelihoods as street vendors or need protection from xenophobic attacks or trafficking. StreetNet International is currently trying to ensure that the objectives of FIFA benefit the most vulnerable through the celebration of the 2010 World Cup. As you will know, exclusion zones created around the stadiums and in the fan parks have the effect of displacing and depriving local street vendors of both income and benefit.

We ask that you ensure FIFA's support for StreetNet's practical proposals for social dialogue that would provide the forum through which some of their concerns could be immediately addressed. They have viable suggestions on how, even at this late stage, to mitigate negative impact on street vendors. The establishment of such forums will be the primary focus of this year's All Africa Day taking place on 25th May. Following All Africa Day, we believe FIFA should announce by the end of May, their support for the StreetNet International proposals that will engender practical economic benefit through inclusive social dialogue.

We understand that there has been some rethinking of the policy to ban street vendors from fan parks and stadiums, which has already created some relief in Johannesburg. This was a welcome recognition that the Games were indeed having a very negative impact on informal traders. Their proposals for local negotiating forums in the municipalities can build on the programme of support developed in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Mbombela. They can ensure, even at this late stage, the livelihoods of informal economy vendors too can derive some benefit from the extraordinary opportunities presented by the Games.

Sincerely,

Mary Robinson
Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative
Member of the Elders

Ela Bhatt
President Founder of SEWA
Member of the Elders

StreetNet and SATUCC work together to promote organisation of workers in the informal economy in SADC region

By Pat Horn, StreetNet International Coordinator

StreetNet and SATUCC (Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council) have been cooperating since 2007 on the promotion of organisation of workers in the informal economy. Since the first regional workshop held in Johannesburg in November 2008, attended by all SATUCC and StreetNet affiliates in the SADC region, country activities have been taking place in some of the countries where so far there has been no formal informal economy affiliate, eg Angola and Botswana.

Botswana: A meeting of street vendors from seven towns around the country was successfully conducted on 4th – 6th August 2009. BFTU had already started to lay the ground for organisation in the informal economy by visiting street vendors in various towns around Botswana (Francistown, Gaborone, Gantse, Maun) during the course of visits on other union business. Further visits were done in Francistown, Gaborone and Selebi-Pikwe with the StreetNet International Co-ordinator. This work was consolidated in the main StreetNet-SATUCC project activity which was the first national workshop of street vendors to be held in Botswana, where consensus was reached on the need to form a national alliance of street vendors to be able to speak with one voice. A national steering committee was elected, which held follow-up meetings (supported by project funds) to prepare and discuss a draft constitution for the national body. A Palapye-based BFTU affiliate, the BCP union, also assisted street vendors in Palapye to establish a local association, while a Lobatse-based BFTU member has assisted with the constitution-drafting process.

The project has assisted BFTU leadership to give practical effect to their commitment to extending worker organisation to the informal economy, at the same time drawing in the active involvement of some BFTU affiliates.

Angola: The first field visit to Angola was conducted by Pat Horn (StreetNet) and David Onyalo (CLC) in February 2009, during which UNTA agreed to co-ordinate informal economy activities by two of its affiliates, the FSACHT federation of unions in industry and commerce (including informal commerce) and the FSTILA federation of light industry unions.

Since the 1990s, UNTA has been developing strategies of organisational renewal and moving away from an exclusive focus on public sector employees – transforming from the previous centralised approach to developing closer relationships with workers on the ground irrespective of their employment relationships.

Since the last UNTA Congress in 2005 this has included a conscious focus on organising workers in the informal economy. There was already in existence a Sindicato dos Trabalhadores do Comercio Informal (STCI – Union of Informal Commerce Workers) in Luanda, whose growth and development is well researched and recorded. At the time of our visit to Angola in 2009 other STCIs were organised in Benguela and Cuando Cubango.

A new approach is now being developed (similar to that of the Ghana TUC since its 1993 Congress) of all federations and unions affiliated to UNTA being encouraged to seek out informal economy workers in their sectors and organise them – either directly or indirectly through small groups before integrating them into their structures – in Benguela, Cabinda, Cuando Cubango, Huambo and Luanda.

International Workers' Day, May 2010



StreetNet International celebrated International Workers' Day in Maputo, Mozambique, with affiliate ASSOTSI who hosted the StreetNet International Council meeting and the WCCA Campaign Workshop held from 3rd-7th May, 2010
Photo: StreetNet

StreetNet International

3rd Congress preparations on track

By Ruby Essack, StreetNet International manager

StreetNet's 3rd International Congress is being held in Cotonou, Benin from the 10th - 12th August 2010. Our hosts from Cotonou are StreetNet affiliates in Benin, SYNAMAVAB, and USYNVEPID and the trade union centre UNSTB.

A budget has been prepared and labour has been divided between the host organisations and StreetNet head office for the organisation and arrangements that need to be made for congress.

We have been holding weekly Skype teleconferences with the hosts in Benin to keep updated with progress of activities that they are responsible for.

Planning

Planning and preparation for the third international Congress began in January 2010. In the planning phase timeframes have been worked out according to StreetNet Constitution for the deadlines for various circular letters to be sent to affiliates: confirmation of nominations for election of office bearers; resolutions and constitutional amendments proposed by affiliates.

We have employed an administrator, Pumeza Nkohla, who started work at the beginning of June and whose tasks are solely dedicated to administration of the Congress.

Participants

When the newsletter went to print there were 95 potential participants attending the Congress. StreetNet will pay for 69 participants' travel based on the formula in the StreetNet Constitution which is according to the size of membership of each affiliate.

Invited Guests

Invitations have been sent to a variety of guests in the West Africa region and in Benin, including trade union and trade union centres in Africa, global union federations, the International Labour Organisation, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), StreetNet partner organisations and donors.

Resolutions

We have the following proposals put forward by various affiliates:

New Resolutions: 15
Amendments to existing Resolutions: 8
Constitutional Amendments: 0

Nominations

The following nominations have been received.

President: 4
Vice President: 8
Secretary: 5
Treasurer: 3
Council Members: 39

Congress media workshop

We will be offering a Congress Media Workshop as an interesting learning and development concept for after hour activities to delegates. Affiliates can volunteer to participate in one of the following activities:

Congress Newsletter: 1 page newsletter produced in three languages with the latest Congress updates of each day to be distributed each morning.

Congress Wall Newspaper: A wall newspaper with material in three languages, updated each evening.

Theatre activities: Three 20-minute production of song/dance/mime for presentation at the Congress Cultural evening.

Blogging: Depending on availability of computer and internet facilities there will also be the creation of 6 blogs carrying pictures and reports of Congress events, to be viewed by delegates at the "Congress Internet Caf ".

Video: Making a video stream of Congress scenes and interviews to be projected for viewing by delegates during breaks and in the evening.

A letter has been sent to affiliates advising them of the above activities. Participants will be asked to indicate their expression of interest in a particular activity when they register for the Congress.

Meeting on World Trade

A two-day meeting on World Trade will follow after the Congress on 13th and 14th August 2010.

We look forward to an exciting and interesting 3rd StreetNet International Congress and I'm sure that there will be many challenges that we may need to face – we will try to ensure that we are geared for anything that may come our way!

Breakthrough for StreetNet delegation to the International Labour Conference: ILO recommendation expands definition of work and workplace to include informal economy

By Mwanda Chiwambala, Malawi Union for the Informal Sector

StreetNet International was represented at the conference by Mwanda Chiwambala, Malawi Union for the Informal Sector (MUFIS) Loise Wambuui Kariuki from Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders (KENASVIT) and Nora Wintour, WCCA Campaigns Coordinator. Delegates to this conference were officials from the tripartite social partners, non governmental organisations, ILO officials and interested groups from all over the world.

The International Labour Conference is held annually in Geneva. Our delegation participated in the work of the HIV/AIDS and world of work recommendation.

This ILO recommendation was first discussed in 2009 and this year was a continuation. During the discussions StreetNet made its position known to the workers' meetings by presenting a paper and mentioning areas where we felt that informal economy workers should be included. We also lobbied with others to support us in our cause and we got very good support. Those ideas were taken to the plenary committee on HIV/AIDS and world of work. This helped to have a new definition of worker and workplace, which will be very

useful for street vendors and informal traders. The informal economy worker is also covered by its scope as well.

The new definitions and scope are as follows:

- **“Worker”** refers to any persons working under any form or arrangement.
- **“Workplace”** refers to any place in which workers perform their activity.

This recommendation covers:

- (A) all workers working under all forms or arrangements, and at all workplaces, including:
 - (i) persons in any employment;
 - (ii) those in training, including interns and apprentices;
 - (iii) volunteers;
 - (iv) jobseekers and job applicants;
 - (v) laid-off and suspended workers;
- (B) all sectors of economic activity, including the private and public sectors and the formal and informal economies; and
- (C) armed forces and uniformed services

The ILO Recommendation was approved by the General Assembly held on 18th June 2010 in Geneva by voting as follows - 439 voted in favour, 4 against and 11 abstentions. The approval of this ILO instrument is a great triumph to all parties concerned especially workers.

The standard is the first international legal instrument aimed at strengthening the contribution of the world of work to universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and contains provisions on potentially life-saving prevention programmes and anti-discrimination measures at national and workplace levels. It also emphasises the importance of employment and income-generating activities for workers and people living with HIV, particularly in terms of continuing treatment.

Ms Thembi Nene-Shezi (South Africa), who chaired the debates on the standard in the HIV and AIDS Committee, said that they have an instrument that should be a source of pride for the ILO and its constituents. “The engagement of those that have given birth to it – the governments, employers and workers – will be crucial to the development of national workplace policies anchored in human rights and directed at overcoming discrimination.”

See StreetNet Website <http://www.streetnet.org.za>



Loise Wambuui Kariuki (KENASVIT), Jan Sithole, Vice Chair for the Workers Group and Mwanda Chiwambala (MUFIS) at the Committee on HIV and AIDS at the workplace Photo: Nora Wintour

StreetNet field visit to India and Nepal

By Sibailly Douhoure, Organiser for Asia, Central and West Africa

My StreetNet field visit to India and Nepal was from March 29th to April 15th 2010. My first stop was India where I spent almost a week, from March 29th to April 5th.

The main objectives of the visit to India were to meet with NASVI to discuss activities with regards to the Focal Point for Asia, visit the headquarters of SEWA in Ahmedabad and to meet with the vendors in the city.

On March 31st I met with NASVI in Delhi for discussion about the Asian Focal Point, the co-ordinating committee, the office where it will be based and fundraising for the activities.

On April 1st I traveled to SEWA in Ahmedabad, located approximately 1000 km from Delhi and on my arrival met with Manali Shah, Co-ordinator of SEWA in Ahmedabad to discuss the programme of my stay. We also discussed the StreetNet country activities programme.

The programme for the field visit included a briefing on SEWA and the urban union and vendors' campaign a meeting with the vendors' campaign team and a presentation on the campaign activities. The programme on the 3rd of April included a tour to visit the co-operatives-Jamalpur where members of SEWA buy their products at a cheaper rate, a briefing on the legal struggle to secure rights of street vendors, and a visit to the welfare board. SEWA members presented the situation of the vendors in the city of Ahmedabad, the various struggles carried out with the municipalities (town council), the relationships with the Ministry of Labour, and the relationships with the trade union. I also made a field visit to Maneck Chowk and Danapith fruit and vegetable markets where the majority of the vendors are members of SEWA.

As a result of the field visit I was able to know SEWA better - to have an idea on the origin, the creation, the structure, the operation, and the acclaimed activities and services rendered to the members. It can be noted that in the town of Ahmedabad, there are more than 85 000 vendors. Presently, SEWA have organised 63 120 of them.

On April 4th I returned to Delhi to make the next leg of my journey to Nepal from 6th – 15th April. The objectives of the visit to Nepal were to represent StreetNet in the 3rd Conference of NEST on April 6th – 7th, 2010 in Kathmandu. This was also an opportunity to organise a field trip in order to become familiarised with the Nepalese environment and to discuss the organisation of the Asian Focal Point with representatives from NASVI and NEST.



The 3rd Conference of NEST on April 6th – 7th, 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Above the delegates await the outcome of the elections of the new leadership. Nayaran Neupane was re-elected President for a four years mandate Photo: Sibailly Douhoure

I officially represented StreetNet at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Conference of NEST on the 6th April. On the 8th and 9th April I visited the head offices of GEFONT and NEST. I held meetings with Ramesh Badal, the Secretary-Foreign Dept and Umesh Upadhyaya, Secretary-General of GEFONT and Ghimire Gopal, Project Manager of GEFONT. Later I met with NEST national committee at their offices in the head office of GEFONT who explained the operation, the structure and the activities of NEST. We also had an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the Asian Focal Point and the need for affiliates in Asia to maintain regular ongoing contact to carry out activities. After meeting with NEST leadership, I met with five urban committees in Kathmandu where we discussed the problems that they encounter: limited working times allowed, expulsion by the police force, insufficient incomes and no social protection.

Following the urban committees of Kathmandu, I went to Pokhara and Damauli, provincial towns outside Kathmandu, with Kumar Sapkotah, Secretary-General of NEST, where I met with NEST members and structures. Back in Kathmandu, in the company of two NEST committee members, Rasd Kumar and Maya Gurung, I was taken to visit four markets in the city where we met vendors who are NEST members.

The field visit met its objectives successfully. Through the programme with SEWA in Ahmedabad I learnt about SEWA's organisation of vendors and its achievements in favour of the vendors of the city. The field trip to Nepal was a learning experience through the meetings with leaders and members of NEST. This also enabled me to learn about the daily realities and problems of the vendors in Ahmedabad who are organised by SEWA and of those in Nepal who are organised by NEST.

Street vendors from cities in the United States gather for first ever meeting

By Sean Basinski, Street Vendors' Project, New York, United States

Last month, the Street Vendor Project of New York hosted the first-ever meeting among vending organisations from across the United States (US). The meeting was held on May 14th -15th, as part of an academic conference at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) entitled Contesting the Streets: Vending, Open Air Markets and Public Space. It focused on issues relating to the use of public space, the right to the city, local ordinance enforcement, and the interplay of vending issues and immigration policy in the US. Papers were presented on, among other topics, vending practices in Vietnam, Ghana and France. Many vendors were surprised that so much attention was being given to the vending sector of informal work. Speaking to a professor, New York hot dog vendor Mohammed Baten said, "I never knew anyone cared so much about what we do."

Vendors from six vending organisations were in attendance, with vending advocates from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and from Toronto, and Seattle Canada. With the economic crisis forcing more people into self-employment, street vending has become more popular across the US in recent years. Progressive urban planners have begun to understand that vendors can enliven derelict downtown areas while also providing economic opportunity for marginalised workers. Some cities, like Portland, Oregon, have begun to receive attention for the quality and variety of their street food, which rivals anything available in the best restaurants.

The vendors gave presentation on their activities, in English and Spanish, and also met separately to discuss their struggles and to share advice on strategies that work. They agreed that their common problems were outdated laws, police harassment, and lack of support from politicians. Yet the vendors resolved to continue their discussions, and they left the meeting with great hope.

FOTSSIEH, Honduras, holds workshop on Women, Gender and Democracy

By Mónica Garzaro, organiser for South and East Africa and Latin America

Federación de Organizaciones de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras del Sector Social e Informal de la Economía de Honduras (FOTSSIEH) developed the first workshop of 2010 on Women, Gender and Democracy, with the support of StreetNet. The workshop was attended by 42 members from different regions who learnt about the importance of women's leadership in the Federation. They had two days to discuss different topics and succeeded in raising self-esteem, developing high level of



Delegates at the street vendors meeting held in Los Angeles at the end of the first day Photo: SVP

Janet Favela, an organiser with the Boyle Heights Street Vending Association said, "it was a very good experience for the vendors. They felt empowered after leaving the meeting and are inspired to continue the work we are doing." Similar feelings were expressed by Sandra Garcia from the Chicago Association de Vendedores Ambulantes, who said the conference was a great leadership development opportunity that left their members "excited about the possibility ahead by working with other street vendors groups from around the country."

Celebrating VENDY Awards

The weekend culminated in the Vendy Awards Los Angeles, a contest to determine the best street food chef while celebrating the contribution all vendors make to LA culture. The event took place at the Downtown Labor Center, a home for labour activism, in the midst of the immigrant community of MacArthur Park, which serves as a home to many street vendors. The winner was Nina Garcia, a member of the Boyle Heights group, whose *quesadillas* and *pampazos* were rated highest.

belonging and motivation to continue training and strengthening the confidence of women workers. Women did an exercise of self-analysis stating that their behaviour remains passive and submissive and they have value as being strategic individuals in building a different society, breaking with the vertical and patriarchal relationships. Finally, they talked about democracy and society, discussing democracy in Honduras as an electoral democracy with no impact on improving their living conditions of the poor. They need a project of democracy with political, economic, social and cultural equality for all, through processes that educate and include women and the family. In evaluating the workshop the participants said that that the participatory methodology gave space for different opinions to be heard.

Nothing for us without us! Street Vendors and Informal Traders speak out on WCCA Africa Day: HOSTING a XENOPHOBIA-FREE 2010 African FIFA WORLD CUP in South Africa

StreetNet International Press statement issued on May 25th, 2010

"On WCCA (World Class Cities for All) Africa Day, street vendors and informal traders around the world are expressing solidarity with the street traders of South Africa. We are calling for fair play from FIFA and the South African national and municipal governments. It is only 2 weeks until the FIFA games kick off. We are calling for an end to the harassment, evictions and xenophobic attacks against street vendors and cross-border traders in the 9 World Cup host cities. We condemn the urban policies of our local government authorities combined with the directives of FIFA and the Local Organising Committee which are trying to "clean" the streets of the urban poor, and have created exclusion zones where informal traders cannot trade," said Pat Horn StreetNet International coordinator.

"We continue to demand that the basic rights of street vendors and informal traders as workers be recognised and respected," Pat Horn continued. "The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recognised that informal economy workers should enjoy the same rights as formal workers, including the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining. In some countries, informal economy workers are over 80% of the workforce. StreetNet is working with national organisations of informal traders to strengthen their representation and negotiating power by establishing a national alliance for one united voice."

"The StreetNet International Council, representing 37 affiliates in 33 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, met in Maputo in early May. We agreed to express our solidarity with South Africans, and the migrant and refugee communities in that country, who are part of the survivalist economy and who make an honest living through street vending and informal cross-border trade," said Clarisse Gnahoui, Vice President of StreetNet from USYNEPID market vendors' union, **Benin**. On WCCA Africa Day, a public debate will be held in Benin about the renovation of the massive Dantokpa Market in Cotonou, site allocations for those who have lost their old sites to ensure that nobody loses their trading spaces, and discussion about (affordable) new levies payable in the renovated market.

"We must all share the national cake," said Juliana Brown Afari, from the StreetNet **Ghana** Alliance. "We need to take charge of our own destiny. If we are united, we can make our lives better." Members of the StreetNet Ghana Alliance will be marching to the Ghana TUC (Trades Union Congress) on WCCA Africa Day with placards describing their demands to the authorities.

"Workers, trade unionists and the self-employed in general should denounce the violations of basic human rights and express solidarity with our fellow street vendors in South Africa, as well as send our solidarity greetings on the occasion of 25 May, African Day" said Luz Maldonado Velasquez and Manuel Sulca Escalante, from FEDEVAL, **Peru**.

"**India** faces the unique challenge of growth without equity – development which is increasing the gap between rich and the poor. The government is unable to devise methods and programmes which can bring qualitative changes in the lives of poor. Street trading is one way whereby the poor are able to transform their lives and shape their entrepreneurship qualities. Unfortunately the authorities view street trading as a nuisance and a burden on urban infrastructure. NASVI supports the struggle of African street traders to be fully integrated into the economic life of their cities", said Arbind Singh, Coordinator of the National Alliance of Street Vendors of India (NASVI).

"Young workers are facing huge problems of unemployment in many African countries and turn to informal trading as a way of earning money in an honest way. Yet we are often treated as criminals. We are forming young workers' committees to strengthen our organisation and the police have changed their attitude to us now", said Armindo Alexandre, from ASSOTSI, **Mozambique**.

In other African countries, more WCCA Africa Day activities will be taking place, including:

Senegal – a public forum with social insurance companies facilitated by Mody Guiro, General Secretary of the CNTS national trade union federation, will debate the broadening of social protection to include street vendors and informal traders.

Zimbabwe & Kenya – marches to Parliament will be led by StreetNet affiliates ZCIEA (Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations) and KENASVIT (Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors & Informal Traders) with petitions to their national Tripartite Boards to include the issues of informal workers in their policy-making and legislation.

Zambia – the government will be petitioned by StreetNet affiliate AZIEA (Alliance of Zambian Informal Economy Associations) for the inclusion of informal workers and their issues in the national Tripartite Forum.

"Street traders around the world have a common vision", continued Pat Horn. "The contribution of informal traders to the urban economy should be recognised and valued. Municipal authorities can promote and safeguard the livelihoods of traders, the great majority of whom are women, and create consultation, social dialogue and bargaining forums. Informal traders are in the process of establishing representative, democratic and united membership associations, and are demanding registration and recognition as trade unions of informal economy workers. They are united across the globe as members of StreetNet International, which was founded in 2002."

The 25th May is All Africa Day which was created to celebrate the formation of the African Union (formerly the OAU) on 25 May 1963. Africa Day acknowledges Africa's history, heritage and culture and the African Union promotes democracy, human rights and sustainable economies.