



Streetnet International publishes this newsletter in four languages offering affiliates information and opinions

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

In the context of looking after teenage girls, the League for the Right of Congolese Women (LDFC) with the financial support of **Funds 1% for Development**, opened a Centre for women's vocational training in its head office called: "MISALA YA MWASI (WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP)".

The objective of the centre is to train teenage girl mothers who are poor and uneducated and woman who did not have the chance to go to school, in vocation of dressmaking and aesthetic in peripheral neighbourhoods of the city province of Kinshasa and surroundings.

**Expected result:** at the end of the training, learners will find work thanks to the training received and will be able to create an income generating activity in order to face their daily challenges. At the end of the training it is expected that the girls and women will be able to either find employment or be able to create activity in order to generate their own income and become independent.



### LDFC launches activities for Girl mothers

In its work of strengthening the promotion, protection and defence of women's right, LDFC with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the technical support of ProJustice, launched a national campaign to facilitate access to justice for women, which will end in November 2011.

This campaign will be carried out in 5 provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo and its activities will be based on:

- The production of information tools and support as well as awareness raising.
- The themes of the training workshops will focus on women's access to justice in the 5 provinces. In 2010, we worked in 2 provinces which are Bandundu and South-Kivu (Uvira).
- Actions of lobbying and advocacy with authorities and relevant Ministries.
- A workshop on the preparation of specifications on the inclusion of women lawyer during the recruitment tests in the judiciary and the Bar
- The information and exchange days on the judiciary in DRC.

The objective of the campaign is to train, inform and sensitise the woman on the judicial procedures and the organisation of the justice in favour of women.

Anne MATONDO NZALAHADU  
In charge of Training and organizing/LDFC

## PAYING HOMAGE TO THE WOMEN STREET VENDORS OF PERU

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, and it is also Women Street Vendors Day. On this day, women's struggle for participation in society on an equal footing with men and their personal development, is commemorated. Women have gained the positions they now hold, and will gain those for which they continue to fight, at a cost. International Women's Day reasserts and recognises women workers' rights, resulting from a tragic event that cost almost 150 lives of textile women workers on an 8<sup>th</sup> of March at the beginning of last century. More than a century later, this day continues to inspire poems which include profound messages in the defence of these rights for those called the weaker sex.

This 8th of March we are paying a special homage to Peruvian women working in traditional trade as street vendors in markets, fairs, bus stops, alleys and even public thoroughfares. This is a type of work in Peru and many countries around the world.

More than 14 million Peruvians live in conditions of poverty and unemployment. Most of these are self-employed in street vending and are migrants from the countryside to the city; many of them are parents in their homes with the responsibility of feeding, educating and providing health care for their children.

The first organised protests occurred during the 70's. Since that time, governments have considered popular trade unions as a SOCIAL THREAT, and these workers have been marginalized by society, and their contribution as workers has not been recognised. They have suffered physical and emotional mistreatment and have been persecuted as criminals.

In 1977, when Peru was under military rule, self-employed workers began to organise themselves into associations, etc.

At this time the Provincial Federation of Street Vendors of Lima and Callao – FEDEVAL – was formed, and is now a legal and representative organisation, which takes care of the defence and stability of labour of the WOMEN WORKERS of popular trade in Peru.

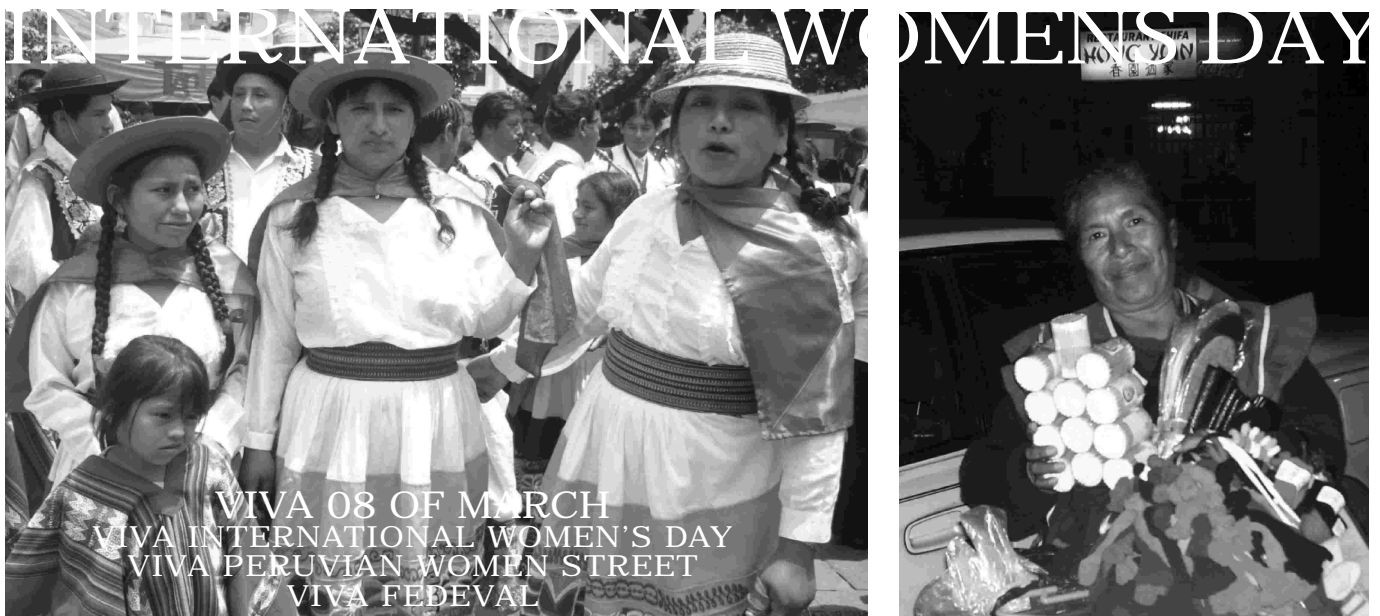
### OUR PROPOSAL

The precarious situation of women street vendors must be reversed, ensuring equity and social justice, and major influence in economic activity.

Legislation should be introduced granting equal rights without discrimination, covering social protection - health and pensions, and social infrastructure such as crèches, canteens, and training programmes.

On the other hand, respect for union autonomy and the leadership of women workers in the sector, and public policies, both local and national, should guarantee working conditions and the generation of opportunities favourable to income, that permit women workers and their families a dignified level of living and human development.

Dialogue and consultation with representatives of the state administration at all levels, as well as with social and commercial organisations, is essential.







# PROCLAMATION OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED WOMEN OF NICARAGUA IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY,

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY



WOMENS' COMMITTEE OF THE CTCP, NICARAGUA

On the 8th March 2011, the Self-Employed Women of Nicaragua celebrate, with the rest of the women in the world, International Women's Day. Without doubt, we want a new consciousness to blossom on that day in which all men and women participate under equal conditions:

A consciousness which will transform the patriarchal system which humiliates and depreciates the contribution of women, denying them their fundamental rights.

A consciousness that will allow us to endure and struggle effectively in all those spaces, which through our sweat and blood, we have created throughout the history of humankind.

A consciousness that recognises the advances and those challenges which we confront every day, as well as to apply to each one of our rights to guard and protect our families under conditions of equality between men and women.

A consciousness to build a world without violence in which love and tenderness between couples and families prevails.

We want a society in which equality of rights and conditions between men and women are guaranteed, to be able to live a dignified and full life.

We wish to be recognised as political subjects and to have rights to a labour agenda which guarantees us decent work as we are generators of wealth and welfare, creators and protectors of human life.

For these reasons we remain active in all fields and demand respect and the promotion of our rights.

We want a new image of women in which advertising is not used to commercialise the beauty, the sweetness and the great heart of women.

We do not want the areas of entertainment, theatre, news, opinion, debates and communication to be used to exclude or denigrate women.

We want a consciousness that helps men to break the cultural patterns which cause them to treat us as commercial objects and not as people.

We aspire to overcome the historical subordination to which we have been subjected by the patriarchal system.

Accordingly, we call on men and society in general to participate in this effort so that they do not continue to treat us with contempt and humiliation, and we can all share life with gender equality and social justice.

## The UN social security floor initiative Turning the Tide at the ILO Conference 2011

Michael Cichon,  
Christina Berhrendt  
and Veronka Wodsak,

January 2011 Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

This policy booklet is issued prior to the discussions at the up-coming June 2011 International Labour Conference where it will be decided whether to call for a stronger international commitment to universal social security protection, covering both formal and informal workers.

After the Second World War, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1949, recognized the right to social security, although in a gender blind manner. Article 25(1) states: *Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of circumstances.* Furthermore the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights recognizes the right to social security and has been ratified by 160 states.

However, in reality, social security coverage in most parts of the world is a luxury only available to workers in the formal economy. Only 20% of the world's working age population has access to social protection. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 5% of the population benefits from an old-age pension. In developing countries, social security is still too often viewed as unaffordable.

With the global economic and financial crisis of 2008, the authors argue that there is now renewed support for strengthening social security provisions and creating systems that can provide effective coverage for all workers, including low-income and informal worker. In April 2009, the One UN Social Protection Floor Initiative was adopted and the ILO and the WHO are lead agencies.



The study cites the recent examples of new social protection programmes designed to reach the poorest communities. In Brazil, the Bolsa Familia (Family Basket) is a cash transfer programme to poor families and covers 46 million people at a cost of 0.4% of GDP. In India, there is the 100 day - National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and basic social security coverage has been extended to over 300 million people. However, there are many challenges in creating the necessary political will, particularly related to improvements in governance structures and reforms to tax systems to increase government income to pay for new social security schemes.

The booklet ends with a call to the international trade union movement to work to create the necessary global political will for the adoption of an ILO recommendation "on the establishment of a social protection floor set at a level above the poverty line and sufficient to provide reasonable living standards."

### **ACTION BY StreetNet affiliates**

StreetNet affiliates are urged to write to their national trade union centre prior to June 2011 citing this study and calling on them to support the adoption of an ILO Recommendation on the social protection floor. Please send in copies of your letters to StreetNet.

## MUTUAL OF SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR (MUPROSI)

During the International Labour Conference of 2001, governments, organisations of employers and workers reached a new consensus on Social Security:

It is in this context that the Federation of Wood and Construction Workers of Togo (FTBC-TOGO), and with the intention of bringing its contribution to actors of the informal economy in order to meet the challenges of social protection, initiated a solidarity fund known as *la mutuelle de protection sociale des travailleurs du secteur informel*

### **Mutual of Social Protection for Workers in the Informal Sector (MUPROSI).**

The MUPROSI started as an initiative of SYVEMACOT, the Union of Vendors of Construction Materials of Togo. In fact, during the first ordinary congress of SYVEMACOT held in October 2003 in Lomé, delegates adopted a resolution on the issue of social protection for actors of the informal economy.

The proposal was then sent to the federal office of the FTBC, which transformed the resolution into a proposal for a seminar so as to sensitize the actors of the informal economy in the wood and construction sector.

Then in 2005, more precisely from 17 to 19 March, we organised a national sensitisation seminar on social protection targeting leaders of the two main trade union organisations, the Union of Labourers, Employees and Cadres of Civil Engineering (SOECTRAB) and the Union of Vendors of Construction Materials of Togo (SYVEMACOT), with the financial support from the programme Verba of the former World Confederation on Labour (WCL). On the third day (19 March 2005), the participants

organised a general meeting which adopted the constitution, rules and regulations, and elected members of the different organs of the mutual.

At the beginning, MUPROSI had only 33 members of which 9 were women, but today it regroups 831 members of whom 485 are women with 3423 beneficiaries. It is important also to note the contribution (monitoring, evaluation and various other support) of Mrs. BROOHM Ghislaine ZAISONOU, who is in charge of gender and health mutuals at ITUC/AFRICA, and the financial provision of SYVEMACOT through the project "together against the HIV/AIDS" funded by AWARE without forgetting the permanent support of the FTBC.

The MUPROSI have undertaken several activities during these five years (from 2005 to 2010). The main activities being:

- The sensitisation, training and information
- The signing of contracts with primary health care centres
- The work through the registered centres

The joining fees to the mutual are 1200 F, and the monthly subscription by beneficiaries is 365 F. The moderating ticket (what the member of the mutual pays to the health facility in case of sickness) is 25% and the mutual covers the other 75%.

Currently one thousand seventy-seven (1077) cases of sick people whose fees were paid ??? for by the mutual of whom 324 are women and 540 children.

This shows that women and children constitute the most fragile group regarding health in Togo.

The most frequent diseases are obviously malaria, diarrhoea and the respiratory infections.

Extracted from the Five year report of the MUPROSI presented by the President of the MUPROSI:

Mr. ADOMEY Gilbert



# 2

## COUNTRY ACTIVITIES and FIELD VISITS

### The StreetNet International Co-ordinator's field visit to KOREA

As requested by the International Council meeting held in May 2010, a visit to Korea was undertaken to assist Korean street vendors to resolve their internal problems which has produced two splinter organizations, DUSVK and SSVWK from KOSC. The International Co-ordinator went alone because Chandra Prakash Singh from NASVI was refused visa. A meeting was held with KOSC Executive Committee, led by First Vice-President Jeang Yeong Su who explained that communication breakdown resulting from the resignation of the administrative assistant in the Head Office is being resolved. She explained that Kim Heung Hyun wanted to stand for the position of KOSC President in place of Lee Pil Du who was in prison but he was refused and this led to the breakup though, she is still willing to work with them. She started that there was an understanding between KOSC and the SEOUL municipality but not a signed contract.

Pat met with KCTU which has a working relation with KOSC but not with the other two groups and they confirmed the information she received from KOSC as what they also knew about the situation. Pat met with KGEU which has been facing a lot of government oppression and refusal to be registered as a trade union. The international co-ordinator also met with Wol-san Liem which works with KCTU affiliates KPSU and KMWU and have some working relationship with street vendors' organizations through the anti-poverty coalition. DUSVK leaders said they left KOSC because of the leaders because of a signed agreement between KOSC and hip style of Lee Pil Du and couldn't form a single group with SSVWK because some SSVWK staff are followers of Lee Pil Du. They want to apply for affiliation to StreetNet and they want StreetNet to take disciplinary action against KOSC. But Pat explained that it is not possible since KOSC had not breached any StreetNet rules or regulations and advised against their affiliation to StreetNet. SSVWK leaders said they broke away the Seoul Municipality causing crackdowns against street vendors. They have no intention of seeking affiliation with StreetNet but would like StreetNet's

help in fighting against the unilateral "legalization" which the Seoul municipality is proposing to do.

The International Co-ordinator visited Seoul Flea Market which went against the advice of KOSC activists to relocate and got expelled from KOSC and they no longer regard themselves as street vendors. Pat had a second meeting with KOSC and she reported her finding to them and they explained the reason for the agreement with the Municipality was for recognition. Pat pointed out that the agreement was not balanced without any guarantees from the municipality. Pat attended the following People's Summit events, Gender Justice Action workshop and Labour Assembly from 7 – 10 November which produced a workers' declaration. She also did a lot of networking with trade unions.

Some of the difficulties seem to centre on personal power struggles and undemocratic leadership practices. Reputable organizations such as KCTU continue to regard KOSC as a credible solidarity partner. Personality disputes and power struggles are all too common in the street vendors' sector – and it is only the members who can correct these issues by exerting their democratic will on their leadership. ■

### The StreetNet International Co-ordinator's field visit to INDIA

This mission was undertaken by the StreetNet International Co-ordinator, Pat Horn, immediately after an Annual Learning Meeting of the Inclusive Cities Programme funded by the Gates Foundation in which StreetNet participated with organizations like WIEGO, HomeNet, SEWA, Latin American Waste Collectors' Network etc, which took place from 29 – 31 October 2010 in Ahmedabad, India, hosted by SEWA.

Pat met with the Delhi Chief Commissioner to talk about implementing a system of spatial regulation

## COUNTRY ACTIVITIES and FIELD VISITS

and licensing of street vendors agreed upon between the Delhi Municipality and NASVI some time ago. Pat also met with Dr P. K. Mohanty, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation who is charged with directing the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission – one of the biggest known urban development programmes. Dr P. K. Mohanty suggested that they should work together with NASVI to get a master-plan for street vending (like the one which has been agreed upon in Delhi) and accompanying legislation adopted and operational in two states – Delhi and one other, as a start in the urban development mission relating to street vendors.

The Model Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill of 2009 was being sent to all the states of India, and had guided the Supreme Court in a recent judgment in which the government was instructed to develop a proper law to regulate hawkers' rights by June 2011. Dr P. K. Mohanty suggested that NASVI mobilise a team to work on getting the 2009 Bill passed as a model in at least one State, to move the process forward. He suggested similar urban poverty alleviation scheme to IBSA and offered to support StreetNet's Asian regional workshop which could increase participation from more Asian countries. Pat met with journalists from *Times of India* and *The Hindu* and there was a very substantial coverage of her two-day visit and NASVI's demands for inclusive urban planning for street vendors in both newspapers.

Pat met with 22 street vendor leaders of Delhi of which 14 were women, to talk about the scheme for street vendor regulation approved by the Supreme Court in 2007, but which has not yet been implemented, problems encountered during the Commonwealth Games and the WCCA campaign. The street vendors of Delhi are now trying to form a state-level forum to pressurise for the implementation of this scheme.

Pat had a strategizing discussion with NASVI which is in the course of constitutional reform, now that the organisation has large-scale membership.

They now need to develop regional structures even though retaining city-based organisations. Pat suggested that NASVI link their strategy of pushing for the adoption of the draft legislation and the street vendors' management system agreed upon in Delhi to the New Manifesto Campaign which Nora has requested all affiliates to think about applying in their countries. This will secure some campaign funds and bring the campaign bus back into action for the new Manifesto Campaign. NASVI is also keen to get a dossier of all street vendor litigation in India and other countries, to help as references in their legal cases. ■

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING HELD FROM 8-10 DECEMBER, 2010 IN KATHMANDU - NEPAL

A three day leadership skills training was held in Kathmandu from 8 – 10 December 2010. The aim was to enhance the capacity of the leaders of NEST. There were 39 participants, of whom 23 were male and 16 female. During the training, facilitators used the different tools to facilitate the training. The sessions were facilitated by Mr Bidur Karki of GEFONT, Mr Naryan Neupane chairman of NEST and Kumar Sapkota General secretary of NEST. Topics discussed were on the Trade Union Movement & GEFONT, Leadership - its character, roles and responsibilities, Organisations and their characteristics, Organisational Management, Finance management, Office management, Trade Union Right /Rights and Responsibilities of union member, Negotiation /Skill of Negotiation were discussed. During these three days training participants identified the problems of Street Vendors and also developed a future work plan. The training of Kathmandu was inaugurated by Com. Umesh Upadhyaya, Secretary General, GEFONT. ■



## STREETNET ASSISTANCE TO ASSOVACO FOR THE RESOLUTION OF INTERNAL CRISIS

For almost the whole year 2010, StreetNet affiliate based in Uvira, in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been struggling with an internal crisis. Leaders of ASSOVACO held a meeting to examine the problem so as to find a solution to this crisis, and they finally managed to reconcile their positions. This conflict is caused by the lack of communication amongst members of the Executive Council, the ignorance and incoherence of the constitution, and the lack of financial regulation.

In order to consolidate the act of reconciliation, a delegation of StreetNet led by Anastasie Maswamba, Deputy President of StreetNet International was in Uvira from the 14 to 18 December 2010 to meet the leaders of ASSOVACO and organize a training workshop on how to improve the different texts governing their Association.

On the first day of the mission, StreetNet delegation organized meetings with the different parties involved in the conflict. Despite the reconciliation that occurred two months before the arrival of the StreetNet delegation, some members of ASSOVACO had not met again for discussion. These meetings enabled more reconciliation amongst leaders and created a good working environment during the workshop that was held in the following days.

The workshop was very timely, because its purpose was to analyze the different texts that govern ASSOVACO and propose amendments, one of the mentioned insufficiencies that are causing internal conflict.

The workshop took place from 15 to 18 December 2010 in Uvira and was attended by 49 participants of which 29 were women. The participants came from several places of the East of Congo: Uvira, Bukavu, Fizi, Walungu, Mwenga, Kalemie, Goma, Kabare, Kiliba, Kamanyola, Moba.

At the end of the workshop, the participants proposed changes to the constitution of ASSOVACO and drew-up a draft financial policy. They also developed the work plan for 2011 and proposed that the next congress of ASSOVACO be held in June 2011.

Furthermore, a presentation on Social and Solidarity Economy was conducted in the local language (Swahili) by Mr. Ephraï'95m Balemba G., legal Representative to Burundi of "Louvain Coopé'8eration au Dé'8eveloppement", an NGO of Belgian right. This presentation created a lot of interest for the participants, and enabled him to explain the principle of the Mutuelle de Solidarité'8e (MUSO = Solidarity Mutual).

Thanks to the support of Louvain Coopé'8eration au Dé'8eveloppement, 480 members of ASSOVACO are currently beneficiaries of the services of MUSO.

MUSO:

Objectives:

- To Support income generating activities of members
- To strengthen the solidarity amongst members

Numbers of Beneficiaries members of ASSOVACO:

- In Uvira: 13 groups made of 20 members each; which means 260 people
- In Bukavu: 11 groups of 20 members each, totalling 220 people
- Total number of beneficiaries: 480 persons

Obtained Results

- Members understand the advantages of funding their activities.
- Members start saving their financial resources in the mutuelles and co-operatives.
- The programme MUSO started in January 2008 in ASSOVACO



# 2 CAMPAIGNS

**The New Manifesto Campaign Guidelines have been sent out to all affiliates who have been asked to establish their own campaign plan and coordination group. Send in your plans to the campaign coordinator or write to ask for further information at [norawintourlive.co.uk](http://norawintourlive.co.uk)**

## **International Campaign Goals**

1. Street vendors are recognised as workers, entitled to the same basic rights as all workers in accordance with the international standards developed by the International labour organisation.
2. StreetNet International adopts a new manifesto based on the needs and concerns collected from street vendors throughout the world as a living document representing their collective aspirations.
3. The street vendors' new manifesto forms the basis of collective bargaining demands at national level and is used to establish legal representational systems at local, national and international level.
4. To change the unjustified and misinformed negative public perception which exist in most countries about street vendors.

## **National Campaign Goals**

1. The important contribution of street vendors to local and national economies is recognised by the public and the authorities.
2. Street vendors are mobilised to articulate and record their needs and concerns.
3. The issues affecting the poorest and most marginalised groups of vendors will be captured by them, in particular the majority group of women

vendors, of young workers and marginalised minority groups, such as disabled vendors and persons living with HIV and AIDS, who struggle most to be heard.

## **Campaign methods**

1. Street vendors will conduct a massive participatory action research
2. Street vendors will form alliances with other organisations of the urban poor and recruit more street vendors to join the campaign; they will consult them on their needs and concerns and thereby encourage them to organise themselves or to join and strengthen existing organisations.

## **Plan of Activities – some ideas**

- (1) Affiliates to hold meetings to read and discuss New Manifesto Campaign document
- (2) Affiliates to hold meetings with organisations which share your concerns (such as unions, other street organisations, environmental groups or academics) and ask them to support your demands or work together in other ways and form a coordinating committee at local and national level;
- (3) Coordinating committee to complete StreetNet questionnaire and send back!
- (4) Coordinating committees to hold focus group discussions, general meetings and workshops to collect needs and demands of street vendors, informal market vendors and hawkers at general meetings, workshops and focus groups; using the discussion guide.
- (5) meet sympathetic members of the media to help devise a media strategy to promote the Campaign and further its objectives;
- (6) produce national campaign newsletter, leaflets and e-newsletter if possible. ■

## **Book Review:**

**"A Bridge Between Trade Unions and Social Movements in Contemporary South Africa" by Ercüment Celik.**

Reviewed by Pat Horn

Ercüment Celik's book is based on his study of street vendors in South Africa (with a focus on Durban) which he conducted between 2006 and 2008. It is a unique record, comprising both an analytic and nuanced record of political dynamics as well as a chapter of well-researched survey and statistical information (Chapter VII) – accomplished with impressive accuracy and grasp of the

dynamics in this sector, and between the sectors of street vendors, trade unions and social movements.

Chapter I is a theoretical chapter about the concept of social movement unionism, and Chapter VIII at the end comes back to theoretical reflections about social movements in South Africa and integrating street vendors into the social movement unionism approach.

Chapter II reviews South Africa from Apartheid to post-Apartheid from the perspective of the trade union movement, and the emergence of social movements in post-Apartheid South Africa. This is followed by an excellent and comprehensive analysis

# 2 | CAMPAIGNS

of what has happened with street trading from Apartheid to post-Apartheid South Africa.

Chapter III is a detailed record of the reorganising and mobilisation of street vendors in Durban, focussing on the independent street vendors' organisations which were emerging as a reaction against the municipal-created structures which the eThekweni Municipality preferred to deal with exclusively. This is probably the first full written record of the protracted struggles of Durban street vendors for freedom of association and independence in collective negotiations which only succeeded after raging street battles during May and June 2007 – and indeed it makes fascinating reading.

Chapters IV and V look in more detail of the roles of three strategic organisations involved in different ways with the street vendors in support of their struggles – StreetNet International, the SAC P (South African Communist Party) and the shackdwellers' social movement AbM (Abahlali baseMjondolo).

Chapter VI on the first two years of the WCCA (World Class Cities for All) campaign of StreetNet International is again a unique written record of the process of alliance-building which was so important in making the South African WCCA campaign effective during the last 18 months before the FIFA World Cup in June and July 2010.

The empirical Chapter VII has reflected the class situation of street vendors in 6 areas of Durban, both from the perspective of their incomes, type of work and living standards as well as their own reflections on their class position and their aspirations. This is new and unique among all the empirical studies done about street vendors over the past 20 years, providing an interesting counter to the common tendency of researchers to collapse the class position of all street vendors with the petty bourgeois class of small business owners.

This book has broken new ground, and needs to be read by all activists who want to have a nuanced understand the street vendors' constituency and its activist potential. ■

## South African 2011 year plan

by Pat Horn

Following the successful completion of the WCCA campaign in South Africa after the 2010 FIFA World Cup in July last year, StreetNet has met with the following strategic partners to develop an ongoing joint programme of action for 2011.

Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)  
● to take the political lead in the establishment of a South African national alliance of street vendors with organisational & technical support from StreetNet.

South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU)  
● a lead partner in StreetNet's South African WCCA campaign from 2006 – 2010, SAMWU leaders in all provinces are facilitating the organisation of street vendors to enable them to confront the municipalities collectively.

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) – a partner in StreetNet's South African

WCCA campaign during 2009 and 2010, who opened our eyes to climate change issues and their effects on workers in the informal economy through their



Poverty & Climate Change Hearings in which StreetNet and Durban-based street vendors' organisations participated in 2009.

Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM) – a partner in StreetNet's South African WCCA campaign from 2007 – 2010, most of whose members are informal traders. AbM's constituency (shackdwellers) and StreetNet's constituency (street vendors) share a common commitment to fight against evictions of the poor from their homes in informal settlements and their workplaces on the streets, and AbM convenes a Platform Against Eviction on an annual basis.



## Programme of action:

### 1. Establishment of national alliance of street vendors

To keep up momentum before and after local government elections (expected to be before 31 May 2011) the following activities are planned:

1.1 Meeting of street vendors in KwaZulu-Natal province to draw up platform of street vendors' demands to election candidates of all political parties in Durban on 23 Feb.

1.2 Circulation of KwaZulu-Natal platform of demands to all known street vendors' organisations around the country for them to use for advocacy.

1.3 National street vendors' meeting to be convened jointly by COSATU, SAMWU and StreetNet – second half of 2011 after local government elections.

### 2. Climate change activism towards COP17

It is anticipated that a post-flood crisis will cause food prices to rise sharply after heavy floods damaged food crops all over the world in January – and this is likely to impact on street vendors who will struggle to keep their prices at levels their customers can afford.

StreetNet also supports the demands of the movements of organised waste collectors in India and Latin America to combat climate change through the recycling of waste. Their representatives will be invited to spend some days before the main events of COP17 meeting members of SDCEA and AbM in their communities exchanging experiences and organising strategies as a way of building grassroots international solidarity around the livelihood struggles of the poor against climate change.

### 3. Platform Against Eviction

Many new evictions are expected in preparations for the Durban bid for the 2020 Olympic Games. This will affect shackdwellers, street vendors and subsistence fisherpeople. StreetNet will organise street vendors' organisations to attend the Platform Against Eviction and strengthen their alliance with shackdwellers for their joint fight against evictions from homes and sites of work in public spaces. ■

Editors:

Layout: Hylton Alcock

Streetnet International,  
1008 Salmom Grove Chambers,  
407 Anton Lembede Street,  
Durban 4001 South Africa.

Telephone: 27 31 307 4038

Fax: 27 31 306 7490

Email [stnet@iafrica.com](mailto:stnet@iafrica.com)

<http://www.streetnet.org.za>





## Become a stall holder (Hacerme feriante)

**Documentary Film by Julian D'Angiolillo,  
El Nuevo Municipio, Argentina \92 minutes**

This film is a window into the operations of one of the largest markets in South America, known as La Salada, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The market is largely a wholesale market serving the Provinces of Argentina and also goods are taken from there to Bolivia and Peru. It was recently condemned by the European Union as one of the major sources of counterfeit goods in South America.

The film shows in detail the production of counterfeit CD Roms and the terrible working conditions of a sweat shop textile factory, employing migrant workers. It also documents the hard life of the stall holders and of the buyers, mainly women, who come in hundreds of coaches from the Provinces to be there as the market gates open at midnight on Thursdays and Saturdays.

The film shows a meeting called by the owners of the market to decide on the market hours and days. It also captures a discussion with the new Mayor

and his advisers who come to explain plans to build a new road alongside a river where many of the poorer traders set up stands. The Mayor's team returns later in the film to encourage the stall holders to set up service cooperatives and ends as a group of workers are using trimmers to cut grass next to the new road.

The production was filmed over a period of 4 years and the premiere took place in February 2010 in the market itself.

Oscar Silva, President of SIVARA, writes " La Salada was set up in the 1990's, by a group of business men who rented out the stalls to those who could afford to pay. At the time, we supported this initiative, thinking that the traders would be able to buy their stalls over a period and get a permanent trading place and social protection. But that never happened and instead, the area has become notorious for the many sweatshop factories, many employing undocumented migrant workers. The municipality has begun to implement an urban renovation plan designed to link the area to the West of the city and to clean up the water and banks of the Riachuelo which are very contaminated. SIVARA has been in dialogue with the municipality about work opportunities for the traders who had stands on the river banks."