



StreetNet Newsletter

No 30 NOVEMBER 2015

EDITORIAL Implementing Recommendation 204

In March 2013, the Governing Body of the ILO decided to place an item on the agendas of the 103rd and 104th sessions of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2014 and 2015, for discussion of an instrument on transitions from the informal to the formal economy. StreetNet, Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) and other sectoral networks of organisations of informal workers then sprang into action and started preparing to participate in this discussion from within the ILO Workers' Group, to secure the strongest possible ILO instrument in support of informal workers. On 12 June 2015, the new Recommendation 204 was adopted with overwhelming support in the ILC plenary.

This Recommendation has broken some important new ground. It is a victory for workers in the informal economy, which should be celebrated and pressure should be mounted on Member States to implement it. The strong rights-based approach of the Recommendation should make it a useful tool for initiating favourable formalisation processes.

Key strategic gains achieved in this Recommendation are recognition of the following:

- *Avoiding destruction of livelihoods in the process of formalisation.* In the Preamble it states "while ensuring the preservation and improvement of existing livelihoods during the transition".
- *Economic units.* This was a victory in terms of workers' language and terminology, instead of the corporate "enterprise" terminology employers advocated before the 103rd session of the ILC in 2014.
- *Own-account workers.* This consolidates the recognition of own-account workers as workers, first defined in Clause 4 of the 2002 Conclusions on Decent Work and the Informal Economy.
- *Public space.* The regulated use of public space is now recognised for the generation of livelihoods in the informal economy.

- *Natural resources.* Regulated access to natural resources used in informal economy livelihoods is recognised.
- *Cooperatives and social and solidarity economy.* This is a significant advance from previous ILO language of "social enterprises" and "social economy".

The WIEGO network delegation at the 104th session of the ILC in 2015, sat together to start planning an intensive implementation strategy, and identified the following actions:

In each country

- Report back on the Recommendation to members in organisations.
- Prepare a plan on how to take this forward in each country/sector.
- Follow up with governments as to what are they plan to do to implement the Recommendation.
- Follow up with Trade Union National Centres and work in partnership with them.
- Approach ILO country/regional offices for support of specific programmes for the kind of formalisation that workers in the informal economy want.
- Use the ILO Decent Work Country Programmes to access political support and resources for implementation of some of the measures contained in the Recommendation.
- Record all the experiences in detail for distribution and replication where possible.

Co-ordinating our efforts together

- Share plans, information and good practices regularly through WIEGO.
- Set up and share information horizontally using social media.

Pat Horn,
International Co-ordinator
StreetNet International

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ILO RECOMMENDATION 204: What do we still have to struggle for, and how will Recommendation 204 assist us? *By Pat Horn, International Co-ordinator*

As usual, we did not achieve everything we were fighting for in this Recommendation. The text of the Recommendation has not entirely solved the conceptual problems which sustain the status quo, for lack of political will to develop bold new legal or policy directions. The structural difficulties of re-vamping the established tripartite structures in most countries to make them more relevant to those (in many cases very substantial) sections of labour which they do not represent, will continue to reproduce resistance amongst those already inside the system, to the changes which are necessary. Paradoxically, it is precisely this failure to adapt these structures to be more representative of the entire labour market, which is the greatest threat to the effectiveness, relevance and ultimate long-term survival of these tripartite institutions.

So, there will be certain areas where organised informal workers will need to strive for results beyond what is contained in the Recommendation. Two very important things we are going to have to continue to struggle for are:

Direct representation in collective bargaining

Although the right to collective bargaining for all workers is unambiguously recognised in Clause 16(a), this is limited by "national practice" in Clauses 6, 34, 38 and 39, and is also limited to organisations of workers in the informal economy included "in the ranks of" the "most representative employers' and workers' organisations." The WIEGO network has been struggling through many International Labour Conference (ILC) discussions to win recognition for the unfettered right of workers in the informal economy, to direct representation and collective bargaining through their elected organisational representatives. This continues to elude us.

This is a right which is unlikely to be won in the hallowed halls of the ILC. It will have to be

appropriated by well-organised workers in the informal economy claiming it in as many countries as possible, following the example of organised workers in the formal economy who had to fight for this right in the streets from the 19th century onwards.

Local government to take responsibility for implementation of the provisions of this Recommendation

Specific mention of this level of government was thrown out on the advice of legal experts that in ILO instruments, the word "national" means "the competent authority" in terms of international legal frameworks (which work differently from national laws and which make clear the distinction in this regard). Thus it was argued that there is no need to also include the word "local." Actually, this is most likely why ILO instruments are so ineffective as far as the local government level is concerned. As a result, the Recommendation fails to underline the specific role and responsibilities of local government in providing an enabling environment for decent work in relation to many categories of workers in the informal economy.

The technical stonewall preventing ILO instruments from specifying the precise role and responsibility of local government, means that this will have to be done by organised groups of informal workers pushing the boundaries in the course of striving to achieve their collective demands for the kind of formalisation they want.

An aggressive strategy to get the Recommendation implemented in as many countries as possible, so that a ratcheting effect could be created by getting some countries trying to better the good practices established in other countries, would make it effective.

ILO Resolution 204: Strategies and actions we should consider

In each country/region

- Prioritise actions to be taken at local government level in the plan on how to take this forward in each country/sector.
- Approach local governments to inform them about the Recommendation, point out that all levels of government have to be involved in implementation and ask them what specific actions they would be willing to commit themselves to.
- Follow up with trade union centres and persuade them to work in partnership with local government programmes and actions.
- Approach ILO country/regional offices for support of specific programmes for the kind of formalisation workers in the informal economy want, including local government programmes. Get ILO offices more involved in local government programmes.
- Use the ILO Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) to access political support and resources for implementation of some of the measures contained in the Recommendation, focussing on increasing local government programmes as part of the DWCPs.

- Record all the information in detail for distribution and replication where possible.

At global level

- Approach United Cities and Local Governments (UCLGs) for support of a global programme for transitions from the informal to the formal economy and co-ordinate the efforts being initiated in the different countries.
- Utilise the opportunity of HABITAT 111 in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016 for global solidarity with social movements and trade unions in our struggles for more inclusive cities.
- Create an observatory on measures contained in the Recommendation being implemented around the world, with awards to cities with best practices, and exposure of cities engaged in abuses or distortions in the name of implementing the Recommendation.
- Publicise best practices and expose shameful practices on social media.
- Co-ordinate international solidarity to give public support to informal workers in countries where they are being penalised for being informal instead of benefitting from formalisation measures that they want.

ILO Recommendation 204 follow-up in Eastern Europe

by Oksana Abboud, StreetNet Organiser

ILO Recommendation 204 was followed up through the following events in Eastern Europe:

ITUC/PERC/ILO sub-regional women network

meeting on women and the informal economy: The ILO Moscow office, together with the ITUC PERC, organised a meeting on women and the informal economy in Kobuleti, Georgia from 15 to 17 September 2015. Twenty-six participants from 8 NIS (Newly Independent States) countries, including Moldova and Ukraine, took part in the meeting. Sister Miranda Mandaria, the President of the Self-Employed and Commercial Sector Workers Union of Georgia, a StreetNet affiliate, also attended the meeting and did a presentation about the situation and challenges for informal workers in Georgia.

The objectives of the meeting were to draft national action plans and a regional one to popularise the new ILO instrument on the informal economy. Sergeyus Glovackas, Senior Specialist in Workers' Activities, ILO Moscow Office, introduced ILO Recommendation 204, the first international labour standard that specifically addresses the issue of the informal economy. He underlined that this



Sister Miranda Mandaria at the meeting on women and the informal economy in Georgia

Recommendation provides guidance for member States to facilitate the transition of workers and economic units from the informal to the formal economy, while respecting workers' fundamental rights and ensuring opportunities for income security, livelihoods and entrepreneurship. He said it also promotes the creation, preservation and sustainability of enterprises and decent jobs in the formal economy, as well as the coherence of macroeconomic, employment, social protection and other social policies. It also prevents the informalisation of formal economy jobs.

Participants from national trade union centres from Eastern Europe and Central Asia developed the action plans, which included:

- Joining a global campaign together with the ITUC/PERC and ILO and propagating the R204;
- Drafting the national plans to implement the ILO Recommendation;
- Using the Recommendation as a guide in the organising work;
- Seeking both national and international support to promote the ILO convention; and
- Translating the Recommendation into the local languages.

The participants decided to increase their collaboration and mutual support in promotion of the ILO instrument on the informal economy, their exchange of best practices between organisations in the region and to evaluate the implementation of the national action plans.

Regional Tripartite Conference on the formalisation of the informal economy: A Regional Tripartite Conference, organised by the ILO (Budapest Office), and hosted by the Government of Montenegro, took place in Bečići, Budva, Montenegro from September 15-16, 2015. At this two-day conference, representatives from the ILO, participating Ministers and representatives from Governments, workers' and employers' organisations from 16 countries, including Ukraine and Moldova, exchanged experiences and formulated coherent and tailored policies and programmes to boost the fight against informality in the region.

The international financial crisis has forced a number of European countries to criticise the lack of protection in the labour market of the region, and clearly recognise that the informal economy is the main issue to be addressed by clear and well-coordinated actions.

These and other issues were a red thread at the regional conference on the transition from the informal to the formal economy.

Petru Ciriac, Vice-President of the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova (CNSM), also attended the conference. He emphasised the efforts of StreetNet International towards the development and adoption of ILO Recommendation 204, as well as the participation of CNSM affiliate Moldova-Business-Sind, in dealing with the formalisation issue in Moldova.

The results of the Regional Conference debates included the adoption of some resolutions which will serve to guide the countries of this region, to action for transition of the informal economy in the legal field.

It was the first of several regional events which form part of a global follow-up to the adoption of ILO Recommendation 204,

Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy. National Campaign on informal economy reduction in Kyrgyzstan: The National Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan, has already started implementing its action plan on tackling the issue of the informal economy in the country. A national campaign on informal economy reduction, based on the newly-adopted ILO Recommendation 204, is planned for a period of two years. The Trade Union of Commerce, a StreetNet affiliate from Kyrgyzstan, also participates in the above-mentioned campaign.

Recommendation 204 and Social Security Protection for Informal Workers in Sierra Leone

by Aaron A Boima

For a long time, Sierra Leone's Ministry of Labour and the main trade union centre SLLC, had put much pressure on informal economy workers organising into trade unions. The introduction of Recommendation 204 in January 2015 thus came at an opportune time and was an advantage for them. The Joint National Negotiations Board (JNNB), a tripartite body which regulates minimum wages, work hours and workers' other conditions of work, came up with a national minimum wage for all workers. This was in line with the President's agenda for prosperity for all. The Ministry of Labour is very committed to implementing its recommendation and enforcing compliance with it. The minimum wage is set at 500,000 leone (\$100).

Currently there are 10 unions of informal economy workers. These include the Sierra Leone Traders Union (SLETU), the Commercial Motorbike Riders Union, and

the Motor Drivers Union. In 2013 they undertook a street campaign calling on government and the ministry responsible for social security protection to review a 2001 law on this, so that such protection is extended to informal economy workers. Aaron A Boima, co-ordinator for informal economy organisations, met with the Director-General, Deputy Director-General and senior staff of the labour congress to discuss social security protection for informal economy workers.

This issue is being treated with urgency. A programme for conducting a survey of informal economy workers was implemented between 10 September and 21 October 2015. The programme reflected key elements of R204 ie creating widespread awareness nationwide, in districts and towns about the need to have social security protection. The institution responsible for this, the National Social Security Insurance Trust (NASSIT) is working around the clock to make this real. As part of its work, it intends looking at countries with the best social security protection schemes and will undertake study trips to about 4-5 countries from among Tanzania, Brazil, India, Mexico, Thailand, the Philippines and South Africa, for this purpose.

Cities Alliance visits Liberia with StreetNet International

by Sibailly M Douhoure, StreetNet Organiser

A delegation of Cities Alliance, which has its head offices in Brussels, Belgium, visited Liberia from 20 - 28 September 2015. Its purpose was to form partnerships with the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC), the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) and local organisations such as the National Petty Traders Union of Liberia (NAPETUL) and the Slum Dwellers Association of Liberia, and other stakeholders.

The Cities Alliance delegation was headed by Omar Siddique, a senior urban specialist. Federico Silva, a senior programme officer and Susanna Henderson, a partnership officer, were also present.

Other delegates included both the deputy manager, Skye Dobson, and programme officer Mara Forbes, of Slum Dwellers International, Cape Town, South Africa, and Sarah Nandudu of AcTogether, Kampala, Uganda. Jake Zarins, Associate Director (Disaster Risk Reduction and Response) represented Habitat for Humanity International which is based in London in the United Kingdom.

Independent assessor Hugh Goyder of Comic Relief, London, United Kingdom, and Melanie Walker, senior advisor to the president of the World Bank, Washington DC, USA were also members of the visiting delegation. Representing StreetNet International, was Sibailly M. Douhoure, organiser for its Africa region, who is from Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

The delegation held discussions with the Mayor of Monrovia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other stakeholders about the aims and objectives of Cities Alliance in several countries around the world. The Mayor expressed gratitude to the team for

coming to Liberia with the purpose of forming partnerships with the city government to improve the living condition of slum dwellers and informal sector workers in Liberia.

Mr. Omar Siddique pointed out that Cities Alliance is a global partnership for the promotion of cities and development of countries. It works with community-based and informal sector organisations, as well as with city and national governments to bring about long-term change. He stressed that Cities Alliance will be partnering with NAPETUL in Liberia, to support decent work and living standards for street vendors in the country, as well as to strengthen their activities. NAPETUL chairperson, Madam Comfort T. Doryen, underscored this when she said that Cities Alliance will sponsor a five-year project to enhance street vending in Liberia.

Madam Doryen also pointed out that the NAPETUL partnership with StreetNet International and its partner WIEGO, will encourage Cities Alliance to work along with NAPETUL to develop vending. The support of international partners will improve street vending, she noted, and will improve the living standard of street vendors in Liberia.

She stressed that street vendors are contributing towards the growth and development of the Liberian economy. Street vending, she stated, is a global activity which builds the financial base of the informal economy.

The delegation later toured the principal streets of Monrovia and talked with street vendors about vending in Liberia and some of the challenges confronting them. They also visited the city of Paynesville and spoke with street vendors about working together to develop street vending in Liberia.



Inaugural meeting. From left to right: Sibailly M. Douhoure, (StreetNet Organiser), Comfort T. Doryen (Chairperson of NAPETUL), Federico Silva (Cities Alliance) and Monrovia City mayor, Mayor Mvogo



The delegates visited the Red Light Market Paynesville City and had a brief discussion with the chapter leaders of NAPETUL

StreetNet in the Americas *by Pat Horn, International Co-ordinator*

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The annual regional workshop which we have held each year since 2013 in a different region, was organised this year in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 4 – 6 August 2015. The purpose of these workshops is to obtain a detailed understanding of how each affiliate in the region is operating - both their internal functioning and impact on policy in their country, and developing a record of results achieved by affiliates in the different countries in each region on current StreetNet priorities, i.e. inclusive urban policies, collective negotiations forums at local government level, social protection floors, participatory litigation strategies and campaigns.

The workshop was hosted very efficiently by StreetNet's affiliate FOTSSIEH (Federación de Organizaciones del Sector Social y Informal de la Economía de Honduras) assisted by SINTRALOC (Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Independientes Ambulantes del Transporte y Anexos) which is currently carrying out a four-year rotational mandate as StreetNet's Regional Focal Point for the Americas.

Eleven of StreetNet's 14 affiliates in the Americas attended the workshop: from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela. Most unfortunately, StreetNet's affiliates from Colombia, the Dominican Republic and United States were absent.

The workshop covered the following:

1. Advances and achievements of StreetNet and the Regional Focal point of the Americas;
2. Internal functioning of each organisation by country;
3. Informal economy and Social Protection Floors in the Americas;
4. Process of transition from the informal to the formal economy;
5. Analysis of StreetNet's proposed constitutional amendment for a Youth Committee;
6. Presentation on informal cross-border trade;
7. Revision of the Action Plan for 2015 – 2016 of the Regional Focal Point of the Americas.

The workshop was facilitated by a facilitator each from FOTSSIEH and SINTRALOC, using participatory methods, including group work and plenary discussions. The International Coordinator attended the workshop, and gave a presentation about the progress of StreetNet International since the launch in November 2002, and the development of an organisational strategy for informal cross-

border traders in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, in which StreetNet is involved with a view to extending this work to other regions.

FIELD VISIT

After the workshop, the StreetNet International Coordinator conducted field visits by road transport, accompanied and guided by Eugenio Rodriguez, General Secretary of FOTSSIEH, to meet members of StreetNet's affiliates in neighbouring countries El Salvador and Guatemala, as well as to visit members of FOTSSIEH in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa in Honduras, from 7 – 14 August.

This enabled us to meet the leadership and ordinary members of our affiliates FESTIVES in El Salvador, FENTRAVIG in Guatemala, and FOTSSIEH in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, Honduras. All reported that they had benefited from capacity-building opportunities provided by StreetNet, which they had taken advantage of during the time StreetNet had funds for this from the Gates Foundation until the end of 2014. In Honduras however, we became aware that the members in Tegucigalpa had not yet had as much opportunity as those in San Pedro Sula, and face challenges in their ability to defend their members in the tough environment of the capital city, particularly since the overthrow of the progressive government which had previously been in power.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Central American regional offices of the Solidarity Centre of the AFL-CIO in Guatemala, introduced by our affiliate FENTRAVIG. The Solidarity Centre is working with our affiliates in Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua to strengthen organisation in the informal economy. It is also willing to work with our affiliates in El Salvador and Honduras, and this has already been followed up by the General Secretary of FOTSSIEH on his return to Honduras.

MUNICIPAL NEGOTIATIONS FORUMS

An interesting new development in the Central American region is a three-country initiative by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to establish municipal negotiations forums in two cities in each of three countries – Honduras (Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula), El Salvador (Santa Tecla and San Salvador) and Costa Rica (San José, Desamparados). Our affiliate FOTSSIEH is involved in both city forums in Honduras, while affiliate FESTIVES is involved in the forum in San Salvador. This is an important opportunity for the development of new forms of collective bargaining

for street vendors and informal traders, in line with ILO Recommendation 204 on transitions from the informal to the formal economy.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF STREET VENDORS IN BRAZIL

StreetNet has been working for more than 10 years to coordinate existing street vendors' organisations into a nationally representative affiliate organisation in Brazil, the largest country on the South American continent. In 2004, StreetNet met representatives of CUT-SP (São Paulo) in Lima. In 2007, CUT Brazil hosted the Second StreetNet International Council. StreetNet developed relationships with CUT's national departments of Organising and Education, as well as the International Department and ADS (*Agência de Desenvolvimento Solidário*). StreetNet and different departments in CUT started talks about working together to establish a national organisational structure to represent workers in the informal economy.

In 2011 StreetNet conducted national research

to map the street vendors' organisations in 10 of the Host Cities for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. This research produced detailed information about street vendors' organisations throughout the country, and a national meeting of street vendors was held in November 2011 when a WCCA campaign plan towards the 2014 FIFA World Cup was developed. The second national meeting was held in São Paulo in February 2013 to start discussing the establishment of a national alliance of street vendors in Brazil. This was followed up by monthly virtual meetings between the street vendors' organisations in the 10 cities around the country, which led to the setting up of an independent national committee (*Comissão Nacional de Ambulantes*) for the establishment of the national alliance. Two national meetings held in Belo Horizonte and Recife, took place in May and November 2014 respectively, by means of resources raised in Brazil. A time-frame for the establishment of the national alliance was charted after a national workshop to finalise the constitution. This took place in Manaus in July 2015.



Participants at the regional workshop of the Americas in San Pedro Sula, Honduras



Meeting with members of FESTIVES in their office in San Salvador during the field visit



FENTRAVIG members at work in Guatemala during the field visit.



Street vendors from 10 Brazilian states met to prepare for the establishment of a national alliance of street vendors in Brazil

Promoting participation, bargaining and formalisation for informal workers in Tanzania and Zimbabwe

by Sibailly M Douhoure, *StreetNet Organiser*

Background

A consultative meeting was held between the Solidarity Centre AFL-CIO, ZCIEA, TUICO and StreetNet International from the 7 - 10 September 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The meeting aimed at planning a roadmap towards promoting a new programme around participation, bargaining, and formalisation for urban informal workers in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. As such, it is part of the global project for upholding internationally recognised labour rights for these workers.

Participants

Participants at this meeting were:

- representatives of the participating unions ie the Tanzanian Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers (TUICO) and the Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations (ZCIEA).
- StreetNet International Coordinator, Pat Horn and the Regional Organiser for Africa, Sibailly Douhoure.
- The Solidarity Centre's Regional Programme Director for Africa, Imani Countess, well as key field personnel implementing the programme.

About StreetNet International

Pat Horn and Sibailly Douhoure presented the background and history of StreetNet International and explained its constitution to delegates. They made it clear that the South Africa-based organisation is a global one which promotes freedom of association amongst street and market vendors.

About TUICO and its Operating Environment

The Assistant General Secretary of TUICO, Jones Majura, delivered a presentation about its background history and information to enable participants understand its operating environment. Jones described the nature of the work TUICO is currently doing. He informed them that they have submitted a proposal for a negotiating forum for the municipality of Dar Es Salaam. The proposed name for this forum is Dar Es Salaam Informal Workers

Negotiation Forum (DIWNF). This negotiating forum will include the street vendors, informal market vendors and bottle collectors.

About ZCIEA and its Operating Environment

Wisborn Malaya, the Secretary-General of the Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations (ZCIEA), explained that it is a national membership-driven organisation representing informal traders' associations in Zimbabwe. The organisation is made up of self-employed and informal employees engaged in small unregistered or un-incorporated enterprises, and undeclared workers. ZCIEA was therefore formed with the vision of creating decent living standards for all Zimbabweans in a stable economy. It is also driven by its mission to alleviate poverty, through transforming informal economy activities into mainstream ones.

About Solidarity Centre

Imani Countess, Hanad Mohamud and Peter Hardie informed participants about the Solidarity Centre, the nature of its work and how it works with partners in various countries.

StreetNet education sessions

StreetNet Coordinator Pat Horn, and its Organiser for Africa and Education, Sibailly Douhoure, led participants in three educative sessions on collective bargaining, becoming familiar with educational materials and the formalisation of the informal economy. The details of these sessions are set out below.

Collective Bargaining

Pat Horn led the participants in a session on collective bargaining. Participants were tasked with activities to discuss and to compare the differences between negotiating in the informal economy and formal economy collective bargaining. They were also required to identify and list some common principles shared by informal and formal economy negotiating. One of their tasks was to develop a step-by-step negotiating strategy to resolve problems, in given scenarios.

Becoming Familiar with Educational Materials

The session on becoming familiar with educational materials was led by both Pat Horn and Sibailly Douhoure. Douhoure outlined and explained the various educational materials that Streetnet uses, and the information in them.

Formalisation of Informal Economy

Pat Horn led participants in a discussion about the formalisation of the informal economy. Participants contributed their views on what it means to transform the informal economy into the formal economy. They were divided into groups which worked on various tasks, including analysing the strengths and weaknesses, and similarities and differences between the ILO recommendations on the transition from the informal to the formal economy, and the WIEGO network platform on the transition to formalisation.

Programme Implementation

The Africa Region Director of the Solidarity Centre AFL- CIO, Imani Countess, presented a summary of the programme to the participants, informing them

of its goal, main objectives and the expectations of each organisation in its successful implementation. After this, she also explained the use and importance of a RACI (responsibility assignment) matrix in the assigning of roles and tasks in the programme's implementation.

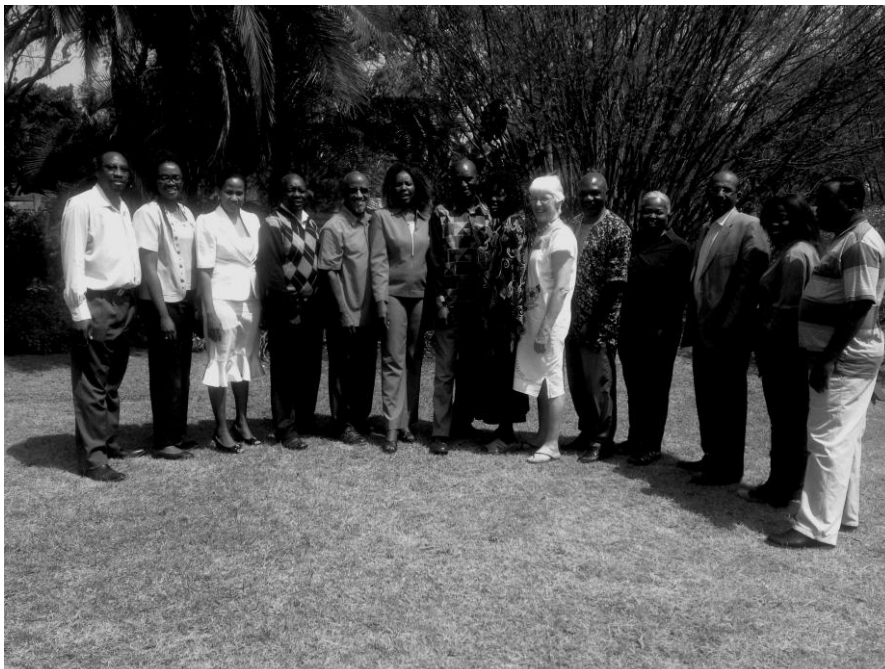
Monitoring and Evaluation

Valindra Chaparadza, Programmes Officer of the Solidarity Centre office in Zimbabwe, delivered a presentation on monitoring and evaluation, explaining what these are and highlighting their importance as well as their use.

Meeting evaluation and closure

At the end of the meeting, Imani Countess led participants in a reflection session during which everyone shared their experiences of the meeting, reflected on the expectations they had on the first day, and whether these were met or not.

Finally, participants exchanged solidarity speeches in team spirit, and the meeting ended with a photo-shoot. To cap everything, the Solidarity Centre hosted a cocktail evening with invited guests from partner organisations, the US Embassy, ILO and other CSOs, in celebration of the beginning of this informal economy programme.



Participants at the meeting held between the Solidarity Centre AFL-CIO, ZCIEA, TUICO and StreetNet International from 7 - 10 September 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe

Recent activities of the FLOW project in Africa and Asia

by Sibailly M Douhoure & Oksana Abboud, StreetNet Organisers

Field visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo

Between the 4-12 October 2015, Sibailly Douhoure, a Streetnet International organiser, made field visits to Kinshasa and the provinces of Kananga and Kisantu to follow up on the recommendations of the project's first seminar held from the 23-25 August 2013. This visit was intended to see what work was being done on the ground after the seminar.

Earlier in 2011, StreetNet International had started developing a strategy for the establishment of an alliance of street vendors in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This work began with the collection of data for setting up a database of existing organisations of vendors in the country. Later, with the support of the FLOW project, StreetNet held a seminar in Kinshasa from the 23-25 August 2013. The participants of the seminar mainly considered the essential criteria for the establishment of a National Alliance of Street Vendors. A provisional committee was established to implement the recommendations over the next two years.

The field trips to the different areas of the DRC, enabled Douhoure to note the following activities:

- A brochure was published to disseminate information on the alliance of vendors. This brochure was distributed in Kinshasa, but has not yet been distributed in the provinces.

- The draft constitution of the National Alliance is under discussion. The interim committee has already received proposed amendments from Kinshasa, and awaits further such proposals from the provinces, to finalise the constitution.
- The National Association of Vendors of Congo (SNVC) organised visits to two urban markets of Kinshasa on the 9 October 2015, on behalf of the emerging alliance. It did this with the participation of the CSC, CFSA and UNTC national trade union centres. Angélique Kipulu, President of the Alliance Coordinating Committee, addressed the guests and members present during both visits.
- Periodic meetings have been organised in Kinshasa between organisations that are involved in the establishment of the alliance: UNTC, CSC, CDT, SNVC, CFSA, and FECO. An exception is ASSOVACO (in the Kivu region of the east) because of its remoteness from Kinshasa.
- Communication remains difficult for several provinces, because of the size of the DRC.
- The second seminar of the alliance is scheduled to take place from the 12-14 November 2015. The participation of most provinces, if possible, should provide a national base for the alliance.



Left and right: The FLOW meeting in the DRC discussed the national alliance process

Setting up of work plan to improve the management of FAINATRASIT / Togo

FAINATRASIT ran four FLOW project activities in 2014 and 2015. During a seminar which was held on the 18-19 August 2015 in the city of Tsivié which is about 40 km from Lomé, its leaders developed a work plan to improve its management. They intend forming a technical committee to prepare and hold a General Meeting by 2016 at the latest. The seminar also discussed the poor functioning of the Regional Focal Point. Thirty-three people, including 22 women, participated in the work of this important seminar on management.



Opening ceremony at the FLOW seminar in Togo



FAINTRASIT association members at the FLOW meeting

FAINATRASIT is an organisation of 23 associations in the informal economy, mainly comprising musicians, tailors, hairdressers, jewellers, street and market vendors, electricians, sculptors, carpenters, and masons. It has a total membership of 55,000 members.

KOSC Policy Workshop in Korea

KOSC, the StreetNet affiliate from South Korea, held its second Policy Workshop from the 13-14 October 2015, in Kyeonggi-do, supported by StreetNet International as set out in the framework of the FLOW Project. Twenty-seven women leaders and other members of KOSC, participated in this activity. Mr. Santosh Kumar Malviya, SEWA

Academy Coordinator from Madhya Pradesh in India, facilitated the workshop. Its goal was to strengthen Korean street vendors' capacity to participate in the development of inclusive urban policies. This time, the focus was on women. The participants of this workshop did the following:

- discussed the Special Regulating Policy on Street Vendors (SRPSV) in Seoul and other municipalities;
- analysed the effects of policy changes on street vendors in all municipalities including Seoul;
- collected the opinions of women street vendors, which would contribute towards the formulation of a street vending law;
- conducted a participatory needs assessment and discussed how to convert these needs into demands for negotiation;
- discussed the negotiation examples of India and negotiation strategies for KOSC.

The policies of municipalities, including those of Seoul, still do not recognise street vendors' rights. Street vendors are treated as criminals and are the targets of street crackdowns by police. Formal dialogue with the relevant authorities is difficult to establish.

Participants discussed policies including the SRPSV, and most of them made it clear that they should fight for these. It has to be acknowledged that due to the FLOW Project, KOSC has started to promote women's leadership and their inclusion in developing urban policies and negotiation strategies.



Above and below: KOSC held its second policy workshop

SYTRIECI OF RWANDA IS ACCEPTED BY STREETNET INTERNATIONAL FAMILY

by Sibailly Douhoure, StreetNet Organiser

SYTRIECI, the Syndicat des travailleurs independants de l'economie informelle, was accepted as an affiliate of StreetNet International in March 2015. It is a trade union for independent workers of the informal economy, which was founded on the 23rd February 2014 at Kigali, Rwanda.

It has both men and women members who sell articles on the roadside, since they do not

have places at the public market where they can ply their trade.

SYTRIECI engages in many activities. These include advocacy for creating local mini-markets and encouraging vendors to be loyal to these; vocational training in income-generating activities such as tailoring as well as on saving, entrepreneurship, and human rights. It also trains on growing and managing small projects.



SYTRIECI has begun to organise street vendors in Rwanda



Informal traders are forced to trade on the roadside

SEWA implementation of ILO Recommendation 204

by Manali Shah, SEWA National Secretary

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) has taken the following steps in India, to implement ILO Recommendation 204, "Transition from the Informal to Formal Economy":

1. Spread awareness among worker members regarding ILO Recommendation 204.
2. Published a brief summary of the two-year process in which WIEGO and StreetNet were intensively involved in getting Recommendation 204 adopted by the ILO (after two International Labour Conference discussions in 2014 and 2015) in simplified

local language, in its fortnightly magazine *Ansooya*.

3. Approached the Labour Minister and Labour Secretary of the Government of India, through representative and personal meetings, to hold tripartite consultative meetings, for implementation of the Recommendation. SEWA has received a positive and encouraging response from Government.
4. Held a meeting with ILO India, to discuss the way forward for implementation of ILO Recommendation 204 in India.