



**STREETNET
INTERNATIONAL
GLOBAL
AFFILIATES'
REPORT
2021-2022**

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WHO WE ARE

We are **StreetNet International**, a global alliance of street vendors, informal market vendors, informal cross-border traders and hawkers founded in 2002. On November 14, 2022, we celebrated our 20th anniversary. We are an affiliate-based organization, meaning that our governance as well as our financial sustainability are directly linked to the support of affiliate organizations around the world. **StreetNet affiliates are membership-based trade unions, associations, collectives, formal and informal, representing and advocating for the rights of street vendors.**

Street vendors are part of the broader category of informal economy workers. **The informal economy, or informal sector, is defined as the diversified set of economic activities that are not protected by the state: from small unregistered enterprises to wage employment in unprotected jobs.** According to statistics from Women In Informal Economy Globalising and Organising (WIEGO), it makes up over 60% of the global workforce. The concept originally applied to self-employment in small unregistered enterprises. It has been expanded to include wage employment in unprotected jobs.



Street vendor in Dakar, Senegal, 2022. Photo by Marta Moreiras.

Our structure

StreetNet was founded in Durban, South Africa and has since its inception been driven forward by a leadership representing grassroots membership-based organizations mainly from the Global South. The governance structure reflects both the geographic diversity of our membership and the democratic values fostered by the alliance.



StreetNet International Council members and staff in Accra, Ghana, 2022.

Our supreme governing body is the **International Congress**, composed of delegates of each organization. The International Congress comes together every four years and elects the **International Council**, composed of 11 elected representatives, plus the president and the vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. Moreover, there is the **Executive Committee**, a sub-structure of the council, which is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. Throughout its history, we have always promoted women leadership as well as young people's inclusion in democratic processes. By constitution, **at least 50% of the International Council has to be composed of women.**

We also have Regional Focal Points for each of the **five macro-regions** where it is operational: West and Central Africa, South and Eastern Africa, Asia, Americas, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Our office is based in Durban, South Africa, but our staff works remotely from different regions in the world. Our staff is composed of one International coordinator, responsible for the global activities; regional organizers for each region; Admin & Finance team; Media and Communication team and specialized consultants on issues such as legal protection & labor law and advocacy.

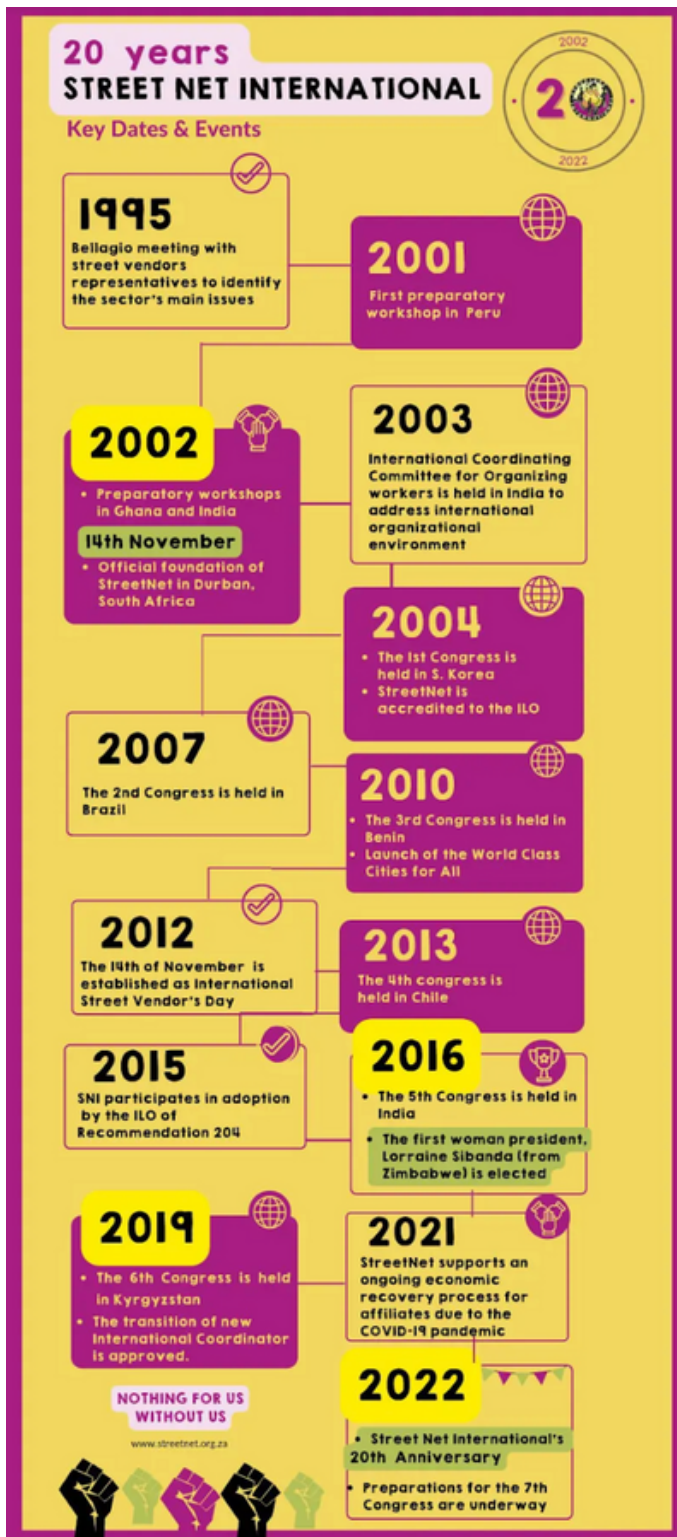
StreetNet engages in advocacy work, global communication and global media exposure, workers' education activities, global campaigns of awareness-raising of the rights of informal economy workers, analysis on policies and maintains various communication channels among affiliates on the ground, our global leadership and our staff.



StreetNet for me is the most democratic and transparent international alliance, setting noble goals, such as the protection of social and labor rights of million of citizens in the world.

Jamaladdin Ismayiliov | StreetNet Secretary | Xhidmat-ISH, Azerbaijan

A brief history of StreetNet



In 20 years of existence, StreetNet has already achieved a lot, from the first meeting of street vendors' representatives in Bellagio, Italy, in 1995.

Founding International Coordinator Pat Horn, the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), along with other key partners and worker leaders from across the world, were instrumental in the creation of StreetNet.

Ever since our foundation in 2002, we have continued to grow steadily. At our first Congress in 2004, we had thirteen organizations present and now have over 50 affiliates.

The commitment to women's leadership throughout the years also resulted in the election of the first woman President, Lorraine Sibanda from Zimbabwe, in 2016.

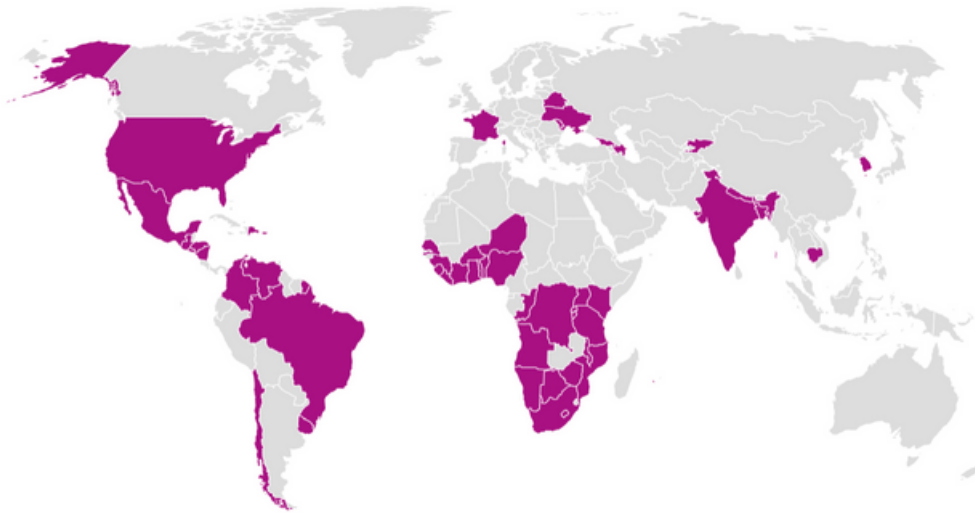


As StreetNet International, it is our pride to say we have continued to represent these workers. We will continue to demand expansion of social protection and other rights for these workers, so that at the end of the day we can achieve decent work for all!

Lorraine Sibanda | President of StreetNet | ZCIEA - Zimbabwe

Our membership

According to our affiliates' registries of 2021, we currently represent **663.926 members, from 57 organizations in 51 countries**. Most of our affiliated organizations are in Africa, but we also have members in the Americas, Asia and Europe.



Membership

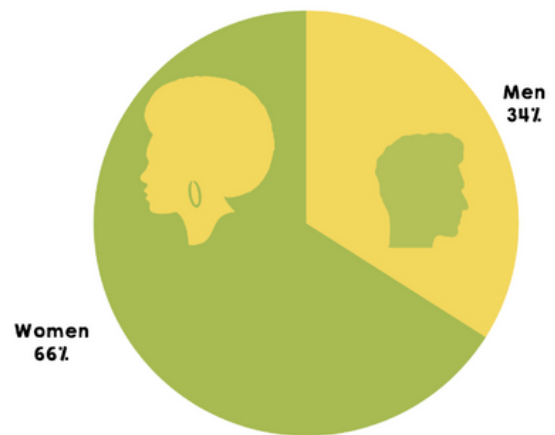
There was a decrease in the total number of members of StreetNet International which we understand to be related to the Covid-19 crisis. This global crisis strongly affected the organizational capacity of the affiliates. The decrease was more intensely perceived in the Southern and Eastern Africa region, which had an important drop in membership figures, going from 275.062 in 2020 to 230.550 in 2021. The Americas region also observed a decrease (went to 92.575 and in 2020 there were 98.117 members registered). Asia also saw a sharp decrease, (registered 33.044 and in 2020 had 61.480 members registered), due to decrease of members of our Indian affiliate SEWA (50.000 in 2020 for 21.000 in 2021). However, other Asian affiliates such as IDEA (Cambodia) & NEST (Nepal) have reported an increase in their numbers.

We must also note that the membership of the West and Central Africa region increased to 271.092 members, even considering the important loss of 20.000 members (the case of our Nigerian affiliate, FIWON). In Europe and Central Asia there was also a slight increase (from 36.223 to 36.665), mostly related to the affiliation of a new organization from France, Association AMELIOR.

The role of women, youth and the challenges ahead

Women make up the majority of StreetNet International - up to 66% of the total membership. Unfortunately, only 62% of leadership positions are held by women.

Unlike previous years, when most of the organizations didn't present disaggregated data, there was a significant increase in the number of affiliates that reported an estimation of the youth membership, allowing us to estimate that **36% of the total membership of StreetNet is composed of young people.**



The mere fact of being able to make demands and pleas for these women at all levels of government is a source of pride for me, despite all the difficulties I encounter.

Annie Diouf | StreetNet Treasurer | CNTS - Senegal

Internal democracy as a key value

Ensuring internal democracy is a key concern for us. Most of our affiliates held their General Assembly, Congress and Conference within due time and are currently carrying out their mandates or are about to hold their Congresses. However, a significant number of affiliates had to postpone their scheduled democratic processes due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these cases organizations planned to hold their congresses in 2022 or in the following years. Ensuring due diligence processes and democratic governance of the organization at each level of its operation is also on StreetNet daily agenda.

What is the StreetNet constituency and how do members identified themselves?

Among the predominant designations members refer to themselves are: street vendors, the most used, followed by market vendors, self-employed or self-account workers, informal sector workers and small (or small-scale) entrepreneurs. The terminology is important to strengthen our advocacy efforts and to improve the representation and recognition of our members to highlight their belonging to the working class.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE WORK OF OUR AFFILIATES

We present an overview of the work of our affiliates on the ground, focusing on the key areas of development, advocacy and human & workers' rights prioritized by StreetNet. This snapshot is based on their responses regarding activities for 2021.

Advocacy for decent work and labor rights

Holding dialogue with Public Power

Negotiations with public power were held at the national and local levels. The negotiations were mostly regarding the **right to work on public spaces** with affordable licensing, worthy work conditions and ending criminalization of street vending, referring constantly to the work towards legislation and agreements that ensure **street vendors' workers' rights, social and legal protection** as well as integrated approach to formalization. Also **affiliates worked for food security, economic support and vaccination and prevention campaigns** in order to cushion the Covid-19 impact.

Improvements on street vendor's rights

Many organizations reported concerning setbacks in the countries. These included the **deterioration in living conditions, increase of violence and persecution, lack of recognition and regulation, harmful legislation and exclusion from the labor rights legal framework**. However, there were still significant **achievements and advances** regarding **urban planning, public power providing work spaces/licenses/inclusion of street vendors for vending, access to basic income grants and Covid-19 relief packages, some reduction in police harassment in some areas, as well as registration that ensures access to social protection**.



StreetNet provides tools for organising, to search for the support and solidarity that street vendors need all over the world. Together, we can go further.

Alberto Santana | StreetNet Vice-President | FUTTEINCO - Dominican Republic

Progress regarding ILO instruments that affect street vendors: R204, R206 and C190

There were reports that processes of implementation of ILO instruments underway before the pandemic are being resumed and that governments are feeling more pressured to implement these instruments. A big challenge, however, is the lack of information and education regarding these ILO legal instruments. Some progresses reported include the **creation of R204 platforms to simplify business licensing and for tax simplification, introduction of informal economy workers to Social Security schemes, more government policies to combat sexual harassment, ratification by some countries of the ILO C190, construction of markets, among others.**

ILO Recommendation 204

It includes 12 guiding principles to support a gradual formalization of the informal economy, promote the economic inclusion of workers, recognize the fundamental rights of all workers, foster an entrepreneurial spirit and cooperatives' creation as well as contribute to Decent Work, social dialogue and civic participation.

ILO Convention 190

Recognises the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, prioritise gender-sensitive assessments. We must plan, implement, monitor and evaluate all our organizations' interventions to make sure they are effective liaise with international donors and like-minded organizations so that they can support interventions that get results for our members and informal economy workers generally.

ILO Recommendation 206

It is a supplement non-binding instrument to the Convention 190 which is aimed at promoting the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining at all levels as a means of preventing and addressing violence and harassment and, to the extent possible, mitigating the impact of domestic violence in the world of work

Progress regarding the New Urban Agenda (NUA)

A few affiliates reported new urban planning including street vendors and inclusion of the affiliates on urban policies implemented. **Overall, however, the challenges in this domain are related to the awareness raising of the New Urban Agenda both at the level of StreetNet membership and at the level of public power officials.**



New Urban Agenda

It is the United Nations' program that links sustainable urbanization and job creation, livelihood opportunities and improved quality of life. It insists on incorporation of all these sectors in every urban development or renewal policy and strategy and feeds the implementation process of the SDGs.

Licensing/policy process for street vendors or inclusive urban planning

Restrictive measures were established in many cities due to COVID-19, preventing street vendors from working. **Few affiliates reported being included and participating in planning and defining public space and in right to the city and decent work public policies** (which could include, for example street vendors licensing and/or inclusion in the urban planning or in the social protection system).

Inclusion of informal traders in the social security system or Covid-19 aid

Some of our affiliates reported that street vendors are or were recently included in the social security system, access to public funds and State assistance related to Covid-19 pandemic. There were many reports of discussions on inclusion of informal economy workers in the social security system in a few countries. **To have the issue on the public agenda in a great number of countries demonstrates an important progress on the matter.** However, the majority of affiliates reported the inexistence of social security for the informal economy workers, no satisfactory progress on the matter and only the existence of unaffordable self-employment contributions. We must also note that access to public services is often considered by most affiliates to mean access to the social security system.

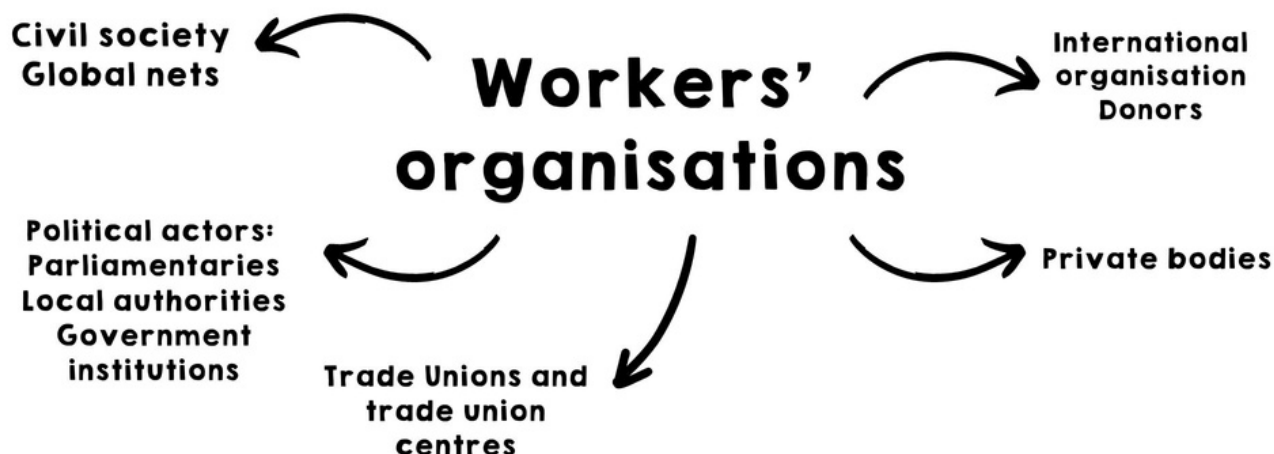
What the organizations did in 2021 in defense of their members

Many of our affiliates organizations conducted **advocacy at the municipal and national levels, invested in mobilization and strategic alliances to propose, approve and implement legislation in defense of street vendors workers' rights and to stop criminalization of our work and regressive policies.** In addition, they also invested in **internal capacity building work, largely funded by StreetNet Economic Recovery Program activities,** as well as renewal of leadership structures. Affiliates developed trainings, seminars and workshops about collective bargaining, social dialogue, institutional communication, internal conflict management, prevention of COVID-19 and other illnesses; Covid-19 relief action; income generation and accessible credit projects; recruitment and organizing work; communication, campaigns and media outreach.

Main alliances and allies of our members

The main alliances affiliates reported are with other street vendors organizations and coalitions, informal economy workers organizations and networks, trade unions, trade union centrals and committees, civil society organizations and networks, social movements, international cooperation actors and donors, parliamentarians, various government departments and institutions, private sector bodies. **StreetNet and also WIEGO were mentioned by our affiliated organization as their main allies.**

Affiliates and their main alliances



Challenges and limitations

The main challenges and concerns faced in 2021 by our affiliates were **structural issues** related to the Covid-19 pandemic, such as the public health measures, illness and death of several leaders, lockdowns which prevented them from working and organizing, the challenge of economic recovery, the economic vulnerability, loss of capital and job loss of members, the reactivation and take-off of the economic activities of members, and the urgent need of resources that allow members to ensure their livelihoods. In addition, some national contexts also dealt with conflicts, shifts in government and anti-associative practices from government that did not allow local meetings to be held. Our affiliated organizations also highlighted the deterioration of working conditions, environmental pollution of markets and natural disasters as structural issues.

Regarding **advocacy**, our affiliates had challenges with the lack of inclusion of self-employed workers in social security systems and the non-recognition of their rights on the labor legislation, as well as difficulty in approving legislation that defend street vendors workers' rights and in dialoguing and having the commitment of the public power. Affiliates also had to deal with opposition groups who oppose and lobby against street vendors rights as they struggled to defend the rights of street vendors, the stability of their work posts, and regulate and implement public policies. In many countries, criminalizing laws, constant loss of goods, evictions and harassment of authorities were a daily reality.

At the **organizational level**, our affiliates also struggled with internal weaknesses in management capacity, education, negotiation, communication and fundraising skills; facing internal instability; lack of unity (disintegration) among informal economy players/ organizations for a united strong voice; lack of funds; reduction in membership and in membership fees payment; the challenge of leadership apathy; and difficulty in establishing direct contact with street vendors to conduct educational programs.



Market vendors in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2022. Photo by Enric Català.

OUR FINANCIAL CAPACITY

At the moment, StreetNet is at a very good position in terms of financial capacity. We received a new 5-year Grant from the Ford Foundation in 2021, which is administratively jointly managed by our partner WIEGO. **This grant is focused mainly on sustainability and development of StreetNet at all its levels of operation and support.** Therefore, our current priority is to ensure the sustainability of StreetNet and our affiliates at all levels.

OUR MAIN FUNDING PARTNERS



During 2021 and 2022, we also had two more grants from the **Open Society Foundation (OSF)** as an **Emergency Grant** and a **Core funds grant** for the Project on Cross-Border Trade, finalizing in December 2022.

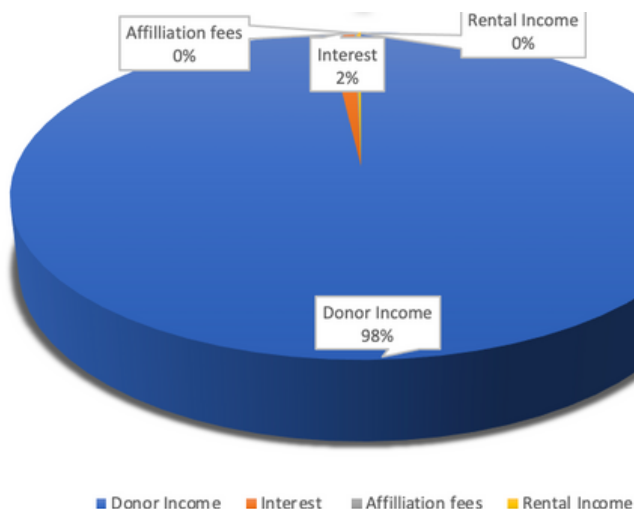
The **Emergency Grant** assisted us to strengthen StreetNet internal capacity and communication, website development and other media production. All StreetNet affiliates had an opportunity to receive emergency support for their country proposals on Economic Recovery plans as a way to deal with the negative impacts of the Covid pandemic.

In addition, we are also currently funded by **SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**, until March 2023 with a strong likelihood to start a new 4-year project cycle in April 2023.

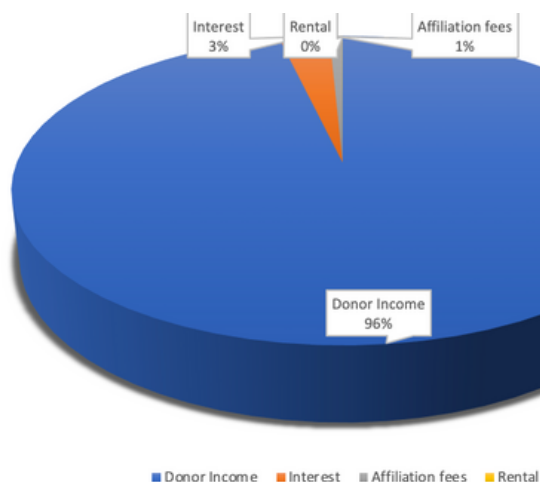
We have also finalized our administrative arrangements for **a new 5-year cycle project with OXFAM-Belgium (2022-2026)**, which will continue to focus on three countries in the South East Asian region. It will open for StreetNet a strategic partnership and a big potential for StreetNet extension in Asia. Below is the expenses and income breakdown for the years 2021 and 2022.

Our income

2021

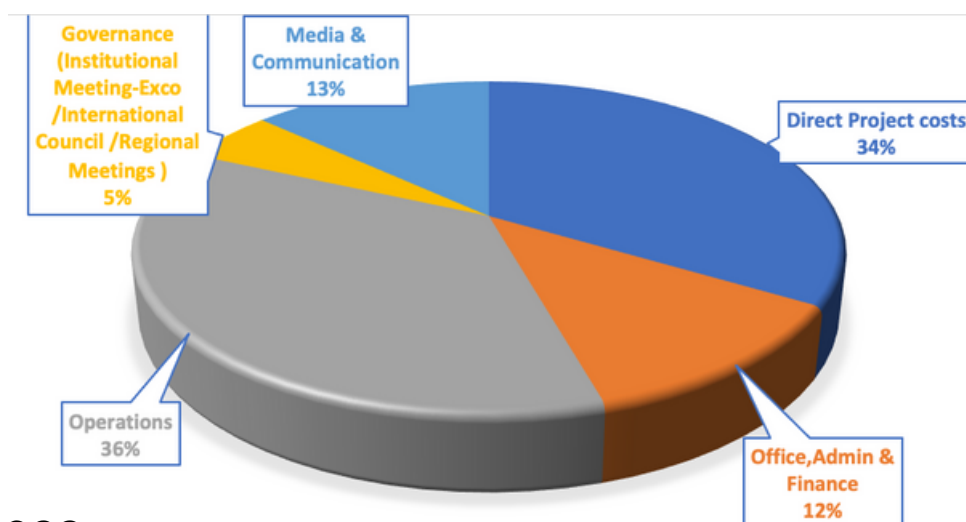


2022

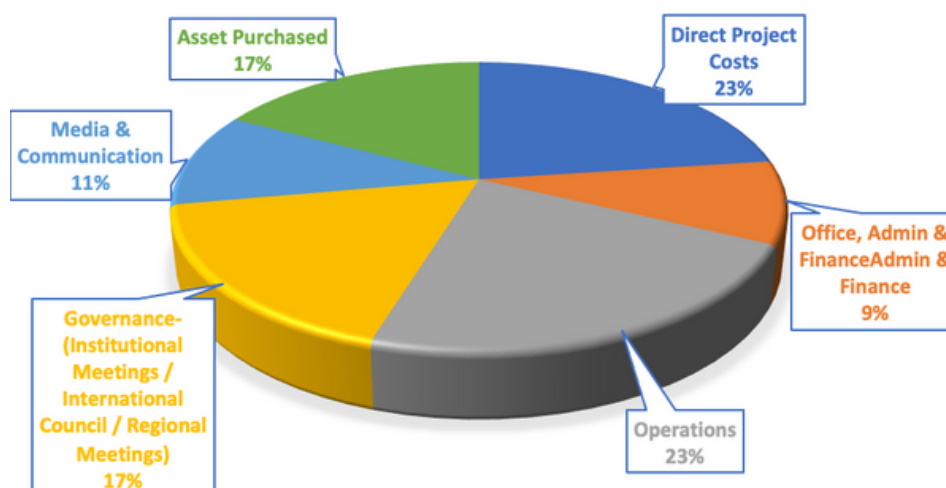


Our expenditure

2021



2022



OUR PROJECTS

Informal Cross Border Trade (ICBT)

Throughout 2020 and 2022, StreetNet International developed a project to capacitate affiliated organizations in West and Central Africa to advocate and negotiate for the rights of informal cross-border traders.



Informal cross-border traders in the border of Senegal and Guinea, 2021. Photo by Youth Reporter Djenabou Sow.

StreetNet International developed a special training course program and organized a series of webinars between March and June 2021 to discuss in depth the topic of informal cross-border trade, together with its affiliates in West and Central Africa – one of the regions where this form of informal trading is very prevalent.

The goal of the webinars was to engage our affiliates in exploring the issues of cross-border trade, enabling them to identify transnational and cross-cutting problems that different trade unions and associations from various countries might have in common; as well as ascertain their particularities and differences. After the end of the webinar series, StreetNet affiliates with common borders worked together to put their acquired knowledge into practical advocacy and negotiation activities, thus bettering conditions and policies for informal cross-border traders. The results are available in reports available in the StreetNet website sharing the experiences of negotiations and advocacy of affiliates.

The project was carried out with the cooperation of StreetNet's partners, including SACBTA (South African Cross Border Trade Association), ITUC Africa (African regional organization of the International trade Union Confederation); OTUWA (Organisation of Trade Unions in West Africa) and ATUMNET (African Trade Union Migration Network).

Informal Cross Border Trade

Informal cross-border trade is trade between neighboring countries conducted by vulnerable, small, generally unregistered traders. Typically, it is proximity trade involving the move of produce between markets close to the border.



Empowering informal economy workers for social protection in Africa

Together with our partner WIEGO, we have carried out a project aimed at strengthening social security in African countries. The project consisted of a training course on Advocacy for Social Protection, which was delivered online in French and English for a total of 33 participants (19 Anglophone and 14 Francophone).



Participants of Exposure Visit, Nairobi, Kenya, 2022.

The project also included the research and publication of a series of case studies (on Togo, Nigeria and Uganda) of social protection cooperatives led by workers (which can also be found in podcast form), and a series of exposure visits for affiliates to learn best practices from one another. One of the planned exposure visits took place in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2022.



Social protection is very important for informal economy workers, not only in Kenya, not only in Africa, but in the whole world.

Anthony Kwache | KENASVIT - Kenya

Youth Reporters On The Ground

The “Youth Reporters on the Ground” was officially launched in June 2021, with 11 participants from 11 SNI affiliates from different countries and continents. Until December 2021, youth reporters followed online trainings on communication and reported on the activities of street vendors and their organizations.

In 2022, Youth Reporters, now equipped with new skills, assisted to develop the communication of their own organizations and also collaborated with the StreetNet Media and Communication team.



Communication is not only useful for the formal sectors, but also for the informal economy, especially in Africa.

Djenabow Sow | Youth Reporter on the Ground | CNTG - Guinea

OUR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

We identified Media and Communication as a priority area for the development of our global organization. During 2021/2022, our Media and Communication initiatives included:

- Launch of a new website for StreetNet International
- Creation of an image bank, with the contributions of professional photographers in Brazil, Senegal, South Africa and Cambodia
- Launch of new communication channels, such as a YouTube channel, Instagram and a WhatsApp broadcast
- Development of communication trainings for affiliates, such as Social Media trainings
- Creation of institutional communication materials, including an institutional video and a brochure.
- Outreach to global press and media, which included the organization of a webinar with street vendors, communication professionals from the affiliates and professional journalists about how to represent street vendors in the media.

The Media and Communication team is now composed of three people and continues to work on delivering visual, quality and constant communication among affiliates and between staff, leadership and members and to external audiences.

Campaigns

We regularly prepare campaigns to highlight key dates for the rights of street vendors. In 2021 and 2022, we campaigned on:

- International Women's Day
- International Labor Day
- World Day for Decent Work
- Urban October



Our most important campaign of the year, however, is the International Day of Street Vendors, which coincides with StreetNet's birthday on November 14. In 2022, we also celebrated our 20th anniversary, along with our affiliates all over the world.

Press mentions

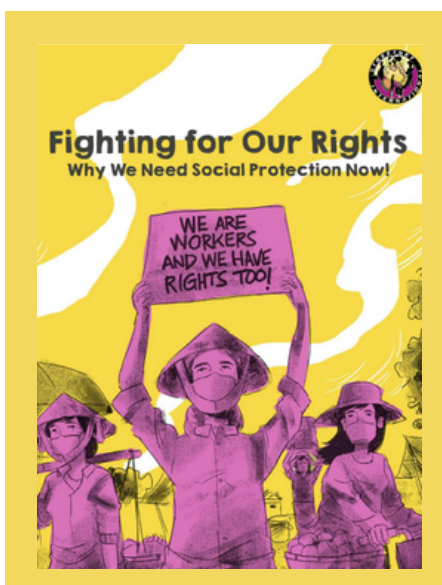
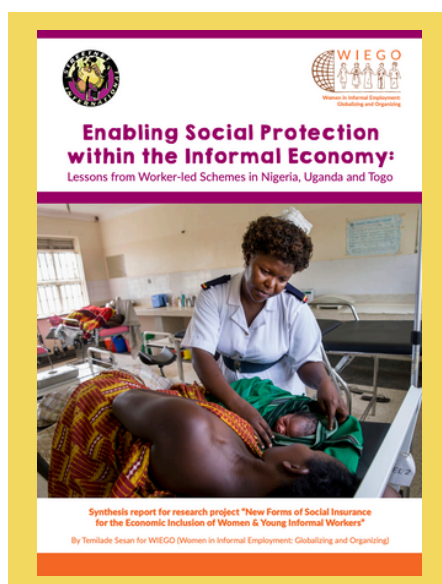
In 2021 and 2022, StreetNet was featured in the following news media:

- hələ də həllini tapmayan problemlər, November 2022;
- STREETNETINTERNATIONAL – 20 ЛЕТ!, ВЫШКА-94, November 2022;
- В Азербайджане намерены развивать уличную и рыночную торговлю, Mir Azerbaijan, November 2022;
- Secteur informel : La FAINATRASIT commémore les 20 ans de Streetnet International sous le signe de la protection sociale, Le Tabloid, November 2022;
- RS estará representado em encontro continental de ambulantes, camelôs e feirantes, Brasil de Fato, May 2022;
- “There is no women movement without informal economy workers”, by Angelique Katani Kipulu, Equal Times, March 2022;
- Lay-offs contribute to informal sector growth, The Namibian, February 2022
- “Street vendors are essential workers: where are our rights?”, by Lorraine Sibanda, Euronews, December 2021;
- Meet the Women Leading the Global Fight for Workers’ Rights in the Informal Economy, Time, November 2021;
- Battered by crises, working women in developing countries demand inclusion, CGTN, November 2021;
- More than 2 billion workers make up the informal economy, The Guardian, November 2021.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

StreetNet International has worked on several publications and media outputs, during the 2021-2022 period. We selected a few among the most significant:

- Comic Book - Fighting for our rights - we need social protection now!
- Informal cross-border trade - Experiences from West and Central Africa
- The importance of vaccination for informal workers and street vendors
- Best practices - How to improve the conditions of cross-border trade?
- Report - Mobilising during the Covid Pandemic
- Institutional brochure presenting StreetNet International
- Enabling Social Protection within the Informal Economy: Lessons from Worker-led Schemes in Nigeria, Uganda and Togo, jointly with WIEGO
- Rebuilding with Women: Amplifying their voices in Ukraine's recovery, *jointly with Cities Alliance and WIEGO*



CONCLUSION

When we consider the situation of our affiliates, we realize that while the lack of rights and recognition as workers continue to be a reality for street and market vendors and it remains the basis of their actions, there is a lot being done and **we are starting to see results in decision-making spaces that concern street vending of the tireless efforts of our affiliates and of StreetNet.**

The struggle of street vendors at the municipal and national levels has been showing maturity and is starting to bear fruit with public policies being publicly debated and, in fewer cases, implemented.

Organizations demonstrate a **more assertive look at what to do internally to organize and mobilize street vendors** (recruitment, training, internal communication, mobilization), **how to act in relation to their counterparts with decision making power** (advocacy, negotiation, networking, external communication) and **what to demand**, with set agendas and defined guidelines and proposals that are capable of improving the living and working conditions of our membership base. It is also noticeable that the **leaders of affiliated organizations are very attentive to proposals of regressive laws that impose more obstacles to street vending and act promptly against these attempts at setbacks.**

Special capacity building training for women leaders and activists played an essential role in building confidence of women who felt empowered to go for negotiations with local and national governmental agencies and to directly speak on behalf of women traders raising their own concerns.

The work of the affiliates has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore most focused on the implementation of Economic Recovery Plans. Compared to 2020, the livelihood of street vendors has improved somewhat with the suspension of lockdowns, but it remains a major problem. **The vulnerability and economic and job losses experienced by street vendors during the most serious moments of the pandemic have not yet been recovered.** For this reason, it is at the heart of the concern of affiliated organizations with their members to build ways to economically reactivate street vendors, create mechanisms for economic strengthening in solidary and cooperative ways and through government subsidies, recover their diminished membership base, and restructure themselves after the impact on organizational capacity generated by the pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the fact that street vendors and informal market traders are, for the most part, not covered by Social Protection systems, and that it puts them in a situation of complete risk and vulnerability. In recent years, this situation has **led organizations to direct their advocacy efforts towards negotiating with their governments to include workers in the informal economy in Social Security systems. It also led governments to open up more space for dialogue on expanding social security systems for workers engaged in the informal economy.**



StreetNet has grown in the last ten years. What has been done now can already show that the future will bring a positive impact.

Jeanette Nyiramassengesho | Member of the StreetNet ExCo | SYTRIECI - Rwanda

Going forward

Despite positive developments, we are still facing many of the same challenges: lack of recognition, lack of rights, lack of regulation, exclusion from social security systems, harassment, evictions and violence, and lack of capital to relaunch businesses after an economic crisis.

We must still improve our work regarding the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and on the ILO instruments relevant to street vending, such as R202, R204 and C190. Affiliates reported that there is very little information on the subject, a high need for training to educate members on what the instruments are and how they can help advocacy work at country levels. Also, according to affiliates, the instruments are not commonly mentioned or known by the authorities in the countries, reflecting the fact that they are not in the public agenda.

The work with Informal Cross-Border Traders (ICBTs) gained greater proportion as StreetNet implemented projects in the African regions to train leaders on the subject. The work resulted in exposing many affiliates to negotiate with government officials and paved the way for a very productive joint work and initial steps to negotiation and campaigning. Despite the numerous challenges ICBT workers face, it was impressive to note that, after the work developed across borders, negotiations are undergoing with the participation of affiliates from both sides of the borders and that governments are coming up with policies and/or Memorandum of Understandings to enable work conditions simplifying cross-border trade.

Affiliates' request for StreetNet training and advice in training, advocacy, communication and organization is unanimous. There were also frequent requests for exchange visits between organizations for knowledge of strategies and possible paths and for studies on successful experiences to be shared with all. The use of virtual meetings has equipped members who otherwise were not used to such technical systems and opened many possibilities for StreetNet International work with affiliates and for affiliates to work with their members. It seems there is a lot of interest in planning activities to strengthen economic recovery and also extend social protection to street vendors in a longer run.

The regional dynamics are mostly working very well, with flow and frequencies of monthly meetings. Asia is still having trouble finding a well-functioning Regional Focal Point, but the other regions function quite satisfactorily. The adaptation of the members to the system of online meetings and the constancy of the meetings and communications brought the leaderships to a level of higher quality of input and of interaction, providing an environment of exchanges, evaluation of problems together and of understanding of the region work as a collective force. However, organizations still have difficulties in thinking about their work beyond their own consistency and planning regional actions.

Lastly, the Russian war on Ukraine, which started in February 2022, has dramatically impacted the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, shifting priorities and significantly impacting the economies of the countries dramatically. That will have long-term negative consequences on the situation of workers of the informal economy and protection of their rights.



Mobile vendors in Brazil, 2022. Photo by Andressa Ocker.

These have been challenging years, with setbacks and little progress in the sector. However, the topic of decent work for workers in the informal economy can be seen more and more on the political agenda of countries. We can also attest that affiliates are better prepared to use available resources, more aware of what they need to strengthen themselves and what StreetNet's role in this should be. We can also see more unity and interaction among the affiliates, as well as a higher level of commitment to StreetNet International.

A lot more needs to be done in terms of capacity building, advocacy, organizing and resource mobilization for the affiliates and street vendors' leadership to be able to influence policy-making processes at both local and national levels. But **we note important achievements and advances in terms of organizational capacity, and they are a reason for recognition of the successful hard work done by our leaders and affiliates in general.**



In 10 years, I see StreetNet as a very big organization, that will have more members and affiliates and will be able to win the hearts and minds of informal economy workers.

Angélique Kipulu | Member of the StreetNet ExCo | LDFC - DR Congo

Joining StreetNet

If you are a representative and democratic membership-based organization of informal traders with a clear internal policy and at least 500 members, you can apply to join StreetNet!

Contact us to access the affiliation application form and we will initiate the application process. All applications are considered by the StreetNet Executive Committee.

Contact us at:

- coordinator@streetnet.org.za
- media@streetnet.org.za



STREETNET INTERNATIONAL 2023



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Photo credit: Andressa Ocker, Brazil, 2022.

