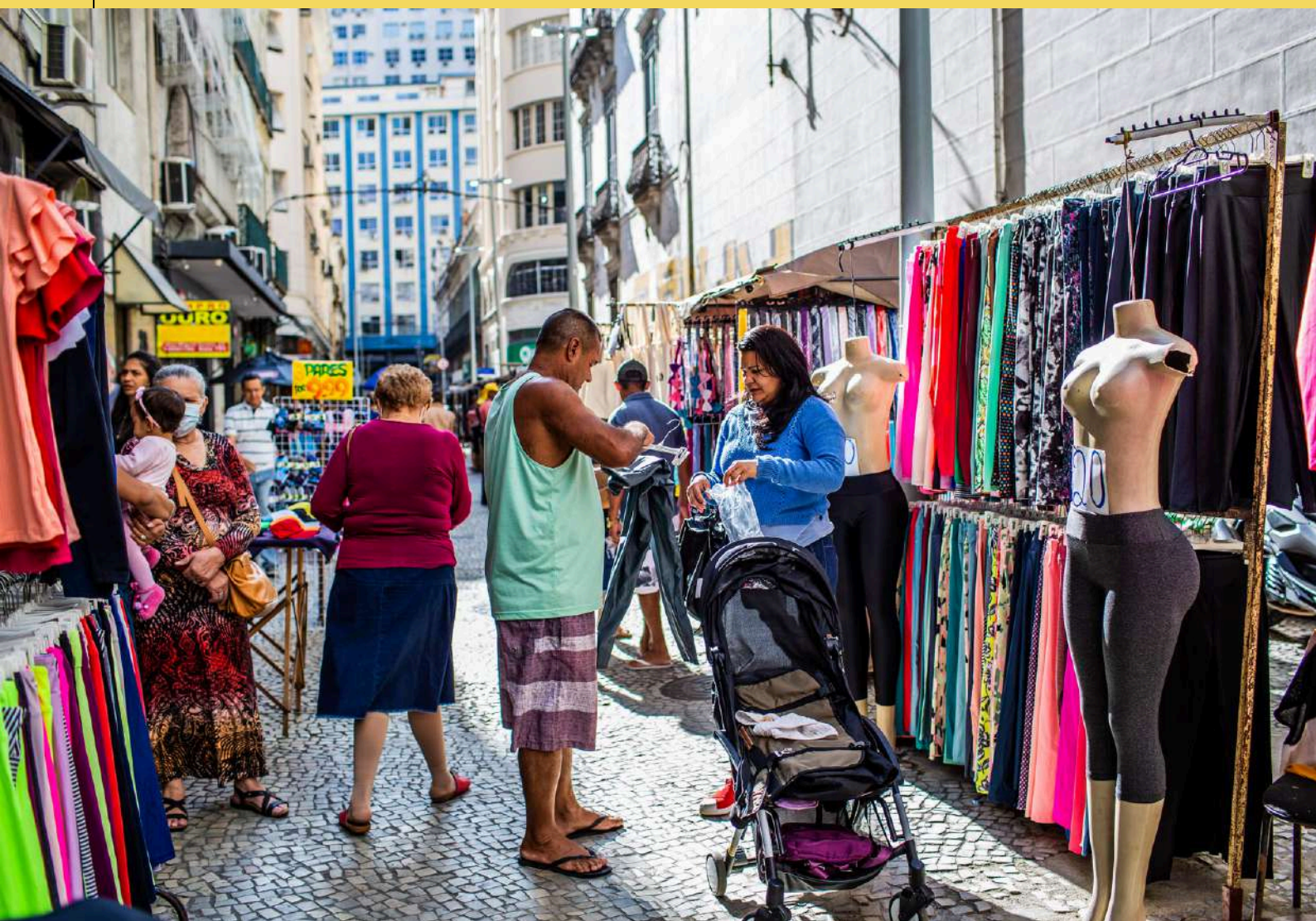




STREETNET INTERNATIONAL

2025

GLOBAL REPORT



streetnet.org.za

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Foreword by International Coordinator Oksana Abboud

Welcome to the third edition of the
StreetNet Annual Global Report!

We are proud to introduce to you our third edition of the StreetNet Global Report and share with you some more insightful data, impact stories and crucial activities we managed to implement within 2024 in StreetNet at different levels, amplifying once again our Collective Voice, Solidarity and Unity worldwide!

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all our Leaders and Staff members who made the previous year very successful in advancing our work to a higher level as there was a lot of progress made during the last year as well as a lot of lessons learned and conclusions made.

The rise of populist and pro-right-wing regimes only broaden authoritarianism which directly impacts the rights and livelihood of street and market vendors: ongoing restrictions on democratic civic space in many countries make it harder for many of our Affiliates to organize and even, in some cases, survive for already existing organizations; our leaders and activist started to face more harassment, persecution and legal challenges which prevents them from acting; reduced access to authorities and criminalization of informal economy work, punitive laws and exclusion from any rights very often discourage the members to stay motivated to progress in their activities.

Despite the fact that 2024 was full of challenges, from socio-economic uncertainties to lasting wars and conflicts, climate crises and its devastating impact on people and our members in particular, we have achieved a lot at different levels to advocate for our members' rights and their legal recognition, dignity and respect of street vendors, reaffirming the strength of our global solidarity, collective actions and resilience.

Some of our significant highlights of 2024 include: increasing StreetNet Membership to 881 400 members; developing a new StreetNet Strategic Plan for the next four years; hosting strategic institutional meetings at regional and international levels; launching a Youth Project for building youth leadership across the Affiliates for sustainability and development; launching a Street Vendors' Barometer initiative on data collection and research in collaboration with the Global Labour Institute; supporting our Affiliates through trainings,



exposure visits and webinars in uplifting their negotiation skills and advocating for fair and inclusive urban policies, extension of social protection, elimination of violence and harassment from their working places and empowering their voice, especially for women vendors; strengthening regional alliances to promote social protection policy for informal economy workers through development and advocating for the Platform of Demands on Social Protection (in Africa); building more decentralized StreetNet Media and Communication through building a network of the media activists globally; building a solid Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation system within StreetNet to upgrade the efficiency level.

A brand new institutional website has been launched to serve different purposes for development which contains a wide range of educational information as well as a visual perception of StreetNet presence which is expanding at global advocacy spaces and building partnership with human rights/pro-worker institutions and researchers.

I am so happy to emphasize that StreetNet ambitious Workplan 2024 has been implemented and a huge role and responsibility for its implementation was played by our staff members (a total of 15 people), who did an extremely great job, staying in permanent communication with our Affiliates and Regional Focal Points, bridging and assisting our members while staying guided by the elected International Leaders, who demonstrate a great commitment and support in all institutional development processes.

Special gratitude goes to the StreetNet Executive Committee Members, who take their roles very seriously and have been fully involved in all the activities happening within StreetNet, providing the required direction and advice which eventually leads to a constructive decision-making processes and impacts the whole organization, its strategy on sustainability and growth at all levels of its existence.

A very important role has been also played by the StreetNet Subcommittee on Workers' Education, which consists of 5 Affiliates' Leaders and who make a valuable input to the StreetNet Education Workplan to ensure participatory and bottom-up guidance and approach to be as efficient with our trainings and workshop as we can.

We are permanently grateful to all our funders, partners and allies, like WIEGO, who continue to provide all types of assistance we need to ensure our support to the affiliates in strengthening their capacity to stand up for themselves.

We remain committed, moved and inspired by StreetNet core values, to ensure that our main motto - Nothing for Us without Us is fully heard implemented in practice and with full respect towards Street and Market Vendors around the globe!

Who we are

Founded in Durban, South Africa, in 2002, StreetNet International is the first and only one global alliance of organizations of street vendors, market vendors, hawkers and informal cross-border traders. Our member organizations range from trade unions, associations, cooperatives and informal collectives, all of which must have at least 500 members.

Our approach is rooted in a bottom-up, worker-led structure that emphasizes women's leadership. The early days were marked by the need to create a space for informal economy workers, who had traditionally been marginalized within the global labor movement. We have been successful in building strong, democratic local organizations and uniting them at a global level, representing informal economy workers in international labor forums like the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Over the years, our impact has been significant. We have not only helped informal economy workers gain recognition but have also contributed to the development of strong local and national organizations, improving their negotiating power with authorities. StreetNet's campaigns, such as defending vendors' rights during major international events like the FIFA World Cup, have been key in raising awareness about the challenges faced by informal economy workers. Our most enduring campaign is the International Day of Street Vendors, celebrated annually on November 14, which commemorates StreetNet's founding date. Today, StreetNet continues to support its affiliates in advocating for policies that improve the lives of street and market vendors and hawkers, contributing to greater visibility and recognition of informal economy workers worldwide.

As of December 2024, we have 61 affiliate organizations in 55 countries, representing 881,400 members worldwide. We represent a global movement of essential workers who have been excluded from formal employment but contribute significantly to their national economies, especially in countries of the Global South.

We believe that by mobilizing and organizing street and market vendors and hawkers, we can secure a seat at the table where decisions are made about us at local, national and international levels, and ensure that all these workers have the right to Decent Work, including collective bargaining and social protection. We organize along the lines of democratic trade unions and work everyday to make our motto come true: **Nothing For Us Without Us!**



New members in 2024

In 2024, **six new organizations** joined the StreetNet family:

- Unión de Comerciantes Minoristas y Trabajadores Autónomos del Ecuador (UCOMTAE)
- Federación de Trabajadores en Espacios Públicos (FETEP) from Argentina
- Trade Union of Entrepreneurship Workers of Kazakhstan
- Trade Union of Entrepreneurship, Business and Service Workers of Uzbekistan
- Coalition of Informal Economy Associations in eSwatini (CIEAES)
- Workers of Informal Economy Network (WIENU) from Uganda

We always welcome new organisations that represent **at least 500 street and market vendors** in their countries. You can get in touch by filling in our membership form.



Group picture of UCOMTAE (Ecuador) in 2023

A snapshot of our sector in numbers

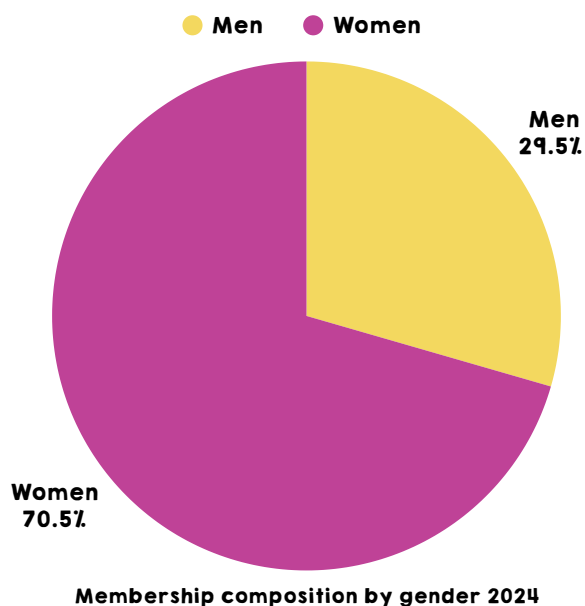


The region with the most members in StreetNet is East and Southern Africa representing 39% of our membership base, followed by West and Central Africa with around 25% and Asia with 17.7%. The Americas region represents 12% of StreetNet members and the region with the smallest number of members in the organisation is Europe and Central Asia with 5%.

Region	% of Membership	Total	% Women	% Youth	Women Leadership
Americas (15)	12%	103,657	50%	21%	43%
East and Southern Africa (14)	39%	341,829	67%	30%	43%
West and Central Africa (18)	25%	216,227	70%	31%	30%
Asia (5)	18%	152,038	95%	23%	88%
Europe and Central Asia (9)	5%	44,625	61%	19%	39%
Total (61)		881,4			
Percentages			71%	21%	30%

The proportions and regional numbers are based on numbers that have two less affiliates that did not respond to the questionnaire in 2024.

Demographics

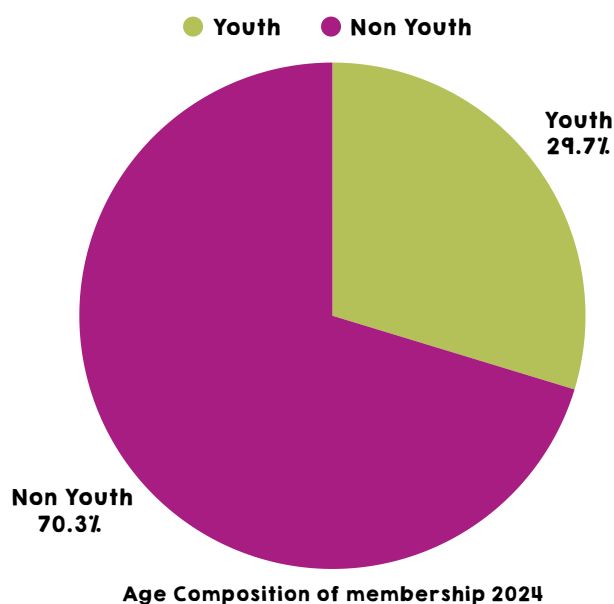


An important representation factor to take into account is the gender composition of the membership. **According to the latest data, around 70% of the street and market vendors represented by StreetNet are women.**

Despite women making up the majority of membership, their presence in leadership positions continues to be undervalued. **Only 39,5% of the leadership positions of the organisations are held by women.** The gap between these two numbers is striking, as it demonstrates that women still face obstacles to occupying leadership positions, and men dominate leadership positions despite the composition of the sector.

29.7% of StreetNet's membership base is made up of young people. Empowerment of young people, through capacity building projects is a priority of StreetNet and a fundamental way to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organisation. According to our internal definition, young people are the ones with **less than 35 years of age.**

A good sign that we were able to capture is that StreetNet's affiliates are investing in structures and initiatives with young people and leaders at the center. **74.6% of organisations report having a youth committee or structure within their governance.**

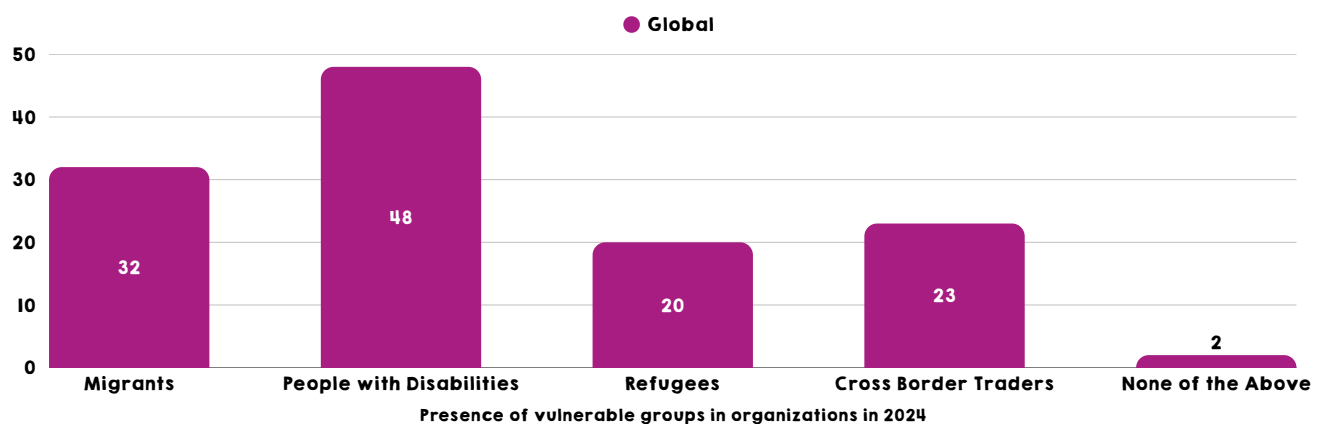


The reality of street and market vendors and hawkers

Vulnerable Groups

The reality of street and market vendors continues to be challenging in all regions.

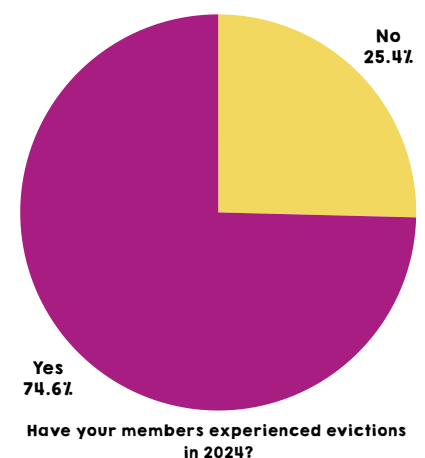
Street and market vendors are not a homogenous group of people and, within the constituency that StreetNet represents there are several sub-groups that present specific challenges. In the 2024 questionnaire, we asked affiliate organisations if, among their members, any of these groups are present: migrants, people with disabilities, informal cross border traders, or refugees. The graph below represents the responses of the organisations. **48 affiliates reported having people with disabilities among their members and 32 organisation report the presence of migrant workers.**



Affiliates were asked about the main challenges they face in their countries. Each organisation could select more than one answer. The most selected answers are:

- Lack of social protection (38 answers)
- Harassment and violence by public officials (26 answers)
- Lack of trading space/licensing processes (26 answers)
- Lack of labour rights (22 answers)

Almost 3 quarters (74.6%) of the organisations declare that their members have experienced evictions or removal from their workplace in 2024.

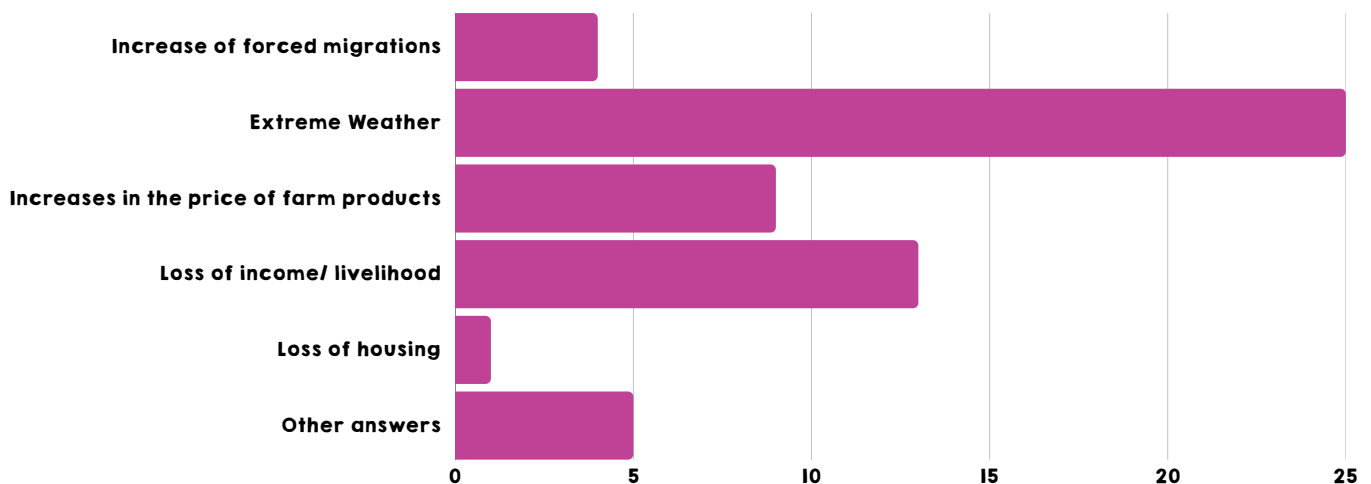


Global Trends

In 2024, the situation of street and market vendors remains shaped by structural challenges and structured discrimination. **Social protection continues to be a top priority** for the organizations that represent them, underscoring the vulnerability of workers operating in the informal economy who are in the majority of cases excluded by . **Despite ongoing efforts, evictions persist**, highlighting how urban policies play a critical role in formalization processes—often act in the opposite direction, reinforcing precarity and exclusion. Evictions disrupt vendors' ability to earn a stable income, pushing them **further into economic insecurity**. They often lose their regular customer base and face increased competition when forced to relocate. Additionally, evictions can lead to a loss of essential assets, such as stalls and equipment, further exacerbating their financial strain.

Climate change further exacerbates these challenges, threatening vendors' livelihoods in multiple ways, including a direct impact on their financial stability. These overlapping pressures make it increasingly urgent to include street vendors in broader urban resilience and economic protection strategies.

An overwhelming majority of respondents (91%) indicate that their members have **experienced the impacts of climate change**. The following graph shows which are the most frequent ways in which such impact has occurred.



25 organizations indicated that **extreme weather events** (such as flooding, fire, extreme heat) is the main way in which climate change impacts the lives of street and market vendors. We cannot forget the devastating impact of the heatwave across South Asia, that started in April 2024 and led to deaths, health complications and of course, loss of income opportunity for those who trade in the open air.

Among the “other answers” indicated by respondents, we can include the increase in **health issues** that, as a consequence, leads to an increase of debt for already financially vulnerable groups, such as street vendors.

Our Strategy

During 2024, we were in the process of defining our **new Strategic Plan**, which included online meetings and an in-person workshop in Cambodia in August 2024. After many discussions with members, leadership and staff, this is our strategy:

Our Vision: Street and market vendors and hawkers selling goods and/or services are legally recognized workers, empowered and democratically organized to live and enjoy decent work.

Our Mission: Strengthening and empowering members organizations to organize, protect and promote street, market vendors' and hawkers' rights and livelihood, especially of women, through the following: advocacy actions, capacity building, education, democratic governance, representation and solidarity among all workers, being a strong and sustainable international movement of street and market vendors.

🎯 **Strategic Goal 1:** Member organizations influence policy change and attain legal recognition and rights as part of formalization processes.

Examples of outcomes we anticipate: StreetNet Affiliates initiate to influence policy change and attain legal recognition as workers at local/national levels in at least 4 regions through advocacy actions, promoting street and market vendors rights in the public agenda, visiting decision makers to place demands and engaging in negotiations.

🎯 **Strategic Goal 2:** Member organizations influence policy change and attain inclusion of street and market vendors within existing, or new, social protection schemes and other Decent Work agenda rights as part of formalization processes.

Examples of outcomes we anticipate: StreetNet Affiliates report new cooperatives and other social solidarity economy (SSE) units being created.

🎯 **Strategic Goal 3:** StreetNet Affiliates have increased and sufficient capacity to build and sustain democratically elected, inclusive and pro-woman governing structures representing street, market vendors and hawkers in local, national and international policy discussions.

Examples of outcomes we anticipate: By 2027, an SNI Youth Committee has been established.

🎯 **Strategic Goal 4:** StreetNet has measurably contributed to building global solidarity and alliances among all workers.

Examples of outcomes we anticipate: StreetNet is active in new coalitions and alliances, particularly in the labour movement, feminist movement, right to the city and food sovereignty movements.

Our full Strategic Plan is available on our website streetnet.org.za

Our Impact

Achievements of our affiliates

West and Central Africa

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, **ASSOVACO** has shown courage and persistence, supported by SNI, in advocating for fairer tax policies and successful negotiations with customs authorities—resulting in the return of seized goods and the establishment of a single desk at the border. **LDFC**, also in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has made strides in gaining recognition by engaging government bodies, particularly on excessive taxation and formalizing the informal economy, with discussions culminating in a presentation in front of government bodies.

In **Burkina Faso**, **SYNAFVL**'s activism has earned its members national-level roles in promoting Universal Health Insurance, contributing to the establishment of a **National Council for Informal Economy**.

SYVEBU in **Burundi** has addressed educational inequality by securing school support for 40 children of traders and coaching women in cross-border trade.

UGSEIN in **Niger**, empowered by SNI training, is now leading negotiations for improved livelihoods despite ongoing border closures since 2003 that hinder trade with Benin. These are just some of the examples of the increased recognition of informal economy workers as partners in negotiation for local and national authorities, a pattern that helps them **acquire rights and improve livelihoods**.



Members of SYNAFVL in Burkina Faso (2023)

East and Southern Africa

In Uganda, WIENU is working closely with women street and market vendors to establish **daycare centers in markets and communities**, aiming to protect children from workplace hazards and promote better health and education outcomes. Their recent collaboration with a Woman MP and city officials reflects a growing alliance for change. WIENU also contributed to shaping the Uganda Markets Act 2023, though concerns remain over its undermining of vendor leadership and the privatization of basic services.

In Kenya, **KENASVIT** played a critical role in lobbying for the Micro and Small Enterprise Act and served on its board for nine years, while also ensuring informal workers' voices were heard in budget processes and stimulus projects. Although market space allocation remains a challenge due to corruption, recent negotiations with county governments—supported by SNI—**have strengthened engagement and opened up new opportunities**.

Meanwhile in **Zambia**, **AVEMA** has expanded its membership and voice in government dialogue on social protection, particularly at local and provincial levels, with momentum growing after participating in the 2024 National Informal Economy Indaba.



Naomi Phiri, member of AVEMA working as a street vendor in Lusaka (2025)

In **Namibia**, **NIDAWU** has gained national recognition as a representative of informal economy workers, including refugee traders from Osire camp who are now supported to trade fresh produce in Windhoek markets. Through their leadership in the newly formed Namibia Civil Society non-state actors network (NamNet)—supported by the EU—NIDAWU and partners are shaping a self-sustaining future for informal economy workers. For this step to have happened the allyship with TUCNA (the Trade Union Center of Namibia) has been key: NIDAWU is part of TUCNA, which now is chairing the non-state actor network.

Americas

In Nicaragua, **CTCP** celebrated a major breakthrough as the National Assembly officially declared **June 17th the National Day of Own Account Workers**—a symbolic and strategic win that CTCP hopes will pave the way for broader extension of social protection. In Mexico, **FNOTNA** has been leading sustained advocacy efforts to push for the implementation of ILO Convention 190, emphasizing the need for concrete policies that address violence and harassment against street vendors.

In **Honduras**, **FOTTSIEH** reported a **boost in youth engagement and leadership**, thanks to their involvement in the SNI youth project which connects young leaders across regions.

Ecuador's UCOMTAE marked a historic moment with the publication of regulations enacting the National Law for the Defence and Development of Autonomous Workers and Small-Scale Traders. While celebrating this legislative success, they remain vigilant, as key provisions were omitted from the final regulations—prompting ongoing advocacy for full implementation.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the **Street Vendor Project in New York** advanced a legislative package aimed at decriminalizing street vending and improving conditions for vendors. By working closely with political allies, they remain optimistic that the proposed reforms will pass, **setting a strong precedent for vendor rights in urban policy**.



Street Vendor Project protest in New York City (2025)

Europe and Central Asia

The mandatory implementation of cash register machines for street and market vendors in Eastern Europe and Central Asia has led to significant challenges. While aimed at formalizing the informal economy, these measures often overlook the practical realities faced by small-scale traders. Organisations among the StreetNet affiliates have advocated for a fair and equitable implementation of this measure.

In **Ukraine**, the 2021 mandate for cash registers prompted widespread protests. Many vendors continue to operate without them, citing high costs and administrative burdens. Activists advocate for a "modular monotax" system, inspired by Spain, which would levy fixed taxes based on business parameters rather than tracking every transaction.

A similar situation presented itself in **Kyrgyzstan**. Negotiations led by Dordoi Market Union, resulted in a special economic regime for the Dordoi Market, one of the main hubs for vendors in the region, exempting international traders from using electronic cash registers while still requiring electronic invoices for domestic sales.

Asia

Street vendors' organizations in Asia have increasingly engaged with the issue of climate change, recognizing its direct impact on vendors' livelihoods.

Repon Chowdhury, a leader from the organisation **LIE in Bangladesh**, reached out to StreetNet's Cambodian affiliate, **IDEA**, and its president, Vorn Pao, to organize a cross-country exchange program focused on climate change and just transition strategies. This cross country project represents an example of international solidarity among informal economy workers to tackle a common global challenge.

StreetNet launched a project in 2024 to assess the impact of climate change on street vendors in **Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam**. Through this initiative—part of an **Oxfam-funded program** aimed at improving social protection and labor rights for women in ASEAN's agri-food sector—local researchers documented the specific climate risks street vendors face, especially those affecting women, and proposed strategies to strengthen their resilience. The results of the study will be published in the upcoming months. On the topic of social protection, at the beginning of 2025, StreetNet was invited by Oxfam to contribute to a policy document on social protection for the ASEAN Charter. **This represents a milestone, as the voice of informal economy workers will be heard at a very high level of policy-making with the possibility to make a difference for millions of livelihoods.**



Leaders of LIE (Bangladesh) and IDEA (Cambodia) holding a meeting about just transition in Dhaka. Picture by IDEA.

Impact of the informal cross-border trade negotiation project

In 2021 and 2022 StreetNet and its affiliated organisations in the region of west and central Africa conducted a **project on informal cross border trade**. Throughout 2024 we worked to understand the medium term impact of the project. *What were the main goals achieved? How were the workers able to advocate for lasting policy changes in the domain of cross border trade?*

We can see cases in which focal points of dialogue with the authorities have been established, thus simplifying the crossing of the border, and facilitating the return of confiscated goods. **An important change that we have observed both in Cote d'Ivoire and in Ghana (two of the countries where the project was undertaken) is the willingness of the authorities to accept only national identity cards as a valid document for cross border traders.**

The most successful case is arguably the one of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where, despite the high tension and militia conflict in the region, a one-stop shop for traders has formally been introduced.

In Nigeria, as a consequence of the fuel ban placed in 2019 for the border communities, the life of informal traders has been highly impacted. The relaxation of the fuel ban, still in place, continues to have a relatively positive impact, despite the high inflation of the Naira. In the case of Nigeria, **we have considered the fact that the harassment against workers seems to be more tame with respect to 2021 - 2022.**

We are aware that the situation is continuing to evolve in the region and that the measurement of impact of complex projects such as this one will take more time. **These medium term achievements, however, show the commitment of workers to continue negotiation processes with authorities to improve the livelihoods of informal cross border communities.**



The impact of workers' organizing and women's leadership: Albertina's story

Albertina Carlota Simango serves as the Vice President of the Association for the Informal Economy (AEIMO) in Mozambique, representing 15,000 members, most of whom are street traders. With over 30 years of experience as an informal economy vendor, Albertina rose to leadership by advocating for her fellow vendors, understanding their challenges, and breaking stereotypes about women in leadership.

She reflects, ***"The life of an informal economy vendor is very complicated. It's tough—you need a lot of strength, courage, and determination. When we first started selling, each of us had to find and buy our own stall before we could begin vending. There was no one to defend our rights or represent us as workers. We had no organization to lead us. We endured a lot—we were persecuted, chased away. When we entered the market, we cooked in fear, uncertain if we would have time to sell before the municipality arrived."***

Thanks to the efforts of AEIMO and the global solidarity of organizations like StreetNet, informal economy vendors in Mozambique have successfully organized to gain recognition and secure their rights from municipal authorities. These improvements have allowed street vendors to better support their families, save money, and create brighter futures for their children.

Albertina shares, ***"Because of our strength and courage, today the municipality is like our brother. Everything is organized now... We feel at ease in the market. When the municipality visits, it's to discuss, exchange experiences, and understand how our work is progressing—it's no longer about chasing us away. They consult with AEIMO first, then we engage with vendors to raise awareness, and everything is resolved peacefully. This has helped us save money, build homes, and educate our children... I am very proud to be an informal economy worker."***



Our Work in 2024

Capacity-building

REGIONAL MEETINGS

To inform the drafting of our Strategic Plan, we organized regional meetings in Asia, West and Central Africa, Americas and East and Southern Africa up until July 2024. These regional meetings brought a total of **118 representatives of street and market vendors and hawkers in Nepal, Uganda, Togo and Colombia** and each region successfully drafted their own strategies.



YOUTH IN ACTION

We launched "Youth In Action," a bold new global initiative aimed at training and empowering young workers within our networks over the next three years. **This project will provide a platform for young leaders to voice their issues and proposals to the International Council and Congress.** Participants will engage in a blend of online and offline activities, including regular meetings, training sessions, community research, and networking opportunities. The initiative kicked off in the Americas region in July 2024, marking the start of a three-year journey to expand across all our regions. By 2027, we aim to significantly strengthen youth leadership and participation throughout our global network.

STREETNET MEDIA NETWORK

Participatory communication projects are a key focus of our media activities. After the success of the pilot training "Youth Reporters on the Ground," in 2021, we launched the StreetNet Media Network. This network brings together communicators from across StreetNet, with each affiliate selecting a Media Activist to receive training and contribute to our communication efforts. Currently, **30 Media Activists** engage in tasks like sharing StreetNet content within their networks, creating social media content, and participating in training on media skills such as writing, photography, and video production. This initiative helps bridge the gap between StreetNet and its grassroots members, empowering them to play a key role in our communication work.



*Example of work by Media Activist
Uthman Kaisi, from Malawi*



What workers say

As a member of the StreetNet Media Network, I aspire to gain insights from fellow members, enhance my existing media skills, and exchange knowledge and experiences related to advocating for improved working conditions for workers in the informal economy.

Fungai Munetsi, member of ZCIEA (Zimbabwe)

CHILDCARE IN MARKETS

For the past three years, SYTRIECI Rwanda, in collaboration with StreetNet International and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, has been implementing a project aimed at establishing Early Childhood Development Centers for the children of street and market traders, as well as creating Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to support the parents of these children.



*Children supported by the project. Picture
by Media Activist Dorcas Ishimwe*

Workers' Education

NEGOTIATION SKILLS TRAININGS

In 2024, we continued our commitment to enhancing the **negotiation skills of our grassroots members**, a training program renowned for its success with street vendors, market sellers, and hawkers.

With a track record spanning over a decade, this training program has been adapted to diverse contexts, empowering vendors across the globe. This year, it was delivered by our Asia Organizer, Nash Tysmans, in Bangladesh, Laos, and Cambodia, while Evelyn-Benjamin Sampson, our West and Central Africa Organizer, led the training in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire, further extending its impact across regions.

5 Countries



162 workers



What workers say

"Sometimes I would feel left out of the struggle, but now I am quite confident. I'd be able to go and negotiate myself"

Asma Begum, flower vendor in Dhaka, Bangladesh, member of LIE

EXPOSURE VISITS

Exposure visits, a cornerstone of our activities, provide invaluable opportunities for affiliates to learn directly from one another. In November 2024, KENASVIT from Kenya visited Sierra Leone to explore the impactful work of SLETU, while AVEMA and AZIEA from Zambia traveled to eSwatini to connect with CIAES. These visits exemplify the power of peer learning, fostering collaboration and shared knowledge across borders.

MEDIA WORKSHOP

For the first time, the elected leaders of StreetNet participated in a tailor-made 2-day workshop in Baku, Azerbaijan, focused on enhancing their media and communication skills, including how to plan for a campaign, how to talk to journalists, draft statements, and basic image and video editing skills.



Picture of International Council members at the Media Workshop in Baku (2024).

DISCUSSION CLUBS

Since April 2024, we have been hosting dynamic virtual discussion clubs with our members, tackling a wide range of critical topics—from the history of the labor movement and class struggles to the far-reaching impact of climate change on street and market vendors. These monthly sessions provide a platform for deep engagement and meaningful dialogue on issues that directly affect their lives.

FIELD VISITS

Field visits help us gain a deep understanding of the challenges faced by our members, discover new organizations, and provide local affiliates with greater recognition and visibility. During these visits, we also organize networking opportunities with key partners and authorities. In 2024, our leadership and staff members team took part in the following field visits:

- **Kathmandu, Nepal:** Field visit in the context of the Regional Meeting of the Asia region
- **Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire:** Field visit in the context of the Negotiations Skills Workshop
- **Lima, Peru:** Field visit by Herminio Guevara and Organizer for the Americas Patrick Kane to understand the context and evaluate a potential new affiliation
- **Medellín, Colombia:** In the context of the National Forum of UGTI, Organizer for the Americas Patrick Kane conducted a field visit in Medellín
- **Kampala, Uganda:** In the context of the Regional Meeting of East and Southern Africa, a delegation composed by International Coordinator, Organizer for East and Southern Africa and Admin and Finance Manager visited our affiliates UMAEU and WIENU in Uganda
- **Maputo, Mozambique:** Organizer for East and Southern Africa and media manager visited AIEMO, our affiliate in the country.
- **Accra, Ghana:** Organizer for West and Central Africa and Project Officer visited our affiliate UNIWA in Ghana
- **Maseru, Lesotho:** Organizer for East and Southern Africa visited our affiliate KTB Lesotho

Advocacy

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

We once again represented street and market vendors at the highest-level tripartite forum where workers, employers and governments negotiate on and adopt international labour standards. Our delegation was composed of our President Lorraine Ndhovulu; our Vice-President Alberto Santana; Secretary Jamaladdin Ismayilov; International Coordinator Oksana Abboud and, for technical support, Communication Manager Margarida Teixeira. **Along with other 40 worker leaders from WIEGO, IDWF, HomeNet International and IAWP, we amplified the voices of informal economy workers.**

We focused on two main discussions of the agenda: the **General Discussion on Decent work and the care economy**, which mostly relates to the provision of care services and the recognition of care providers; and the **standard-setting first discussion on the Protection against biological hazards**, which can have a great impact on the working lives of street and market vendors.

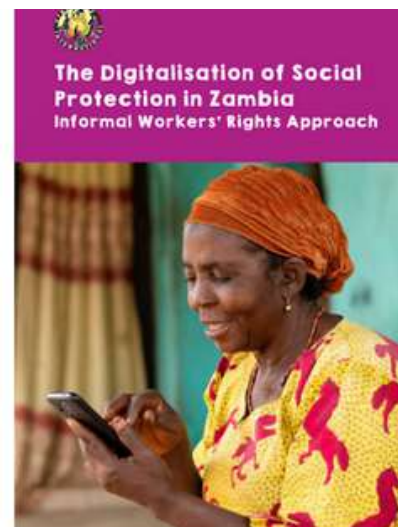
We had the opportunity to address the Plenary, where Heads of State, representatives from workers and employers and also non-governmental organizations have a chance to speak. **Our President made a riveting speech focused on the need for proper care services for street and market vendors and for workplaces safe from biological hazards.**



StreetNet President, Vice-President, Secretary and International Coordinator at the International Labour Conference (2024)

DIGITAL SOCIAL PROTECTION

StreetNet, together with the Institute of Development Studies, conducted an analysis on digitalisation policies of social protection in Zambia. The aim of this study was to explore the challenges faced by informal economy workers in urban and rural Zambia in accessing social protection through digital systems, and suggest ways that can enable marginalized and excluded informal economy workers to influence digital social protection policies and practices, and secure their rights.



HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT IN THE AMERICAS

Too often, authorities ride roughshod over the human rights of street vendors, leading to all kinds of human rights violations. In Latin America, StreetNet is collaborating with WIEGO's law programme in a project which seeks to engage with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the region's foremost important multilateral human rights institutions in order to bring its attention to the violations of street vendors' rights. The project involves working with our affiliates in Honduras (FOTSSIEH), Guatemala (FENTRAVIG) and Argentina (FETEP-UTEP) in order to document the varied nature of human rights violations which street vendors face in these three countries. **A report will then be presented to the IACHR's Special Rapporteur for Economic, Social and Cultural. We will also be producing a human rights toolkit for use by affiliates across the region in order to help them to identify and document human rights violations.**

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Our Vice-President Alberto Santana and International Council Member Martha Garcia Santoyo participated as guests of the historic 1st Elective Congress of International Alliance of Waste Pickers - GlobalRec in Argentina from 1-5 May.



Campaigns

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CAMPAIGN 2024: RATIFY CONVENTION 190!

Being a woman street vendor is a dangerous job. Women working in public spaces, like ourselves, face violence and harassment from authorities, law-enforcement bodies, customers, criminals and even our own families. Yet, street vending is often the best alternative available for us to support our families. Find out more about the [campaign](#).



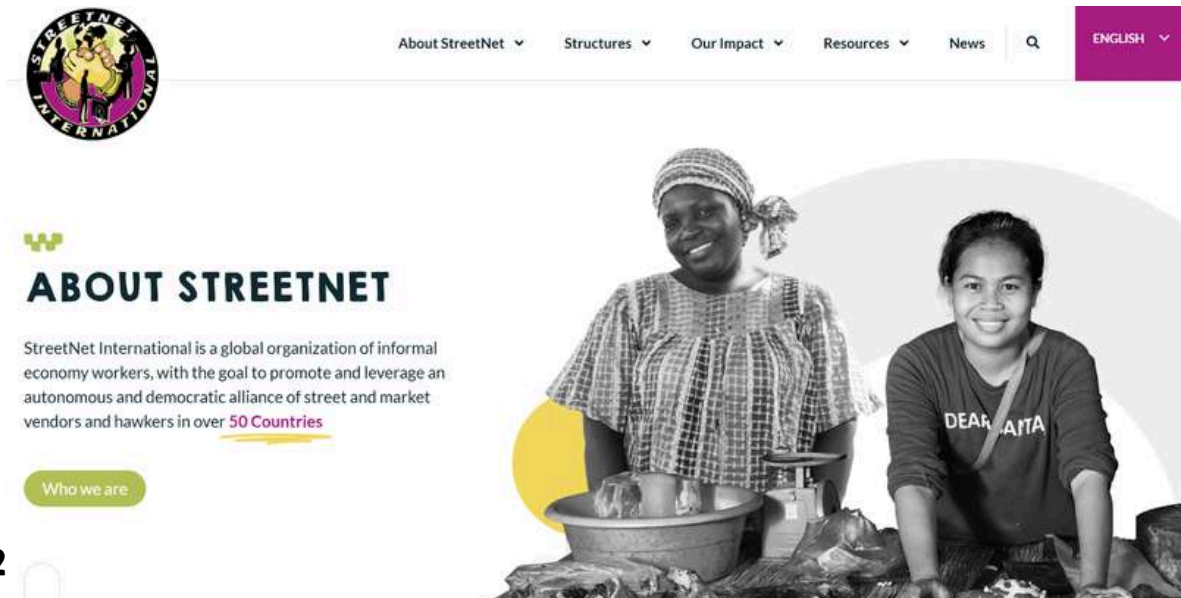
URBAN OCTOBER 2024

On October 31st, we celebrate the World Day for the Right to the City. As UN-Habitat makes a call for us to reflect on the role of youth leading climate and local action for cities, we reaffirm our commitment to building climate justice through the Right to the City. We collaborated with the Global Platform for the Right to City, to share stories from our membership. You can read our stories, authored by Uthman Kaisi and Djenabou Sow [here](#).



New Website

In 2024, we launched our new website, making it more accessible, easy to navigate and giving more space to regional news.



Press and Media

Here are some news articles that featured StreetNet or our leaders throughout last year:

Nuestro vicepresidente Alberto Santana publicó un editorial sobre Economía Social y Solidaria y el papel de los vendedores ambulantes en la co-creación de modelos económicos sostenibles para el futuro. Su artículo apareció en Pioneers Post (febrero 2024)

<https://www.pioneerspost.com/news-views/20240207/decent-work-and-sustainable-livelihoods-why-street-vendors-need-create-co>

Coop News, a leading magazine on cooperativism, covered our participation in the International Labour Conference in June 2024.

<https://www.thenews.coop/care-co-ops-in-the-spotlight-at-the-international-labour-conference/>

For May Day 2024, Jorge and Sandra Peralta, leaders of FENTRAVIG, Guatemala, published an editorial about balancing political activism, family and work in the market.

<https://latamgremial.com/el-trabajo-de-la-venta-ambulante-como-una-pareja-de-lideres-obreros-guatemaltecos-lo-ha-equilibrado-todo/>

EEqual Times publicó un detallado reportaje sobre la lucha de los vendedores ambulantes nepaleses en la capital, Katmandú, con una entrevista a Maya Gurung, dirigente de NEST y miembro del Consejo Internacional: <https://www.equaltimes.org/kathmandu-s-street-vendors?lang=en>

Our President Lorraine Ndhlovu was interviewed by Devex about the role of women workers in a global transition towards a sustainable economy: <https://devex.shorthandstories.com/why-a-just-transition-cant-leave-women-workers-behind/index.html>

“

Estamos unidos en nuestro trabajo porque sabemos por lo que luchamos. Nos preocupan los mercados y las personas que trabajan en ellos, los vendedores, para que puedan tener una vida mejor. Siempre hemos sido muy trabajadores y muy sensibles a las injusticias. Por eso sabemos cuándo las condiciones son injustas

JORGE AND SANDRA PERALTA

”

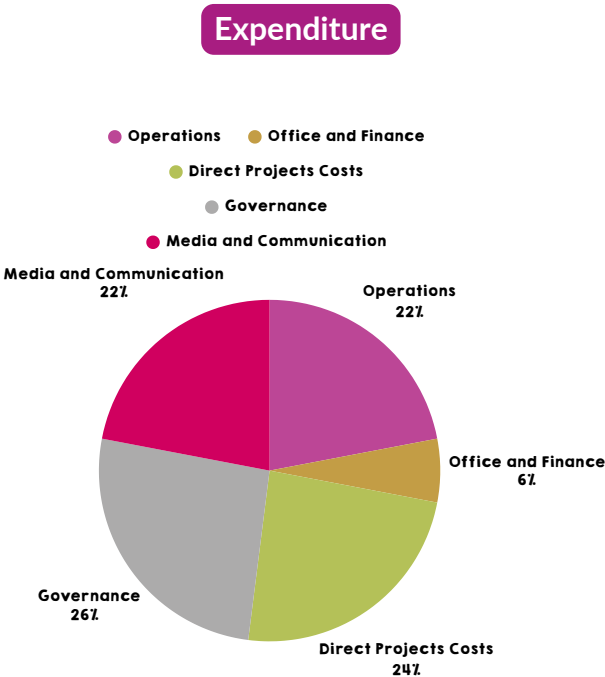
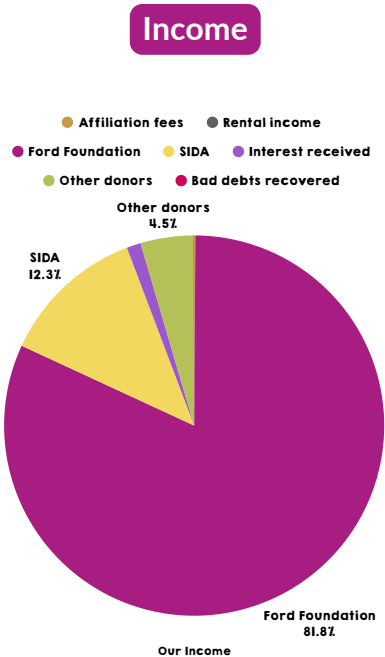


Our Financial Capacity

In 2024, our budget totaled **\$1,774,553 USD**.

We are currently working with the following partners:

- Ford Foundation,
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
- Oxfam International
- Echidna Giving
- UN Habitat
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- The Institute of Development Studies.



Conclusion by our President

Lorraine Ndhlovu

As StreetNet, our ongoing work with affiliates remains central to our mission. These affiliates—street vendors and informal economy workers on the ground—offer critical insights into the realities we aim to transform. We have come to understand that change is rarely linear. Each year, despite strategic planning and focused efforts on priority areas, the progress we see may appear incremental or inconsistent. Yet, beneath the surface, transformation is underway. **There are clear shifts in how informal economy workers, especially street vendors, are being recognised, included, and respected in public policies, consultations, and planning processes.**

This progress underscores the impact of our advocacy, even if outcomes differ across the diverse contexts in which our affiliates operate. Each country brings unique challenges and pathways, but the shared goal remains: dignity, recognition, and decent work for street vendors.

As we approach key milestones—five years since the adoption of ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work, and ten years since Recommendation 204 on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy—we reflect on our continued commitment to capacity-building, policy advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. These instruments, though varying in binding power, are vital tools in the global recognition of informal workers as legitimate contributors to the economy with rights and protections.

Formalisation, as we continue to stress, is not a mere administrative step but a comprehensive transformation of work environments and workers' rights. It must be rooted in human rights and designed with those most affected at the centre of the process.

Looking ahead, we hope 2025 brings deeper inclusion, more stories of empowerment, and tangible progress toward decent work for all. Our narrative is shifting—from victimhood to resilience, and now to the assertion of rights. We continue to advocate for the extension of social protection and for the meaningful inclusion of informal workers in social dialogue.

Ultimately, our call remains unwavering: *Nothing for us without us.* The affected must speak for themselves, shaping solutions that reflect their realities and aspirations. It is only through this inclusive, rights-based approach that we can achieve lasting change for workers in the informal economy.





How to join 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:

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 @street_net_international

 @Streetnet1

Front Cover Image: Street vendors in Brazil, picture by Andrea Ocker (2021)

Back Cover Image: StreetNet 7th International Congress in Kigali, Rwanda (2023)