



Street Vendor, Oaxaca, Mexico

photo by Gary Fields

The common motivation for those who join the WIEGO network is the troubling lack of recognition or understanding of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy, by policy makers and the international development community. Fortunately, productive employment and decent work are now back on the global development agenda, due in large measure to the Decent Work campaign of the ILO. Also, there is renewed interest in the informal economy: due in some measure to the efforts of WIEGO and its allies but largely to the informalization of employment relations and the growth of self-employment around the world. WIEGO continues to play an important role in ensuring that this renewed interest is informed by the perspective of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy.

Today, the WIEGO network and our allies are deeply troubled by new or intensified threats faced by the working poor in the informal economy. Most recently, there are the far-reaching impacts of the global economic recession on the livelihoods of the working poor, both urban and rural. But of equal concern is the fact that cities around the world, as they seek to modernise and compete for “world class” status, tend to exclude the working poor and undermine their livelihoods in city planning, services and infrastructure, and regulatory policies.

Consider the situation of waste pickers. Estimates suggest that 1-2 per cent of the world’s urban population lives off collecting, sorting, and recycling waste from households, streets, bins, dumps, or landfills. As cities modernise, they often try to reduce waste on the streets or in overflowing city bins by promoting waste collection at the “doorstep” of households. When cities issue tenders for waste collection from households, those who traditionally collected waste are often not informed of the bidding process or are not eligible to bid. Given the huge profits to be made from waste, the tendering system is often not open or transparent and the bids are often awarded to those with power and influence. Compounding the exclusive practices of cities, the global economic recession has led to a dramatic downturn in the recycling industry. With a steep drop in demand for recycled raw materials, particularly from China as it responds to the downturn in demand for exported goods, the prices of recyclable waste materials ñ including metal, glass, plastic, cardboard, and newsprint ñ have dropped markedly and waste is accumulating by the ton on streets, at dumps or landfills, in warehouses, and at docks around the world:

www.wiego.org/about_ie/ie_news/EconomicCrises2009.php

HIGHLIGHTS

Mexico Exposure Dialogue Programme

A key on-going activity of the WIEGO network is a series of Exposure Dialogues with economists from Cornell University and activists from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of India. The third Exposure and sixth Dialogue in this on-going series was held in Oaxaca, Mexico in March. Carmen Roca, WIEGO Latin America Regional Advisor, and Sofia Trevino, WIEGO Spanish Language Communication Officer, identified local host families and facilitators-translators and planned logistics for a remarkable Exposure Dialogue that featured six host families – tin artisans, indigenous weavers, firework makers, brick maker and tortilla vendor, potters, and bakers – and that focused on a recent book by Santiago Levy, a Mexican economist who is the Vice President for Policy of the IDB. The Exposure Dialogue included a half-day briefing, two days of exposure visits, a half-day of reflections with the hosts, a one-day technical dialogue, and a half-day policy dialogue (hosted by CEPAL at its headquarters in Mexico City). For the technical and personal reflections and photos from the Exposure Dialogue, see wiego.org/program_areas/general_activities/index.php

International Domestic Workers Network

The Steering Committee of the International Domestic Workers' Network (IDWN) met in Geneva in June to consolidate the structure of the network. The Steering Committee took the following decisions :

- the network will have the name: International Domestic Workers' Network (IDWN)
- although the network will invite all groups and individuals interested in joining to participate, only member-based organizations will have the right of decision-making
- the Steering Committee will review applications for membership

The Steering Committee also elected office bearers of the Network, ratified a constitution, and agreed upon an action plan. For further details see: www.wiego.org/occupational_groups/domesticWorkers/IDWN-2009.php

The Network is supported by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF), a global union federation. In June, the first international coordinator of the network, Anneke van Luijken, stepped down. The Steering Committee of the Network decided, in consultation with the IUF, that Karin Pape (WIEGO Regional Advisor - Europe) will serve for an interim period as the international coordinator. During this period, WIEGO will 'second' Karin Pape to IUF. Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organisation and Representation Programme) will continue to serve as a technical advisor to the Network.

While in Geneva in June, the Steering Committee on the International Domestic Workers Network participated in the annual International Labour Conference (ILC) in order to familiarize themselves with the tripartite process as part of their preparations for the standard-setting discussion on domestic work at the 2010 and 2011 ILCs.

Warwick Junction Urban Renewal Project, Durban, South Africa: Book Launch and Photo Exhibit

On June 24th *Working in Warwick: Including Street Traders in Urban Plans* was launched at the Durban Art Gallery. Over the last two and a half years, WIEGO has supported Caroline Skinner and Richard Dobson's documentation of the lessons learned from the Warwick Junction Project. This inner city renewal initiative sensitively integrated street traders into the cityscape. Assisted by Jillian Nicholson, the book is the first product of this work.

Working in Warwick hopes to offer a fresh look at street traders' lives, the role they play in city life and their contribution to the economy. It contains practical examples and aims to inspire other local authorities and planners in their dealings with the informal economy. The book is full of pictures that, hopefully, will help 're-imagine' the informal economy in the minds of the public at large.

Richard Dobson and Caroline Skinner commissioned Dennis Gilbert, a well-known architectural photographer, to contribute to the book. The book launch coincided with the launch of an exhibition of his photographs. The exhibition was on display for six weeks. The photographs have been donated to the Durban Art Gallery so that other galleries, both in South Africa but also internationally, can request the exhibition.

In January 2009, the Durban city council announced that it planned to build a shopping mall in Warwick Junction. This represents a major reversal of their previously progressive approach and threatens the livelihoods of most of the 8000 street traders who operate there. The book and exhibition was thus launched at a very opportune moment. The launch acted as a call to the city to rethink these plans. Partly due to the controversy the launch was very well supported with over 350 people attending. It was opened by Chris Bonner, on behalf of WIEGO, Khabazele Mkhize and Professor Keith Hart.

Global Economic Crisis and the Informal Economy: Report Coming Soon!

Available information from our MBO partners indicates that the global economic recession has had an impact on informal workers around the world, yet most of the government and public response has focused on the formal economy. There is a common assumption that the informal economy serves as a cushion for formal workers who lose their jobs. While it is the case that *employment* in the informal economy tends to expand during economic downturns, this does not mean that those working in the informal economy thrive.

With its partners in the Inclusive Cities Global Project, WIEGO has begun tracking the impact of the global economic crisis on the working poor in the informal economy. The study, coordinated by Zoe Horn (a Canadian consultant), is collecting evidence and accounts from workers in three different sectors – home-based production, street trade, and waste picking - in 10 different countries across three regions. A synthesis report, Executive Summary, fact sheets, and case studies of individual workers will be available in English and Spanish will be available on or about August 24th. Please check the WIEGO website (www.wiego.org) and the Inclusive Cities website (www.inclusivecities.org) for more information at that time.

UN Climate Change Convention: Wastepickers Have Their Say!

The UN process for negotiating a new climate change accord following the Kyoto protocol is now underway in what is known as the "Copenhagen Process" based on high-level meetings being held there in December. With its partners in the growing global wastepicker movement, as well as a new partner GAIA (the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance), WIEGO was excited to be part of the

preparatory meetings in Bonn, Germany in June 2009. At those meetings, coordinated by Lucia Fernandez (Global Coordinator: Wastepickers), a group of wastepickers were able to make their voices heard on this issue that affects their livelihoods and families so directly. Prior to the meetings with government officials, the group had an educational day learning about the complicated funding mechanisms (“carbon credits”) associated with the treaty process, and then a day of strategy and message development. A highlight of the meeting was a press conference in the UN media briefing room where, for the first time, wastepickers from Latin America and Asia were able to outline their concerns about how the issue of climate change and the existing attempts to handle waste management under the carbon credit process affects them, and why they believe that communities of wastepickers can make a positive contribution to the fight against climate change. More information can be found on the WIEGO website, as well as in Spanish at www.recicladores.net. The wastepicker groups intend to continue their work on the UN treaty process and will be present in Copenhagen to continue to press their case.

Inclusive Cities Website

The Inclusive Cities website was successfully launched (in Spanish, Portuguese and English) in early June. In addition to information on the Inclusive Cities project and the global partners, the site provides information, policy guidelines, and good practice examples for policy makers, municipal governments, local organizations, and researchers who are interested in the topic of inclusive urban planning. Immediate feedback has been positive with over 750 visitors from 34 countries visiting the site since its launch. The site will be a focal point for the dissemination of several important research documents being released in the coming months including the Global Economic Crisis study. Please take a look at the site when you have a chance www.InclusiveCities.org. Feedback on the site and content can be directed to Demetria Tsoutouras (demetria.tsoutouras@wiego.org).

PROGRAMME HEADLINES

FIVE CORE PROGRAMMES

Organization and Representation

This has been an especially busy and productive period for the Organization and Representation programme and its Director, Chris Bonner. Activities over the past six months include:

- successful and exciting meeting of the International Domestic Workers Network (IDWN) at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in June, and training on ILO procedures in preparation for discussions on a possible ILO Convention on Domestic Work scheduled for the 2010 and 2011 ILCs
- work towards an international network of waste picker associations, including contracting Lucia Fernandez and Melanie Samson as Africa Coordinator for this effort and meeting of waste picker associations in Buenos Aires, Argentina in February
- Law and Informal Economy project: second phase in India and first phase in Colombia
- development of Law and Informal Economy project webpage on WIEGO website: see www.wiego.org/informal_economy_law/india/index.html
- publication of six worker education booklets on Organizing in the Informal Economy
- further updates and improvements to data base on “Organizing in the Informal Economy”
- research on characteristics and classification of member-based organizations of informal workers
- research for, and editing of the book, Refusing to be Cast Aside. Waste Pickers Organising around the World, by Melanie Samson. This book will be available in September/October 2009.

- gathering information on organizations of waste pickers and other background information for extending work on waste pickers in Africa
- strengthening of linkages with trade union and cooperative movements
- development of capacity building strategy for member-based organizations of informal workers
- meeting of Advisory Committee in Geneva in June, including three new members representing domestic workers (Barbro Budin of IUF), home-based workers (Poonsap Thulapan of HomeNet Thailand), and waste pickers (Lucia Fernandez of WIEGO-Inclusive Cities)

Statistics

In addition to the active membership of Joann Vanek, Statistics Director, on various technical advisory committees related to labour force and other economic statistics, the Statistics programme has three main on-going activities. Significant progress has been made on each of these during the first half of 2009:

- finalization of the Manual on Surveys of Informal Sector and Informal Employment which is being prepared by an international team and edited by Ralf Hussmanns, ILO Statistics Bureau, and Joann Vanek
- preparations for the update of the 2002 ILO booklet on Women and Men in the *Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture* including identifying national data sources and data analysts, preparing a tabulation plan, preparing a funding proposal and budget, and fundraising
- follow-up to the very successful conference on "Measuring Informal Employment in Developed Countries" held at Harvard University in October 2008, including development of webpage on the conference and finalization of background paper by Francoise Carre and James Heintz

Global Trade

In addition to WIEGO's membership and participation in the Ethical Trade Initiative, there are currently two major activities under the Global Trade programme. Each of these is being undertaken by a consultant ñ Celia Mather and Carol Wills, respectively ñ who will work closely with Elaine Jones, Director of WIEGO's Global Trade Programme. Consultative design workshops for each were held in May, as follows:

- worker education manual for homeworkers on global value chains ñ a consultative design workshop with SEWA Bharat and Home Net South Asia was held in New Delhi, India
- case studies of Fair Trade Associations in six countries ñ a consultative design workshop with representatives from each of the Associations was held in Kathmandu, Nepal

While in Kathmandu, Elaine Jones also attended a conference of the World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) where she took the opportunity to gather testimonials on the impact of the global economic crisis on fair trade organizations and producers. These fed into the study on the impact of the global economic crisis.

Social Protection

In addition to overseeing the Informal Economy Budget Analysis pilot under the Inclusive Cities project, Francie Lund, Social Protection Director, has recently launched two exciting new initiatives under the Social Protection Programme:

- Occupational Health and Safety Project - designed to rethink and reform occupational health and safety to match the conditions and locations of informal work, this project will be undertaken initially in six countries. Work began in early 2009 in Brazil and Ghana, and will proceed to Cambodia, Colombia, Tanzania and a second Asian country. In all countries, the work will be done in collaboration with MBOs of informal workers. Laura Alfes is the

research assistant on this project. Vilma Santana, workers' health expert at the Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil, is the partner for the work in Brazil. A micro-site for the project will soon be launched on the WIEGO website.

- case study documentation of good practice examples of social protection for informal workers ñ Laura Alferts completed the draft of the case study of the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme and held focus group discussions with members of the Streetnet Ghana Alliance to get their views on how far the new scheme is meeting the needs of informal women workers.

For the past two years, Francie Lund has worked on an ILO-DFID project on 'Building Decent Societies', which has been working towards the idea of a basic universal floor of social protection. The project recently concluded with the launch of a book, edited by the late Peter Townsend, in which Francie has a chapter (see Lund in Townsend, 2009, under Publications).

Urban Policies

Under the Inclusive Cities project, Caroline Skinner, Director of our Urban Policies Programme, will generate and oversee relevant research and policy analysis, help build a common framework for advocacy, and coordinate documentation of good practice examples: all of which will be designed to help the member-based organizations of urban informal workers in their on-going negotiations and advocacy with cities around the world. There has been a good deal of activity related to this aspect of the Inclusive Cities project during the first half of 2009:

- research planning meeting in New Delhi, India in January with representatives from all partners in the global project
- research project with global partners in 10 countries to monitor the impact of the global recession on the three main categories of urban informal workers that are the focus of the Inclusive Cities project, namely home-based workers, street vendors, and waste pickers: this included preparatory work by Zoe Horn, the project coordinator, and a Technical Advisory Committee and the first round of focus group discussions, surveys, and key informant interviews during June. The synthesis report of the first round of the study will be launched in late August.
- pilot testing of the Informal Economy Budget Analysis tool, first developed in South Africa, in Brazil, Ghana, Pakistan, Peru, and Philippines. These studies are being coordinated by Debbie Budlender, who helped develop the tool and who is a worldwide expert on gender budget analysis in consultation with Francie Lund and Marty Chen
- planning for a proposed project called Radical Reappraisal of Urban Planning designed to integrate a livelihoods perspective, with a focus on the urban informal workforce, into urban planning.

As part of the research programme, analyses of city level statistics have commenced in Brazil and South Africa; Melanie Samson has completed a review of literature on waste collection in Africa; Shalini Sinha has analyzed the implementation of India's national street vending policy; and Sally Roever has drafted a guide on street trading censuses.

Also, Nazish Peer has established a wiki which contains current laws ñ both national and local ñ that impact on the working poor generally and street traders particularly in 21 countries. To develop this "urban observatory", Nazish drew on and systematized a collection of laws that StreetNet had compiled and searched the web and literature for other national and local laws.. Please contact Caroline Skinner on caroline.skinner@uct.ac.za if you would like to be added to the list of wiki participants.

In addition to the research-policy analysis-good practice documentation component of the Inclusive Cities project, activities under our Urban Policies Programme in the first half of 2009 included:

- publication and launch of book Working in Warwick: Including Street Traders in Urban Plans by Richard Dobson (architect planner who pioneered the Warwick Junction Urban Renewal Project and now heads the new NGO, Asiye eTafuleni set up to provide a second generation of support to the street traders in that area), Caroline Skinner, and Jillian Nicholson (a write-editor who has worked on other WIEGO publications): see Highlights.
- finalization of edited volume on street trade around the world by Sharit Bhowmik, former Director of WIEGO's Urban Policies Programme. This volume, to be published by Routledge India in late 2009, includes three regional reviews on street trade in Asia, Africa, and Latin America commissioned by WIEGO as well as papers on street trade in selected countries in Asia and Latin America.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Europe Region

In April in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, together with Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) and the International Trade Union Confederation ñ Pan European Regional Council (ITUC-PERC) Karin Pape (WIEGO Regional Advisor - Europe) co-organized a seminar on "Informal Economy Workers' Protection and Representation: Regional Alliance Building Conference between NGOs and Trade Unions in Central and Eastern Europe." The workshop was attended by representatives of trade unions and NGOs from eight Eastern European countries, including one representative of HomeNet Turkey. Pat Horn, international coordinator of StreetNet International, also participated and took advantage of being there to make arrangements for field visits later in the year with the goal to expand affiliation of street vendors' organizations in the region.

Latin America Region

The major activity in this region during the first half of 2009 was the Exposure Dialogue in Mexico. As noted under Highlights above, Carmen Roca (WIEGO Regional Advisor ñ Latin America) led the team that identified the host families and arranged logistics for the exposure and the dialogues that followed. During the first half of 2009, Carmen Roca also assisted StreetNet in training members of FEDEVAL, the Lima Federation of Street Vendors, and assisted the Latin America partners in the study of the impact of the global economic crisis on informal workers. In March 2009, DFID selected for funding a proposal that Carmen Roca, together with Francie Lund (Director, WIEGO Social Protection Programme), had prepared and submitted in late 2009 to the DFID call for papers under its Civil Society Challenge Fund. The project, entitled "Strengthening the Voice of Informal Workers in Social Policy Decisions in Latin America", will be carried out in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru starting in August 2009.

GLOBAL PROJECTS

Inclusive Cities for the Urban Working Poor

The Inclusive Cities project, funded by the Gates Foundation, started in November 2008. In addition to coordinating and generating research, policy analysis, and good practice documentation under the project (see Urban Policies above), WIEGO is playing two other key roles in this global project under the leadership of Rhonda Douglas, our Global Projects Director. These are to help build the organizing and institutional capacity of the member-based organizations; and coordinate the project overall, including designing and managing a common website for the

project and building a common framework for monitoring and evaluation. During the first half of 2009 significant progress was made on these two fronts, as follows:

- set of meetings of all of the partners in Buenos Aires, Argentina, including meeting with Gates Foundation legal, grant management, and programme staff on financial reporting as well as monitoring and evaluation plus meeting with representatives from all waste pickers associations in the global project
- collaboration with Global Anti-Incineration Alliance (GAIA) and participation of waste pickers and their supporters in UN Climate Change meeting and negotiations in Bonn, Germany (coordinated by Lucia Fernandez)
- visit to HomeNet South East Asia affiliates in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines and Thailand by Rhonda Douglas, Dave Spooner, and HomeNet South Asia colleagues to determine the management and organizing capacity needs of these organizations under the Inclusive Cities project.
- review of SEWA's learning resources and organising experiences and development of an implementation plan for SEWA's role as a Learning Hub under the Inclusive Cities project, including translation of key training materials, undertaken by the SEWA Academy with support from Dave Spooner.

As noted under Highlights, one of WIEGO's responsibilities under the Inclusive Cities project is to develop and maintain a website for the project overall. Although managed and maintained by WIEGO, the website belongs, as it were, to all of the partners in the global project. Rhonda Douglas, Demetria Tsoutouras, and Julian Luckham developed and designed the website which was launched in early June: see www.inclusivecities.org.

Women's Economic Empowerment

The Women's Economic Empowerment Global Project, funded by the MDG3 Fund established by the Government of the Netherlands, connects several streams of WIEGO's work related to the economic empowerment of women informal workers. The project has six main components. Significant progress was made on all of these in the first half of 2009: three in conjunction with our core programmes and two with key global partners.

1. In partnership with the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), the Organization and Representation Programme is helping to build an international movement of domestic workers by focusing on a campaign for an international Convention on Domestic Workers;
2. The Global Trade Programme is conducting a set of eight participatory case studies to analyze, document, and disseminate good practice examples of fair trade for women producers;
3. The Social Protection Programme is working within 6 countries over the next few years to reframe and reshape occupational health and safety measures to match the needs of working poor women in the informal economy.
4. With HomeNet Thailand, WIEGO is supporting the development of a federation of home-based worker organizations in Thailand by focusing on issues of concern to these workers, such as social protection, legal status and labour rights;
5. WIEGO is supporting Asiye eTafuleni, a new NGO in Durban, South Africa, to provide a second phase of support services to street traders in the Warwick Junction area of Durban/eThekweni and to disseminate the experience of Warwick Junction to other cities in Africa and beyond.

The sixth component relates to our overarching commitment to building the capacity of member-based organizations of informal workers and, especially, women's leadership within them. This commitment will be a special focus of WIEGO's next General Assembly in April 2010.

BOARD MEETING AND RELATED EVENTS

In January, the WIEGO Ltd. Board met for the first time in Manchester, UK where WIEGO has an office. To mark that occasion, WIEGO organised two public events: a photo exhibit at the Manchester Town Hall; and a panel discussion at the University of Manchester.

Civic Reception and Photo Exhibit at Manchester Town Hall

The Lord Mayor of Manchester hosted a formal Civic Reception at the Manchester Town Hall to mark the opening of WIEGO's Manchester office and to extend the city's welcome to WIEGO Board members and staff. To coincide with the reception, WIEGO organised a photo-exhibit at the Town Hall.

Panel Discussion at the University of Manchester

The panel discussion "New Perspectives on Informality" was co-organized with three centres at the University of Manchester: the Brooks World Poverty Institute, the Global Urban Research Centre, and the Institute for Development Policy and Management. Chaired by Armando Barrientos of BWPI, the panelists included Stephanie Barrientos of IDPM, Caroline Moser of GURC, Francie Lund and Marty Chen of WIEGO. Tony Addison of BWPI was the discussant.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

At its June 2008 meeting, the WIEGO Board agreed that WIEGO should undertake an External Evaluation of its impact and appointed an Evaluation Committee comprised of Marty Chen, Rhonda Douglas, Joe Holly, Frances Lund, Carmen Roca, and Dave Spooner. The Evaluation Committee contracted Bernadette Orr to first write a concept note for the Committee outlining various approaches to evaluating social justice networks such as WIEGO and then to lead the external evaluation. Bernadette has worked for Oxfam America and the MacArthur Foundation and recently helped evaluate the work of the labour team of Oxfam International. Working together, the Evaluation Committee and Bernadette Orr have developed a "theory of change" for what WIEGO seeks to do, and how, as well as an evaluation plan. The Committee has also identified consultants to carry out case studies, through document review and key informant interviews, of the following:

1. Impact of Two Core WIEGO Programmes
Organization and Representation Programme - by Celia Mather, an independent consultant who works closely with trade unions and other worker organizations
Statistics Program - by Farhad Mehran, an Iranian statistician who recently retired from the ILO Statistics Bureau
2. WIEGO's Impact in One Country
WIEGO's Impact in South Africa - by Glen Robbins, an urban policy expert at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal
3. Impact of Two Key WIEGO Collaborations
ILO-WIEGO Collaboration, especially around the General Discussion on the Informal Economy at the 2002 International Labour Conference ñ by Lin Lim, a Malaysian economist who was the lead professional from the International Labour Office deputed to that General Discussion

Cornell-SEWA-WIEGO Exposure Dialogue Programme - by Tony Atkinson of the University of Manchester

To supplement these case studies, Bernadette Orr will conduct a set of interviews with WIEGO Board members, staff, and other stakeholders in order to evaluate those aspects of WIEGO's work that are not covered by the five case studies.

The Evaluation Committee met in London in mid-May with Bernadette Orr and Barbara Klugman of the Ford Foundation, who recently completed a review of different approaches to evaluating social justice advocacy and kindly agreed to serve as an external "listener" and advisor, to finalize the conceptual framework, overall plan, key questions and issues, consultant TORs for the Evaluation. Barbara Klugman has since agreed to work with Bernadette Orr on the synthesis report. The plan is to have the case studies done during July-August with draft reports by September, consultation with WIEGO staff on the draft reports in October, revisions to the reports by early November, completion of synthesis report by end December, and presentation of final Evaluation Report to Board and funders in January 2010.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Membership Support and Outreach

In late 2008, to help strengthen our support and outreach to our membership, WIEGO hired Dave Spooner, formerly Director of the International Federation of Workers' Education Associations, to serve as a half-time Membership Support Coordinator and half-time Operations Manager based in our UK office. Since then, Dave has made substantial in developing our support to our Institutional Members ñ member-based organizations of informal workers and trade unions that organise informal workers. Dave has been consulting with all of our institutional members, and building a set of priorities for support, as expressed by our members. In several cases, he has been able to visit our institutional members, and gain a better insight into their work.

During April and May, Dave visited the head offices of HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet South East Asia, and met some of their member organisations in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. He also attended the Council meeting of StreetNet International in Durban, where he was able to hold discussions with several of WIEGO's Institutional Members. This was followed by visits to the Alliance of Zambian Informal Economy Associations (AZIEA) and their partners in the Zambian copper belt, and then on to a full itinerary of visits and meetings with the Ghana Trades Union Congress, and their affiliates and partners who are organising in the informal economy.

These discussions, along with questionnaires and email correspondence, have provided an excellent basis for the development of WIEGO's membership support strategy. The first step, working closely with Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO's Organization and Representation Programme), has been to undertake a review of all the workers' education material available for trade unions and associations in the informal economy, and developing an on-line resource centre of such materials, which will be made available on the WIEGO website over the next several months.

WIEGO Website

In consultation with programme staff, Pat Carney has been updating the WIEGO website: please have a look at www.wiego.org. A new micro-site for the workers health and safety project (see under Social Protection above) is about to be launched. With an advisory committee - comprised of Marty Chen, Beth Graves, Dave Spooner, and Joann Vanek - Pat is developing plans for an expanded website with additional new features.

Photo Library

Leslie Tuttle, WIEGO Communication Consultant, has completed an inventory of our existing photos catalogued by topic and country, and launched WIEGO's new online photographic library: www.wiegophotos.org, which has an extensive range of images on the informal economy, and which we hope will be an important communications tool for everyone in the WIEGO network. Contact Leslie at photo-library@wiego.org if you would like a password to the library, and she will also send you a simple guide to its use. We're also keen to have your photos to add to the collection!

PUBLICATIONS

Bonner, Chris. 2009. "Decent Work for Domestic Workers. Towards an ILO Convention" in South African Labour Bulletin, Volume 33, Number 2 (June/July).

_____. 2009. Organising in the Informal Economy: Resource Books for Organisers. Durban, South Africa: StreetNet International and WIEGO.

This series of six booklets has been published by StreetNet International and WIEGO, in response to requests from unions and worker organisations for practical ideas on how to go about organising in the informal economy. Initiated by the International Coordinating Committee on Organising in the Informal Economy (ICC) the booklets attempt to share more widely the experiences of those already organising informal workers. Written by Chris Bonner, the six booklets are:

- 1: Recruiting Informal Workers into Democratic Workers' Organisations
- 2: Building and Maintaining a Democratic Organisation of Informal Workers
- 3: Handling the Day-To-Day Problems of Informal Workers
- 4: Collective Negotiations for Informal Workers
- 5: Handling Disputes between Informal Workers and those in Power
- 6: Collective Action for Informal Workers

The series is currently available in English only but Spanish, Portuguese and French versions will be available later this year. Hard copies of the booklets can be obtained from StreetNet International. info@streetnet.org.za

Chen, Martha A. 2009. "Informalisation of Labour Markets: Is Formalisation the Answer?" In Razavi, Shahra ed. The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards "Embedded Liberalism"? New York, USA: Routledge Press/UNRISD Series on Gender and Development.

Dobson, Richard, Caroline Skinner, and Jillian Nicholson. 2009. Working in Warwick: Including Street Traders in Urban Plans. Durban, South Africa: School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu Natal.

Lund, Frances. 2009. "Social protection, citizenship and the employment relationship". PLAAS Working Paper No. 9. Cape Town: Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape. (www.plaas.org.za/publications/wp/wp9)

_____. 2009. "Welfare, development and growth: lessons from South Africa", Chapter 15 in Peter Townsend (ed.): Building decent societies: rethinking the role of social security in state building. Geneva: ILO and London: Palgrave McMillan.

Lund, Frances with Debbie Budlender. 2009. 'Paid care provision in South Africa: nurses, domestic workers and home-based care workers'. South African Research Report Four for the UNRISD Political Economy of Paid and Unpaid Care Work Project.

Lund, Frances and Tony Vaux. 2009. 'Work-focused responses to disaster: India's Self employed Women's Association', in Enarson, E. and P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti (eds.): Women, Gender and Disasters. New Delhi: Sage Publications, pp. 212 ñ 223

Skinner, Caroline. Forthcoming in 2009. "Street Trading Trends in Africa: A Critical Review"" in Bhowmik, S. ed. Street Vendors in the Global Urban Economy. New Delhi: Routledge.

PRESENTATIONS

Bonner, Chris. "Organising Informal Women Workers", Johannesburg, DITSELA.

_____. "Decent Work and the Informal Economy: WIEGO's Work". Johannesburg, Global Labour University Course.

_____. Facilitator. StreetNet International Workshop: World Class Cities for All Campaign Workshop. Johannesburg (March)

_____. Facilitator. StreetNet International Workshop: Employment Relations in the Vending Sector. Durban (May)

Chen, Martha. "Inclusive Urban Planning for the Working Poor". Joint University of Manchester-WIEGO Panel discussion on "New Perspectives on Informality". Manchester, UK (January).

_____. "Promoting Decent Work for Informal Workers: The WIEGO Network" Harvard Business School Social Enterprise System-Level Change Day Panel on Systemic Change: "How can Social Enterprises Scale their Impact without Growing?" (March)

_____. "Economic Rights and Decent Work: The Challenge of Informality" Carr Center for Human Rights Seminar Series on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (March)

_____. "Global Recession and the Informal Economy: Economic Crisis at the 'Bottom of the Pyramid'" Sida Luncheon Seminar. Stockholm, Sweden (March)

_____. "Global Recession and the Informal Economy: Economic Crisis at the 'Bottom of the Pyramid'" OECD: Joint ESL/DEV Seminar, Paris, France (April)

_____. "The Informal IS Normal". OECD: Joint ESL/DEV Seminar, Paris, France (April)

_____. "Sustaining Poverty Reduction in the in an Age of Global Volatility: The Role of the Informal Economy" World Bank, PREM Day Plenary, Washington, D.C., USA (April)

_____. "Global Recession and the Informal Economy: Economic Crisis at the 'Bottom of the Pyramid'" World Bank: PREM Learning Day Panel on Global Economic Crisis (April)

_____ "The Informal IS Normal". World Bank: PREM Learning Day Panel on OECD Publication, Washington, D.C., USA (April)

_____ "Is Informality a Cushion? Global Recession and the Informal Economy" World Bank-BMZ-GTZ-IZA Policy Forum, Bonn, Germany (May)

_____ "Informality, Risk, and Poverty in Africa: What Do We Know? What Do We Need to Know? World Bank Workshop "Africa Informal Sector, Growth and Poverty Reduction". Washington, D.C., USA (May)

_____ "Female Informal Entrepreneurs: Constraints and Opportunities" World Bank and University of Michigan Conference "Female Entrepreneurship: Constraints and Opportunities". Washington, D.C., USA (June)

_____ "Responding to Urban Poverty Challenges: A Livelihood Approach". Harvard Kennedy School, Mexico Program Conference "Responding to Urban Poverty Challenges" (June)

Lund, Frances. "The role of cash transfers in security and asset building in an agricultural/ rural context: evidence, claims, puzzles". Presentation at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Convening Meeting, Seattle, USA (February).

_____. "Social protection, citizenship, and the employment relationship". Presentation at the Chronic Poverty Research Centre/ Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies Workshop: 'Working on the Margins', Cape Town, South Africa (March)

_____. "Do South African political parties incorporate informal workers in their political manifestos?" Panelist at public meeting held by Democracy Development Project, Durban, South Africa (April)

_____. "The UNRISD project on the Political Economy of Paid and Unpaid Care Work: The South African country study". Plenary Presentation at the Women in Development Europe (WIDE) Research Conference, Basel, Switzerland (June)

Francie Lund (with acknowledgements to Marty Chen). "Global recession and workers in the informal economy". Presentation to the CARE Southern and Eastern African Regional Officers Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa (April)

_____. "The informal economy in Africa: implications for employment and social policy". Keynote presentation to the EC-ILO Seminar on Employment, Social Protection and Decent Work for the ACP Countries, Brussels, Belgium (June).