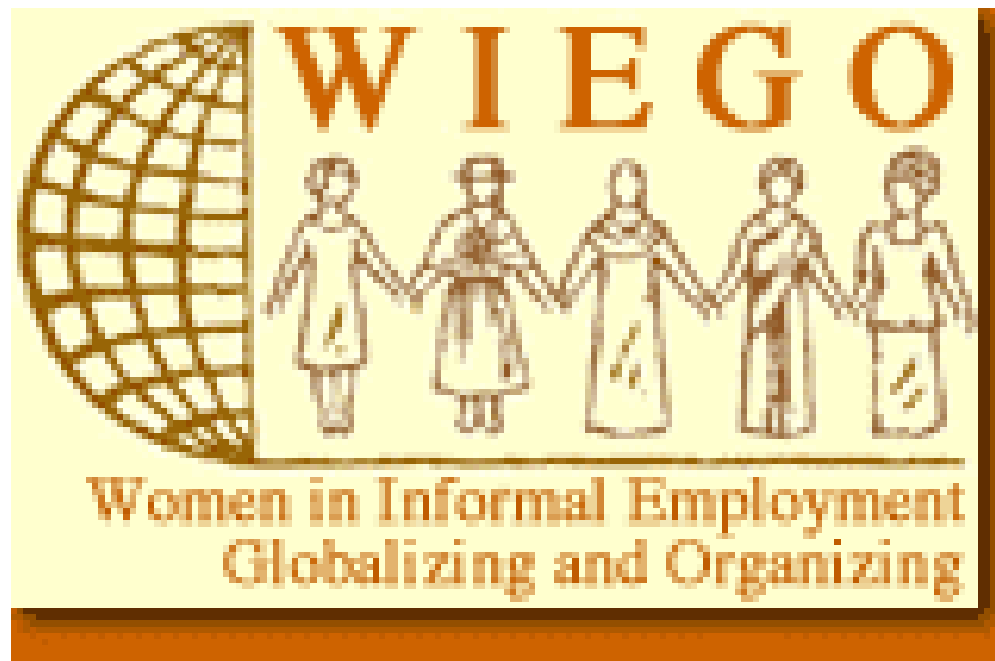


THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



THE INFORMAL WORKFORCE

Around the world, the informal workforce includes those who work:



On Streets or In Open Spaces:

- street vendors
- push-cart vendors
- waste pickers
- barbers
- construction workers
- jitney drivers



In Fields, Pastures, Forests; On Waterways:

- small farmers
- agricultural labourers
- shepherds
- forest gatherers
- fisherfolk



In Small Workshops/Factories:

- scrap metal recyclers
- shoe makers
- weavers
- garment makers
- paper-bag makers
- mechanics



At Home:

- garment makers
- embroiderers
- shoemakers
- artisans or craft producers
- assemblers of electronic parts



DEFINITION OF INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT

- **Self-Employment in Informal Enterprises:** self-employed in small unregistered or unincorporated enterprises, including:
 - *employers*
 - *own account operators*
 - *unpaid family workers*
- **Wage Employment in Informal Jobs:** wage workers without legal or social protection who work for formal or informal firms, for households. or for no fixed employer, including:
 - *employees of informal enterprises*
 - informal wage workers such as:
 - casual or day labourers
 - contract workers
 - domestic workers
 - industrial outworkers (also called homeworkers)

Note: The international definition of the “informal sector” that was adopted by the 1993 International Conference of Labour Statisticians included only those who work in informal enterprises (shown in *italics* above). The newly expanded definition of “informal employment” has been endorsed by the 2002 International Labour Conference and the 2003 International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

SIZE OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: SHARE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

North Africa **48%**

Latin America **51%**

Asia **65%**

Sub-Saharan Africa **72%**

CONTRIBUTION OF “INFORMAL SECTOR” TO GDP: SHARE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL GDP

North Africa	27 %
Latin America	29 %
Asia	31 %
Sub-Saharan Africa	41 %

SEGMENTATION OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: BY SEX, AVERAGE EARNINGS, AND POVERTY RISK

