

WORKING POOR IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY



In Unregulated Factories:

- garment makers
- shoe makers

In Small Workshops:

- scrap metal recyclers
- shoe makers
- weavers
- garment makers and embroiderers
- paper-bag makers



On Streets or In Open Spaces:

- street vendors
- push-cart vendors
- garbage collectors
- roadside barbers
- construction workers



In Fields, Pastures, and Forests:

- small farmers
- agricultural labourers
- shepherds
- forest gatherers



At Home:

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





OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR INFORMAL WORKERS

Francie Lund

WIEGO Social Protection Programme

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WIEGO approach to informal work and poverty

- Most of the world's poor – especially in developing countries – are *working*.
- The vast majority of the working poor – those who earn less than US\$ 1 per day - earn their living in the informal economy where:
 - *average earnings are low*
 - *risks are high*

Poverty reduction is not possible without

a) increasing the assets and earnings, and

b) reducing the risks

of those who work in the informal economy.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Past WIEGO social protection work has focused on
 - Understanding risk for specific groups of informal workers
 - Access to core contingencies – e.g. health insurance, protection when older
 - Value chain analysis to identify potential contributors to better provision of health and other services
- What about risks and hazards *in the workplace itself*?
- What different types of risks and hazards, and possibilities for measures of protection, are presented in different places of work?
- The formal occupational health and safety ‘regulatory regime’ does not ‘see’ informal work places at all.

Our vision

An inclusive discipline and practice of occupational health and safety that

- Understands and measures the working conditions and health status of poorer informal workers;
- Includes informal places of work in its scope;
- Accepts and negotiates with organisations and associations of informal workers as workers.

The objectives

(mostly the focus of the first half of the project)

- Understand better the risks faced by poorer informal workers in the main places where they work
- Identify how to *modify legal and institutional barriers* to the inclusion of informal workers and work places into OHS
- Support and assist MBOs of informal workers in *shaping focused demands* for OHS interventions, and in *negotiating for policy change and implementation*
- Understand the allocation, control and flow of resources to OHS in order to *identify spaces for reallocation or increased allocation* to informal workers and work places
- Help build *in-country research and organising capacity* in OHS for informal workers

Objectives (continued)

(mostly the focus of the second half of the project)

- *Improve the collection and reporting of country-based statistics on OHS* for informal workers to international regulating agencies (such as ILO and WHO)
- Develop a *module for data collection on OHS* for informal workers in labour force surveys
- Contribute to the development and implementation of an *expanded or alternative curriculum* which integrates OHS for informal workers and work places into mainstream OHS training institutions

Programme design

- Main variable – place of work of occupational groups
- Five countries:
 - Ghana and Tanzania
 - Brazil and Peru
 - Two places in India
- Choosing for country differences such as the scope of legal and institutional OHS regime, and the mandate and capacity of local governments
- Focus on three or four different occupational groups in each country

Countries and sectors

- Ghana – market traders/street vendors, kayayei (women headload porters), chop bar operators (indigenous caterers), either home based, or at transport hubs
- Brazil – waste pickers, street vendors, domestic workers
- Tanzania – domestic workers, agricultural workers, street vendors, seaweed farmers
- India SEWA – agricultural workers, agarbattis (incense stick rollers), embroidery workers, papad makers
- India KKPKP – wastepickers
- Peru – newspaper vendors, market porters, wastepickers, export processing in agriculture

In general, in each country we start with:

- Two country papers
 - ‘Size and shape’ of the informal economy
 - ‘Institutional mapping’ and audit of OHS in government at all levels
- Identification of programme partners
- Setting up a multiple stakeholder Reference Group, with strong representation from MBOs and their allies
- Participatory research with MBOs

Participatory research with Streetnet Ghana Alliance

Focus Groups and 'risk cards'



Health check list for market traders



And then go on to

- Multi-interest group policy dialogues
- Possible exposure dialogue programmes
- Interaction with those who control OHS curriculum
- Dissemination through media, journal articles, popular materials
- Written tools for organising, for worker groups
- Contribute to the development of physical prototypes for working equipment for informal workers

**We have space and time to include and add
the best of the ideas that we develop
and share at
this Learning Meeting**

SO, LET'S GO!!!