



Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing



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# WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:  
Globalizing and Organizing

## Annual Report

*April 2011 – March 2012*

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*Front Cover Photo: Domestic workers put their hands to a giant apron, which they carried through the streets of Geneva to demonstrate their individual worth and collective strength. Photo: S. Trevino*



## ***Letter from the Chair of the Board***

Dear WIEGO Members, Partners, and Friends,

What makes WIEGO unique and effective is the way it integrates its constituents, amplifying their strengths. First, membership-based organizations – MBOs, a democratic concept brought to the fore by WIEGO – are at the heart of our work, and represented in all our activities. NGOs may speak on behalf of poor people, but the MBO is the authentic voice, exposing the workers' great struggles, whether physical, mental or policy-driven.

Through its research, WIEGO examines both obstacles and solutions. Because our research draws on and reflects the reality on the ground, it brings the working poor sharply into focus for both academics and decision-makers. I am particularly enthusiastic about WIEGO's work in statistics, which continues to break ground, creating new data that MBOs can use. Numbers can be so powerful and reveal so much about lives, without the clutter of too many words.

WIEGO also makes use of its connectedness with development practitioners and policymakers to ensure the realities faced by informal workers inform policy and action. In this way, WIEGO is a convener that enables three constituencies to work in tandem, better facilitating the progress of each.

As you will read in this report, 2011-2012 was a year of significant achievement and expansion for WIEGO, our member organizations and our partners. Major accomplishments focused on developing a deeper understanding of informal workers in urban areas. Urban work is different from rural work – less rooted and less secure, but offering new opportunities. However, more needs to be known about the changing picture of urban work today. Here again, WIEGO's unique contributions include statistical work that highlights urban planning and policy issues around land, infrastructure, and transport – issues that deeply affect informal workers but were not visible until WIEGO began to analyze them.

Significantly, our work focuses not just on problems but also on sharing best practices and solutions that have arisen in various locations. Examples from the period of this report include a Health Policy Dialogue that shared case studies from three countries to explore how informal workers can gain better access to health services, and the diverse dissemination of findings from an action-research project that examined the experiences of women producers in collective enterprises.

As WIEGO expands and gains momentum, it will continue to bring the realities of the working poor in the informal economy to mainstream attention. It is our hope that through the combination of MBO organizing, rigorous research and statistical analysis, and broad dissemination, the voice of these workers will get louder and louder.



*Renana Jhabvala*

Renana Jhabvala, Chair  
WIEGO Ltd. Board  
September 2012

## ***Letter from International Coordinator***

Dear WIEGO Family and Friends,

During the year covered in this report – April 2011 to March 2012 – two groups of informal workers achieved historic landmark victories: in June 2011, the International Labour Organization approved an international Convention, and accompanying Resolution, on Decent Work for Domestic Workers; and, in December 2011, the Constitutional Court of Colombia passed a ruling that mandated that associations of waste pickers should be allowed to bid, alongside private corporations, for municipal solid waste management contracts. In collaboration with the International Labour Office and the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF), WIEGO supported the International Domestic Workers Network during its campaign for the convention: supporting delegates of domestic workers to the 2009, 2010, and 2011 International Labour Conferences; compiling statistical data and research findings on domestic workers; and providing translation/interpretation and other communication services. The campaign that resulted in the constitutional court victory for waste pickers in Colombia was led by the Asociacion Recicladores de Bogota (ARB) and its supporters, including pro bono lawyers. Since the landmark victory, WIEGO has supported the ARB in drafting their bid for a solid waste management contract and negotiating with the Bogota municipality.

During the year, WIEGO had activities and/or members in 51 countries. We began working with home-based workers and their organizations in Bulgaria and elsewhere in South East Europe. We invited 32 national alliances of StreetNet International from around the world and the regional network of waste pickers in Latin America to become Institutional Members of WIEGO. Further, we had activities in 32 cities: in eight of these cities, we had more than four on-going activities. At the Team Retreat in Accra, Ghana in October 2011, we decided to place greater emphasis on city-level activities: to ensure that the gains from national and international advocacy translate into concrete outcomes for informal workers. An initial pair of Focal Cities, where we have multiple activities and local coordinators, was selected: Accra, Ghana and Lima, Peru.

Our five core programmes and global projects continue to do cutting-edge work: here are some highlights. In addition to on-going support to networks of informal workers in four sectors – domestic workers, home-based producers, street vendors, and waste pickers – our Organization and Representation Programme coordinates a three-country pioneering project on Law and the Informal Economy and has expanded our database on organizations of informal workers (which now has more than 650 entries). In collaboration with the ILO, our Statistics Programme has produced the update of the widely-cited 2002 ILO-WIEGO publication *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture* and is editing a technical manual on measuring informal employment. Our Global Trade Programme produced a volume of case studies of women producer groups linked to Fair Trade initiatives called *Trading Our Way Up: Women Organizing for Fair Trade* and presented the case study findings and the experience of the WIEGO project on the topic at the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) in Mombasa, Kenya in May 2011. Through two special projects (one on Occupational Safety and Health in five countries, the other on Voice and Social Policy in Peru and Mexico) and related activities, our Social Protection Programme has been able to influence mainstream thinking in regard to universal health and occupational health and safety for informal workers. In addition to producing a large number of publications, our Urban Policies Programme has developed and piloted planning curriculum on the urban informal economy and has launched an observatory on law and the urban informal economy. With partners in the Inclusive Cities of the Urban Working Poor project and external advisors, WIEGO finalized the research design and planned a research training workshop for a 10-city multi-year, multi-disciplinary study on the urban informal economy.



In August 2011, WIEGO launched our revamped and expanded website. The redesigned website is really two sites in one: one side features WIEGO; the other side is a rich resource on the informal economy. Please have a look at [www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org). Our Communications Team continued to expand our publications and outreach: bringing out 13 WIEGO publications and producing nine WIEGO newsletters plus using blogs, Twitter, and Facebook to share information.

Also, in August 2011, WIEGO was granted charity status by the Charities Commission of England and Wales. This is a major milestone for WIEGO that will make us eligible for additional sources of funding and will increase our credibility with funders and others.

On behalf of WIEGO, I want to thank our funders, the WIEGO Board, my 33 colleagues on the WIEGO Team, and the 56 consultants who worked with WIEGO over this year. Without your support and hard work, WIEGO could not flourish and expand. And I want to acknowledge the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy – and their organizations and networks – who remain at the heart of WIEGO's mission and who continue to inspire us with their resilience and determination.



*Marty Chen*

Marty Chen,  
International Coordinator  
WIEGO Network  
September 2012

## WIEGO MISSION

WIEGO believes that all workers should have equal economic opportunities and rights and be able to determine the conditions of their work and lives.

WIEGO works to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy through increased organization and representation; improved statistics and research; more inclusive policy processes; and more equitable trade, labour, urban planning, and social protection policies.

## Achieving our Goals: Highlights 2011-2012

WIEGO works collaboratively with our members, partners and allies to focus attention on the significance of the informal economy and to support the working poor, especially women, as they strive to improve their lives and working conditions. During the year covered in this report – April 2011 to March 2012 – informal economy workers across sectors and around the world achieved many milestones.

### Highlights:

- Victory was won after a sustained international campaign, led by domestic workers and supported by WIEGO and allies, to secure the adoption of a Convention and accompanying Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) at the 100th International Labour Conference in June 2011. See **Sector Specific Networks – Domestic Workers**.
- WIEGO made important connections in South-East Europe, including supporting the development of HomeNet South-East Europe and participating in workshops on organizing informal workers and a conference of home-based workers in the Balkan region. See **Sector Specific Networks – Home-Based Workers and Street Vendors**.
- The ability for WIEGO and its allies to help waste pickers be heard in global forums was enhanced through greater communications capacity for the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers, which included support for a Communications Officer and development of a global website. See **Sector Specific Networks – Waste Pickers**.
- The manuscript for the second edition of *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture* – a resource that the ILO and WIEGO first published in 2002 – was completed. Data on informal employment in 47 countries, plus urban China, compiled and analyzed for the publication have been posted on the ILO Department of Statistics' LABORSTA website. See **Activities in Core Programmes & Projects – Statistics**.
- The Women Organizing for Fair Trade project culminated in the publication of *Trading Our Way Up – Women Organizing for Fair Trade*, which details findings and analysis from the multi-year, seven-country initiative. See **Activities in Core Programmes & Projects – Global Trade**.
- A Health Policy Dialogue, held in Bangkok in partnership with HomeNet Thailand, focused on barriers faced by informal workers to accessing health services and featured commissioned case studies from three countries (Ghana, India, and Thailand). See **Activities in Core Programmes & Projects – Social Protection**.
- A mid-term review of the Inclusive Cities project revealed significant progress has been made by partners and the workers they serve, while other studies found membership-based organizations (MBOs) can leverage significant financial resources for their members. See **Activities in Core Programmes & Projects – Global Projects: Inclusive Cities**.
- WIEGO's collaboration with the African Association of Planning Schools (AAPS) on development of curricula that incorporate informal employment issues and ideas grew to involve the inclusion of an informal economy toolkit, produced by WIEGO's Urban Policies Director, on the AAPS website. See **Activities in Core Programmes & Projects – Urban Policies**.

- WIEGO and MBO partners in 10 cities finalized plans for a three-year, three-sector, multi-disciplinary study of changes in the livelihoods of urban informal workers, including what is driving change and who is helping informal workers address change. See **Activities in Core Programmes & Projects – Global Projects: Inclusive Cities**.
- WIEGO launched its expanded, content-rich website: [wiego.org](http://wiego.org). The redesigned website is really two sites in one. One side features the who, what, why, where, and how of the WIEGO network, and the other is a rich resource on the Informal Economy. See **Communications and Dissemination – Website**.

## Sector-Specific Networks

### Domestic Workers

History was made on June 16, 2011 when governments, employers and workers from around the world adopted the Convention and accompanying Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189) at the 100th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva. Support was overwhelming, with more than 83 per cent of votes cast in favour of adoption. This was a leap forward for an estimated 50–100 million people worldwide who work in the homes of their employers. C189 recognizes the “significant contribution of domestic workers to the global economy” and says this work is “undervalued and invisible, and is mainly carried out by women and girls, many of whom are migrants or members of disadvantaged communities.”

Since this historic victory, domestic workers have been campaigning in their own countries for ratification of C189. Together with the campaign, the challenge has been to build on the momentum to sustain and expand grassroots organizations, national and regional networks and to develop the democratic structures of the International Domestic Workers’ Network (IDWN). Participation in regional workshops and conferences has continued to strengthen alliances. In March 2012, the IDWN launched a new website ([www.idwn.info](http://www.idwn.info)) where information on the ongoing campaign for domestic workers’ rights can be found.

WIEGO continues to support IDWN, as requested, in: the campaign for ratification and enforcement of C189; further development of the structure and constitution of the IDWN as a global membership-based organization (MBO); fund raising; the creation of educational materials; and regional network building. WIEGO has also assisted with communications, translation, fund raising, and reporting for the IDWN, and through liaison with the Research Network for Domestic Workers Rights. The latter was created in June 2011 and consists of researchers who have been working collaboratively with the IDWN.

*Domestic workers celebrated their victory in Geneva in June 2011.*

*Photo S. Trevino*





## Home-Based Workers

WIEGO continued to provide capacity-building support to help home-based worker organizations develop into democratic MBOs with solid structures. In 2011-2012, this work included facilitating a joint sharing meeting with HomeNet South Asia and HomeNet Southeast Asia that resulted in a clearer assessment of the regional HomeNets, more bi-lateral cooperation and coordination, and consultations with national HomeNets on an improved understanding of MBO development. Other engagement included working with HomeNet South Asia to pilot the mapping of supply chains of home-based workers in Pakistan.

WIEGO has also been providing support for the development of HomeNet South-East Europe through project development and fund-raising assistance to the Association of Homeworkers (AHW) in Bulgaria. This project supported mapping of home-based workers in Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia with a view to identifying who they are, what they do, their linkages with companies and organizations, and to encourage organization building in countries and networking in the region. It also involved two sub-regional training workshops and one regional workshop, as well as development of a website and a newsletter for HomeNet South-East Europe. During the project, contact was made with more than 1,800 workers, and reports were prepared by the AHW. WIEGO also

*WIEGO has been helping HomeNets in South and Southeast Asia develop into stronger democratic MBOs with greater capacity to support their members, like Chiang Rai in Thailand.  
Photo: S. Trevino*



supported and participated in HomeNet South-East Europe Conference, held in Bulgaria in February 2012. Participants came from organizations from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey; local unionists and international participants also attended. This conference led to an agreement for an informal network and a centre to take forward the organizing of home-based workers in the region.

In Latin America, the initial phase of mapping home-based workers was done through a scoping exercise, web searches and contacting a wide range of people/organizations. Phase two will include a field visit to countries/cities that have been identified as potentially having organized groups of home-based workers or supportive NGOs.

“Organized Strength for Home-Based Workers” is a collaborative research and advocacy project between WIEGO’S Women’s Economic Empowerment project and HomeNet Thailand. Launched in 2008, it aims to improve the livelihood, economic security and empowerment of women home-based workers, including by providing greater access to social protection and, especially, occupational health and safety. The project made good progress toward development of an Informal Sector Network in Thailand, and in broadening support for informal workers beyond home-based workers. In 2011, the project was granted an extension by its funder, the Dutch Government, to continue compiling lessons learned for dissemination. Published material in both English and Thai will help increase the impact by reaching key target audiences globally. In addition, the project identified new opportunities for government support; while the project ended in December 2011, HomeNet Thailand is continuing its advocacy efforts regarding policy on social security for informal workers and implementation of the Home-workers Protection Act.



## Street Vendors

Much of the work done by WIEGO's Urban Policies Programme on laws affecting urban informal workers during this period has focused on street vending. This is because inclusive laws and test litigations are particularly important for this group. In conjunction with posting and disseminating a weekly news roundup, WIEGO's Street Vendor Sector Specialist, Sally Roever, is building a database of documented harassment and evictions of street vendors (that are reported in English). The data at present indicate a rate of about one eviction per day worldwide – and these eliminate, on average, the livelihoods of 148 workers per day. She is developing methodologies for measuring evictions reported in other languages and everyday harassment that goes unreported in traditional media.

In July 2011, WIEGO participated in a workshop, "Organisation of Workers in the Informal Economic Relations in Eastern Europe/Central Asia," jointly organized by StreetNet International and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in Georgia. The workshop served to highlight the large number of informal workers in the region, as well as the sometimes severe political constraints on organizing. A plan of action was subsequently developed and WIEGO is actively engaged in follow-up in the region. In 2012, WIEGO's Regional Advisor Karin Pape assisted StreetNet with a training workshop in Georgia, using the Resource Books for Organizers, now translated into Russian. She then accompanied the StreetNet Coordinator on a field visit to Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia, where StreetNet is recruiting new affiliates.

In Brazil, WIEGO has been working with StreetNet to identify researchers for mapping street vendor organizations and to build relationships with different networks to support StreetNet's World Class Cities for All Campaign in advance of the World Cup and Olympics in Brazil.

WIEGO's Social Protection Programme worked with StreetNet International in developing a position on the ILO Recommendation for a Global Social Protection Floor, in preparation for the June 2012 ILC.

## Waste Pickers

Through its Organization and Representation Programme and through the Inclusive Cities Project, WIEGO provides support for waste picker organizations in different regions/countries as well as global coordination and a base for global networking activities. A 2011 Global Steering Committee meeting resulted in an action plan that included development of a global website for waste pickers, [www.globalrec.org](http://www.globalrec.org), which covers news and events of waste picker organizations and allies internationally.

In Africa, where WIEGO has a Regional Waste Picker Coordinator, organization-building support was recently provided in Kenya and South Africa; support was also given to Senegalese waste pickers facing landfill closure. In September 2011, WIEGO organized a Climate Change Workshop and a South African Waste Pickers Association meeting with the organization groundWork and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA). In francophone Africa, mapping activities were done in Cameroon, Mali, Benin and Madagascar. Training was also provided for the Federation of Informal Workers in Nigeria (FIWON), whose field workers were then able to map several groups/organization in different Nigerian cities.

*Street vendor livelihoods can be precarious. Data collected by WIEGO's Street Vendor Sector Specialist indicate evictions are a daily occurrence around the globe. Photo of street vendor in Laos: M. Chen*





*Juana Rafaela, a 77 year old waste picker who has worked for 50 years in La Chureca dumpsite in Managua, Nicaragua, was at the first Central American Conference of Waste Pickers, February, 2012.  
Photo: L. Fernandez*

In Asia, WIEGO supports KKPKP (a union of waste pickers in India), as well as the development and activities of the Alliance of Indian Wastepickers. Support has been provided for mapping waste picker organizations in Asia and for learning visits to India by Asian organizations.

In Latin America, where WIEGO also has had a Regional Waste Picker Coordinator, efforts are being made to extend the Latin American Network into Central America; this includes a mapping project in Central America that involved a training workshop, and ongoing support for strengthening structures and women's leadership. The first Central American Conference of Waste Pickers, held in Nicaragua, was followed by the RedLacre Latin American Assembly in February. At the Assembly, 60 waste

picker representatives from 17 countries discussed the way forward and formed new committees to tackle gender, climate change livelihood protection, and global issues. WIEGO co-organized and supported the events.

Other specific activities in the 2011-2012 period included:

- Monitoring and support have been provided to Asociacion Recicladores de Bogota (ARB) in Colombia as a result of their legal victory: a constitutional court ruling in December 2011 that mandated associations of waste pickers should be allowed to bid for municipal solid waste management contracts. From January to March, WIEGO supported the technical team from ARB to draft their proposal for inclusion of all waste pickers into their new collection system. WIEGO's Operations Manager Mike Bird helped them with the negotiations. The process is ongoing and will require further support from WIEGO in the implementation phase.
- Sonia Dias, WIEGO's Waste Picker Sector Specialist, has been working on a research-action project to test pilot indicators of sustainability of segregation-at-source programmes. The project is a joint collaboration with the University of São Paulo in Brazil and WIEGO, and involves waste picker representatives.
- GAIA and Stree Mukti Sangathana (SMS) organized, as part of their subgrantee programme with WIEGO, a Biogas Workshop in Mumbai in March 2012 that included a skill-sharing seminar on emerging biogas technologies. Participants came from across India and from the Netherlands, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal and the Philippines.

### **Climate Change Negotiations**

In June 2011, a delegation of waste pickers was in Bonn, Germany to take part in a two-week conference essential to advancing the general climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The delegation argued for, among other things, the inclusion of a true accounting of emissions from incinerator burns. In December 2011, WIEGO provided communication support to the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers and Allies as they participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 17) in Durban, South Africa.



## Activities in Core Programmes & Projects

Most of WIEGO's activities fall under our five Core Programmes, listed in the sidebar. WIEGO has also coordinated two Global Projects – “Inclusive Cities for the Working Poor” and “Women's Economic Empowerment.” Special Initiatives are undertaken to supplement WIEGO's activities.

WIEGO's programmes and projects often work collaboratively to achieve results.

### Organization & Representation

Organization & Representation works with informal workers' organizations across sectors, helping to build alliances and strengthen their structures and identities. Recently, there has been an increase in the pace of network building and the visibility and voice of workers within the different informal sector groups.

In this period, in addition to the work with the different sector specific networks, there have been activities in “new” regions, notably in Eastern Europe with home-based workers and through support for StreetNet, and in new areas, such as engagement with one aspect of agriculture – contract farming in Thailand – through the Law Project. Relationships have been strengthened with important allies, such as the Solidarity Center, headquartered in the USA. This period has also seen a focus on research and writing, aimed at contributing to promoting a greater understanding of, and support for, informal economy workers' movements among broader networks of trade unions, cooperatives, development agencies and policymakers.

Highlights include:

#### Organizing Street Vendors in Liberia

Together with the Ghana Trades Union Congress, the Liberian Labor Congress, and StreetNet International, WIEGO co-organized a workshop in Monrovia on *Organizing Street Vendors in Liberia* in May 2011. This fostered stronger organization among Liberian street vendors and established plans for long-term partnership support.

#### Working with the Solidarity Center

WIEGO is working with the Solidarity Center of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) to produce research on organizing in the informal economy, including an overview and analysis of organizing in different sectors and on laws which affect informal workers and their organizations. Celia Mather wrote a paper for the Solidarity Center's Global Labor Program on *Informal Workers' Organizing*. She presented this at a conference, along with Chris Bonner, in Cape Town in December. The paper has reportedly begun to influence the Solidarity Center at the global level and in different countries.

#### Expanding and Analyzing the WIEGO Organization & Representation Database (WORD)

The WIEGO Organization & Representation Database (WORD), which offers detailed information on organizations of informal workers around the globe, was expanded by 20 per cent to 660 entries; old entries are being updated. Shirley Miller, a consultant, did an analysis of the entries by occupational group, region, country, organizational type and various cross combinations of data. See [www.wiegodatabase.org](http://www.wiegodatabase.org).

#### Understanding Law and the Informal Economy

The Law & Informality project is creating more awareness of how law impacts on informal workers, and working to identify more favourable and accessible

*... our approach should not be that we can't ratify, but rather how can we ratify. Because if countries don't amend their laws to meet the international standard, the situation for domestic workers around the world will not change.*

Louise McDonough, International Labour and Research Branch of the Australian Government, at the 2011 International Labour Conference



*I remember once driving through Africa.... I saw women working in the fields and I saw women working in the markets and I saw women with wood on their heads and water on their heads and children on their back.... if every woman who did all that work stopped tomorrow, the formal economy would collapse.*

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
U.S. Secretary of State

laws. Following completion of pilots in India and Colombia, the project has been implemented in Ghana, Peru, and Thailand, coordinated by Roopa Madhav and Kamala Sankaran. A key objective of the project is to build capacity, especially among women leaders in informal worker organizations, for understanding and engaging with legal issues through advocacy and negotiation for the implementation of favourable legal change. A new microsite on law and informality, linked from WIEGO's website, provides outputs from the pilot projects. Please see [wiego.org/law](http://wiego.org/law).

## Statistics

In both its technical and advocacy initiatives, WIEGO's Statistics Programme sought to improve official statistics on informal employment and related topics of concern to WIEGO and our Institutional Members, and to ensure that the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) definitions are consistently used. The Programme also worked to place statistics in the hands of users in formats that were easily accessible.

The Statistics Program provided technical advice to the Inclusive Cities Project in the development of statistics on informal employment in urban areas, in specific cities and on categories of informal workers, specifically home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers. This included advising on the development of the Informal Economy Monitoring Study (see more under the Global Projects section). This advice helps to ensure the statistics and statistical analyses produced by the project meet WIEGO's high standards and to develop data for use in WIEGO reports and advocacy.

The Statistics Programme and its related research activities also:

- played an advisory role on the UCLA Multinational Research Project on Organizing in the Informal Economy
- advised the United States Domestic Worker Alliance Survey Project on survey design and review of its research report
- provided technical advice on data collection, tabulation and analysis as a member of the International Technical Advisory Committee for the project "Poverty and Growth: Labour Markets in China and India"
- initiated and maintained collaborative ties with international agencies working on issues on informal sector/informal employment, including the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (known as the Delhi Group), the International Labour Office, the United Nations Statistical Division, UN Women, and the World Bank
- prepared statistics, information on statistical methods and analyses for the WIEGO website

## Women and Men in the Informal Economy 2012

The Statistics Programme continued to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to prepare the publication *Women and Men in the Informal Economy 2012: A Statistical Picture*. The joint ILO/WIEGO report, authored by Joann Vanek, Martha Chen, Ralf Hussmanns, James Heintz, and Françoise Carré, will be published by ILO. The aim of the publication – following the success of the 2002 version – is that again, it will become the preeminent source for regional estimates of informal employment worldwide. It is also intended to be an easily accessible resource for statistics on the topic. The data and metadata for 47 countries (including data for urban China), as well as other information resulting from the joint ILO and WIEGO activities, were posted on the ILO Department of Statistics' LABORSTA website ([http://laborsta.ilo.org/informal\\_economy\\_E.html](http://laborsta.ilo.org/informal_economy_E.html)).

## Global Trade

### Women Organizing for Fair Trade

A final workshop for the Women Organizing for Fair Trade project (formerly called Fair Trade for Women Producers) was held in Mombasa on the eve of the biennial global conference of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) in May 2011. At the conference, WIEGO organizers presented on the project and ran two workshops. Documentaries made as part of the project in India were shown. Significantly, this was the first time gender had been on the WFTO agenda. During the closed regional meeting, project partners from India and Uganda called for the introduction of a gender resolution within the WFTO, which was approved at the plenary.

A publication that details findings and analysis from the project was published in December 2011. *Trading Our Way Up – Women Organizing for Fair Trade*, written by Elaine Jones, Sally Smith and Carol Wills, soon became the most popular downloaded publication on [wiego.org](http://wiego.org). A DVD was also produced that contained the photo journals and films from the project. The publication and the project findings generated considerable interest. Presentations on the action-research project were made at a seminar on Ethical Public Procurement, convened by the Fair Trade organization SETEM in Barcelona, and to staff of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). In March 2012, Elaine Jones and Carol Wills delivered the Oxfam GB online webinar in the Women's Collective Action series. A journal article about the research was also published in the March 2012 edition of *Gender and Development*.



*Members of the Kolokol Ewola Women's Group in Northern Kenya saved income from basket sales and invested in a fishing boat. Now, sales of fresh and dried fish have become their main source of income.  
Photo: G. Engole*

### Global Value Chains

- The Global Trade Programme commissioned a review of value chain analyses in the area of commodities and horticulture, which is published on [wiego.org](http://wiego.org).
- A practical publication was also commissioned to follow on from the value chain literature review on smallholders in global value chain analysis. *Making Agricultural Value Chains Work for Workers – A Practical Guide for Development Donors and Practitioners* by Man-Kwun Chan was published in January.

## Social Protection

### Health Policy Dialogue in Bangkok

In partnership with HomeNet Thailand, WIEGO organized a Health Policy Dialogue in Bangkok in January 2012, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. It was linked to the Prince Mahidol Award Conference, a prestigious annual public health event in Thailand. The theme was barriers faced by informal workers to accessing health services. Case studies of recent health reforms in Ghana (by Laura Alferts), India (by Kalpana Jain) and Thailand (by Boonsom Namsomboon) were commissioned to reflect different policy choices, in terms especially of financing and services available, and the outcomes of these choices on poorer working people. KKPKP gave an additional presentation on its work in developing health insurance for waste pickers. The Health Policy Dialogue



was followed by a presentation of the case studies at a panel session of the main conference. Chris Atim from the World Bank, Senegal, and Mirai Chatterjee from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) were discussants at the panel.

### **Occupational Health and Safety Project**

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) project, which aims to influence mainstream OHS to be inclusive of informal workers, is now operating in five countries: Brazil, Ghana, India, Peru and Tanzania. A mid-term project learning meeting was held in Durban in May 2011. Researchers and coordinators from the five countries, as well as some WIEGO team members and advisers, came together to share, at a deep level, learning from the country projects so far, and to adapt their plans in line with the new learning. They were joined by staff from Asiye eTafuleni in South Africa, and from HomeNet Thailand.

In 2012, the OHS Project is three years old. The research done over the last two years will be used to promote OHS for informal workers at local, national, and international levels. Publication of research from all five countries is in the final stages. For each country, there is an overview paper on the size and shape of the informal economy; a significant institutional analysis of the legislation, governance and resources for occupational health and safety for formal and informal workers; reports on participatory research with informal workers in different sectors; an annotated bibliography of related readings; and additional specific case studies of particular occupational groups.

*Fire extinguishers and cleaned gutters in Accra's markets were some of positive outcomes of the Occupational Health and Safety project in Ghana.  
Photo: M. Chen*



Highlights of country activities in 2011-12 included:

- A Multi Stakeholder Workshop was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It involved national government (health and labour), trade unions, and informal worker representatives.
- A meeting of the Reference Group/Multi Stakeholder Workshops in Brazil included representatives from: waste pickers, street vendors, and domestic worker associations; Ministry of Health, Salvador Municipality, Labour Department; Salvador Workers Health Reference Centre; and Bahia State Reference Centre for Workers Health.
- Four focus group discussions were held in Lima, Peru with workers from the agro-processing industry, newspaper vendors, waste pickers, and market porters.
- The OHS project presented a keynote address and organized a panel for a meeting of the International Commission on Occupational Health in Accra, Ghana, in October 2011.
- A multi-stakeholder workshop was held with representatives from the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) and the National Board for Small Scale Industries in Accra, Ghana, in October 2011. During the workshop, the AMA indicated its commitment to ask for a trader group to monitor the activities and efficacy of private waste management companies at market areas; to work with trader associations to educate informal traders about new computerized tax records that create greater transparency in the system and allow traders to monitor how much they have personally paid in taxes; ensure that fire extinguishers are placed in the markets; and clean the clogged gutter in Makola Market that has been a source of disease.



- SEWA and KKPKP both advanced their research and action on the design of equipment for informal workers, and KKPKP did an analysis of work-related injuries recorded for their insurance scheme for waste pickers. Laura Alfery and Dorcas Ansah from Ghana visited KKPKP to work together on budgeting and reporting.

The OHS project produces a newsletter three times a year, available at [wiego.org/ohs](http://wiego.org/ohs).

### Knowledge Sharing

- In June 2011, Social Protection Programme Director Francie Lund attended a meeting of the Joint Learning Network (JLN) for Extending Universal Health Coverage to the Informal Sector in Mombasa, Kenya. The JLN is a network of countries that have established universal health schemes, or are interested in doing so.
- Francie Lund was an external adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on Health, on the development of his report on The Right to Occupational Health, with a special focus on informal workers. The report was presented to the Twentieth Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

### Strengthening the Voice of Informal Workers in Latin America

“Strengthening the Voice of Informal Workers in Social Policy Decisions in Latin America” is a project that aims to make social policy more responsive to the needs of the working poor in the informal economy. The project, which began in Peru in 2009 and is now established in Mexico, fosters dialogue between policymakers and informal workers. In Peru, informal workers have engaged in debate with mayoral candidates in municipal elections, held discussions with the chief Economic Development team of the elected Mayor, made a presentation to Parliament on the results of studies, and debated with the two candidates for President of Peru in the runoff period. These opportunities developed advocacy skills, allowed informal workers to voice their concerns to political leaders, and through collaboration, led different types of informal workers to discover they had much in common.

### Urban Policies

#### Good Practice Documentation and Dissemination

WIEGO aims to document good policy and organizational practice that has resulted in more secure urban livelihoods, and to contribute to policy and academic debates of relevance to home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers. Much effort during this report period went into preparing for WIEGO’s new Publication Series, which launched in June 2012 with over 20 Working Papers and numerous Organizing, Policy, Statistical, Technical and Budget Briefs.

#### Urban Informal Economy Law Observatory

- Megan Corrarino, a Yale Law School graduate, has drafted briefing notes on: both international and regional legal instruments that provide sources of rights and strategies for enforcement; on general principles of crafting a legal strategy; and on the right to information and to property as they relate to informal workers. She has also written recommendations for developing and disseminating the Law Observatory, on which WIEGO collates policies and laws that affect informal workers.



*Newly designed tools allow informal workers to work in safer, healthier and more efficient ways. These tools were designed for SEWA by the MIT school of design. Photographs courtesy of SEWA.*

- Caroline Skinner drafted a brief paper on the Warwick Junction legal case, one among five, for WIEGO's submission on economic rights to the World Bank's World Development Report 2013, which will focus on jobs. Sally Roever and Caroline Skinner have also liaised with MBO partners who are involved in legal challenges and legal education and advocacy projects.

### **Planning Curriculum on the Urban Informal Economy**

WIEGO is collaborating with the African Association of Planning Schools (AAPS) on curriculum development that incorporates informal employment issues and ideas. As part of this work, an informal economy toolkit produced by Urban Policies Director Caroline Skinner is featured on the AAPS website. WIEGO is engaging with AAPS members about monitoring its implementation and incentivizing members to introduce this into their curricula.

Waste Picker Sector Specialist Sonia Dias, based in Brazil, has devised a syllabus, "Waste, State and Development – Mainstreaming Gender and Participation," which is being taught at the Government School of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. She is now involved as a regular guest lecturer in two post-graduate courses one at the Political Science Department and the other one at the Administration School – both at the Federal University of Minas Gerais.



*Informal economy workers, like this waste picker in Brazil, and their issues are increasingly finding their way into urban planning and development curricula. Photo: J. Luckham*



## Global Projects: Inclusive Cities

### Reviewing the Impact

The Inclusive Cities (IC) project seeks to improve and secure the livelihoods of the urban working poor in the informal economy. A mid-term review of the multi-partner project revealed significant progress has been made by partners and the workers they serve. All partners reported significant efforts to influence municipal and national policies in order to secure legal recognition and access to public resources for informal sector workers. Most achievements resulted from a complex mix of actions and actors over many years. Partners asserted, however, that Inclusive Cities had been an important contributor, and they cited the Global Economic Crisis Studies and the participation of waste pickers at the United Nations climate change conferences as important examples of what the project has made possible. The review showed that Inclusive Cities is “more than the sum of its parts” and that it can increase its potency with a more focused approach and increased collective effort, especially through more systematic exchange of experiences and strategies.

### Appraising the Advantages of Membership-Based Organizations

A January 2012 appraisal of the benefits of belonging to an MBO by IC partners found that the most important impact, as perceived by members themselves, is an increase in both the amount and regularity of earnings from their primary work activities. In fact, 92 per cent of survey participants said membership is associated with improved income. Over half also identified access to health care, a safer or healthier working environment, and protection from harassment by authorities as tangible benefits of MBO membership. Another study that sampled 20 MBOs in 16 countries found they had leveraged on behalf of their members an estimated US \$64 million in recent years from government programmes and schemes – resources that would not have been accessed by workers without the MBOs’ involvement.

### Studying the State of the Informal Economy

The Global Economic Crisis (GEC) Studies, conducted by IC partners in 2009 and 2010, continued to generate interest. In July 2011, Zoe Horn presented the study findings in Perth, Australia at the World Planning Schools Congress, which offered a significant opportunity to influence the curricula for urban planning students. *Coping with Crises*, the second study report, and the GEC Study model were also highlighted at conferences in Montreal and Ottawa, Canada.

Study partners had decided in 2011 to continue monitoring the state of the informal economy. A three year, three-sector, 10-city Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) was subsequently developed. Three research design workshops were held in 2011, and WIEGO contracted Imraan Valodia (who has been an active research member and partner of WIEGO) as the Research Director; with Mike Rogan (who recently completed a PhD in development economics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Zoe Horn (who coordinated the earlier multi-city study of the impact of the global economic crisis) as the two Research Officers. Also, WIEGO contracted Caroline Moser, a well-known expert on urban policies and qualitative methods, and her associates Angelica Costa and Irene Vance, to help design the qualitative methods and train the qualitative researchers. Sally Roever, our Street Vendor Sector Specialist, will oversee the qualitative research component of the IEMS. The IEMS launched in April 2012 with a research training workshop held in Durban, South Africa and involving 40 researchers, along with MBO coordinators from the 10 cities.

*This vendor works in a market in Lima, Peru that participants visited during the Annual Learning Meeting for Inclusive Cities in 2011.*

*Photo: M. Chen*





## Outreach

The following are just some examples of outreach activity not captured elsewhere in this report.

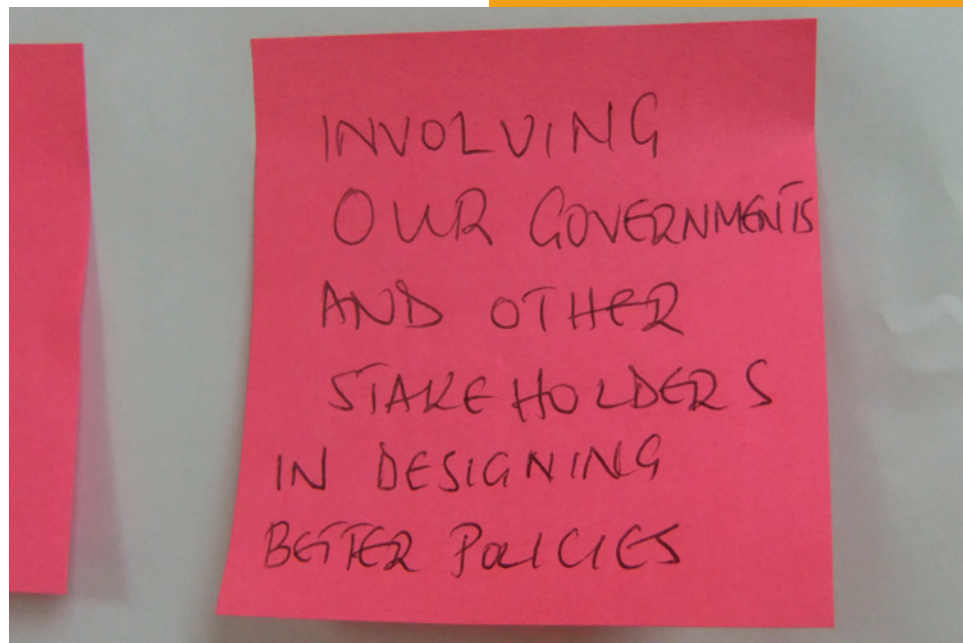
- In July 2011, WIEGO participated in the World's Women 2011 conference, which featured seminars, discussions and presentations for more than 1,000 participants. Members of WIEGO's Global Projects team gave a presentation on the Global Economic Crisis Study and the gathering of data from informal workers.
- WIEGO had a booth at the Ecocity World Summit in August 2011 to highlight the work of the Inclusive Cities project and that of the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers. This conference was focused on urban planning and environmental sustainability. Presentations were given on including MBOs in research and on the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers.
- WIEGO's International Coordinator, Marty Chen, presented on the informal economy at two meetings organized by the World Bank team responsible for producing the World Development Report 2013 on "Jobs," and at a workshop for economists and policymakers from G20 countries organized by the NY Stern School of Business, Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations, and the World Bank.
- In October 2011, WIEGO – along with the International Institute for Environment and Shack/Slum Dwellers International – co-organized a speaking event in the UK. Sponsored by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Development & the Environment, the event was hosted at the Houses of Parliament by the Environment Minister, Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP, who chaired the meeting. Called "The View From The Streets: Citizen-Led Contributions to Urban Poverty Reduction," the event was part of Future Directions for Sustainable Development, a series exploring the challenges facing policymakers ahead of the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Speakers included Bijal Bhatt, Director for Mahila Housing SEWA Trust, and Richard Dobson, Project Leader for Asiye eTafuleni in Durban, South Africa.

*A member of NAWOU in Uganda, a partner in the Women Producing for Fair Trade project, displays bowls. Photo: C. Wills*



- The OHS project presented a keynote address and organized a panel for a meeting of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) in Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises held in Accra, Ghana, in October 2011. Francie Lund presented “The Changed World of Work: Towards an Inclusive Discipline and Practice of Occupational Safety, Health And Environment.” Also, Researcher Laura Alferts delivered a paper on “Good Practices in Developing OHS for Informal Workers: Case Studies from Ghana and India,” and Vilma Santana presented on “Occupational Health and Safety for Informal Workers in Brazil.”

- WIEGO has been consulted on a number of issues by the City of Johannesburg. A small group from the city’s Economic Development Department spent a day at the University of KwaZulu-Natal talking with WIEGO team members about informal economy policy. In developing its informal economy policy for the metro area, Johannesburg officials also drew heavily on and quoted WIEGO research and content. WIEGO’s Regional Coordinator for Waste Pickers in Africa, Melanie Samson, presented “How the Municipality Can Assist Waste Pickers to Increase their Earning Potential” as part of the focus on the integration of waste pickers at the Johannesburg Green Economy Workshop in October, 2011.



- In December 2011, WIEGO was commissioned by the World Bank to produce a set of cases studies and a summary report on “Legal Rights and Voice of Informal Workers” for the World Development Report 2013 on “Jobs,” as well as to undertake a peer review of the draft report.
- Lucia Fernandez, the Global Coordinator for Waste Pickers, delivered a range of talks, including “Space & Time around SWM” to the Waste & Citizen Festival (Paris, May 2011); “WIEGO and its Collective Efforts Towards a Global Network of Waste Pickers” to the International Solid Waste Association (Buenos Aires, June 2011); “10 years of Organizing at Montevideo Dumpsite” (Mumbai, June 2011); “Moving Towards Wastepicker’s Inclusion And Decentralisation Of Solid Waste Management: A ‘Re-Thinking Approach’ for Closing Landfills” at the CGI meeting (New York, September 2011); and “Montopia: Towards a Zero Waste City” at the D-Lab Waste at MIT (Boston, November 2011).
- Francie Lund, WIEGO’s Social Protection Director, made a presentation in February 2012 to the South Africa Employment Conditions Commission (which sets minimum wages for different sectors) on the conditions of work and workers benefits in the welfare (social services) sector in South Africa, focusing on workers in the unskilled low paid and volunteer categories.

*Notes made as part of the final workshop for the Women Organizing for Fair Trade project in Mombasa, May 2011. Photo: S. Trevino*

# Membership, Governance & Management

## WIEGO Network

Since its 1997 inception, WIEGO's membership has been drawn from three constituencies:

- member-based organizations (MBOs) of informal workers
- researchers and academics
- development practitioners

### Growing Membership

In July 2011, WIEGO's Board approved a membership strategy to help expand our base. Implementation included inviting 32 national affiliates of StreetNet International and the regional network of waste pickers in Latin America to become Institutional Members. By March 31, 2012, these efforts had more than doubled our Institutional Members over the previous year – from 15 to 32 – while our Individual Members increased from 129 to 140. The combined 172 members were located in 42 countries.

### Broadening Reach

At March 2012, WIEGO was active in, or had members in, 51 countries. Further, WIEGO has undertaken activities in 32 cities – and in eight cities (Accra, Ahmedabad, Durban, Bangkok, Belo Horizonte, Bogota, Lima and Pune) had more than four activities on the go between 2010-2012.

## Charitable Status

In August 2011, WIEGO was granted charity status by the Charities Commission of England and Wales. This is a major milestone that will make WIEGO eligible for additional sources of funding and will increase our credibility with funders that recognize this charity status as equivalent to non-profit or charity status in their own countries.

## WIEGO Board

### Board Composition

WIEGO's Board of Directors is comprised of three representatives of MBOs of informal workers (one of whom serves as the Chair); two representatives each from the other two constituencies of WIEGO; researchers; development professionals; and other persons needed to carry out the functions of the Board.

The current Board was elected at the WIEGO General Assembly in April 2010. We were fortunate to maintain a great deal of continuity while adding new members that expanded the Board's geographic scope, with new representation from Francophone Africa and Asia, among others.

### Board Meeting, October 2011

At its October meeting in Accra, Ghana, the Board focused on WIEGO's Internal Strategic Review, which is designed to:

- make explicit a set of assumptions about the future of the informal economy, and the key trends and developments on which these were based
- reconsider WIEGO's functional combination of the three V's, and how to strengthen the synergies between them to contribute more effectively to WIEGO's goals

## Directors

**Renana Jhabvala** (Chair),  
Self-Employed Women's  
Association, India

**Kofi Asamoah**,  
Ghana Trades Union  
Congress, Ghana

**Barbro Budin**,  
International Union of Food,  
Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant,  
Catering, Tobacco and Allied  
Workers' Associations, Switzerland

**Debra Davis** (Treasurer),  
Independent Consultant, UK

**Clarisse Gnahoui**,  
StreetNet International, Benin

**Ravi Kanbur**,  
Cornell University, USA

**Lin Lim**,  
Independent Consultant, Malaysia

**William Steel**,  
University of Ghana, Ghana

**Jeemol Unni**,  
Institute of Rural Management,  
Anand, India

**Carmen Vildoso**,  
Lima Municipal Authority, Peru



- reconsider WIEGO's focus on certain groups of workers, taking into account WIEGO's assumptions about the future of the informal economy
- examine WIEGO's management and team structures in relation to future WIEGO work (including development of a plan for a smooth transition and succession in relation to eventual retirement of founders and long term staff)

Board discussions in Accra provided an opportunity to further explore these questions, with an eye to gaps in understanding that must be addressed in order to make informed decisions about WIEGO's future. A detailed plan around each question was established to pave the way for a strategic retreat, planned for June 2012.

*This vendor works in a market in Accra, Ghana, where the WIEGO Board and the WIEGO Team held their annual 2011 meetings.*

*Photo: M. Chen*

## WIEGO Team

In early 2012, WIEGO's team grew to 34 persons (up from 31 in October 2011). Of these, only eight people work full-time while the rest work anywhere from one-third to four-fifths time for WIEGO, resulting in a full-time equivalent of 24.8 team members. The Programme Team has 19 members, while the Administrative Team has 10. In addition, WIEGO now has five people who work exclusively on communications.

Five team members work at WIEGO'S Secretariat in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, and five in the WIEGO Office in Manchester, UK. The Communications Team has a hub in Ottawa, Canada. Other team members are located around the globe. The strength of the team at the UK office and the Secretariat, along with an expanded virtual team, has given WIEGO the human resource capacity and expertise to conduct its growing work.

## Consultants

Between October 2011 and May 2012, 56 consultants worked with WIEGO. This does not include the 50 researchers working on the new Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) and contracted through the partner MBOs of informal workers in 10 cities.

## Annual Team Retreat

The 2011 Team meeting was held in October in Accra, Ghana. In addition to bringing all our voices and perspectives together in one place, the meeting included time for side discussions essential to building collaborative working relationships across different programs, regions and activities.

One of the key outcomes of this gathering was a decision by the WIEGO Team to place greater emphasis on our programmes at the city level. This city focus is intended to ensure the gains from national/international advocacy translate into concrete outcomes for informal workers. An initial pair of focal cities – Accra, Ghana and Lima, Peru – has been selected. In Accra, a local facilitator, Dorcas Ansah, will work with organizations of informal workers with which WIEGO already has relationships, while making connections with others. The city focus will enable bringing together the WIEGO activities already in Ghana – such as Law and Informality, the OHS project, the IEMS, and the capacity-building work. WIEGO will continue to build the platforms for engagement with local government that developed through the OHS project and will facilitate more policy dialogues aimed at giving informal workers greater voice in local policymaking. The WIEGO Regional Advisor for Latin America, Carmen Roca, is based in Lima and has developed a wide range of WIEGO activities in that city. In both cities, local advisory groups have been established and WIEGO technical/ coordinating groups have been set up.



# Communication & Dissemination

## WIEGO's Content-Rich New Website

In August 2011, WIEGO launched a revamped and expanded website: [wiego.org](http://wiego.org). The redesigned website is really two sites in one. One side features the who, what, why, where, and how of the WIEGO network; the other side is a rich resource on the informal economy, featuring pages on the history of the concept; statistical methods and data; the links between informality, poverty, growth, and crises; specific occupational groups; policies and programmes; and organizing and organizations. Pages highlighting special events, new publications, videos and slideshows, news items and other resources are posted on an ongoing basis. From mid-November 2011 through end of March 2012, 7,934 documents were downloaded from the site.

## Social Media

WIEGO uses blogs, Twitter, and Facebook to share information rapidly with far-flung partners and members and to reach new audiences. The addition in 2012 of a Communications Officer, Brenda Leifso, to manage our social media activities has greatly enhanced our capacity in this arena. These channels are used to alert audiences to new website content as well as to informal economy news. Use of social media has also helped amplify the “voice” of our members and partners by pushing through what they post.

- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/wiegoglobal>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/wiegoglobal>

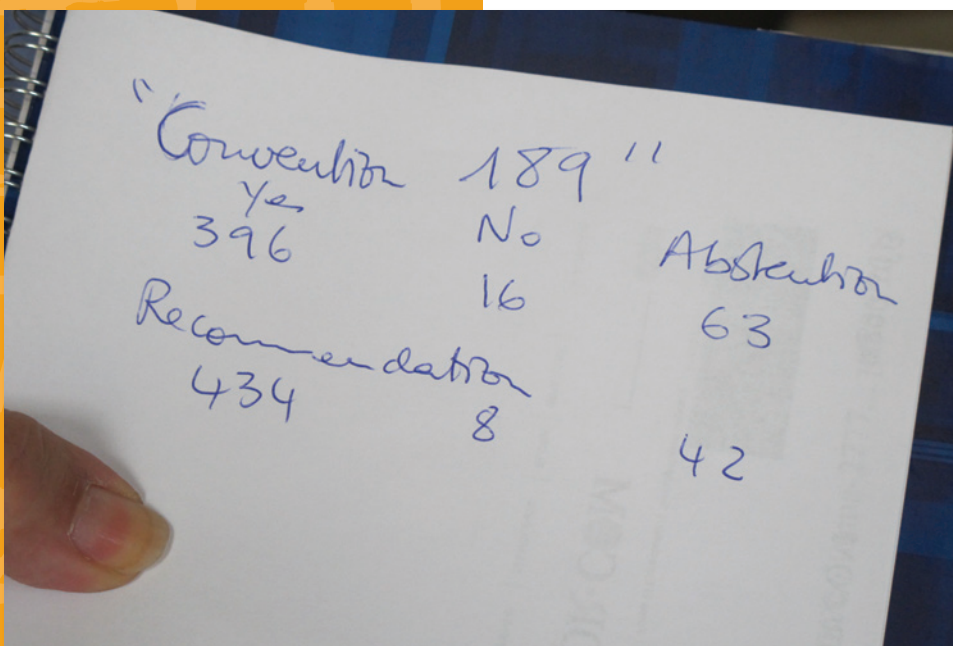
WIEGO has also begun using social media tools for the Inclusive Cities Project:

- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/InclusiveCities>
- Blog: [InclusiveCities.net](http://InclusiveCities.net) (started: February 2011)
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/InclusiveCitiesProject>

The Women's Economic Empowerment Project has two blogs:

- for the Fair Trade for Women Producers project: <http://fairtrade4womenproducers.wordpress.com>
- for the IDWN campaign for an ILO convention on domestic work: <http://idwnilo.wordpress.com/>

*When the vote was tallied at the International Labour Conference in June 2011, C189 had passed with overwhelming support. Photo: J. Fish*





## Newsletters

WIEGO produces an external newsletter twice annually in English and Spanish and the Inclusive Cities Newsletter three times annually in English, Portuguese and Spanish. In addition, WIEGO puts out a newsletter on our Occupational Health & Safety project, and a newsletter for and about our Institutional Members and other MBOs of informal workers (both are now produced three times per year in four languages). We also support informal worker organizations in the development of their newsletters, and post a weekly bulletin with project updates for the Inclusive Cities project partners and affiliates.

## Other Communications Activities

### Inclusive Cities Website

Our Communications Team continues to oversee management of the Inclusive Cities website [www.inclusivocities.org]. New content includes success stories developed through the mid-term review and the addition of briefing notes in multiple languages. The Inclusive Cities website has content in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Unique visits continue to climb – ranging now from 4,200–6,000 per month, as do the number of research downloads from the site. In total, there were 10,462 downloads of Urban Policies research products from the Inclusive Cities site between April 2011 and March 2012.

### Photo Library

The online Photo Library, maintained by our Web Manager Pat Carney, now contains over 13,000 photos which are tagged for easy sorting by country, occupational group, photographer, year, and more.

### Translation and Interpretation

WIEGO is committed to increasing its ability to operate effectively as a multi-lingual network. The Communications Team arranges translation services (in Spanish, English, Portuguese and French) on a regular basis for hundreds of publications and presentations every year. In addition, we provide translation and/or interpretation services to our partners. Recent examples include translation of street vendor news for StreetNet International, and translation of e-mails and reports, as well as interpretation during virtual meetings, for the International Domestic Workers' Network.

### Weekly News Round-Ups

WIEGO team members continue to track news on informal workers worldwide (in English, Spanish and Portuguese). These are posted on the Inclusive Cities and WIEGO websites, and circulated to our Institutional Members and other MBO partners, providing an up-to-date source of information about global trends. The most significant events, developments and updates are tweeted by sector specialists and communications staff.



*Domestic workers like Fataou Raimi from Benin who attended the International Labour Conference in 2011 garnered media attention.  
Photo: D. Tsoutouras*



# Financial Report: Year Ended 31 March 2012

## Financial Summary

As in previous years, the financial strategy for this year was designed to ensure the sustainability and future viability of WIEGO, and make certain that resources are used efficiently to contribute towards meeting programme and project targets and achieve WIEGO's priorities. It is recognized that as specific grants come to an end, expenditure and activities need to be carefully monitored to ensure maximum benefit and minimal disruption for beneficiaries and partners as projects and programmes are run down. During the year, the total incoming resources were US \$7,036,007 compared to US \$4,702,881 in the previous year; total resources expended were US \$6,237,738 compared to US \$5,526,049 in the previous year.

The figures for 2012 are extracted from the statutory accounts that were approved by the Directors on 30 July 2012. The full statutory financial accounts, on which the auditors, Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP, gave an unqualified opinion, were delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The full annual accounts, together with the Auditors' Report and Directors' Report, are available from the Company Secretary at the company's registered office in Manchester, UK.

The auditors have confirmed to the Directors that the 2012 figures extracted from the statutory financial accounts and presented here are consistent with the statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2012. To get a full understanding of the financial affairs of WIEGO, the full statutory accounts should be consulted together with the Auditors' Report and the Directors' Report.

## Revenue and Expenditure

The report combines the income received and expenditure incurred both in the USA and the UK. The tables making up this report reflect the overall organization's results. We are very proud of the number of funders continuing to support WIEGO. The major Inclusive Urban Planning for the Working Poor project supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation commenced in 2008 and the Equality for Working Poor Women project funded by the MDG3 Fund of the Dutch government commenced during 2009. Both projects made significant progress during the year in achieving their objectives and deliverables. The MDG3 project came to a successful conclusion in December 2011 and a positive final evaluation was received. Further grant income was obtained during 2011 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for support of waste pickers under the Inclusive Urban Planning for the Working Poor project. Also, the Voice of Informal Workers in Social Policy in Latin America project commenced in 2009, with the support of the UK government Department for International Development (DFID). The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Ford Foundation have continued to contribute generously to the funding of WIEGO's core programmes and overall network and programme coordination. Projects funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the International Labour Office (ILO) also continued this year. New funds were secured from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Solidarity Centre and the World Bank.

The expenditure charts summarize expenditure on the major projects together with core expenditure on WIEGO's five programme areas, network/programme coordination and governance costs.

## Financial Governance and Fiscal Sponsors

The Finance Committee of the WIEGO Board reviews the budgets and reports of all WIEGO funds and accounts, including those managed by the two fiscal sponsors in the USA and those managed by WIEGO in the UK.

In addition to funds managed by the WIEGO office in the UK, WIEGO has two fiscal sponsors in the USA – Harvard University and the Tides Centre – for funds that cannot be routed via the UK. The WIEGO accounts at Harvard University are audited each year as part of the annual financial audit of Harvard University. Similarly our accounts at the Tides Centre are audited each year as part of the annual financial audit of the Tides Centre.

## Source and Use of Funds

SOURCES OF FUNDS	2012	2011
	\$000	\$000
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		
Gates Foundation	4554	2078
Sida	1265	879
MDG3	320	834
Ford Foundation	309	453
DFID	226	196
Oxfam Novib	0	132
IDRC	133	116
ILO	70	9
Rockefeller Foundation	66	0
Solidarity Centre US	68	
World Bank Contract	17	
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>7028</b>	<b>4697</b>

## Supporters

Our thanks to the following organizations and foundations for their generous financial support of WIEGO programmes and projects:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Department for International Development (DFID), UK Government

The Ford Foundation

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Government of Canada

International Labour Organization (ILO)

MDG3 Fund, Government of the Netherlands

Oxfam-Novib

The Rockefeller Foundation

Solidarity Centre of the American Federation of Labor–Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

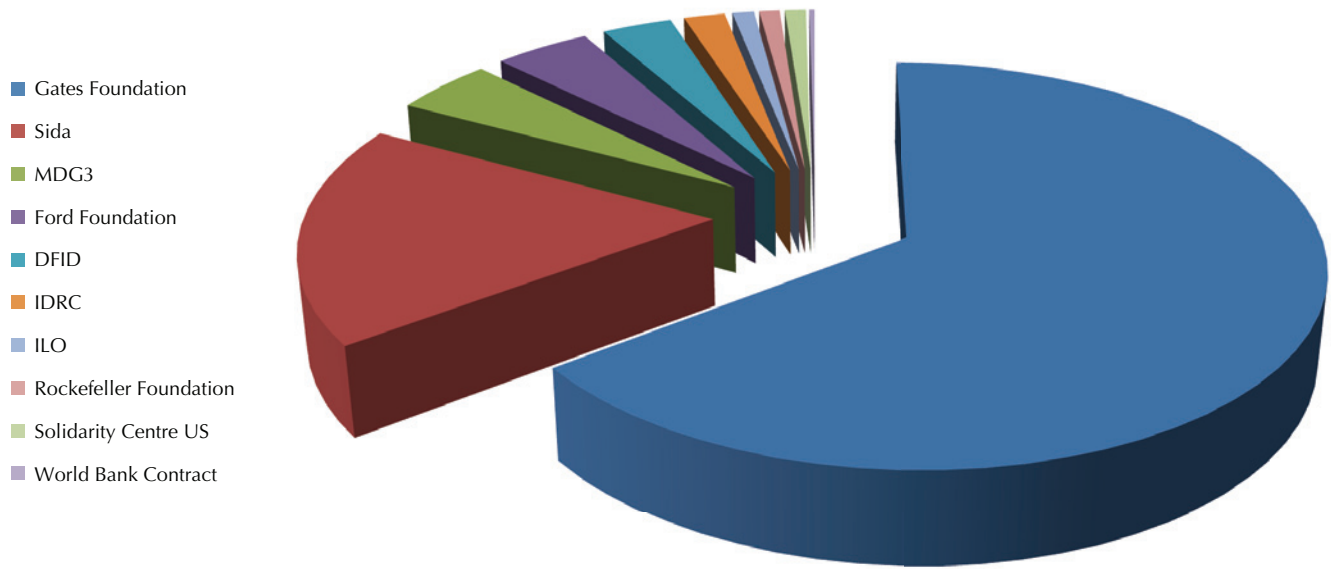
The World Bank

USE OF FUNDS	2012	2011
	\$000	\$000
<b>PROJECTS</b>		
Inclusive Urban Planning for Working Poor	3354	2738
Equality for Working Poor Women	566	1060
Strengthening Voice for Informal Workers in Social Policy	224	189
<b>PROGRAMMES</b>		
Global Markets	88	53
Organization & Representation	628	346
Social Protection	184	63
Statistics & Research	180	116
Urban Policies	106	89
Governance & Evaluation	179	174
Network/ Programme Coordination	701	564
Special Initiatives	28	134
<b>TOTAL USE of FUNDS</b>	<b>6238</b>	<b>5526</b>
<b>NET SOURCES</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>-829</b>

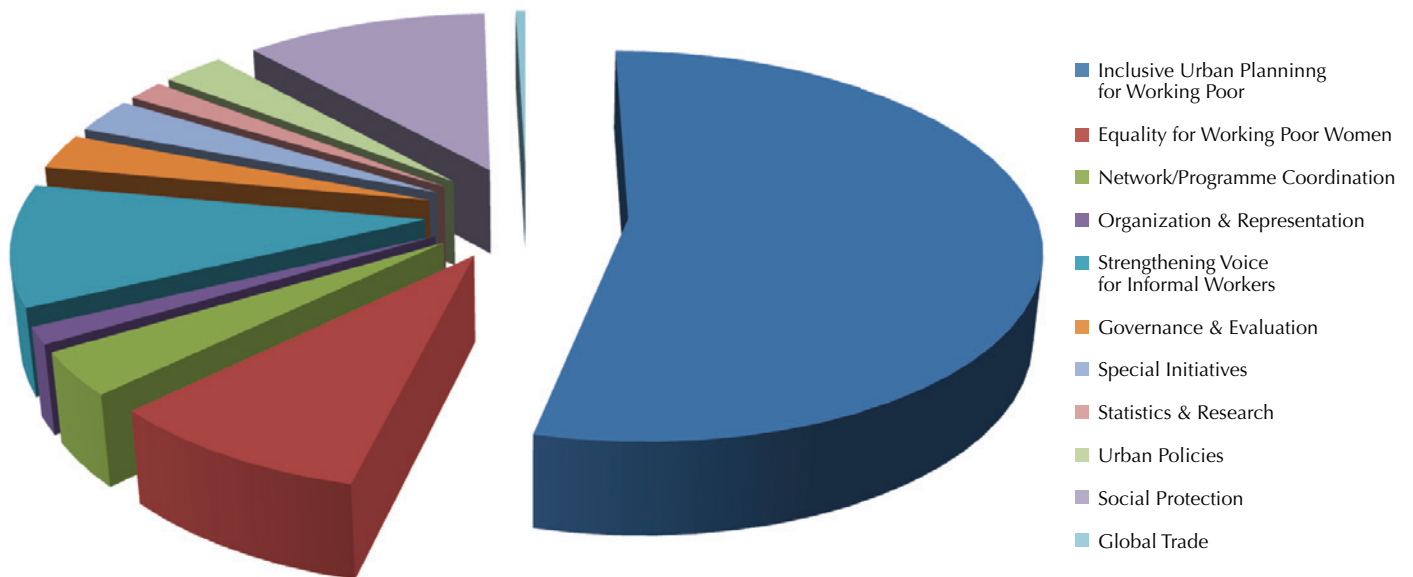
BALANCE SHEET	2012	2011
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	\$	\$
Debtors	1,701,610	1,818,328
Cash at bank	3,281,303	2,303,342
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>4,982,913</b>	<b>4,121,670</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,982,913</b>	<b>4,121,670</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>	\$	\$
Amounts falling due within one year	694,826	630,584
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Restricted Funds	3,825,637	3,273,633
Unrestricted Funds	462,450	217,453
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,982,913</b>	<b>4,121,670</b>



## Source of Funds for Year 2011/12



## Use of Funds for Year 2011/12



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# These women contribute to the economy.

*This pop-up banner was designed by WIEGO to showcase the importance of informal workers and their needs. It is displayed at events attended by WIEGO.*



Photo: Maryjane Corrales

*She collects and recycles waste.*



Photo: Gerald Bana

*She produces goods for domestic and global markets.*



Photo: Sofia Torres

*Her services allow others to work outside the home.*



Photo: Sofia Torres

*She sells goods at low prices in convenient locations.*

**They need equal opportunities, effective organizations and the right to determine the conditions of their work and their lives.**

[www.wiego.org](http://www.wiego.org)

*Back Cover Photo: Domestic workers celebrated on June 16, 2011 when governments, employers and workers from around the world adopted the Convention and accompanying Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. Photo: S. Trevino*





# WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:  
Globalizing and Organizing

## Annual Report

*April 2011 – March 2012*

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