

WIEGO Urban Policies Programme 5-year Strategic Plan Snapshots



The majority of people live in urban areas. In the global South, most urban workers make their livelihoods in the informal economy. The Urban Policies Programme strives to ensure informal workers and their advocates, urban planners and researchers, have tactical information, hard evidence, tools and participation opportunities to transform urban systems so that informal workers have better incomes, secure places to live and work, and the capacity to negotiate sustainable gains in urban policies and practices.

The UPP Team

Caroline Wanjiku Kihato, Director
Caroline Skinner, Director, Urban Research
Sonia Dias, Sector Specialist, Waste Pickers
Pilar Balbuena, Advocacy & Media Specialist
Ana Carolina Ogando, Research Associate
Mike Rogan, Research Associate
Olga Abizaid, Programme Strategy Consultant

What we will do (April 2018 to March 2023):

MONITOR GLOBAL TRENDS



- Collate and disseminate global news on informal workers, identify 'hot' spots (places of concern) and 'bright' spots (places of inclusive practice) to bolster global cross sector solidarity and learning
- Monitor formal economy trends that shape urban livelihood opportunities (urban land grabbing, waste to energy technologies, and supermarket penetration), to inform local and international advocacy

INFLUENCE URBAN PRACTISE



- Demonstrate that inclusive urban planning and design are possible
- Engage and support trans-local research and advocacy networks, such as the Observatory for Inclusive Recycling (ORIS) to influence policy processes
- Provide students, advocates, activists, urban practitioners, and researchers with tools on informal economy advocacy and inclusive planning and design strategies

GENERATE NEW KNOWLEDGE on THE URBAN INFORMAL ECONOMY including:



- its size and contribution (including statistical profiles of informal employment in specific cities)
- its gendered, racial and class structure
- tax justice
- how regulation affects informal workers

Conduct focused studies, with partners, that assess the costs of:

- using home as a workplace
- evictions on work productivity and earnings
- urban spatial and transport planning

STRENGTHEN PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE IN CITIES



- Work with focal cities coordinators to strengthen MBO's and create dialogue platforms with government through research, cross-city learning and practical guidelines
- Support, document, analyse, and disseminate good examples of participatory approaches – most notably waste and citizenship forums in Brazil and inclusionary approaches in Durban (with Asiye eTafuleni)



CREATE TOOLS FOR MBOS & NETS

Ensure MBO leaders have the resources needed to influence urban policymakers, including guidelines on livelihood-sensitive approaches to:

- urban settlement upgrading, land tenure security and zoning for home based workers
- public space management and regulation for street vendors and market traders
- guidelines for dump closures and for waste to energy schemes that include waste pickers and protect livelihoods

RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF URBAN LIVELIHOODS IN GLOBAL URBAN POLICY AND ADVOCACY



- Leverage engagement with UN processes (especially the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda and Recommendation 204) to reinforce local advocacy processes
- Partner with the Global Platform Right to the City, Slum Dwellers International, the Latin American Urban Health Network (SALURBAL) and Workplace Health Without Borders
- Promote advocacy for inclusive urban planning through engagement with other influential urban policy bodies (e.g. UCLG, Cities Alliance, World Resources Inst.)

CHALLENGE KNOWLEDGE GENERATION NORMS

Using research methods that privilege the experiences and perspectives of informal workers, produce grounded theoretical and practical knowledge from the global south, challenging north-centred approaches

MONITOR GLOBAL TRENDS



- *Collate and disseminate global news on informal workers, identify ‘hot’ spots (places of concern) and ‘bright’ spots (places of inclusive practice) to bolster global cross sector solidarity and learning*
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