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Building Voice, Visibility and Validity

Voice - Partners reported the following achievements in building the organizational strength and representation of informal sector workers:

- **More workers organized**
 - Membership has increased in national organizations of the working poor. For example, SEWA membership grew by 37 per cent; SWaCH membership by 33 per cent and membership in organizations of street vendors in Dominican Republic by 51 per cent.
 - New MBOs are affiliated with national and global networks. For example, StreetNet membership grew across Africa, Asia and Latin America, with 12 new affiliates, expanding from 21 to 32 countries.
 - Organizations have emerged in new sectors (e.g. quarry workers and stone sellers in Togo; café owners and delivery workers in Santo Domingo).
- **Increased capacity within worker organizations**
 - Workshops on governance, network structure, and leadership benefited waste picker organizations in India and Latin America; home-based worker organizations in Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand and Cambodia; and street vendors in Africa and Latin America.
 - New co-ops and businesses were created among waste pickers and home-based workers (India, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic).
 - Occupational Health and Safety awareness and monitoring increased in Ghana, Liberia, and Dominican Republic.
 - Negotiation and dialogue training supported by StreetNet lead to a Memorandum of Understanding with local authorities in Nakuru, Kenya.
- **Growth of global networks representing working poor**
 - Alliance of Indian Wastepickers (AIW) grew to 35 member groups.
 - Latin America waste picker movement expanded from 7 to 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico); RedLacre was strengthened.
 - Regional network of home-based workers developed in Southeast Europe.
 - Network on Occupational Health and Safety for Informal Workers emerged with reference groups in five countries, made up of informal workers, government representatives, trade unions and employee associations.
 - StreetNet and HomeNet gained new affiliates.



photo: Amit Thavaraj

- **Growing representation by workers in official bodies and institutions**

- Waste pickers were represented in India on the Advisory Board to Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008 and on a committee to determine plastics policy, on the Central Minimum Wage Advisory Committee, and the Indian Labour Conference.
- Waste pickers participated in the UNFCCC conferences and subsequent meetings.
- Organizations of informal sector workers gained recognized by national trade unions and congresses in Malawi, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia.
- Street vendors were represented in the quadripartite committee of 4 arrondissements of the municipality of Lomé.
- Street vendors took part in development of national poverty reduction strategy in Togo.
- Members of MBOs of the working poor were elected to municipal councils in Durban, South Africa.

Visibility - Partners reported the following achievements in building understanding and recognition of the contribution of informal sector workers to the economy.

- **Increased engagement with public officials**

- A national mass meeting of waste pickers from 32 organizations in India was attended by the Environment Minister.
- Annual engagement occurred between waste pickers and the President of Brazil, a commitment to be continued with the new president.
- A survey on home-based workers in three cities in Thailand was presented to city officials.
- Engagement with ministries of labour, education, health and local administrations in Pakistan has built understanding and commitment for a policy on home-based workers.
- South Asia Policy Conference on home-based workers was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India.
- Engagement with municipalities occurred in the Dominican Republic around solidarity economy, SMEs, improvement of health and safety in public markets.



- **Development of models, case studies and best practice materials**

- Stories, methods, materials for outreach were documented and disseminated.
- An Informal Economy Budget Analysis tool was developed and tested in Brazil, Pakistan, Peru, and Philippines.
- Traffic to the Inclusive Cities website grew to an average of 3,000 hits per month in 2011, with materials available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
- New social media tools, (e.g. Asiye eTafuleni blog and a waste pickers blog) emerged.
- A map of recyclers and the recycling value chain in Bolivia, Ecuador was created.
- The first book providing a global perspective on waste picker organizations and movements was written by Melanie Samson.
- A financial modelling tool is in the testing stage in Colombia to help waste pickers compete at city level with solid waste management firms.

- **Research and data collection**

- Two annual studies on the impact of financial crisis on informal sector were conducted by WIEGO with Inclusive Cities partners in 10 countries. Studies were used by major institutions and publications, including UN Secretary General, Asia Development Bank, UNICEF, *Women's Political Journal/Harvard, Gender and Development*. Press coverage occurred in 12 countries.
- Surveys, mapping and data collection in several countries, with particular work on mapping home-based workers (Thailand, Cambodia, Pakistan), street vendors (South Africa) and collecting data on occupational health and safety (Ghana, Liberia, Brazil).

Validity - Partners reported the following achievements in gaining legal recognition of the working poor and their organizations.

- **Legal recognition of informal workers**

- Government i.d. cards, voter i.d. cards, and birth certificates were provided for construction workers,

street vendors, and bidi workers in India (per SEWA Bharat).

- Home-based workers were registered with Pakistan Election Commission and over 3,500 home-based workers with the national registration authority NADRA.
 - Informal sector workers were enrolled in social welfare schemes in Ghana, India, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Togo, Thailand; e.g. 56,447 workers enrolled in the new Urban Informal Economy Welfare Board in Gujarat.
 - Government policies that include informal workers emerged in Nicaragua.
 - A policy on home-based workers was drafted in Pakistan, with support from the Ministry of Labour in four provinces, Ministry of Women's Development, Directorate of Human Rights.
 - A new Pakistan census includes nine columns that recognize the work of home-based workers, especially women.
- **Contracts secured with municipalities and residence associations**
 - A contract was secured between waste pickers and a residence association in Ahmedabad for neighbourhood collection in the face of impending privatization to commercial company.
 - A solid waste management model was negotiated for Katihar town.
 - MOUs were signed between SWaCH and Pune Municipal Corporation and PimpriCinchwad Municipal Corporation.
 - Waste picker cooperatives received more contracts through municipalities in Brazil.
 - Markets spaces for street vendors were retained and improved in Durban and Santo Domingo.
 - **New laws, policies and standards**
 - New laws were established or drafted for inclusive waste management in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.
 - Waste pickers and domestic workers were recognized in India's National Social Security Act, by Ministry of Urban Development, and Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
 - The informal sector participated in defining the Micro and Small Enterprise Bill and National Land Policy in Kenya.
 - Policy development is underway in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to recognize informal workers and growing opportunities for accessing government development funds.
 - Municipal and national governments recognized the right to space for traders, and prohibited forced removals in South Africa and Nicaragua.

Inclusive Cities project: Inclusive Cities focuses on support and capacity building for membership-based organizations (MBOs) of the working poor in the urban informal economy. Through organizing, advocacy, and policy analysis, informal workers are making their needs heard within urban planning processes. Partners in the Inclusive Cities project include MBOs of the working poor and technical support organizations committed to improving the situation of the working poor. For more information, and to access research and publications on inclusive urban planning and capacity building tools for MBOs, visit: www.InclusiveCities.org