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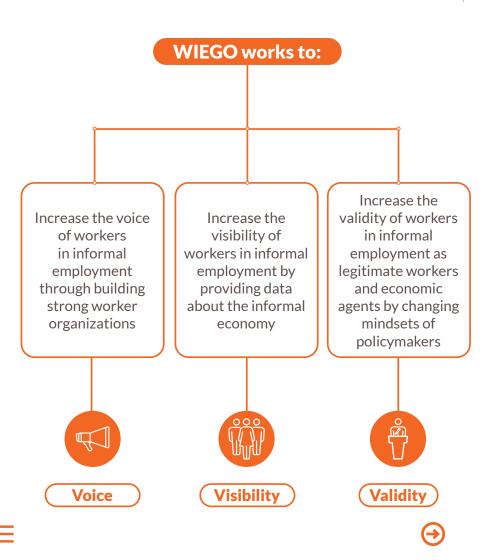
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Empowering Workers, Securing Informal Livelihoods

WiEGO is a network of organizations of workers in informal employment and the researchers, statisticians and development practitioners who support them. WIEGO's mission is to improve the working conditions of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. We do this in two ways. First, we provide statistics, research and policy analysis on the informal economy. This information can be used for advocacy: **Data in the hands of workers is power.** Second, we find and link up individuals and workers' organizations to build regional and global networks. We are building a social movement: **Stronger together.**





The Year in Review

Mirai Chatterjee, Chair, WIEGO Board of Directors

Dear WIEGO Family and Friends,

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary this year, we look toward the next quarter-century with hope and inspiration in the midst of ongoing challenges. While pandemic lockdowns have eased, food and fuel prices have skyrocketed; while workers are earning again, they have not overcome the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. Conflict and climate change are with us as never before. Yet we continue to pursue our vision of a just recovery for all workers: one in which all workers are included and central to government and other efforts at rebuilding livelihoods with social protection, and central to rebuilding local and national economies.

When this financial year started in April 2021, my country, India, was experiencing a public health crisis of unimaginable proportions. The women worker leaders who stepped in to deliver food and medicine, to comfort others in moments of loss, to mobilize their collectives by any means to do what they could for their members showed why societies must learn to value women workers and prioritize their voices. There will be no recovery otherwise.

A quarter-century ago when WIEGO was founded, very few people took notice of the informal economy. We have come a long way since then. This year, we saw our worker-leaders featured in major media outlets and invited to speak to policy audiences all over the world. Our network members have come together to define joint policy positions and have seen their uptake. There is more awareness of the need for universal social protection and its particular importance to workers in informal employment. The mobilization among WIEGO Network members for the International Labour Conference (ILC) General Discussion on Social Protection is yet another significant step forward in our struggle for rights, recognition and representation. We have made tangible progress since the onset of the crisis, and we are getting stronger and better every day.

As we begin to see more of each other in person again, we are grateful for the bonds we share. Soon, we will gather together at our eighth General Assembly to affirm our strategic direction and commitment to the mission we share. We look forward to this moment of renewal and celebration, and to deepening the connections with all of our members, partners and allies.

Whire Chatterjee

Mirai Chatterjee Chair, WIEGO Board of Directors October 2022



Sally Roever, International Coordinator

After responding to the urgent needs of workers and their organizations, we have settled into new ways of working and sharpened our focus on centring the voices of workers in economic recovery debates. The increasing visibility of our Network in those debates has helped shift ground in a significant way, at an important moment.

Our Network brought a united voice to discussions on social protection at the International Labour Conference, calling for direct representation of organizations of workers in informal employment and highlighting the needs of self-employed workers. Advocacy and direct interventions on the part of our Network's representatives resulted in an outcome document that names workers in informal employment and will shape global work on social protection for years to come. Other strategic interventions on social protection followed later in the year, including a project challenging economic orthodoxies that undermine universal social protection.

Pandemic response work that we began last year with members and partners culminated in the dissemination of relevant, timely data on COVID-19's impact on different sectors of informal employment. As the pandemic's effects evolved in different ways around the world, our research traced the impact pathways for different worker groups, showing how workers coped with livelihood loss and displacement – and identifying their priorities for recovery. The findings have been used in dialogue forums to inform government recovery approaches. In November, the WIEGO Network's relevance to the future of work was recognized through a five-year, USD25 million grant from the Ford Foundation. The grant will build sustainability across the movement as WIEGO and the International Domestic Workers' Federation, HomeNet International, StreetNet International and the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers solidify governance structures, build capacity on critical functions, and strategically support affiliates. The growth and strengthening across our networks are evident as we expand our voice in global spaces that shape the possibilities for a just future of work. One of many examples came in March, when our efforts to support waste pickers resulted in a UN environmental resolution mentioning informal recyclers for the first time.

In the background of this work was an internal strategic review process to inform our next five-year plan. We defined eight strategy-level questions related to scope and orientation, which helped us explore and define WIEGO's priorities. Our in-depth consultation process drew on perspectives from our team, Board, institutional and individual members, and external stakeholders. The resulting five-year strategic plans will be reviewed at our eighth General Assembly, to take place in Mexico in November 2022.

We are, as ever, so grateful for our team, members, partners and allies in the struggle for a just and inclusive world of work.

In Solidarity,

Sally Roever, Ph.D. International Coordinator, WIEGO October 2022

WIEGO Celebrates 25 Years

The year before WIEGO's 1997 formation, the ILO Convention on Home Work (C177) was passed, and this milestone sowed the seeds for WIEGO's birth. The statistics that contributed to the advocacy process at the global level were provided by founders who still play key roles in WIEGO's research work.

While WIEGO today far exceeds the expectations of our founders, the mutual support that heralded our foundation has been there from the beginning. The home-based worker movement, through the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), was crucial to our formation. The WIEGO Network has grown from the 10 specialists on the informal economy who came together in 1997 into a movement that embraces WIEGO, the International Domestic Workers' Federation, HomeNet International, StreetNet International and the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers. WIEGO is now a 74-person team, and our Network's institutional members represent more than 5 million people in 94 countries. Direct WIEGO activities take place in close to 60 countries across six continents.

The founding group constituted:

- Ela Bhatt (SEWA)
- Renana Jhabvala (SEWA)
- Marty Chen (Harvard University)
- Marilyn Carr (UNIFEM)
- Grace Bediako (United Nations Statistical Division)

- Jacques Charmes (IRD, France)
- Maxine Olson (UNIFEM)
- William "Biff" Steel (World Bank)
- Jane Tate (HomeNet)
- S.V. Sethuraman (ILO)



The specialists shared a common concern in 1997: that official statistics do not represent and mainstream policymakers do not adequately understand the contribution of workers in informal employment, especially women workers, to national economies. As a result, little attention was paid to how policies affect women workers or how their situation could be improved. The group planned a collaborative project that would promote a better understanding and appreciation of women in informal employment. The project's goals were to promote better statistical accounting and research, stronger organizations and networks, and supportive policies and programmes for women in informal employment. The founders named the project "Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing" (or WIEGO for short).

Highlights on the Road to 25

ere are some of the global-level highlights along the way to 25 years and, for a fuller picture including national and regional organizing milestones and victories, see <u>www.wiego.org/news/wiego-turns-25</u>.







Statistical Picture, which compiled available national data on informal employment for the first time.

2003

Organizing Workers in Informal Employment



WIEGO and a coalition of trade unions and organizations, including the Ghana Trades Union Congress, HomeNet Thailand, the Nigerian Labour Congress, SEWA and StreetNet International, met in Ahmedabad, India, to discuss organizing workers in informal employment. WIEGO subsequently supported the convening of global conferences to organize waste pickers, domestic workers and home-based workers in 2008, 2011 and 2015, respectively.

Global Study on the Impact of the Economic Crisis on Workers

2009



In 2009 and 2010, WIEGO led a study of the impact of the global economic crisis on urban workers, carried out by organizations of workers in informal employment in a dozen cities across low and middle-income countries. Drawing on this experience, WIEGO led another global study across 12 cities in 2020–2021 to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers in informal employment.

2011

Convention 189 on Decent Work

for Domestic Workers Adopted

In June 2011, after a five-year campaign, the International Labour Conference adopted Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The Convention mandates that domestic workers be recognized as workers entitled to the same protections as other workers.

International Domestic Workers' Federation Founded

2013



In October 2013, the International Domestic Workers' Network was transformed into a formal federation at its founding congress in Uruguay. At the congress, WIEGO facilitated the ratification of the Constitution and the election of the leadership.



2015 2018 2021 2022 **ILO Recommendation 204 First Global Estimates of** Launch of on Formalization Adopted **Informal Employment Published** HomeNet International WOMEN AND MEN AUNCH O IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY: A STATISTICAL PICTURE For greater visibility and recognition of home-based workers around the world FEBRUARY 23 The landmark ILO Recommendation The February 2021 launch of

204 on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy contains many provisions that leaders of workers in informal employment and WIEGO advocated for over three years. These included provisions recognizing that informal livelihoods should be preserved during the transition to formality, and that workers in informal employment need regulated access to public space and to natural resources to pursue their livelihoods.

WIEGO's Statistics Programme worked with the International Labour Organization as it compiled the first-ever global estimates of informal employment. In 2018, the research was published by the ILO in Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture (3rd edition) and summarized in WIEGO's Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Brief.

HomeNet International was the culmination of two decades of organization building. Homebased workers' organizations from four regions continued to build a democratic, representative global network through the COVID-19 pandemic. WIEGO supported the network's formation with capacity building, knowledge generation, statistics and networking.

Waste Pickers Recognized in **UN Environmental Resolution**



Informal recyclers were mentioned for the first time in a United Nations environmental resolution. in the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly in Kenya, February 28-March 2, 2022. The text says their contribution in collecting, sorting and recycling plastics in many countries is recognized, and it further calls for learning from the best practices in informal and cooperative settings.





Working to Ensure a Seat at the Table for Millions of Workers

On November 16, 2021, the Ford Foundation announced a five-year USD25 million grant to the WIEGO Network. An interactive Guardian Labs article, "More Than 2 Billion Workers Make Up the Informal Economy," accompanied the announcement to highlight the size and significance of the informal economy and to raise the visibility of the membership-based organizations fighting for improved livelihoods for workers in informal employment. News of the funding announcement was covered by TIME, Fast Company and other news outlets.

Sarita Gupta, director of the Ford Foundation's Future of Work(ers) programme, said:

"We know there can be no global recovery without informal workers. This grant recognizes the importance of ensuring billions of informal workers have a seat at the table to have their voices, demands and needs heard at the national and global levels, so policymakers and business leaders recognize their contributions and value."



HomeNet International Celebrates its First Anniversary

Home-based workers and their allies launched a global network in February 2021. As it marked its first anniversary this year, HomeNet International officially registered as an observer at the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference. This marks a milestone in securing home-based workers' ability to speak for and represent themselves at the ILC, and for visibility of the sector among governments, unions and employers attending the conference.

The global network of home-based workers is working with WIEGO to develop statistical briefs on countries outside Asia. There is a focus on other regions because the regional network is strong and visible, particularly in South Asia. HomeNet International and WIEGO believe that bringing visibility to home-based work in other regions will help the network build solidarity within the movement.

While the will to form a global movement is decades old and the work towards it many years in the making, HomeNet International's ability to celebrate an anniversary was never taken for granted. As HNI's International Coordinator Janhavi Dave told us, there was an international network of home-based workers 25 years ago, but it "didn't succeed. Unfortunately, it wasn't very democratic, and many of our sister organizations walked out of it." It is very different this time, Janhavi said. "We're all part of the same family. Be it SEWA, be it HomeNet South Asia, now HomeNet International, WIEGO, all of us have worked together to build this movement and push the movement forward. This partnership that we built – and the process that we built it with – is a very democratic one."



Women Fighting the Same Fight

Janhavi's sentiments are echoed by the other leaders of global organizations that WIEGO works with. Elizabeth Tang, General Secretary of IDWF, told us: "Being part of the WIEGO Network, we know we are in a much larger movement – a much larger family of informal workers, who are women, who are fighting the same fight for recognition, for rights, for social protection. We are together with home-based workers, street vendors, waste pickers."

StreetNet International Coordinator Oksana Abboud said that "WIEGO has connected us with like-minded organizations and institutions, providing the space for building international solidarity among all workers engaged in informal employment. We use WIEGO's research and databases in our advocacy work."

Kabir Arora, who coordinates the Alliance of Indian Waste Pickers and supports the outreach of the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers in Asia, described the moment that Soledad Mella, President of the Asociación Nacional de Recicladores de Chile and Global Alliance of Waste Pickers representative, took the podium at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2022: "We did what we had come for and represented the hopes and aspirations of millions of waste pickers."

Cross-Sector Work Grows

While the work of WIEGO's programmes to support different sectors of workers in the informal economy are highlighted in this report, our work increasingly reaches across sectors and this is building solidarity among all workers in informal employment.

For example, the Statistics Programme at WIEGO has continuously compiled data to show the large number of workers in informal employment across sectors and countries. Data in the hands of workers has helped to build unity and solidarity. Through an ongoing regional collaboration in Arab countries supported by the Ford Foundation, WIEGO, the ILO, the ILO-MENA regional office and UNESCWA are developing labour statistics with a focus on informality. In 2021, a project report assessed the labour force surveys and the social protection programmes related to employment in the pilot countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) as a basis for developing a questionnaire for labour force surveys. Qualitative and quantitative testing of the questionnaire will be next. The project contributes to improving statistics on informality and on the main groups of workers of concern to WIEGO. The project also facilitates the region's contribution to the ILO Working Group for the Revision of Statistical Standards on Informality, of which WIEGO's Statistics team are members.

In another show of cross-sectoral unity and solidarity, the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers, HomeNet International, IDWF and StreetNet International <u>participated</u> in the 109th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2021, along with WIEGO and SEWA. The main aim of this group was to guarantee that social protection needs of workers in informal employment were reflected in the adopted conclusions of the discussion.

Also, WIEGO is working with Swedish Sida to <u>develop research</u> that deepens the link between social protection and economic recovery and brings new evidence to bear on longstanding debates. Three relationships in particular are being explored: the contribution of social spending to economic recovery, the link between social protection and labour market dynamics, and the role for capital and employers in the financing of social protection. Additionally, with the International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD), the project explores the realities of taxation from the perspective of workers in informal employment.

The launch of the inaugural WIEGO School this year is the exciting outcome of a longstanding process. The School is a major milestone, drawing together the sectors as well as our programmes, and our allies are enthusiastic about its potential. As Oksana told us, "WIEGO has so much expertise and can train on how to organize and how to negotiate for those in informal employment. At the same time, we will draw closer together for the sake of our joint constituency, which is informally employed workers."









Seizing the Moment from COVID-19

The majority of the global workforce – 61 per cent – is informal and has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and by the accompanying economic downturn. We are seizing the moment as the global community considers how to rebuild a more equitable and fair world.

WIEGO, alongside membership-based organizations of the working poor, monitored the <u>impact of the COVID-19 crisis</u> on workers in informal employment around the world. In mid-2021, interviews were conducted with the same domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and market traders, and waste pickers in 11 cities as in the mid-2020 surveys to assess if they had recovered. We talked to workers in Accra (Ghana), Ahmedabad (India), Bangkok (Thailand), Dakar (Senegal), Delhi (India), Durban (South Africa), Lima (Peru), Mexico City (Mexico), Pleven (Bulgaria), New York City (USA) and Tiruppur (India). Seventy per cent of the study respondents were women, broadly reflecting the gender composition of the four sectors. The 2021 findings suggest that the economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis remains deep and persistent for workers at the base of the economy. The level of indebtedness that workers have been forced into means the COVID-19 crisis is far from over. Since the pandemic began, 52 per cent of respondents drew down on their savings, 46 per cent borrowed money, and 17 per cent sold or pawned assets to get by. The vast majority (82 per cent) of respondents who had drawn down on savings since the beginning of the pandemic were unable to replace any of the savings by mid-2021. WIEGO has drawn lessons from the pandemic and, with our allies, is continuing advocacy work for a just economic recovery with renewed vigour.



Where WIEGO Worked in 2021-2022*

- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- India

- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Spain
- Tanzania
- Thailand

- TogoTunisia
- Uganda
- Uruguay
- USA
- Vietnam
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

* Includes countries where WIEGO has team members or key partners

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WIEGO's Key Programmes

Statistics Programme

The Statistics Programme collaborates with official statisticians to improve statistical methods that will make visible the size and significance of the informal economy and the situation of all informal workers, and to prepare the data in formats that are accessible to a wide set of users.

Organization and Representation Programme

The Organization & Representation Programme helps organizations of workers in informal employment build their organizational and leadership capacity, connect to each other and align with allies as they fight to improve the working conditions of their members.

Law Programme

The Law Programme strives for the recognition, inclusion and protection of the rights and work of workers in informal employment in international instruments, national and local laws and regulations. It works to build the capacity of workers in informal employment and their organizations to use the law to fight for secure livelihoods and labour rights.

Social Protection Programme

Workers in informal employment need access to social protections that will protect and mitigate risks to their incomes and help them cope after an event or shock. The Social Protection Programme is committed to helping workers in informal employment access these rights.

Urban Policies Programme

By working with leaders of workers in informal employment, policymakers and urban practitioners, the Urban Policies Programme strives to help the urban poor achieve better incomes, more secure places to live and work, and the capacity to negotiate sustainable gains in urban policies and practices.

How WIEGO Supports Domestic Workers

Meet Norma Palacios

Norma is one of the founders and leaders of SINACTRAHO, a domestic workers' union in Mexico. She has been a domestic worker for 27 years and, while she recognizes that she is tired and "has fears, like any other human being," she finds strength in this movement.

SINACTRAHO works to raise awareness of domestic workers' economic and labour situation and strives to empower its members to demand and exercise their rights as workers.

"Most of the time you work in a place where the employer's house is your workplace, but you can be alone all day long and you have no contact with other people with whom you identify. We do see that these relationships can develop when, perhaps, they work in the same building, when they establish a friendship, but we see that when they come to the union they become stronger."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the historic effort to ensure domestic workers' long-term well-being became even more pressing. As well as advocating for social security, the union offered legal counselling to domestic workers who faced exploitative employment relations or were fired without justification during the crisis. "Doing all these things during the pandemic showed us that we can achieve everything. It also strengthened me a lot: when we have these encounters with authorities I know we carry with us the voice of us as domestic workers [...] We have to hold on to all these women to move forward."



How WIEGO Programmes Support Domestic Workers

Organization and Representation Programme

After developing a toolkit on Convention 189, WIEGO facilitated negotiation skills training for domestic worker organizations. Experiences from this were shared by IDWF affiliates in a November 2021 workshop with the ILO commemorating C189. Beginning in October 2021, IDWF affiliates from 10 African countries took part in a six-month-long WIEGO online training on democratic leadership in trade unions. Participants said the course helped them to realize the importance of understanding and implementing their unions' constitutions and to revise them appropriately to address the situation of domestic workers.

Statistics Programme

The Statistics Programme's unique contribution is to improve the identification of domestic workers – and home-based workers, street vendors, market traders and waste pickers – in official statistics and to prepare statistics on these groups in accessible formats for use by membership-based organizations (MBOs), global networks of workers in informal employment, and allied policy advocates. International statistics work makes possible global statistical briefs such as the ILO-WIEGO-IDWF profile on domestic workers. It also informs WIEGO's preparation of briefs at the national, urban and city levels on informal employment. Briefs for Chile and Senegal include trend information on each group, including domestic workers, and facilitate work to improve the situation of these workers.



Law Programme

With the aim of legally empowering domestic workers so that they can realize their rights and respond to violations by employers, WIEGO held meetings this year with workers' organizations in Tanzania and South Africa. Domestic workers' struggles include limited legal awareness and access to legal services, uneven legal protection, non-compliance by employers, difficulty in organizing, and poor enforcement. WIEGO's legal empowerment work aims to train domestic workers on legal issues, thereby increasing their access to justice. By empowering domestic workers themselves to know and use the law - equipping them with legal knowledge, and negotiation and mediation skills - the work aims to break the barriers to access to justice, including the hierarchical relationship between legal professionals and workers that can prevent the latter from seeking redress. Ultimately, the work with IDWF affiliates will embed, through a training-of-trainers model, a culture of legal empowerment in their organizations so that all members are able to know, use and shape the law to secure their rights.

Social Protection Programme

With the IDWF, WIEGO produced a <u>series of policy briefs</u> on domestic workers and social protection in South Asia. These looked at the barriers domestic workers face in accessing social protection and public services, as well as the costs they carry in order to access these services. For example, domestic workers in India said they were paying the equivalent of three weeks of earnings to visit a health care centre. About 70 per cent of workers reported having to take out a loan to finance their last health visit. In Tamil Nadu, domestic workers said they lack knowledge about their entitlements, lack documentation for registration, and migrant workers are excluded from welfare provisions. The cost of applying for a social security benefit for the typical domestic worker in our survey was 1.5 times her weekly earnings. Domestic worker organizations in South Asia are using this research in their local-level organizing and advocacy.

Urban Policies Programme

WIEGO's COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study monitored workers' hardships, loss of jobs and inability to recover earnings by mid-2021. The study found that, among domestic workers, "live-out" domestic workers were more likely to lose their jobs and struggle to regain them, whereas "live-in" workers experienced deteriorating working conditions. Both types of domestic workers reported a weakening of their bargaining power with employers. In Mexico City, SINACTRAHO, the national union of domestic workers, used study results on food insecurity and loss of income to engage the Mexican Congress on the long-standing demands of domestic workers.



How WIEGO Supports Home-Based Workers

Meet Janhavi Dave

"The home-based workers' movement has had many proud moments," says Janhavi, International Coordinator of HomeNet International, which was launched in February 2021.

One such moment came in 1996, when the ILO Convention on Home Work (C177) was passed. "WIEGO really supported in achieving this Convention – getting the statistics to push the advocacy process at a global level, which was extremely fruitful." WIEGO's commitment to supporting the home-based workers' movement has continued ever since.

The COVID-19 crisis saw the expansion of the home-based worker sector, in numbers as well as regions and the sectors in which they work, Janhavi said, noting that shortly before the pandemic, a WIEGO <u>study</u> found there were 260 million home-based workers in the world.

"What is being spoken about right now is that this number has almost doubled. Everybody talked about the traditional home-based workers – the artisans or the women who embroider and make baskets and sew – but now people are talking about home-based workers in all sectors, including gig work, telemarketing and online marketing." While the home-based worker sector is very likely to expand over the next few decades, its visibility will not grow with it, Janhavi said. But there is an encouraging trend in that trade unions are becoming more interested in this kind of informal work.

"I see many of us joining hands and working together in organizing home-based workers."



How WIEGO Programmes Support Home-Based Workers

Organization and Representation Programme

WIEGO continues to support HNI's governance body and several homebased worker initiatives in Africa and Latin America. The Africa Regional Platform of home-based worker organizations is making progress towards adopting a constitution, and COTRADO ALAC – a regional network in the Latin American and Caribbean region – is in the process of becoming a registered organization. The Organization & Representation Programme supports these regional processes as well as home-based worker organization activities in five Latin American countries and five African countries.

Statistics Programme

In collaboration with HomeNet South Asia, the Statistics Programme prepared a statistical brief on Nepal this year to complete a series of four home-based worker briefs that also include Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. We also prepared briefs at the national, urban and city levels on home-based workers and other groups for <u>Chile</u> and <u>Senegal</u>. Until now, Senegal had few publications on informal employment. Also, significant progress was made on briefs for Brazil and Peru (on home-based workers, domestic workers, market traders, street vendors and waste pickers) with national, city and urban data.



Law Programme

Advocating for the inclusion of homeworkers in supply chain legislation was a key priority for WIEGO in 2021, and the European Commission's publication of a draft directive on corporate sustainability due diligence was cause for celebration. The draft directive, published in February 2022, has the potential to cover all workers in the supply chain, and made homeworker organizations feel that they had at last been heard. Civil society partners are now in the second phase of advocacy as the final instrument is negotiated.

Social Protection Programme

In response to rising demand, WIEGO has been developing worker education materials on social protection. The Social Protection Programme developed materials for HomeNet International and ran a training series for its affiliates in Asia, Africa and Latin America that fed into HNI's strategy development on social protection. The programme also supported HomeNet Southeast Asia's piloting of a course originally developed by the Asia Resource Monitoring Centre (AMRC). These experiences will bolster a broader set of worker education resources for the WIEGO School. WIEGO has also been working with HomeNet Southeast Asia, and in conversation with StreetNet International, to build a strong relationship with the Senior Labour Officials Meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the group has confirmed participation in HomeNet Southeast Asia's regional dialogue on social protection.

Urban Policies Programme

A central focus for the Urban Policies Programme is shaping economic recovery debates and foregrounding the needs of workers in informal employment through rigorous research. Worker-organization partners in the WIEGO-led COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study used the process as well as the results to better respond to their members' needs. In Bangkok, HomeNet Thailand's fieldwork revealed urgent concerns and launched a comprehensive set of recovery demands, a crowd-sourcing campaign and a health hotline. With a focus on home as workplace, WIEGO is working with HomeNet International and its affiliates to support their advocacy for housing tenure, mixed-use zoning and basic infrastructure services.

How WIEGO Supports Street Vendors and Market Traders

Meet Oksana Abboud

"2022 marks the 20th anniversary of StreetNet International since its establishment in Durban, South Africa," notes Oksana, International Coordinator of StreetNet, the global alliance of street and market vendors.

"WIEGO played a key role in the creation of StreetNet. WIEGO's leadership at the time recognized the crucial need for an international umbrella to unite and support street vendors around the world."

With the rapid growth in technology globally, street vendor organizations should position themselves to take advantage of this with new approaches and strategies, Oksana says.

"We might see integration of street vendors into digital platforms, with vendors finding their niche in using the technology for sustainability, development and livelihood purposes."

She believes that a shift could be coming, with street vendors gaining more recognition and respect for their human and workers' rights and their role as economic players. StreetNet is growing – expanding its borders and attracting new members, and WIEGO gives the movement recognition and confidence at international and other levels, she says.

"It means a lot to be part of a global network for the vulnerable, for the unrecognized – and to be part of such a highly respected network with a high level of organization ... It empowers us and brings us into more unity. We feel part of a big family."



How WIEGO Programmes Support Street Vendors and Market Traders

Organization and Representation Programme

The implementation of ILO Recommendation 204 on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy is an ongoing WIEGO priority. In the spirit of that transition, five towns across two provinces in South Africa have established a formal relationship between street vendor representatives and council officials. In October 2021, the two parties held a policy dialogue where public-space guidelines were launched, and they signed a joint declaration of commitment to practical interventions to improve the vendors' working conditions. These and other achievements in which WIEGO played a key role have generated more media coverage and created the potential for significant shifts in workers' material conditions.

Statistics Programme

The programme prepared briefs at the national, urban and city levels on main worker groups, including street vendors and market traders, for Chile and Senegal. The <u>Chile</u> brief was presented to representatives of unions and federations of street vendors, waste pickers, domestic workers and home-based workers, the Workers United Centre of Chile and a representative of the metropolitan region's Ministry of Labour and Social Provision. Worker organizations noted how important it is to have statistics for their advocacy and to bring visibility.



Law Programme

WIEGO's <u>Administrative Justice project</u> aims to provide people working in public space with the knowledge and skills to defend their rights against violations by public authorities, and the ability to demand access to and participate meaningfully in law and policymaking processes. In Senegal and Ghana, the Law Programme mapped institutions and stakeholders involved in the regulation and management of public space and interviewed public authorities and vendors to assess regulations that govern access to space and its implementation on the ground. The study's theme was law and the distribution of power and entitlements in the urban space from the vantage point of street and market vendors. Also, WIEGO's <u>analysis</u> of COVID-19 in seven Asian countries shows that laws and policies do not recognize informal traders as legitimate economic actors or the role that informal food vendors play in promoting food security. WIEGO's analysis of the pandemic laws that regulated informal work in 16 countries in <u>Latin America</u> generated similar conclusions.

Social Protection Programme

In response to growing needs highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis, the Social Protection Programme expanded its regional advocacy for income protection this year. The adoption of the African Union's Protocol on Social Protection in February 2022 was cause for celebration as WIEGO has worked with partners, including StreetNet International, to ensure that this legally binding instrument directly includes workers in informal employment in policy making, among other demands. The fact that the African Union now has a single binding instrument that addresses a broad range of social protection issues sets a clearer direction for regional advocacy. Also in Africa, a notable gain for street vendors and other workers in informal employment operating in public space was made when the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) drew on WIEGO's child-care work with Asiye eTafuleni to include child-care provision in their Public Space Trading Guidelines, 2021-2026.

Urban Policies Programme

The Urban Policies Programme has worked this year on securing inclusive planning practices and policy in a range of contexts and countries. In <u>New</u> <u>York City</u>, UPP partnered with the Street Vendor Project on the COVID-19 impact study and together they jointly identified lessons in advocacy that have global relevance. Also, WIEGO's work in local-level experimentation with urban planning and design and legal frameworks was profiled in the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Gold VI Report, which documents <u>public-space trading innovations</u> in Durban, South Africa, and Delhi, India, as well as <u>institutionalized social dialogue</u> in Lima, Peru.





How WIEGO Supports Waste Pickers

Meet Coura Ndiaye

Coura is an honorary leader among waste pickers in the Mbeubeuss dumpsite, about 30 kilometres away from Dakar, capital of Senegal. People generally call her "Mother Coura" out of respect for her age and the number of years she has worked as a waste picker.

In 2000, Coura joined the Association of Waste Pickers of Mbeubeuss, known as Bokk Diom, and she later led the association. She is a firm believer in the importance of being organized – particularly for women – in order to defend waste pickers' livelihoods and improve their working conditions.

This is particularly crucial as the government has so far refused to include waste pickers in its current solid waste management project, or at least guarantee their means of subsistence, Coura says. The restructuring of the dumpsite led by the waste management agency is affecting women waste pickers' working conditions and safety.

"For example, the road they built to get to the platform, this road is the cause of the flooding. Because this road is very high, if it rains, it flows directly onto us." She says Bokk Diom needs to become stronger and improve communication between leaders and members to tackle the challenges and needs. The waste pickers also need help from the government's waste management agency to improve their working conditions at the dumpsite, which would increase their income, Coura says.



"The state should help us and not the other way around. We are the first in this dumpsite, and we are the most legitimate to benefit from the dumpsite."

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How WIEGO Programmes Support Waste Pickers

Organization and Representation Programme

The Organization & Representation Programme has supported progress towards the establishment of a global organization of waste pickers, including with discussions of a draft Constitution and issues that have helped build a sense of common purpose. Early in 2022, WIEGO coordinated a delegation of waste picker MBOs to participate in the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, in support of a global plastics treaty. A significant <u>victory</u> was achieved when the UNEA-5.2 resolution recognized waste pickers as recyclers of plastics in informal and cooperative settings. WIEGO also has focused on empowering MBOs to engage governments and the private sector on Extended Producer Responsibility policies and regulations. In South Africa, this led to an agreement in principle about payment to waste pickers for their environmental services.

Statistics Programme

The identification of waste pickers through national surveys presents special problems. However, national survey data are a useful starting point. *Waste Pickers in Brazil: A Statistical Profile* (WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 29), published in English and Portuguese in November 2021, provides statistics on the extent of waste picker employment in the country, urban areas and major cities, as well as waste pickers' characteristics and working conditions. The Statistics Programme is working with the WIEGO team and members of the waste picker community to improve methods for collecting data on these workers.



Law Programme

In the <u>Waste Pickers and Human Rights</u> project, WIEGO and partners petitioned the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the right to work to include workers in informal employment and for a thematic hearing on the rights violations of waste pickers in seven Latin American countries. While the hearing was not granted, the team was invited to meet with the commissioners and will petition again for a hearing. The Law Programme did capacity building with waste pickers to enable the workers to present arguments in front of the commission, and collaboration is continuing. Also, the Administrative Justice stream of work is strengthening its focus on R204, which provides a comprehensive model of formalization that recognizes the socio-economic contributions of workers in informal employment and promotes the adoption of enabling regulatory frameworks and strategies that prioritize their needs. The next phase adopts a strong cross-sectoral approach, involving organizations of waste pickers, who share the struggle for access and meaningful use of public space.

Urban Policies Programme

Through the <u>CataSaúde Viraliza</u> project in Brazil, WIEGO enhanced worker capacity to reduce risks and secure gains. By the end of July 2021, more than 400 waste pickers had completed the online capacitybuilding project that sought to provide waste pickers with a deeper understanding of decent work conditions and health and safety protocols. Participants represented all five regions of Brazil. The CataSaúde Viraliza project focused on strengthening alliances with both organized and nonorganized waste pickers, by drawing on the expertise of multiple partners and research activists. For several of these partners, this was the first time they had worked together to help bridge understandings among both groups of waste pickers. In Belo Horizonte, WIEGO celebrated 10 years of the <u>Gender and Waste Project</u> with an <u>e-book</u> launch where women waste picker leaders reflected on gains made in working to build gender awareness in the National Waste Pickers Movement (MNCR) and local cooperatives.

Social Protection Programme

With WIEGO support, the Movement of Excluded Workers (MTE) – a member of Unión de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de la Economía Popular (UTEP) – in Argentina developed an innovative programme through their child-care and after-school centres to support children who experienced abuse during the COVID-19 lockdown periods. UTEP-MTE were able to adapt their child-care services rapidly to respond to the needs of waste pickers, street vendors, garment workers and community workers represented in the union.

How WIEGO's Focal Cities Teams Support Workers in Informal Employment

WIEGO's Focal Cities approach supports organizations of workers in informal employment to engage with government officials to secure more inclusive laws and regulations, improved urban services and a voice in urban planning and policymaking processes. WIEGO's five Focal Cities are Accra, Ghana; Dakar, Senegal; Delhi, India; Lima, Peru; and Mexico City, Mexico.



Accra, Ghana The team works with market traders, street vendors, waste pickers and market porters.

In Accra, the Focal Cities team's work focused on securing progressive national child-care guidelines. These were developed through a participatory process that brought together parents of children in marketbased day-care centres, informal trade organization representatives, child-care workers, officials from the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Children, an urban planning specialist, an early childhood care and development expert and a legal consultant. The guidelines, which integrate the concerns of workers in informal employment, fill a gap in Ghana's regulatory framework for child-care centres in markets. Market trade represents 40 per cent of women's employment in Greater Accra and urban Ghana.



WIEGO's work in Dakar supporting waste pickers from the Mbeubeuss dumpsite has a growing focus on promoting a just transition that would secure their livelihoods as the government implements a World Bank-funded project to restructure and eventually close the dumpsite. Working with the National Confederation of Workers of Senegal (CNTS), WIEGO's launch of the findings of the COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study resulted in a public pledge of <u>inclusion</u> in the project from the President of Senegal and a promise by the project head to improve working conditions. To boost the capacities of Bokk Diom - the organization of waste pickers in Mbeubeuss - to defend their rights and position themselves within waste management, WIEGO and Bokk Diom developed research on alternative livelihoods and jointly engaged in organizational strengthening efforts. In December 2021, supported by WIEGO and the ILO, waste pickers from Bokk Diom successfully formed a cooperative, and they are in the process of creating a union.



Delhi, India The team works with domestic workers. home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers and focuses on inclusion of issues affecting workers in informal employment in cross-sectoral urban discourses.

WIEGO and its partners in Delhi saw the culmination of several years of joint advocacy when the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) released its draft Delhi Master Plan 2041. For the first time, the informal economy is recognized as the city's largest employer, and the plan contains enabling language for the integration of workers in informal employment. To achieve this change, the Focal Cities Delhi team supported a broad-based <u>campaign</u> - the Main Bhi Dilli ("I, Too, Am Delhi") coalition - to influence the master plan as a "people's plan" with supportive measures for housing, livelihood and social infrastructure. After the draft was released, the coalition successfully advocated for an extension of the public comment period to allow for broader citizen participation. It also supported grassroots leaders in organizing 250 meetings with worker groups across Delhi, and helped facilitate the submission of 25,000 comments from workers in informal employment and community groups across Delhi to the DDA.



Lima, Peru The team works with domestic workers, homebased workers, street vendors, waste pickers, "canillitas"/ newspaper vendors and market porters.

Following the Lima launch of WIEGO's COVID-19 study, President Pedro Castillo mentioned the pandemic's effects on workers in informal employment and announced a programme that would satisfy a key demand. In his July 28, 2021 inaugural speech, Castillo announced financial support for micro and small enterprises. The measures included state-guaranteed credit with longer grace periods, refinancing of debt, and support to women entrepreneurs. Access to credit of small amounts and affordable interest rates have been key workers' demands coming out of the study.



Mexico City. Mexico The team works with domestic workers, street vendors, waste pickers and non-salaried workers including mariachi musicians, coffee vendors, shoe shiners and organ players.

In Mexico City, the team continued engaging Mexico's National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH) on informal worker issues and supporting workers in filing complaints with the commission regarding evictions, confiscations and destruction of property. The commission's bulletin highlighted the importance of non-salaried work and called on all decision makers to avoid the use of stigmatizing and offensive language in relation to those who carry out this work. The commission called attention to the fact that in Mexico, "more than 90 per cent of paid domestic work operates informally, despite the existence of a mechanism for labour and social security regulation."

Publications and Resources



WIEGO Publications Catalogue

This catalogue is a full guide to our latest publications.

Highlights from Peer-Reviewed Publications

Every year, WIEGO researchers write and contribute to academic journal articles. For a complete list of edited volumes, book chapters, journal articles and peer-reviewed working papers, visit <u>our website</u>.

Chen, Martha, Erofili Grapsa, Ghida Ismail, Michael Rogan, Marcela Valdivia, Laura Alfers, Jenna Harvey, Ana Carolina Ogando, Sarah Reed and Sally Roever, 2022. "<u>COVID-19 and informal work:</u> <u>Evidence from 11 cities</u>." *International Labour Review*. Special Issue: "COVID-19 and the World of Work."

Ogando, Ana Carolina, Michael Rogan and Rachel Moussié, 2022. "Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Unpaid Care Work on Informal Workers' Livelihoods." International Labour Review. Special Issue: "COVID-19 and the World of Work."

Highlights from the WIEGO Publication Series

<u>Briefs</u> aim to provide user-friendly documentation for those involved in advocacy, policy and research on the informal economy.

Policy

WIEGO and IDWF, 2021. Domestic Workers and Social Protection in Nagaland. <u>WIEGO Policy Brief (Social Protection) No. 27</u>.

Statistical

Gayatri Koolwal, 2022. Informal Workers in Senegal: A Statistical Profile. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 31.

Technical

Wegmann, Julia Mareike, Sonia Medina Cardona and Adriana Pérez Campos, 2022. Trabajo en el espacio público y movilidad: herramientas para la coexistencia de dos derechos en la Ciudad de México. <u>Nota</u> <u>técnica de WIEGO No. 14</u>.

Lees, Joanne and Richard Dobson, 2021. Inclusive Public Space Planning & Design: Lessons from Asiye eTafuleni, Durban, South Africa. WIEGO Technical Brief No. 13.

Law and Informality Insights

Teresa Marchiori, 2022. Social Movement Lawyering: A Reflection on the Nature of Law and Lawyering Through the Lens of Informal Workers. Law and Informality Insights, No. 5.

<u>Resource Documents</u> include WIEGO-generated literature reviews, annotated bibliographies and papers reflecting the findings of new empirical work. They provide detail to support advocacy, policy or research on specific issues.

Bamu, Pamhidzai, Laura Alfers, Rutendo Mudarikwa and Theodore Kamwimbi, 2022. Social Protection for Self-Employed Informal Workers in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Rights-Based Assessment of the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis. WIEGO Resource Document No. 24.

Highlights from the COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study

The COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study – a WIEGOcoordinated multi-city longitudinal study – assessed the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on specific occupational groups of workers in informal employment and their households, with a focus on domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers. For a complete list of publications and resources from the study, visit <u>our website</u>.

Global Findings

<u>COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy: Round 1 Global</u> <u>Summary</u> – <u>Executive Summary</u>

City Fact Sheets, Policy Insights

Braham, Christy, 2021. COVID-19 Vaccination and Informal Workers: Immunize, Don't Marginalize. Policy Insights No. 9.

Social Protection COVID-19 Briefs

WIEGO produced a series of <u>briefing notes</u> to analyze the social protection responses to COVID-19. The briefs aimed to support movements in their advocacy efforts to expand social protection to workers in informal employment.

WIEGO, 2022. Issue #3: <u>Bolsa Familia: Past and Future of the Brazilian</u> <u>Cash-Grant Programme</u>.

The <u>Informal Economy Podcast: Social Protection</u> is a source of accessible information that raises awareness about research and debates on social protection for workers in informal employment.

Episode #25: Social Insurance for Informal Workers in South Africa.



WIEGO Publication Highlights Through the Years



Chen, Marty, Erofili Grapsa, Ghida Ismail, Mike Rogan, Marcela Valdivia, Laura Alfers, Jenna Harvey, Ana Carolina Ogando, Sarah Orleans Reed and Sally Roever, 2021. COVID-19 and Informal Work: Distinct Pathways of Impact and Recovery in 11 Cities Around the World. <u>WIEGO Working Paper No. 42</u>.

This working paper reflects the global findings from the first round of fieldwork monitoring the impact on workers in informal employment of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Building on a long track record of multi-city <u>panel studies</u>, WIEGO, working with MBO partners, interviewed domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers in 11 cities in mid-2020 and mid-2021. This paper and associated research has been widely cited, with national and international policy uptake.



THE INFORMAL CONOMY REVISITED



Chen, Martha and Françoise Carré (eds), 2020. <u>The Informal Economy Revisited: Examining the Past,</u> <u>Envisioning the Future</u>. New York: Routledge.

The Informal Economy Revisited is the culmination of 20 years of pioneering work by WIEGO. The 34-chapter open-access volume brings together leading scholars from a wide range of disciplines and is the definitive

volume on the informal economy. It investigates conceptual shifts, research findings and policy debates on the informal economy, providing grounded insight into disciplinary debates. The book calls for a paradigm shift in how the informal economy is perceived to reflect the realities of informal work in the Global South, as well as the informal practices of the state and capital, not just labour.



Bonnet, Florence, Joann Vanek and Martha Chen, 2019. <u>Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A</u> <u>Statistical Brief</u>. WIEGO and ILO.

This brief presents the first-ever global estimates of informal employment, showing that 2 billion people – 61 per cent of the global workforce – earn their living in the informal economy. It shows that informality exists in countries at all levels of socio-economic development. It provides global and regional estimates on the size and composition of informal employment reflecting key variables: gender, status of employment, and branch of industry. This brief is a key reference for policy and academic analysis.



Chen, Martha, 2012. *The Informal Economy:* Definitions, Theories and Policies. <u>WIEGO Working</u>. <u>Paper No. 1</u>.

This working paper, the first in the WIEGO Working Paper series, provides an overview of the definitional, theoretical and policy debates on the informal economy. It gives a brief historical overview of the informal-sector concept and related debates, details the expanded statistical concept of informal employment, and provides a holistic conceptual model of the composition and causes of informality. It is WIEGO's most downloaded and cited working paper, framing much of the academic and policy literature on the topic.



Chen, Martha, Joann Vanek, Francie Lund, James Heintz, Renana Jhabvala and Christine Bonner, 2005. <u>Progress of the World's Women 2005: Women,</u> <u>Work and Poverty</u>. New York: United Nations Development Fund for Women.

This report, commissioned by UNIFEM, positioned women's informal employment as a key pathway to reducing poverty and strengthening women's economic security. An important empirical contribution is the analysis of national data on average earnings and poverty risk across different segments of the informal and formal workforces, showing the links between employment, gender and poverty. It provides a strategic framework – with good-practice examples – for how to promote decent work for women in informal employment.



Financial Report: Year Ended 31 March 2022

Financial Governance

The Finance Committee of the WIEGO Board has responsibility for overseeing the financial management and audit of the accounts to ensure the sustainability and future viability of WIEGO. This includes the review of annual budgets, as well as continuous review of budgetary and financial controls to reduce the risk of underspending or overspending, and to mitigate a possible shortfall in income in any financial year. This risk is further mitigated by the building of designated reserves, which currently stand at a level of USD320,000 for the General Assembly to be held in November 2022, and free reserves of USD532,000 to maintain core programmes for a three-month period.

The Finance Committee reports to the WIEGO Board of Directors for final decisions on budgets and risk management.

Financial Summary

For the year ended 31 March 2022, WIEGO received an unqualified opinion from its auditors, Crowe UK LLP. The figures in the financial summaries for the Balance Sheet, Source of Funds, and Use of Funds are extracted from the statutory accounts, which were approved by the Directors on 10 August 2022. The auditors have confirmed to the Directors that the extracts are consistent with the statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

These extracts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the company. Therefore, the full statutory accounts should be consulted together with the Auditors' Report and the Directors' Report, which are available from the Company Secretary at the company's registered office in Manchester, United Kingdom. Additionally, the full statutory accounts will be available online after completion of all regulatory filings.

Balance Sheet

The increase in net assets for the period is primarily a result of receipt of a five-year grant from the Ford Foundation of USD25 million and is reflected in Cash at Bank.

BALANCE SHEET	2021-22	2020-21
CURRENT ASSETS	USD \$000	USD \$000
Accounts Receivable	129	161
Cash at bank	32,101	6,862
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	32,230	7,023
CREDITORS		
Accounts Payable	-3,046	-691
NET ASSETS	29,184	6,332
FUNDS		
Restricted Funds	25757	2999
Unrestricted Funds	3,427	3,334
	29,184	6,333

Source: Extract from the statutory accounts

Source and Use of Funds

The total incoming resources were USD33.1 million for the financial year ended 31 March 2022, compared to USD11.5 million in the previous year. Total resources expended were USD10.3 million, compared to USD7.2 million in the previous year.

Source of Funds

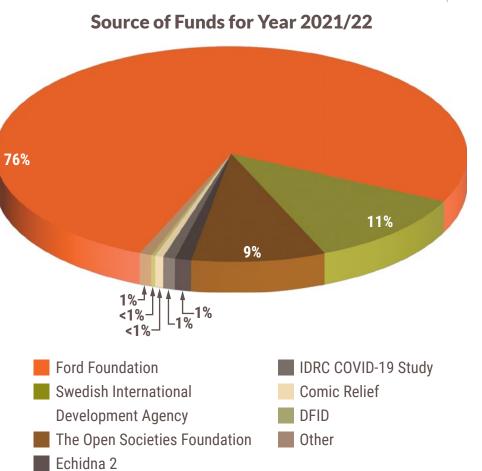
Over the past 25 years, WIEGO has received support from several funders in our efforts to empower workers in informal employment around the globe. During the financial year ended 31 March 2022, WIEGO received funding from 12 major institutional funders. This includes the five-year grant from the Ford Foundation, which will be distributed equally among WIEGO and the four main international networks of workers in informal employment that are part of the WIEGO Network, and will be used to support organizational strengthening work.

WIEGO is grateful to the organizations, foundations and governments for their generous financial support over the years.



SOURCE OF FUNDS	2021-22	2020-21
	USD \$000	USD \$000
Ford Foundation	25,200	354
Swedish International Development Agency	3,765	2,732
The Open Societies Foundation	3,015	1,418
Echidna 2	375	0
IDRC COVID-19 Study	314	362
Comic Relief	121	127
DFID	92	120
Wellspring Philanthropic	50	100
International Labour Organisation	11	20
USAID	10	0
The William Flora Hewlett Foundation	0	5,970
UN Women	0	44
Cities Alliance	0	27
FES	0	24
Other Sources	187	246
TOTAL FUNDING	33,140	11,544

Source: Extract from the statutory accounts

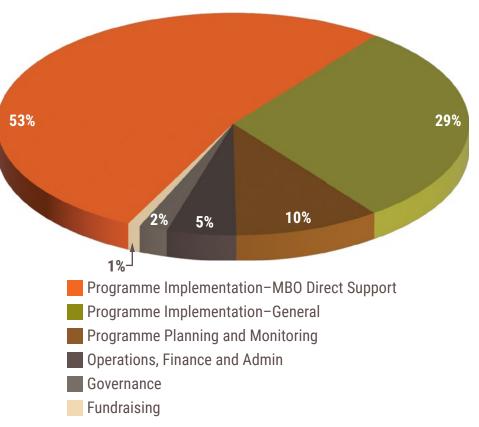


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Use of Funds 2021-2022

WIEGO's strategy is designed to ensure that the maximum possible resources are channelled directly into programmes to meet the objective of delivering high-quality improvements in research, policy advocacy and capacity building. It is worth noting that 92 per cent of resources were expended in the direct and indirect support of MBOs for programme implementation, planning and monitoring.

Use of Funds for Year 2021/22



WIEGO's Work

Annual Reports WIEGO Digest WIEGO Membership-Based Organizations Newsletters Law & Informality Newsletters

WIEGO Online Resources







Blogs

Webinars

WIEGO Social Media Channels





Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing