



WIEGO
Women in Informal Employment
Globalizing and Organizing

**REGIONAL COURSE ON INFORMAL
EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

**SESSION 1.5 SPECIAL GROUPS OF INFORMAL
WORKERS**

Outline

- Domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and market traders and waste pickers: characteristics and significance
- Core needs and policy demands
- Statistical challenges and definitions
- Examples of demand for statistics by worker groups
- Some member-based organizations of informal workers workers in Asia

**DOMESTIC WORKERS – HOME-BASED WORKERS -
STREET VENDORS AND MARKET TRADERS – WASTE
PICKERS**

- Characteristics
 - old/traditional occupations
 - largely informal
 - employ large numbers of women
 - operate without government regulations and protection
 - largely invisible

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE STATISTICS ON
THESE GROUPS OF WORKERS?**

- A significant part of the labour force

- Any national policy on economic development and job creation must focus on improving the economic and social situation of these workers in these jobs in addition to developing programmes in new sectors of the economy

SIGNIFICANCE: FOUR GROUPS OF URBAN INFORMAL WORKERS - INDIA 2011-12

	% of Urban Employment			% of Urban Informal Employment		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Domestic Workers	5	2	13	6	3	17
Home-Based Workers	14	10	32	17	12	40
Street Vendors	4	4	3	5	5	3
Waste Pickers	1	.5	2	1	1	3
ALL FOUR	23	17	49	29	21	62

COMMON CORE NEEDS AND POLICY DEMANDS FOR THESE GROUPS OF WORKERS

- Recognition as workers who make a valuable contribution to the economy and society as part of the economically active population
- The right not to be subjected to punitive regulations, policies, or practices
- The right to enjoy specific promotional and protective measures, including protection against exploitation by intermediaries

Here we look in a more specific way at the steps proposed in the ILC Recommendations on the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy, first from the perspective of workers (the points above) and then from the perspective of different categories of workers

SPECIFIC DEMANDS FOR POLICY

Home-based workers

- protection from being subjected to poor quality raw materials, arbitrary cancellation of work orders, arbitrary rejection of goods, or delayed payments (sub-contracted)
- the right to basic infrastructure services – water, electricity, sanitation – at their homes, which are their workplaces (all)
- access to markets for their goods and services
- the right to fair prices in markets (self-employed), and fair piece-rates (sub-contracted)

SPECIFIC DEMANDS FOR POLICY--continued

Street Vendors and Market Traders

- freedom from harassment, confiscation of goods, evictions, arbitrary warrants and convictions, arbitrary relocations, unofficial payments and/or bribes
- freedom from fear of authorities and *mafia* elements
- freedom from exploitation by intermediaries who take high fees
- the right to have natural markets of street vendors recognized and built into urban zoning and land allocation plans
- the right to vend in public spaces under fair and reasonable conditions (which balance competing rights of different users of public spaces) and to maintain natural markets
- the right to fair and transparent allocation of permits and licenses

SPECIFIC DEMANDS FOR POLICY--continued**Waste pickers**

- freedom from harassment, bribes, and evictions by city authorities
- the right to access recyclable waste without restrictions
- access to markets
- provision of infrastructure
- the right of their organizations to bid for solid waste management contracts

SPECIFIC DEMANDS FOR POLICY--continued**Domestic Workers**

- the right to a living wage and working conditions such as time off and leave, overtime pay, sick leave, health insurance, and pensions
- freedom from harassment or abuse by recruiters or employers
- freedom from exploitation by agencies and intermediaries
- implementation of the Domestic Workers' Convention and accompanying Recommendations as a minimum set of conditions in every country

STATISTICAL CHALLENGES

- Location of work makes them difficult to capture
- Data on multiple variables are required for the identification of some of the categories
- Classification of industries and occupations either not sufficiently detailed or they are not used

Typical Options for the Question on Place of Work

- No fixed work place
- Work place located in:
 - Dwellings:
 - Own dwelling
 - Structure attached to own dwelling
 - Open area adjacent to own dwelling
 - Detached structure adjacent to own dwelling
 - Other permanent structures
 - Own enterprise/office/shop but away from own dwelling
 - Employer's dwelling unit
 - Employer's enterprise/office/shop but outside employer's dwelling
 - Built markets
 - Open spaces
 - Street with fixed location
 - Street mobile
 - Construction site
 - Others

HOME-BASED WORKERS AND HOMEWORKERS

- Home-based workers: the category of nonagricultural workers who perform remunerative work (for pay or profit) in their own homes or adjacent grounds or premises
- Two types of home-based workers
 - ▣ self-employed, working independently in their own homes
 - ▣ homeworkers --wage workers or sub-contracted workers who work in their own homes for a firm or its contractors

Note: Home-based workers is a general term that refers to both categories.

HOME-BASED WORKERS AND HOMEWORKERS-- continued

- Self-employed, work independently at their own homes
 - ▣ take entrepreneurial risks (for example, make capital investments, obtain loans, buy equipment and sell their finished goods)
 - ▣ Include employers (with hired workers), own account operators (without hired workers), and contributing unpaid family workers
- Wage workers or sub-contracted workers who work in their own homes for a firm or its contractors.
 - ▣ Sub-contracted homeworkers provide their own workspace and are not directly supervised by their employer, so are sometimes categorized as independent self-employed; however they are dependent on the contractor for work orders, raw material and sale of finished goods, so are sometimes classified as dependent wage workers.

HOME-BASED WORKERS AND HOMEWORKERS- continued

- Classifying these workers is a major issue in revision of International Classification of Status in Employment, i.e. capturing workers who occupy an intermediate status between fully independent self-employed and fully dependent wage employed.
- Data on place work, activity status, economic activity and sub-contracting terms are required for the identification of home-based workers and homeworkers

STREET VENDORS AND MARKET TRADERS

- **Street vendor** -- those who sell **goods** in public spaces other than a store, and those who sell **services** in public spaces, such as: hairdressers or barbers; shoe shiners and repairers; and bicycle, motorcycle, car, or truck mechanics.
Street-- interpreted broadly to include vendors who sell in non-private spaces, including sidewalks, parks, alleyways and other open-air locations; around construction sites, sports stadiums, transport junctions; and on public transport
- **Market traders** are those who sell goods or provide services in built markets on publicly or privately owned land

STREET VENDORS AND MARKET TRADERS- Compilation methods

- Persons vending **goods** at public places are usually identified by their **occupational classification**
- Persons selling **services** in public places can be identified by using **occupational classification** or **industrial classification** combined with place of work
- Use of either classification usually would need to be combined with place of work codes

WASTE PICKERS

- Waste pickers - those who do the primary collecting and sorting of waste. Waste pickers extract and reclaim re-usable and recyclable materials from mixed types of waste that others have cast aside
- Most countries do not have a specific code for identifying 'waste pickers' either in their occupation or industry classification
- The nearest industry or occupation codes relate to garbage collection, transportation and disposal

DOMESTIC WORKERS

- Domestic workers are unique as they are neither employed by an enterprise nor self-employed but by households
- Of the 4 categories of considered here, domestic workers are the only one routinely identified in national statistics—still they are often under-enumerated and misclassified
- They can be identified by using a combination of national occupational codes, place of work and informal work status

DEMAND FOR STATISTICS BY WORKER GROUPS AND WIEGO PUBLICATIONS

International Domestic Worker Network (IDWN), the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Waste-picker groups -- requesters

- International Labour Organization and WIEGO. 2013. *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, 2nd Edition*. ILO ch. 4.
- Tokman, Victor. 2010. **Statistics on Domestic Workers in Latin America** WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 1
- Dias, Sonia. 2011. **Statistics on Waste Pickers in Brazil**. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 2

DEMAND FOR STATISTICS BY WORKER GROUPS AND WIEGO PUBLICATIONS

HomeNet South Asia—requester and collaborating group

- Akhtar, Sajjad and Joann Vanek. 2013. **Home-Based Workers in Pakistan: Statistics and Trends**. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 9
- Raveendran, Govindan, Ratna M. Sudarshan and Joann Vanek. 2013. **Home-Based Workers in India: Statistics and Trends** WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 10
- Raveendran, Govindan and Joann Vanek. 2013. **Statistics on Home-Based Workers in Nepal** .WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 11
- Mahmud, Simeen. 2014. **Home-Based Workers in Bangladesh: Statistics and Trends**. WIEGO Statistical Brief No. 12

MEMBER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OF INFORMAL WORKERS IN ASIA

Bangladesh

- *Labour at Informal Economy (LIE)

Cambodia

- Artisans Association of Cambodia -- HomeNet Cambodia (AAC)
- Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Associations (IDEA)

Hong Kong, China

- *International Domestic Workers Federation
- Federation of Asia Domestic Workers Unions (FADWU)

India

- Alliance of Indian Wastepickers (AIW)
- Hasiru Dala Waste Picking Cooperative
- *Homenet South Asia
- *Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP)
- Karnataka Domestic Workers Union
- *National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI)

MEMBER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OF INFORMAL WORKERS IN ASIA - continued

India (cont)

- Pune City Domestic Workers Organization
- Safai Sena Waste Pickers Association
- *Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
- *SEWA Bharat, Self Employed Women's Association (all India)
- Solid Waste Collection and Handling (SWaCH)
- Tamil Nadu Domestic Worker Union

Indonesia

- Federasi Konstruksi, Umum dan Informal (Federation of Construction, Informal & General Worker, FKUI)
- Himpunan Wanita Pekerja Rumahan Indonesia, Association of the Indonesian Women Homeworkers (HWPRI)
- HomeNet Indonesia
- National Network for Domestic Workers Advocacy (Jala PRT)
- Tunas Mulia Domestic Workers Union-Indonesia

MEMBER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OF INFORMAL WORKERS IN ASIA - continued

South Korea

- Korean Street Vendors Confederation (KOSC)
- National House Managers Cooperative

Nepal

- *General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)
- Home-based Workers Union based on Bamboo Work
- Home-based Workers Union Nepal
- Nepal Independent Domestic Workers Union (NIDWU)
- Nepal Street Traders Union (NEST)

Pakistan

- Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF)
- Home-Based Women Bangle Workers Union
- HomeNet Pakistan

MEMBER-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OF INFORMAL WORKERS IN ASIA -continued**Philippines**

- *Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas or National Network of Informal Workers in the Philippines (PATAMABA)

Thailand

- *Homenet South East Asia
- *Homenet Thailand
- Network of Thai Domestic Workers