

WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing

10
YEARS



2007 Annual Report



Women in Informal Employment
Globalizing and Organizing

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Letter from WIEGO's International Coordinator

Dear WIEGO Family and Friends,

2007 was a special year for WIEGO. It marked our 10th anniversary.

In April 1997, a group of ten experts on the informal economy—activists, practitioners, researchers, and statisticians—met at the Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy to discuss how to better support the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. That meeting gave “birth” to the WIEGO network.

In May 2007, the staff and Steering Committee of WIEGO, as well as representatives of our core donors, met again at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio to review and assess WIEGO's first decade and to plan ahead. Among the 25 persons who met at Bellagio in May 2007 were six of the original founders: Ela Bhatt and Renana Jhabvala of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India, Jacques Charmes of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in France, Marty Chen of Harvard University in the USA, William Steel of the University of Ghana in Ghana, and Joann Vanek of WIEGO Statistics.

In preparing for the Bellagio meeting, we carried out an extensive assessment including surveys of our members and trusted advisors. As a result of the meeting, we have

- Re-affirmed our original vision: to increase the Visibility (through research and statistics) and Voice (through organization and representation) of the working poor, especially woman, in the informal economy;
- Assessed our accomplishments, strengths, and weaknesses;

Founding Members 1997

LEFT TO RIGHT

Ela Bhatt
SEWA

Marilyn Carr
UNIFEM

Renana Jhabvala
SEWA

Grace Bediako
UN Statistics

Jane Tate
HomeNet International

Marty Chen
Harvard Kennedy School

Maxine Olson
UNIFEM

Jacques Charmes
IRD

S.V. Sethuraman
ILO

William Steel
World Bank

Joann Vanek
UN Statistics (absent)



- Assessed the opportunities and threats facing informal workers and organizations that represent them;
- Made a series of important decisions regarding WIEGO programmes and activities, staff capacity and financial management going forward.

Having assessed our progress over the past decade, it is fair to say that WIEGO in 2007 exceeds the expectations of our founders in 1997. The founders met to plan a collaborative project. The project was to be implemented by a coalition of organizations and individuals drawn from member-based organizations of informal workers, research institutions, and international development agencies and governed by a steering committee, including representatives of home-workers and street vendor organizations. The founders named the project “Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing” (or WIEGO, for short).

The project goals were to promote better statistical data and research, stronger organizations and alliances, and supportive policies and programmes for women workers in the informal economy. Many of the key features of WIEGO today were part of the original plan. But our founders did not fully anticipate that the WIEGO project would transform itself into a global action-research-policy network with six support staff in two offices (one in the USA, the other in the UK), nine programme staff based in six different countries, programme activities in more than a dozen countries, and 120 members drawn from our three constituencies in some 30 countries around the world.

We are pleased to have laid the foundation over the past decade for a worldwide network and programme of action, research, and advocacy and look forward to expanding the network and our programme activities over the decade ahead.



Marty Chen
International Coordinator
WIEGO Secretariat
June 2008



Steering Committee, Staff and Funders 2007

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

- Carmen Roca**
WIEGO Regional Advisor – Latin America
- Rhonda Douglas**
WIEGO Fundraiser
- Jose del Valle**
- Joann Vanek**
Director, WIEGO Statistics Programme
- Susan Joeke**
IDRC
- William Steel**
- Pat Horn**
- Dave Spooner**
- James Heintz**
WIEGO Research Coordinator
- Francie Lund**
Director, WIEGO Social Protection Programme
- Helen Neuborne**
Ford Foundation
- Karin Pape**
WIEGO Regional Advisor – Europe
- Dan Gallin**

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

- Elaine Jones**
Director, WIEGO Global Trade Programme
- Sharit Bhowmik**
Director, WIEGO Urban Policy Programme
- Marty Chen**
International Coordinator
- Renana Jhabvala** Chair
- Ela Bhatt**
Founding Chair
- Victor Tokman**
- Jacques Charmes**
- Milagros Mathews**
Translator
- Chris Bonner**
Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation Programme
- Ylva Sorman-Nath**
Sida
- Beth Graves**
WIEGO Network Manager
- Marais Canali**
WIEGO Administrator

WIEGO Marks its 10th Anniversary

10 YEARS

TO MARK OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY, THE STAFF AND STEERING COMMITTEE OF WIEGO SPENT SIGNIFICANT TIME DURING 2007 RE-AFFIRMING OUR ORIGINAL VISION AND MISSION, ASSESSING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE, AND PLANNING OUR FUTURE.

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.

Strategic Review and Planning Retreat

As highlighted in Marty Chen's letter above, the cornerstone of the review and planning process was a four-day retreat of the WIEGO Steering Committee, staff, and core donors at the Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy in May 2007.

Registration in the UK

Another landmark event in 2007 was the incorporation of WIEGO as a non-profit (company limited by guarantee) in the UK. WIEGO Limited (Ltd.) is based in Manchester with a part-time CPA and a legal and tax advisor (also called an Organizational Advisor). Most future grant funds will be directed through WIEGO Ltd. The switch is timely because it will insure greater value from non-US grants as the value of the dollar continues to shrink. It also means that WIEGO will begin using the UK fiscal year (April-March). The two UK-based members of the WIEGO Steering Committee, Elaine Jones and Dave Spooner, and the members of the WIEGO Management Committee have been working closely with Secretariat staff to help monitor this transition.

Research Planning Workshop

Marty Chen (WIEGO International Coordinator), James Heintz (WIEGO Research Coordinator), Francie Lund (Director, WIEGO Social Protection), Joann Vanek (Director, WIEGO Statistics), and Françoise Carré (active WIEGO Member and research collaborator) met at Harvard University in July to identify research priorities for the next three years. These priorities include:

- Developing a common framework for developing labour statistics relating to informal employment in both developed and developing countries
- Producing case studies documenting effective ways of organizing in the informal economy
- Producing case studies on occupational safety and health in the informal economy
- Updating the 2002 ILO volume of statistics on informal employment (co-authored by Marty Chen and Joann Vanek)

Another important priority is provide support to—and create linkages between—teams of researchers and data analysts working on the informal economy in a growing number of countries.

All-Staff Meeting

WIEGO's International Coordinator, five Programme Directors, two Regional Advisors, and four Secretariat Staff met for three-days in October at the Goodenough Club in London, UK. During the three-day retreat, the staff developed plans for 2008 and identified areas for collaboration across programmes and regions. They resolved to visit as many of the WIEGO Institutional Members

in 2008 as possible to identify ways in which WIEGO can be more responsive to their needs, including the development of communication and advocacy tools. The staff reviewed WIEGO's operational structure and decided to retain it in its current form of five programmes with research, communications, and policy dialogues as crosscutting activities and two regional advisors who help promote WIEGO activities in their respective regions.

Renana Jhabvala, Chair of the WIEGO Steering Committee, joined the staff the London meeting and summed up the spirit of the meeting—and our 10th Anniversary review process more generally—as follows: “WIEGO has a rare ability to combine activism, policy and research.” She also noted that “our core mission of serving disadvantaged, working poor women is both our greatest strength and an on-going challenge.”



WIEGO GOALS

Our Organization and Representation Programme is designed to increase the representative **Voice** of informal workers and their organizations; and our Statistics Programme is designed to increase the official **Visibility** of informal workers in national statistics, in government policies, and more generally.

With increased Voice and Visibility, organizations of informal workers—with help from WIEGO in the form of relevant research, policy analysis, and good-practice dissemination—can engage more effectively in policy dialogues around Global Trade, Urban Policies, and Social Protection.

Key WIEGO Activities in 2007 **10 YEARS**

WIEGO CORE PROGRAMMES

• GLOBAL TRADE

Fostering ethical and fair trade policies and practices, especially for home workers (who work on sub-contracts for global supply chains) and small producer groups

• URBAN POLICIES

Promoting inclusive urban policies and regulations, especially for street vendors, waste collectors, and home-based producers

• SOCIAL PROTECTION

Promoting social protection policies and schemes, including health insurance and old age pensions, that cover all categories of informal workers

EXPOSURE DIALOGUE IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

For the past three years, WIEGO has co-organized a series of Exposures and Dialogues with SEWA and Cornell University. The basic objective of this initiative is to promote a dialogue between mainstream economists from Cornell University, activists from the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), and researchers from the WIEGO network around key assumptions of neo-classical economics—and neo-liberal economic policies—which “trouble” ground-level activists and researchers working on issues of employment and labour. The hope is to deepen understanding on both sides of certain key economic issues and to avoid the familiar stylized debates between radical critics and neo-classical economists and to enter into a serious dialogue.



During the Exposures, the Cornell-SEWA-WIEGO team, accompanied by local facilitator-interpretors, stay in groups of 2-3 with informal workers and their families for two days and two nights, working alongside them in their work and in their homes. After the Exposure experience in the field, the team reflects—together with their hosts—on their personal experience of the Exposure and, then, engages in a technical dialogue on issues raised. At the first Exposure Dialogue in India (January 2004) and subsequent Technical Dialogues at Harvard and Cornell Universities the critical topics that emerged were: minimum wage interventions and international trade, the structure and dynamics of labour markets, and the pros and cons of “de-linking” social protection from employment and labour markets.

The second Exposure Dialogue that took place in March 2007 in eThekweni/Durban introduced participants to the challenges confronting informal workers in South Africa. The Cornell economists, SEWA organizers and WIEGO researchers were hosted by seven informal workers from townships in and around eThekweni/Durban city. The workers and their families make cement blocks, stitch clothes, create Zulu crafts, grow vegetables and raise poultry, cut hair and trim beards, or sell newspapers and medicinal herbs (muthi). As in India, the Cornell-SEWA-WIEGO team spent two days and nights, working side-by-side with the hosts. Zulu-speaking students from the University of KwaZulu Natal translated and facilitated the Exposure. The Dialogue that followed the first-hand Exposure focused mainly on the problem of unemployment in South Africa, including barriers to informal self-employment. The group discussed policies, services, and other interventions that might best support the livelihoods of their South African hosts. The team visit to eThekweni/Durban included the launch of a photo exhibition of informal producers and traders in the eThekweni/Durban area, including the seven hosts, commissioned by WIEGO colleagues at the University of KwaZulu Natal to honour the hosts and other workers in the informal economy in South Africa; the photographs on the front and back covers of this report are from that exhibition.

Following the Exposure Dialogue in Durban, a policy dialogue was held in Pretoria entitled “The Second Economy: Linkages between the Formal and Informal Economies.” The relationship between the so-called “First” and “Second” economies is an important policy issue in South Africa. The government’s Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) seeks to “use the leverage of the First Economy to address the Second Economy.” Twenty senior South African policymakers participated in the policy dialogue. The Cornell-SEWA-WIEGO Exposure Dialogue participants provided an international perspective on the informal economy, including a presentation on the experience in India of designing policies and programmes in support of the informal workforce. The South African policy makers and other experts offered their perspectives in response.



WIEGO CORE PROGRAMMES

• ORGANIZATION AND REPRESENTATION

Building more and stronger organizations of informal workers with women members and leaders; increasing the representation and amplifying the voices of informal workers, especially women, in policy-making and collective-bargaining

• STATISTICS

Developing and improving official labour force and economic statistics that fully count and value all categories of informal workers and informal enterprises; and making these statistics available to policy-makers, organizations of informal workers, and other users of labour force and economic data.

Key WIEGO Activities in 2007

10 YEARS

HOW WIEGO WORKS

• NETWORKS

TO INCREASE VOICE

Building and strengthening national, regional, and international networks of organizations of informal workers is a vital part of WIEGO's mission. Trade unions, cooperatives, and associations of informal workers join hands through these networks to increase the voice and visibility of their members and to help them secure higher wages, fair prices, better markets, legal rights, social protection, and a supportive policy environment.

• RESEARCH

TO INCREASE VISIBILITY

By sponsoring and undertaking research and by convening and participating in research conferences, WIEGO seeks to increase the visibility and understanding of the informal economy, to shape the research agenda on the informal economy, and to provide organizations of informal workers with the information they need for effective policy advocacy.

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Edited Volume on Membership-Based Organizations of the Poor

As part of our mission, WIEGO is committed to helping build and strengthen membership-based organizations (MBOs) of the working poor. Recognizing that membership-based organizations of the poor (MBOPs) are central to achieving equitable growth and poverty reduction, the participants in the first Cornell-SEWA-WIEGO Exposure Dialogue in India in January 2004 (hosted by SEWA) decided to organize a conference on this theme and issued a call for papers.

Most of the papers presented at the that conference, held in India in January 2005, were published by Routledge Press in May 2007 in a volume called *Membership-Based Organizations of the Poor*, edited by Marty Chen, Renana Jhabvala, Ravi Kanbur, and Carol Richards. In the volume, as for the conference, membership-based organizations of the poor (MBOPs) are defined as organizations whose governance structures respond to the needs and aspirations of the poor because they are accountable to their members, including: trade unions, cooperatives, burial societies, savings-and-credit groups. In so doing, the editors distinguish MBOPs from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). During 2007, Ravi Kanbur (a well-known economist and WIEGO Member from Cornell University) organized launches of the book in Hyderabad, India, Rome, Italy, and Manchester, UK.

China-India Comparative Research Project

During 2007, in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex and teams of researchers in China and India, WIEGO planned a comparative research project on labour markets and informal employment, including links with poverty and other social outcomes in the two countries. China and India are now recognized as the drivers of the Asian economy and, arguably, the global economy. However, in both China and India, there are deep pockets of persistent poverty and growing inequality. A key path to understanding persistent poverty and growing inequality is to compare how people earn their livelihoods, looking at the poverty risk associated with different employment statuses or work arrangements.

The first phase of this project involved hosting a team of 16 Chinese researchers and government officials in India in February 2007 to learn about what Indian activists, researchers, and statisticians have done to organize, study, and measure the informal workforce in India. The Indian hosts included the Institute of Social Studies Trust, the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, and the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA). The 10-day visit concluded with a two-day preliminary research design workshop in New Delhi during which the participants agreed upon the broad contours of the proposed research project.

The next activity was a five-day research design workshop at Harvard University held in April 2007 which was organized by WIEGO with support from Harvard's Asia Center and Global Equity Initiative. Six members of each country team, as well as six technical advisors, met for three days

to plan the research project. They were then joined by academics and practitioners from the Boston area for a two-day research seminar. The seminar featured presentations by the research teams and comments by expert discussants. The teams decided on a multi-component project, including: technical consultations and pilot surveys to improve data sources and methods; analysis of existing and new national data; case studies of selected sub-sectors or occupations in which there are large concentrations of informal workers; documentation of good policies and practices; and exchange visits between activists working with informal workers.

The comparative work continued when two members of the India research team visited China in May 2007. These individuals are well-known experts on informal economy statistics; N.S. Sastry, the former Director General of the National Sample Survey Organisation of India, and Jeemol Unni, Professor at the Gujarat Institute for Development Research and ILO-funded consultant to the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector. This exchange was the first in, what is hoped will be, a series of technical consultations between statisticians and researchers in China and India to improve national data sources and methods in both countries.

Report for the ILO

A report entitled “Statistics on Employment in the Informal Sector and Informal Employment: A Summary of Updated Estimates from the ILO Bureau of Statistics Database” was prepared by James Heintz (WIEGO Research Coordinator) at the request of Azita Berar-Awad of the ILO InFocus Programme on the Informal Economy. The report, a review and analysis of recent data from official national surveys, provides an assessment of the availability of statistics in the ILO database on employment in the informal sector (i.e. in small unregistered enterprises) and informal employment more broadly, also including employment in informal jobs (i.e. unprotected jobs). Specifically, estimates of employment in the informal sector are available for 67 countries, but estimates for the broader concept of informal employment are available for only 12 countries. The data show, moreover, that both employment in informal jobs and employment in the informal sector are significant features of the employment structure in countries around the world and that data need to be collected on both concepts.

Pilot Project in India on “Law and the Informal Economy”

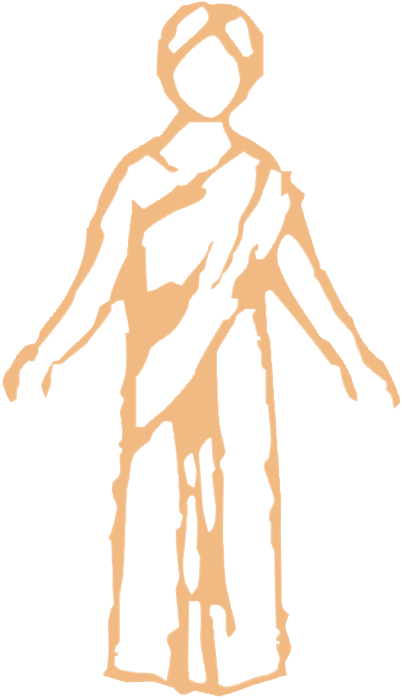
A one-year pilot project is underway in India to examine the relationship between law and the informal economy. The initial task is to develop an “observatory” (or data base) of existing laws or statutes affecting four categories of informal workers: domestic workers, fisherfolk, forest gatherers, and waste pickers. Building on the work of the International Labour Organization, and through a series of consultations with researchers and organizations representing informal workers, the project team will develop new ways of thinking about law—labour law, commercial law, and other types of law—in relation to own-account workers and other categories of informal workers. Another output will be a common platform of legal demands and concerns voiced by the organizations of informal workers that they can use in their advocacy and collective bargaining. The project is headed by Kamala Sankaran, a professor of law at Delhi University.

HOW WIEGO WORKS

- **STATISTICS TO INCREASE VISIBILITY**
By helping to develop and improve official labour force and other economic statistics, and making these statistics widely available, WIEGO seeks to increase the visibility and understanding of the informal economy among policy makers, the international development community, and academics and to provide organizations of informal workers with the data they need for effective policy advocacy.
- **DIALOGUES TO HELP SHAPE POLICIES, REGULATIONS & PRACTICE**
Together with the networks and organizations of informal workers, using the research information and statistical data it has compiled, WIEGO convenes policy dialogues on key issues critical to the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. WIEGO has convened policy dialogues on global trade, urban policies, and social protection in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

Key WIEGO Activities in 2007

10 YEARS



Other professionals working on the project include Shalini Sinha, an independent consultant who works closely with SEWA, and Roopa Madhav, an environmental and labour lawyer. WIEGO has raised funds to replicate this pilot project on law and the informal economy in several other countries.

Statistical Initiatives

Representing informed users of data, both analysts and activists, WIEGO is an active member of the United Nations Statistical Commission's International Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (the Delhi Group) and the Steering Committee of the United Nations Development Accounts Project based at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) entitled "Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment." In addition, together with Ralf Hussmanns of the ILO Statistics Bureau, Joann Vanek (Director, WIEGO Statistics) is co-editing an ILO manual on surveys of informal sector and informal employment.

ORGANIZATION OF INFORMAL WORKERS

Building an International Network of Organizations of Waste Pickers

WIEGO has been working with local, national, and regional associations of waste pickers around the world to build an International Network of Organizations of Waste Pickers. Together, we have been collecting and disseminating information about waste pickers worldwide. Data about organizations of waste collectors, as well as their support organizations, have been entered into WIEGO's data base of organizations in the informal economy. Two regional mapping exercises have been undertaken: one in Latin America, by the AVINA Foundation; the other in Asia, by the trade union Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP). In January 2007, WIEGO set up an international Steering Committee to plan the first-ever international conference of waste picker organizations to be held in Bogotá, Columbia in March 2008.

Building International Network of Organizations of Domestic Workers

When the first-ever international meeting of organizations of domestic workers was convened in November of 2006, conference participants—including Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation) and the lead organizer, Anneke van Luijken—decided that the planning committee should continue efforts to build an international network of organizations of domestic workers. During 2007, it was agreed that the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF), which has domestic workers within its jurisdiction, should be the lead agency in this effort. This initiative seeks to build an international network of domestic worker organizations and to prepare for the standard setting discussions on domestic workers at the International Labour Conferences in 2010 and 2011. WIEGO, in the persons of Chris Bonner and Karin Pape (WIEGO Regional Advisor – Europe), is working closely with the IUF on this initiative.

Expanding WIEGO Database on Organizations of Informal Workers

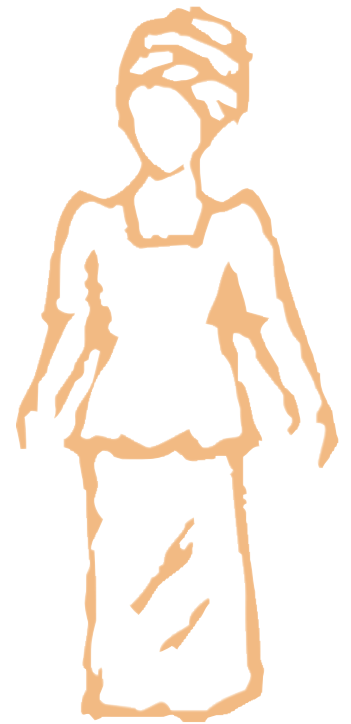
Over the past five years, Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation) has collected information from around the world to create a database of over 400 organizations of informal workers. In the interest of making the database more user-friendly and the information more accessible, WIEGO contracted Keywords Associates in the UK, to organize the database into a content management system (CMS) with querying functions. The new format will allow any authorized individual to add and edit data using a simple on-screen form. In addition to expanding the data base and making it more accessible, this reorganization will allow the database to be co-managed by Beth Graves at the WIEGO Secretariat in the US and Chris Bonner in South Africa. WIEGO hopes to launch the revised database by the end of 2008.

LINKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

IFWEA

The International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA) held its 20th General Conference in Ahmedabad, India from December 1–5, 2007. IFWEA is an international organization concerned with developing workers' education. Its members include trade unions, NGOs and workers' education associations. The Conference marked its 60th anniversary.

WIEGO had a large presence at the Conference, including Renana Jhabvala (WIEGO Chair), Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation), as well as Dan Gallin (Global



Key WIEGO Activities in 2007 **10 YEARS**



Labour Institute), Dave Spooner (IFWEA, General Secretary, outgoing) and Pat Horn (StreetNet), all members of the WIEGO Steering Committee. SEWA, a founding member of WIEGO and inspiration for organizations of informal workers throughout the world, hosted the conference which was especially interesting for WIEGO because two days of the Conference were devoted to a seminar on “Workers’ Education in the Informal Economy.” Over fifty workers’ education specialists from 27 countries participated in the seminar. They were joined by SEWA educators who shared their rich experiences, and, in the process, demonstrated the power of worker education in building leadership among informal women workers.

The WIEGO representatives made presentations and helped to facilitate workshop sessions. The seminar generated many ideas for taking forward worker education in the informal economy such as setting up a network of informal economy worker educators and developing an on-line worker education materials resource. Importantly, it raised awareness of the need to develop special worker education programmes for informal workers, and motivated worker educators to implement some of the ideas in their own countries.

IFWEA is undergoing a process of change and much of the formal General Conference was dedicated to strategy discussions. During the conference, the IFWEA participants elected new leadership, including a General Secretary and President both of whom are women, and agreed to move its Secretariat to South Africa. WIEGO has worked closely with IFWEA over the past few years and looks forward to continuing a mutually beneficial relationship in the future.



The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)

The IUF was one of the first Global Union Federations to recognize SEWA and other informal workers' organizations. The IUF is also an Institutional Member of WIEGO. In March 2007, WIEGO was invited to the 25th IUF Congress and the IUF Women's Conference that preceded it. Representing WIEGO, Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation) was given an opportunity to address the Congress and inform the delegates about WIEGO.

The IUF is an international federation of trade unions representing workers employed in agriculture production, food preparation, and hotel, restaurants, and catering services. Founded in 1920 and based in Geneva, Switzerland, the IUF is currently composed of 336 trade unions in 120 countries representing a combined membership of over 12 million workers. IUF's recognition of informal workers promises to bring their concerns closer to the main agenda of the trade union movement.

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is the world's largest trade union federation. It was formed on November 1, 2006 out of the merger of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL). During the IUF Congress in March 2007, representatives from SEWA and WIEGO met with Sharan Burrow, President of ITUC, who confirmed that organizing in the informal economy is a priority for ITUC. This meeting gave WIEGO the opportunity to voice its commitment to organizing in the informal economy and willingness to collaborate with the ITUC and its affiliates. The WIEGO representatives at this meeting were Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation), Karin Pape (WIEGO Regional Advisor – Europe), and Dan Gallin (WIEGO Steering and Management Committees).

HomeWorkers Worldwide (HWW)

Chris Bonner (Director, WIEGO Organization and Representation), Karin Pape (WIEGO Regional Advisor – Europe), and Elaine Jones (Director, WIEGO Global Trade) met with Board members and staff of HomeWorkers Worldwide at HWW's office in Leeds, UK in October 2007 to explore ways to collaborate. Established in 1999, HWW supports organizations of home-based workers (mostly women) who make products or provide services from their home. HWW organizes these workers and assists efforts to enhance their working and living conditions. HWW has been "mapping" home-based workers around the world and recently formed the Federation of HomeWorkers Worldwide (FHWW).

Building on this relationship, Elaine Jones attended a HWW meeting in Istanbul in November 2007 with participants from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Portugal (Madeira Island), Romania, Serbia, Turkey, and UK. The meeting offered a good opportunity to exchange information about organizations of home-based workers in Turkey and across Europe.



Key WIEGO Activities in 2007

10 YEARS



WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Agenda-Setting Workshop on “Social Protection and the Informal Economy”

The purpose of this workshop, which WIEGO co-organized with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) in Sussex, England in October 2007, was to identify points of convergence between micro- and macro-critiques of orthodox economic approaches to labour markets, employment generation and social protection. Discussions were directed towards exploring alternative explanatory models and policy. The participants examined the connections between economic policies, informal employment and social protection and tried to develop a fresh agenda for research and advocacy addressing the challenge of social protection for informal workers. A special issue of the IDS Bulletin based on the conference proceedings will be published in May 2008.

“Living on the Margins” Conference

This international conference, co-organized by the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (South Africa), the Isandla Institute (South Africa), and the Chronic Poverty Research Center (UK), was held in Cape Town in March 2007. The thematic focus of the conference was vulnerability and social exclusion, including the role of the state, in the informal economy. Francie Lund (Director, WIEGO Social Protection), who served on the organizing committee, helped ensure that the agenda included a focus on labour markets, as well as spatial divides and politics, as a source of vulnerability and social exclusion. Marty Chen (WIEGO International Coordinator) gave a key note address and presented a paper prepared by James Heintz (WIEGO Research Coordinator). Several WIEGO Members—Donna Doane (HomeNet South East Asia), Ravi Kanbur (Cornell University), Caroline Skinner (University of KwaZulu Natal) and Imraan Valodia (University of KwaZulu Natal)—also gave papers at the conference.

5th ISSA International Research Conference on Social Security

Every four years, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) holds an international research conference on social security. For its 5th session, held in Warsaw, Poland in March 2007, ISSA chose the theme “Social Security and the Labour Market – a Mismatch?” and added for the first time a focus on informal workers and informal labour markets. WIEGO helped shape the agenda, highlighting the informal economy. Francie Lund (Director, WIEGO Social Protection) served on the scientific planning committee, chaired a session and gave a keynote address. Marty Chen (WIEGO International Coordinator) chaired and presented in a panel on “Social Protection and the Informal Economy” and spoke in the closing plenary.



CAPACITY BUILDING AT WIEGO

Regional Advisor for Europe

In early 2007, Karin Pape of the Global Labour Institute in Geneva, Switzerland joined WIEGO staff as a part-time Regional Adviser for Europe. An economist and trade union activist, with resident experience in the former Soviet Union, Karin has worked with the Global Labour Institute since 2002 on issues of informal employment with a special focus on homeworkers.

UK Accountant

In mid-2007, WIEGO hired a part-time accountant in the UK, David Brookes. As our UK accountant, David Brookes is responsible for setting up and maintaining banking and accounting systems, financial reporting to tax authorities and donor agencies, and reconciling charges in keeping with UK tax regulations and grant terms. David reports to the Finance Manager on financial matters and to the UK-based members of the WIEGO Ltd. Board on matters that relate to tax and legal regulations in the UK.

UK Organizational Advisor

In mid-2007, WIEGO contracted Joe Holly, who had provided free legal and tax advice on registering in the UK, to serve as a part-time Organizational Advisor. In this capacity, Joe will provide on-going advice on legal and organizational matters relating to WIEGO Ltd. in the UK. He is also responsible for maintaining the WIEGO Ltd. Manchester office and for filing required reports to the UK government.

Fund-Raiser

In late 2006, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) recruited and paid Rhonda Douglas, a professional fund-raiser based in Ottawa, Canada, to assess WIEGO's existing fund-raising strategy and capacity and develop a future fund-raising strategy. She carried out the assessment and developed the strategy during the first half of 2007. Thanks to a supplemental grant from the Ford Foundation, we were able to hire Rhonda on a half-time basis in mid-2007 to implement the strategy she had developed.

Communications Officer

At the WIEGO General Assembly in 2006, our Members urged us to strengthen our communication and outreach efforts. Since then, we have developed a communication and outreach strategy. Thanks to a supplemental grant from Ford Foundation, we are able to hire professional staff to implement the strategy. In late 2007, we hired Leslie Tuttle, a photo-journalist, as a half-time Communications Officer and started the search for a half-time Web Officer.

2007 WIEGO STAFF

Martha Chen
International Coordinator

Elaine Jones
Director, Global Trade Programme

Sharit Bhowmik
Director, Urban Policies Programme

Frances Lund
Director, Social Protection Programme

Chris Bonner
Director, Organization and Representation Programme

Joann Vanek
Director, Statistics Programme

Karen Pape
Regional Advisor – Europe

Carmen Roca
Regional Advisor – Latin America

James Heintz
Research Coordinator

SECRETARIAT STAFF

Beth Graves
Network Manager

Suzanne Van Hook
Financial Manager

Rhonda Douglas
Fundraising (consultant)

Leslie Tuttle
Communications Officer (consultant)

Financial Report 2007 10 YEARS

SYSTEM-WIDE AUDIT

In late 2007, WIEGO applied to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for a second round of core funding. As part of its review process, Sida commissioned a system-wide audit of WIEGO focused on our operational and financial management systems. The audit took place in December 2007. Two auditors visited the Secretariat office at Harvard University; a third auditor visited the WIEGO Ltd. office in the UK. The auditors also conducted phone interviews with a number of WIEGO Steering Committee members, WIEGO general members, and core donors. The auditors made some very useful recommendations regarding our procedures for managing funds independently through WIEGO Ltd. in the UK (see below) but were overall impressed with our operations, giving us a “clean audit” and noting in their report, “...the process of delegation within the WIEGO network works very well in terms of the implementation of policy and programmatic activities. This is in part because the five programme directors, two regional advisors and the research coordinator are themselves highly competitive professionals who apparently share a relationship involving a high degree of trust with both the Coordinator and the various members of the Steering Committee.” The Audit Team’s conclusion is that “policy development and planning is consistent with WIEGO’s mission and vision.”

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Until we were registered in the UK, all of our funds were routed through two financial intermediaries in the USA: Harvard University for the Secretariat and related core costs; the Tides Center for all other funds. In the past, our grant accounts were audited as part of the general audit of these financial intermediaries. Now that we are registered in the UK, the funds routed to WIEGO Ltd. will be audited by an external auditor in the UK. We have developed terms of reference for an external auditor and plan to contract an appropriate UK firm in early 2008.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

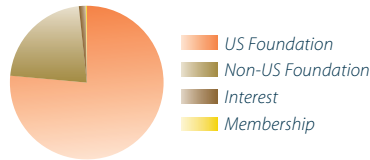
WIEGO raises and expends two types of funds: core funds for coordination of the network and our five programmes (including programme staff time and costs as well as programme development and fundraising costs), for communication (including publications, website, e-newsletter, outreach to Members), and for related meetings and travel; and project funds for implementing various project activities under our five programme areas and more generally.

Core Funding

WIEGO managed its core income and expenditures in 2007 through two fiscal sponsors in the USA (Harvard University and the Tides Center) and WIEGO Ltd. in the UK. WIEGO’s total core income in 2007 was USD 953,373, up 21 percent from 2006. The increase in income is a result of a supplemental grant from the Ford Foundation and new funding from Oxfam Novib. In 2007, core expenditures were USD 727,756, down 13 percent from 2006. The decrease in spending in 2007 was anticipated as expenditures in 2006 were unusually high due to the costs associated with the General Assembly in Durban, South Africa in April 2006. There were no other significant shifts in spending in 2007.

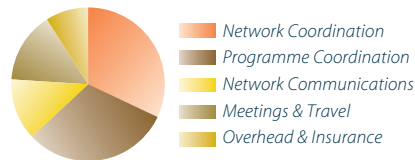
Core Revenue

Revenue by Source	US Dollars	Percentage of Total
US Foundation	728,600	76.42%
Non-US Foundation	209,037	21.93%
Interest	13,736	1.44%
Membership	2,000	0.21%
	953,373	100.00%



Core Expenses

Expenses	US Dollars	Percentage of Total
Network Coordination	226,176	31.08%
Programme Coordination	228,814	31.44%
Network Communications	95,061	13.06%
Meetings & Travel	112,040	15.40%
Overhead & Insurance	65,665	9.02%
	727,756	100.00%



Project Funding

In addition to core funds, WIEGO raises a large amount of project funds through project grants, commissioned work, and co-funding of joint activities with project partners. Most project funding is sent directly to southern project partners or comes in the form of in-kind contributions or consultancy payments. Only a small portion of the project funding raised by WIEGO is received as grants. Below is a summary of project grants received in 2007.

Funder	Project	Amount
Harvard Asia Center	China-India Project	125,000
Cornell University	Exposure and Dialogue Programme	40,000
Ford Foundation	Waste Collector Conference	75,000
Oxfam Novib	Law Project	29,928
		269,928

WIEGO raised an additional 253,702 USD in project funding during 2007 through commissioned work and co-funding by project partners.

WIEGO 2007 Publications **10 YEARS**

Adato, Michelle, Francie Lund, and Phakama Mhlongo. 2007. "Methodological Innovations in Research on the Dynamics of Poverty: A Longitudinal Study in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa." *World Development*, 35(2): 247 – 263.

Stephanie Barrientos, Michael E. Conroy and Elaine Jones. 2007. "Northern Social Movements and Fair Trade." In Laura T. Reynolds, Douglas Murray and John Wilkinson, eds., *Fair Trade: The Challenges of Transforming Globalisation*. London: Routledge.

Bonner, Chris. 2007. "No Longer Invisible. Domestic Workers Fight Back Globally." *South African Labour Bulletin*, Vol 31, Number 2, May/June 2007.

Bonner, Chris. 2007. "Organising Informal Transport Workers: Global Research Project." Overview Report, International Transport Workers' Federation. Available through a link on the ITF web site: <http://www.itfglobal.org/education/Edu-Research>

Chen, Martha. 2007. "The Urban Informal Workforce: Inclusive Planning for the Urban Poor." *UN Habitat Debate*, June 2007. Nairobi: UN Habitat.

Chen, Martha, Renana Jhabvala, Ravi Kanbur, and Carol Richards, eds. 2007. *Membership Based Organizations of the Poor*. London: Routledge.

Heintz, James. 2007. "Statistics on Employment in the Informal Sector and Informal Employment: A Summary of Updated Estimates from the ILO Bureau of Statistics Database." International Labour Organization.

Lund, Francie. 2007. "Extending Social Protection to Workers in the Informal Economy A Perspective from WIEGO." Review paper for the ILO/ CAWTAR project Gender and Rights in the Informal Economies of the Arab States.

Pape, Karin. 2007. "Eleven Good Reasons for Ratifying the ILO Home Work Convention (C177)." *Homenet SouthEast Asia*, Global Labour Institute.

Valodia, Imraan, ed. 2007. "The Informal Economy in South Africa: Issues, Debates, and Policies." Reflections after an Exposure Dialogue Programme with Informal Workers in Durban/eThekweni, South Africa in March 2007.

Vanek, Joann. 2007. "Beyond the Traditional Approach: Gender Statistics and Quality of Work." Paper presented at the Global Forum on Gender Statistics 10-12, December 2007, Rome, Italy.

Special Thanks

WIEGO would like to thank the Ford Foundation, the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and Oxfam Novib for their generous contributions covering the core costs of the WIEGO Network. The Ford Foundation has provided long-standing support to WIEGO and gave us an unexpected but very welcome supplemental grant in mid-2007. IDRC and Sida have provided support since 2006. We entered a partnership with Oxfam Novib for the first time in late 2007.

We would also like to pay special thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation for hosting us at their Bellagio Center. We feel fortunate to have been able to hold our founding meeting as well as two subsequent retreats, marking our 5th and 10th anniversaries, at the Bellagio Center. There is little doubt that the remarkable facilities of the Rockefeller Center, the magical setting of the lake and mountains, and the extraordinary quality of the surrounding light have helped to inspire our deliberations and reaffirm commitment to our mission.



Photographs

FRONT COVER

Street Vendor with Child
Durban, South Africa
Jeeva Rajgopaul

PAGE 3

Labor Day Demonstration
Delhi, India
Chintan Environmental Group

PAGE 4

Home-based Seamstress
Bangkok, Thailand
Leslie Tuttle

PAGE 9

Street Vendors
Ahmedabad, India
Martha Chen

PAGE 10

Wastepickers Cooperative – Coopcarmo
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Emmanuele Lorenz

PAGE 12

Fishmonger
Kisumu, Kenya
Martha Chen

INSIDE BACK

WIEGO Logo Sand Sculpture
Durban, South Africa
Suzanne Van Hook

BACK COVER

Street Vendors
Durban, South Africa
Jeeva Rajgopaul

10
YEARS



WIEGO

Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing

2007 Annual Report

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