

Newsletter Research, Network and Support Facility

Published by the EC-funded RNSF project based on the EU “Investing in People” Programme



Making yourself heard in Haiti

Credit: Oxfam Italy

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Coming RNSF book on informal workers' organization, more to come in 2018

By RNSF Team

From words to paper: Workshop paving the way to book on organizing and mobilizing informal workers

The RNSF Regional Workshop on Organizing and mobilizing informal workers was held earlier this month in Lima, Peru. The issue was addressed with representatives of the ILO, researchers, members of public authorities, labour organizations and CSOs coming from Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti, and Peru.

Based on their discussions, ideas, good practices and lessons learnt shared and drafted during the workshop, a book is now under way, with a publication planned for next March. Follow the [IESF Group on Capacity4Dev](#), [Facebook](#) (Informal Economy Support Facility) and [Twitter](#) (@Informal_eco) to know more.

The end (of the year) is near

The RNSF team wishes you the best for the year to come. In 2018, the RNSF project enters its final year. It will be an opportunity to disseminate its research outputs and transforms our community of experts of the informal economy. The RNSF project will initiate soon discussions with the IESF Group to decide on its future. If you want to participate to this initiative, please contact Paolo Carlini, RNSF Team Leader (p.carlini@arsprogetti.com).



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Special Focus on

RNSF Regional Workshop on Informal workers organization in Lima, Peru

By RNSF Team

Informal workers organisation and collective action helps the transition from informal to formal economy

The RNSF project organized a workshop in Lima from the 4th until the 8th December 2017 to analyse models and strategies to organise and mobilise informal workers. The event saw the participation of representatives of Civil Society Organizations, Public Authorities, the ILO, and Research Experts coming from Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti, and Peru.

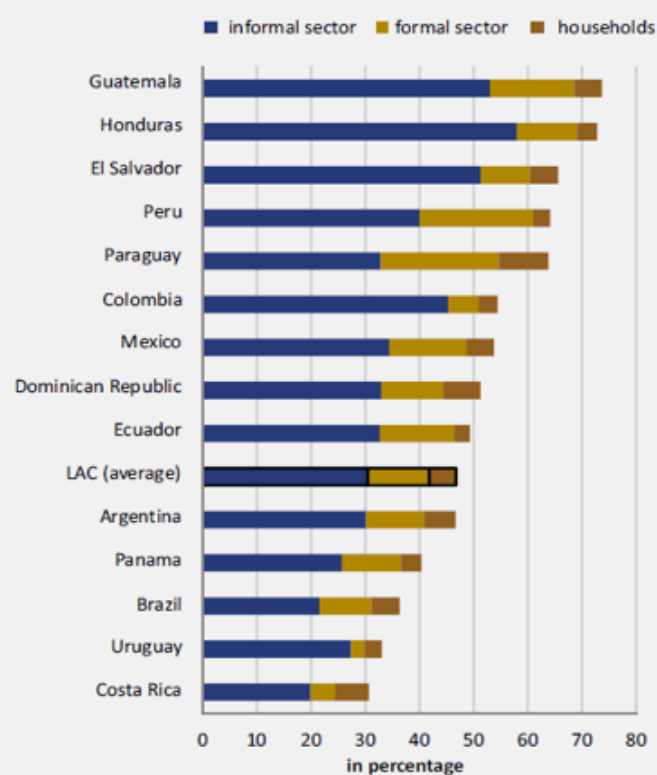
The objective of the workshop was to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned on how to organise informal workers, foster their collective action, and therefore improve their working and living conditions. The starting point of our reflection was represented by the policy framework set by the ILO Recommendation No. 204 concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy (http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/104/texts-adopted/WCMS_377774/lang--en/index.htm).

During the workshop, we had the pleasure of having Claudia Ruiz, ILO employment specialist, who introduced the subject presenting key trends of the informal economy in Latin America. Although over the last 15 years Latin America has experienced an important economic growth, informal work still remains prevalent. As shown in the figure below, despite decreasing informality rates Latin American countries still maintain informal employment at high levels with an average informal employment rate of 46.8%.

ILO estimates reveal that informal employment takes place mainly in the informal sector (around two-thirds) while the remaining third corresponds to informal workers with jobs in the formal sector and households. The reality of the informal work is very complex. It includes wage workers and self-employment, is spread in the private and, more surprisingly, the public sector, and is characterized by an extreme heterogeneity. As example, the table at the bottom right show the composition on non-agricultural informal work in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru in 2013.

The ILO Recommendation No. 204 sets a common holistic framework that should be used to design policies and plan concrete actions to foster the transition from the informal to the formal economy. This framework is composed at macro level

Sectoral contribution to non-agricultural informal employment 2013, 14 countries and average – in percentage



Source: ILO 2014a, Panorama Laboral Temático.

2013	Colombia	Ecuador	Peru
Non-agricultural informal work	54.4	49.3	64.1
Wage workers and employers	35.0	48.4	50.6
Public sector	0.4	0.6	3.9
Private sector	28.3	42.2	41.9
1 to 10 workers	22.8	34.4	28.9
More than 10 workers	5.5	7.8	12.9
In households	6.3	5.6	4.8
Self-employed	58.6	42.0	42.2
Domestic workers	6.2	9.6	7.3
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: ILO 2014, Panorama Temático Laboral (rounded numbers)



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of laws, national plans and key policy areas and at micro-level of policies programs and collective agreements as tools to put in action what is designed at macro-level.

Macro-level processes	
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling environment for the formal sector through growth strategies and quality employment generation
Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurship, skills development, finance, management, access to markets
National Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory environment – including enforcement of ILO Standards and core rights Promoting equality and addressing discrimination
Key Policy Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization, representation and dialogue Local development strategies Social security extension and social protection floors
Micro-level tools	
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Sectoral schemes Registration procedures Tax regimes
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness-raising campaigns Labour inspectorate
Collective agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements on formalization Specific labour regimes Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs) Social protection programs Social dialogue

Source: ILO 2015, Transition to the formal economy in Latin America and the Caribbean

In this framework, workshop participants presented experiences, good practices and lessons learned on how to organise informal workers and collective actions in view of fostering the transition from informal to formal economy.

Giving a voice to informal workers, promoting collective bargaining, as well as the improvement of the capacities of worker associations have been recognised as tools to tackle the issues of people depending on informal economy and support decision-making process.

We want to express them our gratitude for making this workshop possible:

- Bolivia: Fundacion Educacion Para El Desarrollo FAUTAPO, Gobierno Autónomo Municipal de Oruro, Gobierno Autónomo Municipal de Potosí
- Colombia: Gobernacion de Antioquia

• Haiti: Oxfam Italy

• Peru: ACOFAPE, Fortalecer, Fundación Friedrich Ebert, the ILO, INPET – Instituto de Promoción del Desarrollo Solidario, Progetto Mondo MLAL

Coming book

The regional workshop will lead to the publication of a book on the organisation and mobilisation of informal workers in the perspective of the transition from the informal to formal economy. The book will be published by RNSF in March 2018 and will be disseminated to international organizations, public authorities, academics and practitioners.

This process was possible thanks to the Writeshop methodology, a facilitation approach that allowed participants to structure the content discussed at the workshop in the form of publication.

Reporting

Advocacy and inclusion: Giving a voice to informal workers

By Oxfam Italy, staff

Getting ready to speak up: institutional mapping for advocacy in Haiti

The project “Economic and social inclusion of marginalized, vulnerable and dependent on the informal economy, particularly women in cross-border trade zones in Haiti” was launched by Oxfam Italy in 2014 for a duration of 4 years. It aimed at reducing the poverty of marginalized people in the informal sector in cross-border trading areas by promoting their access to sustainable livelihoods and social inclusion; and to ensure the organizational strengthening of marginalized interest groups, the appropriation of their rights and the extension of social protection coverage.

The awaited results include the strengthening of the organisation of informal workers, technical support for enterprises creation, enhancing of self-consciousness as a part of the society and of their rights, and finally the information and awareness of public authorities to involve them in the change process. In particular, the implementation of the last component implied the development of advocacy actions for the recognition of informal workers’ rights at the Haitian-Dominican border. For this purpose, an institutional mapping of social protection and



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Credit: Oxfam Italy

promotion services for workers in the informal economy in three border sites (Ouanaminthe, Belladère, Ganthier) was carried out to identify the objectives and to elaborate a strategic approach for the development of an advocacy plan.

Institutional Mapping methodology

The objective of the mapping was to identify the main stakeholders and critical issues linked to the social protection and promotion systems in the target areas in order to plan an efficient advocacy strategy. The institutional mapping of social protection services implemented by Oxfam in Haiti was based on a four-step methodology:

- Mapping of social protection institutions
- Mapping of social protection and promotion mechanisms
- Adequacy of supply to demand
- Advocacy objectives and axes of intervention

1. Mapping of social protection institutions

The first step consisted in the mapping of social protection institutions. It aimed at identifying all institutions related to social protection operating in the target areas in order to give a first overview of the main stakeholders with which the project would deal during the implementation of the advocacy plan. The inventory was established through a desk analysis leading to a classification according to the following criteria: sectors of intervention (public, private, community, and CSO), areas of intervention (health, education, social protection ...), typology of services, access conditions, and specific services for informal workers.

This analysis revealed a large variety of institutions belonging to all kind of sectors (public, private, cooperatives ...) already interacting with each other without a coordinated scheme of intervention. As a result, the system of social protection presented strong inefficiency and lack of coverage for some populations or risks.

2. Mapping of social protection mechanisms

Oxfam then identified the mechanisms implemented in the various areas of intervention by each institution. The study aimed at understanding which kind of activities and solutions were implemented in response to the specific needs of social protection.

During this phase, the nature of the mechanisms (financial mechanisms, service provisions, facilities...) and the way in which they were implemented were analysed. A set of desk analysis and interviews of the organisations in charge of the services were carried out to understand the specific characteristics, modalities of implementation and conditions of access to these mechanisms.

The study revealed unequal access to social protection according to sectors and categories of institutions.

3. Adequacy of the social protection and promotion system to the demand

The third step aimed at understanding to what extent the supply was meeting the demand of social protection services. The adequacy of services to the demand is related to the capacity to effectively answer to the needs and to the accessibility of the service.

An analysis of the supply and demand of social protection services was thereby conducted. The approach combined in-depth individual interviews with a sample of the inventoried institutions and focus groups. They were distributed on four types of actors:

- Institutions offering services;
- The different categories of informal workers;
- Community-based organizations;
- Local authorities to know the possible linkages with the available mechanisms, their understanding of the needs and the social protection mechanisms to be put in place.

Moreover, a special attention was given to two categories of informal workers: workers in transport and textile production and self-employed workers in trade and fishing. This approach was part of a consultation dynamic, aiming at ensuring the ownership of the advocacy campaign by the informal workers.

Through the adequacy analysis, Oxfam identified gaps in the social protection and promotion system in the Haitian-Dominican border areas in terms of:

Oxfam Italy is an aid and development charity with 70 years of experience, working and campaigning with partners in over 90 countries worldwide.



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We want you!

In the last newsletter we had WIEGO in the spotlight. This time it is Oxfam Italy. Who wants to collaborate with us for the next newsletters? Please let us know!

- access to public services between urban and rural areas,
- coverage of the service due to the financial constraints faced by public institutions and to some physical and administrative limits,
- and lack of a gender approach in the design and delivery of the services.

4. Advocacy objectives and axes of intervention

The study carried out highlighted some critical issues in the social protection and promotion system in Haiti, leading to the identification of four priorities:

- The universalization of coverages for basic needs, in the logic of the life cycle;
- The adequacy of mechanisms to the needs of working in employment (salaried or self-employed) and out of work (unpaid care work);
- The improvement of the quality of existing services;
- The unification of fragmented institutional configurations with differentiated perspectives.

Consequently, the organisation designed an advocacy plan based on the following strategic orientations:

- Consider social protection as a project of emancipation through a right-based approach,
- Break the intergenerational poverty cycle,
- Put in place sustainable public policies
- Prioritize the border area in public policies
- Protect and support workers, paid and unpaid,
- Integrate, regulate and extend existing social protection and promotion mechanisms.



8 Good Practices you should know on

Advocacy on legal and policy framework development

RNSF recommendations extracted from Volume 4.2 – Recommendations Based on Analysis of a Range of Development Agencies on Support to People Dependent on the Informal Economy.

mal Economy.

This volume of research findings is the latest work of the RNSF and is based on the analysis of 202 projects and documents financed and implemented by agencies other than the EC.

The term advocating refers to the defense of an opinion, a cause, a policy or a group of people through the implementation of a various set of activities aiming at informing, raising awareness and facilitating change within the society. In the specific case of informal economy, advocacy is an outstanding tool to give a voice to those who are out of the system.

How to advocate?

1) Develop Media and Advocacy Strategy at the outset of program implementation (design phase) in projects on the IE. The plan should specify the type of messages, advocacy campaigns and strategies to be used for the main messages to be mainstreamed and effectively implemented.

2) Take the complex nature of IE advocacy into account:

- Note that associations or other IE groups are their own best advocates with facilitation from the media or other supporters. Support the organising and mobilising of people dependent on the IE to advocate for social protection measures and development of related legal frameworks.
- Stress awareness of their rights among vulnerable groups and empower them to advocate with government and other entities.
- Ensure that the target of the advocacy, often government duty bearers, are well versed on issues such as necessary reforms regarding the IE to be enacted, funding constraints, and priorities. If this is ignored then advocacy will not be effective.

3) Develop actions aimed at strengthening advocacy with deep consideration of the necessary number of involved stakeholders finding a good balance between efficiency and effectiveness, the scope of the advocacy action and the preferred and most effective timing.

Take into account that single issue advocacy actions involving relatively few stakeholders, and with limited budgetary implications, tend to be the ones that are mostly likely to achieve their objective within the stipulated timeframe. Advocacy on new issues can build on the success of previous ones.

4) Improve advocacy on informal workers by using quality data to advocate for economic empowerment of affected households through government programming.

5) Advocate with local government and use a holistic approach when addressing issues surrounding informal workers. Advocacy for holistic approaches should include promotion of a combination of attention to development of:



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- Effective legal and policy frameworks at national and local levels (place emphasis on development of local by-laws)
- Access to available poverty reduction programmes
- Economic empowerment actions for affected households.
- Strengthening of government capacities on implementing actions on informal labour at all levels
- Well organised and implemented local referral systems.

Which tools can be used?

1) Lobbying refers to direct one-to-one conversations and/or meetings where people get access to and seek to persuade those in power. One-to-one communication with people in power, or those that have influence over them (influential), can take many different forms ranging from informal conversations in social settings (e.g. over lunch or coffee) to formal meetings in official settings (e.g. in a politician's office). Engaging directly with decision-makers is an important part of all successful advocacy, but it may not be possible in all contexts and needs to be timed well to assure impact. It is important to judge whether and when lobbying is an appropriate method for conveying messages in the specific context.

2) Negotiation can be defined as a process to resolve conflicts or issues when someone else exercises important control over what is wanted. Through negotiation, different groups try to agree on a solution that both sides can live with. When facing a politically hostile environment or in situations of conflict, compromise may be near impossible. However, in more favourable circumstances, negotiation can be a very useful avenue for advancing issue with those in power.

3) Media and Social Media are outstanding tools to broadcast advocacy campaign to raise awareness of the issue to get public support and put additional pressure on key decision-makers, if used in a proper way. In the choice of the tools, consider the main characteristics of target groups and local context. Traditional media such as radio and newspapers are good vectors in places where internet is not so diffuse and to reach more aged population, while social media (such as Facebook, twitter, Instagram...) are more likely to work in places with an acceptable web coverage such as urban areas and to reach young target population.



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<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf>

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