

Nothing for us without us!
Report on World Class Cities for All Campaign Workshop
Maputo, Mozambique 6-7 May 2010



Introduction

The World Class Cities for All Campaign Workshop, brought together StreetNet International Council members representing 385622 members from 37 affiliates in 33 countries, from Africa, Asia and Latin America), representatives of the Global Unions (BWI,IUF,UNI,PSI,IMF) and SATUCC, representatives of South African street vendors, South African NGOs, representatives of the Mozambican trade union centre (OTM) and the host organisation ASSOTSI. There were a total of 33 participants and 9 StreetNet staff, consultants and an intern. The workshop took place over one day and a half and was then followed by a communications workshop run in conjunction with DALA, South Africa.

Aims of the Workshop

- StreetNet International Council engages with WCCA campaign plans
- Streetnet and regional trade union partners share perspectives on campaign plans

Specific Aims of the Workshop

- Bringing campaigns closer together – WCCA with Fair Games, Fair Play, Kick for One World, Decent Work for Decent Life, Quality Public Services etc.

- Strengthening StreetNet's working alliances with regional trade union partners on the WCCA campaign, in particular to mark All Africa Day and the call for an inclusive all Africa 2010 World Cup
- Reviewing StreetNet affiliates campaign plans at country level to mark All Africa Day and developing a media strategy

Welcome and Introduction

Pat Horn, Streetnet International Coordinator, welcomed participants to the workshop and thanked the host organisations for their collaboration, support and hospitality. Participants were invited to introduce themselves.

Matsinhe Amos, the Vice President of OTM and General Secretary of the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union, an affiliate of UNI, opened the workshop. He explained OTM's firm conviction about the need to organise the informal sector which now represents almost 80% of the Mozambican workforce, partly as a consequence of the Structural Adjustment Programmes and their devastating impact on employment. Ramos Marrengula, General Secretary of ASSOTSI, the Streetnet affiliate in Mozambique also welcomed participants to Mozambique, and thanked those international guests who had been able to march with ASSOTSI during the May 1st parade. He stated that ASSOTSI had been a member of Streetnet since 2003, and that it started as a Maputo based organisation but has grown considerably and now has national scope.

SATUCC spokesperson Mavis Koggotsitse spoke on behalf of the Southern African trade union movement, expressing her support for the slogan "Nothing for us without us!" SATUCC, she stated, believed in people's participation and that everyone should have an input. The demand to establish vendors' forums was a first step to ensuring real participation and the ultimate goal of establishing real collective bargaining mechanisms. She also welcomed the SATUCC project with Streetnet.

The SASK Finland representative, Simiao Simbine, welcomed the opportunities that this workshop provided to strengthen the partnerships between the trade union movement and the organisations of informal sector workers. SASK has been in contact with StreetNet for many years and believes that the trade unions should pay more attention to organising initiatives in the informal economy.

Nora Wintour, StreetNet Campaigns Coordinator, outlined the workshop aims and objectives and the programme.

World Class Cities for All Campaign South Africa

Paul Shambira¹, StreetNet South Africa WCCA Coordinator, gave an account of the implementation of the campaign in South Africa. He explained that he was working together with Nkosinathi Jikeka on the campaign which was designed to engage with the municipalities of the 9 host cities to set up social dialogue mechanisms for street vendors and other groups of urban poor in the run up to the FIFA World Cup. Under the FIFA arrangements, areas in and around the stadiums, together with "official" fan parks, had been declared exclusion zones, where traders could not enter. This has meant that many vendors who were hoping also to benefit from the FIFA games may well be further marginalised during the games.

He explained the campaign strategy, the different organising initiatives in the host cities and the alliances that it had been possible to form. It is hoped to be able to found a national alliance of street vendors in South Africa in the not too distant future. He also explained that StreetNet had carried out 4 successful anti-xenophobia workshops with another workshop planned in late May.

¹ See Shambira, Paul Brief Account of the WCCA Campaign may 6 Maputo, Mozambique (En)

The campaign has strengthened the organisational capacity of the street vendors, and there is a substantial (80%) participation rate of women.

Media response has been increasing and some municipalities have made concessions to street vendors to allow them to trade during the games.

He concluded by explaining that there are plans to commemorate 25th May, All Africa Day in the host cities and that it will be an opportunity to connect with street vendors across the continent.

May 25th All Africa Day

Gaby Bikombo gave a power point presentation² on Africa Day, May 25th, explaining the campaign strategy and ideas for action which included: organising a petition to call for the setting up of a bargaining forum; organising a radio programme about the situation of vendors in South Africa and in your own country, holding a rally to express solidarity with south African vendors and to press for national demands to be heard; or organising a media conference.

ILO Actions to Promote Decent Work in the Informal Economy

Inviolata Chinyangarara, Senior Specialist, Workers Activities, gave a power point presentation entitled ILO Actions to Promote Decent Work in the Informal Economy³. She outlined some of the normative and policy frameworks which referred to the informal economy. She explained the relevance of the concept of decent work, specifically explaining the decent work deficits in the informal economy. She outlined the role of the ILO in providing technical advice to workers and employers' organisations in promoting the organisation of informal economy workers, and the inclusion of the challenges and opportunities for informal economy workers in the decent work country programmes and the current programme portfolio for informal economy workers in Southern Africa. In her concluding remarks, she raised the issue of working more specifically on disabled workers' issues, strengthening linkages with other initiatives such as the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) campaigns, developing specific expertise on social security coverage and working in partnership with other UN agencies including UNDP and UNIFEM.

Discussion

Following these two presentations, there was a discussion session. What had been possible to achieve for vendors in South Africa as a result of organised pressure? What was the nature of the relationship with the South African government? What were the opportunities for informal economy organisations within the decent work country programmes?

It was noted that in South Africa some municipalities, such as Tshwane and Nelson Mandela had proved very intransigent, but others such as Cape Town had agreed to provide trading posts in some key areas. In Ghana, it was noted, during the African Cup of Nations (2008), it had been agreed to allow one side of the stadium to be made available for local vendors of foods, textiles and African artefacts. The South African government and the South African Local Government Association has not really been able to adopt a progressive strategy or vision for the informal economy. The majority of municipal authorities regard vendors as a nuisance and if there have been concessions, it is not because of a changed vision but because of the organised pressure of the vendors. Many of the ILO DWCP refer specifically to the informal economy and recent

² Africa Day May 25th Power Point Presentation (En;Fr;Sp)

³ Chinyangarara Inviolata ILO Action to Promote Decent Work in the Informal Economy Power Point Presentation (En)

statements, such as the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation⁴ specifically clarify that the rights and freedoms at work also apply to informal workers.

Panel Presentation from Global Unions, their Work on the Informal Economy and Relevant Campaigns

OTM/ASSOTSI the Informal Sector and OTM Actions⁵

Matsinhe Amos presented an overview of the informal economy in Mozambique and the work of the OTM, the trade union centre, to organise informal economy workers. He explained that after 1987, the government adopted a market economy approach and many State owned enterprises were privatised. The consequence was a major increase in unemployment which reached 120,000, also as a result of demobilisation of many troops, and young workers joining the labour force. Many became informal economy workers but often were persecuted and chased away by the police.

Given this situation, the OTM decided to create the ASSOTSI (the National Association of Informal Economy Workers). OTM carried out research on the impact of the informal economy on the national economy as a whole and provided training programmes on leadership skills, occupational health and safety, food hygiene and other issues. ASSOTSI has provided services, like assistance with access to bank credits, facilities for trading posts and has developed an internal democratic structure with its own statutes. However there are many challenges, particularly in relation to police harassment, the lack of trading posts and lack of social security. Other problems include lack of training, illiteracy, a high incidence of HIV and AIDS infection, the financial weakness of the organisation and the lack of a government regulatory framework for traders. In the future, it will be important to strengthen the presence of ASSOTSI throughout the country, and to strengthen its income base, both through membership fees and through other income-generating schemes. ASSOTSI plans to reach agreements to set up negotiating forums with municipal authorities and local governments, provide better infrastructure support to its members and to invest in leadership and membership training. ASSOTSI also looks forward to strengthening its alliances with other street vendors' organisations in neighbouring countries and throughout the world.

In 2007, the new Social Security Law for Self-employed was adopted with the aim of providing coverage to street vendors as well. However, there are some problems as it is necessary to have a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce and a tax registration number with an income which is at least equal to the minimum wage and these are barriers for many informal traders.

PSI: Service Delivery to Informal Economy Workers⁶

Thembi Mngomezulu, Sub-regional Secretary for Southern Africa gave a power point presentation of a case study of the situation in South Africa. Service delivery to informal economy workers still remains a huge challenge in South Africa. PSI affiliate, SAMWU, has worked in partnership with Streetnet for a number of years. SAMWU also supports the domestic workers union. With StreetNet, SAMWU has provided organisational support, has participated in the recent series of workshops on anti-xenophobia and has taken part in marches and rallies.

Thembi concluded by stating that the organisation of the informal economy workers and the provision of core public services was a human rights issue and a fundamental question of solidarity. "Your success is our honour!" –together let us serve informal economy workers!

⁴ See http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Publications/Officialdocuments/lang--en/docName--WCMS_099766/index.htm

⁵ _

⁶ Mngomezulu Thembi Service Delivery to Informal Economy Workers, Public Services International (En)

IUF : Presentation on Regional Campaigns⁷

Adwoa Sakyi, Regional Women's Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the work of IUF. She explained its scope, guiding principles and main areas of work. She outlined the main campaign strategies used by the IUF, which include demonstrations to seek public support; media to inform the public about the issues; sometimes the IUF establishes a separate website for the campaign to launch a cyber challenge; leaflets are printed and distributed; policymakers are lobbied and their engagement sought; and finally she explained the importance of developing networks and alliances with other stakeholders.

Adwoa explained that campaigns can require considerable time and energy but confirmed that the IUF was ready to collaborate with informal economy workers organisations on well defined campaigns.

BWI: Lessons from the BWI 2010 World Cup Decent Work Campaign⁸

Eddie Cottle, Campaign Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the decent work campaign, outlining the economic importance of the construction sector, the low union density at 9%, poor wages and working conditions and the huge profit margins of the main construction companies. The impact assessments of mega sporting events, such as the World Cup, fail to look at the social value and implications. BWI worked with its 3 affiliated unions in South Africa to launch the Fair Play Fair Games campaign which was designed to increase union density, particularly among non-standard workers. He noted the many challenges, particularly the Labour Relations Act which requires 50% +1 for union recognition and that unions generally organise along traditional lines, which pose difficulties when dealing with a fragmented and highly mobile workforce.

The campaign strategy included 4 main areas: research; organising; negotiations and campaigns. The campaign was launched at the 2007 social forum and during 2008, there was research, capacity building and targeted recruitment. In 2009, the employers were caught unaware by the information on working conditions available to the unions, and level of organisation in the main sites, such as airports, stadiums and roads. In July 2009, over 70,000 workers went on strike and were able to gain a 12% wage increase. 20 out of the 26 strikes were "wild cat" strikes which had not been officially notified. The unions were able to follow the movement of workers. As a result of this victory, the unions recruited 27,000 new members (or a 39% increase in membership). The unions now understand the importance of recruiting and providing services for non-standard, or informal, workers, and although they are competing unions, they have remained united throughout this period. The campaign will pass now to Brazil for the FIFA World Cup in 2014.

Discussion/Comments

Participants noted the need to follow members into the informal economy. The panellists confirmed that they were "ready" and open to opportunities to support Streetnet and the demands of street vendors. It was explained that in Mozambique, almost 65% of the ASSOTSI membership are women. In Mozambique, there is a national social dialogue between employers, workers and government and the OTM represents the concerns of the informal economy in this dialogue. The 2007 social security law, despite its limitations, was a consequence of this social dialogue.

⁷ Sakyi, Adwoa, Presentation on Regional Trade Union Campaigns, International Union of Food, Agricultural and Allied Workers

⁸ Cottle Eddie Lessons from the BWI 2010 World Cup Decent Work Campaign, Building and Woodworkers International (En)

Workshop Report Backs

The workshop report backs took place on May 7th following a highly successful early morning market trip to observe a clean up day and to interact with members of ASSOTSI.

Report Group 1: Streetnet affiliates and staff, Dala; UNI;ILO

1. The group identified the following common issues

- The need to campaign for the recognition of the rights of street vendors
- The threats of xenophobic attacks
- The need for strengthening social dialogue and representation mechanisms for informal economy workers
- The need for education and training programmes about the municipal bye-laws;
- The need to have a focus on the particular needs of groups suffering multiple forms of discrimination such as workers living with HIV and AIDS; women, child labourers and persons with disabilities;
- It was also recognised that the employment relationship in the informal economy can be very complicated and that there are class differences between formal and informal

2. The group identified the following key demands:

- Rights at work: informal economy workers should enjoy the same rights as other workers, including decent employment, the right to freedom of association, representation, and collective bargaining.
- Service delivery by municipalities and local governments: municipalities must ensure inclusive policy planning to provide access to services, infrastructure and child care and other services;
- Social protections should be extended by right to all informal economy workers;

3. The main campaign issues identified included the following:

- The importance of ensuring a single simple message, both as a text and an image, which can be used in all activities, whether a prayer meeting, a press conference or an online video message.
- For Africa Day 2010, it was recommended that the affiliates should carry out a petition or a demonstration or a cultural activity, such as a film or street art.
- For Africa Day 2011, which gives a longer planning period, it would be useful to conduct some research, or a census on the size of the informal economy, the reasons for the gendered nature of the workforce, the incidence of child labour or people with disabilities. It would also be possible to carry out a qualitative research, or visual research through direct interviews, to understand vendors' experiences and perceptions.
- In the longer term, it would be possible to use the research to lobby governments, the global unions and other policy-makers.

Report Group 2 (Armando, Ana, Edna, (OTM); Manuel, Luz (FEDEVAL) Eddie Cottle (BWI) Nkosinathi and Nora (Streetnet) Mavis (SATUCC) Igor (ISCOS) Jose (interpreter)

The group identified the following key problems;

1. How to create strong representative organisations for street vendors
2. How to create social security coverage for informal workers
3. How to ensure the provision of trading sites and adequate services such as water, sanitation, electricity and child care

4. How to overcome divisions and create unity

The group agreed that social dialogue mechanism was an important mechanism to achieve improvement in lives of street vendors. The creation of youth and women's committees would help ensure that the interests of women and young people are represented in social dialogue which includes both consultation and collective bargaining. Social dialogue can only be successful if there are democratic and strong organisations with structures capable of mobilising, and developing a two way communication with members.

The group also discussed how to strengthen the organisation of street vendors. The following programs were identified:

1. Business skills training
2. Literacy training programs
3. Leadership training programs particularly for women
4. Programs to prevent HIV/AIDS and other transmitted diseases
5. Leadership skills development and conflict resolution

The group then proceeded to strategise about activities for the May 25th until July 11th (end of the World Cup) and a longer term campaign plan for the next three years.

On a joint research study it was proposed to undertake the study of social dialogue mechanisms in different countries and have StreetNet affiliates conduct a survey using a participatory research method on the issues of concern to street vendors, and their proposals for solutions. This research could be conducted in collaboration with national centres, global unions and other social movements. The findings could be discussed in a forum to develop recommendations for a street vendors' manifesto focusing particularly on social dialogue, social security and service delivery.

For a joint mass action the group reviewed different options including presenting a set of demands to the municipality, holding a rally or march, carrying out symbolic strike action or road blocks.

On joint media action it was proposed to;

1. Write a joint press release for May 25th which could be released at the same time in all the StreetNet affiliate countries.
2. To contact the press (SABC- Africa, Al- Jazeera) and community radio stations.
3. Produce the You-Tube film on Africa Day and street vendors
4. Send out messages or songs to young workers using cell-phones
5. Produce campaign posters and leaflets.

Joint lobbying work on May 25th should entail;

1. Making an appointment to meet municipality authorities to establish social dialogue programs for street vendors
2. Petition municipal authorities to provide opportunities for trading during the world cup
3. Putting demands to candidates for local government elections.

Report Group 3: Adwoa (IUF) Thembi (PSI) Paul, Maria and Monica (Streetnet) Elvis (AZIEA) Jalile (E. Cape Alliance) Zano (SANCO Durban)

The common issues identified were:

- The need to set up bargaining forums and fight discrimination in allocation of trading spaces;

- The need to carry out organising drives and to campaign for reforms to the current municipal byelaws as they are often archaic or unfriendly to informal economy workers;
- The need to find ways to include informal economy workers in social protection programmes;
- The need to promote solidarity in action and networking
- The need to develop specific recruitment and training programmes for women and young workers;

The issues requiring mass action were identified as follows:

- Rallies and marches in support of setting up bargaining forums
- Public meetings to call government officials to be accountable for the treatment of street vendors and to call for reforms of municipal byelaws;
- Mass organising drives;

Media support could be provided in the following ways:

- The media should be kept regularly informed of the treatment of street vendors, and the constant harassment, evictions and xenophobic attacks;
- The street vendors associations and their partners can write articles in the press to explain why informal economy workers should be entitled to social security coverage;

Lobbying work could include:

- Local and national politicians should be lobbied to take action to prevent xenophobic attacks, which are the result of competition for spaces during the World Cup; and to create alternative and inclusive policies for urban traders;
- Solidarity in action: trade union centres, international trade unions should be lobbied to support the informal economy demands for establishing bargaining forums, amending municipal by-laws and providing social security coverage.

Research areas identified included:

- Research on best practices and policies, such as in the Philippines
- Comparative studies of social protection systems for informal economy workers

Discussion/Comments

The idea of a core single message is good- there could be sub-messages as well. Some suggestions for slogans were considered: "one Africa, one people"; "xenophobia-another form of terrorism"; "no boundaries for traders;" "dignity and decent work in the informal economy". Latin America colleagues suggested that the affiliates from outside Africa could also join in the activities for the Africa Day celebrations with the slogan "one world, one people."

It was recommended that as a first step towards joint campaigns in the future, all affiliates could issue the same press release on the occasion of May 25th 2010 and that the global unions could also support the initiative.

Presentation by Mozambican Government World Cup Technical Cabinet

Nuno Miguel Xavier Fortes addressed the workshop at the request of the OTM. He was accompanied by Perdigao Rongo Jordao from the Ministry of industry and Commerce Small Business Unit.

Sr. Fortes explained that the Mozambican Ministry of Tourism had established a strategy until 2010, to improve road and air transport and border customs posts. There has been a training programme for tourist guides, migration officials and police, taxi drivers and indeed street vendors. After receiving the training, participants can apply for a professional licence. With the

street vendors, there have been some difficulties as they were not organised into associations and the work of the OTM to form ASSOTSI has been very welcome. Training programmes on how to “welcome tourists” are continuing at the moment and he stated, as an aside remark are obviously needed given the way the police treated some workshop participants last evening! There are still a lot of problems with the police but it is important to consider their working conditions. From this week, the police will have improved salaries

There will be 3 fan parks in Maputo and the informal traders will be able to sell their products there. He concluded by saying that it is important to share experiences and that both the Ministry of Tourism and Small Business Unit can benefit from the sharing strategies and ideas with StreetNet and its affiliates.

Discussion/Comments

The Streetnet Coordinator thanked the government representatives for their presentation and for their time. She explained that the FIFA regulations are not superior to local municipal laws and that StreetNet has challenged municipalities about the fan park regulations. Fan parks are not necessarily a FIFA exclusion zone and under pressure from vendors’ organisations, it has been possible for municipalities to grant licences to informal traders.

FIFA has negotiated an agreement which is entirely to its benefit in South Africa, whereby the fan parks are decreed exclusion zones, and the government is providing free of charge transport facilities, electricity and other services. It is StreetNet’s hope that the Brazilian government will learn lessons from the South African experience and challenge the rights assumed by FIFA.

Adoption of Final Declaration

Clarisse Gnahoui, Vice-President of Streetnet read out the draft Final Declaration to the participants. There were a number of recommendations for amendments which were unanimously accepted. The final declaration was adopted.

NW 19.05.2010