

Third IDWN Report for Africa Region

From June to October 2010. (Teleconference- 3rd November 2010)

1.0 Introduction:

This is a brief report on what IDWN coordinator has done during this period from June to October 2010. This report is based on the work plan. The report is going to cover a number of activities implemented which includes the followings:

- (i) Sub regional workshop in Benin.
- (ii) Tripartite consultative meetings.
- (iii) Meetings with trade unions on Brown reports
- (iv) OHS participatory research (DW, Street traders, and Agriculture)
- (v) Awareness creation
- (vi) Mapping down DWs organizations consultative
- (vii) WIEGO OHS project in Tanzania.
- (viii) Follow up and collaboration.
- (ix) Challenges
- (x) Future plans
- (xi) Conclusion

2.0 Objective:

The objective of the activities were based on the core aim of the IDWN that is to continue campaign for the ILO Convention for domestic workers basing on the lessons learnt (weakness/strength) in June ILC 2010.

3.0 Activities done:

2.1 Sub regional meeting for domestic workers in Benin from 10th -11th August 2010.

The sub regional workshop for the French speaking countries was done from 10th to 11th August 2010. This workshop was done in Benin Cotonou. It brought about

25 participants from domestic workers organizations, trade unions and associations. The participants came from Benin, Niger, Togo, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

The workshop was facilitated by IDWN chair Myrtle Witbooi, Vicky Kanyoka, IUF women coordinator-Adowa Sakyi, IUF- TNC coordinator Simeon Benin.

It was officially opened by the General Secretary for FESYENDER Bro. Robert Yavohedi.

Major output of the workshop:

- Participants were able to understand what IDWN is, what is doing and its impact.
- Understood about the project of IDWN and the progress made at regional level and at global level for the ILO Convention for Domestic workers.
- Awareness creation of IUF, women project and the link.
- Formation of the sub regional committee of DWs for the French speaking countries and the chair.
- Wide awareness creation of the workshop through posters and through media in five native languages.
- The Cotonou statement was issued by the participants
- Plan of actions were developed in each organization per country to be implemented including 10th December 2010.

2.2 Tripartite consultative meeting:

On the 3rd August 2010, I had a meeting with the ILO area office for East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda) Mr.Alexio Musindo and Dr.Annemaria Kiaga focal point for DWs.

During the meeting I briefed them about IDWN, the role they are playing for the agenda, and the participation of the member state in the process in June 2010 ILC, and the gaps /challenges ahead, the success and hence proposed to ILO to support for the consultative meetings for the partners.

Output of the meeting:

- ILO will cooperate with IUF /IDWN Africa in the countries.
- ILO will facilitate the meetings and confirm with the Governments to hold the tripartite consultative meetings.
- Worked with Dr Annemarie on the framework basing on the ILO brown report circulated. (20th September 2010).
- Hold tripartite consultative meetings in Tanzania on 29th Sept 2010, in Uganda 12th October 2010.
- The social partners worked together in groups and came up with steering committees were formulated to work for the activities planned and recommendation (Tanzania and Uganda).
- Dead line to submit comments were agreed and Governments were to do the follow-ups and sent to ILO as indicated.
- The tripartite forum had the opportunity to understand the process which resulted to the demand of the ILO Convention after my presentation, what were the gaps and what were the major challenges in the discussion at ILC in June 2010.

2.3 CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS WITH THE TRADE UNIONS:

i. Zanzibar-ZACHOCODAWU

On 4th October 2010 we had a consultative meeting about the Brown report with the trade union in Zanzibar. The meeting was organized by Zanzibar Conservation Hotels Domestic and Allied workers union (ZACHOCODAWU), a union which organizes domestic workers. The meeting also involved representatives from Zanzibar Trade Union Congress (ZATUC) a labor officer/lawyer and the ZACHOCODAWU officials, domestic workers and the director of the gender, women and youth from TUCTA, Ms. Siham Ahmed. The meeting was facilitated by IUF/IDWN co-coordinator for Africa.

Major outputs

- Action plan was made with, regard to domestic workers campaign in Zanzibar.

- Agreed to commemorate domestic workers day on the 10th December 2010 through radio programme.
- Awareness was created about IDWN, ILO process in June 2010 and the outputs in June and towards June 2011.
- The task force was established to work on the brown report and comment on it .This was result after the presentation of the process since 2006.The task force has come up with the comments and have been to ITUC and ILO travail as directed in the circular.

ii. Dar-es-salaam: CHODAWU

On the 29th of October, the consultative meeting was done for the CHODAWU union with regard to the Brown report. It was also facilitated by IUF/IDWN.

Major issues done

- Awareness creation of IDWN.
- Demands for domestic workers for the ILO convection for domestic workers.
- ILO process in June 2010 strength, challenges and the opportunities.
- Discussion on the Brown report and the challenging issues.
- The comments are being worked by the team and will be forwarded to ITUC before 18th November2010.

iii. Ghana: Ghana TUC and LAWA-Ghana

Also, through team work, IDWN coordinator requested the women coordinator sister Adwoa Sakyi to conduct the consultative meeting with trade union in Ghana and LAWA-Ghana. IDWN facilitated the meeting with tea/and transport allowance. The comments will be sent to travail, ITUC and as indicated in the circular.

2.4 Awareness creation of IDWN/ILO process in June 2010.

During this period, the coordinator created awareness about IDWN, the process and discussion of the ILO Convention for DWs which took

place in June 2010 in Geneva. The meetings were conducted in the followings;

- i. Tripartite consultative meeting in Tanzania.
- ii. Tripartite consultative meeting in Uganda.
- iii. Union consultative meeting in Zanzibar and Dar-es-salaam.
- iv. IUF women project workshop with the union officials of TPAWU, CHODAWU and TUICO in Dar-es-salaam on the 14th October 2010.

2.5 Lobbying and networking with trade unions for the comments on the Brown report.

- *During* this period the coordinator was able to send the brown report and requested the trade union federations in East Africa, Southern Africa to comment on it.
- Also, the circulars were sent SATUCC and EATUC trade union councils and were pledged to work with their constituents.
- Also, the coordinator was able to lobby Vicki, the adviser for the ministry of labor in Namibia to have a tripartite meeting.

2.6 Media:

On the 15th July 2010 the coordinator had an intensive interview with the representative of radio Deuchewelle from Germany.

Major issues discussed were as follows:

- Difference of domestic workers in Africa and the developed countries in terms of type of work, payment, time of work, social security age group.
- ILO process in June the success and challenges.

2.7 WIEGO Occupational health and safety project.

During this period the coordinator, is also coordinating the project on OHS in three sectors of IUF affiliates. This project is supported by WIEGO, in the three sectors of domestic work, street traders and agriculture (small scale).

The major activities are:

- a) To conduct the participatory research on OHS.
- b) Set up the reference group for Tanzania.

Hence the work is in the final stage.

2.8 Mapping down domestic workers organizations:

Also four trade unions and two organizations were identified in this period, this includes the followings;

(i) French countries:

- Senegal- Syndicat Nationaldes travailleurs d' hotellerie, bar et restaurants.
- Burkina Faso-Syndicat national des Employ'és de maison and Gardiege (SYNEMA G/B).
- Niger- Syndicat des travailleurs –des hotels bar restaurants Et assimilés(SYNTHOBRA).
- Togo-Association for domestic workers.

(ii) Zanzibar (United rep of Tanzania).

Zanzibar Conservation Hotels Domestic and alied workers Union.
(ZACHOCODAWU).

(iii) Uganda:

Children of Zion Ministries

2.9 Follow up/Collaborations:

In this period the coordinator was able to communicate with all the DWs in Africa, regional coordinators in other regions.

Also the coordinator worked closely with ILO office in Tanzania, IOM office in Tanzania, WIEGO -South Africa, and FES Benin, and Tanzania.

3.0 Challenges:

During this period I had planned also to conduct the regional committee for DWs in Africa. However I was not able to send the proposal in time because of limited time. However I have finalized it and hope to do it if possible before the end of this year if I get funds.

Also I had sent the names of the organizations to FES so that they can support the organizations within their countries but there was no response. This was based on the discussion in June 2010 at IUF office with FES officials.

Demand of financial support from the organizations which support domestic workers.

4.0 Future plans: Major activities :(November to December 2010).

- To follow-up on the comments for BR.
- Follow up and commemorate the DWs day on the 10th December 2010.
- Finalize report on OHS and submit.

5.0 Conclusion:

Apart from the challenges above during this period there was much interest and commitment in working for the ILO Conventions for domestic workers from the DWs organizations, Ministries concerned, Trade union federations, employers associations and NGOs. This was observed thru calls, visits and emails and participations in the forums like in East Africa.

Also I would like to thank the active role of the regional coordinators, IDWN committee, the International coordinator Karin, and our Chair Myrtle and IUF staff at regional level and in Geneva for working jointly with me during this period.