

INFORMAL ECONOMY
Mapping Analysis
May 2003

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INTRODUCTION

It is important to note that since the response rate has been uneven the picture presented is not complete and can merely serve as a rough indicator.

When starting the mapping process the initial effort was to gather everything “directly and indirectly” related to the informal economy. It did not take long to realize that this would include about 70 percent of all ILO work – perhaps even more. (A Labordoc search on “English only” entries using the command search yields almost 6000 hits)

Therefore the search was narrowed down to that “explicitly related to the informal economy”. This means that informal economy was either in the title or that there was a specific informal economy component. However, this seemed too limiting. Therefore criteria were broadened to include also tools indirectly relating to the informal economy.

At the time of this analysis (May 2003) 328 entries have been recorded. Figures may give the impression of inconsistency but this is due to some entries being considered under several categories. For example a program can include elements of research, activity and tools and some entries specify two regions in which case they are considered under both of the regional categories.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Activities

The great majority of activities are to be found in the African and Asian regions each has 33 entries of the 97 activities. Approximately 42 per cent of these activities are ongoing.

Research

The majority of entries relate to research and 71 per cent of all research is finalized. Most ongoing research is to be found in Africa and Asia followed by the Americas. Undoubtedly the figures would be much higher for most regions if work on subject areas that indirectly target the informal economy were included, such as work relating to micro-enterprise development, social exclusion or micro insurance.

Tools

There are a considerable number of tools relevant for the informal economy. Tools did not have to explicitly refer to the informal economy and were included as long as they had been recommended as useful in an informal economy context. A large per cent of tools are finalized, 74 per cent compared to 22 per cent that are in the process of being developed. The remaining 4 per cent are at the proposal stage.

Regionally the majority of tools are developed specifically for Africa or Asia. Of the total number of tools 24 per cent refer to an unspecified region.

The figures suggest that the Arab States, Europe and the Americas all lack tools for the informal economy. This seems unlikely to be the case for the Americas as there has been so much ILO work on informality in Latin America. In this case at least the low figures are very probably due to a lack of information.

	Total	Africa	Americas	Arab states	Asia	Europe	Global	Interregional	Unspecified
Activities									
P	17	3	-	1	7	1	-	1	4
O	41	18	1	-	10	-	3	6	3
F	39	12	6	-	16	-	-	2	3
Total	97	33	7	1	33	1	3	9	10
Research									
P	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
O	52	11	7	-	15	2	7	3	7
F	135	30	13	-	39	4	7	14	28
Total	190	41	20	-	54	7	14	17	37
Tools									
P	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
O	26	5	2	-	5	-	6	2	6
F	87	14	3	-	26	1	6	17	20
Total	117	19	5	-	33	1	12	19	28
Total	404	93	32	1	120	9	29	45	75

P = Proposed

O = Ongoing

F = Finalized

REGIONAL OVERVIEW:

In total there are 29 global and 45 interregional entries. There are 120 entries for Asia which dominates in the categories of research and tools. Africa follows closely with a total of 93 entries.

The number of entries referring to the Americas is quite low (32). Europe has even fewer than the Americas with only 9 entries. The Americas have no entries at the proposal stage whilst Europe has two. The Arab States has only one entry in the informal economy mapping and that is an activities proposal relating to the issue area crisis.

These low figures are likely to be due either to a lack of information, or to initiatives targeting the informal economy indirectly (through micro-enterprise development, social exclusion, micro finance or other similarly related issue areas) rather than being explicit informal economy initiatives.

There are 75 entries for which the region has not been specified, most of these refer to research (37).

Proposed

There are a total of 20 entries at the proposal stage according to information received so far. Africa has 3 proposal entries, Asia has 7 and Europe 2. There is also one interregional proposal and one global proposal. A number of proposals (7) have no region specified.

Ongoing

Africa has the highest number of entries ongoing (34), followed by Asia (30). There are 12 entries with unspecified regional context and finally the Americas have 9 entries.

Finalized

The majority of all entries relate to finalized initiatives (261). The regional spread displays similar tendencies to other categories with Asia and Africa having most entries, 81 and 56 respectively. These are followed by the Americas

with 22 and Europe with 5. There are 33 interregional entries and 13 global. The number of entries with the region unspecified is quite high at 51.

REGIONAL REVIEW

AFRICA

Africa - Proposed

Africa has 3 entries at the proposal stage that are on the topic areas; capacity building and policy and legislation, social protection.

Africa - Ongoing

Activities

For Africa most ongoing entries relate to activities and the greatest concentration is in the issue area of social protection. This is followed by capacity building (3), and two entries each on the following topics; cooperatives, organization/ representation, child labour and HIV/AIDS.

Research and tools

Cooperatives, organization and representation and social protection each have two research entries. These topic areas also have an entry under tools with the exception of cooperatives with two tool entries.

Of the total number of ongoing entries for Africa there are 8 entries for social protection, 6 for cooperatives, 5 for organization and representation, 3 for child labour and two each for policy and legislation, micro finance, child labour and HIV/AIDS.

Africa - Finalized

In the finalized stage Africa has 11 activity entries, 28 on research and 12 tools.

Activities

The activities in Africa are on a wide range of topics with 2 entries each for employment, organization and representation, social protection and gender.

Policy and legislation, occupational safety and health and child labour each have 1 entry. There are no activities on unspecified topic areas.

Research

Again there is a broad spread of issue areas for the research entries, the highest being for social protection with 6 entries. Enterprise development, policy and legislation and organization and representation follow closely with 4 entries each. There are two entries each on employment and skills development. Finally cooperatives, micro finance, occupational safety and health and child labour have 1 entry each. There are 3 entries with unspecified topic areas.

Tools

There are 3 tools on employment and social protection and then 1 entry each on the following subjects; enterprise development, cooperatives, skills development, policy and legislation, micro finance, organization and representation, occupational safety and health and child labour. There are no tools on unspecified topic areas.

AMERICAS

Americas – Proposed

There are no proposal entries for the Americas.

Americas - Ongoing

Activities

There is one ongoing activity registered for the Americas.

Research and tools

The Americas have one tool on social protection, the other 7 entries relate to research, 3 of these relate to organization and representation, 2 are on social protection and there is one entry on enterprise development and 1 on gender.

Americas - Finalized

The Americas has 7 activity entries, 20 research entries and 5 tools.

Activities

Of the 5 activities 3 relate to social protection while another relates to policy and legislation. There is one entry on an unspecified topic area.

Research

There are 3 entries each for policy and legislation and skills development and 1 entry on employment. The remaining 6 entries have no topic area specified.

Tools

There are 2 tools, one each for skills development and social protection. There are no tools with an unspecified issue area.

ASIA

Asia - Proposed

By region Asia has the most entries at the proposal stage. The topics covered are varying and Asia has one entry each for the following subjects; social protection, crisis, policy, occupational safety and health and enterprise development.

Asia - Ongoing

Activities

Asia has 9 activities ongoing. There relate predominantly to social protection (5). There are two entries on organization and representation and then one entry each referring to skills development and poverty respectively.

Research and tools

There are 19 entries on research and tools, of which 5 refer to tools. There is one tool in each of the following topic areas; organization and representation, social protection, capacity building, HIV/AIDS and one of an unspecified subject area.

Research is also spread around many topic areas and unfortunately the only majority is in the unspecified issue areas. When specified the majority of research relates to social protection (3), followed by organization and

representation (2) and then there is one entry each for skills development, policy and legislation and capacity building.

Asia - Finalized

For Asia there are 15 activity entries, 36 on research and 23 tools.

Activities

Of the activities 3 are on employment, 2 on policy and legislation, capacity building and child labour respectively. There are 5 on unknown topic areas and 1 on organization and representation.

Research

A full 8 entries relate to social protection which has the majority of research entries for Asia. Next are skills development and policy and legislation with 4 entries each. Employment and enterprise development follow with 3 entries respectively. There are 2 entries each for micro finance and capacity building. Finally child labour and cooperatives each have one entry. There are a total of 8 entries with unspecified topic areas.

Tools

Of the tools 5 relate to employment and 3 to capacity building. Policy and legislation and micro finance have two entries each. Aside from this the following topic areas have one entry each; cooperatives, skills development, organization and representation, social protection, occupational safety and health and gender. In total 5 tools have no specified topic area.

EUROPE

Europe - Proposed

Both Europe and Africa have 2 entries each at the proposal stage. For Africa these are on the topic areas; local economic development and policy. Europe's proposals relate to gender and statistics.

Europe - Ongoing

Europe has only two entries ongoing and both refer to research on organization and representation.

Europe - Finalized

Europe has no activities explicitly related to the informal economy. There are 4 research entries, 1 each on employment, skills development, policy and legislation and organization and representation. Europe also has one tool which is related to skills development.

GLOBAL

Global - Proposed

There is a global proposal on social protection.

Global - Ongoing

There are 18 global entries. Most of these relate to statistics (6) with 3 other entries for employment, social protection and poverty. There are also three entries for which the issue area is not specified. Interregional entries are more diverse with three relating to enterprise development and then odd entries on a number of other topics.

Global - Finalized

There are no global activities registered as finalized. However there are 7 research entries and 6 tools.

Most research is on statistics for which there are three entries. Further to this there is one entry for employment and another for policy and legislation. There are 2 entries of unspecified topic area.

Again the majority of global tool entries refer to statistics (4). There are also 2 tools on unspecified issue areas.

INTERREGIONAL

Interregional - Proposed

There is one interregional proposal for an unspecified topic area.

Interregional - Ongoing

Interregional - Finalized

In the interregional category there are 35 entries in total. Of these 3 refer to activities, 14 to research and 18 to tools.

Activities

One entry is on an unknown topic area, another is on employment and the last one is on organization and representation.

Research

The majority of research entries relate to social protection. Further to this there are a number of issue areas with 2 entries each; cooperatives, policy and legislation and micro finance. Finally the following topic areas have 1 entry each; capacity building, organization and representation, skills development and enterprise development.

Tools

The interregional tools are spread across a wide variety of topic areas. There are 3 entries each for cooperatives, policy and legislation and occupational safety and health. The following issue areas have 2 entries each; employment, social protection and capacity building. Finally a number of categories have 1 entry each; poverty, micro finance, skills development and enterprise development.

UNSPECIFIED REGION

There are in total 51 entries where the region is not specified. Of these 28 refer to research, 20 to tools and 3 to activities.

Activities

One of the activities is on employment and the other 2 are on organization and representation.

Research

For the research category the majority of entries refer to organization and representation (9). This is followed by social protection with 6 entries. Gender and policy and legislation have two entries each. Finally there are a number of categories with 1 entry each; micro finance, occupational safety and health, HIV/AIDS and poverty. In total 5 research entries are on unspecified topic areas.

Tools

There are a large number of tools without a specified region (20). Of these 4 relate to micro finance and another 4 to gender. These are closely followed by social protection which has 3 entries. Occupational safety and health has 2 entries, while capacity building, enterprise development and employment each have 1 entry. Of the tools listed 4 are on unspecified topic areas.

ISSUE AREA REVIEW

As can be seen from the tables below most entries are related to social protection. Social protection has the highest number of ongoing (25) and finalized entries (33) and the highest number of activities (23), research (36) and tools (22).

Social protection includes; social protection, social security, socio economic security, maternity protection and working conditions. The social protection entries that relate to working conditions have been separated out in the table.

After social protection the highest number of entries is for organization and representation with policy and legislation close behind. Vulnerable groups are covered through a number of different issue areas such as gender, home-workers, poverty and HIV/AIDS. This is well in line with the Turin strategic framework. What is lacking is work on macro economics and macro policy. Whilst

there is plenty of work on policy and legislation little is global. There is only one single entry on globalization.

Proposed

Social protection has 4 proposals as does the statistics category. Policy and legislation, crisis and HIV/AIDS each have 2 entries. Finally, enterprise development, occupational safety and health, capacity building and gender each have 1 entry.

Ongoing

Social protection is the only topic area with over 10 entries. This is followed by organization and representation which has 10 entries. Statistics has 7 entries and capacity building has 6 entries. All the other issue areas have less than five entries.

Finalized

According to the information gathered so far there are 6 issue areas in the finalized category with over 10 entries. These issue areas are; employment, skills development, policy and legislation, organization and representation micro finance and social protection.

Enterprise development, occupational safety and health, gender, capacity building and homework have between 7 and 10 entries each.

The following categories have 5 or less entries each; cooperatives, child labour, HIV/AIDS, poverty and statistics.

Activities

Social protection has 23 entries in this category and is the only issue area with more than 10 entries. The following topic areas have between 6 and 10 entries; employment, policy and legislation, organization and representation and capacity building. All the other topic areas have 5 entries or less.

Research

There are a total of 36 research entries for social protection. This is quite closely followed by organization and representation with 26 entries. Skills

development and policy and legislation have 14 and 19 entries respectively. The following topic areas have between 6 and 10 entries; enterprise development, micro finance, gender, statistics and homework. The remaining topic areas have 5 entries or less.

Tools

Employment and social protection are the only categories that have more than 10 entries, with 14 and 22 entries respectively. Cooperatives, micro finance, occupational safety and health, capacity building and statistics all have between 6 and 10 entries. This leaves enterprise development, skills development, policy and legislation, organization and representation, crisis, child labour, HIV/AIDS, gender, poverty and homework with 5 entries or less.

Division of initiatives according to issue area and status:

	Total	Proposed	Ongoing	Finalized
Employment	24	-	2	22
Enterprise development	10	1	1	8
Cooperatives	8	-	4	4
Skills development	17	-	3	14
Policy and legislation	33	2	2	29
Micro Finance	14	-	2	12
Organization, representation	34	-	10	24
Social Protection	62	4	25	33
Of which working conditions	9		6	3
OSH	13	1	2	10
Crisis	2	2	-	-
Capacity building	14	1	6	7
Child labour	7	-	2	5
HIV/AIDS	7	2	4	1
Gender	13	1	2	10
Globalization	1	-	1	-
Poverty	5	-	3	2
Statistics	15	4	7	4
Homework	11	-	2	9

Division of initiatives according to issue area and type of initiative:

	Total	Activity	Research	Tool
Employment	33	9	10	14
Enterprise development	13	3	7	3
Cooperatives	13	3	4	6
Skills development	21	2	14	5
Policy and legislation (+5 unspecified entries)	30	6	19	5
Micro Finance	18	1	8	9
Organization, representation	38	8	26	4
Social Protection	81	23	36	22
Of which working conditions	17	3	7	7
OSH	14	2	2	10
Crisis	3	2	-	1
Capacity building	20	8	4	8
Child labour	8	5	2	1
HIV/AIDS	7	4	2	1
Gender	13	2	6	5
Globalization	1	-	1	-
Poverty	6	3	2	1
Statistics	22	3	9	10
Homework	13	4	6	3