

RURAL DEVELOPMENT through DECENT WORK

FOR GROWTH, PRODUCTIVE JOBS, INCOME, FOOD SECURITY, GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, RIGHTS, VOICE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CRISIS RESILIENCE



International Labour Office

Rural-Relevant Tools

Let's Organize! : A Syndicoop Handbook for Trade Unions and Cooperatives About Organizing Workers in the Informal Economy

Themes



What is 'Let's organize!'?

A resource tool for trade union and cooperative organizers and trainers, developed in 2004-2006 during the SYNDICOOP project phase

SYNDICOOP, funded by the Netherlands, was designed and implemented in partnership with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

For whom?

- **Direct beneficiaries:** Organizers from the trade union and cooperative movements, facilitators providing training for organizers
- **Ultimate beneficiaries:** Groups of informal economy workers

For what purpose?

- Strengthen trade union and cooperative capacity to organize unprotected informal economy workers
- Reduce poverty through improved working and living conditions among informal economy workers
- Create decent job opportunities for young women and men
- Promote more inclusive and more participatory Poverty Reduction Strategies for the informal economy in each country
- Provide an orientation for those trying to organize informal economy actors
- Introduce the SYNDICOOP approach, and some lessons learned from SYNDICOOP's experiences
- Provide some simple tools for organizers

How is it delivered?

- Through the cooperative movement and trade unions.
- Partners supporting cooperatives



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What are its components?

- The informal economy
- Organizing out of poverty
- Working together: trade unions and cooperatives
- Choosing an organization
- National action for informal economy workers
- A policy framework for informal economy workers
- The SYNDICOOP approach – a tool for organizing

Which technical areas covered?

- Migrant workers in the informal economy
- Women and men in the informal economy
- Decent work
- The trade union movement
- Human rights for workers in the informal economy
- Poverty alleviation and the informal economy

Can cover more technical areas?

Yes, Occupational Safety and Health and other decent work aspects can be covered more into depth if needed



Where has it been used?

In 4 countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda

Which languages?

Available in 1 language: English

Is it suitable for rural areas?

Yes

What are its strengths?

- Comprehensive resource tool
- The SYNDICOOP Handbook is designed to help replicate the approach
- Based on the experience of the International Steering Committee of the SYNDICOOP Programme, mainly comprising representatives from the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICFTU now ITUC), the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and ILO, together with National Steering Committee members from all four programme countries as well as project staff

Is there a training course in ITC-Turin?

No

Where to find more information?

- ILO approach on Cooperatives:
www.ilo.org/coop
- Syndicoop tool:
http://www.ilo.org/empent/Whatwedo/Publications/lang--en/docName--WCMS_094047/index.htm

Who to contact?

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