



Women in Informal Employment
Globalizing and Organizing



INFORMALITY, POVERTY & GENDER: THE URBAN INFORMAL WORKFORCE

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INFORMALITY, POVERTY & GENDER: THREE PAIRS OF KEY FACTS

□ **Informal Economy**

- Informal economy = broad base of workforce, enterprises and output
- 50-90 percent of workforce

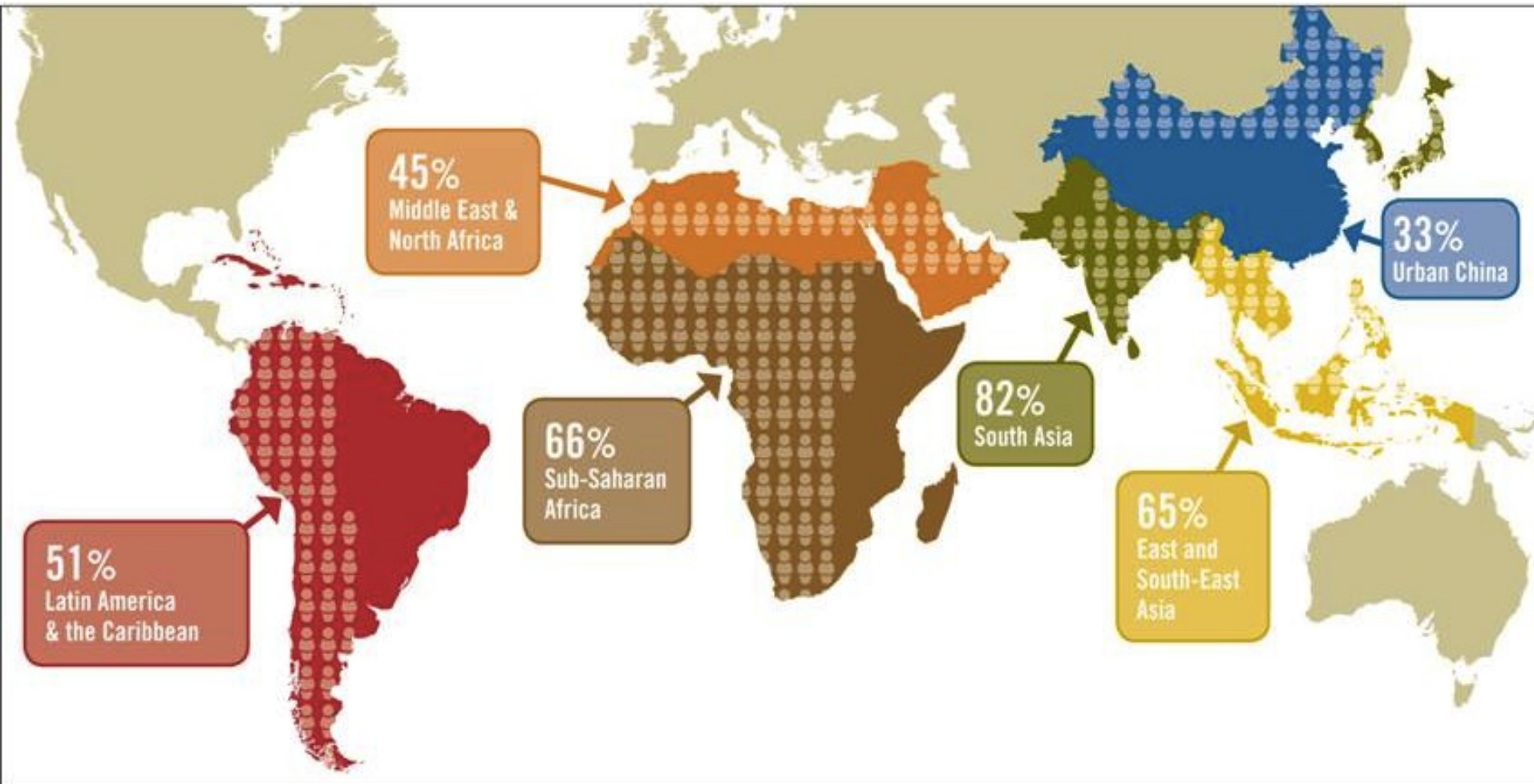
□ **Informality & Poverty**

- Most informal workers are poor; most working poor are informally employed
- Earnings are low and costs-plus-risks are high, on average, in the informal economy

Informality & Gender

- Higher percentage of women workers than men workers are informally employed in most regions
- Women are concentrated in the lowest-earning segments of informal employment in all regions

INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT: PERCENT OF NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



*Vaneck, Joanne, Martha Chen, Françoise Carré, James Heintz and Ralf Hussmanns. *Statistics on the Informal Economy: Definitions, Regional Estimates and Challenges*. WIEGO Working Paper (Statistics) No. 2. Cambridge, MA, USA: WIEGO. April 2014.

WHO ARE THEY?

Around the world, the working poor in the informal economy include those who work:

On Streets or In Open Spaces:

- street vendors / vendedores de calle
- push-cart vendors / vendedores carrito
- waste pickers / recicladores
- roadside barbers / barberos de calle
- construction workers / constructores

In Small Workshops/ en talleres:

- scrap metal recyclers / recicladores
- shoe makers / zapateros
- Weavers/ tejedoras
- garment makers and embroiderers/costureras
- paper-bag makers/ fabricantes de bolsas

In Homes/ en sus casas:

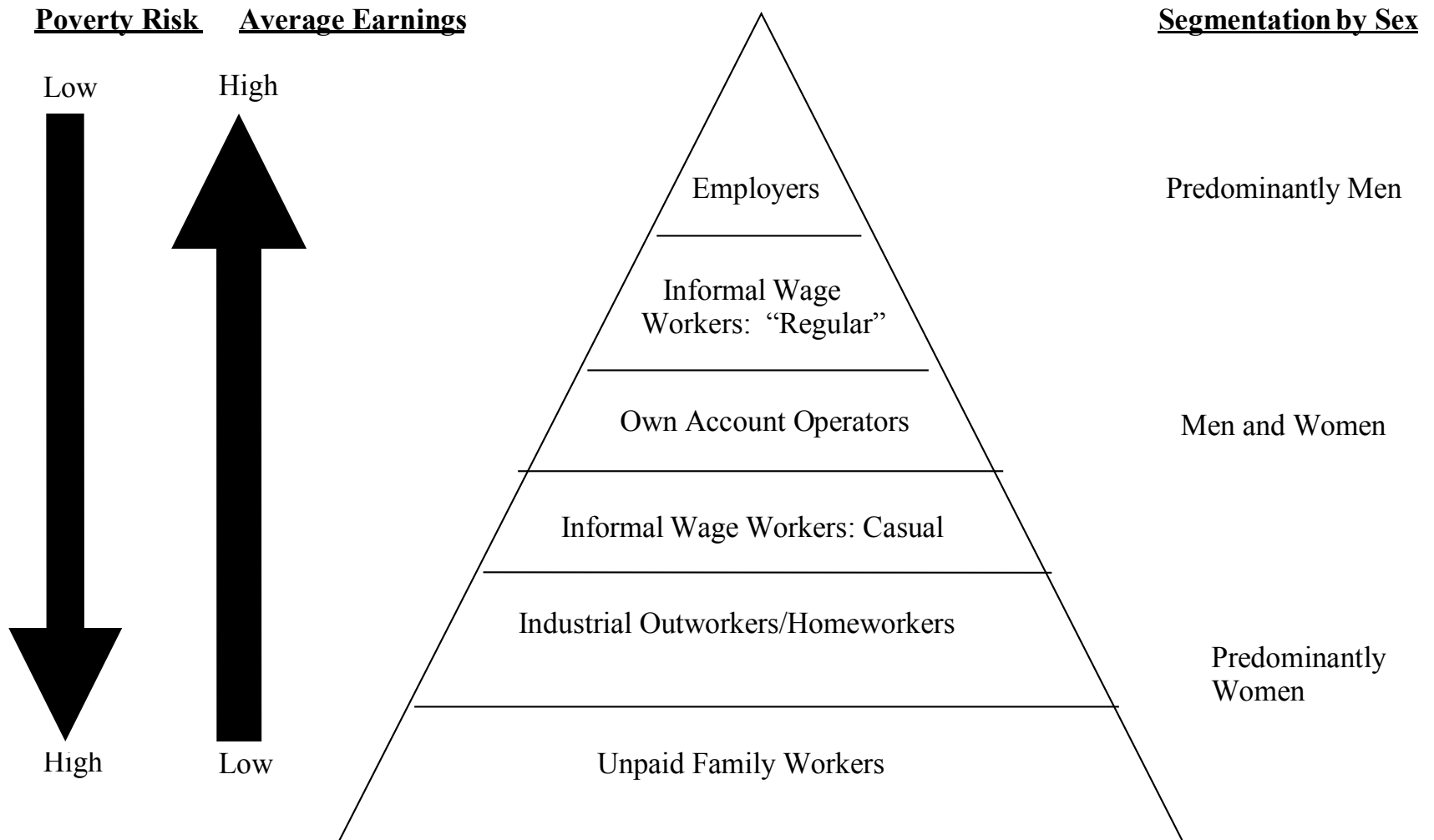
- domestic workers / trabajadoras domesticas
- garment makers / fabricantes de prendas
- Embroiderers / bordadoras
- Shoemakers / zapateros
- artisans or craft producers / artesanos
- assemblers of electronic parts / ensambladores

In Fields, Pastures, and Forests:

- small farmers / pequeños productores
- agricultural laborers / agricultores
- Shepherds / pastores
- forest gatherers / leñadores
- fisher folk / pescadores artesanales



SEGMENTATION OF THE INFORMAL WORKFORCE: BY SEX, AVERAGE EARNINGS, AND POVERTY RISK



WIEGO IN BRIEF

WIEGO is a global action-research-policy network:

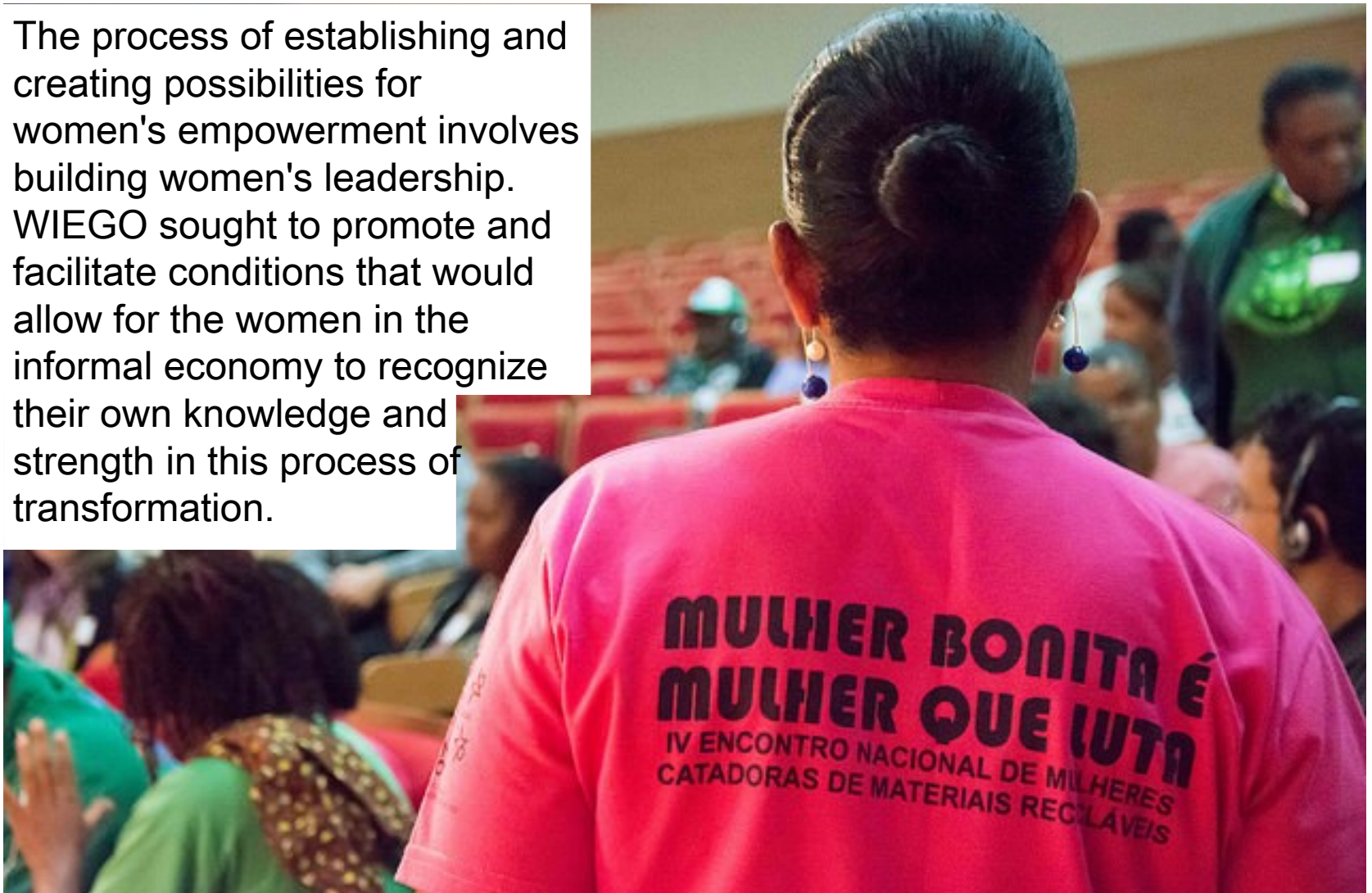
- ▣ **founded in 1997**, secretariat based at Harvard University
- ▣ **goal & objectives**: to improve status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy through *systemic change* by increasing their Voice + Visibility + Validity
- ▣ **3 constituencies**: organizations of informal workers + researchers/statisticians + development professionals
- ▣ **defining feature**: bridging ground reality of the working poor & mainstream disciplines and discourses
- ▣ **5 core programs**: organizing/representation + statistics + global trade + social protection + urban policies
- ▣ **4 core functions**: research/statistics + good practice documentation + policy analysis and dialogues + networking/capacity building (of organizations of informal workers)

WIEGO THEORY OF CHANGE: “3 Vs” ENABLING CONDITIONS

- **Voice** – through organization
 - ▣ democratic organizations
 - ▣ representative voice
- **Visibility** – through data & policy research
 - ▣ in official statistics
 - ▣ to policy makers
- **Validity** - through advocacy
 - ▣ as legitimate economic agents
 - who are entitled to economic rights
 - who should be integrated in economic plans

WIEGO VISION: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN INFORMAL WORKERS

The process of establishing and creating possibilities for women's empowerment involves building women's leadership. WIEGO sought to promote and facilitate conditions that would allow for the women in the informal economy to recognize their own knowledge and strength in this process of transformation.



WIEGO VISION: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN INFORMAL WORKERS

Domestic Workers ILO Convention



Thank you!

For more details
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