

Social protection: a question of social change

The vision and strategies of social movements



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Photos: World Solidarity (WSM) and LCM-ANMC

Posters: World Solidarity (WSM)

Published by:

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This document has been produced with the funding of the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) and the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCD). It is printed on recycled paper.

An electronic version of this vision paper is available on: www.socialalert.org.

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Abbreviations

ACV-CSC	Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (Belgium)
ACW	Christian Labour Movement (Flanders, Belgium)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILC	International Labour Conference
YCW	Young Christian Workers
KSBSI	Confederation of Indonesia Prosperous Trade Unions
LCM-ANMC	Alliance of Christian Mutualities (Belgium)
MOC	Christian Labour Movement (Wallonia, Belgium)
PROMUSAF	Program supporting the development of mutual health associations
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSM	World Solidarity

Design: Gevaert Graphics

Print: Gevaert Printing

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This vision paper is the most appropriate way to acknowledge the relentless efforts of all social movements who are active in the field of social protection and to encourage them to keep up their efforts. The work and experiences of social movements, who have been working together with WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC, have served as the inspiration for this paper. The paper itself wants to build a bridge towards the policy level: the reality demonstrates to what extent social movements make things “move forward” for social protection; we ask our policy makers, both in the North and in the South, to join this movement for social protection. Because every single person matters!



Introduction

WSM is the NGO of the Christian Labour Movement (Christelijke Arbeidersbeweging) in Belgium, better known by the abbreviation ACW-MOC¹. Within this movement and in close co-operation with its founding organisations, WSM is responsible for the international co-operation and solidarity with social movements in the South, particularly in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

To achieve a sustainable social and economic development, ACW-MOC and its member organisations are convinced that **decent work** is a crucial policy strategy. The concept of decent work was launched and is actively promoted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and is based on 4 main principles: **freely chosen and productive work** (1), with **international labour rights** (including fundamental labour standards) being observed (2), and a form of work which provides **access to social protection** (3) and in which workers are listened to through **social dialogue** (4).

So, social protection is one of the four main principles of the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO. More importantly still, labour and social protection can actually be regarded as two communicating vessels. On the one hand, labour is still the best guarantee against poverty, provided that it is “decent” work obviously. And, for the vast majority of the world’s population, that is still a dream. On the other hand, social protection offers the guarantee of a decent standard of living, both in the case of people who have lost all or part of their work income as well as in the case of people who find it difficult or impossible to provide for themselves. It is therefore not surprising that work and social protection are the key themes of the Christian Labour Movement ACW-MOC and its member organisations.

Nor is it surprising that WSM, for over 35 years and in cooperation with the member organisations of ACW-MOC, and especially ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC, supports social movements in the South which work towards a better social protection, in the belief that **social protection is a fundamental tool against social exclusion and inequality, poverty and vulnerability**. This vision statement seeks to highlight their work. As such, it will provide examples of trade unions which work hard to improve the social protection coverage for informal workers; of mutual health schemes which organise people with a view to securing their right to accessible and good quality healthcare; and of co-operatives in which people lend each other money with a view to start up or improve income-generating activities. However, there is still much work to be done. A great deal of ‘social mobilisation’ is still required in order to achieve and maintain acceptable levels of social protection. WSM and its partner organisations want to address that challenge.

In the first chapter, we will outline the general framework of social protection: a framework which explains what social protection entails and with whom and how it is to be achieved. The contextual analysis of the second chapter shows that we have reached a turning point: more and more stakeholders view social protection as a lever for sustainable social and economic development. In the third chapter, we describe the vision of social protection held by WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC with regard to the framework mentioned above: how to develop an integrated policy of social protection, which is broadly supported, and what role do the different stakeholders have? Finally, in order to demonstrate the relevance of our vision, we provide some very specific examples from our partner organisations in the South which show how they are making use of well-targeted measures and innovative strategies to improve social protection for everyone.

¹ Algemeen Christelijk Werknemersverbond (ACW) and Mouvement Ouvrier Chrétien (MOC) are the umbrella organisations of the Christian Labour Movement in Flanders and Wallonia. The organisations that are a member of the umbrella organisation are: the trade union (ACV-CSC), the mutual health schemes (LCM-ANMC), the workers’ movement (KWB-Equipes Populaires), the women’s movement (KAV-Vie Féminine), the youth movement (KAJ-JOC) and the cooperative movement (Groep ARCO).

1

SOCIAL PROTECTION: THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK

There is no clear definition of social protection, but there is general agreement with regard to the final objective of the concept: **social protection seeks to provide every individual with a decent standard of living.**

In order to achieve this objective, WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC are convinced that an extensive set of **measures** is required, with different **stakeholders** having a role to play and several **sources of financing** having to be used. These three elements constitute the core of the general framework of social protection.

1.1. A RANGE OF MEASURES

Social protection consists of a whole range of measures² of prevention, protection, promotion and transformation or social change, which aim at preventing and reducing social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability. We clarify these different kinds of measures below.

Measures of prevention are based on the principle of social insurance and solidarity enabling the members of the group to cope with certain risks which present themselves in the course of our lives. Such measures include healthcare, pensions, benefits paid in the event of pregnancy, unemployment, disability and long-term illness, and compensation paid in the event of occupational accidents. It is primarily these preventative measures which form the basis of social security, which is only one part of any policy on social protection.

Protective measures are based on social assistance and are directed at the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. They often take the form of services (in kind) and/or benefits (cash transfers) which are in general provided by the State or specialised organisations to people who are not able to provide for themselves.

Promotive measures must make it possible for people to develop and realise their full potential: for example by providing access to education and vocational training, access to the means of production (microcredits, etc.), by guaranteeing food security and overlooking the compliance with health and safety rules at work, etc. These are all mechanisms which contribute to protecting against risks and to preventing social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability.



In 2005, World Solidarity conducted a campaign for more and better social security. A central figure in the campaign was Mariam, a baby born in Burkina Faso on 20 January 2005, whose mother has no social security benefits: no maternity leave, no maternity care, no child benefits... In a few months, more than 37,000 signatures were collected which were subsequently handed over to the then Minister of Development Cooperation Mr. Armand Dedecker. Not much later the Belgian Government increased its budgetary contribution to the "global campaign for social security for all" of the ILO.

² Distinction taken from S. Devereux and R. Sabates-Wheeler, "Transformative Social Protection", Working paper 232, Institute of Development Studies, October 2004, Sussex, UK, pp. 36.

Transformative measures aim to bring about social change.

They make people aware of social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability and spur society on to prevent this injustice as well as to counter it by means of various measures of social protection. Such measures of transformation include, as a matter of example, the organisation of people into social and trade union organisations with a view to the collective defence of their interests and the pursuit of collective activities, wide-ranging awareness campaigns and targeted lobbying.

On the whole, social protection is often reduced to protective and preventive measures. We enlarge the approach, by including measures aiming at investing in human capital (promotive) and measures for social change (transformative). In Chapter 4, we give a number of examples of what these measures mean in practice for people.

1.2. STAKEHOLDERS

For the purposes of developing and implementing these measures, **it is important that different stakeholders within society fulfil their particular role.** At the national level, this obviously refers to the government, but there is certainly also a role for social movements and the private sector. A large number of stakeholders is also active in the field of social protection at the international level.

At the national level

- The first and foremost stakeholder is the **government**, which bears the primary responsibility to establish the conditions within which a policy of social protection, based on a combination of the above four measures, can be elaborated and implemented. On the one hand, the government must create the framework within which **a structural dialogue** can take place between all the relevant stakeholders for the purpose of elaborating such a policy. On the other hand, it is also the task of the government **to allocate sufficient resources** to ensure that this policy of social protection is actually executed. In many countries, however, we notice that such a policy is only based on measures of prevention and protection and thus only considers employees in the formal sector (public and private) as well as the poorest and most

vulnerable. Moreover, in many countries, there is only limited structural dialogue about social protection.

- The second stakeholder is the group of **social movements**. **They organise people, give them a voice, defend their interests and seek collective solutions to their needs.** They often reach out to people who are not covered by existing public policy: workers in the informal sector and the rural population. Mutual health schemes, trade unions and co-operatives organise these people and offer them very specific services and also pursue collective campaigns and activities and lobby policy-makers. As a result of this direct link with the population, social movements are extremely well placed to represent the voice of these people in a structural dialogue with the government and other stakeholders involved. In this way, they strive for an inclusive policy which takes account of all target groups: rich and poor, young and old, formal and informal, and urban and rural.
- The **private sector**, and more specifically **private insurance companies**, is the third player, **providing services to people from a commercial point of view.** They particularly concentrate on people who have sufficient financial resources.

Various stakeholders are also active at the *international level*:

- The most important is undoubtedly the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**³. Its main objectives are to foster the promotion of labour rights and the creation of decent jobs, to develop social protection and to strengthen social dialogue by means of its **Decent Work Agenda**. The ILO is the only institution in the United Nations which has a tripartite structure in which representatives of governments and employers' and workers' organisations convene to decide on the ILO's policy and programmes. **With regard to social protection⁴, the ILO develops international standards⁵ and lends technical assistance to governments and social partners⁶.** In addition, it has conducted an extensive campaign for the expansion of social protection to groups which remain excluded, particularly workers in the informal economy and the rural population.
- **Other international stakeholders** have also acquired an interest in social protection since the Copenhagen Summit of 1995 on social development. At a multilateral level, both UN institutions as well as regional organisations (EU, AU, ...)

3 The International Labour Organisation (ILO) was established in 1919, just after a devastating war, to ensure that all possible steps were taken to improve conditions for working people with a view to achieving universal and lasting peace. The International Labour Conference (ILC) is the supreme body of the ILO. It directs the activities of the organisation, adopts international standards, and supervises compliance with these standards.

4 This mandate was entrusted to the ILO as a result of the Philadelphia Declaration of 1944 and has since been reconfirmed on various occasions, more specifically in the conclusions of the International Labour Conference of 2001 as well as in the declaration of the ILO with regard to social justice for a fair globalisation of 2008. All of these documents can be downloaded on the website of the ILO: <http://www.ilo.org>.

5 Since its creation, the ILO has adopted a significant number of international labour standards, including 8 conventions and 8 recommendations dealing explicitly with social protection and which are up-to-date. These conventions are binding for the member states that ratify them; recommendations do not have to be ratified, as they contain basic principles to guide member states. ILO Convention No. 102 concerning Minimum Standards of Social Security (Minimum Standards), adopted in 1952, is considered to be the flagship convention in this area.

6 Up until now, STEP and PRODIAF have been the most important technical programmes of the ILO. The programme "Strategies and methods for combating social exclusion and poverty" (STEP) is a global programme of the ILO which operates at two complementary levels: extension of social security with regard to health and an integrated approach towards fighting social exclusion at a local level. The programme PRODIAF ("Regional programme for the promotion of social dialogue in French-speaking Africa") has since 1998 supported social dialogue, at the level of enterprise, sectors and across sectors in no fewer than 23 countries in Africa. Both programmes will be replaced in the near future by the national Decent Work Country Programmes. These programmes will serve to shape the ILO's Decent Work Agenda at a national level and to link it with national developments. As from July 2010, national governments and social partners in 48 different countries have devised a national "Decent Work Country Programme" together with the ILO. These programmes are now in the process of being implemented: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/program/dwcp/countries/index.htm>.

are developing activities at this level. At a bilateral level, development co-operation agencies have become important players in this area.

1.3. METHODS OF FINANCING

Implementing a social protection policy which includes all of these measures requires financial as well as human resources. The government obviously bears an important responsibility, but it certainly does not bear the sole responsibility. Certainly, if we take a look at the sources of financing, it is clear what a fundamental role the social movements and in particular the social partners have to play with regard to this.

With regard to the financing of the various social protection measures, a distinction is made between contributory and non-contributory systems.

- **A system is contributory if it is wholly or partly financed by the contributions of its members.** Modern social security (prevention) is a typical example of a contributory system; it is financed by contributions from employees and employers. The government often supplements this joint form of financing with subsidies. Those who pay a contribution are entitled to benefits and/or services if a certain risk presents itself.
- **A system is non-contributory if it is financed by taxes.** Protective measures based on social assistance are the best example of such a system. In principle, it is the government which provides social assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable groups of the population and which also decides what part of its budget is to be allocated to it.

Conclusion

By way of a conclusion, we can state that social protection includes **four kinds of measures** which aim to prevent or reduce social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability. **Various stakeholders** have a role to play in this.

Each of these measures attempt to offer a specific response to the different needs of various target groups in society. It is precisely for this reason that the financing of these measures can take different forms.

To ensure that a national policy of social protection responds in the most adequate way to the various needs of the different target groups, it is crucial that all relevant stakeholders are involved at all stages, from the early development of the policy to its implementation and monitoring. **A structural and dynamic dialogue** is a prerequisite to strike the right balance between the different kinds of measures and the most appropriate methods of financing.

2

ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT

In the post-War period, the elaboration and implementation of a national social security policy became a matter of central importance, due to the growing understanding that social security is a fundamental human right for which the government thus bears the final responsibility. A real turning-point came with **the adoption by the ILO in 1952 of Convention 102 on the Minimum Standards of Social Security**. The Convention forms the basis of the social security systems which we find in almost all countries throughout the world. Even today, these systems of a preventive nature still constitute an important part of a comprehensive policy of social protection in which other measures (promotive, protective and transformative) occupy an important place as well.

However, if we look at today's figures, we can only conclude that they are alarming: in Africa, almost 90% of the population is excluded from any form of social protection; in Asia and Latin America, at least 50% of the population remains devoid of social protection.

The following three arguments are used to explain this socially unjust situation:

- First and foremost, during the 1980s and 1990s there was a **gradual withdrawal of the government from the provision of social services** as a result of the restrictions which had been imposed on the governments in the South in the framework of the Structural Adjustment Programmes of the World Bank. This is something of which many of these countries still suffer the consequences.
- In addition, the existing systems of social security are based on formal employment, while the **nature of the national economies has greatly changed**. Whereas informal work was still regarded as a marginal phenomenon in the 1970s, it is now an important and, in some cases, it is even the most important source of employment in the economies of developing countries. Many governments, however, have not taken the necessary measures to adjust their systems of social protection to this new reality, as a result of which social protection reaches only an extremely small part of the population, mainly employees in the formal economy of the public, private and parapublic sectors. In addition, these governments have not managed to find an innovative way of achieving a good mix of measures which meet the requirements of this growing group of informal workers and the rural population.
- Lastly, the reduced role of the government in providing social services has resulted in an **increase in privatisation and commercialisation**. The private sector now provides all kinds



During the annual rally on October 20th, the CGTG, one of the largest trade union confederations in Guatemala, denounces the increasing privatisation of social services which has only resulted in the further impoverishment of the people. Worldwide social movements ask their governments to take up its regulatory role once again. This demand becomes even stronger since the start of the economic and financial crisis at the end of 2008.

of services ranging from health insurance to pension funds for those who can afford it. They often pursue a commercial and profit-oriented goal and, in doing so, take little account of the general need of the population for universal access to good-quality services. Unfortunately, many working people in the informal economy and in rural areas are again falling through the net; their low and very unstable incomes do not allow them to take out such private insurance.

In other words, **globalisation has resulted in more social exclusion and inequality as well as deeper poverty and greater vulnerability**. In order to be able to respond to this in an appropriate way, there is a growing understanding that a comprehensive policy of social protection should be based not only on preventive (social security) and protective measures (social assistance), but also on investment in human capital (promotion) and social change (transformation).

At the national level

The contribution which social movements have made to broadening this view on social protection cannot be underestimated. **Social movements have at any rate often been the first to empower groups which were socially excluded at a local level**, which has resulted in forms of self-organisation and initiatives which give access to (certain forms of) social protection for their own members such as, for example, good-quality healthcare, microcredits and additional vocational training. They have thus created an alternative to the privatisation of social services by the private sector.

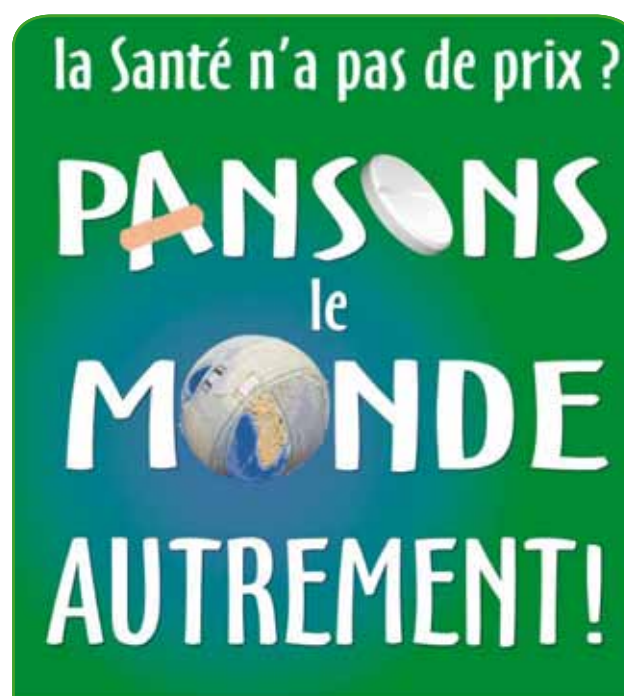
In addition to the provision of specific services, which is often of a preventive or promotive nature, we must not forget **the transformative role which social movements and, more specifically, the social partners already play in the tripartite management of social security systems** in many countries throughout the world. Increasingly, trade unions use their voice in the board of these social security agencies/institutes with a view to extending its coverage to excluded groups.

Despite this expertise, the impact of social movements on the elaboration and implementation of national policies of social protection is still not strong enough. This can primarily be attributed to a lack of **recognition** of and support for the contribution which they make to the actual extension of social protection. This recognition is **a necessary condition to put in place a structural dialogue at the national level, which is in its turn essential to develop a comprehensive and broadly supported social protection policy**. Unlike the fragmented systems of nowadays, which are supported either by the government, social movements or even the private sector, this structural dialogue can ensure that all available expertise as well as the different systems are gathered and integrated into a comprehensive and broadly supported social protection policy.

At the international level

At the same time, a clear change is discernible as well at the international level. Since the launch of the Decent Work Agenda in 1999, the ILO has also breathed new life into the debate about social protection. Thus, the **International Labour Conference** passed a new resolution "Social security – a new consensus" in 2001. In this resolution, the members of the ILO refer to the importance of innovative mechanisms for the actual extension of social protection. The resolution also formed the basis of the **ILO campaign "global social security and coverage for all"**, which was conducted between 2002 and 2006.

Later, the debate took another turn when the World Commission for the Social Dimension of Globalisation stated in its final report in February 2004 that **"a minimal level of social protection must be accepted without discussion as part of the socioeconomic core of the global economy"**. The question which everyone then asked was: what does such a minimum package include and what does it cost? The ILO then conducted



Between 2005 and 2007, World Solidarity conducted a campaign on the right to health care in the South. The campaign revolved around six demands:

- the removal of all restrictions on the free movement of essential medicines;
- the allocation of additional resources for healthcare by the governments in the South;
- a decrease of the prices of medicines;
- the imposition of a solidarity tax on the profits of pharmaceutical companies;
- the promotion of generic drugs;
- the financing of the UN Global Fund to fight HIV / AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

These demands were presented to the Minister of Development on April 7, 2007 on the occasion of World Health Day.

a number of studies in Africa, Asia and Latin America in order to obtain answers to these questions.

The minimum package, which was then dubbed the **"global social floor"**, was to include the following entitlements:

- **Access to basic healthcare**, regardless of the way in which this access is organised, but with regard to which the government bears the general responsibility for the financing and the adequacy of the global system;
- **Family benefits**, which are particularly intended to provide children with access to food, education and medical treatment;
- A kind of **minimum income for the poor and unemployed** in the active age group;
- An **income for old age pensioners and people with disabilities**.

The results of the costing exercises are very interesting as the studies make it clear that even countries with low incomes can manage a “social floor”: depending on the country, between 3.6% and 10% of the national GNP would be necessary for its financing⁷. If a global perspective is taken, this becomes even more interesting. The ILO has calculated that 2% of the global GNP is sufficient to provide the poorest people across the planet with access to this minimum package: with 6% of the global GNP, we can reach everyone who has no (or limited) access to social protection⁸.

As it obviously remains an onerous investment for many low income countries, certainly with regard to the development and establishment of such a system (staff, training and infrastructure), the ILO concludes that **the international community must show solidarity** with countries which really want to address the challenge of social protection coverage. With the technical and financial help of the international community, the fate of many poor people can soon be improved and the return on this investment would be great.

Since the outbreak of the various crises (fuel, food, climate and, in particular, the economic and financial crisis), it again became painfully clear who is and who is not resistant to such shocks. And, even though voices could still be heard urging cuts to the government budget and particularly the resources for social services, reference was often made – even at the highest policy level – to the importance of adequate social protection both to prevent such crises and to deal with its impact.

In this context, it is worth considering the “**Joint Crisis Initiatives**” of the United Nations in which all (subsidiary) organisations of the UN have declared themselves willing to pool their expertise in 9 areas, including social protection. In this area, the ILO and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have given further shape to the concept of a “social floor”. It has now been named the “**Social Protection Floor Initiative**” and enjoys the support of the whole of the UN system and a whole host of other international players. The fact that, at an international level, various players are adopting an integrated approach is also a noteworthy development in the thinking surrounding social protection.

For WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC, the Social Protection Floor Initiative is an interesting starting point, but **the final objective must remain a national and comprehensive policy of social protection**. In addition, ownership must remain with the national stakeholders: governments, social movements and other relevant stakeholders must determine, within the context of a social dialogue, what the minimum package could look like.

Conclusion

Perceptions and, thus, policy have changed enormously during the last sixty years. After the Second World War, our current social security system saw the light of day, a crucial development kick starting a long process. With the increased globalisation and belief in the free market, the role of the government in social policy-making was seriously questioned, with its gradual withdrawal being the result. Since the beginning of the new Millennium, the reflection about social protection has witnessed a revival. The views have gradually evolved, with **an integrated approach to social protection becoming of central importance, with the latter being based not only on preventive (social security) and protective measures (social assistance), but also on investment in human capital (promotion) and social change (transformation).**

At both a national and an international level, such an approach requires **a structural dialogue in which the different relevant stakeholders take part and integrate their expertise and systems.**

⁷ ILO, “Can low-income countries afford basic social security?”, *Social Security Policy Briefings*, Geneva, 2008, p. 10.

⁸ *Idem*, p. 3.

3

OUR VISION

For WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC social protection constitutes a crucial and fundamental tool in the fight against poverty and the realisation of sustainable socio-economic development. It is a mechanism for the redistribution of wealth based on solidarity. Consequently, it is an important lever for achieving **a fair society** in that it prevents and reduces social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability.

These values and principles are fundamental. They inspire the activities of WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC to support the extension of social protection along with other social movements in both hemispheres. We also strongly believe that **governments must assume responsibility in this regard and, in doing so, recognise the contribution of the social movements.**

3.1. THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

The network of partner organisations of WSM mainly consists of social movements: trade unions, workers' movements, women's movements, youth movements, mutual health schemes, co-operatives, etc. Their role in society is important for two main reasons:

- These organisations consist of **people who organise themselves around their rights and needs.** By pooling

their social and human capital, they form the basis of a social movement based on solidarity. It is as a movement that their voice can be heard more loudly and that they can collectively attempt to cope with the challenges which they encounter in society. In brief, people *are* the movement.

- **Social movements are open to everyone without distinction, but they have a special concern for those who do not have a voice in society:** excluded, vulnerable and poor population groups which make up the vast majority of the world's population. Unfortunately, these people are all too often denied their fundamental rights. In the South, these are often the workers (m/f) of the informal economy and the rural population, of whom the majority are women, young people and/or migrants who often work outside of any legal framework and thus enjoy no protection.

Social movements are close to the people and are thus given **a mandate to represent them** (representation). These movements develop their vision of society and implement it by, on the one hand, engaging in very **specific activities**. On the other hand, **they defend this vision at the policy-level** and call upon policymakers to recognise the specific contribution and activities of social movements for solidarity and a fairer society while demanding that they assume their own responsibility.



People organise themselves to stand stronger

3.2. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT

It is the responsibility of the government to **create the conditions within which a comprehensive social protection policy, based on a combination of the four above mentioned measures, can be elaborated and implemented.**

Comprehensive, by striking the right balance between the four different kinds of measures as well as by involving all relevant stakeholders in the structural dialogue regarding this policy. In addition, it is also the task of the government to make sufficient resources available to actually implement this policy of social protection.

As a consequence, it is necessary for the government to **recognise the role of the social movements in the extension of social protection** and thus to ensure that they can effectively co-operate in developing this policy.

According to WSM and its network of social movements, there are three important reasons which justify the increased involvement of the government in strengthening social protection coverage:

- **Social protection is a human right.** Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reads as follows: *"Everyone has the right to a standard of living which is high enough to ensure the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or any other lack of livelihood resulting from circumstances which are beyond his control."* Article 22 of the same Declaration and Article 9 of the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are specifically concerned with the right of every human being to social security, a right whose basic principles were elaborated at the global level by the ILO in Convention 102 on the Minimum Standards of Social Security⁹.

Simply because it is a human right, the government has primary responsibility for ensuring that this right is respected, protected and effectively fulfilled, be it in a progressive way. Despite this, investment in this area has up until now been inadequate.

- **Social protection is a source of social cohesion as well as of peace and stability.** Poverty and social injustice often lie at the root of social tensions or even violent conflicts. However, the appropriate mix of social protection measures helps to ensure that social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability are prevented and reduced.

- **Social protection contributes to sustainable social and economic development.** Social protection measures are important, as they ensure that everyone is able to attain to a decent standard of living. They strengthen solidarity within society and redistribute the wealth generated by society. Social protection places the wellbeing of the person at the centre of the debate and, as a consequence, it strives to make social and economic development go hand in hand. Various studies show that social protection systems have reduced poverty and inequality by more than 50% in industrialised countries¹⁰. Consequently, social protection is a sustainable and, in the long term, even a "profitable" investment, as it creates and does not simply redistribute wealth. That the necessary investments are nevertheless lacking cannot simply be explained by a lack of resources, but also by a lack of political will.

Conclusion

The elaboration and implementation of a policy of social protection is a matter in which various stakeholders have a role to play. In the first place, the government must put in place **a structural dialogue**, in which **all relevant stakeholders** gather their expertise and different approaches. This is an essential condition to building **a national, comprehensive and broadly supported policy of social protection**.

This process is a win-win situation for the government and for social movements. In the case of the government, it should be noted that social protection creates wealth and is thus a source of social cohesion, stability and peace. Social movements will gain as well since a comprehensive social protection policy will also effectively take account of the needs of their members.

⁹ Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention No. 102 was adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 1952 at its 35th session. This Convention No. 102 details the minimum standards of social security coverage and the conditions for granting services and/or benefits, as well as the nine main areas for which social protection must be guaranteed: medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors' benefit.

¹⁰ P. Townsend, *The Right to Social Security and National Development: Lessons from OECD Experience for Low-Income Countries*, January 2007, pp. 50.

4

THE ACTIVITIES OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE FIELD

In this section, we provide some concrete examples of strategies which social movements have developed, either to improve the coverage of existing social protection systems or to extend social protection in an innovative way to groups which remain excluded from the existing systems. With regard to this, WSM invests both in the South as well as in the North.

4.1. HERE, IN THE NORTH

WSM undertakes activities in the North to strengthen social movements in the South and to emphasise the importance of social protection throughout the world and the role of social movements in this field.

- **By providing technical and financial assistance to social movements in the South**, they can develop and implement their own strategies for improving and extending social protection.
- By means of **campaigns and communication**, WSM raises the awareness of the militants of the Christian Labour Movement about the importance of social protection and the role of social movements in this field.
- Through study and **research**, WSM seeks to learn from the experiences of our partners, which in turn helps to make strategic choices to improve the impact of activities in the field.
- By **lobbying**, WSM wants to put the extension of social protection and the role of social movements in that regard on the political agenda as a policy priority at a national, regional and international level.

4.2. THERE, IN THE SOUTH

In the South, WSM, as the solidarity organisation of the Christian Labour Movement in Belgium, strengthens the strategies of social movements and the initiatives which result from them. In general, it is possible to distinguish between three innovative strategies

which these movements develop in order to improve and expand social protection. Different strategies are often combined in order to increase their impact. As a result of the expertise which has thus been acquired over the years, it is only normal that social movements are demanding to be recognised as representative and structural players in social protection. These strategies are:

- **Extension of the existing systems of social protection:** more targeted measures (not only social security and assistance) and for more people (thus also for employees in the informal economy and the rural population).
- **Development of social economy initiatives** at a local level which directly enable people to provide for themselves and work their way out of poverty.
- **Institutionalisation of the initiatives which social movements have developed.** As a result of these initiatives, social movements have acquired a huge amount of expertise when it comes to the expansion of social protection to vulnerable groups. This expertise must be acknowledged within the context of a structural dialogue. This dialogue must result in successful initiatives being institutionalised, which means that they are linked to the existing systems. In this way, full advantage can be taken of the expertise of the different stakeholders and the complementary character of the mechanisms or initiatives they develop.

In what follows, we will focus on five specific areas of social protection (healthcare, health and safety at work, income security, access to social security and food security). In each of these five areas, we show how a social movement sets about working on social protection. The movement identifies its strategies, the type of measures and the method of financing on the basis of the collective dynamics and the context within which it finds itself. Through its close contact with its members, it can choose and implement one social protection measure or a combination of several measures depending on what best meets the needs of its membership.



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Inequalities with regard to health can, to a significant extent, be attributed to the circumstances in which people grow up, live and work. The choices of the government to do something about this by means of socioeconomic and other policy measures have a significant effect on those circumstances. **Poor health is a cause as well as a result of social exclusion, inequality, poverty and vulnerability.**

Every year, at least 20 million people die in developing countries as a result of a lack of adequate basic healthcare. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Africa accounts for almost half (42%) of all cases of child mortality before the age of five. However, two out of three cases could be avoided by simple means. In addition, about 536,000 women die of complications during childbirth every year, 99% of them in developing countries. A lack of drinking water and inadequate hygiene are also important risk factors determining the morbidity and mortality rates of the population in the South¹¹.

2. THE INTERVENTIONS OF WSM

In order to improve access to good-quality healthcare for everyone, WSM and the Alliance of Christian Mutualities (LCM-ANMC) have supported the development of mutual health schemes in various countries in the South for more than 15 years. In Africa support is directed at 14 organisations which develop and accompany mutual health associations in 10 countries. In Latin America there are another three organisations and in Asia two more which are active in the field of access to health care: either with their own mutual health scheme, or by providing health services¹².

3. THE "MUNICIPAL UNION OF MUTUAL HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS OF BEMBÈRÈKÈ" (UCMSB) IN BENIN

In Benin, our partner organisation oversees the establishment, development and co-operation of mutual health schemes in various parts of the country, particularly in Bembèrèkè. This municipality is located in the north of Benin and consists of five districts which each have their own health centre. A consultation centre has also been established in four villages. The population, an estimated 100,000 people, mainly works in agriculture and the

informal sector (motorcycle taxis, crafts, and retail). **Before the establishment of the mutual health associations, a person went to a health centre on average once every three years¹³.** When ill, people sought help late (or not at all) and they took recourse to self-medication on a massive scale, particularly on account of a lack of (or unstable) resources, the poor quality of the health care services, a lack of medicines and also a certain distrust towards the staff in the health facilities.

Since 2001, various local communities, where primary health facilities (health or consultation centre) are available, have established a mutual health association. With the support of our partner organisation, nine basic mutual health schemes are currently operational in this municipality. These schemes provide coverage for about 6,000 beneficiaries or 6% of the total population. In 2005, these basic mutual health schemes established the "Municipal Union of Mutual Health Associations of Bembèrèkè" (UCMSB stands for "Union Communale des Mutuelles de Santé de Bembèrèkè").

These mutual health schemes offer a social health insurance targeting the poor population. It is thus a preventive measure which offers many benefits:

- **Contribution of FCFA 200 (€0.30) per month**, an amount which takes account of the financial capacities of those working in the informal economy and in agriculture.
- As a result, the mutual health association pays 75% of the treatment in case of primary health care services (general health care, normal childbirth and essential generic drugs). The patients themselves have to pay only 25% of the treatment.
- The mutual health association covers 60% of the cost of the treatment in case of hospital or specialised services for those families who have paid an additional annual contribution of FCFA 2,500 (€3.81).
- In addition, the mutual health associations organises **training sessions** about HIV/AIDS, the importance of hygiene and a nutritious diet and it distributes treated mosquito nets, etc.

It is a remarkable development that the members of such mutual health schemes in Bembèrèkè have themselves **more often treated** in one of the health facilities, and even before health complications occur. The evidence shows as well that women are more frequently attending pre- and postnatal consultations and prefer to give birth in a health centre. Thus, the health centre in

¹¹ WHO, *World Health Statistics 2009*, Geneva, p. 10-12.

¹² For an overview of all social movements, partners of LCM-ANMC WSM, working in the field of access to health care, see annexes I, II and III.

¹³ In Belgium that is 12 times more, so an average of 4 times a year!



The inhabitants of a district in Bembèrèkè are enrolling in their local mutual health association. They receive a membership card which they have to show when visiting a health centre or hospital. In turn, they only pay a small amount of the treatment.

the district of Tuko Saari, for example, is experiencing health user rates which are **4 times as high** as in the rest of the country.

The mutual health schemes are also investing in promotive measures to ensure that members are actually able to benefit from their right to health:

- **Access to microcredit:** the mutual health organisations work together with institutions providing microcredits to families whose income is not sufficient to pay the monthly contribution. These loans are intended for income-generating activities and to help people pay their contributions.
- **Training and literacy** of members strengthens their "human capital". These activities are indispensable to ensure that the

mutual health organisations can play their role in the field of health care vis-à-vis the health care providers and the authorities. They also seem to reinforce the status of women who are receive more recognition from their spouses and from the community in general.

The mutual health schemes also form the basis of a true transformation of the health sector. Communities which organise themselves into mutual health schemes are bringing a social movement into being which involves itself in the governance of the health sector. The mutual health schemes negotiate and **conclude agreements** with care providers, for example about rates and standards of quality to be observed. The mutual health schemes now have a lever which they can use in order to make healthcare staff accountable for the non-observance of the conditions of the agreement. This has led to **an improvement in the quality of the healthcare supplied and a standardisation of the charges:** this is, at any rate, to the benefit of all healthcare users and not only members of the mutual health scheme.

The impact of the mutual health schemes on the health status of people can already be felt, as the **average cost** borne by patients in the various health centres in Bembèrèkè **has fallen by 47%** in three years time. However, the mutual health schemes want to go even further. By lobbying and raising awareness, they want to be recognised by the authorities and the healthcare providers as structural players in the extension of social protection. As such, they want to bring about **a national dialogue on health care between all these stakeholders** with a view to fostering co-operation and, in so doing, achieving accessible healthcare for everyone.



PROMUSAF Benin and WSM are lobbying: they call upon the Ministry of Health and the international donor community to recognise the mutual health associations and give them a structural role in the development and implementation of the national health care policy.



HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

According to the latest estimates of the ILO¹⁴, there are almost 358,000 fatal accidents and almost 337 million non-fatal accidents at work. The number of deaths related to occupational illnesses was estimated to be 1.95 million, with 651,000 cases resulting from exposure to chemical products. These figures also show that there has been little change in the number of work-related accidents and diseases over the last ten years. Health and safety at work are, nevertheless, fundamental rights recognised by various international treaties¹⁵. Investment in measures relating to health and safety at work also contribute to the wellbeing and thus the productivity of the workforce.

2. THE INTERVENTIONS OF WSM

In order to develop and implement a systematic approach to health and safety at work, effective consultation is required between employers' and employees' organisations, overseen by the government. However, **workers' organisations continue to raise the alarm bell** as work conditions are often appalling. As a consequence, they are often the first to take the initiative to inform workers of the importance of occupational health and safety rules and, at the same time, they call upon employers and the government to effectively implement measures which are to protect workers against occupational accidents and illnesses. In Latin America, WSM and ACV-CSC support this struggle of 7 organisations in six countries. In Asia, 11 organisations from six different countries can count on our solidarity. In Africa, finally, 10 organizations from seven countries are active in the field of health and safety at work¹⁶.

3. NOT EVERYTHING COMES UP ROSES: THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS (YCW) OF ECUADOR ON THE FLOWER PLANTATIONS

Ecuador is a South American country in the Andes which has a mainly indigenous population. Social policy is currently receiving more attention after decades of neoliberal politics. The minimum wage has recently been increased and employment legislation has been made more rigorous. The observance of the existing legislation is also being better controlled. Despite these noticeable improvements, there is still much unemployment, particularly among young people and women. Informal or precarious work is often the only way of earning money.

Flowers literally make Ecuador "bloom": the abundant flowers cover more than 4,700 hectares and **directly provide jobs for 40,000 people. Indirectly, the sector creates almost 500,000 jobs**¹⁷. This is not surprising, as flowers are the third largest export product after oil and bananas. Flowers from Ecuador are renowned throughout the world for their quality and they easily find their way to the EU, Japan and Russia.

However, the workers "behind" these flowers are less well known as are their difficult working and living conditions. They are often young people, **usually young girls from small villages around the plantations**, where there is no work. On the plantations, they



¹⁴ "Health and Safety at Work – General Survey", Report of the Committee of Experts for the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, International Labour Conference, 98th session, 2009, p. 99.

¹⁵ Article 7 of the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (IPESCR) and various labour standards of the ILO, particularly Convention 155 and Recommendation 164 and the Protocol of 2002 regarding Health and Safety at Work as well as Convention 187 and Recommendation 197 regarding the Framework for the Promotion of Health and Safety at Work.

¹⁶ For an overview of all social movements, partners of WSM and ACV-CSC, working on occupational health and safety: see annexes I, II and III.

¹⁷ Also see: <http://www.blijebloemen.be/index.php/snijbloemen-mainmenu-103/ecuador-mainmenu-110.html?task=view>.



At work, but with no protection. Thanks to the awareness raising actions of the YCW Ecuador, this young worker also became aware of her rights.

have to work from 10 to 13 hours a day. During the high season, they often have to work continuously.

The main problem on the plantations is the **use of toxic products** for the treatment of the flowers. During irrigation, employees often have to continue their work even if they do not have suitable protection such as gloves, masks and safety goggles. As a result, many of these young workers have **serious health problems** such as skin diseases, migraine, etc. Even pregnant women do not escape irrigation, causing malformations and chronic diseases in their newborns.

Although the work is physically very hard and dangerous, **the wages are very low**. The statutory minimum wage of US\$ 218 per month is rarely paid. Employers deduct social security contributions from this as well as the costs of meals and transport, leaving the workers with just US\$ 180 per month. **Overtime is often not paid**.

Employers also often withhold part of the salary if an employee arrives late or does not meet the daily production quota.

It is also **extremely difficult to establish trade unions**. Those who dare to do so will inevitably find themselves on a blacklist which will make it pretty impossible to find work on any of the other plantations.

In order to raise awareness among these young men and women and to change their view on their working conditions, the Young Christian Workers (JOC stands for "Juventud Obrera Católica") in Ecuador organise all kinds of

collective activities on the plantations in Pifo and Cayambe. As a genuine social youth movement, JOC started with analysing the most worrying problems of young plantation workers. The National Coordinator of JOC Ecuador, Silvia Espín, herself worked on the Florespa plantation in Pifo for about 9 months. In that way, she was able to distribute around 2,000 **questionnaires** among the employees of the plantation, which enabled JOC to obtain very relevant information about the particular working conditions and the most frequent violations of their rights.

On this basis, JOC has organised various **training sessions** for employees with regard to their labour rights, the international code of conduct for flower cultivation¹⁸ and the importance of wearing protective clothing when using pesticides.

Militants of JOC have also organised **consultation rounds between the management and young workers** on various plantations. In the course of this consultation, they raised the risk of chemical substances and demanded suitable protective clothes as well as collective bargaining agreements to establish a working day of 8 hours, the minimum wage and the payment of overtime. This consultation is beginning to pay off: at one of the plantations, militants have acquired masks and gloves for the employees and they have also secured payment for overtime as well as a wage increase of US\$ 10 per month. This is an important precedent which shows that, if people join forces, change really is possible. At the same time, **it is an important step towards the establishment of a real trade union on the plantations**.

At the moment, JOC Ecuador is working closely with various trade unions to ensure that young people learn about them. Would these young workers also become members of the trade union, it would be "the icing on the cake" for JOC Ecuador, since the union offers the best guarantee for the protection of their interests, including their occupational health and safety.

JOC in Ecuador is also working with other players such as domestic and international human rights organisations¹⁹. Together, they lodge complaints with the Ministry of Labour about labour rights violations on the plantations and raise awareness among the general public. There is now even a "green label" for businesses which undertake to observe the international code of conduct with regard to the production of cut flowers²⁰.

¹⁸ The Code of Conduct for Flower Cultivation was approved by a number of social organisations and trade unions in August of 1998. This code is a significant outcome of the campaign "Campaña de Flores" conducted by various human rights movements. From the start, the idea of the campaign was to start up a dialogue with the political and economic stakeholders in the producing countries, but also in the consuming countries, so as to arrive at more humane working conditions in the plantations. For more information: <http://www.fian.be/Index.asp?PageCentre=Centre.asp&NumInfo=303&Langue=Fr&Titre=Campagnes>.

¹⁹ JOC Ecuador works together with, inter alia, FENACLE (Federación Nacional de Trabajadores Agroindustriales, Campesinos e Indígenas Libres del Ecuador), an organisation that provides training and assistance to the most precarious workers from various industries. For more information: <http://www.fenacle.org.ec/>.

²⁰ Via the "Flower Label Programme", an independent body monitors the enterprises which the International Code of Conduct has emphasised. It is obligatory to involve male and female employees and trade unions in this.



INCOME SECURITY

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

According to the estimates of the World Bank²¹, there were 1.4 billion people in developing countries (1 in 4) who tried to survive on less than 1.25 dollars a day, the poverty threshold, in 2005. In order to find a way out of this poverty, most people in developing countries seek a solution by working in the informal economy. According to the ILO, this applies to 75% of poor people in rural areas²².

But informal work is precarious, unprotected and offers no security.

With this kind of work, families cannot lift themselves out of (extreme) poverty, because they often do not have the required skills, the physical resources or the necessary economic capital to establish a profitable activity.

2. THE INTERVENTIONS OF WSM

Using microcredits, various social movements help their members to have **a modest amount of economic start-up capital** for the purposes of starting or expanding their income-generating activities. With appropriate support, they also provide a number of basic skills to enable them to manage these resources properly. WSM and ARCOPAR support various institutions which grant microcredits and provide appropriate training. In Africa, we provide support for 21 organisations in 11 countries. In Asia, this is true for 3 organisations from 2 different countries. In Latin America support is given to another 11 organisations active in the field of microfinance in 7 countries²³. The beneficiaries of these microcredits are always members of a social movement, who have organised themselves around one or more income-generating activities.

3. THE MICROCREDITS OF KONDO JIGIMA: SMALL LOANS WITH BIG CONSEQUENCES IN MALI

Kondo Jigima is a savings and credit cooperative which is recognised as a microfinance institution in Mali. In Bambara (the most commonly used language in Mali), "Kondo Jigima"²⁴ means **"the treasury of hope"**. For the organisation, it is important to be close to its members: at the end of 2009, there were already about **82 offices**, with the majority in the countryside. This is necessary



Women work hard and, moreover, they are very trustworthy. In general, they reimburse their microcredits correctly. These small loans enable women to make investments which raise their productivity significantly. Thanks to the machine (see below on the right), they can cut more onions in less time. nijden.

– they say themselves – if you really want to reach the poorest people. The organisation currently has **40,000 members**.

Kondo Jigima concentrates on working people in the informal economy who do not have access to traditional bank loans and who are trying **to improve their professional and economic potential** so that they can increase their income.

The granting of loans to small entrepreneurs is thus the main activity of Kondo Jigima. In order to be able to reach the smallest and most vulnerable groups, **the conditions for obtaining loans are also made more flexible**: there is no minimum amount which they cannot repay, the amount of interest to be paid is adjusted, and repayment may be spread over a longer period of time.

²¹ Chen, S. et Ravallion, M., *The Developing World is Poorer than We Thought, But No Less Successful in the Fight against Poverty*, Research Working Paper WPS No. 4703, The World Bank – Development Research Group (DECRG), Washington DC, August 2008, USA.

²² International Labour Organisation (2002), *"Decent Work and the informal economy"*, Report VI of the International Labour Conference, 90th session, Geneva.

²³ For an overview of all social movements, partners of WSM and ARCOPAR, active in the field of microfinance: see annexes I, II and III.

²⁴ Kondo Jigima is a partner of WSM and ARCOPAR within the framework of the programme for a social economy PARESOC, which is co-financed by the Belgische Overlevingsfonds (BOF) (Belgian Survival Fund).



As women in the countryside usually have no or few possessions which they can use as a guarantee, Kondo Jigima works with the principle of the “**collective guarantee**”: instead of a material guarantee, they all act as a guarantor for each other. People lend money jointly and repay it jointly. If one of them is not able to repay, they will share the debt between them.

With this start-up capital, the members can start up and foster income-generating activities such as the processing of onions or the production of rice. As soon as the money has been invested, **the members of Kondo Jigima are given advice on how to make savings and repay the loan.** Thus, the access to microcredits has a fairly quick impact on the income of beneficiaries. For their part, the members use their additional income to better meet the

basic needs of their family: more and better meals for the whole family, tuition fees for the children and healthcare for the women and children.

Since health has an enormous impact on the functioning of members and thus on their ability to continue to work and guarantee the repayment of the loan, Kondo Jigima works together with the “Technical Union of Mutual Health Associations of Mali” (UTM stands for “Union Technique Malienne des Mutuelles de Santé”)²⁵. UTM now offers its voluntary health insurance to members of Kondo Jigima. **This is a preventive insurance providing access to affordable healthcare in the event of illness.**

Kondo Jigima does not only grant small loans, but also invests in the professional skills of its members. They organise **technical trainings** to enable them to increase their production capacity or to improve their management skills. **All of these investments result in social change:** women are increasingly respected by their spouses and the wider community.

In addition, Kondo Jigima brings together different groups which belong to the same production chain, for example everyone who grows and processes onions. In this way, Kondo Jigima ensures that the different “producers” are no longer pitted against each other by (intermediate) traders.

On the contrary, as a result of having the same information (market price, ...) available throughout the whole of the production chain, all groups are stronger when it comes to negotiating with (intermediate) traders.

At a national level, as the founder and current Chair of the “Association Professionnelle de la Microfinance” (‘Professional Microfinance Association’) in Mali, Kondo Jigima defends the interests of its members when developing and implementing a National Microfinance Action Plan. In this capacity, Kondo Jigima also pleads for the right of Malian women to own land and for the right of the whole population to have housing without exception.

²⁵ UTM is a partner of WSM and ANMC within the framework of the programme for a social economy in Mali. UTM also benefits from being in a partnership with the Mutuelle Chrétienne d'Hainaut Orientale for exchanges as well as technical and financial support.



ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

In most countries, there are **formal social security systems** which are, as stated above, based on a package of preventive measures. The nature and extent of the benefits and services provided can vary, but the principle always remains the same: to protect people if they lose (a part of) their income. According to **ILO Convention 102, which establishes the Minimum Standards for Social Security**, a general system of social security must cover the risks of illness, unemployment, motherhood, accidents at work, old age, etc. In most industrialised countries, these existing modern social security systems were developed in consultation with the social partners after the Second World War. In developing countries, there are also such systems, but they cover fewer risks and the workers of the informal sector as well as the rural population are usually excluded, even though they constitute the majority of the working population²⁶.

2. THE INTERVENTIONS OF WSM

Although governments bear the overall responsibility for the social security system, they manage these systems together with the social partners (**tripartite management**). As a result of their involvement in the system, the trade unions, supported by WSM and ACV-CSC, are extremely well placed to demand that the social security system be expanded to cover workers in the informal economy and from rural areas. WSM and ACV-CSC support this struggle of 16 organisations in 8 countries in Asia. In another 6 countries in Latin America, we support 9 social movements deploying this strategy. Finally, in Africa, 13 social movements in 10 different countries can count with our support²⁷.

3. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL IN INDONESIA: KSBSI IS FULLY COMMITTED

Until 2004, Indonesia had **4 different and independent systems of social security** which each had a certain function and which each covered a particular group of employees in the formal sector. The number, the scope as well as the level of the benefits and services provided varied according to the system:

- JAMSOSTEK covered employees in the private sector;
- ASABRI provided coverage for the army and police;

- TASPEN and ASKES organised social security for civil servants and employees in the public sector.

As a result of the economic changes and the financial crisis in Asia (1997-1998), it soon became clear that these systems did not achieve their goal. At the end of the 90s, the different systems still barely covered 10% of the active population. **There was no coverage at all for the 70 million workers of the informal sector**, although they represent 65% of the active population. The services were often of poor quality and the benefits too low to provide real "security". Corruption and embezzlement of funds by politicians and local authorities were widespread.

For KSBSI, a trade union confederation which unites 11 federations and which has about 500,000 members, these were the perfect reasons to make the case for a reform of the social security system. But what type of reform? **Since KSBSI is a solid trade union with a very large membership which actively participates in social dialogue at all levels, it has the tools to make its voice heard and to make proposals at the political level with regard to the reform of the existing social security system.**

To ensure that the reforms would meet the needs of its members, KSBSI first organised more than **20 consultation rounds** in nearly all of the 30 regions of Indonesia; in total, more than 500 local trade union representatives were surveyed. The result of these rounds of consultation was a clear picture of the changes considered necessary by the membership of KSBSI:

- The social security system needs to be expanded and altered to ensure that groups which are now excluded are integrated. This particularly relates to informal economy workers and migrant workers.
- The number of members needs to be considerably increased in order to strengthen the financing of the system.
- The different systems need to be combined into a kind of public institution under the control of the President, but with tripartite management.

This work has yielded results. In 2002, a working group was appointed by the government to design a new and, above all, a more inclusive system. Their proposal was enshrined in a

²⁶ "Social security: a new consensus", Resolution of the International Labour Organisation, 89th session, 2001, Geneva, §15; ILO, "Social Security for All", Social Security Policy Briefings, Paper 7, Genève, 2009, p.3.

²⁷ For an overview of all social movements, partner organizations of WSM and ACV-CSC, active in the field of extending social security systems to excluded groups: see annexes I, II and III.



She works in the informal economy. No reason to exclude her from social security coverage, according to KSBSI. Thanks to the efforts of the trade union, she can become a member since 2006.

framework act, **law 40/2004**, and was approved by the Parliament on 28 October 2004²⁸. **This framework act establishes the main basic principles**, which will be elaborated in detail in the implementing decrees. The basic principles of the new system are promising in any case:

- **An umbrella organisation, JAMSOSNAS**, will be established, within which the 4 existing systems (JAMSOSTEK, ASABRI, TASPEN and ASKES) will be retained. For the co-ordination, a "National Social Security Council" consisting of representatives of the government, employers and employees will be established.
- **Every individual is to be covered** by this new system, although this will have to be achieved progressively.
- It includes **measures of prevention** (social insurance) **and of protection** (social assistance).
- With regard to social insurance, people will from now on be able to enjoy protection in the event of illness, accidents at work, old age, retirement and death. Employees in the formal economy will be obliged to enrol, whereas informal economy workers can do so on a voluntary basis. Financing will be based on the contributions of employers and employees.
- Social assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable will be organised and financed by the government.

According to KSBSI, this is a step in the right direction and this is certainly the case when it comes to expanding the public system to the informal economy. This extension enables the trade union to organise informal workers. KSBSI is still organising information and consultation meetings in order to inform employees and its own members about the new system.

There may be a framework act in place, but it has not yet been implemented. As a result of the financial crisis, the Indonesian government has deferred the approval of the implementing decrees and thus the implementation of the framework act for an indefinite period of time. This was a measure which was not favoured by KSBSI, but which nevertheless makes it possible for all implementing decrees to be prepared properly before the act comes into effect.

Consequently, **KSBSI has put together a lobby group** at the national level which is constantly bombarding the public institutions (ministries and committees) with concrete proposals. This lobby group receives input from the various work sessions and consultations of the members. Since November 2009, the trade union also started a campaign and large-scale activities to persuade the new President of the quality of their proposals and the need to incorporate them into the new legislation regarding JAMSOSNAS.

In the meantime, KSBSI has not been resting on its laurels and, while awaiting the implementation of the framework act, **it booked a remarkable success: since 2006, workers of the informal economy can enrol themselves on a voluntary basis to the social security system for the private sector, JAMSOSTEK**. The services of JAMSOSTEK set themselves the goal of gaining the membership of one million informal economy workers, a serious challenge. The rigid contribution system, both with regard to the amount as well as the frequency of payments, makes membership very difficult for these informal workers, whose work situation and income remain very precarious.

But, difficult does not mean impossible and, therefore, **KSBSI has started an active awareness and recruitment campaign** to persuade its own membership in both the formal as well as the informal sector to join JAMSOSTEK. KSBSI would like to urge at least 50,000 of its members to do this.

²⁸ For more information: "Indonesia: Implementation of the National Social Security System Law", in *Social Security Extension Initiatives in South East Asia*, ILO Subregional Office for South East Asia, 2006, p. 4, "Extension of Social Security Coverage for the Informal Economy in Indonesia", Working Paper 11, ILO Subregional Office for South East Asia, 2004, p. 105.



FOOD AUTONOMY

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

According to the FAO, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN, the world reached the “historical” peak of one billion undernourished people in 2009 as a result of the economic crisis. According to this specialist body of the United Nations (UN), “virtually all undernourished people live in developing countries”. In sub-Saharan Africa, there are 300 million such people. People who live in poverty and suffer from hunger are extremely vulnerable to crises.

2. THE INTERVENTIONS OF WSM

In general, the concept of “food security” refers to availability of, access to and quality of food. It also refers to the “security” of knowing that these three aspects are permanently guaranteed. The approach of WSM and its partners goes a step further: our goal is **to “empower” people to organise themselves in social movements with a view to foster their self-reliance when it comes to food security**. In what follows, we will therefore talk about “**food autonomy**”. When organised in a group, people cope better with external risk factors (such as droughts, natural disasters, price fluctuations, ...).

In Africa, the continent which is plagued most heavily by food insecurity, WSM extends support to 19 social movements in 8 countries. In Latin America, support is provided to 3 organisations in as many countries²⁹.

3. THE CEREAL BANKS IN ETHIOPIA: A BLESSING IN THE DRY SEASON

About **85% of the population** or 70 million inhabitants of Ethiopia live in the countryside and are, consequently, mainly **dependent on agriculture** for their survival. However, agricultural production is low for a number of reasons: “farms” are very small, poor soil, a shortage of technology as well as good crops and little governmental support for the sector. The recent increase in food prices makes the population even more vulnerable to such crisis situations.

In order to improve the food autonomy of the rural population, two local NGOs, OSRA and HUNDEE, have proceeded on the basis of typical social dynamics. In most Ethiopian communities, there is almost always **a local group** called “**idr**”. All households, from the richest to the poorest, are members of such an “idr”, whose aim

is to help families when a member dies. Membership of an “idr” is both financial, in the form of a contribution, and non-financial, in the form of joint preparations for the funeral.

In the district of Shewa, in the region of Oromo, various households have understood that **their bond of solidarity within the “idr”** can also be used to solve other problems such as weak food autonomy. **With the support of OSRA and HUNDEE, various households have now established about 30 grain banks.**



Banking with cereals. Local farmers are both customer and manager of the bank. They stock part of their cereal production and decide whether they will distribute it among the members or sell it during the dry season.

²⁹ For an overview of all social movements, partners of WSM, which are active in the field of food autonomy: see annexes I, II and III.

The principle of the cereal banks is very simple: by keeping a stock, the farmers are less vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of their products between the harvest period and the sowing time. Before, the permanent shortage of money led many farmers to sell their entire production immediately after the harvest, at a time when the market was actually saturated and prices were low as a consequence. During the dry season, they would have nothing left to eat or to sell.

With the cereal bank, on the other hand, they can now break this vicious cycle, by **putting a part of their produce aside for storage**. During the dry season the general assembly of the cereal bank decides whether to sell the stored cereals or to distribute it at low cost among the households who are members of the bank. By rendering its members "food autonomous", the cereal bank is a good example of a promotive measure, since a good diet makes us less vulnerable to illnesses, etc.

In order to increase the impact of the banks, OSRA and HUNDEE have developed other promotive measures:

- **literacy training for the members:** this was necessary in order to ensure that the households were able to manage the bank properly.

- **training in agricultural techniques:** proper crop growing techniques, distinguishing the various qualities of seeds, the diversification of production techniques, management of water and other natural resources, etc. These are all basic skills which, if managed properly, can have a positive impact on the production output.

These additional promotive measures have also had other effects. Before, farmers went to the market to sell their produce but they had no chance in the negotiations with the intermediate traders. **Now, these traders are no longer able to dictate prices, as they have to deal with a collective, the general assembly of the bank**, in order to fix the prices. This does not only ensure that income rises, but it also improves the standing of the farmers.

From an economic point of view, OSRA and HUNDEE intend to strengthen this process by establishing networks between the cereal banks. More co-operation between the different banks will improve the management and the working of the land, will strengthen the negotiating capacity in relation to the traders and will promote relations with the local authorities.



5

GENERAL CONCLUSION

WSM, ACV-CSC and LCM-ANMC opt for **sustainable development** both socially as well as economically, with the wellbeing of people at the centre of the discussion. A number of basic ingredients are necessary for this: **decent work** is one of these. According to the ILO, which has launched the Decent Work Agenda, it is based on 4 equally important basic principles: freely chosen and productive work (1), with international labour rights (including fundamental labour standards) being observed (2), and a form of work which provides access to social protection (3) and in which workers are listened to through social dialogue (4).

It is not surprising that **social protection** is one of the four basic principles of the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO, as work and social protection can actually be regarded as two communicating vessels: on the one hand, work still offers the best guarantee against poverty; on the other hand, social protection offers the guarantee of a decent standard of living, both in the case of people who have lost all or part of their work income as well as in the case of people who find it difficult or impossible to provide for themselves.

Together with the whole of the Christian Labour Movement (ACW-MOC) and its member organisations, WSM has been supporting, for 35 years already, social movements in the South which work towards better social protection **in the belief that social protection is a fundamental tool against social exclusion and inequality, poverty and vulnerability**. In this paper, we presented our vision, the vision of social movements, with regard to social protection. We have tried to respond to the following questions:

1. Why social protection? Simply because social protection is a mechanism which **generates and redistributes wealth**. Moreover, it organises and strengthens solidarity between young and old, ill and healthy, poor and rich, formal and informal, and rural and urban. Social protection prevents and reduces social exclusion and inequality as well as poverty and vulnerability. For this reason, it is an important lever for a fair society.

2. What is social protection? According to us, social protection includes **four kinds of measures: preventive, protective, promotive and transformative**. All of these measures each attempt to provide an adequate response to the various needs which different target groups in society have. Consequently, the financing of these measures can take different forms: social contributions, taxation, combinations of the two, ...

3. What role do social movements play? The design and implementation of a policy of social protection is **a matter in which**

various stakeholders have a role to play. Also social movements: they organise people, give them a voice, defend their interests and seek collective answers to their needs. As a movement, they are concerned with everyone without distinction, but pay particular attention to those who are often forgotten: working people in the informal economy and the rural population.

The case studies provide good examples of how this vision can be put into practice. They involve organisations of different kinds which work with other target groups within various contexts, but always with one aim in mind: to extend social protection so that everyone is able to reap the benefits and is thus able to achieve and maintain a decent standard of living. In order to strengthen this process, we are happy to present you with *our agenda for the next 35 years*.

1. Recognition! First and foremost, the government must **recognise and support the work of social movements with regard to social protection**. They are often the pioneers of the actual extension of social protection to people who remain excluded from the existing systems.

2. Structural dialogue! In addition, the government must establish a structural dialogue at the national level **in which all of the relevant stakeholders gather their expertise and different approaches, including social movements**. This is an essential condition to come to a national, integrated and broadly supported policy of social protection.

3. Integrated approach! By means of a structural and dynamic dialogue, the relevant stakeholders can **find the right balance between the various kinds of measures and the most suitable methods of financing** so that the most adequate response is given to the needs of every single person. An integrated approach is the best way to end the complete fragmentation of this policy area.

4. An international community which acts in solidarity! In order to ensure that a process of structural dialogue with the participation of all of the relevant stakeholders has every chance of success, it is crucial for the international community to give this process its full support. **It must respect the ownership of the national stakeholders and facilitate the elaboration and implementation of a national, integrated and broadly supported policy**. When it comes to actually implementing the policy, it must be ready to invest the necessary technical and financial resources in the short, medium and long term.

ANNEX I – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACTIVE IN SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA

Organisation	Country
I. Access to health care	
Programme d'Appui aux Mutuelles de Santé au Bénin (PROMUSAF)	Bénin
Fédération des Unions Nationales des Travailleurs de la Terre (FUNTRAT)	Bénin
Mouvement Ouvrier pour le Développement Economique et Social (MODES)	Bénin
Réseau d'Appui aux Mutuelles de Santé (RAMS)	Burkina Faso
Organisation de Développement de l'Archidiocèse de Gitega (ODAG)	Burundi
Union des Syndicats Libres du Cameroun (USLC)	Cameroun
Service d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales de Développement (SAILD)	Cameroun
Confédération des Syndicats Libres de Côte d'Ivoire (Dignité)	Côte d'Ivoire
Dynamic Mutualiste (DYNAM)	Guinée
Union Technique de la Mutualité (UTM)	Mali
Confédération Libre des Travailleurs de Mauritanie (CLTM)	Mauritanie
Mouvement Ouvrier Chrétien du Congo (MOCC)	République Démocratique du Congo
Bureau Diocésain des Œuvres Médicales de Bukavu (BDOM)	République Démocratique du Congo
Groupe Recherche Appui Initiatives Mutualistes (GRAIM)	Sénégal
II. Health and safety at work	
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Burkina Faso (CNTB)	Burkina Faso
Young Christian Workers (YCW)	Ghana
Christian Workers Movement (CWM)	Ghana
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs de Guinée (CNTG)	Guinée
Confédération Libre des Travailleurs de Mauritanie (CLTM)	Mauritanie
Confédération Nigérienne du Travail (CNT)	Niger
Mouvement des Travailleurs Chrétiens du Niger (MTC Niger)	Niger
Confédération Libre des Travailleurs du Tchad (CLTT)	Tchad
Solidarité et Action pour le Développement Durable (SADD)	Togo
Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Togo (CSTT)	Togo
III. Income security	
Mouvement des Travailleurs Chrétiens du Bénin (MTC Bénin)	Bénin
Fédération des Unions Nationales des Travailleurs de la Terre (FUNTRAT)	Bénin
Mouvement Ouvrier pour le Développement Economique et Social (MODES)	Bénin
Mutuelle pour le Développement à la Base (MDB)	Bénin

Centre Béninois pour l'Environnement et le Développement Economique et Social (CEBEDES)	Bénin
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs de Burkina Faso (CNTB)	Burkina Faso
Mutualité-Femmes et Développement du Burkina (MUFEDE)	Burkina Faso
Développement Intégrale de la Région de Sanmatenga (DIRS)	Burkina Faso
Organisation de Développement de l'Archidiocèse de Gitega (ODAG)	Burundi
Jeunesse Providence AGAKURA	Burundi
Union des Syndicats Libres du Cameroun (USLC)	Cameroun
Confédération des Syndicats Libres de Côte d'Ivoire Dignité	Côte d'Ivoire
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs de Guinée (CNTG)	Guinée
Kondo Jigima	Mali
Mouvement des Travailleurs Chrétiens (MTC) du Niger	Niger
Mouvement Ouvrier Chrétien du Congo (MOCC)	République Démocratique du Congo
Bureau Diocésain des Œuvres Médicales de Bukavu (BDOM)	République Démocratique du Congo
Fédération des Mouvements Populaires	Rwanda
Centre de Formation des Travailleurs du Rwanda (CEFOTRAR)	Rwanda
Congrès du Travail et de la Fraternité (COTRAF)	Rwanda
Groupe de Recherche et d'Appui des Initiatives de Développement Economique (GRAIDE)	Sénégal

IV. Access to social security

Fédération des Unions Nationales des Travailleurs de la Terre (FUNTRAT)	Bénin
Mouvement Ouvrier pour le Développement Economique et Social (MODES)	Bénin
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Burkina Faso (CNTB)	Burkina Faso
Confédération Syndicale du Gabon (COSYGA)	Gabon
Jeunesse Ouvrière Chrétienne du Gabon (JOC Gabon)	Gabon
Young Christian Workers (YCW)	Ghana
Christian Workers Movement (CWM)	Ghana
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs de Guinée (CNTG)	Guinée
Mouvement des Travailleurs Croyants du Mali (MTC Mali)	Mali
Confédération Libre des Travailleurs de Mauritanie (CLTM)	Mauritanie
Confédération Nigérienne du Travail (CNT)	Niger
Confédération Libre des Travailleurs du Tchad (CLTT)	Tchad
Solidarité et Action pour le Développement Durable (SADD)	Togo

V. Food autonomy

Mouvement des Travailleurs Chrétiens du Bénin (MTC Bénin)	Bénin
Fédération des Unions Nationales des Travailleurs de la Terre (FUNTRAT)	Bénin
Mouvement Ouvrier pour le Développement Economique et Social (MODES)	Bénin
Mutuelle pour le Développement à la Base (MDB)	Bénin
Centre Béninois pour l'Environnement et le Développement Economique et Social (CEBEDES)	Bénin
Centre Africa Obota	Bénin

Soeurs Unies à l'Oeuvre	Bénin
Union Nationale des Conducteurs de Taxi-Motos (UNACOTAMO)	Bénin
Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Burkina Faso (CNTB)	Burkina Faso
Mutualité-Femmes et Développement du Burkina (MUFEDE)	Burkina Faso
Développement Intégrale de la Région de Sanmatenga (DIRS)	Burkina Faso
Jeunesse Providence AGAKURA	Burundi
Confédération des Syndicats Libres de Côte d'Ivoire (Dignité)	Côte d'Ivoire
Oromo Self Reliance Association (OSRA)	Ethiopia
Hundee Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative (HUNDEE)	Ethiopia
Kondo Jigima	Mali
Groupe de Recherche et d'Appui des Initiatives de Développement Economique (GRAIDE)	Sénégal
Women and Associations for Gain both Economic and Social (WAGES)	Togo
Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Togo (CSTT)	Togo



ANNEX II – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACTIVE IN SOCIAL PROTECTION IN ASIA

Organisation	Country
I. Access to health care	
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)	Bangladesh
National Workers Congress (NWC)	Sri Lanka
II. Health and safety at work	
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)	Bangladesh
National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF)	Bangladesh
National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM)	India
Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia – Confederation of Indonesia Prosperous Trade Union (K-SBSI)	Indonesia
General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)	Nepal
National Garment Workers Union (NGWU)	Nepal
National Trade Union Confederation - Independent (NTUC-I)	Nepal
Alliance of Health Workers (AHW)	Philippines
Christian Workers Movement of Sri Lanka (CWM Sri Lanka)	Sri Lanka
National Workers Congress (NWC)	Sri Lanka
Young Christian Workers of Sri Lanka (YCW Sri Lanka)	Sri Lanka
III. Income security	
Association of Rural Education and Development Services (AREDS)	India
Federation of Garment Textile Crafting & Shoes (GARTEKS)	Indonesia
Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia – Confederation of Indonesia Prosperous Trade Union (K-SBSI)	Indonesia
IV. Access to social security	
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)	Bangladesh
National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF)	Bangladesh
Coalition of Cambodia Apparel Workers Democratic Union (C-CAWDU)	Cambodia
Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC)	Cambodia
Confederation of Free Trade Unions of India (CFTUI)	India
Christian Workers Movement of India (CWM India)	India
National Domestic Workers Movement (NDWM)	India
Young Christian Workers of India (YCW India)	India
Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia – Confederation of Indonesia Prosperous Trade Union (K-SBSI)	Indonesia
General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)	Nepal
National Trade Union Confederation - Independent (NTUC-I)	Nepal
Alliance of Health Workers (AHW)	Philippines
Young Christian Workers Philippines (YCW Philippines)	Philippines
National Workers Congress (NWC)	Sri Lanka
Young Christian Workers of Sri Lanka (YCW Sri Lanka)	Sri Lanka
National Congress Private Industrial of Employees (NCPE)	Thailand

ANNEX III – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACTIVE IN SOCIAL PROTECTION IN LATIN AMERICA

Organisation	Country
I. Access to health care	
Confederación Latinoamericana de Cooperativas y Mutuales de Trabajadores (COLACOT)	Continental - América Latina
Central General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG)	Guatemala
Centro Nacional de Promoción Social (CENPROS)/Panamedica	México
II. Health and safety at work	
Corriente de Renovación Independiente y Solidaridad Laboral (CRISOL)	Bolivia
Centro de Promoción de la Mujer - Gregoria Apaza	Bolivia
União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)	Brasil
Juventud Obrera Católica de Ecuador (JOC Ecuador)	Ecuador
Central Autónoma de Trabajadores del Perú (CATP)	Perú
Asociación Mutual de Servicios Solidarios (AMUSSOL)	República Dominicana
Juventud Obrera Católica de Venezuela (JOC Venezuela)	Venezuela
III. Income security	
Casa Waki	Bolivia
Centro de Promoción de la Mujer - Gregoria Apaza	Bolivia
Juventude Operária Católica do Brasil (JOC Brasil)	Brasil
Centro de Ação Comunitária (CEDAC)	Brasil
Confederación Latinoamericana de Cooperativas y Mutuales de Trabajadores (COLACOT)	Continental - América Latina
Movimiento de los Trabajadores Campesinos de Guatemala (MTC Guatemala)	Guatemala
Central General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG)	Guatemala
Movimiento de Jovenes de la Calle (MOJOCA)	Guatemala
Alianza Cooperativista Nacional (ALCONA)	México
Movimiento Socio-Cultural para los Trabajadores Haitianos (MOSCTHA)	República Dominicana
Juventud Obrera Católica de Venezuela (JOC Venezuela)	Venezuela

IV. Access to social security	
Corriente de Renovación Independiente y Solidaridad Laboral (CRISOL)	Bolivia
Centro de Promoción de la Mujer - Gregoria Apaza	Bolivia
Movimento de Trabalhadores Cristãos (MTC Brasil)	Brasil
Juventude Operária Católica do Brasil (JOC Brasil)	Brasil
União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)	Brasil
Juventud Obrera Católica de Ecuador (JOC Ecuador)	Ecuador
Juventud Obrera Católica de Perú (JOC Perú)	Perú
Asociación Mutual de Servicios Solidarios (AMUSSOL)	República Dominicana
Juventud Obrera Católica de Venezuela (JOC Venezuela)	Venezuela
V. Food autonomy	
Casa Waki	Bolivia
Centro de Ação Comunitária (CEDAC)	Brasil
Alianza Cooperativista Nacional (ALCONA)	México



