

# Inclusive Cities for South and South East Asia

## The Workshop Report

### 25 to 27 August, 2011

#### Introduction

#### Workshop Details

The workshop started with registration of the workshop. All together 41 participants (32 female and 9 male) from 7 countries registered for the workshop. The participants from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan represented HomeNet South Asia and Thailand, Philippines and Cambodia represented HomeNet South East Asia. The workshop organized in Club Himalaya, Nagarkor, Nepal.

Ms. Sapna Joshi, Regional Coordinator started the workshop. She welcomed the participants and delivered the purpose and key issues of the workshop. See **Annex 1** for her presentation. Purpose of the workshop was to reflect together on experiences of Homenet South Asia and Homenet East Asia and on the progress to date of the Inclusive Cities (IUP) Project. The second purpose of the workshop was to plan of remaining project period. The detail agenda of the workshop is given in **Annex 2**. Similarly, key issues of the workshop were as follows:

1. Identify important concerns of urban poor home-based workers tied to their livelihoods and living conditions and how these concerns can be addressed in different country contexts.
2. Experiences and challenges regarding the building of Member Based Organization and Member Based Networks in different country contexts and again, strategies to carry this out as effectively and sustainably as possible.
3. How to evaluate the progress made and challenges faced under the IUP Project (e.g., where do we see concrete changes for urban poor Home Based Workers, and how can these changes be “captured” to show progress?).
4. Prepare action plan.

Ms. Prativa Joshi, Rapporteur of the workshop facilitated introduction of the participants. All the participants signed under the roof of HomeNet to gave the impression "We are under same roof to work for common goal". See **Annex 3** for the visual.

Ms. Sapna Joshi shared the message from Convener, Ms. Chadani Joshi because she could not attend the workshop. She had wished for success of the workshop. Then the workshop started formally.

## Presentation from Nepal



Ms. Sabitra Neupane, Program Manager presented about HomeNet Nepal. She started with country background. According to her, Nepal Government has its plan and policy for urban development. But, the Government has not specifically recognized the HBW yet. The country has recognized the labor as a single categorically. Even the labor association/s has not categorized home base worker separately.

Now, HomeNet Nepal works in 7 municipalities. Kathmandu Municipalities is different in all aspects of city (population, livelihood, physical facilities, gap between poor and rich, governing structure and political situation) comparing to other cities. Urban poor are invisible in plan/policy of Kathmandu Municipality. Similarly, political parties have not carried HBWs' issues yet. HBWs of other cities face similar type of social, economical and environmental problems and they have similar issues (see **Annex 4** for detail presentation of HomeNet Nepal).

HomeNet Nepal made Municipal authorities aware of HBWs. They indorsed HBWs in plan and program of Hetauda Municipality. Panuti and Banepa Municipalities started to join hand with HomeNet Nepal and other Municipalities are sensitized in issues of HBWs. HomeNet Nepal has adopted membership bases organization (MBO) modality from 2009. Now there are 56 MBOs associated with HomeNet Nepal and HomeNet Nepal links the MBOs with concerned organizations to address their needs.

### Q&A Session

<b>Participants question</b>	<b>Presenter's response</b>
<p>How HomeNet Nepal has organized HBWs? because there are middle person who obstacle the process. (Mahesh, India)</p>	<p>There are many challenges to Homenet Nepal too. HomeNet Nepal strategically meets those workers till they become organized. First step is meeting, second is awareness program and third is linking them to concern organization.</p> <p>We have found that some middle persons are supportive and some are exploitive.</p>

What is strong relation between rural and urban HBWs? (Laila, Pakistan)	Many HBWs are migrated from rural to urban area with their indigenous knowledge, skill and even resources which they are utilizing here in urban area. Second, they still send money to their family who still living in rural area. Raw materials come from rural area too.
What type of policy problem for HBWs in Nepal? Is it policy problem or implementation problem? Pakistan does not have specific policy to HBWs. (Laila, Pakistan)	Nepal do not have specific policy to address HBWs' problem and issues.
Are there any women specific policies in Nepal? (Laila, Pakistan)	Yes, 50% of the budget should be allocated targeting women. HomeNet Nepal is trying to cash this provision in benefit of women HBWs. Local level plan and policy are prepared by local body of the Government so that HomeNet Nepal is initiating the local body to make policy in for of HBWs.

### Presentation from Thailand



On behalf of HomeNet Thailand, Ms. Poonsum S. Tulaphan (Manager) presented urban context in 3 cities of Thailand (Bangkok, Khon Kaen and Chiangrai) and HBWs residing in those cities. Socio economic status, environment and political situations are different in those three cities. Life in Bangkok is difficult comparing to other two cities where gap between poor and rich is very high. There are no authentic statics of HBWs in any city. It has been predicted that number of HBWs in those cities are increasing. They are migrated from rural area. Most of them are working without registration so that they are not recorded in the Government authority. Social security system under article 40, HBWs supposed to get free medical care from state and can apply to be insured person. Political parties and local Government put concern of HBWs. They have allocated development activities for HBWs because they are their voters. However, many HBWs do not have easy access to them. HBWs are protected under Home Workers protection

Act which is just enforced in May, 2011. However, HBWs are invisible and voiceless in city development because they are not organized.

Transportation is the most difficult part for the HBWs so that they reside in home and work for few money. HBWs of suburb earn 1 to 2 dollar per day which is irregular too. In city area they would earn 10 dollar per day but they have to bear with poor living situation.

HomeNet Thailand is trying to organize those HBWs. It advocates for social insurance and social security for HBWs; orients about government's service to them; help them to reach to it; provide training about occupation health and safety; and support them in social protection, registration and income generation activities as well (see **Annex 5** for detail presentation).

### Q&A Session

Participants questions	Presenter's response
In one hand you are saying politicians are taking care of their voters (HBWs) and in other you have said that HBWs are invisible and voice less in city development. Isn't it contradictory? (Reema, India)	Trade union is not much strong in Thailand comparing to India because Thailand is agriculture based country. So that workers' voice is not very strong. Political parties take care of them during election time only.
Have you try to link HBWs to trade union? (Omar, Banladesh)	We have tried to link HBWs with trade union from last 10 year but could not be successful because of sub-contractor. Now, slowly they are trying to tie -up with trade union including sub-contractors.
What is education status of HBWs? (Sita, Nepal)	Most of the HBWs are literate.
How far HBWs are organized in Thailand? (Sabitra, Nepal)	Not strong. Few women groups are organized by saving and credit.
Is your HBWs only female? (Jotsnaha, Bangladesh)	No, there male too but majority of them are female.

### Presentation from Bangladesh



Mr. Sheikh Shafiul Islam (Consultant) presented research finding conducted for HomeNet Bangladesh. Objectives of the study were to

- identify and make visible the HBWs in 3 cities of Dhaka Division : Dhaka, Jamalpur and Tangail Districts;
- identify groups/organizations working with HBWs; and
- explore municipal policies regarding the city schemes in general and the urban poor in particular.

The study presented the social, economical and environmental situation of HBWs of those three cities. They are poor, low paid, lack of access to basic needs and vulnerable. The study found that loan to those people charge 25 to 30 percentage interests by micro financing organization. Children are the most sufferers from this situation.

Basically, that home based workers need social security, low interest loan, extended market, networking and capacity development to improvement their situation. Position of HBWs in national policy is like "Inside home outside law". Dhaka municipality has slum development department but it could not addressing the problem of HBWs.

The study suggested strengthening HomeNet Bangladesh with financial and human resources. HomeNet Bangladesh can form a network with the civil society members, human rights defenders, policy makers, journalists, development workers and professionals to create a platform of campaign for the rights of HBWs(see **Annex 6** for detail presentation).

### Q&A Session

<b>Participants' questions</b>	<b>Presenter's response</b>
How 25% HBWs manage emergency fund? (Reema, India)	Some of them save from their income, relatives support to them, some group have saving and credit though it is small amount.
It is the wrong notion that HBWs need interest free loan. If you provide loan with capacity develop and backstopping by management support, HBWs can also pay load with interest. This is the experience of SEWA Bank.	The research respondent has expressed that it would be helpful for them if they get interest free loan.
Are children allowed to work in income generation by law? (Om, Nepal)	No, it is not allowed, Bangladesh has ratified the conventions against child labor but it is in practice because of poverty.

## Presentation from Philippines



Maria S. Nebla, Primar S. Jardelera, Loukdes A. Duka, Phoehi D. Cabanille, and Myrna Magbitang jointly presented HBWs of Philippines. They introduced their organization PATAMABA and shared two research findings conducted by PATAMABA and HomeNet South East Asia. Urban poor of Philippines are also struggling for their basic needs. However, inclusive Urban Planning Project has increased capacity of HBWs in organizing, advocacy, policy analysis and research which has helped in visibility and voice within urban planning processes.

PATAMABA conducted study in cities of Metro Manila. The presentation showed that Quezon and Caloocan cities had similar issues and problem. Their social, economical and environmental status is poor. They get free social services during election time only. The presenter said "Delivery of basic services is turning out to be highly politicised". The local government allocates 5% of Internal Revenue Allocation for Gender and Development budget but HBWs were not aware of it and they do not have access to it too. In contrast, HBWs of Iloilo city was in better position in context of local government service. They are organized and most of them have Social Security Service.

HomeNet South East Asia had also conducted study in that Quezon and Caloocan cities. Their study was basically based on secondary data. The researchers realized that they need to find out the answer of following question:

- What are the most effective ways of addressing the issues of HBWs?
- How can policies and practices be changed (in different country contexts)?
- What strategies need to be adopted?

The third part of the presentation was about initiative and intervention of PATAMABA. Its vision is to expand membership based organization and to become self reliance through economic sustainability. Its mission is to aid in persuading the Social Security System (SSS) to allow self-employed home workers to avail of social insurance and to facilitate that process through the Automatic Debit Account (ADA). PATAMABA has been coordinating organizations working for informal workers. HomeNet Philippines has also formed networking with PATAMABA. However, PATAMABA is still struggling for its existence. PATAMABA has prioritised follows works:

- Organizational Sustainability

- Addressing poverty
- Participation in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability
- Food Security
- Legislative Agenda
  - Passage of MACWIE (RH768)
  - Ratification of ILC 177

(see **Annex 7** for detail presentation)

### Q&A Session

Participants' questions	Presenter's response
What is social fund and who can take it? (Reema, India)	Municipality has social fund for natural calamities. But respondents said that they do not have easy access to it.
How HBWs could be visible? (Reema, India)	There are HBWs representing in local body so that HBWs' concerns are raised in local government and its policies. They are even trying to raise voice on national level.
Is social security insurance raised from HBWs? is it legislated? and is it only for self employed or even for piece worker? (Laila, Pakistan)	All the respondents of Iloilo city said that they have monthly saving. Beside it, local government including district representative have allocated fund for informal worker in social security. PTAMABA has also started Social Security System as a pilot project in collaboration with department of labor. HBWs can save daily basis in a bank which goes to social security system (SSS) after each month. It is facilitated by PATAMABA and department of labor. Now there are 200 HBWs in this scheme. The government subsidized the SSS and member become entitle government services.

### The presentation from Pakistan



Tehzeeb Nayer, Program Officer of HomeNet Pakistan presented about Inclusive Urban Planning(IUP) project. The project worked in 5 cities: Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Kasur, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, and Karachi. Situation of HBWs in all those 6 cities found similar. The presentation showed that HBWs of Gujranwala and Kasur found bit organized by group and get loan from bank for production and they got some learning opportunity too.

HomeNet Pakistan mapped and evaluated the situation of the HBWs. They formed 14 MBOs (9 in process). HBWs of those cities united in a form of group and union. HomeNet Pakistan worked with them. They started saving credit and shops provided by municipality. HomeNet Pakistan started to be in contact of city planner, gathered information from the Government body and HBWs. They established urban unit in Punjab. Lack of recognition to HBWs from the Government of Pakistan and lack of elected body in local government are the major challenges of HomeNet Pakistan and they also found difficult to unite HBWs because of social, cultural and environmental factors(see **Annex 8** for detail presentation).

### Q&A Session

<b>Participants' questions</b>	<b>Presenter's response</b>
What strategies you adopt to manage 14 MBO though you have said it is difficult to manage? (Mahesh, India)	<p>We supported two MBO of Kasur and Lahore and made them role model for other MBOs and encourage HBWs by showing those role models.</p> <p><b>Chick</b> makers' MBO of Kasur is a role model which was supported by WIEGO and led by HomeNet Pakistan and assisted them by linking, networking and supporting.</p> <p>Coolaborating with NRSP and PRSP. They had 4 issues regarding women. Now, their 5th issue is HBWs.</p>
Do you have any strategy to take existing group/MBO under HomeNet Pakistan? (Om, Nepal)	We have encouraged groups working for poverty to use HomeNet's networking.
In case of absence of local government in your country, how do you train about governance to MBOs? (Duannapa, Philippines)	It is the existing challenge in Pakistan. Former local government structure was dissolved and new form is not established yet in all provinces. Local government officials are doing administrative job for MBOs.

**Presentation form Cambodia**



Ms. Notm Sina from Artisans Association Cambodia (AAC) presented about city context Phnom Penh and HBWs' situation in it. HomeNet Cambodia is in process of establishment. AAC is representing HomeNet Cambodia till now. Phnom Penh is rapidly growing by infrastructure, business and population and beautifying it by parks and maintaining its environment. Political stability has brought many developments in the city.

HBWs, specially women of Phnom Penh are getting income generation opportunities, learning opportunities, support from NGOs and they are being aware of city lifestyle and civilization of city. But like in other cities, their living is costly, irregularity in job and poor dwelling. They also have risk of human trafficking and they are also suffering from cultural change. The Government has introduced poverty reduction strategies and recognized the role of informal sector in economy growing but it could reach to every HBWs yet. The Government has basically targeted to very poor people. HBWs are organizing by NGOs.

In last three years, IUP project introduced HBWs to authority of municipality as a separate entity in informal work sector. Now they become aware of specific issue of HBWs and have started to address some of the issues like health. IUP project helped HBWs in their capacity development. Now, they have started to gain recognition from the public eyes. It has been expected many change in future specially by networking, forum and access. The ambitious expectation is "All urban poor home-based workers have access to pension fund supported by the municipality". (see **Annex 9** for detail presentation)

**Q&A Session**

<b>Participants' questions</b>	<b>Presenter's response</b>
What type of human traffic in your country? (Jotshana Begam, Bangladesh)	Rural poor women bring in urban area in a name of providing job but they are sold in brothel.
What do you mean by women empowerment in your political context? (Dave, WIEGO)	Involve women in decision making process. Empowering the women by creating discussion forum, discuss on issues and give opportunity to women HBWs to make a decision.

### Presentation from India



Mr. Mahesh Gaulati, Coordinator of HomeNet India presented about status of HomeNet India and HBWs. In India, 53% of non-agriculture women workers are HBWs. HomeNet India is established to strengthen, develop and promote HBWs and raise their voice and issues at national level. Till now, 68,124 HBWs are affiliated with HomeNet India from 10 different states (MP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujrat, Orissa, Kerala, Northeast, UP and Delhi). They are in process of making MBO. Issues of HBWs of India are quite similar to other South Asian Countries.

Mr. Gaulati also presented study findings of Punjab. Major trades of those HBWs are Sports goods, Woolen knitting, Medicine bottle finishing, Embroidery work, Chapel making, Agarbatti and Packing. The issues he presented were lack of HBW's data; they were scatted and migrated; They were exploited by multilayer of middleperson; living in poor conditions; lack of welfare measures; Illiteracy; and bad habit like drinking alcohol & gambling. In such condition HomeNet India would have challenge in organizing them. They have thought to collaborate with organization/s who work informal worker. They would start with functional literacy and community sensitization (see **Annex 10** for detail presentation).

### Q&A Session

Participants' questions	Presenter's response
What was the sample size and study methodology of your research? (Shliikh, Bangladesh)	Actually, it was not a research. It was just an observation for situation analysis.
What is multilayer middle man? (Laila, Pakistan)	In value adding process of a product, there is a middle man in each step.
How could you associate with 28 MBO and 68,124 HBWs? (Dave, WIEGO)	They were not initiation of HomeNet India. As HomeNet India is associated with SEWA and other NGOs working for HBWs, mentioned number came to associated with HomeNet India. This year, HomeNet India is going to conduct research that how it go for MBOs.

## **Summary and observation of the country presentations**

Ms. Donna Doane, Program Consultant of HomeNet South Asia reviewed all the presentation. She categorized the presentation in three parts.

### 1. Understand the basic situation of HBWs in country context.

Capital city is different than other cities by over crowd, rapid urbanization, migration, focus on infrastructure but not on livelihood, basic services which increased income gap. The government has open-up urban poor in a name of poverty alleviation but, because of political dynamic it is not taking a concrete shape. Other cities are found bit manageable so that HBWs organization worked for livelihood of HBWs.

Another difference found in-between piece rate worker and self employed worker. This situation needs to count when working for need and situation of HBWs.

Central cities are found different than sub-urban cities. Because of natural calamities, HBWs are re-located in sub-urban area which could be opportunity for them because they have better facilities and they would influence local authority.

### 2. Livelihood needs of HBWs.

While talking with authority, it is necessary to be specific to need of HBWs. Livelihood need of HBWs would be separated from other urban poor like electricity problem, irregular income, gas problem, housing problem, transportation problem, technology, marketing, occupational safety . So, authority should not mix them with all informal workers. As some government have launched program for specific target group for e.g. in Nepal there are some supportive allowance for widow and handicap. Similarly, HBWs need should be separately recognize by an authority and need to address accordingly.

### 3. Ideas/proposal for betterment for HBWs

Some countries have proposed specific program for HBWs. For e.g. Occupation health and safety; community enterprise; trade fair; skill building; association with other home base organizations; and many more ideas.

Some specific problem of HBWs came up during the presentation for example: middle man, drug, drinking; human trafficking; gambling. Now the challenge is how to address them.

Some developments in HBWs appearing for e.g. women are empowered in decision making, increasing women confidence.

Mr. Om Thapalia, Executive Director of HomeNet Nepal also reviewed the presentation. He presented country wise typical issues that were observed from the presentation.

Bangladesh	Nepal	Thailand	Cambodia	India	Pakistan
Child labor	Indigenous knowledge	Migration from rural to urban	Affect by globalization	Sexual harassment and violation	Lack of electricity
Climate change	Gender inequality		Marketing	Migration	
Global warming	Migration from rural to urban		Migration from rural to urban		
	Lack of electricity		Prostitution		
			Cultural change		
			Corruption in central and local level		

Mr. Thapalia said "Generally, municipality do takes HBWs as burden of the city. They have not recognized the service of HBWs. If HBWs do not make candle how can we lighten our room in those power cuts. Therefore, the Government, municipal authority and local body have to recognize HBWs and make them visible in plan, program and policy".

Some additional issues added by other participants.

Sheikh added:

- Low level of education.
- Lack of life skill.
- Livelihood skills and further skill development.

Laila added:

- Challenging to manage in-between peace and conflict.
- Internal displacement by natural calamities and conflict.
- Poor law and order.
- Diversification in development
- Lack of linkage between urban planning and HBWs.

Poonsap added:

- Advocacy required for labor right and human right.

Duannapa added:

- Promote ILO convention 177
- Introduce new technology to HBWs. e.g. machine, mobile, internet, on line job and empower to use them.

Reema added:

- Organize HBWs.
- Educate in worker education
- Support for new technology

Donna suggested to discuss on:

- How to approach city authority
- What to say to authority
- Legislation of HBWs
- Proposal to city authority
- Dealing with city authority

Dave suggested:

- Be specific to HBWs
- Organization for only HBWs

Sapna suggested focusing on:

- How to develop livelihood
- How to improve working condition
- How to organize

Ms. Donna Doane presented the overview of day two (see **Annex 11** for detail presentation). She presented what will be the discussion topic on day 2 and how the group will work on problem and solution

### **Visit to HBWs**

All the participants except facilitators of the workshop visited the home based worker in Bhaktapur. They were member of MBO affiliated with HomeNet Nepal. The participants interacted with those HBWs and tried to find out their situation, strength and weakness.

### **Overall Observation (Facts) of Day One**

The workshop was organized in Nagarkot, the beautiful place of Kathmandu. All the participants from South Asia and South East Asia arrived by evening 24th August. The organizers (Benita and Pallavee) were reached there two days ahead for logistic management. It was wonderful evening in Club Himalya Hotel with classic environment.

25th August, 2011, the date of the workshop came up with new sun. I got up quarter to five expecting to see sun rise because Nagarkot is the paradise for sun rise view. Unfortunately, those

black clouds could not let me enjoy the sun rise. Never mind, because it was not the season for viewing sun rise.

Good morning! Everybody started to greet each other with very smiley face. Those who know each other were excited to meet each other once again and other were bit shy and gently smiling and greeting each other. The participants started to take breakfast then proceed to the workshop hall.

The participants were asked to come with their product for selling so that they started to open their shop in defined place. It was wonderful. The participants had bought different stuff basically targeting women. The room became colorful Bazar. People started to open-up. It was good place to introduce each other. The Bazar could bring synergy in the workshop. Mean time, I prepared myself to catch every moment of the workshop. My video camera and mobile were full charged. Camera stands were in right place and I take chair comfortable to sit and take a note.

The workshop started according to the schedule. All the participants registered before entering into the hall. Good number of participants participated in the workshop. There were not any formalities in the workshop which gave homely environment to the participants. The workshop agenda were well prepared. The workshop objective was clearly stated and provided visualized overview of the workshop. The participants were clear that what would come and how it would go.

According to the objective of the workshop, the country presentation was started by home country Nepal. Everybody enthusiastically observed the presentation. Common language in the workshop was English which became barrier for some of the participants of every country except Philippines. The participants were helping each other by interpreting. Therefore, the presenters were requested to speak slowly. One by one all seven countries presented their information. All of them presented the country context, situation of HBWs, action taken to support HBWs and their achievement. It seems that they got written assignment to prepare those presentations.

Every presentation proceeded by question and answers. Audience asked questions for clarification, justification and for further information. It was interactive but limited to only few participants. Majority of the participants did not interact in plenary. It would be because of language problem. However, I observed that they were discussing in their group and one of them was leading by interpreting to and fro. Ms. Sapna Joshi facilitated the interaction. She tried to clarify question and answer while she observed gap in understanding. Four presentations were presented before the lunch and three were presented after the lunch.

Ms. Donna Doane debriefed the presentations. She synthesized the presentation and brought them into three points as mentioned above. Mr. Om Thapalia identified particular issues of countries. Other participants started to add many additional issues. It was observed that the participants started generalized HBWs as informal workers. Therefore, Mr. David Spooner requested the participants to focus on HBWs and Ms. Joshi asked the participants to focus on livelihood development, working condition improvement and organization establishment of HBWs. The session was ended by preview of day 2. The participants went to visit HBWs of Nepal which was good experiential learning opportunity for the participants. The workshop

organizers and facilitators reflected on the day and plan for day 2 which was very good technique to be in line of workshop objectives.

### **Feeling of the Day**

- The workshop was good forum for country based sharing information.
- Good learning opportunities regarding HBWs in country context.
- Learning from each other's experiences.
- Exposer visits to member of HomeNet which support in capacity development of member too.
- Opportunity to develop brotherhood among member countries of HomeNet which extend networking among them.
- Get opportunity to supplement each other countries in way forward.
- It would be performance evaluation of a country.
- Good refreshment.

### **Suggestion for Future**

The participants need to take back most of the stuff they bought. Therefore, the organizer should suggest the amount and type of material and market size.

It would be better to provide presentation paper to countries beforehand so that they would translate them into their language.

Only few participants participated in the interactions. It would be better to encourage all the participants to participate in the interaction by probing question.