3 policy actions to improve the lives of informal workers

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The problem: Informal economy traders face barriers accessing markets.

A solution: Establish government-approved informal trading zones between developing countries.



In practice: Between Bangladesh and India, this has increased border trade, support workers' wages, and authorities' ability to track cross-border informal trading.

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The problem: Working in the informal economy for extended periods often leads to economic insecurity in old age, especially for women.

A solution: Introduce a universal social pension.



In practice: Bolivia's universal social pension Renta Dignidad ('Dignity Pension') reduced extreme poverty by 5.8% within two years, particularly in rural areas.*

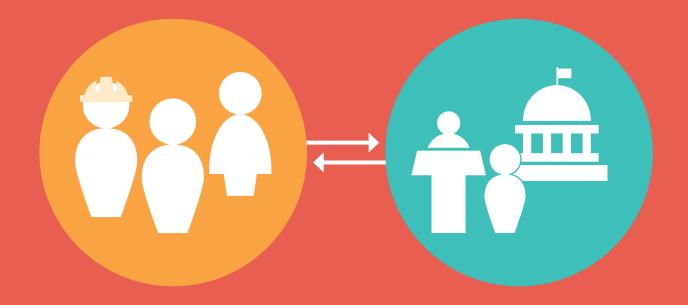
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* Ticona Gonzales, 201

The problem: Informal workers are often invisible to policy-makers.

A solution: Ensure workers can organise and are listened to by policy-makers.



In practice: In 2013, advocacy by the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) secured state funds to improve water and sanitation in 47,000 homes.*

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* SEWA, 2013; Mahadevia et al., 2014