

GLI Informal Transport Programme

The Global Labour Institute (GLI) supports the organisation, representation and livelihoods of workers in the informal passenger transport economy through research and education programmes, working in partnership with the International Transportworkers Federation (ITF).

After initial baseline research on livelihoods in the informal transport economy, GLI's Informal Transport Programme was launched in 2013 with the coordination of a three-year education project with the ITF to support the capacity of trade unions to engage with informal workers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This was led by 'mentor unions' in Uganda, Niger, Philippines, Nepal and Colombia, each working in partnership with unions in their respective regions. The project produced a range of education multi-lingual materials and videos used in national and regional training events to discuss union policy, strategies and practical organising methods, and led to the adoption of the Informal Transport Workers' Charter at the ITF's World Congress in 2018.

This has been followed by national projects with unions and workers' associations in Africa, focused on the potential impact of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems in major cities, detailed economic and social analyses of informal urban passenger transport industries, and practical steps towards the formalisation of informal passenger transport based on the inclusion of democratic workers' organisations in policy development, planning and implementation.

The programme also includes partnerships with the International Labour Organisation, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and other agencies in capacity development for unions to effectively organise, represent and form alliances with informal transport workers, and to develop strategic policy on the application of ILO standards and recommendations in the formalisation of informal work in the transport industry.

In all activities, GLI is committed to a participatory approach, working with workers' representatives in all aspects of research and education, supported by local qualified and experienced research specialists in transport and/or the informal economy. Our field research is undertaken by local teams with first-hand knowledge and experience of the industry, ensuring the trust and support of the workers concerned and relevance of the research to their needs.



Major projects

2020 -

Socio-economic study of the trotro industry in Accra

A detailed understanding of the socio-economic characteristics of the trotro industry in Accra, its main players, and its business model. This will include the development of a model of operating costs and revenue, an analysis of fuel efficiency and pollutant emissions, and profiles of the trotro workforce and main industry players

The project is being undertaken in partnership with Transitec Consulting Engineers and Organisation Development Africa (ODA), commissioned by the Ghana Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project (GUMAP) of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

Initial field research is due to start in November 2020, pandemic restrictions permitting.



2020 –

Abidjan Bus Rapid Transit: Labour Impact Assessment

An assessment of the potential impact of the World Bank-financed Urban Mobility Project, including the introduction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on the workforce of Dakar's *gbaka* and *woro-woro* informal transport industry and a contribution towards the active engagement of transport workers' representatives in shaping a modern, accessible, efficient and environmentally sustainable transport system for the city.

The project has been commissioned by the ITF and is due to start the initial field research by December 2020, pandemic restrictions permitting.



2019-2020

Kampala Bus Rapid Transit: Understanding Kampala's Paratransit Market Structure

A detailed assessment of the market structure and workers' livelihoods in the informal transport industry in Kampala, including minibus ("taxi") and motorcycle taxi ("boda-boda") services. It contributes towards an understanding of how transport services can be incrementally improved and professionalised to minimize some of its negative effects on Kampala overall transport system, maximise opportunities for decent employment and integrate existing informal services in plans for new transport regulation and infrastructure, such as BRT.

The project was commissioned by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to support the Government of Uganda and the Kampala Capital City Authority in preparation of the planned introduction of BRT.

<http://gli-manchester.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GLI-Kampala-Paratransit-Report-June-2020.pdf>



2019 -

Dakar Bus Rapid Transit: Labour Impact Assessment

An assessment of the potential impact of the introduction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on the workforce of Dakar's informal transport industry and a contribution towards the active engagement of transport workers' representatives in shaping a modern, accessible, efficient and environmentally sustainable transport system for the city.

The project was commissioned by the ITF and undertaken in partnership with the Laboratoire de Géographie Humaine at the University of Dakar (UCAD), and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing & Organizing (WIEGO).

The first report of the project is due to be published in English and French in September 2020.



2019

Bus Rapid Transit and the Formalisation of Informal Public Transport

Policy options for trade unions and workers' associations to consider when planning consultation and negotiation with city governments and transport planning and regulation authorities on the introduction of BRT. It explores the major issues raised by BRT projects as well as the opportunities for a just transition to sustainable and efficient public transport services.

The research and publication was commissioned by the ITF and drew extensively from the contributions of participants in regional ITF workshops on BRT and Inclusive Planning for Sustainable Transport.

<https://www.itfglobal.org/sites/default/files/node/page/files/BRT%20a%20trade%20union%20negotiating%20guide.pdf>



2017-19

Nairobi Bus Rapid Transit: Labour Impact Assessment

An assessment of workers' livelihoods in the *matatu* industry, the potential impact and implications of BRT for them in Nairobi, and examples of good practice in the inclusion of workers' organisations in the development of BRT policy and implementation by local, national and international decision-makers elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa.

The project was commissioned by the ITF, and was delivered in partnership with local trade unions, with the support of the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, the Kenya Transport Research Network, and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

<http://gli-manchester.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Nairobi-Bus-Rapid-Transit-Report.pdf>



2016-17

Transforming Transport Unions through the Mass Organisation of Informal Workers

A Case Study of the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers Union (ATGWU) in Uganda which pioneered the successful organisation of more than 100,000 informal transport workers through the formation of alliances with informal workers' associations.

The project was commissioned by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung as a contribution to its *Trade Unions in Transformation* project and undertaken by GLI in partnership with ATGWU.

<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/13643.pdf>



2013-16

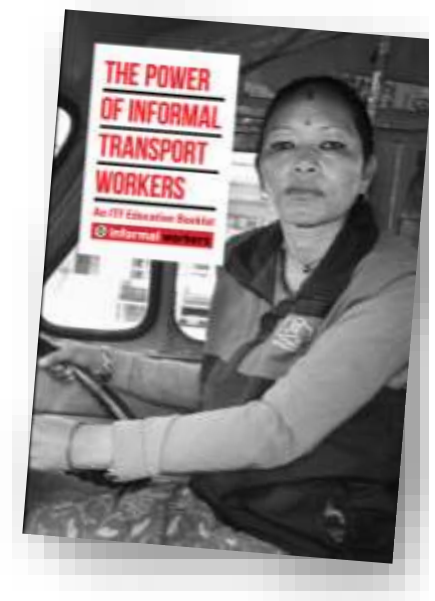
ITF Informal Transport Workers' Project

Design and management of research and education in Africa, Asia and Latin America to support the democratic organisation and representation of informal transport workers.

The project included regional policy seminars and training workshops and direct support to unions in their regions in developing skills and policies to build informal workers' organisation including design and delivery of training for unions and associations of paratransit workers in Niger, Uganda, Nepal, Philippines and Colombia.. The mentor unions developed new organising methods – mapping informal transport hubs, building alliances with informal associations, researching employment relationships, and supporting collective bargaining with employers, governments and transport authorities.

The project was a partnership with ITF and FNV Mondiaal, the international development organisation of the Dutch FNV trade union confederation.

<https://www.itfglobal.org/media/1691170/informal-transport-workers.pdf>



2010-2013

Baseline research

Research and literature review to summarise available data and analysis on the livelihoods, organisation and issues faced by informal transport workers. This provided a baseline and guided the design of the 2013-16 ITF Informal Transport Workers' Project.

The research was commissioned by the ITF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with WIEGO.

<http://gli-manchester.net/itf-baseline-survey-report-precarious-labour-and-decent-work-in-the-transport-industry/>
<http://gli-manchester.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Urban-Informal-Transport-Livelihood-Profile.pdf>



GLI Informal Transport Team

Dave Spooner, GLI Director (Manchester)

Dave Spooner is the Director of the Global Labour Institute (GLI) in Manchester. He has twenty-five years of experience in research, education and design and management of development projects in the informal economy, including extensive work with organisations of transport workers, street vendors and waste recyclers in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. He has designed and managed national, regional and international research and development projects, including design and coordination of the ITF Informal Transport Workers Project in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the subsequent projects in Nairobi, Dakar and Kampala.

Dave has a background in international workers' education, having been General Secretary of the International Federation of Workers Education Associations in the 1990s, and was a Board Member and subsequently Operations Director of Women in Informal Employment Globalizing & Organizing (WIEGO) prior to co-founding the Global Labour Institute in 2010. He is also an accredited project and programme evaluator with the ILO.

Jess Whelligan, GLI Researcher (London)

Jess Whelligan was a full-time staff member of GLI in 2013-17, delivering education and research programmes with informal transport workers' organisations in Nairobi, Kampala, Kathmandu, Phnom Penh, and Manila. Now working for GLI part-time, she is a PhD candidate studying the impact of transport infrastructure programmes on the informal transport workforce under an ESRC Collaborative Studentship at the School of African & Oriental Studies, University of London, in partnership with the International Transport Workers' Federation.

John Mark Mwanika, GLI Consultant (Kampala)

John Mark Mwanika is the Programmes Officer for the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers Union (ATGWU) in Uganda and Chair of the Urban Transport Committee of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). He has many years' experience of research, education and organising in the national and international transport industry, particularly in informal transport, including responsibility for the GLI 'mentor union' programme in East Africa. He was the GLI Research Coordinator for the Nairobi BRT Labour Impact Assessment and the Assessment of the Market Structure of the Paratransit Industry in Kampala.

Georgia Montague-Nelson, GLI Researcher (Manchester)

Georgia Montague-Nelson, Researcher, GLI Manchester, specialises in human rights and environmental issues, with a focus on international development, poverty and gender equality. Georgia joined GLI full-time in January 2019 and was responsible for much of the desk research on BRT and informal transport development in Nairobi, Dakar and Kampala.

Programme Partners

GLI works in close partnership with academic researchers and development practitioners who have expertise and extensive experience in the transport industry and/or the informal economy. In the current work in Africa, these include:

Côte d'Ivoire

Sibailly Douhoure is a former West Africa Regional Director for Union Network International (UNI), the international trade union federation, and subsequently Africa and Asia Coordinator for StreetNet International, the international federation of street vendor and market trader associations and unions. He is a highly experienced workers' educator and project manager with extensive knowledge of Abidjan informal workers' organisations. He is currently the Fieldwork Coordinator for the Abidjan BRT Labour Impact Assessment.

Dr Armand Djah is Assistant Professor at Allassane Ouattara University, with expertise in urban planning, sustainable development and environmental issues in sub-Saharan Africa, and a specialist in digital mapping and statistical data processing tools. Dr Djah is currently the data analyst for the Abidjan BRT Labour Impact Assessment.

Ghana

Lydia Boateng-Pobee is a Masters graduate in Social Policy Studies at the University of Ghana, and development practitioner with over 10 years' experience, including support to WIEGO in organising surveys among informal economy workers. She has extensive experience in the design, administration and reporting of questionnaire surveys among informal workers, planning and managing workshops and seminars, and facilitating focus group discussions and stakeholder meetings. She has worked with the leadership of numerous informal workers' associations.

Dr Owusu Boampong is a Research Fellow at the School for Development Studies (SDS) at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, specialising in the informal economy and small enterprise

development. He has more than fifteen years research experience on workers in the informal economy, including transport, waste-recycling and waste management. He is currently participating in WIEGO's Global Crisis Study on the impact of COVID on the livelihoods of Informal Workers in Accra using remote/contactless research methods.

Kenya

Erick Manga is a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at Nairobi University, specialising in transportation. He was responsible for the research survey methodology and data analysis in the Nairobi BRT Labour Impact Assessment and the Assessment of the Market Structure of the Paratransit Industry in Kampala and was research methods advisor to the Dakar research team. Erick is also active in the Kenya Transport Research Network (KTRN), established by IDS in 2016.

Senegal

Prof. Papa Sakho, Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Dakar. His work focuses on African cities, urban mobility and transport in Africa. Since 2005, has participated in several international research projects on migration between Africa and Europe as leader of the Senegal research team. Prof. Sakho leads the research team on the Dakar BRT Labour Impact Assessment project.

Malick Diop is a highly experienced trade unionist and workers' education practitioner with extensive experience in Dakar's informal transport industry. He is the field research coordinator on the Dakar BRT Labour Impact Assessment project.

Uganda

Natamba Shadrack is Lecturer in Development Studies and Foundation Studies at Kyambogo University, Kampala. He is an experienced researcher in the informal economy, including the *boda-boda* motorcycle taxi industry. Natamba was responsible for survey data management and analysis in the Assessment of the Market Structure of the Paratransit Industry in Kampala.

About GLI

The Global Labour Institute (GLI Network Ltd) is a not-for-profit research, education and development company formed in 2010 in Manchester. It works closely with global trade union federations, national unions, research institutions and workers' education organisations.

GLI conducts education, capacity-building and research on international labour movement development and organisation strategy. It has specialist international experience in political education, organisation and trade union policy with informal economy workers, and the design, management and evaluation of international workers' education and capacity development programmes.

GLI in Manchester is a member of the GLI Network, an alliance of independent not-for-profit organisations with shared democratic socialist principles based in Geneva, Manchester, Paris, Moscow and New York supporting trade union education, research and development.

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