



Syndicat National des Travailleurs (euses) Autonomes de l'Economie Informelle du Niger

SYNATRA

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SYNATRA-ITF PARTNERSHIP

Summary Report

**TRAINING WORKSHOP SEMINAR FOR INFORMAL WORKERS IN
THE TRANSPORT SECTOR OF MARADI AND ZINDER
AND ROUNDTABLE**

August 2015

SUMMARY

The National Union of Informal Economy Workers (Syndicat National des Travailleuses et Travailleurs de l'Economie Informelle, SYNATRA), organised activities on 1-3 August 2015 within the framework of its partnership with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). These were a training workshop seminar for informal workers in the transport sector of Maradi and Zinder and a roundtable to discuss work-related problems in the transport sector.

The seminar was attended by 20 participants: 15 from Maradi and 5 from Zinder, 250 km away. Presentations covered several issues including trade unionism and health and safety at work.

I- TRAINING SEMINAR WORKSHOP

Mrs Souley Zeinabou Barmou conducted the official opening ceremony, in the presence of Saidou Amadou, a member of the executive and all participants from Maradi and Zinder. Her speech focused on relations between SYNATRA and the ITF and the various aspects of this cooperation, especially funding of these activities. The participants were asked to work hard on the issues to be covered and to participate fully in the discussions.

Administrative announcements, agreement on the agenda and a discussion on the workshop objectives were followed by:

- Presentation by the SYNATRA
- Presentation by the ITF
- The core ILO conventions
- The basics of trade unionism (forming, membership, operation, funding)
- Road safety (two-wheeled transport)
- STIs/HIV/AIDS and working relations.

At the end of long discussions on living and working conditions for informal economy workers in the transport sector, participants made the following recommendations:

1. Organise more training sessions for members;
2. Organise more meetings with the authorities and other actors to raise their awareness about the problems faced by transport workers:
 - a. The provision of credit for the replacement or repair of vehicles and/or loans for purchases;
 - b. Road management and development of parking areas at stations, etc.;
 - c. The creation of mutual insurance companies and/or cooperatives in order to make members less vulnerable;

- d. Participants thanked the ITF and the Mardi town council for all the facilities provided for the organisation of the seminar.

A ceremony was held to present each participant with an attendance certificate for the seminar-workshop.

The union's general secretary, Mrs Souley Zeinabou, closed the meeting. She highlighted the quality of the presentations and the diligence and interest shown by participants. Wishing a safe journey home to everyone, she assured the participants she would be communicating thanks and best wishes to the ITF. One of the participants, speaking on behalf of all fellow participants, expressed satisfaction with the event.

II- ROUNDTABLE FOR TRANSPORT ACTORS

Participants and organisers left the seminar room and went out into the field for a roundtable on transport problems. This brought into the discussions station managers, informal vendors and SYNATRA executive committee members.

The discussions raised several problems regarding the relations between transport workers, station managers, street vendors and other actors in the sector.

Conclusion

The activities in Maradi were: a training workshop seminar attended by 20 participants; ii- a discussion between actors in the informal the transport sector and iii- discussions about problems faced by the different actors, which went very well. All the participants said the activities were completely successful.

General Secretary
Zeinabou Souley Barmou