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What is BWI?

- A global Trade Union Federation grouping free and democratic unions with membership in the building, construction wood and forestry and allied sectors.
- 350 trade unions representing around 12 million workers in 135 countries.
- Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, regional & project offices in Panama, Malaysia, India, Australia, Burkina Faso, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Kenya, Russia, South Korea, Brazil and Peru

BWI Mission

- To promote the development of trade unions in the building, forestry and wood industries throughout the world and to promote and enforce workers' rights in a context of sustainable development.

WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS/NETWORKS

- ILO
- UNFF
- ITTO
- World Social Forum
- WHO
- ICFTU
- International Employers Associations

MEANING OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM LABOUR POINT OF VIEW

- INCLUDES 3 CRITERIA:
- ECONOMIC
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- SOCIAL

DEFINITION OF POVERTY

- LACK OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES/MEANS NEEDED TO ENJOY A COMFORTABLE WAY OF LIFE.
- DENIAL/FAILURE TO ACCESS THE SOCIAL RIGHTS NECESSARY TO ENJOY A GOOD STANDARD OF LIFE
- LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN WEALTH CREATION

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO GET WORKERS OUT OF POVERTY AS A STARTING POINT

- RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS TO FREELY ORGANISE AND NEGOTIATE FOR BETTER WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS.
- PAYMENT OF FAIR WAGES
- TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR STAFF
- ADHERANCE TO ALL EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION AND REGULATION.
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR EQUITY & PROFIT SHARING

WHEN SOCIAL ISSUES ARE NOT ADDRESSED

- WITHDRAWAL OF LABOUR AND CONFRONTATION WITH MANAGEMENT.
- STALLED NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMUNITIES & EMPLOYEES AND POLITICIANS
- LOSS OF MARKTES AND CONTRACTS.
- VANDALISM & SABOTAGE
- HOSTILITY TOWARDS FOREST MANAGERS AND COMPANIES

EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POVERTY

- NOTHING TO DATE IN THE BIG DEAL DOMAIN
- A FEW EXAMPLES AROUND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES WITH NON TIMBER PRODUCTS (BEE-KEEPING, MUSHROOM PRODUCTION, FRUIT TREES PRODUCTION, MEDICINAL PLANTS & HERBS)
- MOST WORK DONE BY WOMEN WITH LITTLE KNOW HOW ON HOW TO MAKE IT VIABLE
- DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SPRINGS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO WATER