

BUILDING TRADE UNIONS IN AFRICA

TRANSLATING VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS INTO TRADE UNION STRATEGY



LRS

LABOUR RESEARCH SERVICE



TRADE

(1) CHINA	\$5,8 BILLION
(4) NAMIBIA	3,8
(5) BOTSWANA	3,7
(11) ZAMBIA	2,1
(12) MOÇAMBIQUE	2,1
(14) ZIMBABWE	1,7
(16) SWAZILAND	1,1
(19) LESOTHO	1
(27) KENYA	605 MILLION
(28) ANGOLA	579 MILLION

SA EXPORTS

SOURCE: WORLD BANK, WITS, 2015

PRODUCTION HAS CHANGED

- IN 2009, WORLD EXPORTS OF INTERMEDIATE GOODS EXCEEDED THE COMBINED EXPORT VALUES OF FINAL AND CAPITAL GOODS FOR THE FIRST TIME...”

- GEREFFI & STURGEON, 2013

WHAT IS THIS VALUE CHAIN THING?

- VALUE IS ADDED IN MULTIPLE COUNTRIES
- GEOGRAPHIC FRAGMENTATION
- FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION OF FAR-FLUNG ACTIVITIES
- INEQUALITY (THE UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE ALONG THE CHAIN)
- INPUT-OUTPUT STRUCTURE AND ITS GEOGRAPHY, THE VALUE CHAIN CONCEPT RECOGNISES POWER (GOVERNANCE) AS A KEY FACTOR IN A CHAIN
- FIRMS IN A VALUE CHAIN ARE EMBEDDED IN AN INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT, I.E. LAWS, REGULATION, COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS, ETC.

AIRPORT VC



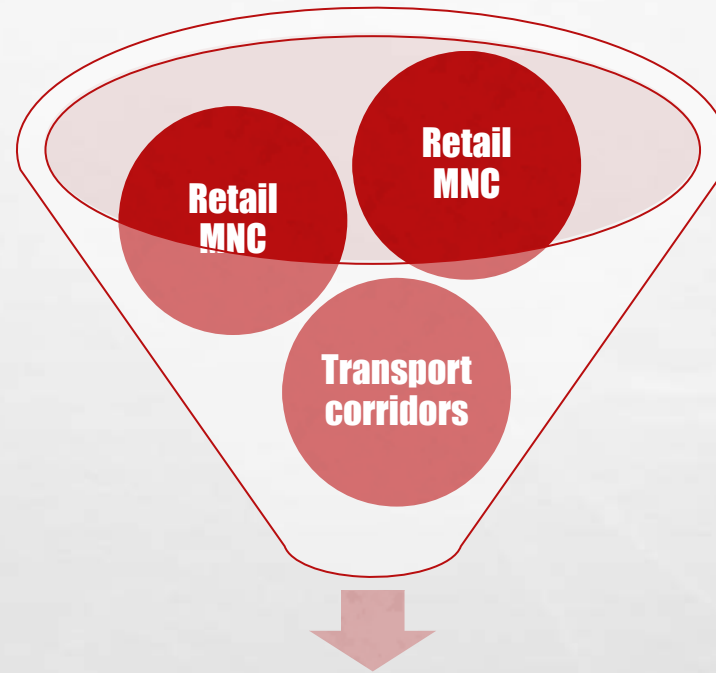
RE-SEEING THE WORKPLACE



WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

- I KNOW WHAT VALUE CHAINS ARE
- I KNOW HOW TO MAP A VALUE CHAIN
- I HAVE A (DIFFERENT) SPACE FOR SHARING AND LEARNING
- I KNOW OTHER TRADE UNION NETWORKS
- I HAVE NEW IDEAS ABOUT ORGANISING AND BARGAINING

NETWORKS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY



New and renewed approaches to
bargaining and organising

THE WORK OF THE UNION IS TO MAKE THE LINK

- BETWEEN WORKERS IN THE SAME WORKPLACE
- BETWEEN WORKERS IN DIFFERENT WORKPLACES IN THE SAME COMPANY
- BETWEEN WORKERS IN DIFFERENT WORKPLACES IN THE SAME INDUSTRY
- BETWEEN WORKERS IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES
- BETWEEN WORKERS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES