

Social dialogue and stakeholder engagement as a means of achieving Just Transition

A Trade Union Perspective

Building and Wood Workers International

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Climate Change is a Challenge Workers Face Daily in their Workplaces

Construction workers face intensifying heat stress, unpredictable and severe weather patterns, and job insecurity linked to climate disruptions.

The building materials industry is undergoing rapid industrial transformation.

Workers in forestry are at the frontline of protecting ecosystems while facing growing environmental degradation and climate-related risks.

At the same time, the global transition towards low-carbon economies is reshaping labour markets, skills needs, investment patterns, and production systems.

Sometimes “Green” doesn’t mean Good



While the expansion of the green economy is essential for climate goals, many new roles in building materials and construction trades are emerging as non-union, lower-wage, or precarious positions.



They may lack adequate wages, occupational safety and health protections, secure contracts, and proper training.



The green transition risks replicating or deepening existing inequalities in the sector and meet resistance from workers to happen.

**Workers are
the ones
who will
deliver
the
transition on
the ground**

- Through building retrofits
- Green infrastructure
- Climate-resilient construction
- Sustainable forest management
- Changing work processes in the production of building materials

Their expertise, agency, and participation are essential to crafting effective and equitable transition strategies.

Just transition policies must be shaped by those whose lives and livelihoods are most affected.

BWI Approach

For BWI, responding to climate change is not simply an environmental imperative. It is a trade union priority rooted in occupational safety and health, decent work, industrial policy, social protection, freedom of association, and collective bargaining.

Three complementary priorities:

- Protecting workers from the growing impacts of climate change, particularly extreme weather events, heat, and other occupational risks;
- Delivering a worker-centred just transition across construction, building materials, wood, and forestry sectors;
- Ensuring that climate governance, forest protection, and sustainable development are built upon labour rights, decent work, and democratic participation.

International Workers' Memorial Day 2026

- Record-breaking: **305** Actions; **86** unions; **47** countries
- Theme: Too Hot to Work
- What's the outcome? ILO Recommendations



Meeting of Experts on Occupational Safety and Health in Extreme Weather Events and Changing Weather Patterns

Geneva, 20-24 April 2026



Collective Agreements



BWI • BHI • BTI • IBB • ICM
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RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

RAINFORESTS
THRIVE WITH
THEIR PEOPLE:
**STOP
EXPLOITATION
NOW!**

PROMOTE

DECENT WORK



PRESERVE

COMMUNITIES



PROTECT

THE ENVIRONMENT

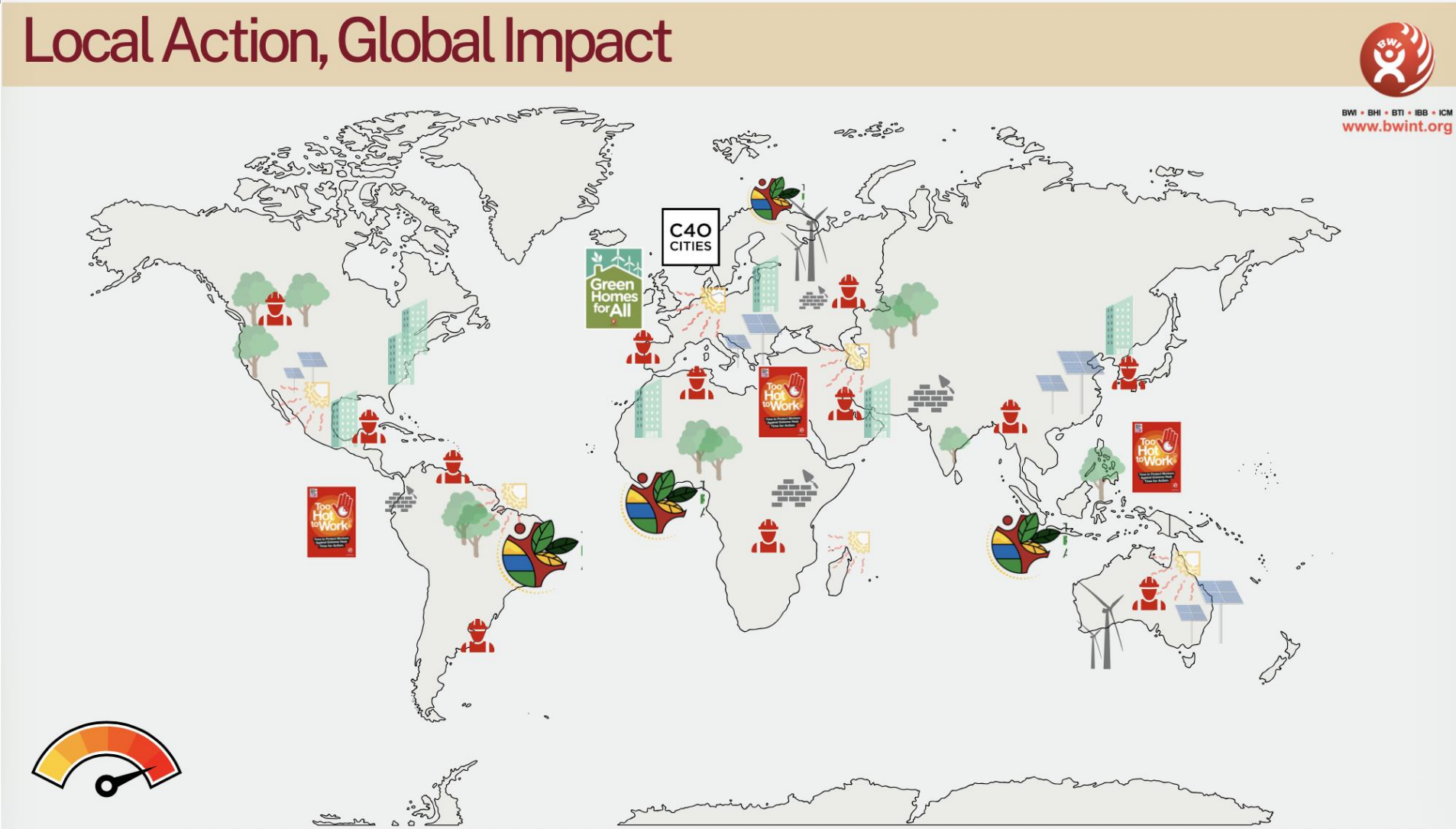


BWI
Building and Wood
Workers' International
www.bwint.org



TRADE UNION
RAINFOREST
ALLIANCE

Local Action, Global Impact



Institutional Agreement with FIFA

Inspection Protocol - *for approval*



Current concerns/activities: MENA

- Tunisia – heat stress
- Morocco to be a host for World Cup 2030, green building
- Jordan – training on negotiation, social dialogue
 - *Complicated political situation due to war, life and HR takes precedence
 - *Successful because of good climate strategy and energy transition plan + funds and donors
- Bahrain – training and social dialogue, trainings for inspectors for heat stress,
- Rebuilding and reconstruction in relation to war



Thank You!
