

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND GENDER, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

THE ROLE OF THE INFORMAL WASTE SECTOR

ACCELERATING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Integrating Circularity into
Programs, Projects, and Policies



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I'm **Lita** as **Environment Consultant**

I help individuals and organizations to care for the environment

Lita's Experiences:

- 10 years of experiences about waste management and ocean conservation with high value projects
- Founder and Managing Director Yayasan Wastehub Alam Lestari (2019–present)
- United Nations Consultant (United Nations ESCAP Smart City Consultant 2023, UNEP Partnership and Reporting Expert for EmPower II : Women for Climate-Resilient Societies Program) (present)
- Commissioner PT. Earthnusa Jelajah Dunia (Ecotourism Startup) (present)
- Community Manager Oceancycle (2021–2024)
- External Engagement Greeneration Foundation (2017–2018)
- Scuba Diver and Freediver



Landfill Video Oceancycle



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Kinsasha, Democratic Republic of the Congo



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WHAT'S ON THE TABLE TODAY?



Circular Economy in Indonesia



Why Gender, Equality, and Social Inclusion Matter in Circular Economy



The Role of the Informal Waste Sector



Scavenger Empowerment: Inclusive Policies in Waste Management



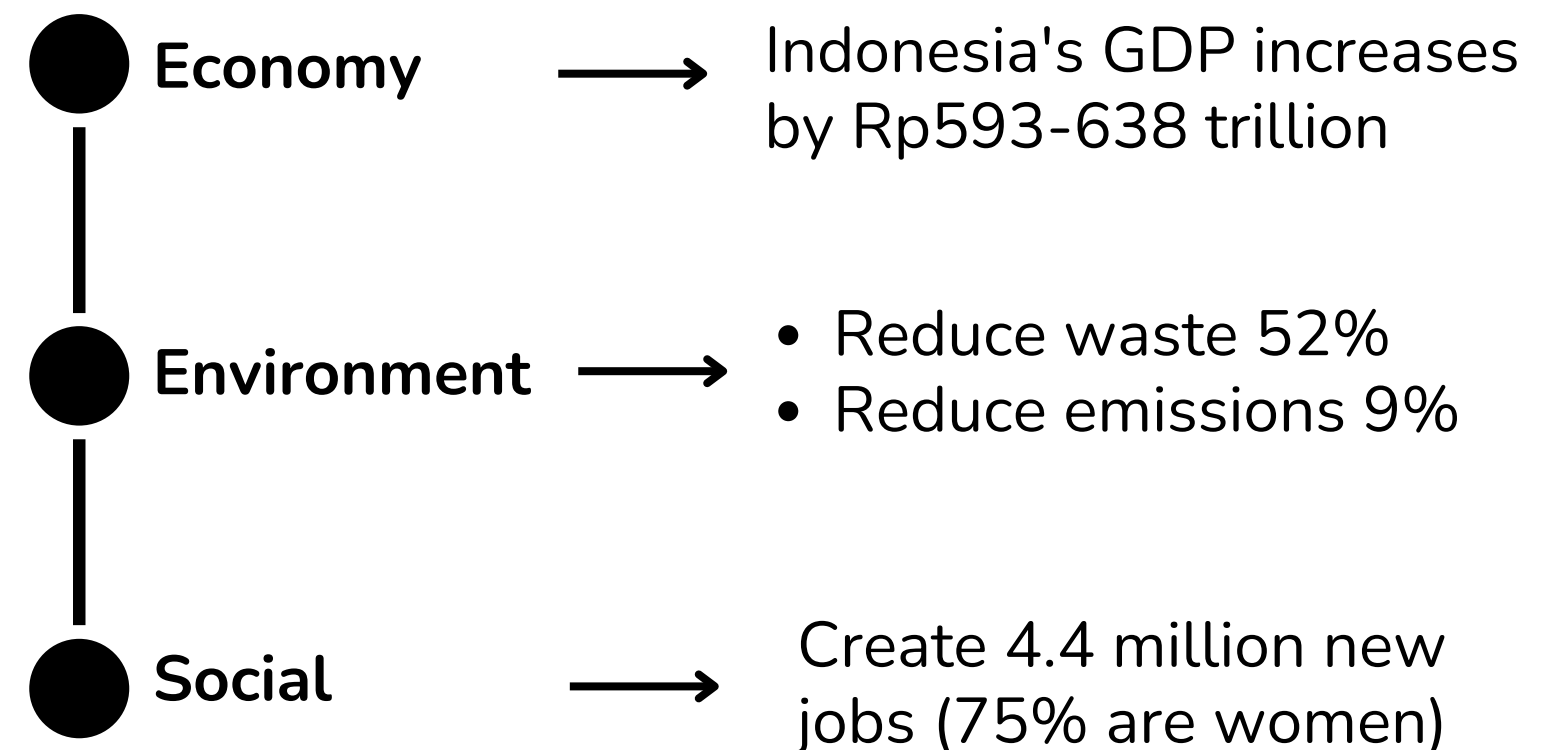
Circular Economy in Indonesia

Indonesia's adoption of circular economy practices is aimed at supporting the country's shift toward a green economy.

Circular Economy adoption in Indonesia

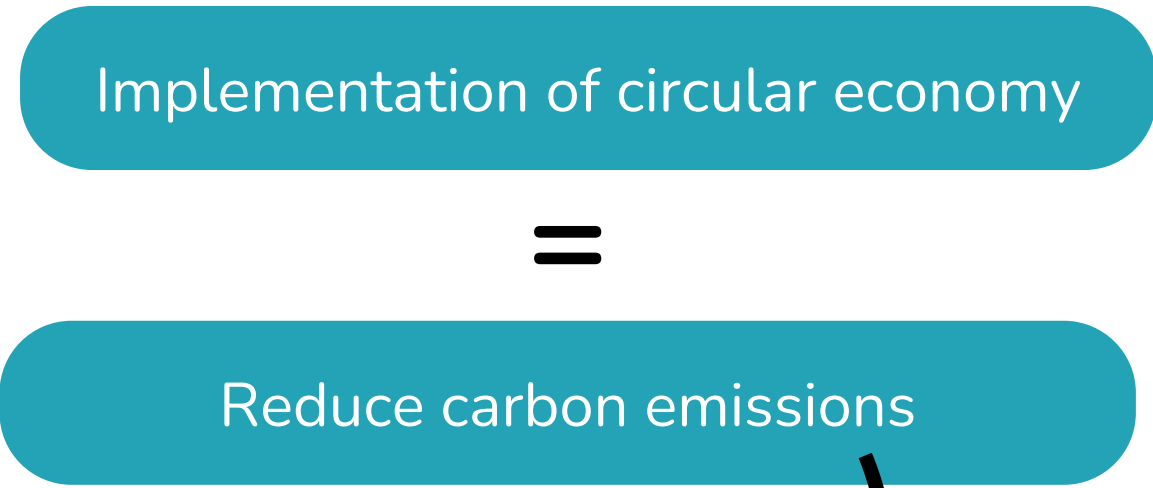


Indonesia's expected benefits from implementing a circular economy in 2030 :



Circular Economy in Supporting Low Carbon Development in Indonesia

The five priority sectors involved in Indonesia's low-carbon development strategy



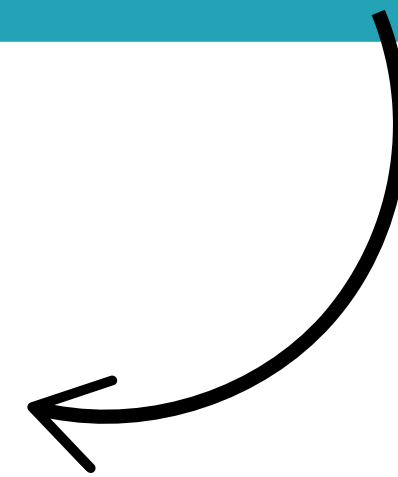
6.1–6.5% annually
between 2021–2050



Boost economic
growth



If Indonesia continues
prioritizing carbon reduction

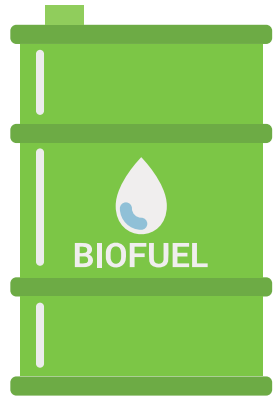


Impact for
Indonesia

Indonesia's target for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

→ 2024 = 27.3%
→ 2030 = 29%

Indonesia's achievements :

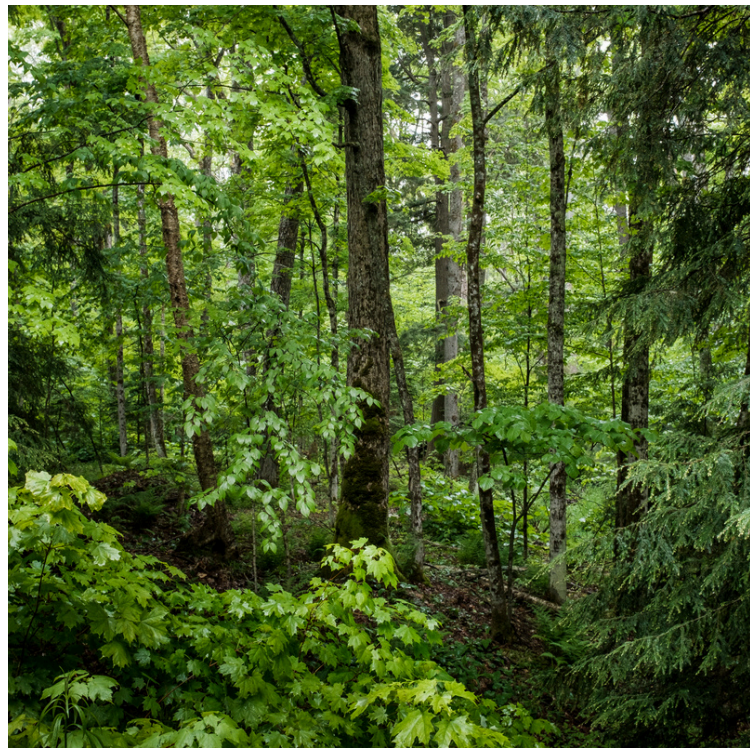


B20 biofuel as an alternative fuel has saved **USD 385.9 million** (2018-2019)



Energy intensity decreases by **2% per year**

Indonesia's efforts to reduce GHG emissions :



Forest Protection



Enhancing waste management infrastructure

Source : The Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits of a Circular Economy in Indonesia, Summary For Policymakers. Bappenas, Kedutaan Besar Denmark, UNDP. January 2021

Implementation of sustainable green economy principles by Indonesia



the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN)

National Priority 1



Strengthening Economic Resilience for Quality and Equitable Growth

- Management of economic resources
- The acceleration of increasing economic value
- Support the application of circular economy principles such as increasing New and Renewable Energy (NRE)

Building the Environment, Improving Disaster Resilience, and Addressing Climate Change

- **Three key policies:** enhancing environmental quality, boosting disaster resilience, and implementing a low-carbon development approach
- For the Disaster Resilience and Climate Improvement Priority Program, **there are two main strategies:** disaster management and enhancing climate resilience

National Priority 6



Indonesian Government Policy on Circular Economy



Awarding of certificates to manufacturing companies that successfully implement green industry principles



Waste Reduction Roadmap by Indonesian Producers



Green Building Policy

the Green Building Council Indonesia (GBCI) has certified 33 green buildings in six cities



Why Gender, Equality, and Social Inclusion Matter in Circular Economy

Neglecting social inclusion in the circular economy could worsen existing inequalities and marginalize vulnerable groups. However, if development efforts are designed to include social inclusion, the circular economy can not only minimize waste but also help reduce income and job disparities.

Source : UNDP. (2024). Rethinking Circular Economy: Integrating Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion.

“Women play a significant role in the circular economy as both consumers and catalysts for change because they are a key demographic for encouraging behavioral change”

The role of women in the circular economy



1

Purchase short-term use products (like food and household items)

2

The main consumers of items like film plastics (e.g., sachets and shopping bags)

3

The primary target market for fast fashion and hygiene products

4

Decision maker regarding household consumption and waste disposal

5

Pro-environmental and more willing to learn about waste management

The Role of the Informal Waste Sector

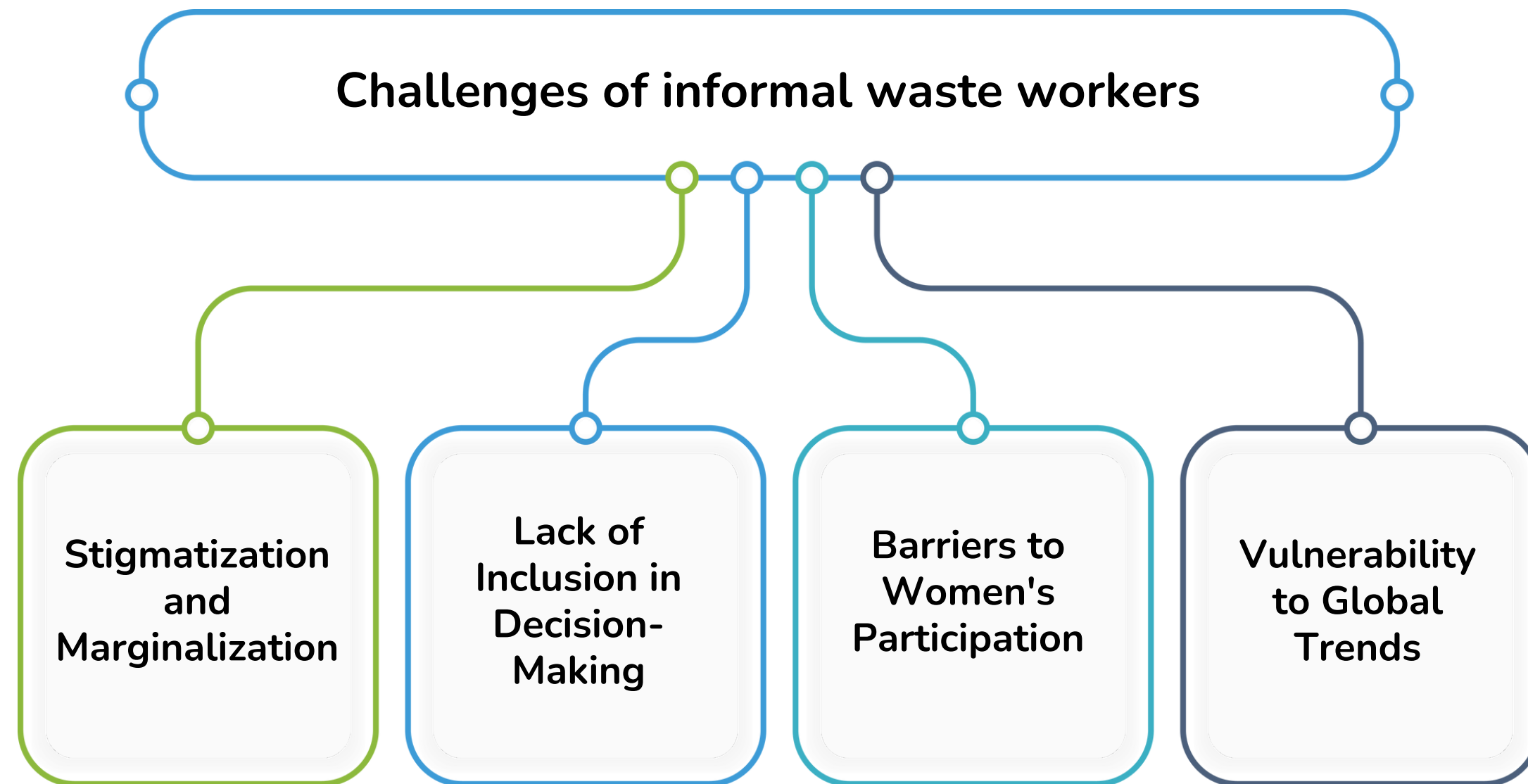
In terms of waste management, the informal sector focuses on recycling household waste, especially dry materials like plastics, paper, and metals.

The trading of recyclable materials is a significant income source for informal workers, who collect these materials from residential areas, industries, and other sources. These activities not only reduce waste management costs but also provide valuable employment opportunities for many Indonesians.

Waste Pickers are an essential part of the waste management system, reducing waste while earning a living. The trade of used goods and recyclable waste is a well-established part of Indonesia's informal economy, benefiting both the environment and those involved in collection and resale.

The Role of the Informal Waste Sector

The informal waste sector plays a vital role in fostering a circular economy and combating plastic pollution. Informal waste collectors form the backbone of waste collection, sorting, and recycling, contributing to over half of the global plastic waste collected and recycled.



Understanding the Challenge

Unsafe working conditions: Exposure to hazardous materials, injuries, and health risks.

Limited access to resources: Lack of proper equipment, training, and social protection.

Discrimination and stigmatization: Negative societal perceptions and limited opportunities.

Economic insecurity: Low income and unstable employment.

Waste management challenges in developing countries like Indonesia are often more complex than in developed nations, requiring attention to non-technical factors such as **institutional and financial aspects**.

A balanced mechanism is needed to support the growth of recycling efforts while ensuring the quality of end products, such as establishing specific quality standards for marketable recyclable materials.



Waste Pickers Empowerment: Inclusive Policies in Waste Management

Households, small businesses, and public service providers contribute 2.1 - 2.3 billion tons of municipal waste each year. Only 61-62% of municipal waste is managed in controlled facilities.

The waste crisis will have a major impact on marginalized groups, the urban poor, women and young people. There is a need for awareness and cooperation from the formal and informal sectors to achieve the goal of zero waste.



Waste Management in Bali: A Closer Look



Waste Management in Bali: A Closer Look

Our investigation into Bali's waste management practices began at a local landfill. While direct interviews with waste pickers were restricted, we spoke with two experienced trash drivers who have been working there for nearly a decade. These drivers collect waste from residential areas in Denpasar and Badung six days a week, starting their shifts at 7 AM. They operate under a third-party contractor partnered with the landfill authority and earn approximately 1.3 million Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) per month.

At the landfill, we observed a mix of organic and inorganic waste, including plastics. The trash drivers play a crucial role in separating plastic waste and delivering it to their contractor.

Next, we visited a waste picker community in Denpasar. One of their leaders, who oversees a team of three workers, shared their experiences. They collect PET plastic from areas like Jimbaran, Seminyak, Legian, and Denpasar, often walking long distances. Each day, they sell 10 kilograms of PET plastic to a local collector for 100,000 IDR.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted waste pickers, particularly in terms of their children's education and their own livelihoods. The price of PET plastic has remained relatively low at around 3,000 IDR per kilogram. Many waste pickers have taken out loans to support their families, and they express a desire to become debt-free and explore opportunities for higher plastic prices in the future.

Waste Resource Utilization by Waste Pickers

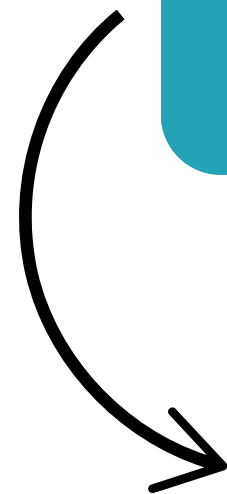


Waste Pickers are the ones who utilize waste as a resource. They have been conducting informal waste collection, classification, and recycling activities. **Waste Pickers are often the main force in the waste recycling process.**

Currently, more than **15 million people** around the world make a living by collecting recyclable materials.

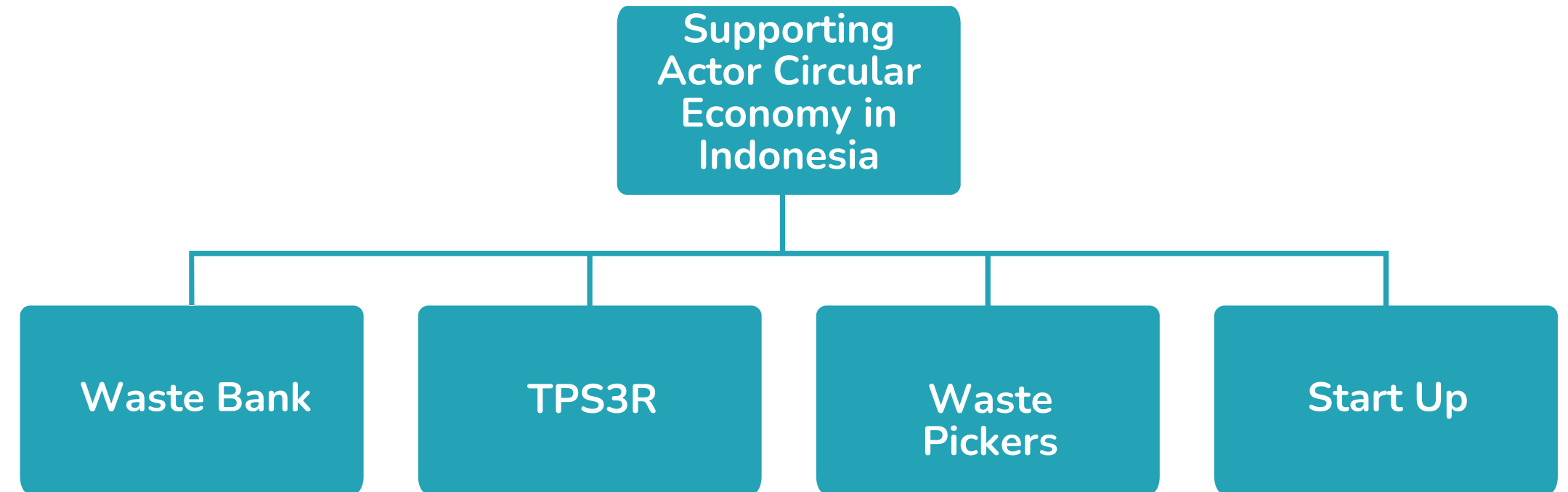
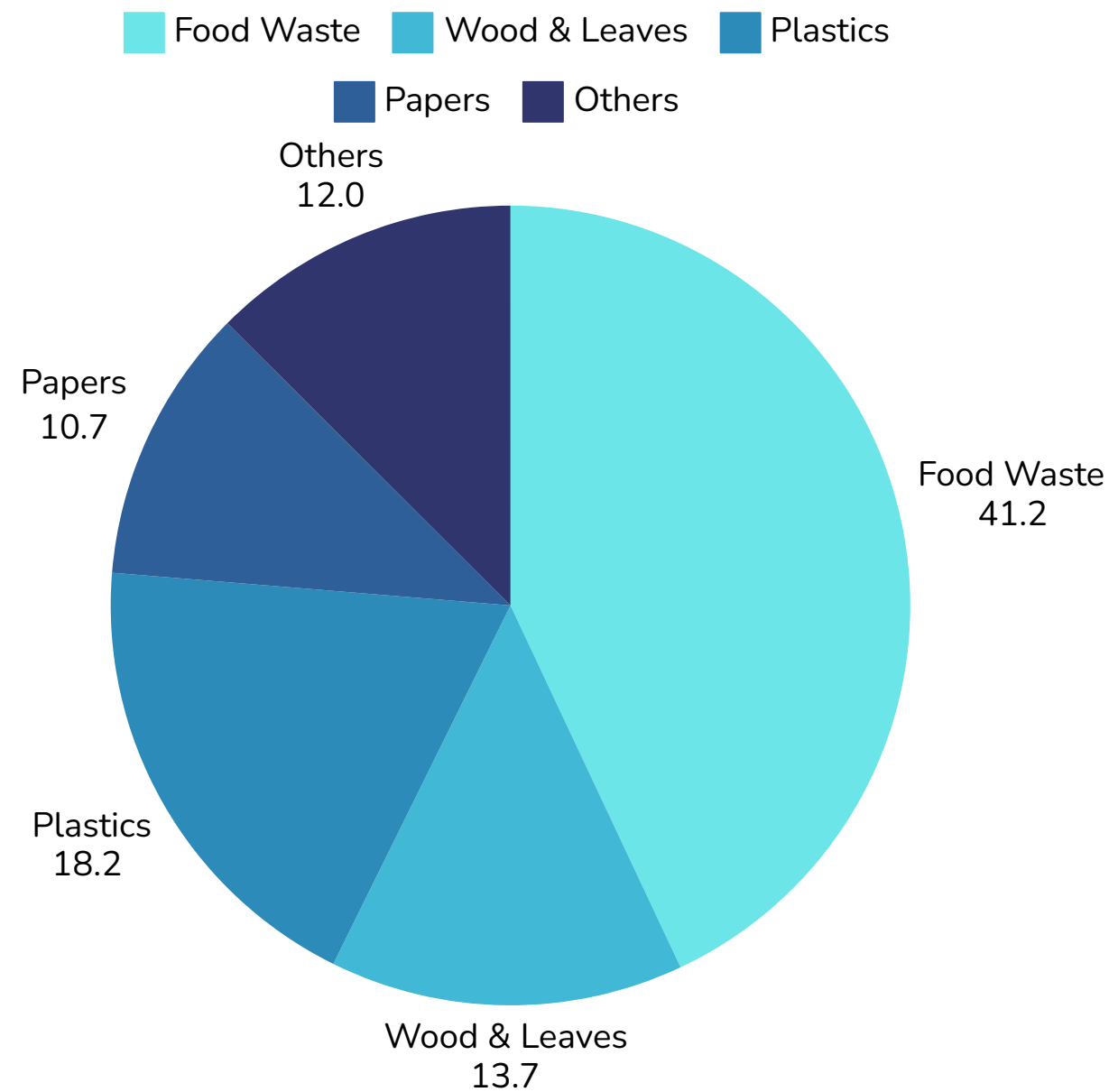
Waste Pickers are often overlooked in official waste management schemes and waste policies through the exclusion, criminalization or suppression of Waste Pickers.

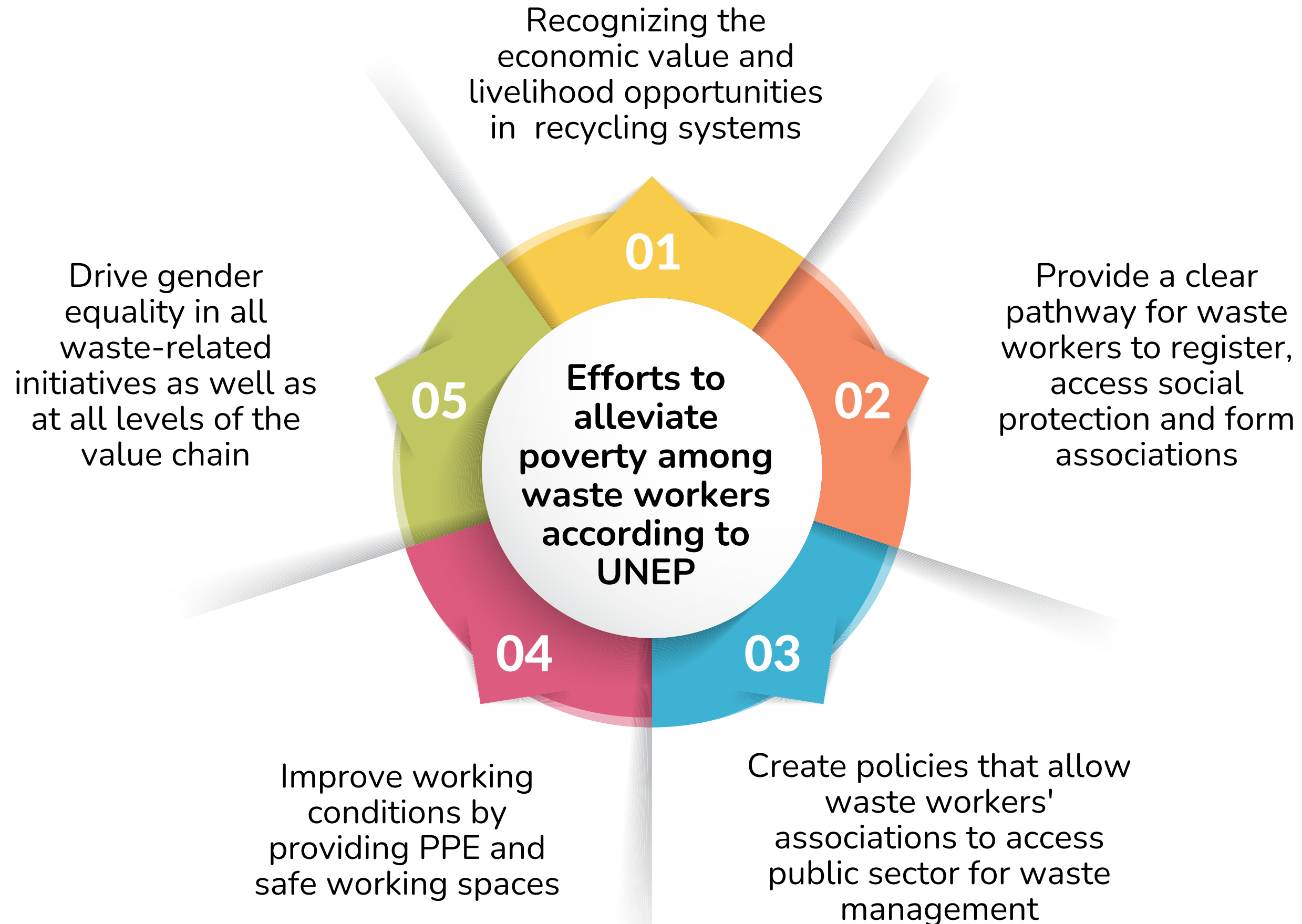
For example



For example, 400 - 450 Waste Pickers and 15 collectors lost their income when the government closed the Piyungan landfill in Bantul Regency, Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia.

Almost all landfills (TPS) in Indonesia are already overloaded due to the increasing waste, but there is no land available. Meanwhile, **waste generation in Indonesia is 9.27 tons/year.**







Waste pickers Around the World (WAW)

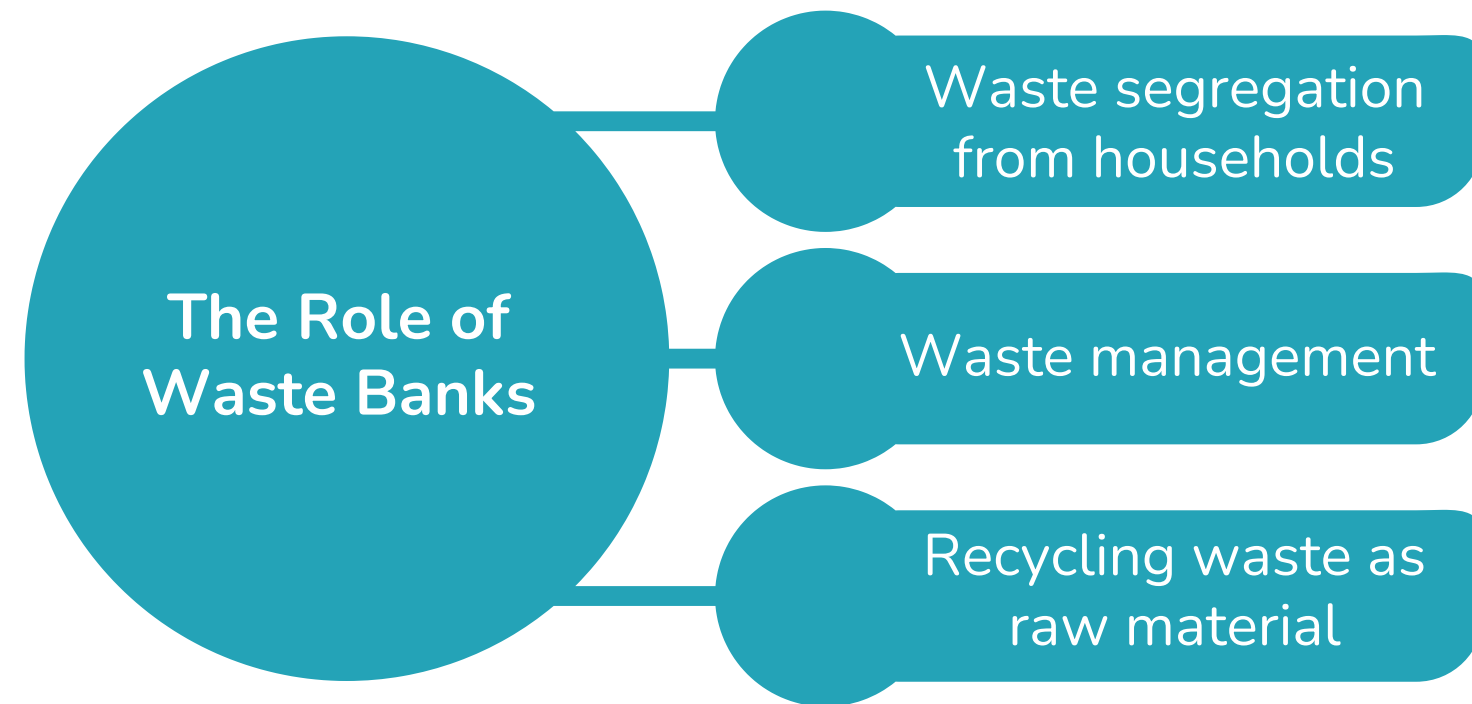


Waste Pickers Around the World (WAW) map.

Waste pickers **A**round the **W**orld (WAW) was the first global database on waste picker organizations.

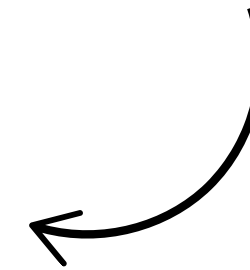
You can find out more about the [WAW Database](#).

Waste Banks and Waste Pickers in Indonesia



The estimated number of waste pickers in Indonesia according to the Indonesia Waste-Pickers Union (IPI) is almost 4 million people.

Waste pickers in Indonesia contribute to recovering recyclable waste as much as 1.1% of the total municipal waste. But currently, Indonesia has no direct policy to deal with waste pickers.



Waste Picker Organization in Indonesia



Total : 1

**Indonesia Waste-Pickers
Union (Ikatan Pemulung
Indonesia)**



IPI was established on 31st May 1991. The goal of the organization is to better the life of waste-pickers and other workers working in waste management. The members of IPI include waste-pickers, sorters, scrap dealers and aggregators. The organization has set up learning centres for the children of waste-pickers in informal neighbourhoods. They are spread across 26 provinces of Indonesia, with headquarters in Jakarta. The organization is registered as a community organization with 3.7 million members spread across the country. The organization has helped facilitate land rights, health insurance for its members.

Scavenger Empowerment: Inclusive Policies in Waste Management

Pak Pris Poly, the President of the Waste Pickers Association, introduced me to Pak Budi, the IPI Jakarta Coordinator, during my visit to Indonesia. Pak Pris Poly has members across Indonesia and discussed the potential for collaboration with the IPI. We talked about the current conditions of the waste pickers, the number of active members, and the importance of transportation support from their center to the factories. We also toured the site and learned about **KIP (the Waste Pickers Industrial Area)**, and **KUP (the Waste Pickers Business Area)**. KIP is focused on processing, while KUP is more focused on sorting.



About Wastehub®

Founded in late 2019, Wastehub® is a circular economy innovation that champions green initiatives in urban and tourism areas. It utilizes an integrated systems approach, involving multiple stakeholders



Oceanability

A community-based program for island areas, promoting sustainable waste management, green education with curriculum development, a sustainability board game, climate change adaptation approaches, and circular economic empowerment within sustainable tourism.



Waste Pickers Empowerment

Together with partners, we increase the level of income of waste pickers in Jurangmangu, South Tangerang



Waste Management Event Service

Waste Management Event Services for Sustainable, Responsible, and Zero-Waste Events in Greater Jakarta



Green Jobs Network

Opportunity for Early Career to Experts related Environmental Conservation Job Vacancies Since 2021



Our impacts **in numbers**



138+

waste pickers involved
in waste management
events in Jakarta

1222+

Waste pickers
partners in
Jurangmangu

72,904+

Participants
and visitors
educated

835+

Volunteers
engaged

1100+

Green Jobs members in
Green Jobs Platform

23,121+

kg of waste
managed

120+

trees and mangroves
planted in Jakarta

61+

projects handled



Wastehub's **ecoxystem**



SUKLA

Waste Trip

Waste Management Training

Consultations

Curriculum



Mangrove Planting

Coral Planting

Tree Planting

Cleanups

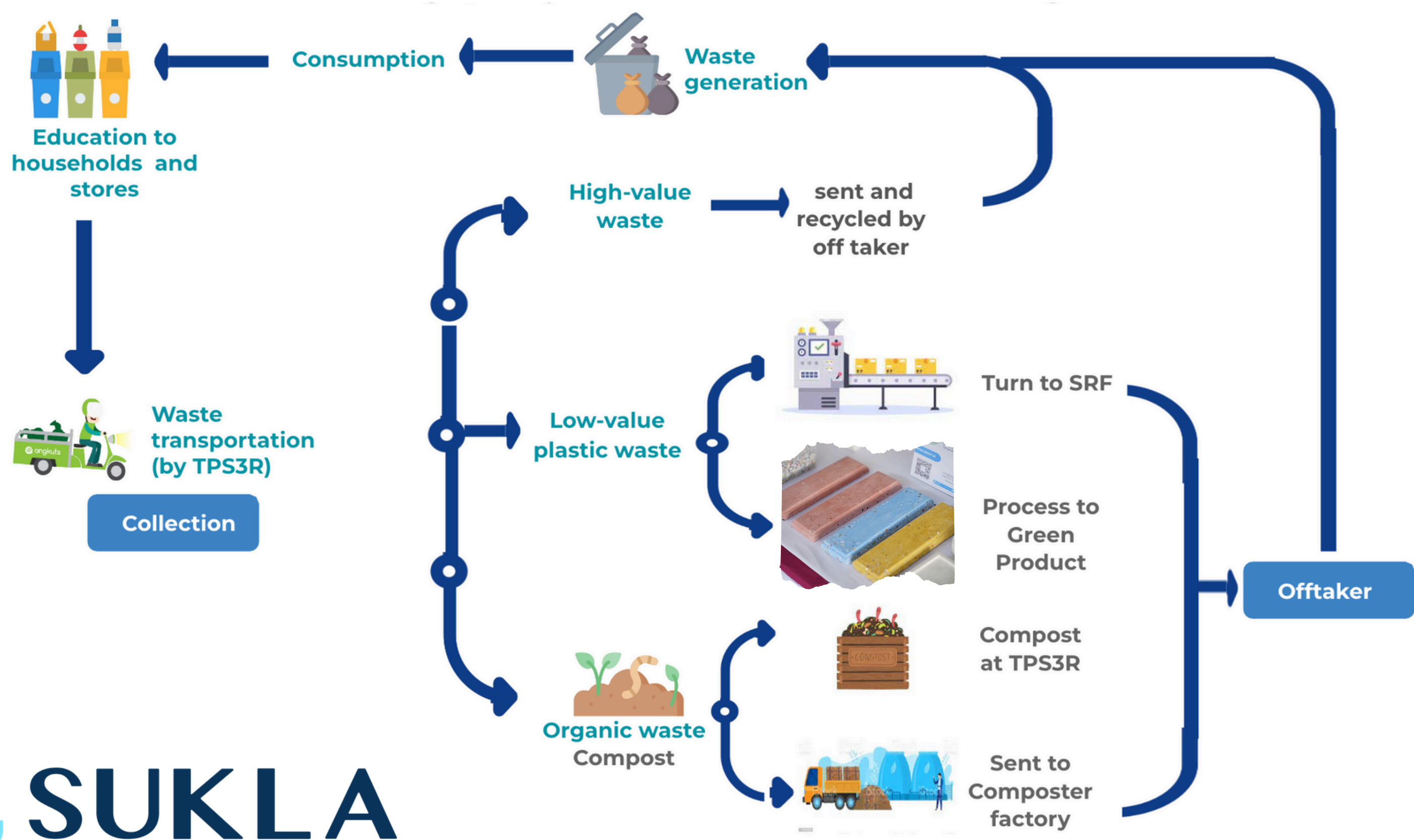
Salam (Sahabat Alam) Board Game

Reusable Bags

Green Products

Waste Management Event

Existing project in Besakih Village, Bali



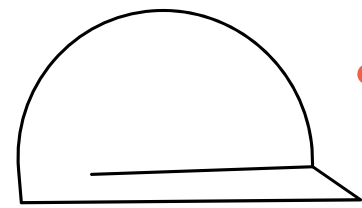
SAFETY GUIDELINE



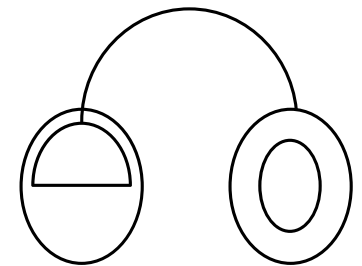
SUKLA



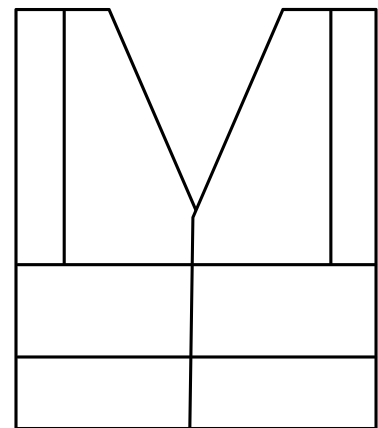
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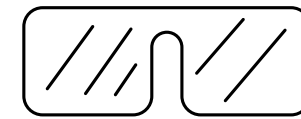
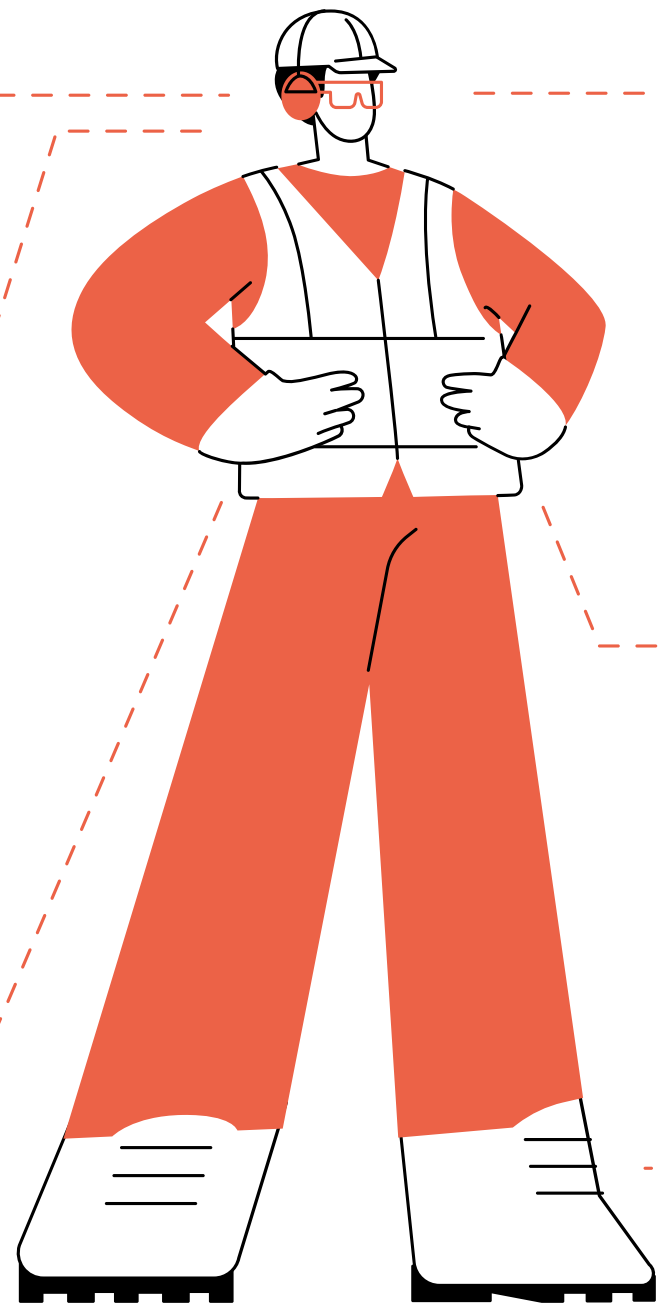
SAFETY HAT



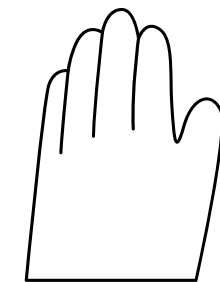
SILENCER



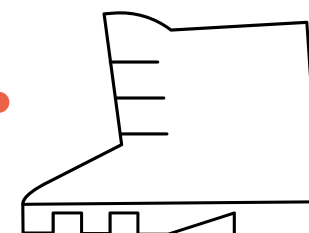
SAFETY JACKET



SAFETY GLASSES



GLOVES



BOOTS



**PRIORITIZE YOUR SAFETY BY
USING APPROPRIATE
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

HOTLINE





Sukla Project Video in 2 minutes



Share



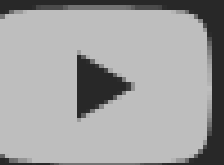
Sukla  Project

Watch on  YouTube



Video unavailable

[Watch on YouTube](#)





A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a large orange semi-circle on the left, a teal semi-circle on the right, and a circular inset at the bottom center. The inset shows a photograph of a waste dump with several people wearing head coverings and carrying bags, amidst a vast field of discarded plastic and other waste.

SALAMAT PO!

Send us a message at
ranitya.nurlita@gmail.com
lita@wastehub.id
and let's collaborate!