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Ouroboros (WM)

Ouroboros Waste Management

Living Income Study Karachi Pakistan
Fair Circularity
Sama Verte & Systemiq

September 2025

KARACHI CASE STUDY REPORT

Study location	*Karachi Sindh Pakistan*
Organization that developed the case study	*Ouroboros (WM) Pvt. Ltd.*
Dates	*July, 2025 to September, 2025*

Introduction to the document:

Acknowledgements:

1. *Sama Verte, Study Partner and Sister Concern of Ouroboros (WM).*
2. *Lahore Waste Management Company – LWMC.*
   - 2.1. *Dumpsite and Landfill Manager*
   - 2.2. *Zone 1,2,3 Manager and Supervisor*
   - 2.3. *Zones- Transfer Station / Temporary Collection Point Supervisor*
3. *Institute of Architects Pakistan President, Ex-President and Peshawar Chapter Lead*
4. *President EAROPH International*
5. *Private Firm Paper Recycling Manufacturer - Punjab.*
6. *Ouroboros Materials Circularity Team (Recycling & Manufacturing) – Peshawar/Lahore (Paper, PP, PET and HDPE)*
7. *Ouroboros Recycling Vendor Glass Recycling and Collection.*

Introduction and Approach[1]

In 2024, the study "A living income for the informal waste sector" piloted a methodology with local SME and Social Business to assess the concept of a "living income" for informal waste workers with the goal to create a practical methodology to promote the provision of a living income within these supply chains, such that if in Pakistan are sufficient to support a decent standard of living.
Karachi was selected as **one of three urban cases** alongside Lahore and Peshawar, given its position as Pakistan's largest metropolis and its extensive reliance on an informal recycling economy. The case study was carried out in July–September 2025 with two main objectives: (i) to assess whether current incomes of waste pickers are adequate to meet essential household costs such as food, housing, healthcare, education, and safe working conditions, and (ii) to identify structural barriers that prevent these workers from achieving stable and dignified livelihoods.

Waste picking in Karachi forms the backbone of the city's waste recovery system. With an estimated 12,000 tonnes of solid waste generated daily and municipal services covering only around 60% of collection needs, the city depends heavily on informal actors to bridge gaps in collection and recycling (World Bank, 2023; Government of Sindh, 2022). These workers operate without contracts, protective equipment, or access to social security schemes. Despite these vulnerabilities, they divert large volumes of recyclable material away from landfills, supplying junk shops and recycling industries, and in doing so, provide an essential environmental service that supports urban sustainability (UN-Habitat, 2010).

The research was led by Ouroboros Waste Management in partnership with Sama Verte, using structured survey instruments aligned with the Systemiq toolkit and supplemented by Cost of Decent Living (CDL) modules. A total of 76 surveys were conducted with waste pickers in Karachi, complemented by 16 in-depth CDL interviews to estimate household-level costs for food, housing, education, healthcare, and work-related expenses. Field enumerators also recorded observations on working conditions, material flows, and market dynamics to contextualize survey data. To capture the diversity of practices, respondents were distributed across four typologies: 20 transfer station pickers, 15 dumpsite/landfill workers, 15 street pickers, and 10 door-to-door household collectors.

[1] Check Table 1 in references for full definitions of our typology.

All respondents in the survey identified as independent workers, with no evidence of cooperatives or formal organizational structures. Field observations confirmed that while women and children are active in back-end sorting within junk shops or in household-based activities, they rarely appear in frontline roles such as collection from streets, transfer stations, or dumpsites due to cultural restrictions and safety concerns. This gendered division of labour has been consistently documented in earlier studies of Pakistan's informal waste economy (World Bank, 2018; UNDP Pakistan, 2020).

A – Current Waste Picker Earnings[2]

Waste picking in Karachi takes place under precarious conditions defined by informality, fluctuating commodity markets, and reliance on junk shops as the primary link in the recycling chain. All surveyed workers reported selling exclusively to junk dealers, with no evidence of cooperative marketing arrangements or direct access to recycling industries. This reliance places pickers in a structurally weak bargaining position, as prices are set by junk shops according to material quality, contamination, and market demand. While buyers are indispensable intermediaries who provide daily cash flow and absorb large volumes of recyclables, the absence of alternative sales channels means waste pickers remain price-takers with limited influence over the value of their labour (World Bank, 2018). Similar dynamics have been documented across South Asia, where informal recycling workers sustain municipal systems without enjoying parallel recognition or bargaining leverage (UN-Habitat, 2010).

Survey results highlight the narrow margins within which Karachi's waste pickers operate. Average monthly earnings were PKR 42,576 for independent workers and PKR 43,287 for household collectors included under the independent category. These incomes are slightly above the Sindh statutory minimum wage of PKR 40,000/month (Government of Sindh, 2024) but fall significantly short of the living wage benchmark of PKR 60,434/month as estimated through the Anker methodology (Anker Research Institute, 2025). In practice, this translates to a 28–30% gap between actual incomes and the threshold required to secure decent living standards for a typical household. Daily net earnings ranged between PKR 700–1,100 for most pickers, with occasional higher returns among those with transport access or door-to-door household contracts. These findings reinforce evidence from regional studies that, while informal waste picking can provide survival-level wages, it rarely enables a transition toward stable, dignified work without systemic reforms that address structural constraints on income and wellbeing (ILO, 2020).

Typology Analysis – Karachi[3]

Transfer Station Pickers

Disaggregating the results by typology underscores how material access and market position, rather than individual effort, determine economic outcomes in Karachi's informal waste economy. Transfer station pickers reported the most favorable earnings, with average monthly incomes exceeding PKR 48,000. These sites provide concentrated access to high-value recyclables such as PET bottles and rigid HDPE plastics, which form the backbone of their earnings, supplemented by aluminum and tinplate metals. This material mix makes them the group closest to the living wage threshold of PKR 60,434/month, while still remaining short by approximately 20%. However, the advantage of access comes with additional costs: many transfer

[2] Government of Punjab. (2024). *Minimum rates of wages notification, Punjab 2024–25.* Labour & Human Resource Department. Retrieved from https://labour.punjab.gov.pk
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[3] Check Table 1 in references for full definitions of our typology.

station workers reported paying informal fees to site contractors or managers to secure the right to collect, reducing their net disposable income and reinforcing dependence on local gatekeepers.

Dumpsite/ Landfill Waste Pickers

By contrast, dumpsite and landfill pickers displayed the most heterogeneous and lowest-value material mix. Cardboard and paper dominated their collected kilos, followed by low-grade plastics, organics, and other miscellaneous fractions. These materials have limited resale value, meaning that despite collecting heavy volumes, dumpsite workers earned well below PKR 40,000/month on average, often close to the statutory minimum wage of PKR 40,000 (Government of Sindh, 2024) and comparable to agricultural labor wages of PKR 24,233/month (World Salaries, 2024). Although occasional finds of PET or metals provided temporary boosts, earnings were unstable and highly vulnerable to buyer discretion. A unique case emerged at one dumpsite where workers reported earning both from materials and from service wages through a scheme said to be funded by the World Bank and managed by community representatives. These workers worked five days per week under the service contract and spent two additional days sorting recyclables. However, details were unclear as the programme was not operational during field visits, highlighting the temporary and opaque nature of donor-funded pilots in Karachi's waste sector (World Bank, 2023).

Street Waste Picker

Street pickers occupied an intermediate position, with average monthly incomes of PKR 42,000–44,000. Their earnings relied heavily on fragmented plastics and low-value "other" materials, which together contributed nearly 60% of their income. This reliance on dispersed, lower-margin materials required extensive hours, 9 to 10 per day, yet still failed to close the living wage gap. Street pickers' inability to access concentrated recyclables such as metals or large volumes of PET exemplifies how structural exclusion, rather than lack of effort, depresses incomes.

Door to Door Waste Picker

Finally, household or door-to-door collectors presented a distinct earnings model. Approximately 70% of their income came from fixed service fees, typically PKR 200–250 per household per month, while the remaining 30% came from recyclables collected during rounds. This model yielded average monthly incomes of PKR 46,000 - 47,000, making them the most predictable earners among independent workers. Importantly, the relatively higher earnings of some household collectors reflected their ability to strategically target high-income neighborhoods such as Clifton, Defense Housing Authority (DHA), and PECHS, where waste streams were richer in recyclables and households were more willing to pay for collection services. Comparable patterns have been documented in Lahore, where door-to-door collectors in DHA and Model Town earned substantially higher incomes than peers in lower-income areas due to access to more profitable waste streams and service fees (WWF Pakistan, 2023). Nevertheless, even with this strategic positioning, household collectors remained roughly 20% below the PKR 60,434/month living wage threshold, underscoring the persistence of income insecurity across all groups.

Material Mix

The material mix in Karachi demonstrates that plastics, especially rigid grades and PET bottles, dominate income across all waste picker groups, though with variations shaped by position in the recycling chain. At the aggregate level, rigid plastics contributed close to two-thirds of material-based earnings, amounting to roughly PKR 1.07 million, while paper and other low-value fractions added around 23% and metals a further 8%. Transfer station workers benefitted most from this structure, earning nearly 70% of their income from plastics, 22% from paper and other fractions, and 5% from metals, reflecting their advantage in accessing concentrated recyclables once secondary collection filters out bulky low-value waste. Street pickers, who lacked this advantage, still showed a plastics-heavy profile (65%) but relied more on low-value "other" materials (18%) alongside metals (12%), which required long hours of dispersed collection and kept their average incomes at PKR 42,000 - 44,000/month, above the minimum wage but over 25% below the living wage. Door-to-door collectors displayed a slightly more diversified income profile, with 63% from plastics and 37% from paper and other recyclables, supported by household service fees that stabilized earnings.

Their incomes averaged PKR 46,000–47,000/month, higher than other groups, especially when targeting affluent neighborhoods like Clifton, DHA, or PECHS, where waste streams are richer in recyclables and residents are more willing to pay for services (WWF Pakistan, 2023). By contrast, landfill pickers showed the most heterogeneous mix, with 56% of earnings from plastics, 25% from low-value mixed waste, and 13% from metals, supplemented by small amounts from aluminum and flexibles. Their reliance on contaminated and low-return streams kept average earnings closer to PKR 40,000/month, despite handling some of the heaviest volumes. Taken together, these patterns underscore that plastics remain the backbone of Karachi's recycling economy, but access to concentrated or higher-value streams, not worker effort, explains why certain typologies earn more, while others remain trapped well below the living wage.
Overall, these patterns demonstrate that the disparities in earnings between typologies are not a function of effort but of position within the recycling chain. Transfer station workers approach the living wage because of concentrated plastics access but face deductions that limit their gains. Street pickers remain in a precarious middle ground, working the longest hours for modest returns. Dumpsite workers are structurally disadvantaged by the low value of bulk waste, while household collectors benefit from service fee diversification but remain capped by income ceilings and limited access to affluent areas. The Karachi case therefore underlines that material mix and organizational access—not worker effort—fundamentally determine waste picker livelihoods.

B – Living Income Estimate

Estimating the cost of a decent standard of living for waste pickers in Karachi required adapting the Anker methodology to local conditions. The living income calculation was based on a representative household size of 6.8 persons (2 adults and 4.8 children), with an average of 1.53 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers per household. This structure reflects both demographic realities in low-income urban neighborhoods and the fact that male labor participation is high while women and children, though contributing informally, are rarely counted as full-time earners. Based on these parameters, the monthly living income requirement for a household in Karachi was PKR 92,465 (USD 1,383 PPP). When divided by the FTE average, the required living wage per worker is PKR 60,434/month (USD 904 PPP). This benchmark frames the analysis of whether current waste picker earnings can sustain a dignified life.

B1 – Healthy Diets Costs

Food accounted for the largest share of household expenditure, estimated at PKR 52,139/month (56% of total costs). This estimate was derived from CDL interviews cross-checked with the FAO's regional diet cost assessments, which show that Pakistani households spend a disproportionately high share of income on food (FAO, 2024). For waste picker families, whose diets are often monotonous and calorie-heavy rather than nutritionally diverse, this benchmark reflects the cost of achieving adequacy, ensuring access not just to staple wheat and rice, but also to proteins, pulses, vegetables, and dairy. Interviews confirmed that many respondents reported food insecurity, with 41% concerned about running out of food and 29% admitting to skipping meals. These realities underscore the gap between current diets and the benchmark for a healthy diet, justifying why food dominates the cost structure.

B2 – Decent Housing Costs

The second major component was housing, estimated at PKR 12,200/month (13% of living income). This figure includes the cost of rent for basic but adequate housing, alongside utilities such as electricity and water. Fieldwork observations showed that only 51% of waste pickers lived in structures built with acceptable materials, while 47% lacked safe sanitation or ventilation. The standard used here was not aspirational middle-class housing but rather the minimum conditions for safety and dignity—secure walls and roofs, access to electricity, and sufficient living space to prevent overcrowding. Market checks in Karachi's low-income settlements (e.g., Orangi Town, Baldia, and Korangi) informed this benchmark, where rents for small two-room houses range between PKR 10,000–14,000 depending on location and services (PBS, 2023).

B3 – Healthcare Costs

Healthcare costs were estimated at PKR 4,831/month (5% of total), reflecting both preventive and emergency needs. In practice, healthcare access for waste picker families is highly constrained: most rely on unregulated private clinics or small pharmacies, while public hospitals are difficult to access due to distance, waiting times, and hidden costs (WHO, 2023). Out-of-pocket expenditure dominates, consistent with national data showing that households in Pakistan finance more than 60% of their healthcare privately. CDL interviews highlighted that injuries, respiratory illnesses, and skin diseases are common due to daily exposure to hazardous waste, increasing both the frequency and unpredictability of healthcare spending.

B4 – Education Costs

Education was estimated at PKR 7,200/month (8% of living income). This includes school fees, uniforms, books, transport, and other essentials. The assumption here is that children should complete at least up to secondary school within the public system, with minimal fees (Rs. 20–375/month) but significant additional expenses for stationery, uniforms, and transport (Global Living Wage Coalition, 2019). In reality, waste picker families often rely on child labor, with many children contributing at dumpsites or sorting yards rather than attending school. This cost estimate thus reflects the normative assumption of decency rather than the current status quo, aligning with Anker methodology to avoid replicating deprivation.

B5 – Costs of Decent Work

Decent work-related costs were estimated at PKR 7,688/month (8% of total). This includes transport to work—particularly motorbike fuel or rental payments, as well as protective gear such as gloves, masks, and boots. Survey data revealed that 32% of waste pickers had no vehicle, while others relied on bicycles or motorbikes, often purchased through exploitative loans. Without reliable transport, workers cannot access distant or high-value waste streams, reducing both productivity and earnings. Moreover, the absence of protective gear leaves them exposed to infections and injuries, generating hidden costs in lost workdays and medical treatment. This component therefore represents both an immediate need and a long-term investment in safer, more productive work.

B6 – Savings

Finally, savings were incorporated at PKR 8,406/month (9% of total), calculated as 10% of all other costs plus a margin for emergencies. This assumption aligns with Anker guidelines and reflects the need for resilience against shocks such as sudden medical bills, school expenses, or income disruptions. For families already living at subsistence levels, savings are virtually impossible, as confirmed by survey findings where a majority reported being unable to save for unforeseen events. Including this category ensures that the living income benchmark accounts not only for daily survival but also for basic financial security.

C – Comparable Incomes or Minimum Wage

Benchmarking the earnings of Karachi's waste pickers against other sectors places their position in the city's labor market into sharper perspective. The statutory minimum wage in Sindh is PKR 40,000/month, set for unskilled workers under provincial wage notifications (Government of Sindh, 2024). By contrast, agricultural workers average PKR 24,233/month, while construction workers earn around PKR 22,166/month, based on recent national wage surveys (World Salaries, 2024). Sanitation workers employed through municipal contracts typically receive wages at or just above the statutory minimum, reflecting the baseline for urban unskilled labor in Karachi.

Against this backdrop, the average reported income of waste pickers in Karachi, PKR 42,576/month, sits about 6% above the statutory minimum wage, while standing significantly higher than agricultural (+75%) and construction (+92%) workers. On the surface, this suggests that waste picking provides stronger earnings than many other informal or unskilled jobs, largely because of long working hours and the high resale value of plastics. Yet these apparent advantages mask structural limitations. When compared to the living wage benchmark of PKR 60,434/month derived from the Anker methodology, current earnings fall short by nearly 30%. In real terms, this means that while waste pickers can achieve subsistence and support

daily needs, they remain unable to cover the full costs of decent housing, healthcare, education, and savings.

These findings highlight a paradox. Waste picking yields higher incomes than several comparable occupations in Pakistan's informal sector, but without recognition, regulation, or integration into municipal frameworks, workers remain unable to convert these earnings into dignified livelihoods. The statutory minimum wage serves as a useful benchmark but carries little enforceable weight for workers outside formal contracts. As long as waste pickers remain excluded from social protections and dependent on informal buyer networks, their position will remain one of survival rather than security, with household-level deficits that keep them below the threshold of a decent standard of living.

Key Learnings and Recommendations

The Karachi case study demonstrates the paradox of informal waste picking: waste pickers sustain the city's recycling economy yet remain some of its most precarious workers. Average monthly incomes clustered around **PKR 37,000**, which is roughly equivalent to the statutory minimum wage in Sindh (Government of Sindh, 2024). However, these earnings are achieved under hazardous conditions with no protective equipment, no health or social security, and through reliance on buyer networks that dictate prices. This exposes waste pickers to extreme occupational and financial vulnerability, a trend that mirrors global evidence on informal recyclers, who are often locked into exploitative value chain positions despite their critical environmental contributions (ILO, 2020; UN-Habitat, 2010).

Household characteristics exacerbate this insecurity. Surveyed waste pickers in Karachi reported **average household sizes of nine members**, with a range spanning from four to seventeen. Such large families stretch already limited incomes, intensifying food insecurity and reducing the capacity to invest in education, healthcare, or decent housing. Although the data does not clarify whether other household members contribute earnings, the lack of savings reported by almost all respondents indicates that households largely live hand-to-mouth. CDL modules reinforced this: waste pickers could recall their daily cash incomes but struggled to estimate fixed household costs such as rent, healthcare, or utilities, suggesting both low financial planning capacity and chronic instability in meeting recurring expenses.

Income patterns reveal stark differences across typologies. **Door-to-door collectors emerged as the most stable earners**, reporting average monthly incomes of **PKR 45,000**, with nearly 70% derived from household service fees and the remainder from recyclables. This model provided relative insulation from volatile scrap prices. Fieldwork confirmed that higher-earning door-to-door workers often targeted affluent neighborhoods, where waste streams were richer in recyclables and households were more willing to pay service fees, such as in Defense Housing Authority (DHA), Model Colony, or Clifton. This echoes broader South Asian evidence showing that waste pickers' earnings are heavily shaped by the socio-economic status of the communities they serve (World Bank, 2018). By contrast, **street, transfer station, and dumpsite workers earned between PKR 29,000 and 41,000 per month**, almost entirely from materials. These workers were wholly exposed to market fluctuations, with rigid plastics dominating income but metals and paper offering marginal returns. At dumpsites, observations revealed particularly severe health risks: respondents described working barefoot or with bare hands, exposed to medical waste, contaminated organics, and open fires. Some workers reported that they temporarily earned service wages from a short-lived arrangement with a community-led initiative said to have been supported by the World Bank, though this scheme had ended by the time of the survey.

The absence of savings among respondents highlights the fragility of livelihoods. Most waste pickers reported no financial buffer, meaning even minor shocks such as illness or buyer payment delays directly undermined household food and shelter security. Children were frequently reported as engaging in work to supplement income, confirming that low household earnings perpetuate intergenerational cycles of poverty

and exclusion (FAO, 2024). These findings underline that while door-to-door collection offers relative stability, the majority of workers remain locked below the **living wage benchmark of PKR 60,434/month**, with shortfalls of 20–30% that keep households trapped in survival mode.

Opportunities for improving livelihoods lie in targeted, context-specific interventions. The provision of protective equipment such as gloves, boots, and masks, combined with basic productivity tools like pushcarts or motorbikes, could immediately reduce health risks and improve efficiency. Training on material segregation and negotiation skills would strengthen bargaining power with junk dealers. The **door-to-door fee model**, which demonstrates household willingness to pay small amounts for reliable collection, could be scaled to more neighborhoods with municipal support, reducing dependence on volatile scrap markets. Similarly, informal kinship networks observed at dumpsites, where waste pickers pooled resources or shared loads, could be formalized into cooperative arrangements to enhance collective bargaining and stabilize incomes. Small pilots such as municipal provision of healthcare vouchers, subsidies for school uniforms, or transport allowances would directly target vulnerabilities highlighted in the CDL survey and reduce the reliance on child labor.

Local governments hold the key to systemic improvement. Waste pickers in Karachi remain excluded from the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board's (SSWMB) formal framework, despite diverting significant volumes from landfills. International experience, particularly from India and Latin America, demonstrates that inclusive policies such as municipal registration, ID cards, and contracting of waste picker groups, both improve livelihoods and enhance recycling rates (UN-Habitat, 2010). In Karachi, this could involve creating an official registry of waste pickers, extending basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity into katchi abadis where most reside, and offering targeted subsidies for education expenses, which families consistently cite as barriers to schooling. Such steps would not only stabilize incomes but also integrate waste pickers into urban planning, aligning livelihoods with municipal sustainability objectives.

The private sector also has an essential role. Recycling firms, FMCGs, and packaging companies are already the ultimate buyers of recovered materials yet provide no direct support to those who supply them.

Corporates could also pilot co-branded PPE programs, provide training, or contract directly with waste picker groups to guarantee steady flows of sorted materials. With Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks expanding in Pakistan, such partnerships would allow private companies to meet sustainability commitments while ensuring that waste pickers share in the value they create (WWF Pakistan, 2023).

In summary, the Karachi study highlights both the indispensability and precarity of informal waste pickers. They earn at levels comparable to the minimum wage but remain structurally excluded from dignified work, with little protection, no savings, and high household dependency. While door-to-door models demonstrate that stability is possible when waste pickers access higher-income communities and service fees, the majority remain dependent on volatile materials markets. Without municipal recognition, private sector partnerships, and access to tools, training, and protective equipment, Karachi's waste pickers will continue to provide critical environmental services while enduring unsafe, unstable, and undervalued livelihoods.

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Ouroboros Matrix Typologies of Waste Pickers and Guidance

Table 1: Typology of waste pickers in Pakistan based on formality and organizational structure, illustrating independent, informally organized, and formally organized groups. Sub-categories are included to capture variations in operational scale, coordination, and bargaining strategies within each group, reflecting the diverse socio-economic and institutional contexts of waste collection.

Ouroboros Fair Circularity Living Income Waste Picker Typology Matrix Pakistan and Spectrum				
Category	**Definition**	**Sub-categories / Spectrum**	**Notes**	**Comments**
Independent Waste Pickers	Individuals who collect recyclables on their own, without affiliation to any group or organization.	- Casual/Part-time: Collect occasionally for supplemental income. - Full-time: Rely solely on waste collection for livelihood.	Flexible, work across areas, income highly variable.	
Informally Organized Waste Pickers	Groups of waste pickers who collaborate loosely, often community-based, collaborating to improve efficiency, bargaining, or safety.	- Neighborhood Cooperatives / Family Networks: Families or local groups collaborating for collection, sorting, and selling recyclables. Transfer Station Groups: Collectors working at transfer stations, often organized along ethnic or social lines, appointing an elder as representative for negotiation with authorities, police, or buyers.	Moderate coordination: benefits include shared collective / stronger bargaining	
	Structured groups of waste pickers without formal registration, often entrepreneurial	- Door-to-Door waste collection service providers: Operate as small-scale service providers, collecting and sorting waste on the go, often with defined routes.	Structured coordination, efficient and flexible business/service model, yet lack legal recognition.	
Formally Organized Waste Pickers	Waste pickers recognized by municipalities, NGOs, or private companies, typically under cooperative, association, or contract frameworks.	- Registered Cooperatives / Associations: Legally registered entities negotiating contracts or service agreements. - Public-Private Partnership Workers: Employed or contracted by municipalities or private firms.	Stable income, formal recognition, better access to equipment and social protection.	

Annex A: Ouroboros Matrix Typologies of Waste Pickers

Stages	Stream	Actors/Type of Waste Pickers	Activities
Source	Segregated /Mix	Waste Picker as Collection Service Provider	Collect waste from different sources, separate the saleable components, and sell them to scrap/junk dealers.
Source	Segregated Waste Stream	Barterers	Exchange saleable waste components for goods.
Source	Segregated Waste Stream	Itinerant Buyers	Purchase separated waste from the households and other sources and sell it to middle dealers
Source, streets	Segregated /Mix	Permanent Contracted Waste Picker	Sweep or/and collect waste from different sources, separate the saleable components, and sell them to scrap/junk dealers. Permanent contracted waste-pickers are also identified as sanitation workers[20] and employed or contracted by municipalities or private waste management or recycling companies.
Source, streets	Segregated /Mix	Waste Pickers as Daily Wager	Work as daily wage workers, sweep, collect waste, separate the saleable components, and sell them to dealers.
Source, streets	Segregated /Mix	Contracted/Salaried Waste Pickers as Temporary Worker	Work as temporary workers hired by contractors or the municipality, sweep, collect waste, separate the saleable components, and sell them to dealers.
Streets/ Open Spaces	Mix	Street Waste Picker	Separate the saleable waste components from the waste on streets, alleys, and public spaces and sell them to their group leaders or dealers.
Transfer Points	Mix	Waste Pickers at Transfer Station	Separate the saleable waste components from the waste at transfer points and sell them to their group leaders or dealers.
Landfills	Mix	Landfill Waste Picker	Separate the saleable waste components from the waste at the landfill and sell them to their group leaders or dealers.

Figure 1 Ouroboros Summary Of Actors and Activities in waste picking Landscape Report 2024

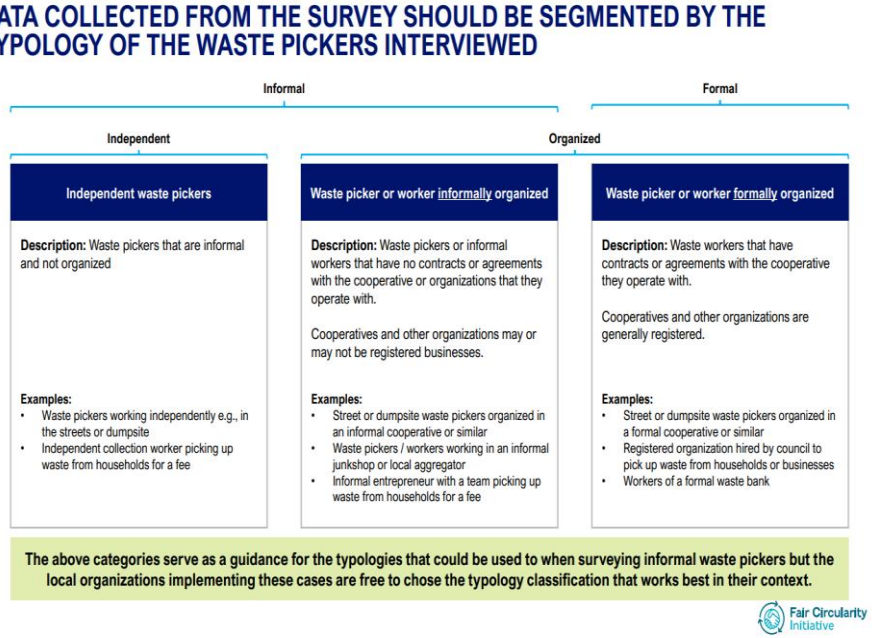

Figure 2 Categories for Waste Picker Typology

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