



Women in Informal Employment  
Globalizing and Organizing

# WASTE PICKERS COVID19

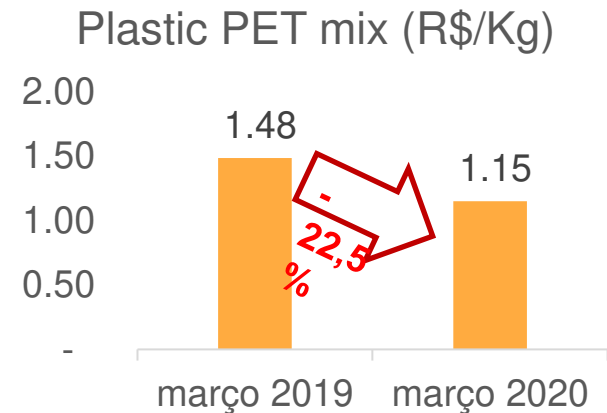
## WORLD BANK ROUNDABLE

Sonia Dias - Waste Specialist, Urban Policies Programme



# OVERVIEW - BRAZIL

- **Google survey March** (150 coops): decline in demand/buyers of recyclable materials + drop in prices varying from 8% (paper) to nearly 23%(PET) + 88% of coops no support from local and provincial govts, around 98% of waste picker coops closed (ABIPHEC Google survey March,2020)
- Segregated waste collection: interrupted in some cities, continues under special conditions in others
- National cash grant approved (\$120,00)
- Extended Producer Responsibility: additional cash grants + PPE + food baskets
- Greatest concern: dump pickers + non-organized street pickers



# COVID19 ACTIONS - BRAZIL

- Participation in WhatsApp emergency relief committees
- Support to and advocacy for cash grants and food security schemes
- Tracking of government policies, impacts, responses and workers' organizations responses
- **Google Survey WIEGO- ABIPHEC** tracking Health and well-being with 150 coops across 21 states in Brazil
- Drafting guidelines with many partners
- Support to solidarity campaigns: national movement of waste pickers + regional and local waste picker coop networks
- “Possibility thinking”: transformative changes to SW systems with Observatory for Inclusive Recycling (ORIS) and Waste & Citizenship Forum

# WIEGO CUIDAR PROJECT COVID19 GUIDELINES

WIEGO's Cuidar health risks project: with epidemiologists and labor experts from the University of Brasilia, FUNED, and Waste Workers Occupational Safety and Health working group:

- Guidelines focus on waste pickers' work areas and personal health.
- Guidelines call for alliances to fight for basic conditions for workers and cash grants to Compensation for waste pickers for their livelihood losses.
- Poster available in more than 10 languages

**CORONAVIRUS AND WASTE PICKERS: DECREASING THE RISKS**  
March 22, 2020

**WIEGO's Cuidar Project** in Brazil focuses on understanding the health risks waste pickers face in the workplace. To help support waste pickers, who are at increased risk due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Cuidar Project partnered with experts in epidemiology and labor medicine from the University of Brasilia and the Health Foundation of Minas Gerais to provide safety recommendations for waste pickers.

**Always respect local public health and lock down orders.**

**Coronavirus tips to avoid spreading the virus among waste pickers!**

Prepare work areas:	For workers:	Tips for clean hands:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide soap and water so that workers can frequently wash their hands.</li> <li>Frequently clean built objects that are used often, like bathroom, tables, bathroom, door handles, personal safety equipment, and cushions and handles in vehicles and calculator.</li> <li>Informs workers that collected and sorted material can be contaminated with the virus. Recent studies show that the virus can survive hours and up to days on materials such as aluminum or paper. These collected materials as though they are contaminated.</li> <li>Ensure work spaces are properly ventilated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not greet people with handshakes, hugs or kisses. Try to maintain one meter or more distance from anyone.</li> <li>Cover your face with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.</li> <li>Wear masks and change them frequently during the course of the day. Never touch the front of your mask, and wash your hands before and after handling masks.</li> <li>Do not share personal objects.</li> <li>Never touch your face with your hand or glove.</li> <li>Avoid storing gloves inside your bag or pockets.</li> <li>Use your hair back to avoid contaminating your face.</li> </ul>	<p>Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You should clean all parts of your hands and feet.</p> <p><b>Always wash your hands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>before starting your workday</li> <li>during breaks</li> <li>after sneezing, coughing, before and after meals</li> <li>when you get home</li> <li>after coughing or sneezing</li> <li>after touching objects that you used a lot (handles, door handle, bus or railway handle)</li> </ul> <p>You can also use 70% alcohol to clean your hands, but remember it is not as effective as washing your hands with soap and water and may not work if your hands are too dirty or greasy.</p>
<p><b>SYMPTOMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FEVER</li> <li>COUGH</li> <li>HEADACHE &amp; SORE THROAT</li> <li>LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have these symptoms, alert the collector and ask for assistance. Do not leave your bag or container with the virus.</li> <li>If a colleague develops symptoms, tell him or her to stay home.</li> <li>Wash your hands with soap and water.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WHEN TO GET HELP?</b></p> <p>If your symptoms worsen such as fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, follow the guidelines from your local authorities.</p> <p>Try to get help from your local authorities, health services, or government officials, to provide recommendations on how to deal with the virus.</p> <p>If you are receiving "social grants" are being provided for compensation for livelihood losses, make use of your office and ask for support.</p>

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**UNB**  
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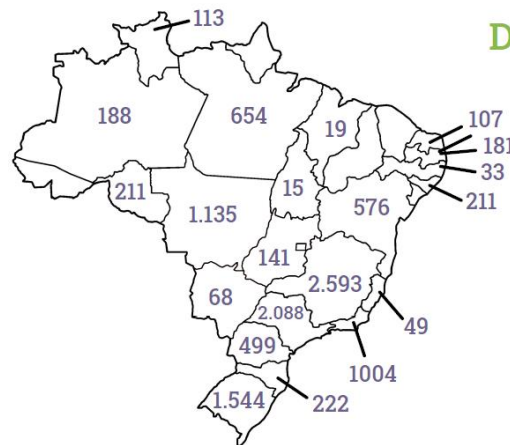
**FUNED**  
FUNDAÇÃO NACIONAL DE ESTUDOS E PESQUISAS EM SAÚDE E SEGURANÇA DO TRABALHO

**Waste Workers Occupational Safety and Health**

1. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 2. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 3. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 4. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 5. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 6. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 7. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 8. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 9. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese. 10. This document is available in Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Hindi, and Vietnamese.

# MNCR - NATIONAL SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

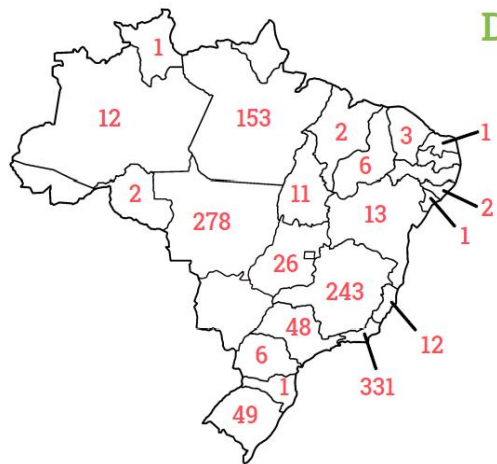
- Funds raised for US\$50 cash grant for Coop members + non-organized pickers



**Demanda registrada até o momento**

cooperados:

**15.827**



**Demanda registrada até o momento**

catadores individuais:

**1.547**

## Apoiadores da campanha



# BELO HORIZONTE COVID19



March 23rd: temporary suspension of segregated waste collection performed by cooperatives

# PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

- **Recommendation:** to **suspend waste picking operations during peak of the outbreak** and **buy some time to work on improving safety** – backed by National Sanitation Engineers Association, the National Movement of Waste Pickers (Minas Gerais Chapter), Observatory for Inclusive Recycling
- **Rationale:** adjusting recycling activities (and workers safety habits) to avoid cross-contamination and infections in the first phase of such a serious outbreak is very difficult.
- **Emergency relief:** food security (food baskets), cash grant, payment of contract

# URBAN PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE & COVID19

**Municipal Waste & Citizenship Forum** - two Covid19 working groups (city officers, coops and their allies such as WIEGO and others):

- 1) Relief:** to think about and monitor **emergency actions**, addressing the difficulties for their effective and comprehensive implementation;
- 2) Operations:** to design how to resume waste picker activities in adequate sanitary conditions, addressing prevention measures to be implemented at the household level, collection processes and handling of recyclable materials inside warehouses





# **Belo Horizonte Waste & Citizenship Forum - ACTIONS**

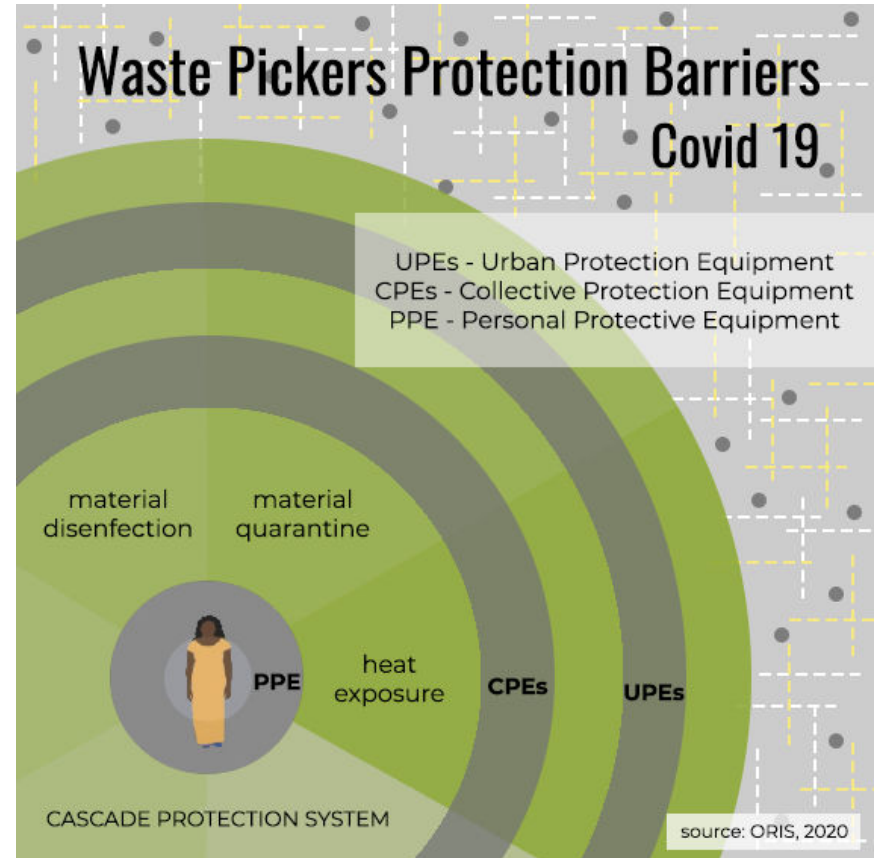
- Mapping of how workers are accessing benefits such as basic cash grants, food baskets
- Drafting of an operational manual for resumption of selective waste collection
- Mapping costs, taxes & other expenses that coops need to meet in order to seek out funds to meet these payments
- Designing operational safety measures – short-medium and long term: reframe of collection processes, transportation, storing, sorting, work flows, Urban-collective and personal protection equipments, infrastructure.

# BOUNCING FORWARD: REFRAMING SOURCE SEGREGATION SCHEME

**1st level of protection:** guide households to store materials for 72 hours or during the period that collection is suspended

**2nd level:** Urban Protection equipment (LEVAs) + Collective Protection equipment (disinfection cabins, conveyor belts, spaced work stations)

**3rd level:** PPE



# Thinking Forward Globally

## Inclusive SWM 10 Steps Agenda

1. **Build from what already exists:** informal workers can supplement SW systems
2. “Nothing for us without us” – **urban participatory SW governance** (multi-stakeholders platforms)
3. **Payment** for service provision and for environmental service
4. **Essential Workers** = Occupational Health and Safety + Adequate infrastructure + capacity building for safety
5. **Locally suitable technologies:** pro-poor modernization of SW systems instead of capital intensive technologies
6. **Social protection:** access to health, emergency cash grants, childcare
7. **Gender sensitive policies**
8. **All-inclusive: policies** including non-nationals, organized and non-organized workers
9. **Non-stigmatization of workers campaigns:** in times of pandemics there is a great risk of blaming workers
10. **Sustainable Livelihoods:** plan for livelihoods, monitor and evaluate impacts

# THANKS

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