

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE

# INFORMAL WASTE PICKERS

The Programme PRO – Local Governance for People and Nature, with financial support of EUR 2 million from the Government of Switzerland, provides support to informal waste pickers with the aim of improving their economic status and access to public services. This intervention is implemented in synergy with the Solid Waste Programme in Serbia, jointly funded through a loan by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the French Development Agency, led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection.



## TARGET GROUP

informal  
waste  
pickers in  
**42**  
LSGs

## PRIORITY TARGET GROUP

**61** households  
**310** family members  
of waste pickers in  
12 LSGs

## EXPECTED RESULT

**1600**  
informal waste pickers  
have improved living  
conditions

## DURATION OF INTERVENTION

**32**  
months

## AREA OF OPERATION

**42 LSGs**

covered by  
Solid Waste Programme



Apatin, Arilje, Babušnica, Bač, Bajina Bašta, Barajevo, Bela Palanka, Bogatić, Čačak, Čajetina, Dimitrovgrad, Ivanjica, Koceljeva, Kosjerić, Krupanj, Kula, Lajkovac, Lazarevac, Ljig, Ljubovija, Loznica, Lučani, Mali Zvornik, Mionica, Nova Varoš, Obrenovac, Odžaci, Osečina, Pirot, Požega, Priboj, Prijepolje, Ruma, Šabac, Šid, Sjenica, Sombor, Sremska Mitrovica, Ub, Užice, Valjevo and Vladimirci.

## PRIORITY AREA

**12 LSGs**

covering the  
priority group

Apatin, Bač, Valjevo, Kula,  
Loznica, Obrenovac, Odžaci,  
Prijepolje, Ruma, Sremska  
Mitrovica, Ub and Šid

**Building sustainable  
communities together!**

## IMPLEMENTATION

United Nations Office for Project Services - UNOPS  
United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF  
United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA

The Solid Waste Programme aims to modernise waste management systems through the construction of six regional waste management centres, which will contribute to environmental protection and public health but will also impact the income of informal waste pickers due to the closure of existing landfills. In response to these challenges, through joint work with local governments, institutions, and civil society organisations, the programme will enable sustainable solutions that improve the economic status of informal waste pickers and reduce their social exclusion.



## STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAPACITIES

- Systemic changes in policies and measures
- Local coordination mechanisms in 10 LSGs
- Family Supporters in 12 LSGs
- Individual household support plans
- Technical support and capacity building for LSGs

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Support packages for working family members
- Mentorship support for recycling cooperatives
- On-the-job training
- Training for youth not in education, employment, or training
- Mentorship support for economic empowerment of Roma women
- Provision of equipment to restore livelihoods
- Career development counselling and training



## IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

- Better access to public services in social protection, education, and health for informal waste pickers and their families
- Civil society projects aimed at the social inclusion of informal waste pickers

The Programme "PRO - Local Governance for People and Nature" contributes to improving the quality of life of citizens through enhanced local governance, social inclusion and environmental protection in 110 eligible cities and municipalities in Serbia. With the support of the Swiss Government totaling EUR 9 million, the Programme is being jointly implemented from 2023 to 2026 by UN agencies – UNOPS, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNEP. All programme activities are carried out in partnership with the Government of Serbia, with direct beneficiaries being LSGs, CSOs, and citizens of Serbia, especially vulnerable social groups.