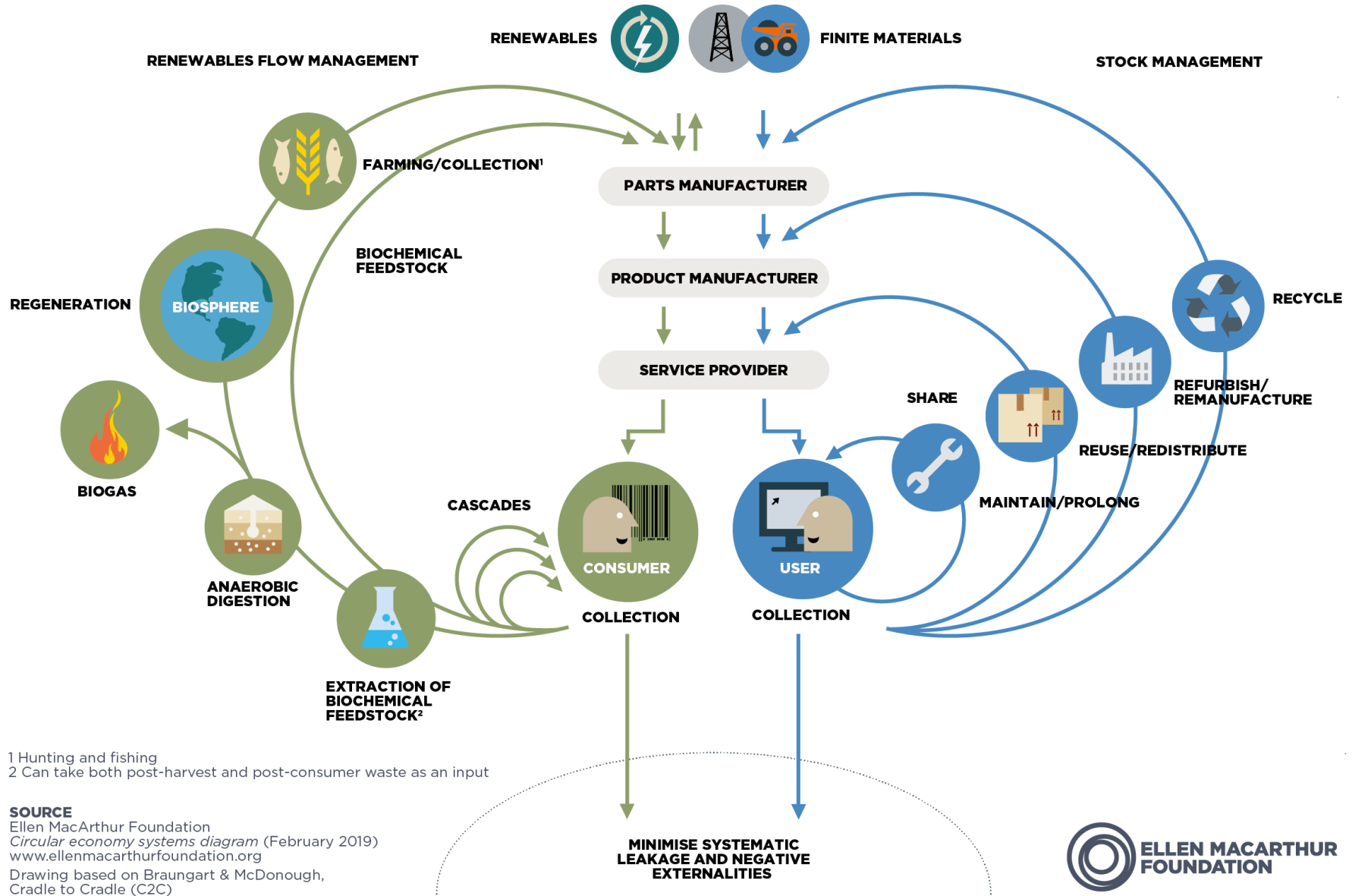


Circular Economy and Just Transitions

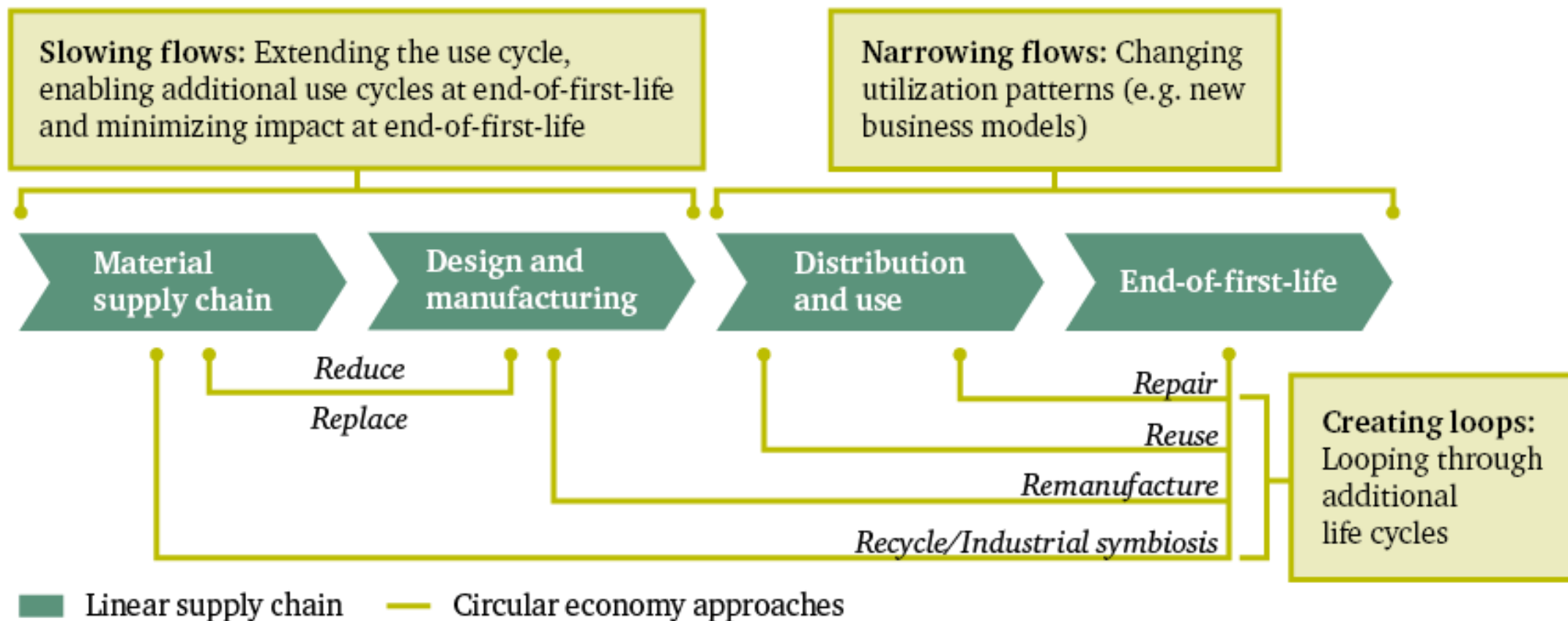
Understanding the distribution of the costs and benefits
of environmental policy

OECD Environmental Justice Conference

27/5/2024



SOURCE
Ellen MacArthur Foundation
Circular economy systems diagram (February 2019)
www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org
Drawing based on Braungart & McDonough,
Cradle to Cradle (C2C)





LINEAR INTERNATIONAL TRADE



----- International trade flows
—— Domestic trade flows

DOMESTIC CIRCULAR ACTIVITIES



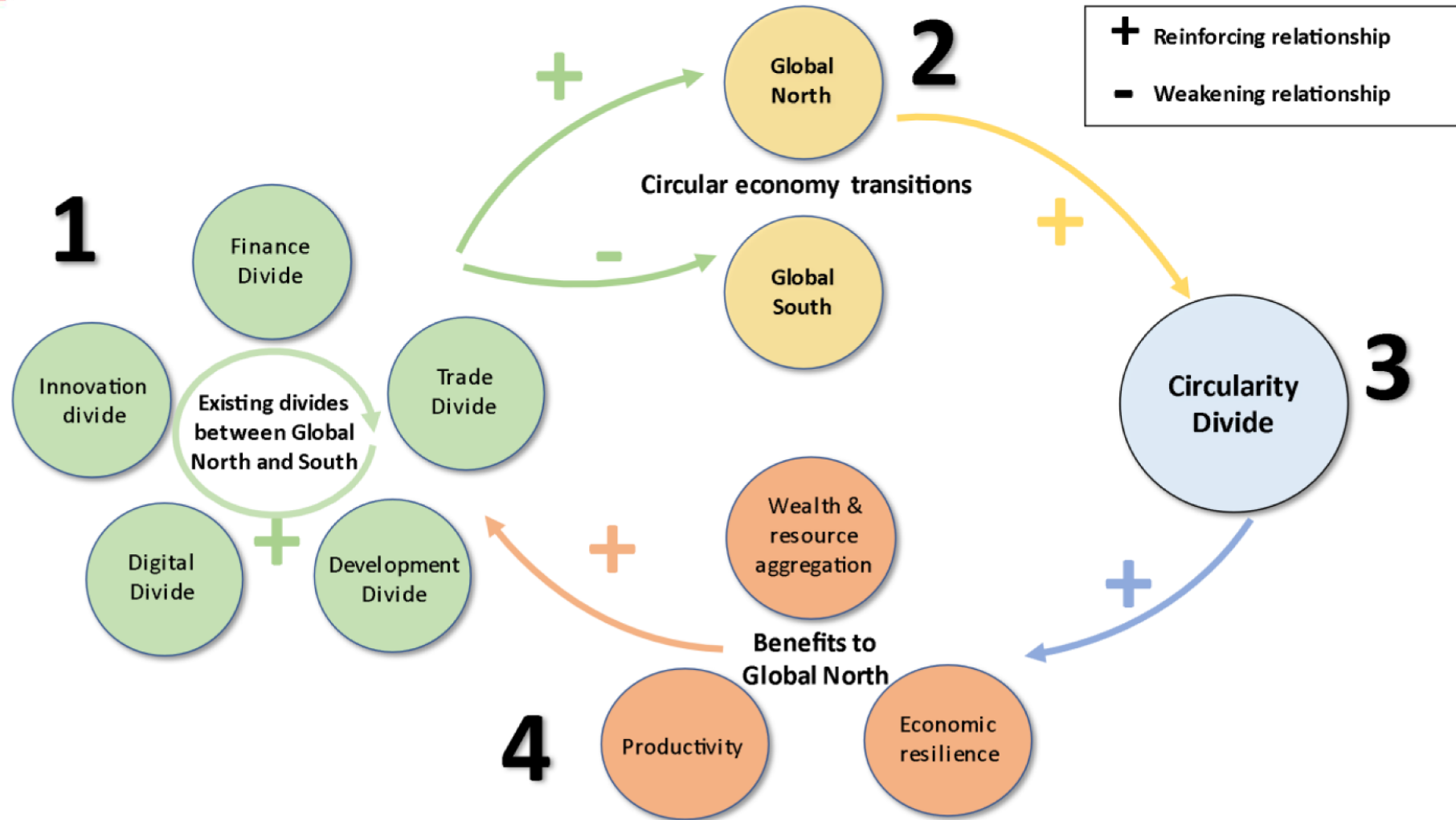
DOMESTIC LINEAR ACTIVITIES



CIRCULAR INTERNATIONAL TRADE



National boundary





Recyclers in Dharavi
Image credit: Jonny Miller, lensculture.com



Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing

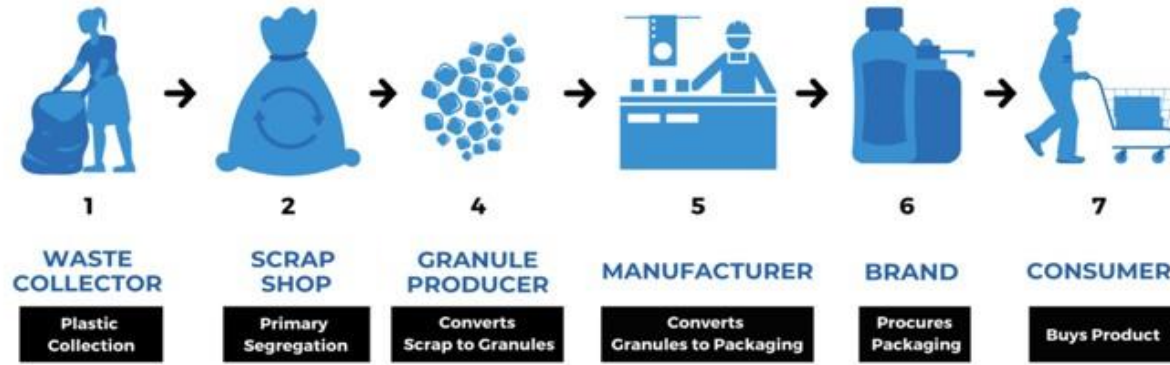
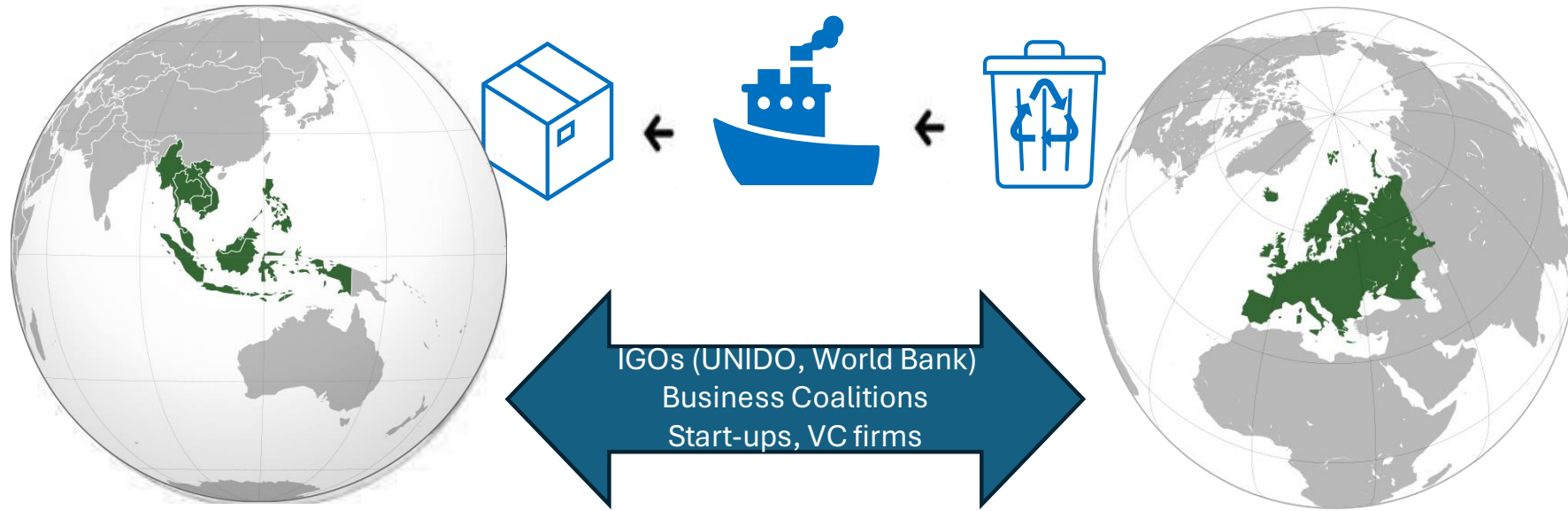
**WASTE PICKERS,
UNITED IN DEFENSE OF
OUR WORK!**

Waste Pickers' Day

Hierarchical and oppressive relationships within society enable the *cheapening* of waste labor: **Gender, racialization and castefication**



Image credit: UN News



“Informal” economy

“Formal” economy

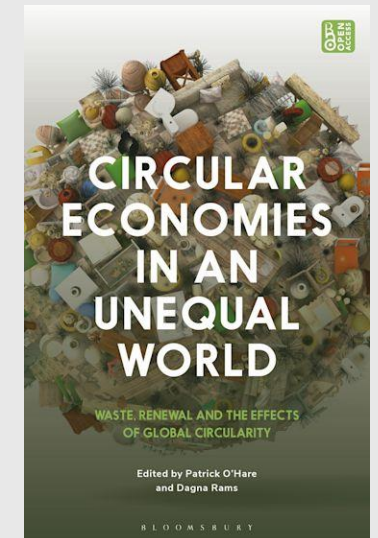
Informal waste workers in circular economy transitions: between dispossession and exploitation?

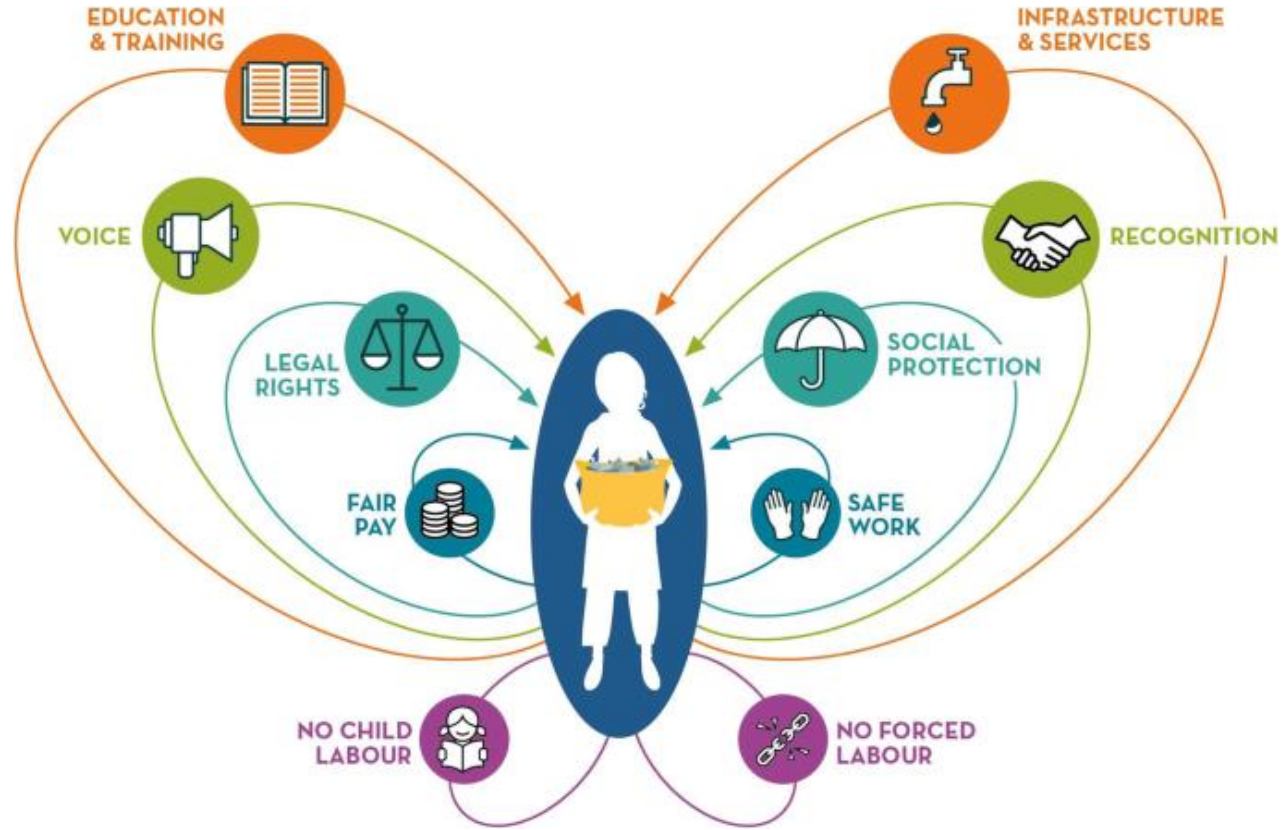
Qualitative case-studies of market-based Circular Economy partnerships reveal:

Informal workers and enterprises are disadvantaged due to lack of credit and commercial finance, data, digital tools and social respect

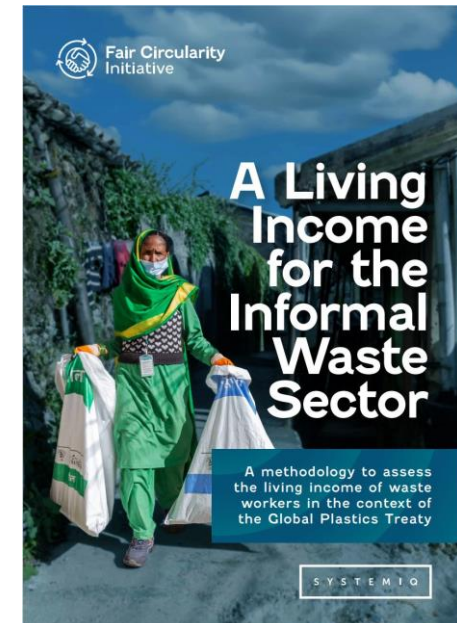
Market-based CE transition creates room for newer, well-resourced players to enter the recycling and repair industry, displacing or subordinating informal workers

Market opportunities splinter and stratify informal workers, on ethno-racial and gendered lines





Barford, A., Ahmad, S.R. A "Call for a Socially Restorative Circular Economy: Waste Pickers in the Recycled Plastics Supply Chain." *Circular Economy and Sustainability*





In the foreground, a zero-waste leader talks to TV reporters about new recycling infrastructures. In the background, two “included” waste pickers sort through waste. Image by Author.