



International  
Labour  
Organization

coop  
SSE

# Planeta Verde:

**A supportive ecosystem  
and recycling services provided  
through cooperatives.**





We are a worker cooperative founded 25 years ago in Rionegro, eastern Antioquia, Colombia, seeking **to meet the basic needs of waste pickers**, who are socially excluded due to their poverty and vulnerability.



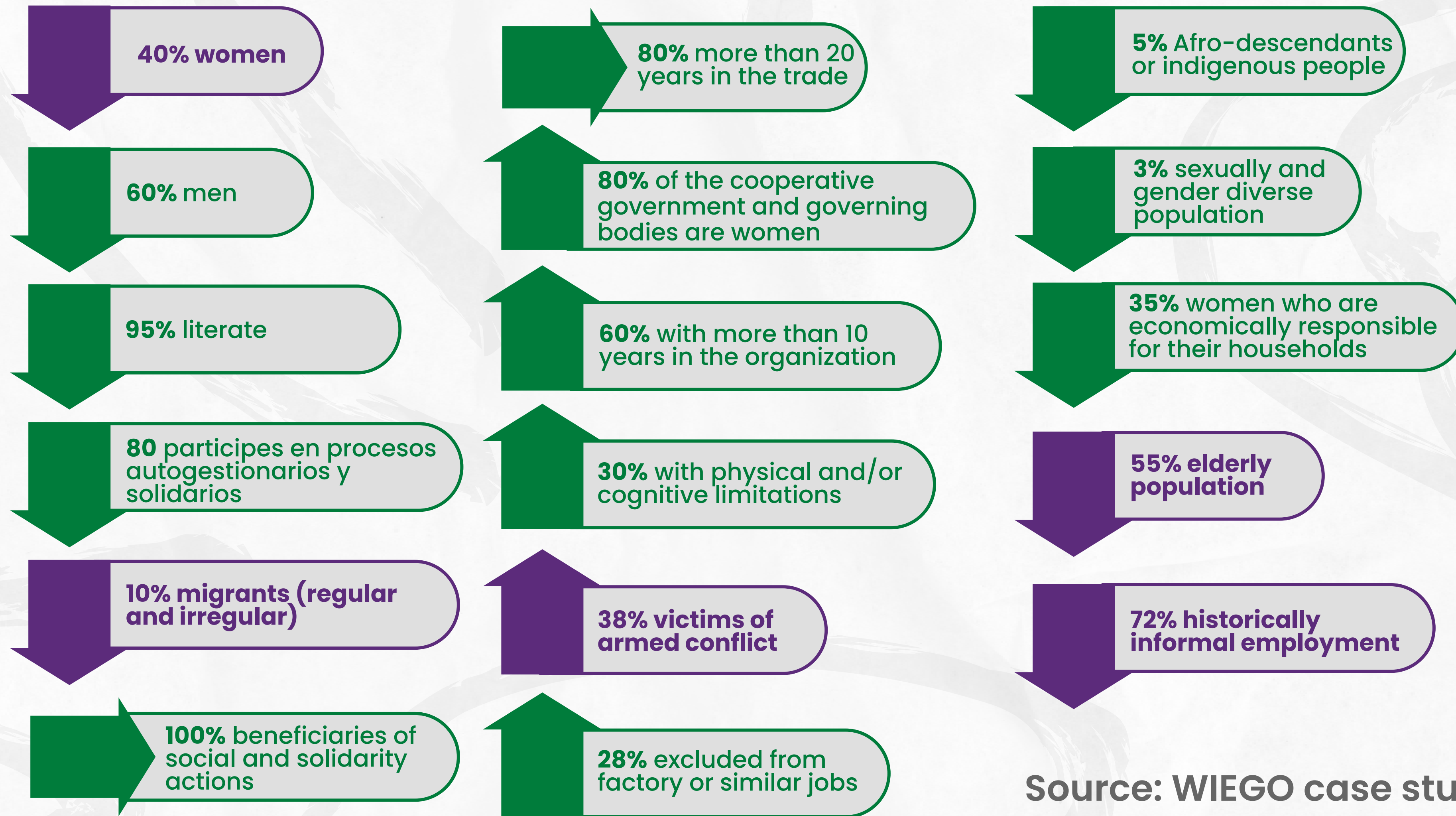




**The cooperative's social base:**

**106 families of waste pickers**





Source: WIEGO case study





From informal workers in the garbage to cooperative members providing a public service.



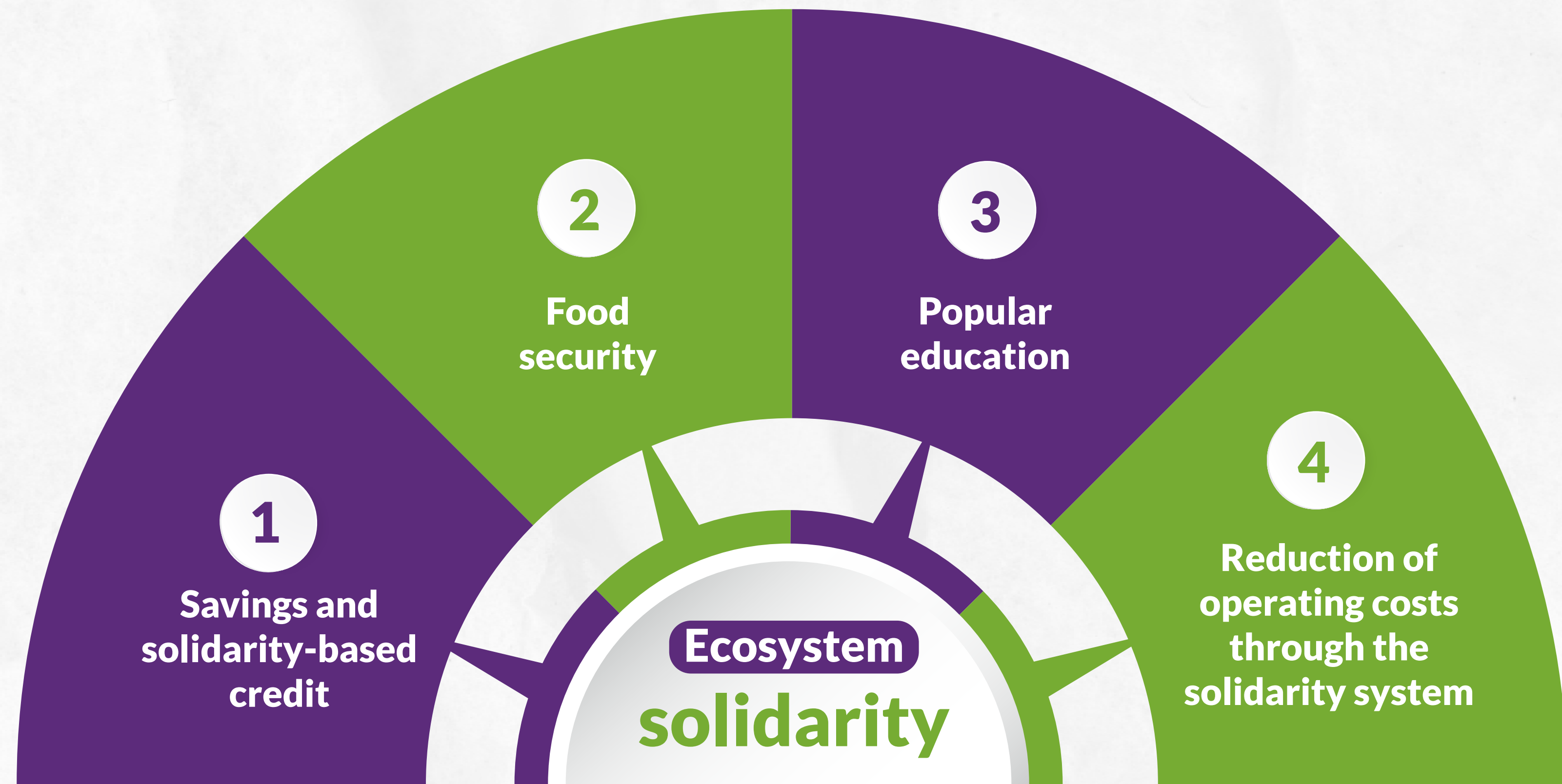
From local cooperative members to union leaders with national and international influence.





# Our Ecosystem of Social **and Solidarity Actions**

Planeta Verde develops a supportive ecosystem that goes beyond recycling. These actions integrate different aspects of the lives of the people involved, promoting well-being and integration:







Source: Case study “Cooperativa Planeta Verde: Organizational, social, and productive practices related to the social and solidarity economy” – 2025



# Additional actions to sustain the ecosystem:

- **Cooperative training**, renewal of principles of trust and shared responsibility
- **Political training:** advocacy, regulations, defense of rights and “non-negotiables”
- **Comprehensive environmental** education with a focus on waste pickers
- **Training in recycling, waste management**, and solidarity-based business management
- **Union representation through** Arreciclar (regional) and ANR (national), with international influence



**RECYCLING WITHOUT WASTE**

**PICKERS IS JUST**

**GARBAGE!**



**Año Internacional  
de las Cooperativas**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

