

Sumompo Maju Sejahtera Cooperative Establishment

The informal waste sector in Manado is crucial to the city's waste management system, yet it overlooked and faces significant challenges due to its unrecognized status. Waste pickers often experience limited access to resources, substandard working conditions, and below-average incomes, which hinder their effectiveness. In response, the Manado City Government is committed to formalizing this sector and promoting a circular economy. GIZ 3RproMar in Manado has organized workshops to help waste pickers understand their rights, learn about waste management systems, and improve occupational safety. This initiative also assists them in obtaining the necessary legal documents and licenses to advocate for better working conditions and enhance their operational efficiency.

Sumompo Maju Sejahtera Change Achieved

12 Waste pickers and 2 others (a pastor & teacher) formally and legally organized Pemulung Sumpmpo Sejahtera Cooperative.

3 Waste pickers elected as chairlady, secretary and treasurer.

20 Waste pickers received personal protective equipment: for a more safety working condition.



Members can get away from middlemen and sell recyclables directly to the Cooperative.



Training in occupational, waste management systems, developing understanding on collective voice of waste pickers, day-to-day Cooperation operation and financial management



Providing shelter for waste pickers including constructed sanitation facilities, recyclable storage area, and cooperative office.

Impact for Waste Pickers!



The initiative by 3RproMar Manado/GIZ, along with support from the Manado City Government's Environmental Service (DLH) and the Manado City Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises Service, has been crucial in forming this Cooperative and providing training programs. As a result, members now work more safely, gain recognition, and have the potential to increase their family incomes.

Ratnawati Taasuwi has been working as waste pickers at Sumompo Landfill since 1989. Being senior member of the group, she is well respected by her fellow workers and elected as the Chairwoman of the Cooperative. She feels like the establishment of the Cooperative has transformed the way members work, shifting from individual efforts to a collective approach. Since January 2025, members have started selling recyclable plastic materials directly to wholesalers, which has enabled them to begin saving money through the Cooperative. Additionally, the Cooperative allows members to seek program assistance from the government and other third parties, something that was not possible individually.