

# Gender and Waste Data in Serbia

Natalija Ostojic Technical Project Analyst UN Women Serbia Office







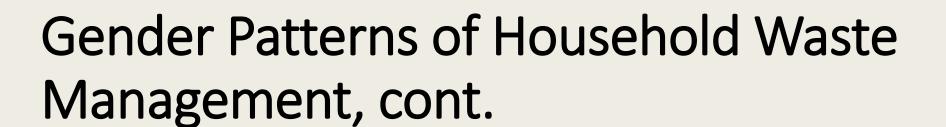
# Gender Patterns of Household Waste Management



Conducted a very first survey on Gender Patterns of Household Waste Management and consequently initiated a public campaign under the hashtag #BringYourOwnBottle (#NosimSvojuBocu) advocating for decreasing the usage of single-use plastics.

636 respondents - urban and rural settlements.

- Almost 70% never separates waste, while every third household sometimes separates, usually plastics.
- Close to 90% uses waste collecting services, almost all public companies.
   Satisfaction is moderate, and weak when it relates to cleanness and number of containers (especially in south-east Serbia).





- Obligatory separation of waste would be mostly or completely supported by 60% of households.
- Awareness and knowledge about recyclable materials Plastics, then paper are most common replies. Next are glass and metal, while other materials are mentioned much rarer.
- Source of information on recycling TV broadcasts (34%) and TV commercials (23%); Internet and social networks were the source of information about recycling for just over 10% of citizens. Direct conversations (within the family, colleagues and friends) are listed in almost 20% of cases.



### Structure of household waste

# WHAT MAKES OUR WASTE?



Most of the waste in our households are the remains of food, packaging and plastic which counts up to a quarter of the total waste.

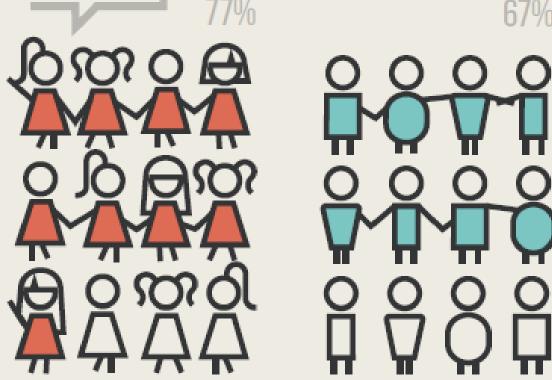




### Women as the main agents of changes

- Women are the key bearers of existing recycling separation (68% compare to 41% of men), as well as of the habit's changes (61%).
- Attitudes are in general more positive among younger respondents, in smaller cities and in south-east Serbia.
- With men, retirees, lower educated respondents, in rural and single households, in Vojvodina, attitudes are in general more negative.

We are more ready to change our habits in order to protect the enviroment than men. ARE WE READY TO CHANGE OUR HABITS?





### We showed that we can!

# WHO HAS A GREATER **INFLUENCE**ON FAMILY HABITS?



- 62% of respondents say they have reduced their use of plastic bags since the supermarkets started charging for them.
- 60% of women and 50% of men support a complete ban on the use of plastics bags.
- Men are more often opposed to the ban (37%), as well as older than 65 (47%), retirees (45%), but also residents of Belgrade (49%).



and the Empowerment of Women









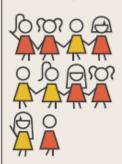
### **Timeline**

29 October 2019

4 -11 November 2019

#### I Focus Group with Women

Mapping of lifestyles and habits of women of different profiles

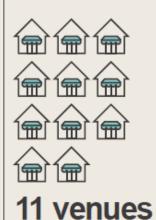


10 women

**Focus Group** 

# Interviews with Coffee Shop Owners

Mapping of current practice and consumption





1 November 2019

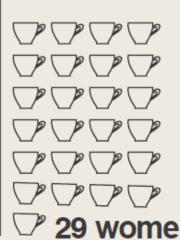
7 November 2019

### Workshop Announcement

Mobilizing women who want to reduce disposable plastic

### The First Workshop

Workshop with women.
Recognizing the biggest
challenges in using
disposable plastics,
planning for the next
meeting and pursuing a
week of collecting and
separating the recyclable
from non-recyclable plastic







8 November 2019

12 - 14 November 2019

15 November 2019

23 November 2019

### Private FB Group Launched

Platform for communication and mutual support for participating women



220 members

# Individual Meetings w/ Coffee Shop Owners

Discussion on the advantages of sustainable solutions over disposable plastics, preparing for the "challenge" and No-plastic party









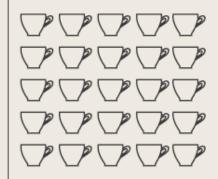




6 venues

### The Second Workshop

Facing the amounts of plastic waste each participant collected in a week and brought to the meeting. Agreement that from 23-30 November we will try to reduce single-use plastic. Signing the Oath



25 women







30 November 2019

17 December 2019

### **Online** survey

#### **Questionaire**

**Measuring Success** 



21 women

### The Second **Focus Group** w/ Women

Measuring success, identifying major difficulties and challenges which require a systemic solution and support by commercial or governmental sector



8 women

### **Final Public Event**

A summary of the results of the action, woman's conversation with the producers and retail chain representatives about more sustainable solutions in mass production and consumables

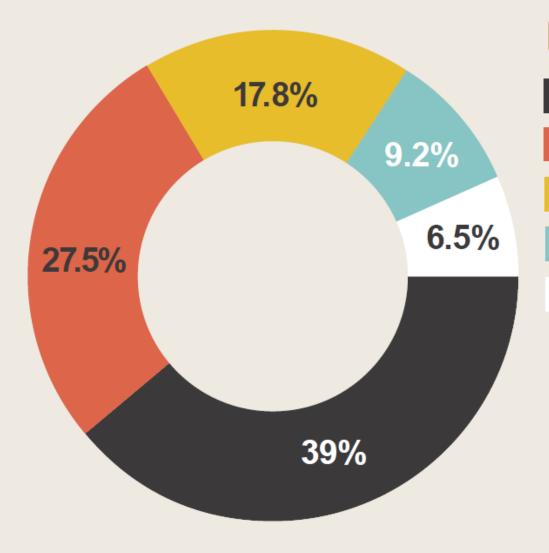


Disseminattion of the initiative's methodology and scaling up









# Origin of our plastic waste

Food packaging and wrapping

Bevarages (PET, tetrapak)

Plastic bags

Takeaway food

Cosmetics and cleaning products





### What a difference a single woman make?

23.8

pieces of disposable plastic waste



pieces of disposable plastic waste



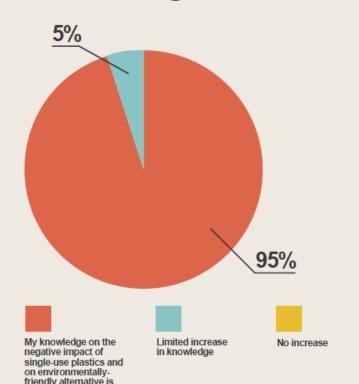
1237.6

pieces of disposable plastic waste





# The effect of the campaign to reduce the use of disposable plastics during the challenge



Percentage of reduction of disposable plastic use during the challenge





#### "Business as usual"

Weekly consumption of disposable items per coffee shop



=

350 straws 100 spoons 100 cups

400 visitors

Weekly consumption of disposable plastic items in 9 participating coffee shops, before the challenge



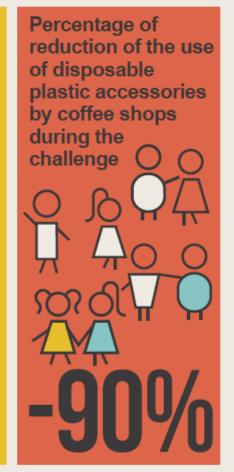
3150 plastic straws900 plastic spoons900 disposable cups

Depending on the season and events frequency

# The effect of the campaign to reduce the single-use plastic in coffee shops during the challenge

Cofee shop visitors who were introduced to the campaign's goal during the challenge:

3600 VISITORS





#kažemNEplastici



### Thank you for your attention!

Natalija Ostojic UN Women Serbia

Email: natalija.ostojic@unwomen.org

#kažemNEplastici