

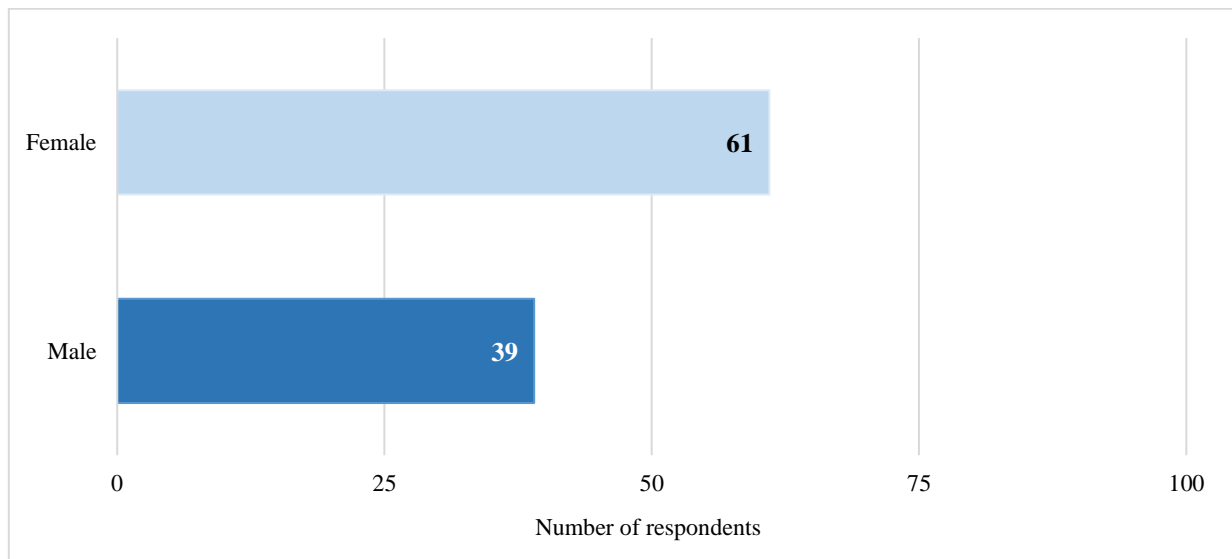
# Appendix to the SSC Report: “Wastepickers at the Dandora Dumpsite”

Published 5 May 2025

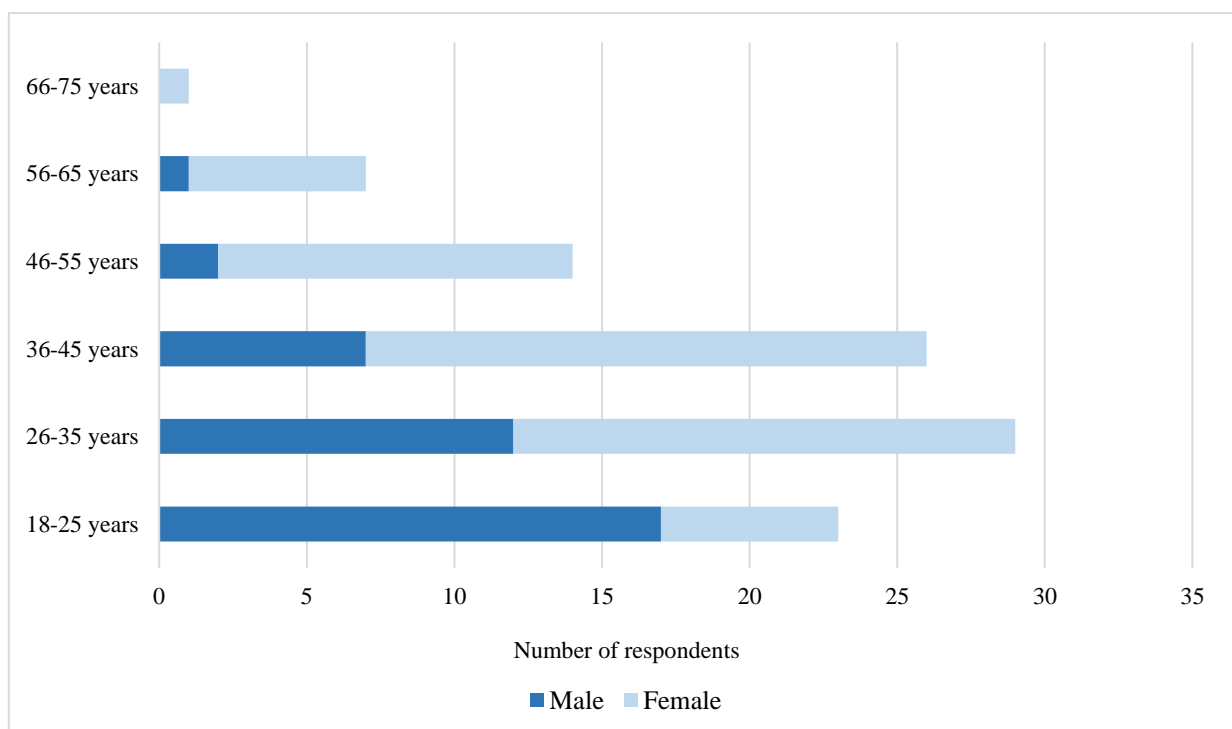
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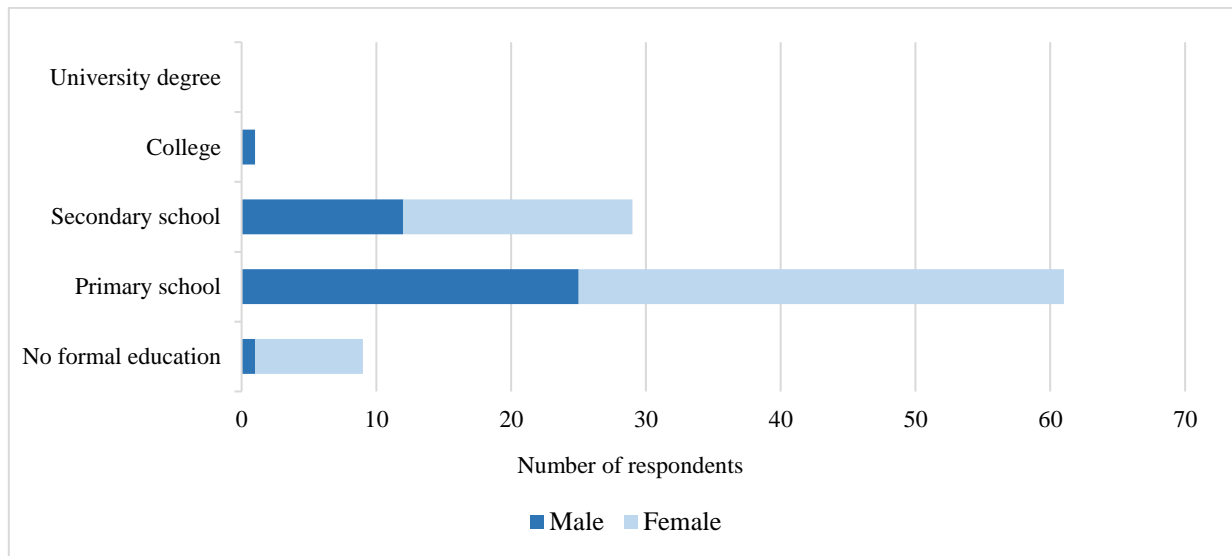
## 1. Social background



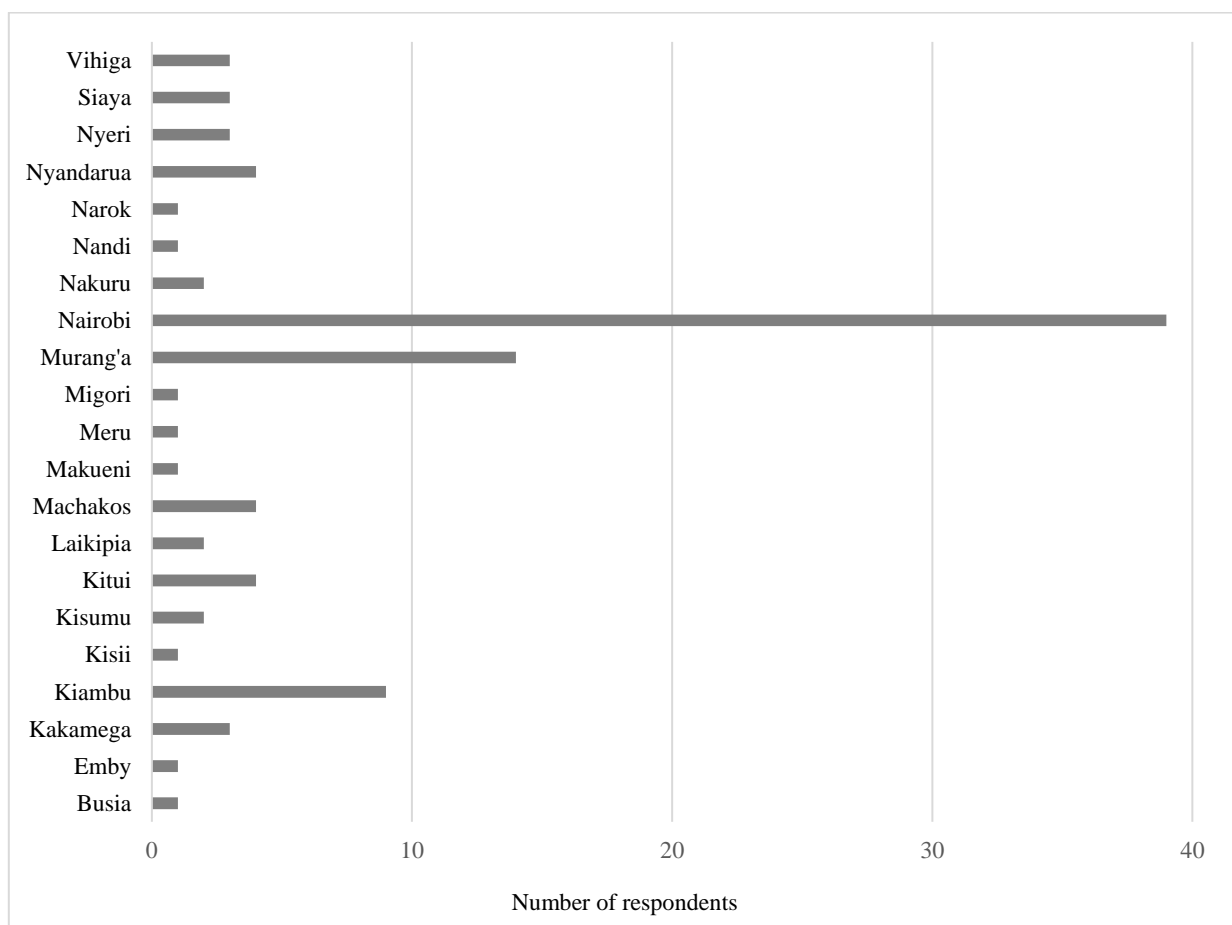
**Figure 1.** Gender. 61 female wastepickers and 39 male wastepickers participated in the study.



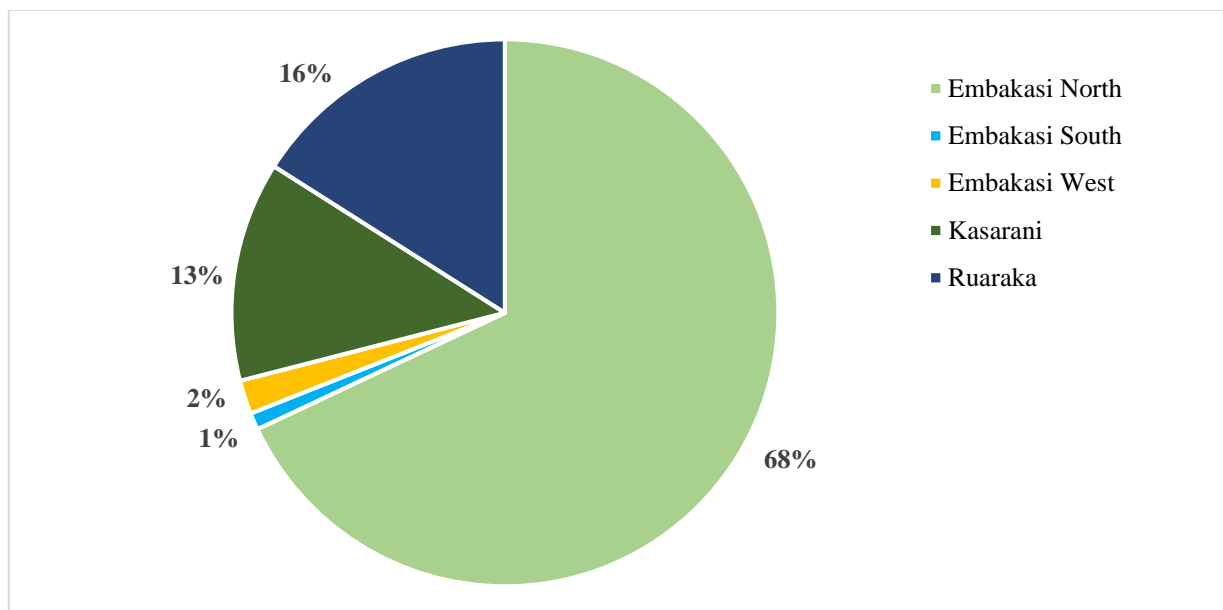
**Figure 2.** Age. For each age group, the gender distribution is presented.



**Figure 3.** Educational levels. For each type of educational level, the gender distribution is presented.



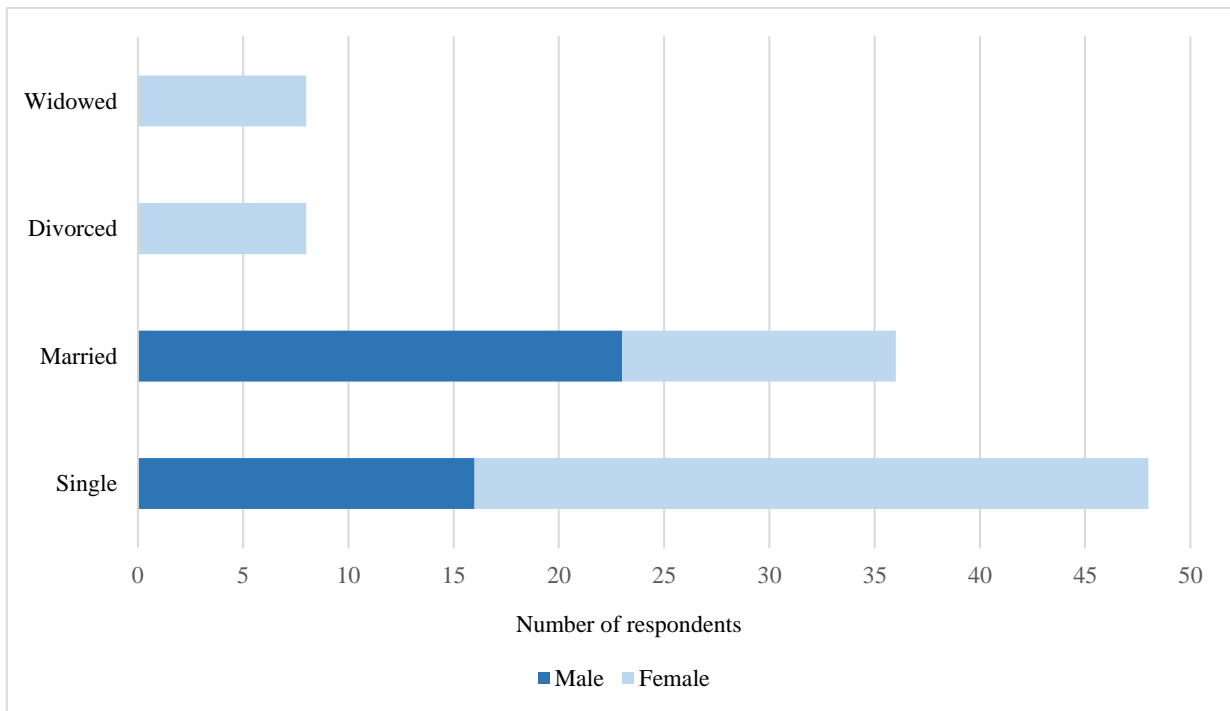
**Figure 4.** Place of origin based on counties. All study participants come from Kenya but from different counties.



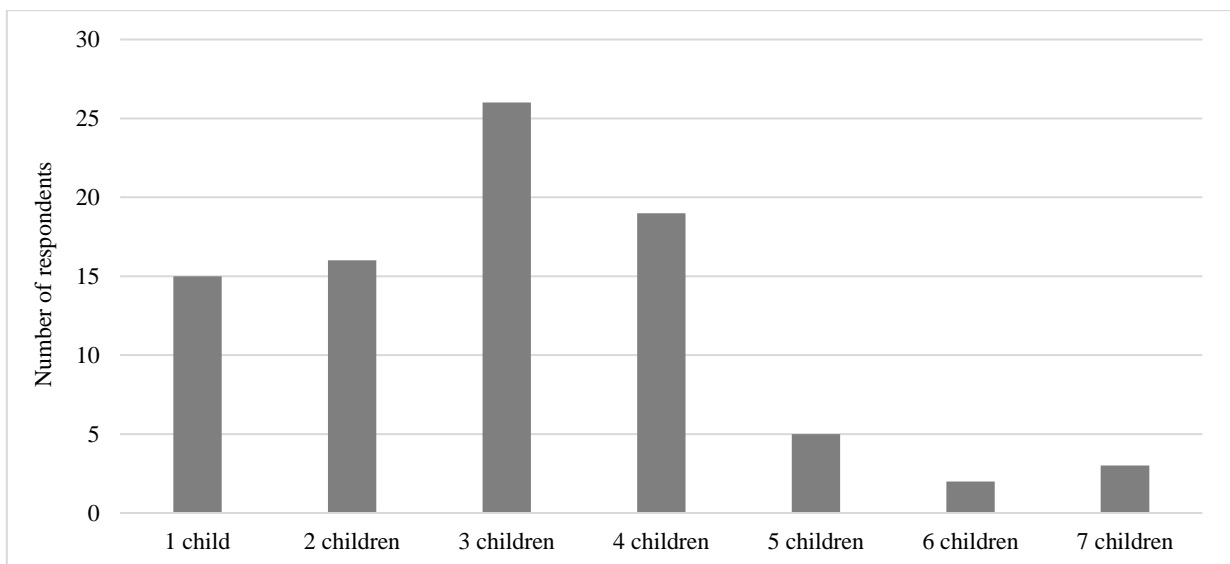
**Figure 5.** Living locations in Nairobi based on electoral constituencies. The study population lives in five different electoral constituencies. Around two-third (68%) live in Embakasi North. All five constituencies are neighbouring Dandora dumpsite.

Walls	Water access	Power access	Sanitation access	Living areas
Iron sheets (50)	Yes (17), No (17)	Yes (27), No (5)	Yes (24), No (2)	Embakasi North (26) Embakasi West (1) Kasarani (8) Ruaraka (15)
Stone (46)	Yes (24), No (8)	Yes (28), No (4)	Yes (24), No (0)	Embakasi North (38) Embakasi South (1) Embakasi West (1) Kasarani (5) Ruaraka (1)
Mud (2)	Yes (1), No (1)	Yes (0), No (2)	Yes (1), No (0)	Embakasi North (2)
Carbon (1)	No elaboration	No elaboration	No elaboration	Embakasi North (1)

**Table 1.** Accommodation characteristics. For each of the categories (type of walls, water access, power access, and sanitation access), the number of respondents are presented. The table shows that access to water is not available to all, while access to power and sanitation seem more common. However, it is not possible to make firm conclusions about these issues as not all respondents elaborated about these aspects of their housing.

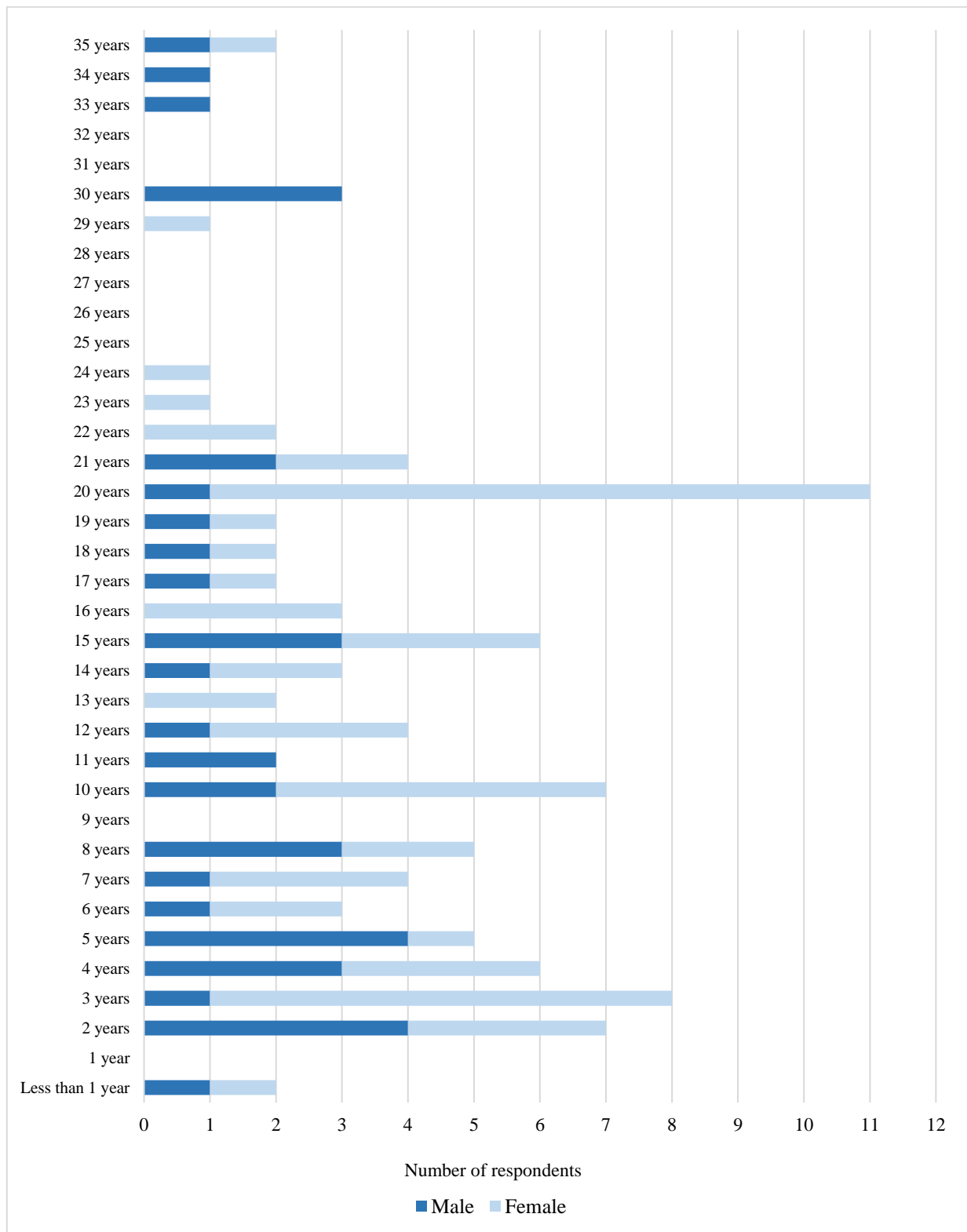


**Figure 6.** Civil status. For each type of civil status, the gender distribution is presented.

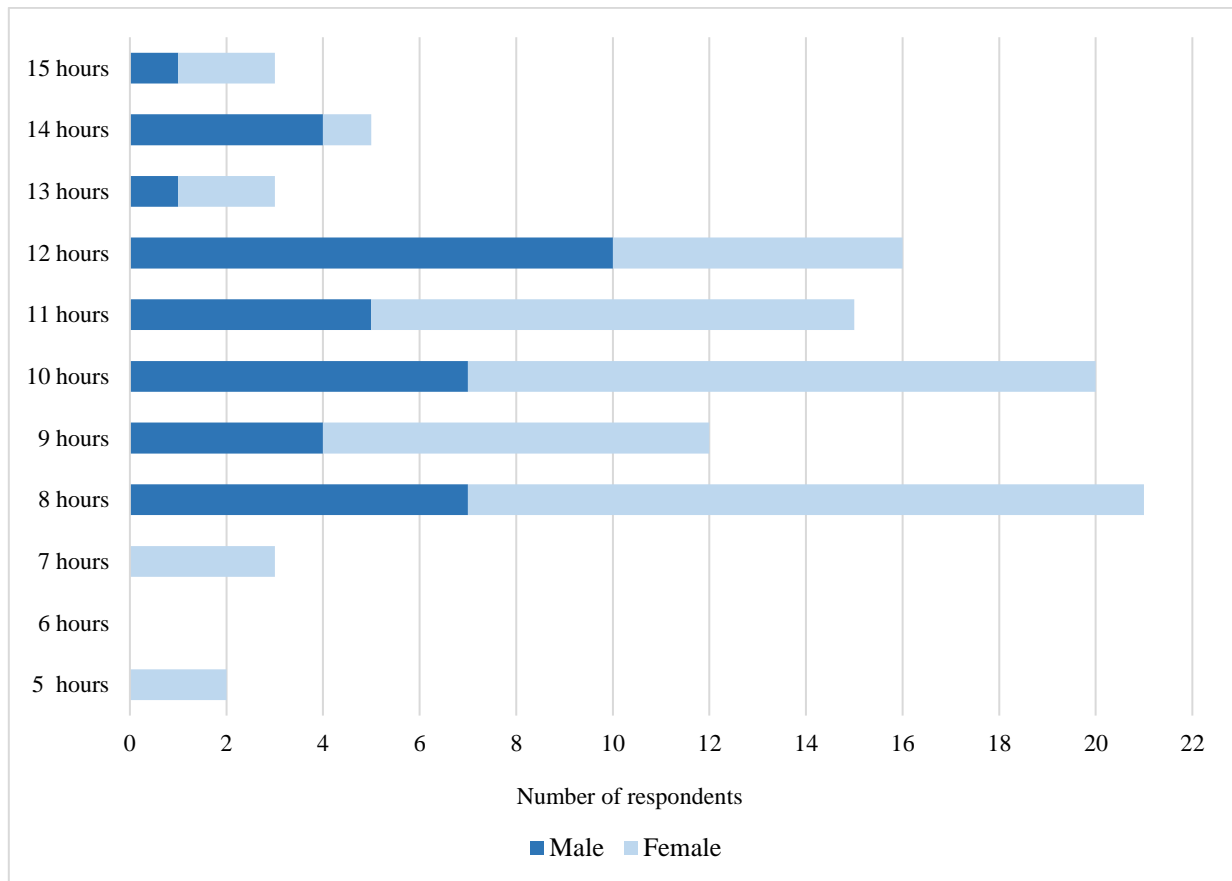


**Figure 7.** Children. 88 out of 100 respondents have children.

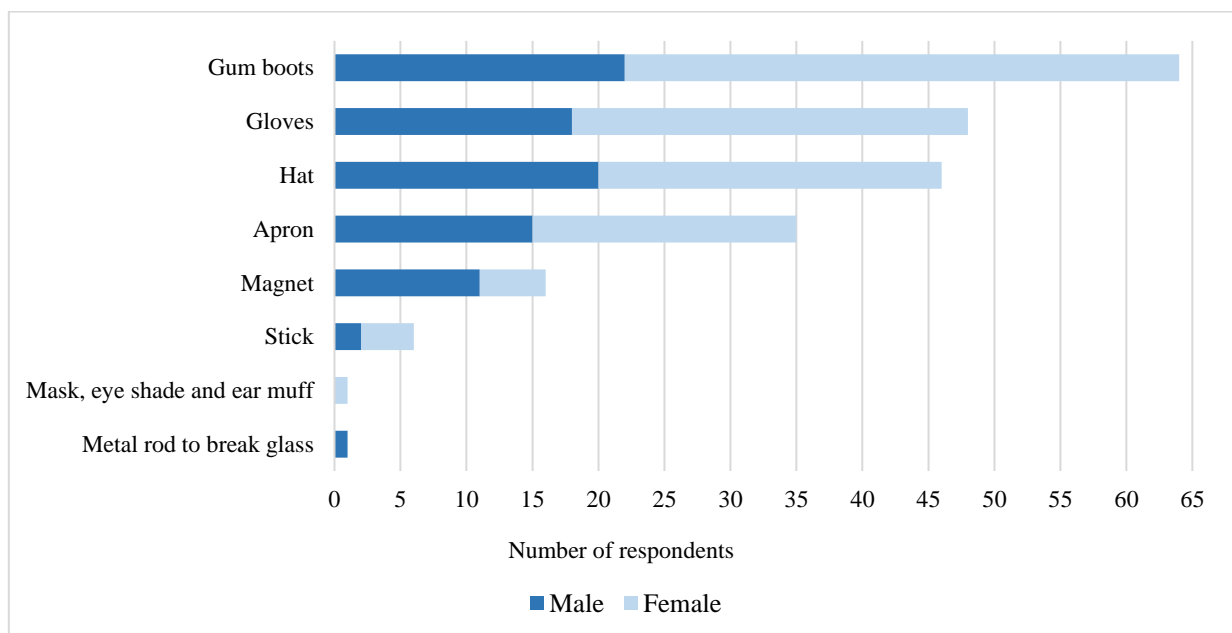
## 2. Working conditions and health



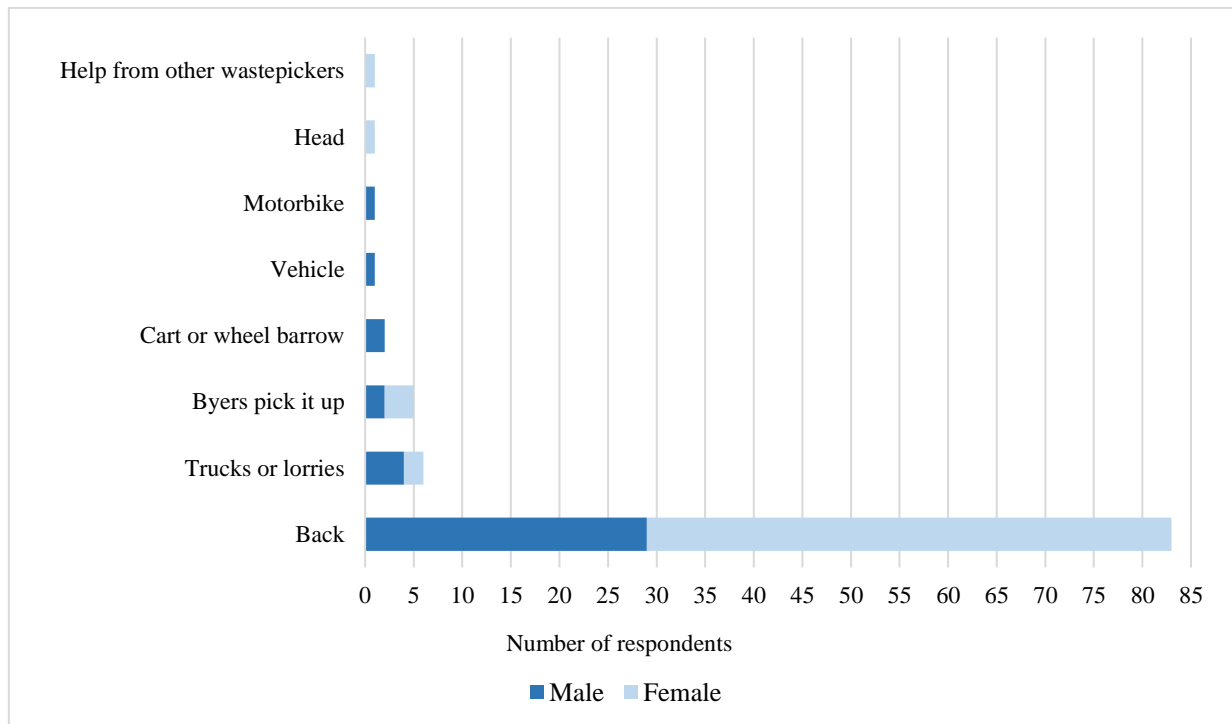
**Figure 8.** Years of experience with wastepicking at Dandora dumpsite shown by gender distribution. Two of the respondents have been working at the dumpsite for less than a year (3 months and 9 months, respectively). On average, the wastepickers participating in the study have worked at the Dandora dumpsite for 13 years.



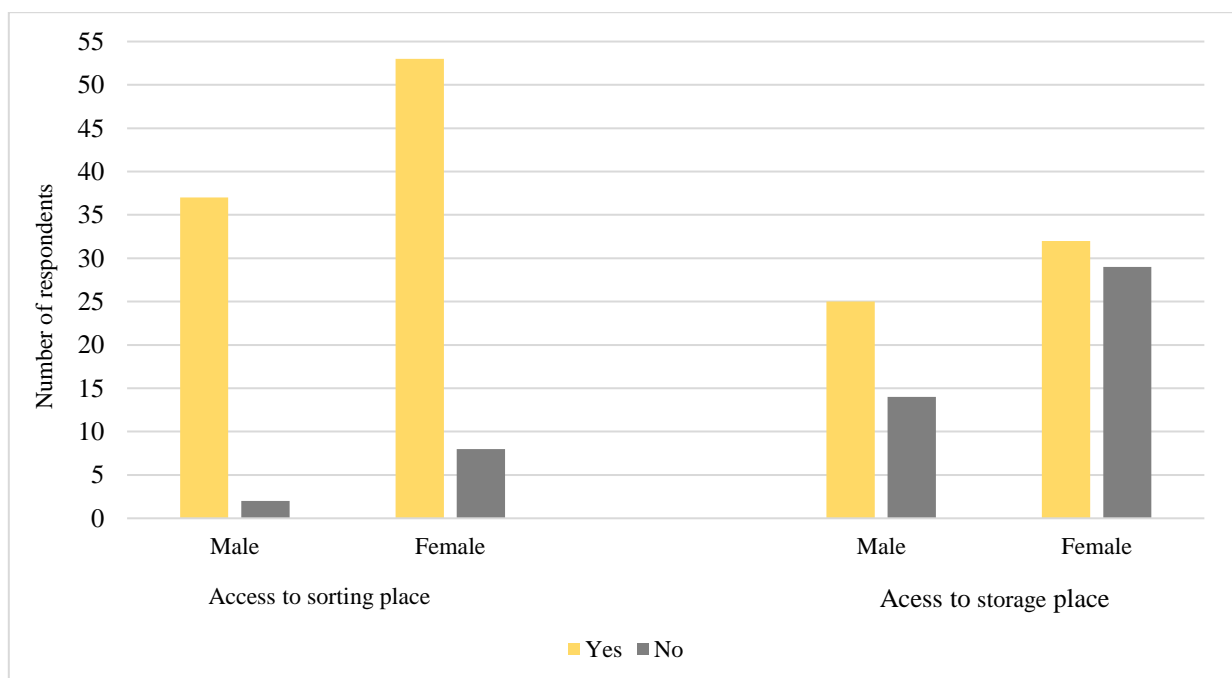
**Figure 9.** Working hours (average per day) shown by gender distribution.



**Figure 10.** Personal protection equipment shown by gender distribution. Top three includes gumboots (64 respondents), gloves (48 respondents) and hats (46 respondents). Most wastepickers mention that they use only one or two types of equipment, like gumboots and hats. 19% are only protected by the textiles they wear.

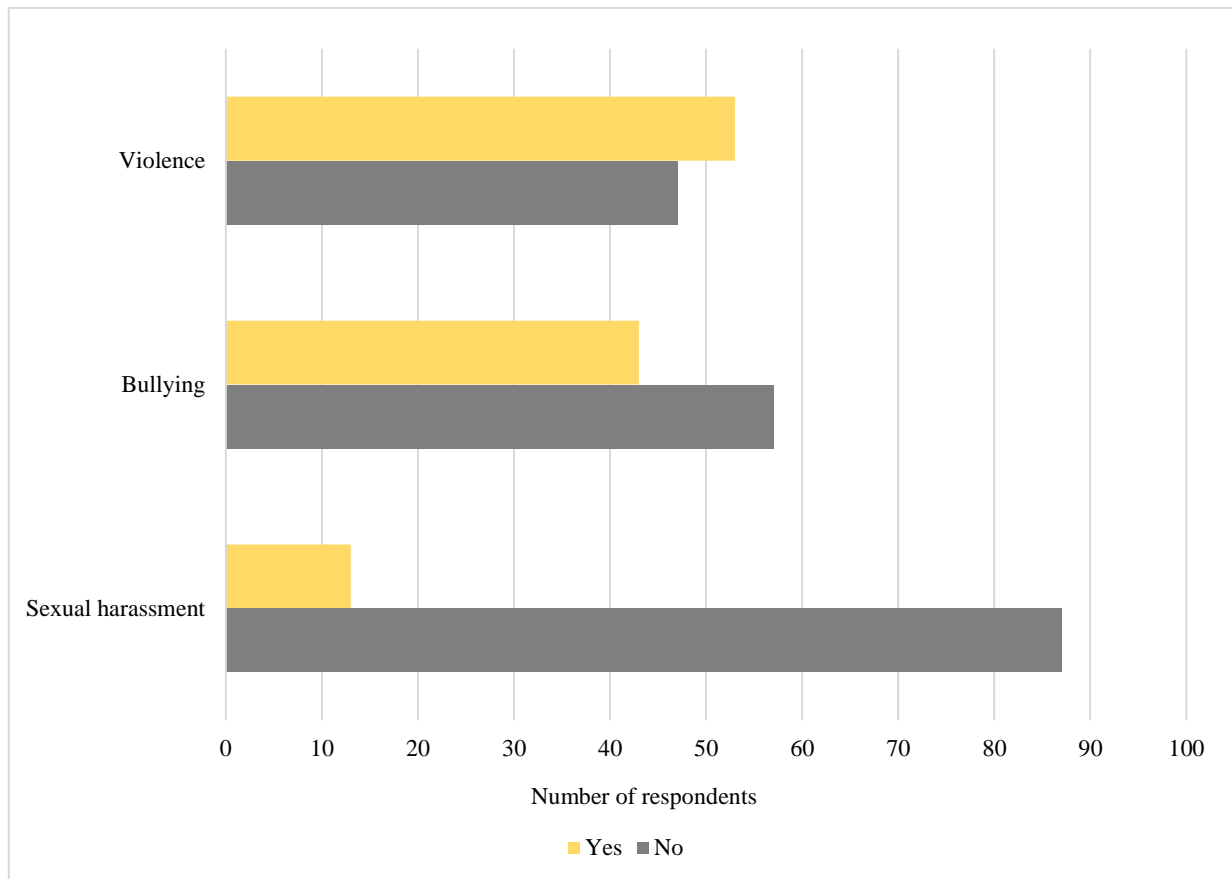


**Figure 10.** Transportation of collected recyclables shown by gender distribution. The majority of wastepickers (83%) use their backs to transport the recyclables to storage, sorting or selling places. Others use lorries (6%), carts and wheel barrows (2%), vehicles (1%), motorbikes (1%) or the head (1%). A few (5%) do not need to transport the recyclables as the buyers themselves come to pick it up. One of the respondents explains that she gets assistance from other wastepickers due to her disability (1%).

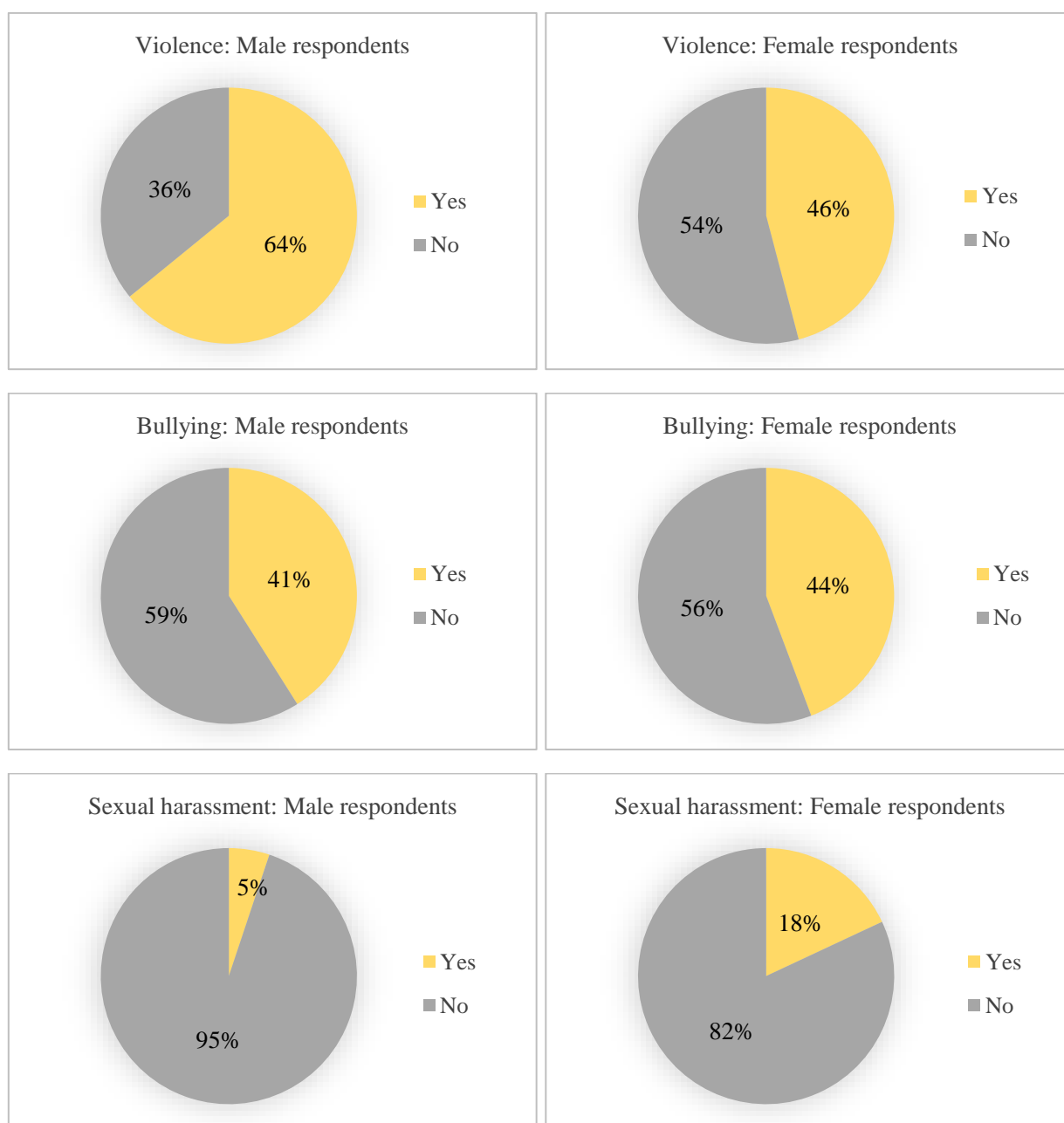


**Figure 11.** Access to sorting and storage place, respectively, shown by gender distribution. Overall, 90% of the respondents have access to sorting places whereas 57% of the respondents have access to storage places for the recyclables collected.

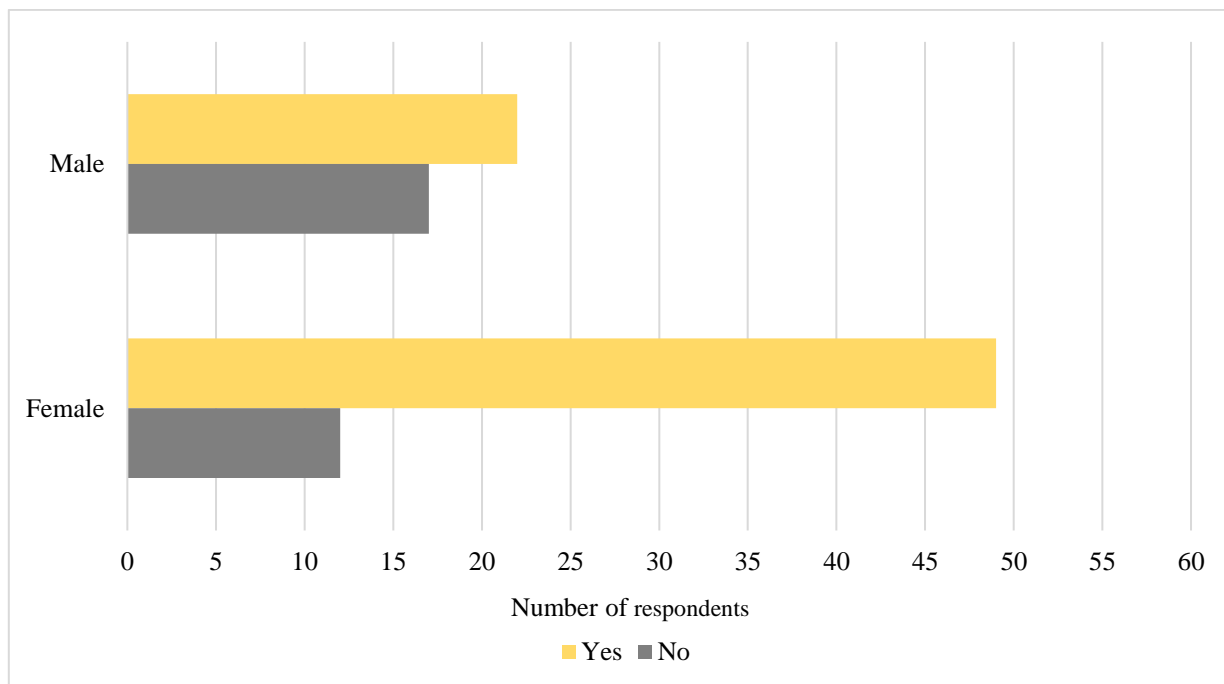




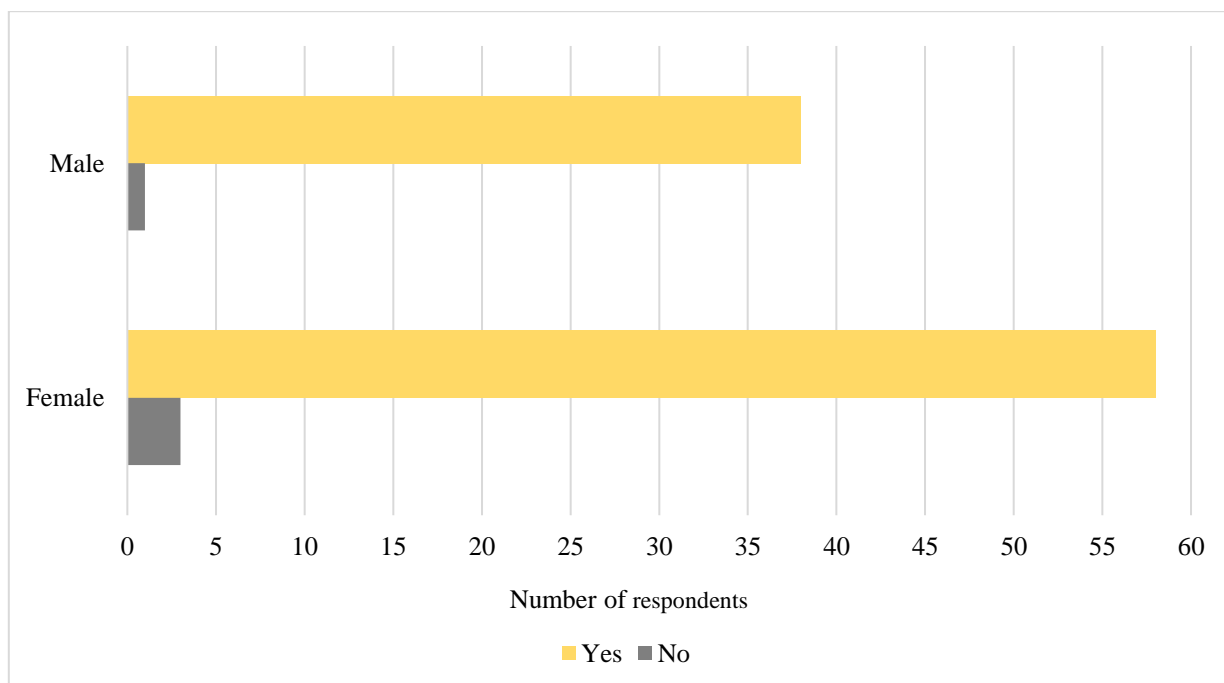
**Figure 12.** Working environment. General overview of responses to the question: “Have you witnessed or experienced some of these situations: Violence, bullying and/or sexual harassment?”



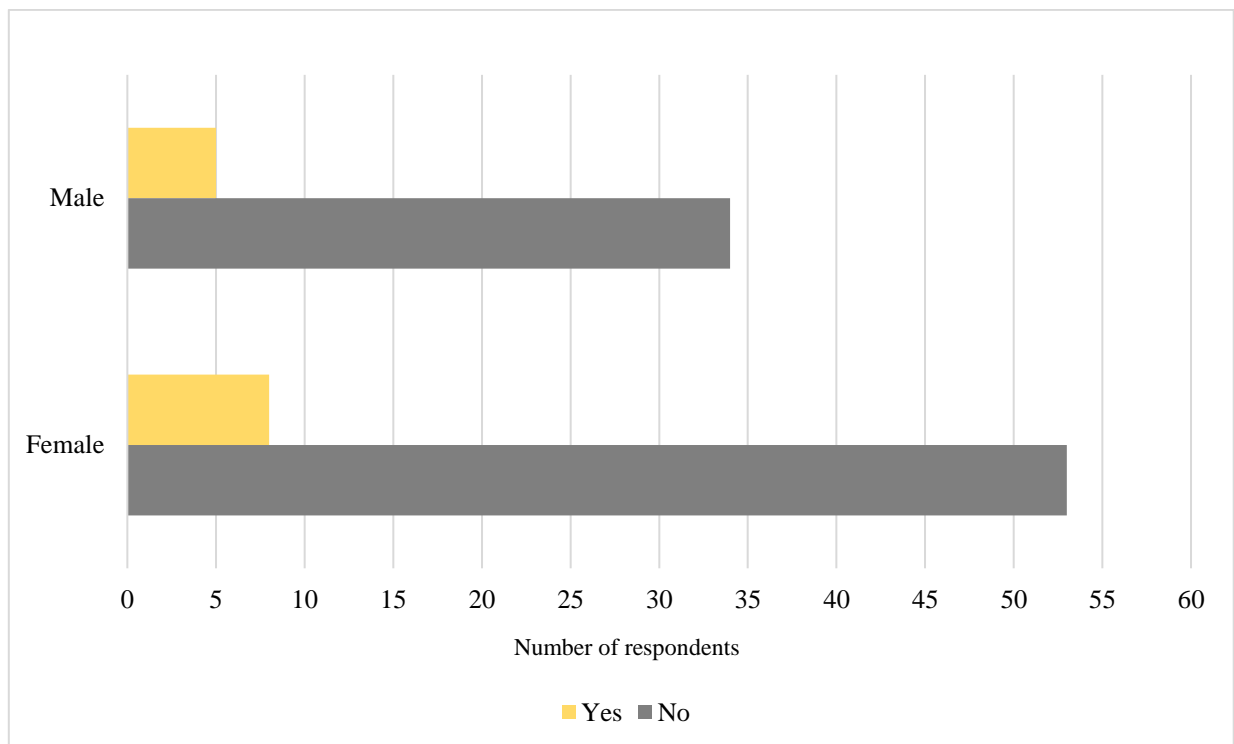
**Figure 13.** Working environment. Comparing male and female wastepickers' responses to the question "Have you witnessed or experienced some of these situations: Violence, bullying and/or sexual harassment?"



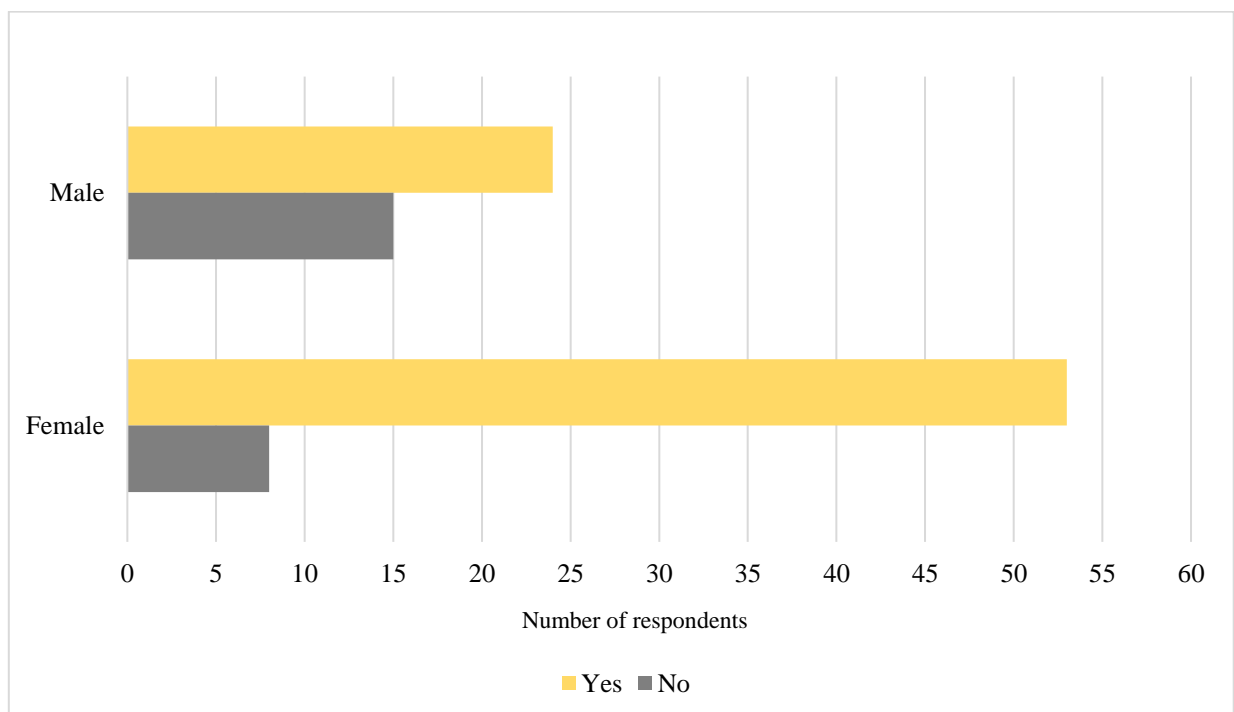
**Figure 14.** Health problems. Overview of responses to the question “Do you experience any health problems?” In total, 71 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (56% of male wastepickers and 80% of female wastepickers).



**Figure 15.** Injuries. Overview of responses to the question “Have you ever been injured when picking waste?” In total, 96 out 100 respondents have experienced injuries (97% of male wastepickers and 95% of female wastepickers).

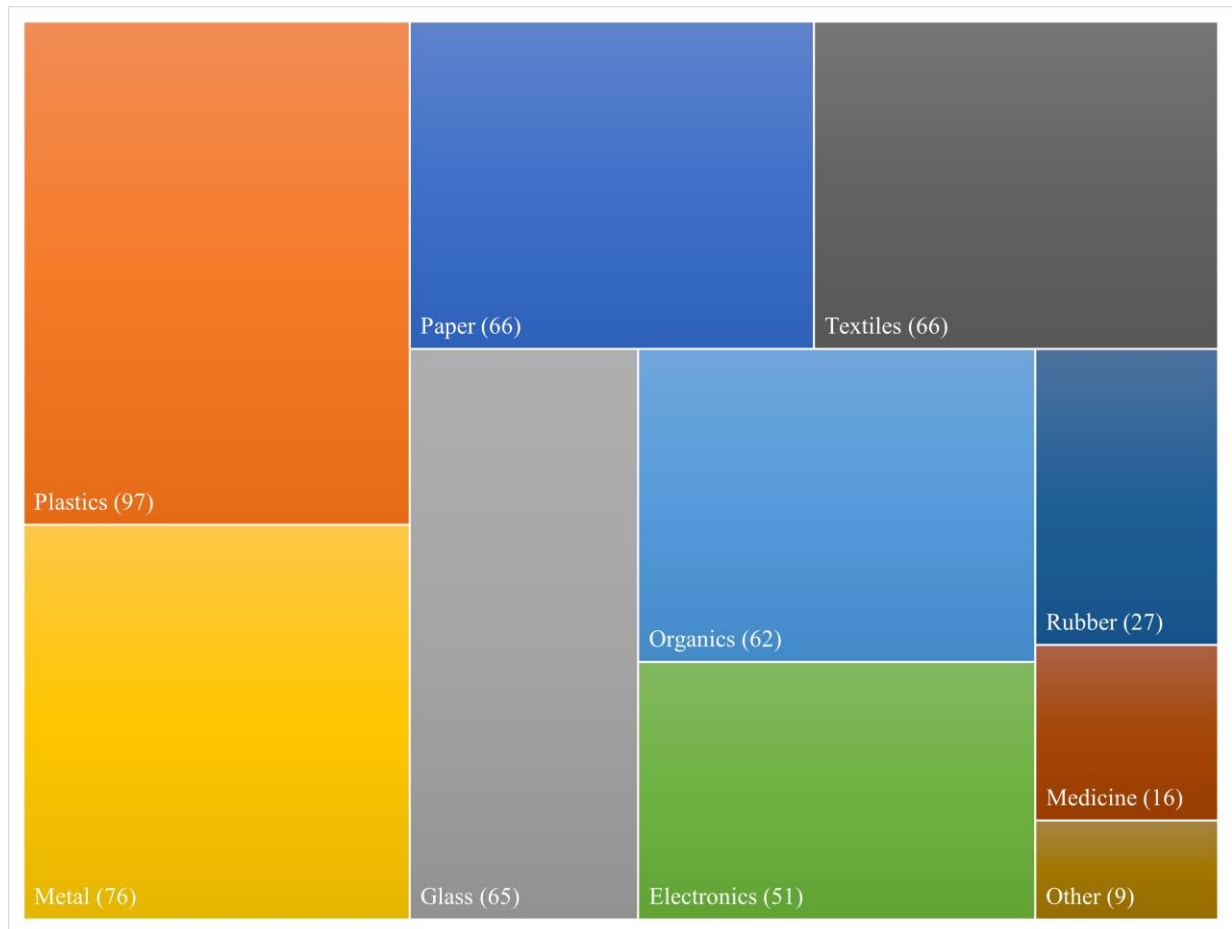


**Figure 16.** Health insurance. Overview of responses to the question “Do you have a health insurance?” In total, 13 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (13% of male wastepickers and 13% of female wastepickers).



**Figure 17.** Vaccines. Overview of responses to the question “Do you have any vaccines?” In total, 77 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (62% of male wastepickers and 87% of female wastepickers).

### 3. Material flows

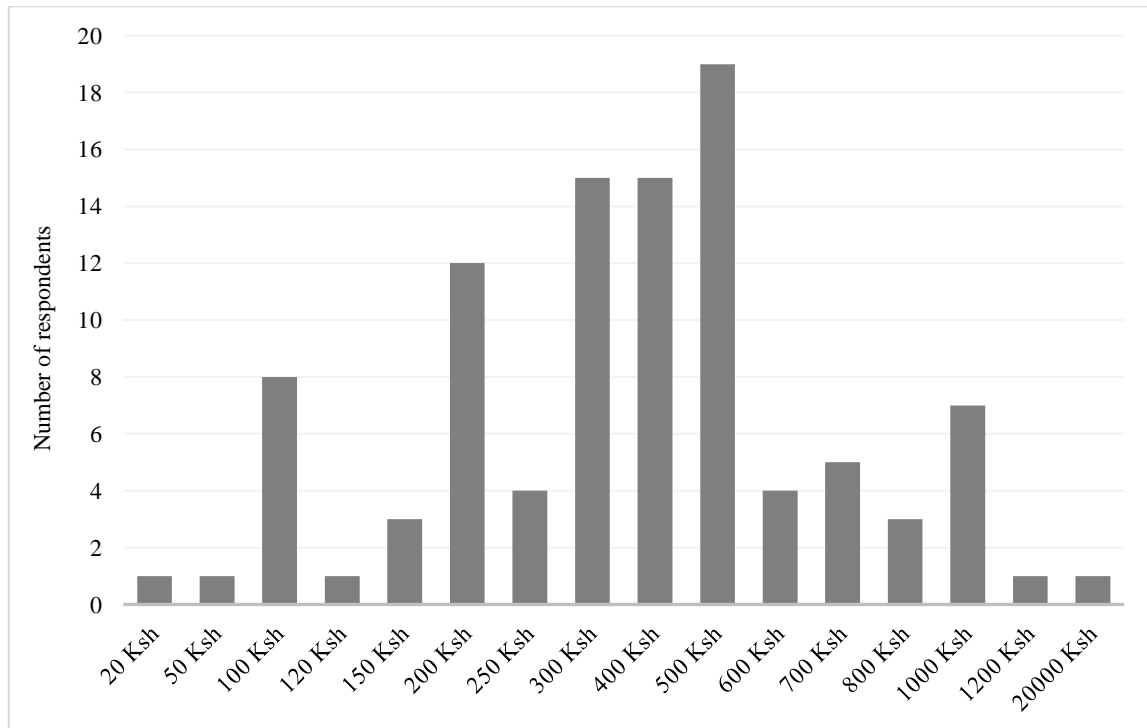


**Figure 18.** Types of waste collected. The figure shows the number of respondents collecting each type of waste. For instance, 97% collect plastics, 76% collect metals etc. The category “Other” include weaves and wigs as well as firewood, pampers and spray perfume containers.

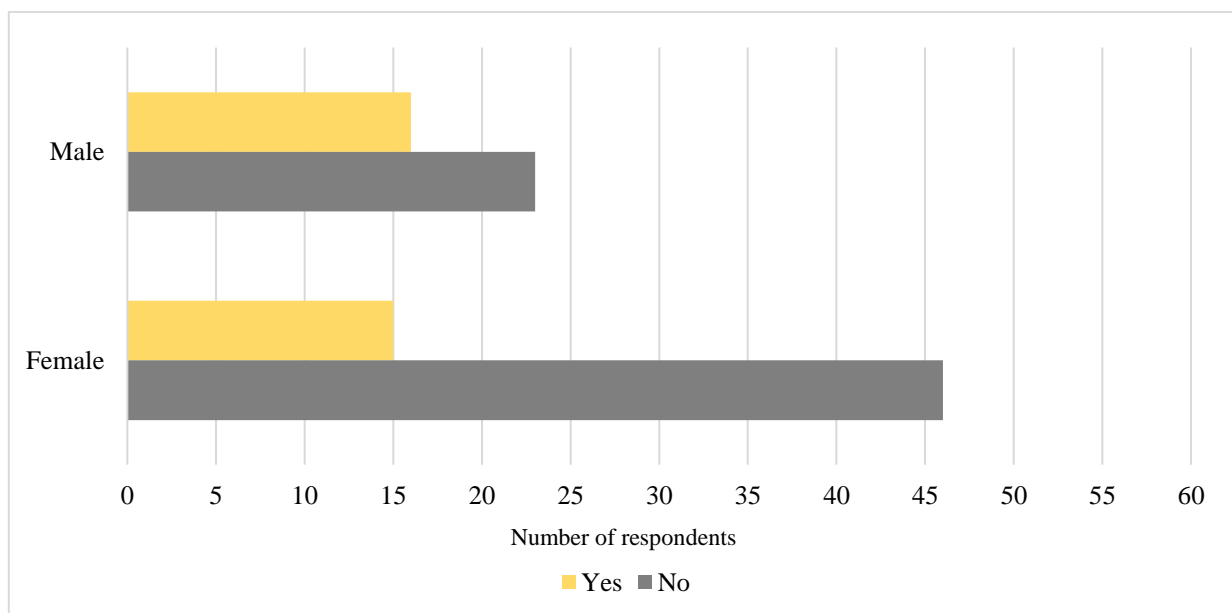
	Total number of respondents	Number of male respondents	Percentage of male respondents	Number of female respondents	Percentage of female respondents
<b>Plastic</b>	97	37	95	60	98
<b>Metal</b>	76	35	90	41	67
<b>Paper</b>	66	25	64	41	67
<b>Textile</b>	66	20	51	46	75
<b>Glass</b>	65	18	46	47	77
<b>Organic</b>	62	22	56	40	66
<b>Electronics</b>	51	22	56	29	48
<b>Rubber</b>	27	16	41	11	18
<b>Medicine</b>	16	1	3	15	25
<b>Other</b>	9	2	5	7	11

**Table 2.** Types of waste collected distinguished according to gender.

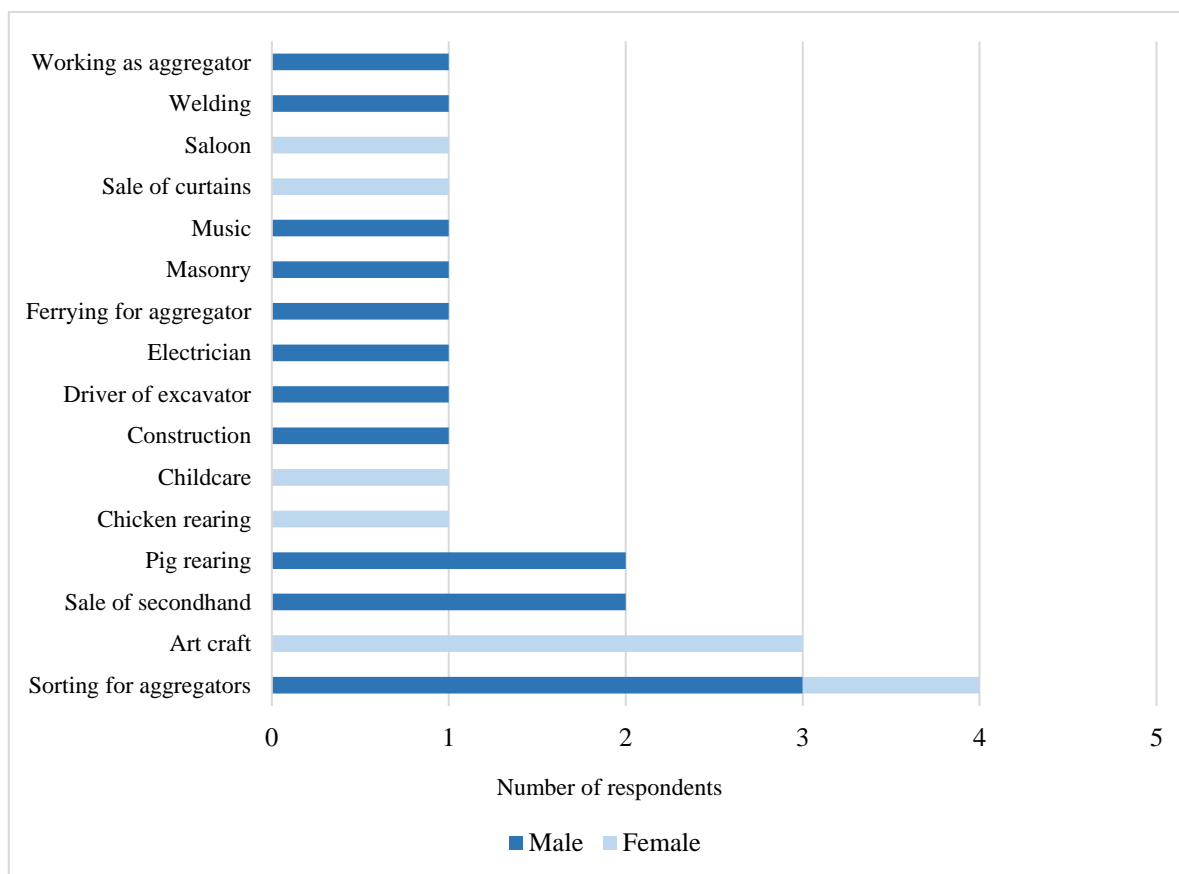
## 4. Economic situation



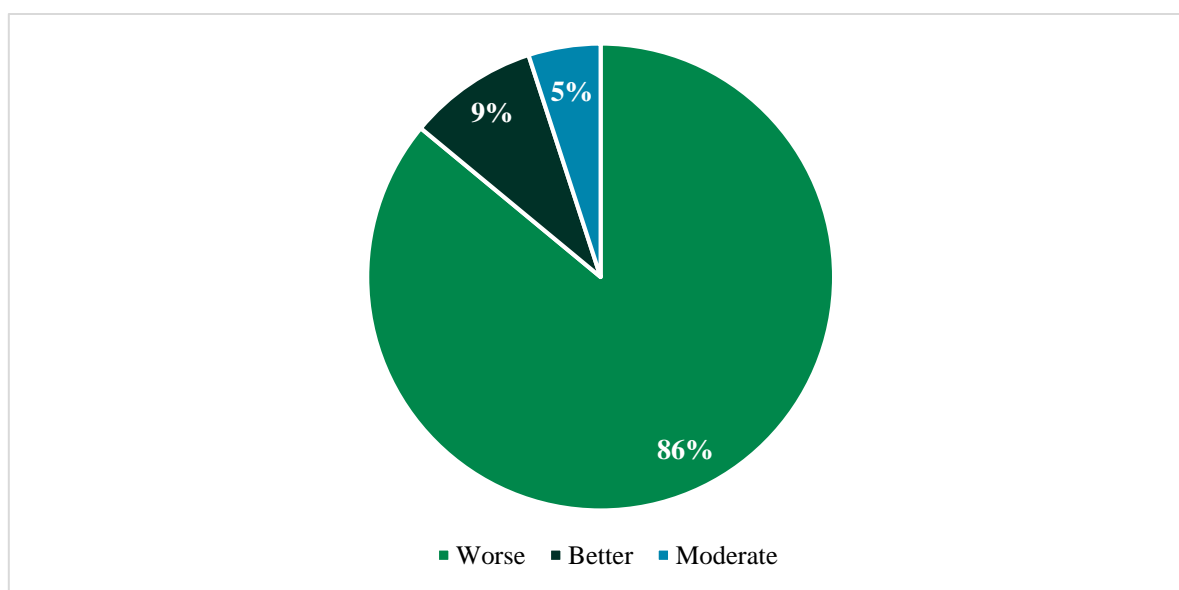
**Figure 19.** Daily earnings. It seems common to earn 300-500 Ksh per day. Many wastepickers, however, emphasise that their daily income varies a lot. Some days they go home with nothing, for instance, if no trucks with waste have arrived at the dumpsite. The wastepicker reporting 20,000 Ksh also works as an aggregator which explains his significantly higher daily earnings compared to the rest of the respondents.



**Figure 20.** Ability to cover living costs. Overview of answers to the question “Does your daily income from picking waste cover your living costs?” In total, 31 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (41% of male wastepickers and 25% of female wastepickers).

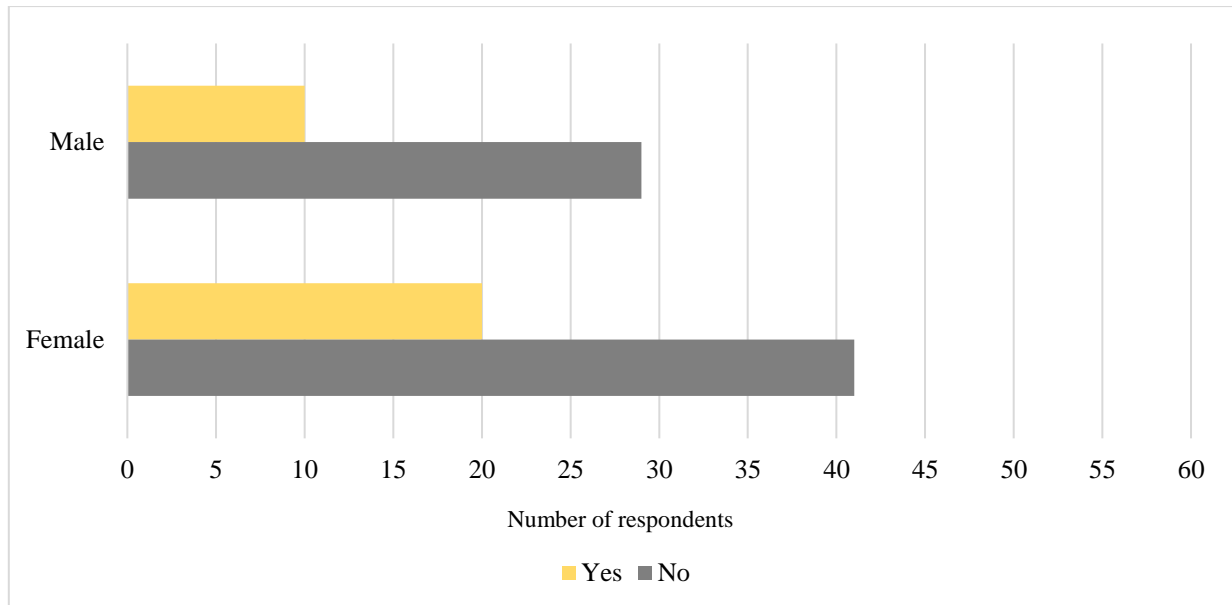


**Figure 21.** Types of other jobs taken by wastepickers to supplement their income from wastepicking shown by gender distribution. In total, 23 respondents have other jobs. All of them still work for at least 8 hours per day at the Dandora dumpsite.



**Figure 22.** Economic situation compared to the past. The majority of wastepickers (86%) describe their economic situation as worse, whereas a small group (9%) has experienced improvements. Few wastepickers (5%) find their economic situation moderate, neither worse nor better than before, as they have always struggled to survive.

## 5. Memberships and training

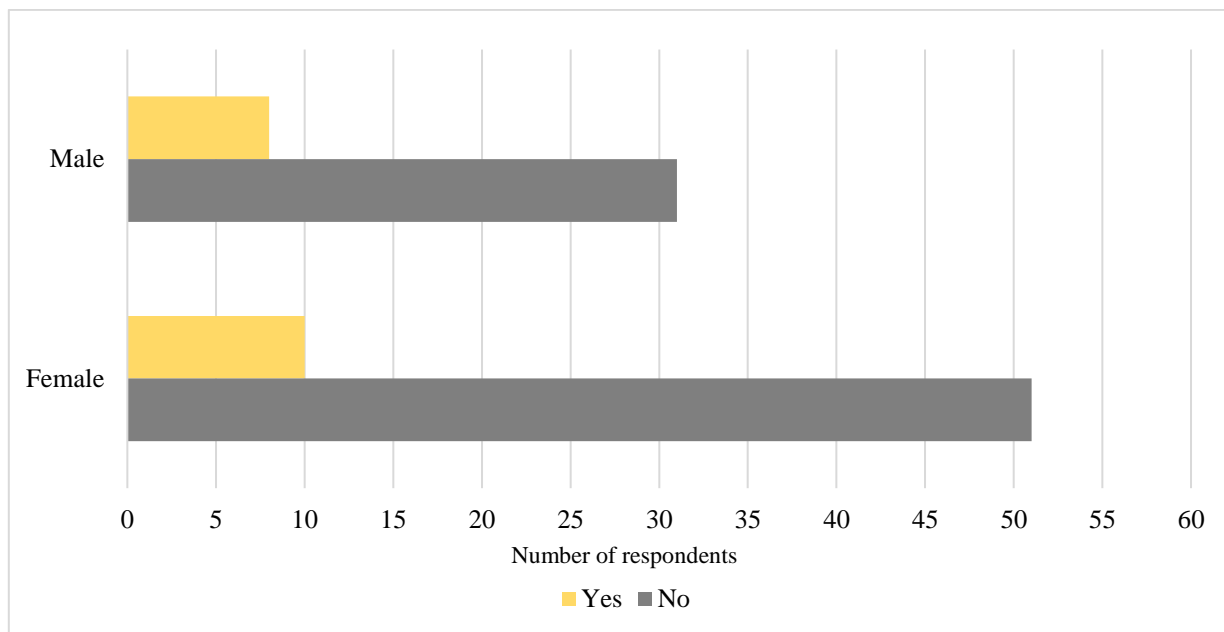


**Figure 23.** Memberships. Overview of answers to the question “Do you hold membership of an association or organisation of wastepickers?” In total, 30 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (33% of male wastepickers and 67% of female wastepickers).

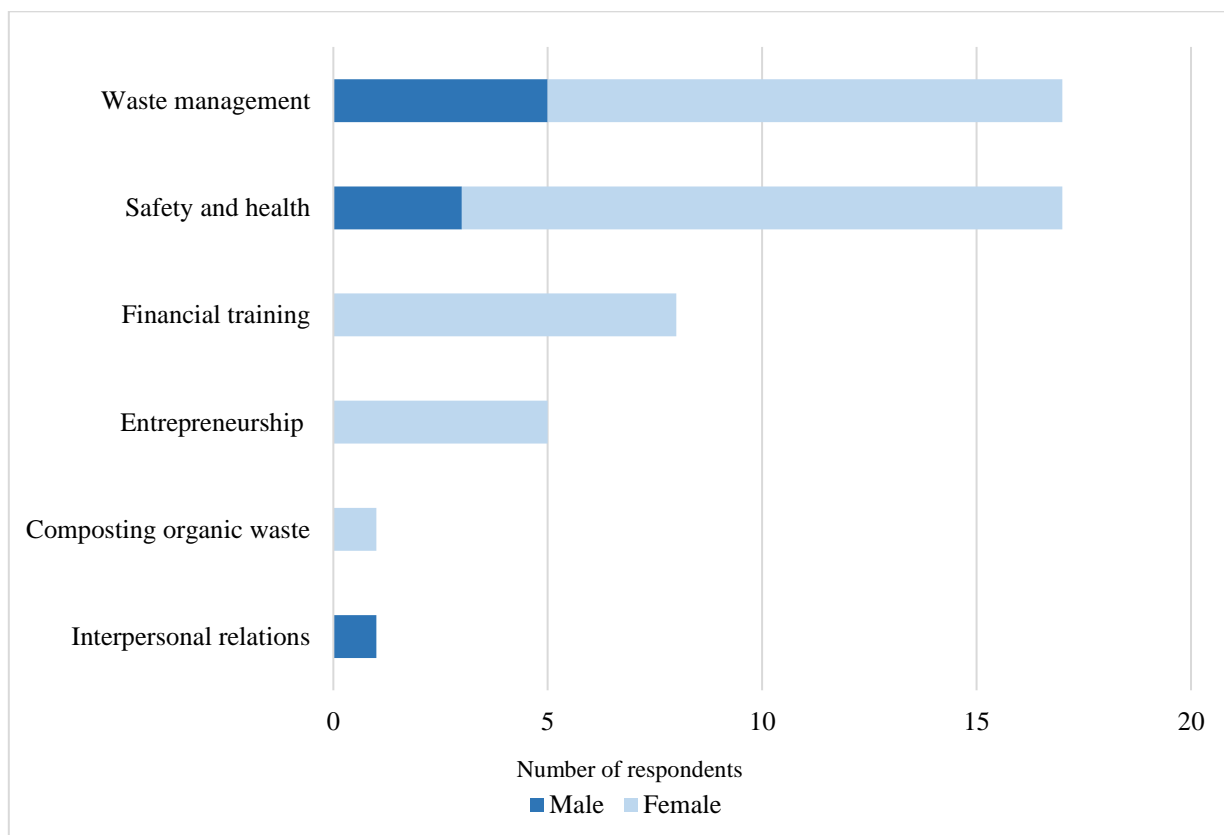
Name of association/organisation	How do you use your membership?
Nairobi Recyclable Waste Association	To receive training in waste management and how to use PPE. To mobilise other wastepickers. To highlight challenges faced by wastepickers at the dumpsite. To attend events and meet new friends. To receive PPE and food.
Vso	To receive training in waste management. To enhance knowledge and improve skills.
China ya mti	To get loans to pay for school fees.
Dandora Safi	To attract investments.
Mwihangiri dumpsite self-help group	To save money and access loans when needed.
Taka Queens	To receive training on group dynamics.
Tim Saiko	To bond with fellow waste pickers.
Tushirikiane Group	To access loans.
Winners Wastepickers	To receive training on waste management.
Self-help groups, faith groups and other unnamed associations	To save money and access loans to pay rent and school fees.

**Table 3.** Overview of responses to the question: “How do you use your membership?”

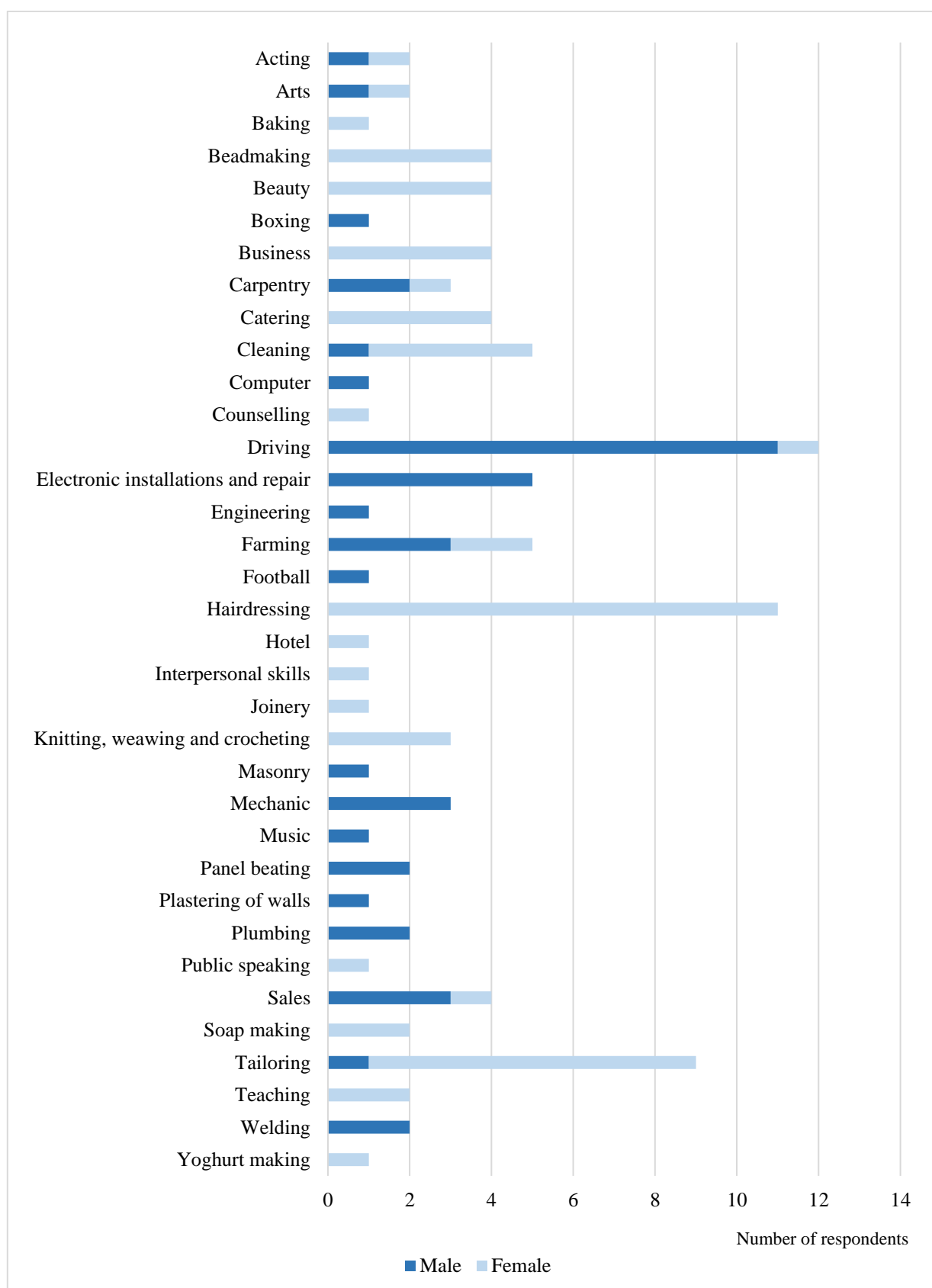




**Figure 23.** Awareness of laws. Overview of responses to the question “Are you aware of any laws and regulations that guide waste management in Kenya?” In total, 18 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (21% of male wastepickers and 16% of female wastepickers).

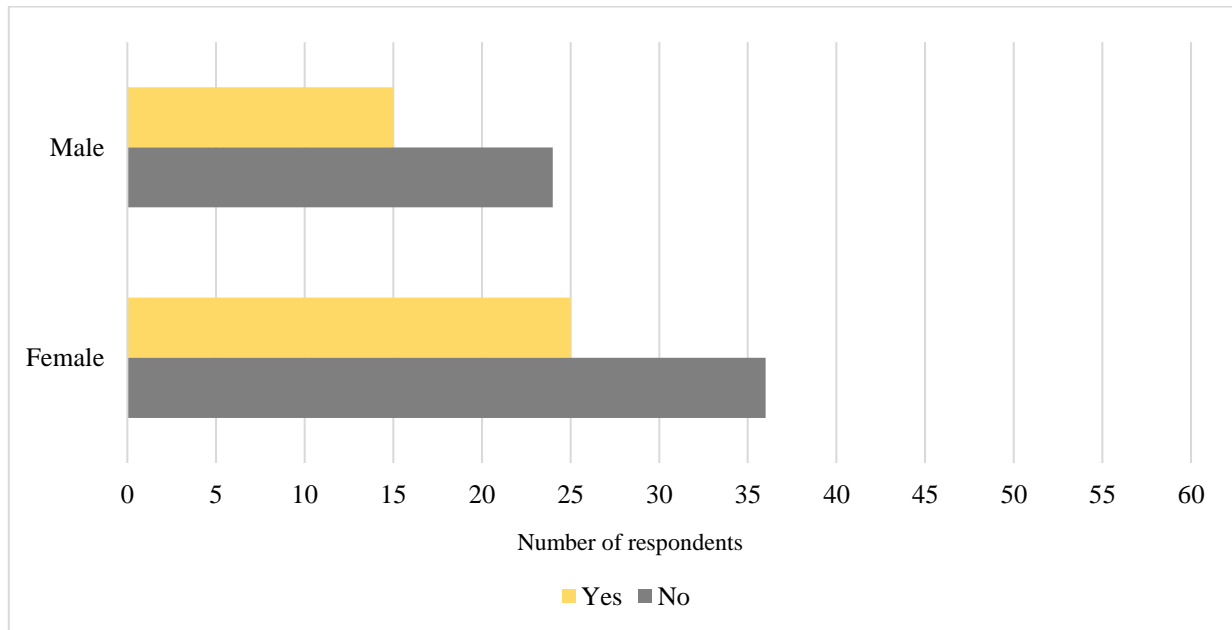


**Figure 24.** Areas of training shown by gender distribution. Overall, 45 respondents recall to have received training. Four of them had attended more than one course, therefore the number of respondents in the figure amounts to 51.

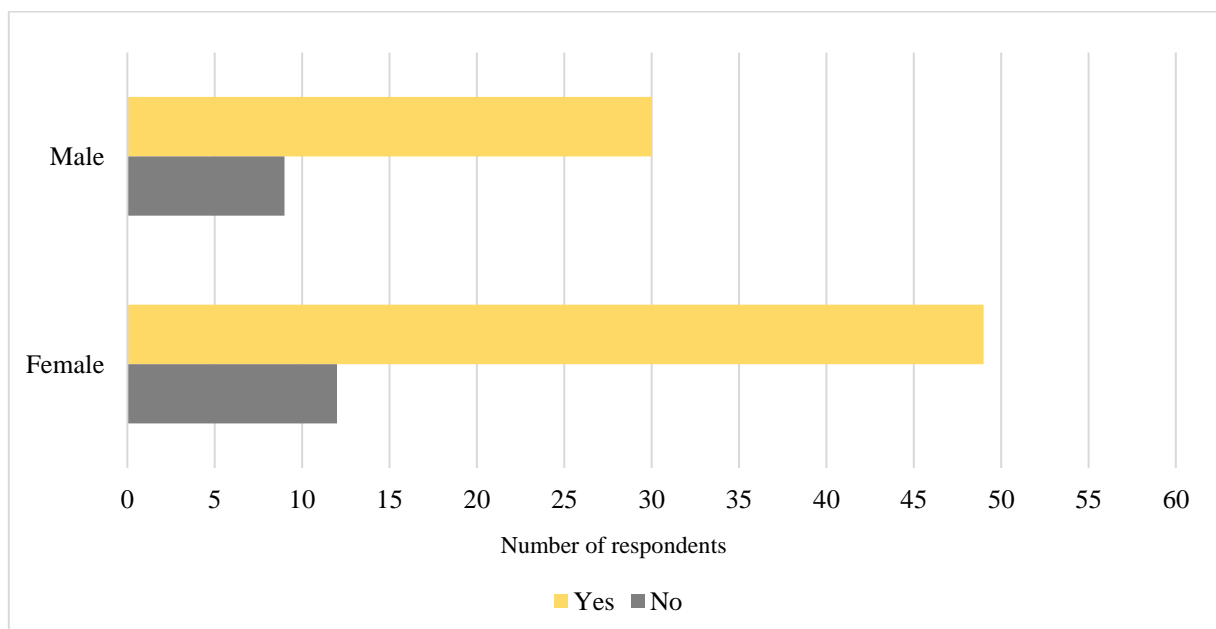


**Figure 25.** Skills of wastepickers besides waste collection, sorting and sales shown by gender distribution. Overall, 88 respondents report to have skills that could be relevant for jobs outside the dumpsite. Several of these mention more than one type of skill. Therefore, the number of respondents in the figure amounts to more than 88.

## 6. Reflections about the future



**Figure 26.** Overview of answers to the question “Do you intend to continue working as a wastepicker?” In total, 40 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (21% of male wastepickers and 16% of female wastepickers).



**Figure 27.** Overview of answers to the question “Would you like to get a job with a contract and an employer, such as in a company?” In total, 79 out of 100 respondents answer “Yes” (77% of male wastepickers and 80% of female wastepickers).