



Contributing to the Circular Economy through Inclusive Recycling



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION

This is how we evaluate the collaborative processes in which we are involved.



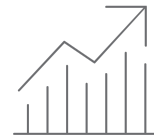
RELEVANCE

The current global environmental crisis is unprecedented, caused by the linear economy and mismanagement of solid waste. In the global south, a massive number of grassroots recyclers face enormous challenges in their working and living conditions; at the same time, they are making a concrete contribution to the development of a circular economy.



TIPPING POINT

Recyclers are no longer considered marginal figures; as key stakeholders in solid waste management systems, they feed into production chains as part of the circular economy.



SCALABILITY

The global problem of plastics in the ocean highlights the urgent need for solutions to one of the principal threats (along with climate change) to humans' relationship with the planet. Grassroots recyclers make a positive impact by reducing the quantity of plastic that ends up in bodies of water, as well as by demonstrating the potential to create green jobs.



COLLABORATION DEFICIT

The public, private, and social sectors have clear interests in this agenda, but they are not always aligned. **Avina helps to bring together a vision where incentives are aligned, gaps are lessened, and all of the sectors involved are positively impacted.** This value proposition is embodied by the Regional Initiative for Inclusive Recycling (Iniciativa Regional de Reciclaje - IRR), a multi-sector collaboration platform.

This is how we add value to collaborative processes.

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Recycler organizations (associations and cooperatives, national movements, and regional networks), consumer goods companies, municipal and national governments, international cooperation agencies (IDB, IDB Lab, CAF, GIZ, UNDP), experts, journalists, and media outlets work together on this agenda.

UNIFYING VISION

Latin America is at the forefront of a new vision for solid waste management that prioritizes recycling, formalizing the work of millions of grassroots recyclers as green jobs that make a concrete contribution to the development of the Circular Economy.

SHARED ACTION AGENDAS

The inclusive recycling strategy, which is one of Avina's main contributions to this collaborative process, aims to:

- 1) strengthen organizational capacity among recyclers and other stakeholders;
- 2) impact public policies and regulations to establish an institutional framework to support inclusive recycling systems;
- 3) strengthen value chains, both in terms of the supply of recyclable materials collected by integrated solid waste management (ISWM) systems as well as industry demand for these materials, contributing to the development of the Circular Economy.

INNOVATION

This bottom-up strategy has been built and carried out with recyclers playing a key role in decision-making. This social innovation defies the traditional logic of international aid and makes the Regional Initiative for Inclusive Recycling a one-of-a-kind platform.

An innovative business model combines public and private resources to achieve impact, sustainability, and resilience.

The next frontier of innovation is the use of technology so that inclusive recycling becomes an integral part of the Circular Economy.

INCIDENCE

Advocacy efforts are focused on public policies at the national level (regulatory frameworks) and municipal level (ISWM systems).

This work has changed the rules of the game and made inclusive recycling central to obtaining public support and to the sustainability of consumer goods companies.

Collaborative processes that generate results.

In **Argentina**, 10 cities implemented inclusive recycling programs with the participation of 15 recycler cooperatives.

Recyclers, industry representatives, and logistics companies from **Brazil** formed an alliance to implement reverse logistics in the cardboard value chain, which involves producers ensuring that post-consumer cardboard is collected to be recycled. In 7 cities, recyclers increased their production by 21%, thanks to service provider agreements with the municipal government. Movimento Nacional dos Catadores de Materiais Recicláveis (National Movement of Collectors of Recyclable Materials, or MNCR) helped include recyclers in the National Solid Waste Plan in 17 regions in Brazil.

The **Chilean national government** provided certifications to grassroots recyclers. This certification was a key milestone for allowing grassroots recyclers to participate in solid waste management systems as part

of the new extended producer responsibility (EPR) law that went into effect at the end of 2018.

In **Colombia**, public policies recognized the role of recyclers as public service providers and established commitments for setting up the Circular Economy (via a new extended producer responsibility [EPR] law). The EPR law provides the basis for making manufacturers responsible for the recovery and recycling of the materials generated by their production and commercial activities.

In **Ecuador**, recyclers contributed input that impacted the content of environmental regulations and an inclusive recycling bill that is being debated in the National Assembly. Five inclusive recycling plans and projects were promoted in five cities.

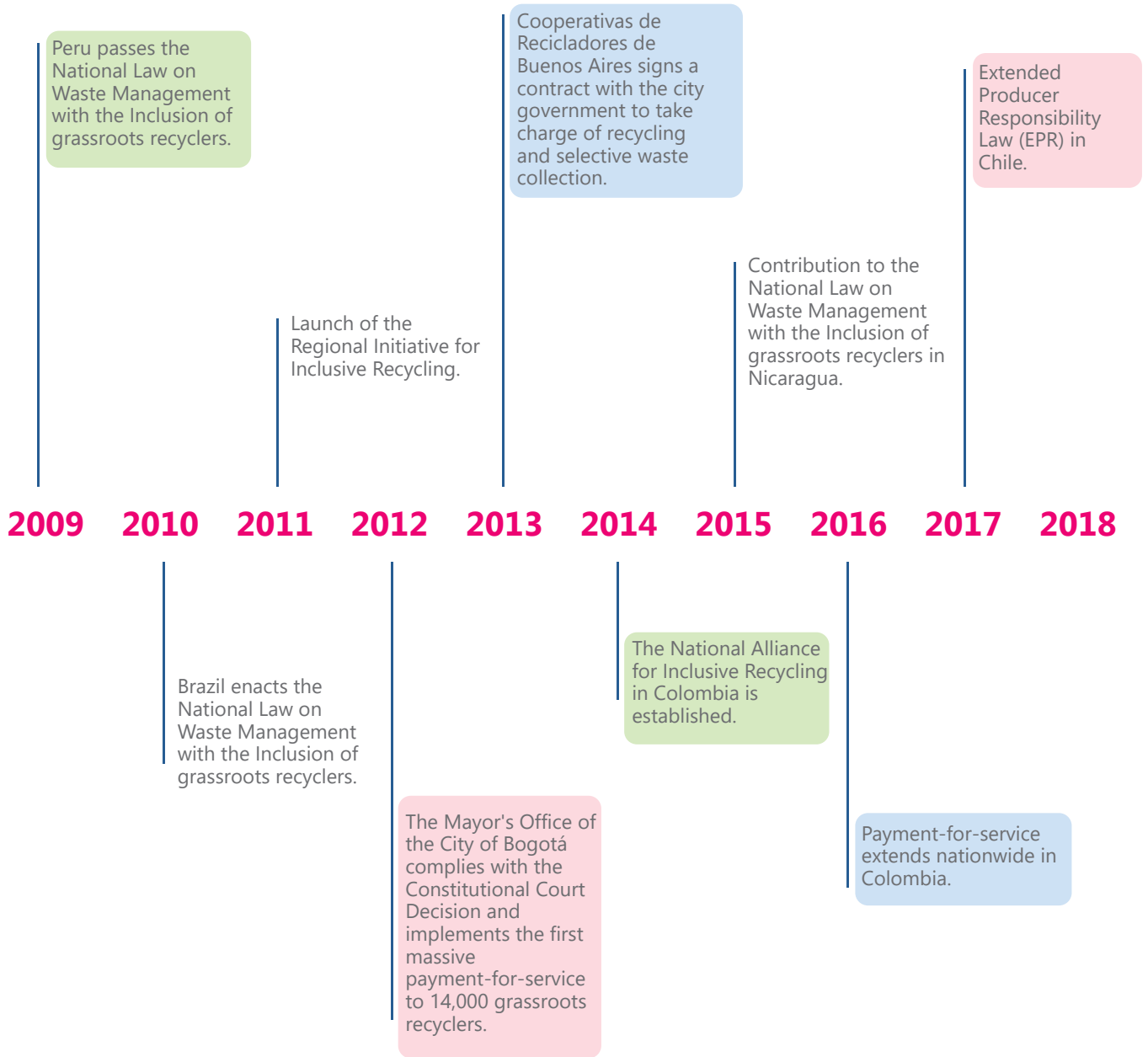
Progress was made on a National Strategy for Inclusive Recycling in **Mexico**.

In **Panama**, the first national census of grassroots recyclers was conducted.

In **Peru**, the first Inclusive Recycling certificate program was created for government officials at the national level. A law regulating single-use plastics was passed, fostering the use of reusable and recyclable materials and increasing recycling rates, in collaboration with grassroots recyclers.



Timeline.



Relevant data.

- Integrated solid waste management (ISWM) systems installed with the support of the IRR during 2011-2018 collected 2,325,615 tons of material.
- **190,252 tons of material was collected directly by recyclers participating in projects supported by the IRR during this period.**
- 16,000 grassroots recyclers form part of solid waste management systems in 17 countries in Latin America.
- **18 strategic projects were implemented in 12 countries, with an investment of about \$24 million USD.**
- 36 national and local governments received technical assistance to promote inclusive recycling in 2018.
- **22 new knowledge products were produced between 2016-2018 that are available in the IRR Open Knowledge Space.**
- 1,383 participants from 23 countries attended the Cumbre Regional Latinoamérica Recicla 2018 (2018 Latin America Recycles Regional Summit).
- **The IRR platform has 55,000 followers on social media.**

Co-investment Partners

IRR Iniciativa Regional para el Reciclaje Inclusivo



Testimonial

*Laura Guanoluisa,
Leader of Red Nacional de Recicladores
del Ecuador (RENAREC)*



"Our organization has given us the strength to represent the interests of more than 20,000 recyclers and their families throughout Ecuador, our coworkers who today are legally recognized at the national level. Fundación Avina has believed in us from the beginning and has supported us to improve our competencies, participate in spaces for dialogue, and assess the value of our work. Today even the President is aware of our contribution to society and is committed to our cause."



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