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FOOD BACK

The Project and SDGs

Explaining the Relevance of FoodBack to the SDGs

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The **FoodBack** project is designed to develop entrepreneurial skills in agri-food production and transformation among young people, including refugees, migrant workers, and those from vulnerable communities. Through local workshops, international youth seminars, and job-shadowing activities, the project promotes social and green entrepreneurship, enhances employability, and fosters sustainable practices.

The project is international, with activities in Bosnia, North Macedonia, Jordan, Montenegro, Morocco, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

The **FoodBack** project is strongly aligned with multiple SDGs, making significant contributions to poverty reduction, food security, education, gender equality, decent work, reducing inequalities, responsible consumption, climate action, and sustainable land management. Additionally, it upholds key human rights, particularly in supporting refugees, migrant workers, women's cooperatives, and those in extreme poverty. By focusing on developing entrepreneurial skills, promoting sustainability, and engaging vulnerable groups across diverse contexts, FoodBack plays a vital role in building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future globally.

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SDG 1: No Poverty

Relevant Target:

Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.

- **Indicator 1.1.1**: Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural).

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.

- **Indicator 1.2.1**: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age.

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources.

- **Indicator 1.4.1**: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services.

Contextual Analysis: In regions like North Macedonia, Jordan, and Bosnia, where extreme poverty is a significant issue, the FoodBack project's focus on providing skills training and creating employment opportunities is crucial. By targeting refugees, migrant workers, and those in extreme poverty, the project directly contributes to eradicating poverty and ensuring that marginalized groups gain access to economic resources.

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SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Relevant Target:

Target 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers.

- **Indicator 2.3.1**: Volume of production per labor unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size.
- **Indicator 2.3.2**: Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status.

Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices.

- **Indicator 2.4.1**: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture.

Contextual Analysis:

In countries like Morocco and Jordan, where food security and sustainable agriculture are vital, the project's focus on promoting sustainable farming practices directly supports food security and improved nutrition. By empowering small-scale producers, particularly women's cooperatives, the project contributes to the economic resilience and food sovereignty of local communities.

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SDG 4: Quality Education

Relevant Target:

Target 4.3: Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education.

- **Indicator 4.3.1**: Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex.

Target 4.4: Increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

- **Indicator 4.4.1**: Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill.

Target 4.5: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training.

- **Indicator 4.5.1**: Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile, and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples, and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators.

Contextual Analysis:

The focus on non-formal education is particularly critical in regions like Bosnia and Germany, where refugee integration into educational and labor systems is a priority. The project's educational activities equip young people, including those from vulnerable communities, with the skills needed for employment and entrepreneurship, addressing gaps in formal education systems.

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SDG 5: Gender Equality

Relevant Target:

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership.

- **Indicator 5.5.1**: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.
- **Indicator 5.5.2**: Proportion of women in managerial positions.

Target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.

- **Indicator 5.a.1**: Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex.
- **Indicator 5.a.2**: Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

Contextual Analysis: I

n countries like Morocco and Italy, where women's cooperatives play a significant role in economic empowerment, the project's support for these cooperatives helps ensure that women gain equal access to economic resources. By promoting gender equality in entrepreneurship and leadership, the project addresses systemic barriers faced by women in these regions.

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SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Relevant Target:

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, and entrepreneurship.

- **Indicator 8.3.1**: Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex.

Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.

- **Indicator 8.5.1**: Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, and persons with disabilities.
- **Indicator 8.5.2**: Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities.

Contextual Analysis:

In regions like Jordan, where unemployment is a significant issue, particularly among refugees and young people, the project's focus on skills development and entrepreneurship is crucial for fostering economic growth. By providing pathways to decent work and economic inclusion, the project contributes to reducing unemployment and promoting sustainable development.

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SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Relevant Target:

- **Target 10.2**: Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all.
    - **Indicator 10.2.1**: Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by age, sex, and persons with disabilities.
- **Target 10.3**: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome.
    - **Indicator 10.3.1**: Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.

Contextual Analysis:

This is particularly relevant in regions like the Balkans and North Africa, where economic and social inequalities are pronounced. The project's efforts to empower marginalized groups, including refugees, migrant workers, and those from rural or impoverished areas, help reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion.

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SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Relevant Target:

Target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels.

- **Indicator 12.3.1**: Global food loss index.

Target 12.5: Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

- **Indicator 12.5.1**: National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.

Contextual Analysis:

This is vital in countries like Germany and Italy, where the food industry can benefit from the project's emphasis on reducing food waste and promoting sustainable consumption. The project's initiatives in sustainable food practices and waste reduction contribute to creating a more responsible food production system.

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SDG 13: Climate Action

Relevant Target:

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

- **Indicator 13.1.1**: Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population.

Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction.

- **Indicator 13.3.1**: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning into primary, secondary, and tertiary curricula.

Contextual Analysis:

In regions like the Mediterranean and North Africa, where climate change poses a significant threat to agriculture and livelihoods, the project's focus on sustainable farming and climate resilience is crucial. The educational components of the project help build capacity for climate action among young people and vulnerable communities.

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SDG 15: Life on Land

Relevant Target:

Target 15.1: Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems.

- **Indicator 15.1.1**: Forest area as a proportion of total land area.
- **Indicator 15.1.2**: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type.

Target 15.3: Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil.

- **Indicator 15.3.1**: Proportion of land that is degraded over the total land area.

Contextual Analysis:

In countries like Montenegro and Spain, where land degradation and biodiversity loss are critical issues, the project's emphasis on sustainable land management and conservation practices supports the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

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SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Relevant Target:

Target 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships.

- **Indicator 17.16.1**: Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs.

Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships.

- **Indicator 17.17.1**: Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships.

Contextual Analysis:

Given the international scope of the project, partnerships across multiple countries and sectors are essential. The project's ability to bring together public, private, and civil society actors enhances its impact and ensures that its outcomes align with broader sustainable development goals.

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Alignment with Human Rights

The FoodBack project upholds several fundamental human rights:

Right to Education: The project supports the right to education, particularly for refugees, migrant workers, and marginalized communities, by providing access to quality learning opportunities that promote sustainability and social inclusion.

Right to Work: Enhancing employability and entrepreneurial skills supports the right to work for those facing barriers to employment, such as refugees and migrant workers.

Right to Adequate Food: Promoting sustainable food practices supports the right to adequate food by fostering food security and sustainable food production systems, particularly for women's cooperatives and micro firms.

Right to Gender Equality: Supporting women's cooperatives and promoting gender equality in entrepreneurship upholds the right to equal economic participation and empowerment for women.

Right to Participation: The project empowers marginalized groups, including youth from rural areas and vulnerable populations, supporting their right to participate actively in economic and social life

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