

Voedselbankplus

Sustainability Impact Assessment Report

2024

Contents

1. Introduction	p. 3
2. Impact summary report	p. 4
3. Sustainability impact assessment	p. 8
4. Disclaimer	p. 19

1. INTRODUCTION

This Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) report presents the impacts of Voedselbankplus. This report was created using SHARING SOLUTIONS – the SHARING SOLUTIONS Impact Assessment Toolkit.

SHARING SOLUTIONS was designed to illustrate the broad spectrum of impacts that food sharing initiatives have on the sustainability of food systems. Any initiative engaged in such activities around food can be classed as a food sharing initiative. Food sharing can be growing, cooking and eating together or redistributing surplus food to others.

The SHARING SOLUTIONS framework contains 34 sustainability indicators that initiatives can select from as relevant to their specific activities. An indicator can be a quantitative or qualitative factor or variable. An indicator provides a simple and reliable means to capture information at a particular point and which can be used over time to identify changes. The indicators cover four pillars of sustainability for our food systems – Social, Environmental, Economic and Governance. Within these pillars, indicators are organised into 13 impact areas. For each indicator, initiatives are provided with several options to demonstrate their impact using quantitative and/or qualitative evidence.

For more information about the SHARING SOLUTIONS tool including the SIA framework please refer to the SHARING SOLUTIONS webpage: <https://app.sharingsolutions.eu>

2. IMPACT SUMMARY REPORT



WHO WE ARE

Name: Voedselbankplus

Location: Utrecht



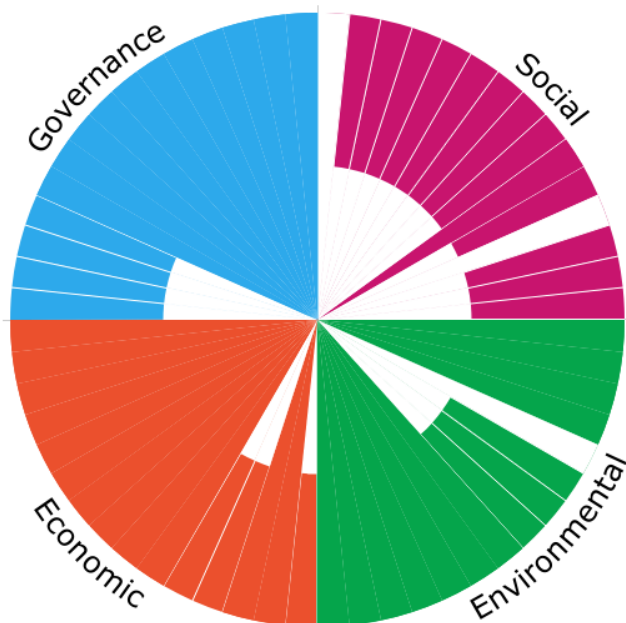
GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

Goals: Connect people through food and take poverty away.

Activities: Redistributing Surplus Food



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



► Our key areas of significant impact are

- Increasing appreciation of different cultures across and within communities
- Thinking about issues beyond price when buying food
- Food waste reduction



KEY IMPACTS



500

people attended our events
designed to increase
community integration



26500

portions of fruit &
vegetables distributed to
participants



52000

kg of food diverted from
landfill



We actively promote better food choices by making healthy food more appealing and affordable.



We try to teach people how to make better food choices to reduce their carbon footprint and promote vegetarian and vegan options.

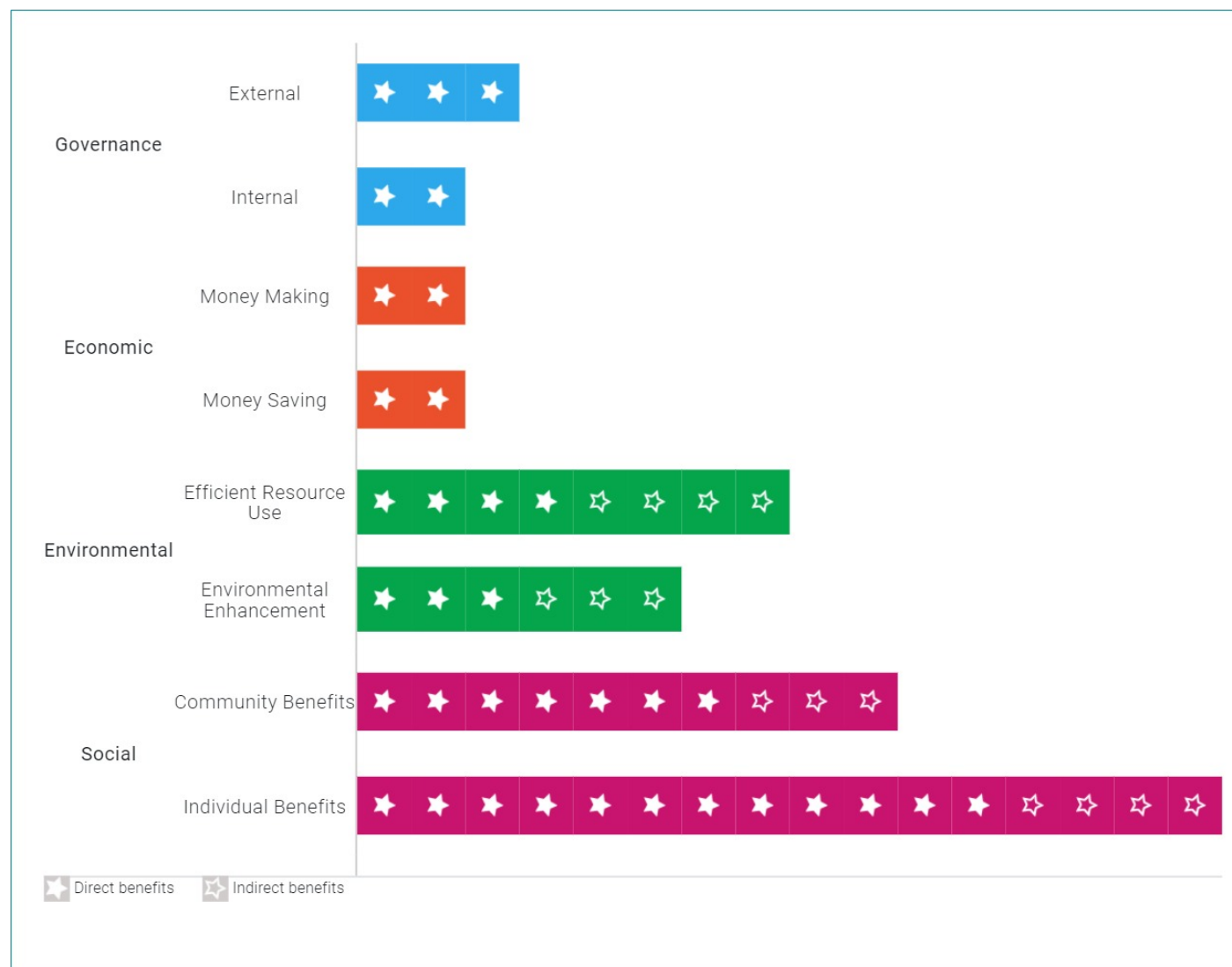


We participate in consultation with the government, we show how our systems works.



FOOD SHARING BENEFITS

The sharing element of food sharing creates unique positive benefits like fostering social cohesion and reducing loneliness. The direct and indirect benefits our food sharing generates are indicated below.





HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations uses a range of impact areas and indicators to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The following graphic shows how our activities are contributing to these goals at three levels by: (1) Contributing to the general ethos of a goal (2) Making a direct impact to an impact area; and (3) Making a major impact by contributing to an indicator.



Legend:

- Making a major direct impact towards this goal
- Making a direct impact towards this goal
- Contributing to the ethos of this goal

3. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SOCIAL

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND SHARING

Increasing appreciation of different cultures across and within communities

How many people had the opportunity to mix and gain a greater understanding of other groups of people in their community (e.g. people of different ages, genders, abilities, race, ethnicity, origin, religion and/or socio-economic status) through your initiative?

500

How many people report or were observed having gained greater knowledge and understanding of other groups of people in their community through your initiative?

375

Do any of your activities specifically aim to empower and promote the inclusion of any vulnerable or marginalized groups of people (e.g. youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, women, etc)?

yes,

Improving communication skills

How many people report or were observed having improved their communication skills because of engagement with your initiative?

225

Fostering a wider food and sharing culture

How many other food sharing initiatives are you in regular contact with to exchange knowledge or collaborate?

10

How many volunteers and/or employees have moved on to join or establish another food sharing initiative?

2

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF FOOD

Increased access to and consumption of fruit and vegetables

How many portions of fruit and/or vegetables did your initiative distribute to people in the year being reported?

26500

How many people report eating more fruit and vegetables since encountering your initiative?

2400

Increased access to and consumption of fresh food

How many people did your initiative distribute fresh food to?

3000

How many meals did your initiative distribute?

1860

How many people report eating more fresh food and/or freshly prepared meals since encountering your initiative?

3000

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Connecting and creating new support networks within communities

How many people have increased their support or friendship network because of encountering your initiative?

1950

How many people have increased their support or friendship network indirectly because of food donations you have facilitated?

2400

Boosting levels of meal sharing

How many people have shared meals at events run by your initiative

55800

How many meals has your initiative distributed to other organisations that facilitate people eating together

1500

How many people are eating shared meals at least once per week due to your initiative's activities

30

Increasing well-being through volunteering

How many volunteers have reported that their self-confidence has improved through participating in your initiative?

30

How many volunteers have reported that their mental health and well-being has improved through participating in your initiative?

30

How many volunteers have reported an increased feeling of belonging in their community through participating in your initiative?

30

How many volunteers have reported increased social interactions and friendships through participating in your initiative?

30

Improving self-confidence and resilience

How many people have reported that their self-confidence has improved through participating in your initiative?

500

How many people report increased levels of self-efficacy through participating in your initiative?

500

Increasing access to health and well-being services

How many people found out about health and well-being services through participating in your initiative?

500

How many referrals to health and well-being services have been provided by your initiative?

375

EDUCATION AND FOOD CHOICES – SOCIAL

Thinking about issues beyond price when buying food

How many people now consider issues beyond price when buying food because of participating in your initiative?

500

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative supports thinking about issues beyond price when buying food

We actively promote better food choices by making healthy food more appealing and affordable.

Increasing engagement in growing food

How many people grow food at home or in their community because of participating in your initiative?

25

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative is increasing engagement in growing food

We collaborate with food gardens who grow food for our shops

Increased confidence and participation in cooking

How many people attended your events that were (at least partially) designed to improve their confidence and ability to cook for themselves and others?

10

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative increases confidence and participation in cooking

Every Wednesday some of our volunteers cook food for us, and we will eat together in the community centre.

Discovery of new fresh foods

How many people reported eating new types of fresh food through participating in your initiative?

500

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative helps people discover new fresh foods

A lot of people who come here learn to eat and try vegetables and fresh food.

ENVIRONMENTAL

FOOD WASTE

Food waste reduction

How many estimated kg of food waste did your initiative rescue?

52000

What percentage of food that your initiative handled was wasted?

1

How many people report that they have reduced their food waste because of your initiative?

2550

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative reduces food waste

Every time we may have leftovers, we distribute it to other food banks or initiatives.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Reducing the carbon footprint of the food system

How many people attended your events or received educational materials about reducing the carbon footprint of their food choices?

3000

How many estimated kg of CO2 emissions did your initiative avoid (e.g. by rescuing waste food, reducing fertiliser use, increasing energy efficiency)?

244400

Select from the following any carbon footprint reducing activities your initiative does (can select multiple options):

Systematically opting for foods associated with low levels of embodied carbon in recipes, for example by using alternatives to meat,Rescuing food that would otherwise have been sent to landfill,Accepting donated food that may otherwise have been sent to landfill

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative reduces its carbon footprint (e.g. stories of your participants being inspired to make changes to reduce their carbon footprint because of your events or programs)

We try to teach people how to make better food choices to reduce their carbon footprint and promote vegetarian and vegan options.

EDUCATION AND FOOD CHOICES – ENVIRONMENTAL

Increasing preference for vegetarian meals

How many people attended events that provided vegetarian meal options or promoted vegetarian recipes?

530

How many people report eating more vegetarian meals because of participating in your initiative?

106

Reducing food packaging

How many people attended your events or received educational materials about reducing the amount of packaging on their food?

500

How many people report reducing their amount of food packaging because of participating in your initiative?

500

ECONOMIC

JOBS

Training and jobs

How many people participated in a training or employment scheme with your initiative?

12

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative supports training and jobs.

We help people in getting jobs through our community centre, helping them in writing CV and searching for jobs online.

AFFORDABILITY OF FOOD

Reducing pressure on food budgets

How much did your initiative save, in total, to local people's food budgets through providing food or meals?

300

How many people acquired knowledge and skills to reduce pressure on their food budget by participating in your initiative?

500

How much, on average, did people report saving to their annual food budget because of the knowledge or skills they acquired by participating in your initiative?

3600

EDUCATION AND FOOD CHOICES – ECONOMIC

Sharing specific skills and knowledge about the food system

How many people reported an increase in their knowledge and skills about food because of participating in your initiative?

500

GOVERNANCE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Contributing to policy development

List key activities your initiative did to establish more sustainable food policies at the local, regional, or national level.

We participate in consultation with the government, we show how our systems works.

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative contributes to policy development.

We help the city hall what we find important and what works well.

Sharing knowledge and good practice

Select from the following any activities your initiative does to share knowledge and best practices.

Hosted events to promote and educate about specialist practices your initiative implements.,Advised or assisted other food initiatives in adopting similar practices to your initiative.,Posted online content promoting the use of practices you implement which tackle important issues in the food system.,Participated in relevant region or regional networks for food sharing activities. For example, a community growers network.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning and sustainability

Select from the following the best description of your formal planning processes.

We have a formal plan which does specifically set out goals which relate to sustainability issues.

Stakeholder engagement

Select from the following the best description of your strategy for identifying, engaging, and managing your relationships with stakeholders.

We have a formal strategy to resolve any conflicts with stakeholders.

Share any other relevant information about how you engage with stakeholders.

What is very important to us is to always keep our stakeholders informed about our activities and keep the commitment

RISK CONTROL

Risk control

Select from the following the best description of your current strategy for identifying and reducing risks facing your initiative.

We currently have no formal strategy to identify the major risks to our initiative

4. Disclaimer

This report was produced using the SHARING SOLUTIONS Toolkit which was designed as part of the European Research Council (ERC) SHARECITY project (Grant No. 646883) and developed with an ERC PoC Award (No. 101069183). The data entered in this report is the sole responsibility of the initiative entering the data, it was not independently verified by the SHARING SOLUTIONS Team. Any errors therefore remain the responsibility of the initiative.



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