



SDG 1: No Poverty

University of Applied Sciences Burgenland

1 NO POVERTY



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**Interpretation
of poverty**



Main goal: to end poverty in all its forms everywhere

About 700 million people live in “extreme poverty,” affecting one in ten people on the planet. In Europe, no one officially lives in extreme poverty, although there are large differences in income and satisfaction levels. The goal of the UN is to reduce poverty by at least half by 2030, to promote social protection systems and political measures against poverty and to give everyone the opportunity to access economic resources. The definition of poverty measured in terms of money should be viewed critically, as it neglects aspects such as social or cultural poverty and the exclusion of social participation.



Source: [germanwatch.org](https://www.germanwatch.org)

What does poverty mean?



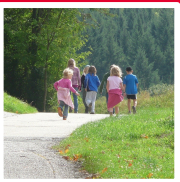
Absolute poverty:
...living at the edge of
livelihood

Source: aktion-deutschland-hilft.de



Did you know that in 2020
the international poverty
line was US\$ 1.90 a day
and that 767 million
people, worldwide, have to
live on even less than that?

Source: aktion-deutschland-hilft.de



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*"Is absolute poverty even an issue in
our country? How? Who? Why?"*

What does poverty mean?



Relative poverty:

...a critical shortage of goods and limited chances for success in life — compared to living standard of the respective society

Source: aktion-deutschland-hilft.de



Did you know that there are 16% of children and young people in Austria without computers in their homes, having little or no school equipment to be able to follow school lessons?

Source: kontrast.at

"My neighbor is the sole breadwinner in his family and recently lost his job; his wife is still on maternity leave with their two small children. They live in a 540 ft² home. I see them outdoors with very light clothes on during the winter months, and they always look tired. Their washing machine is broken, and they cannot buy a new one right now but are ashamed to ask for help."



What does poverty mean?



Perceived poverty:

...perceived or socio-cultural poverty emerges from a subjective feeling and awareness of one's own dismay

Source: aktion-deutschland-hilft.de

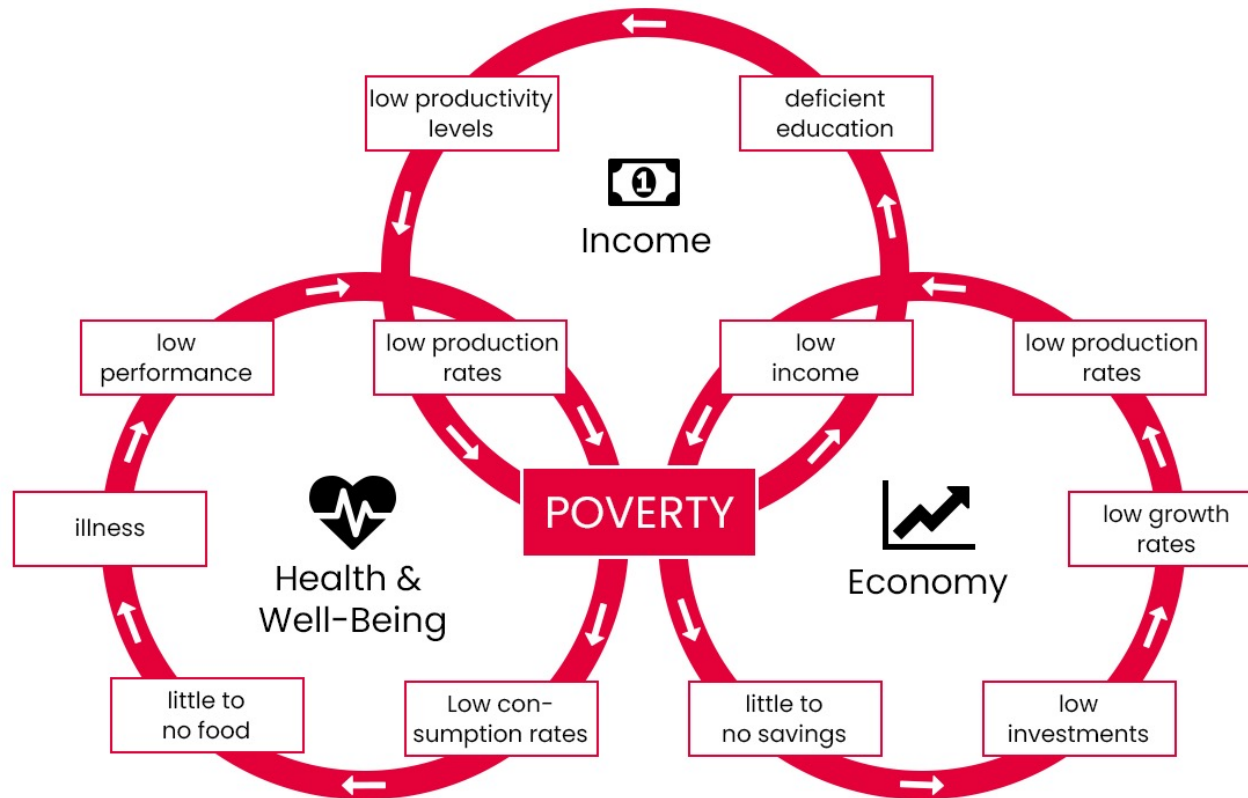


"Did you notice that their kids weren't picked up from kindergarten until 5:00 p.m. today? They weren't at soccer practice either today!"

! Austrian parents that suffer from perceived or socio-cultural poverty, give little or no permission for their kids to participate in school trips; they may display a lack of time for their children who therefore may not learn to skate or swim.

Source: statistik.at

Model: the poverty loop



Did you know that the children of parents with little education are at a high risk for experiencing poverty during their lifespan?

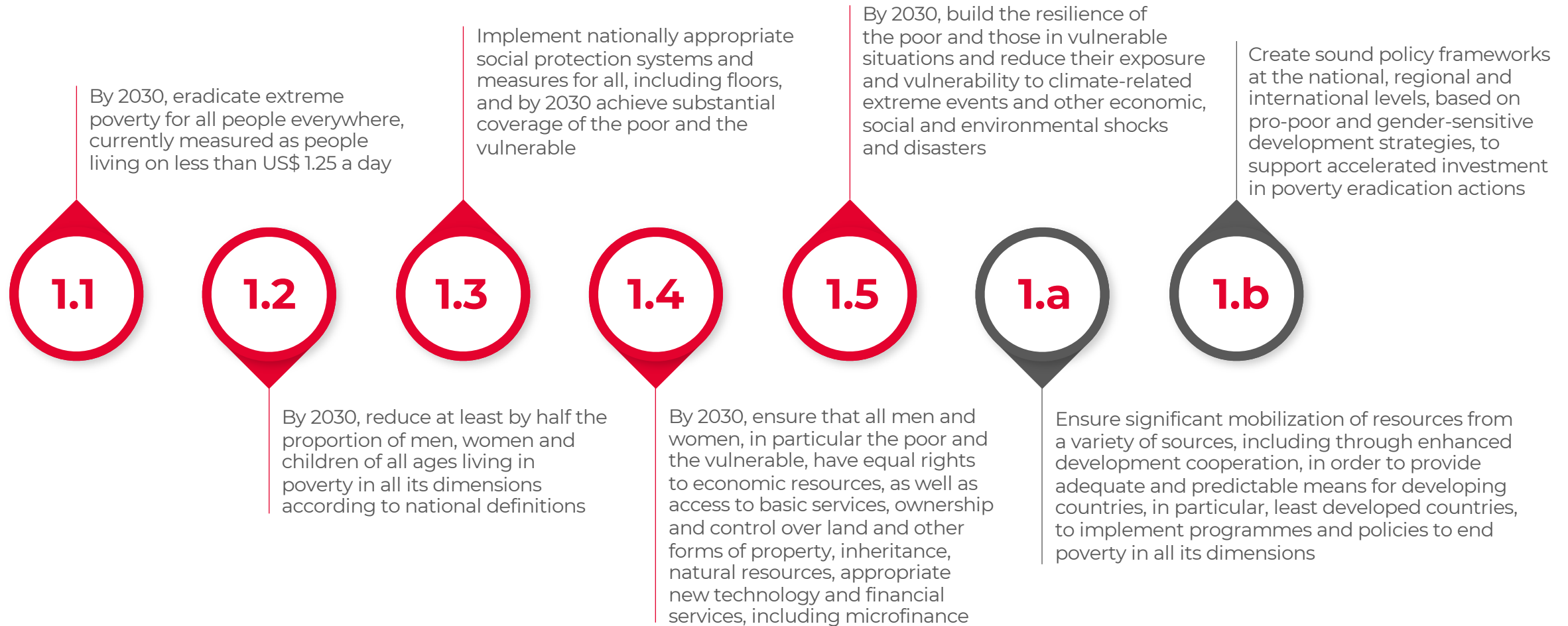
Source: [statistik.at](https://www.statistik.at)



Source: [aktion-deutschland-hilft.de](https://www.aktion-deutschland-hilft.de)

adapted from Aktion Deutschland Hilft
<https://www.aktion-deutschland-hilft.de/de/fachthemen/armut/der-teufelskreis-der-armut/>

Subgoals: targets and measures



Source: [bundeskanzleramt.gv.at](https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at) and un.org

Targets = Numbers, Measures = Letters



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Current state of poverty

Report 2020

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020



Source: un.org

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021



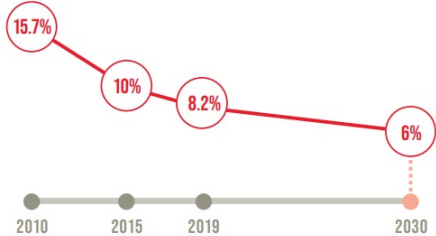
Source: un.org



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

BEFORE COVID-19

THE WORLD WAS OFF TRACK TO END POVERTY BY 2030



YOUNG WORKERS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY AS ADULT WORKERS (2019)

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

COVID-19 CAUSES THE FIRST INCREASE IN GLOBAL POVERTY IN DECADES

+71 MILLION PEOPLE ARE PUSHED INTO EXTREME POVERTY IN 2020



4 BILLION PEOPLE DID NOT BENEFIT FROM ANY FORM OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN 2016

NATURAL DISASTERS EXACERBATE POVERTY



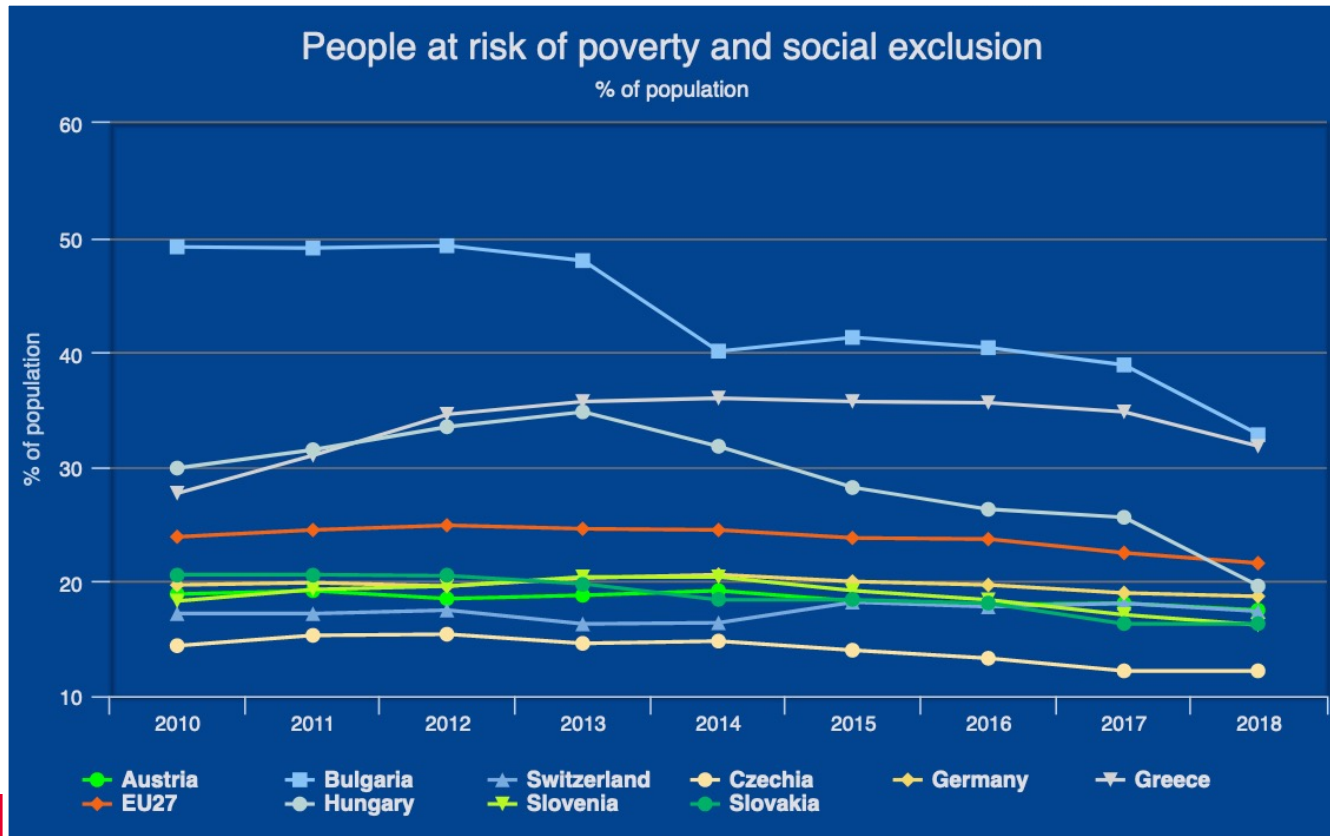
\$23.6 BILLION DIRECT ECONOMIC LOSSES (FROM 63 COUNTRIES IN 2018)

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Source: un.org

Some European statistics



Sources: ec.europa.eu and ec.europa.eu



Did you know that poverty in Europe is greatest in Bulgaria?

Source: eurofound.europa.eu



"I was recently on vacation in Greece and the landlord of our holiday apartment shared that he is desperate because his pension has been greatly reduced and he worries about being able to take care of his family. Tourism is keeping them barely afloat."



Implementation in Austria as of 2020

Target	National indicators (selected)	Trend
1.1	TARGET: Eradicate extreme poverty	✓
1.2	Risk of poverty (60% of the median)	↗
	Risk of poverty or social exclusion	↗
1.3	Minimum income benefit rate	:
1.4	Significant material deprivation	↑
1.5	Deaths attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	↑
	National crisis and disaster management	✓

Source: Statistics Austria. 8-year trend 2010–2018 (if figures missing, at least 7-year trend) in 4 categories (↑↗↘↓) if there is a clear target (quantitative/normative); ✓ (part of the) indicator target achieved; : calculation of trend not possible. More information about methodological questions can be found in the National Indicator Report 2020.

- > In Austria, extreme poverty has been eradicated.
- > Austria is successfully tackling poverty: the rate of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion fell from 18.9% in 2010 to 17.5% in 2018.
- > As an annual average for 2018, 2.5% of the population received minimum income benefits (Mindestsicherung). The figure has recently decreased.
- > There is significantly less poverty in Austria compared to the EU Member State average.



Did you know that the at-risk-of-poverty threshold is set at 60% of national median equivalised disposable income? In 2019, the at-risk-of-poverty threshold was Euro 1,286 per month in Austria.

Source: [armutskonferenz.at](https://www.armutskonferenz.at)



Main issues to solve in Austria as of 2020



(Affordable) Housing



Chronic illnesses



Unemployment



Did you know that as of 2019
16.9% of Austrians (that
makes 1,472,000 people)
are at risk of poverty or
social marginalization?

Source: armutskonferenz.at



Source: uninetz.at

"I read today that every sixth person living in Austria pays attention to prices when buying food. I never check the price tags when buying groceries, I simply put everything in my shopping cart that I feel like having at the time."



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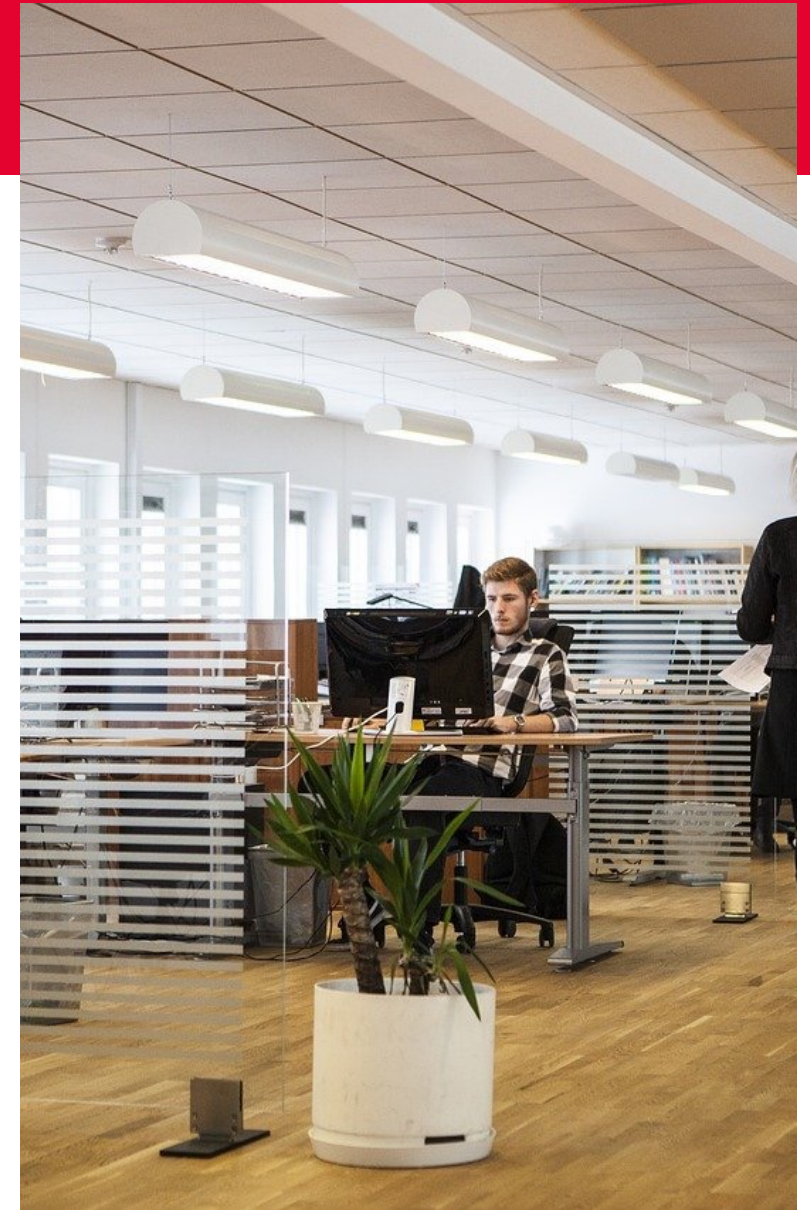
**Potential
contributions
Learning activity**

Before thinking about potential contributions...

- Imagine an organization (business).
What is the core purpose of this organization*?
- Who are this organization's internal and external stakeholders?
- How does "poverty" impact this organization (its purpose, its stakeholders, its operation, its viability)?
- What challenges and/or costs emerge from this "impact of poverty" upon this organization?
- On the other hand, what opportunities and/or benefits arise?
- With all this in mind, what contributions** might this organization make to reach SDG 1 within its sphere of influence via inward and outward actions?

* Meant here are all sizes, all types

** Consider contributions inside the organization (referring to everything that is a resource to the organization and is directly or indirectly controlled by the organization, for instance, human resources, know how, monetary and material resources) and the outside of the organization (referring to everything outside of the organization that it can influence but lies outside of its control, for instance, policy change, partnering with other organizations, etc...)



Potential contributions by educational institutions

The purpose of educational institutions is to educate and train for life and for particular professional interests.

In terms of SDG 1, the tasks lie in offering free-of-charge and/or affordable basic, academic, practical, professional and continuous education so that people can move out of poverty, return to work, and/or reinvent themselves to adapt to changing conditions.



Did you know that in Austria almost 60 percent of the approximately 380,000 students work besides their studies? On average this is almost 20 hours a week. Student social surveys show that three quarters of them are forced to take jobs in order to cover their living expenses.

Source: [wienerzeitung.at](https://www.wienerzeitung.at)



Source: [aktion-deutschland-hilft.de](https://www.aktion-deutschland-hilft.de)

Potential contributions by educational institutions, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- teach students to meet current challenges
- train different types of participants, teachers and employees for new skills and abilities
- provide scholarships, equipment, additional coaching

Potential outward actions:

- support and reach out to the vulnerable
- collaborate with unemployment agencies and other agencies that work with marginalized people living at risk of poverty
- mitigate poverty with social projects in the community



Potential contributions by municipalities

The purpose of municipalities is to plan, manage, and improve public work and services to the community. In terms of SDG 1, the tasks lie in bringing people and resources together to reduce risk of poverty.

Potential inward actions:

- train public service staff to recognize poverty in the community
- train public service staff to practice servant leadership and compassion
- connect (needy) public service staff with social organizations

Potential outward actions:

- promote and organize gatherings (or platform) for community members to share goods and services, and to help and learn from each other
- organize collective help in the community for people in need
- create (temporary) affordable housing options for people below a certain income level



"I became a district council because I want to participate in improving our community, to do good and to be part of co-creating a sustainable future, to enable opportunities for everyone—with dignity and free of shame."



Potential contributions by corporations and other organizations

The purpose of for-profit organizations (ie business) is to provide a service in exchange for resources (ie money). The purpose of non-profit organizations is to impact society in a certain way. Both need to generate and/or collect adequate resources to pay for their operations and activities and/or make profit.

In terms of SDG 1, the opportunities for contribution may vary greatly between different types or sizes of organizations, but their core contributions to society for reaching SDG 1 are to pay their employees a decent wage and create conditions conducive to work for people with multiple (and possibly opposing) needs.



Did you know that the *Cost-of-Living Index* is ~ 70 in Vienna; that is about 30% lower than in New York (NYC = 100% guiding value), Zurich is 133, Ljubljana 65, Prague 53 and Bratislava 52.

Sources: [oecdbetterlifeindex.org](https://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org) and numbeo.com

Potential contributions by corporations and other organizations, cont.

Potential inward actions:

- offer fair pay (assuring living standard and assuring employees “no poverty” in old age)
- adapt working conditions to needs of employees, for instance (single) parents with small children so that they can earn a living in spite of restricted schedules
- integrate concept “prosperity for all” into the core of business strategy

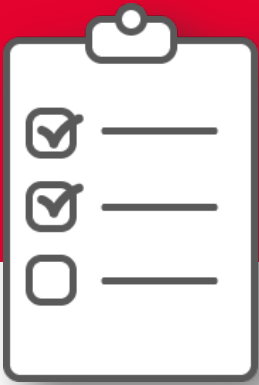
Potential outward actions:

- manage a responsible supply chain
- partner w/organizations that mitigate poverty and unemployment
- subsidize housing for employees in need (or lobby for affordable housing)

“I will choose my new job based on what the company stands for and what contributions it makes to society. It’s important to me that the company operates on sustainability-oriented purpose, that management is honest and supports projects to mitigate poverty in my country.”



Activity: potential contributions by an organization of your choice



The purpose of xyz organization is to...

In terms of SDG 1, potential contributions by xyz organization might be:

Potential inward actions:

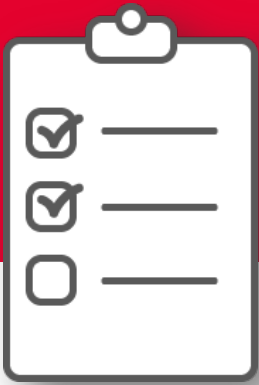
Potential outward actions:

How do inward and outward actions interact and impact each other?

Are partnerships necessary for the desired impact?



Activity: checking design of potential contributions



Returning to the opening questions:

- In which ways do the designed actions support the core purpose of xyz organization?
- In which ways do the designed actions serve the internal and external stakeholders of xyz organization?
- What balance between costs vs. benefits (or challenge vs. opportunity) can be noticed for xyz organization in terms of “impact of poverty issues” upon this type of organization?
- How do the designed inward and outward actions cohere and create synergy for xyz impact?



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**Reflection and
resources
Learning activity**

Reflection and some resources

- What is the OECD Better Life *Index*?
- What might the lack of housing or unemployment mean for people's lives?
- What does the *Fair-Trade* logo stand for?
- What happens at social markets?
- What social enterprises deal with poverty?
- Who in my environment could be affected by poverty? What causes and effects could this have?
- Where do my clothes come from? How are they produced? How do they end up in my hands?

Further Infos:

- [SDG definition of the UN](#)
- [Report in the magazine Handelsblatt \(German\)](#)
- [Poverty in Austria \(Armutskonferenz\)](#)
- [Fair Trade channel on YouTube](#)
- [“Gesichter der Armut” — Docu about fashion made in Bangladesh on YouTube](#)
- [SDG Report 2021](#)





Activity: SDG journey

- > Put your SDG glasses on and observe your environment under the SDG 1 umbrella for a week and find evidence for poverty and measures to mitigate it. Also notice the opposite, people living in carefree abundance. Reflect upon what variables/conditions in society create both ends of the spectrum from extreme poverty to extreme wealth.
- > If appropriate and allowed, take pictures of the found circumstances and catalogue the photos (begin making a scrapbook) — they will lead to a final assignment at the end of the series. Before you venture out, it might be a good idea to inform yourself about legal responsibilities when taking photos of people: [oesterreich.gv.at](https://www.oesterreich.gv.at) (If you are not in Austria, look for the regulations of the respective country!)

Possible resource for online scrapbook (free for classrooms and non-profits): [canva.com](https://www.canva.com)



“Do you have 3 friends and/or know colleagues who seem to have difficulties with equipping children with necessary equipment for school, i.e. computers, or refrain from letting them go on excursions?”



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Sources

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Slide 4:

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