

Sustainability impacts

OF FOOD SHARING

in Smart Dublin 8

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PAGE 3



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PAGE 4



- SMALL -
CHANGES

MAP OF
FOOD
SHARING
IN D8

PAGE 6



SUSTAINABILITY
IMPACT
ASSESSMENTS
OF FOOD
SHARING IN D8

PAGE 7

THE
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

PAGE 12



COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS:
GROWING
FOOD

PAGE 13



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Little Flower
PENNY DINNERS

MULTI-
AGENCY
COLLABORATION

PAGE 18



CONCLUSION

PAGE 23

Introduction

Smart D8 aims ‘to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens in Dublin 8 through collaboration and innovation’. As demonstrated by our international research, innovation and collaboration through food sharing initiatives (FSIs) can have positive impacts on health and well-being (Mackenzie & Davies, 2019; Davies, 2019). FSIs include groups that grow, cook, eat, and/or redistribute food together with others for positive individual and collective social, economic or environmental benefit. Examples include community gardens, social dining clubs, community kitchens and surplus food redistribution initiatives. There are established and emerging FSIs in the Dublin 8 area, but there is currently no single directory for identifying them, meaning their visibility can be low, even within the locality. Equally, few FSIs currently collect or analyse data on their impacts creating a knowledge gap for the organisations in terms of identifying and understanding their impacts and communicating these to funders, supporters and regulators.

As part of the SFI ENABLE Spoke’s activities on citizen engagement and in partnership with Smart Dublin 8, we mapped and categorised all food sharing activities in the district and measured the sustainability impacts of six illustrative case studies. The findings of this research are presented in this report to provide evidence to Smart D8 and Dublin City Council (DCC) to inform strategic planning to improve the health and wellbeing of citizens in the district.

The research employed the [SHARE IT](#) sustainability impact assessment toolkit to conduct a sustainability impact assessment (SIA) of FSIs. [SHARE IT](#) has been co-designed by the European Research Council-funded [SHARECITY](#) research project in conjunction with FSIs internationally. The tool is backed by five years of internationally conducted and verified research in the area food sharing.

Following the Executive Summary, provided in the following page, this report presents a map of FSIs in Smart Dublin 8, SHARE IT reports for FSIs, connections between food sharing and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), comparative analysis of collective food growing activities, analysis of multiagency collaboration and suggestions for further activities.

Executive Summary: 8 points for food sharing in Dublin 8





Connected

FSIs do not operate in a vacuum. Their activities and impacts are affected by a web of dynamic relationships with other stakeholders and the policies and practices of public, private and civil society organisations



Data Limits

Sustainability impacts of FSIs are currently inferred rather than demonstrated.

Engagement with data collection and communication would help to evidence impacts, allow FSIs to reflect on these in relation to their goals, and to strengthen the case for ongoing support and investment in their activities.



Precarious Resources

Precarity affects all forms of FSIs in Smart Dublin 8.

Security of tenure, finance and other forms of support is crucial to optimise sustainability impacts from FSIs. Current practice does not provide such stability and in some cases is designed specifically to prevent it. The negative implications of this are significant but are not recognised.



Multi-Actor Approach

FSIs are doing important sustainability work however food system transformation requires other actors to also change their practices.

Surplus food redistribution FSIs are extending the life of edible surplus food through redistribution, but the full costs for this redistribution are not being met by those creating the surplus. Community gardens create significant sustainability benefits, but many sites are under 'meanwhile' leases and under threat of redevelopment for other uses. Collective cooking and eating activities provide essential health, welfare and wellbeing benefits to participants and volunteers but underlying causes of food insecurity must also be addressed.



Keystone FSIs

Keystone organisations are pivotal in shaping the future of FSIs. While the success of FSIs depends on a range of actors and organisations, not least the participation of communities in food sharing, there are a number of key organisations that control access to land, space, knowledge, skills and food.



Online Visibility

Online communication of activities and impacts is crucial for increasing visibility of organisations. Digital tools provide an agile mechanism to engage with existing and new food sharers and organisations that support food sharing. While a digital divide persists within communities, the increasingly low barrier to entry of collaborating online provides an expanding opportunity to improve engagement and reflective practice.



Fragmented Policy

Governance of FSIs is fragmented. While all FSIs have a common goal to improve the sustainability of food systems in some way, they are governed by different policies and departments which creates a fragmented policy landscape for FSIs to navigate. Comprehensive food policies and dedicated food policy officers are required to overcome this challenge.



Further Research

Further data and research is required to identify appropriate mechanisms for aggregating the impacts of FSIs. The Smart Dublin 8 analysis presented in this report provides an essential baseline study for estimating cumulative impacts beyond individual FSIs and for predicting the social, economic and environmental return on investment that supporting such activities provides.

Mapping food sharing activity in D8

Thirty individual food sharing initiatives (FSIs) were identified in D8. Some sites have multiple FSIs active on them (Figure 1). For example, in Flanagan's Field there is the community garden, an informal women's gardening group, and the Fatima Group running horticulture classes. In other cases some organisations provides multiple types of food sharing. For example, Robert Emmet CDP delivers cooking classes, collective growing on their new roof top aquaponics garden and undertook redistribution of food during the pandemic. It also supports other food sharing initiatives, acting as an administrative hosting site for Bee8 (a community bee keeping co-op with over 20 hives in the area) and the committee that manages the new Bridgefoot St Community Garden. The Robert Emmet CDP are a central actor in both delivering their own food sharing activities *and* strengthening the local food sharing infrastructure and capacity. Generally there is a clustering of food sharing activity within the Liberties area of Dublin 8. This is reflective of both the population density (increasing opportunities for sharing networks to emerge) and evidence of local social need (with the five of the Liberties located (re)distribution groups being soup kitchens and food banks for the homeless). The Liberties has a fewer number of owner occupied homes than the rest of D8, although the majority of D8 falls below 40% owner occupied (Census 2011). D8 has one unit of emergency accommodation for homeless for every 105 residents; with a particular focus of homeless accommodation and addiction services in the Liberties ([RTE article](#))

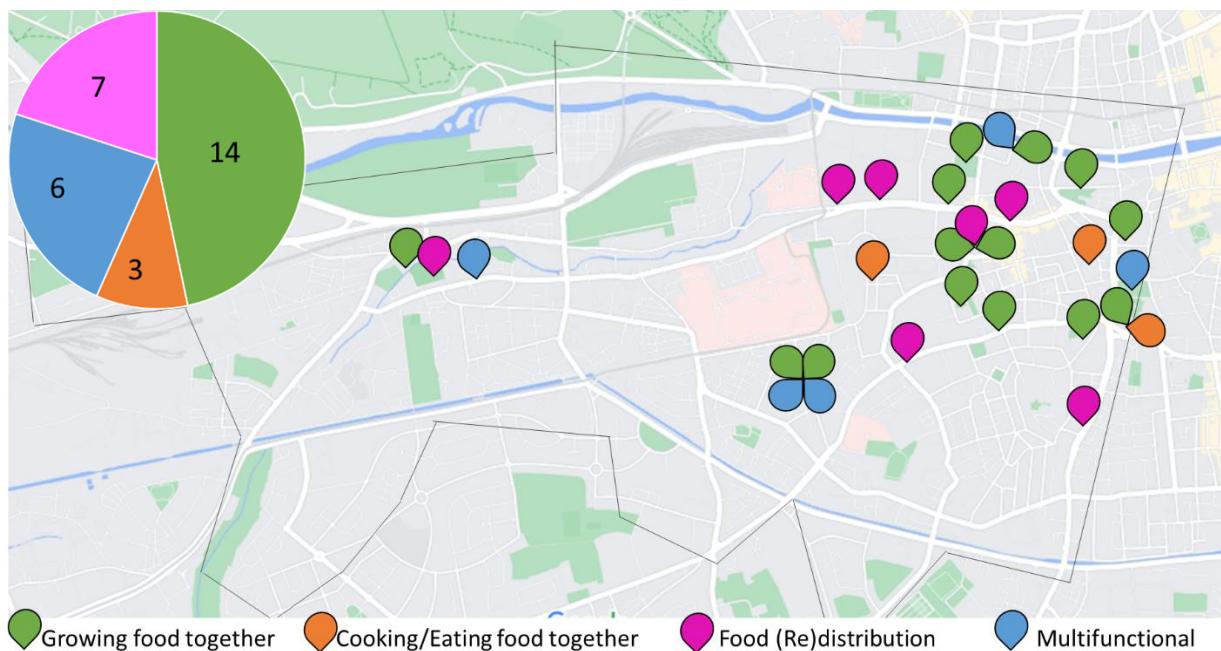


Figure 1: Locations of 30 food sharing initiatives in Dublin 8

The concentration of growing food together in the Liberties (13 initiatives, Figure 1) is less a reflection of usable, accessible green space and more an indicator of the innovation and motivation within the community to carve out small patches of food growing space in one of the least green urban areas of Dublin.

[The recent Community Growers Ireland report](#) demonstrated how “Ireland lags behind in the provision, support and protection of allotments and community gardens ...[and] other European countries offer far more community growing space”. The WHO recommends green space per capita of 9-50m² whereas the Liberties has just 0.7m² per capita. DCC’s ongoing greening strategy with the new Bridgefoot St Park and Weaver Park indicates positive preliminary action in this area, but there is a significant distance to travel to meet even minimum levels accessible green space. There is also

evidence that new and existing green space is [being gated and privatised by developers](#) despite planning permission originally stipulating public access should be maintained.

Further research is required to understand why FSIs are not present in southern and central locations in Smart Dublin 8 and to engage relevant actors and communities to explore possibilities for expanding FSIs in these areas. Mapping potential spaces for FSIs, such as rooftops, schools and church grounds, would be a useful first step here.

Using the categorisation method developed by SHARECITY, we looked at what is shared, how it is shared and how the sharing practices are organised. A diversity of food related stuff, space and skills is shared within D8. Foodstuff itself was the most commonly shared item, followed closely by knowledge and skills about food, and then by plants and seeds, and then land. Kitchen space and meals were less commonly shared, although this is, in part, a reflection of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Similar to the broader Dublin food sharing context ([see SHARECITY's Dublin City Profile](#)), gifting and selling were the main two modes of sharing. Bartering (exchanging items) and collecting (foraging, gleaning, dumpster diving, etc.) practices were not found, although this does not mean they do not exist, rather that they may be informal and therefore relatively invisible activities. The most common organisations engaging with food sharing were not for profit NGOs, followed by social enterprises and informal groups (Figure 2).

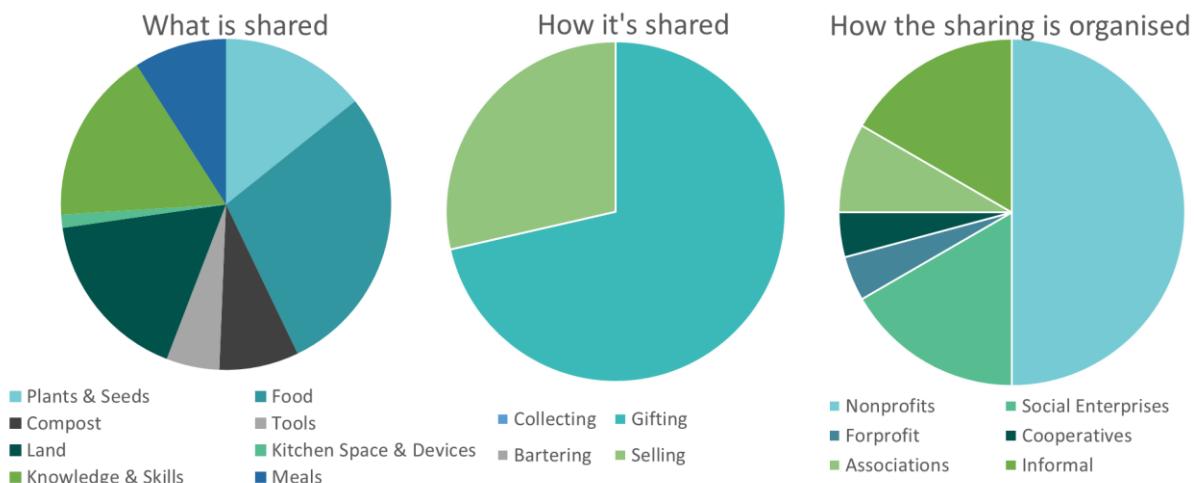


Figure 2 SHARECITY100 categorisations of food sharing activities in Dublin 8

Sustainability impact assessment using SHARE IT

“Sustainability impact assessment (SIA) evaluates economic, social and environmental impacts of any project and also keeps the perspective on sustainable development during evaluation. SIA offers many advantages like ... better governance, improved decision-making processes and stakeholder involvement.” [Kumar et al. \(2020\)](#)

SHARECITY worked closely with an international range of diverse food sharing initiatives (FSIs) to co-design the first ever SIA to identify the specific impacts of food sharing (growing food together, cooking/eating food together and/or (re)distributing (surplus) food). This toolkit, called SHARE IT, has over 110 indicators to collect qualitative and quantitative evidence of impact. It was applied to six case studies in D8 to gain a deeper understanding of the place-specific impacts these groups have, and indicate what the cumulative impacts created by the entire FSIs landscape might be. These selected case studies are summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1: Six case studies of food sharing in Dublin 8 that were assessed using the SHARE IT SIA

FSI name	Organisation Type	Food Sharing Activities	Summary
Informal Women's Gardening Group (IWGG)	Informal Group	Growing	A group of six women who share a single plot to grow food
Flanagan's Field Community Garden (FFCG)	Association	Growing, Cooking and Eating, Educational	A residents association managing a community garden
DCC Allotments	Local Authority	Growing	Managed by the local area office, renting plots to grow food to local residents
Robert Emmet CDP	NGO	Growing, Cooking and Eating, Redistribution of food, Educational	A community development project that led a food redistribution project during Covid-19, runs cookery classes and is developing a new rooftop garden
St. Patricks Cathedral	NGO	Redistribution of Food, Educational	Connects local charities with FoodCloud and facilitates redistribution of surplus food in the area. Also has art projects with local youth to raise awareness about the food system
Small Changes	Social Enterprise	Growing, Redistribution of food, Educational	Recently opened in Inchicore this store has a community re-distribution scheme where residents' locally grown vegetables can be exchanged for store credit, and operates a small food producing garden behind the store

Growing food in D8

There are 18 FSIs in D8 that grow food together; 14 where growing food is their only food sharing activity, and four where growing food is a part of their multifunctional food sharing activities (Figure1). Eight of the FSIs are community gardens, set up and governed by local residents associations (2), local schools (1) local NGOs (2), informal groups (2) and a senior citizen home (1). Two are using rooftop spaces to grow food (Robert Emmet CDP and Kevin St Garda station), three are using plots within DCC allotments (SWICN grow groups, Men's Shed and local schools). Some FSIs are hosted within a larger FSI. For example, the informal women's gardening group (IWGG), the Grow Dome and Fatima Group's horticulture courses all operate within the Flanagan's Field Community garden site and Flanagan's Field community garden itself sits within DCC allotments.

Weaver Square operated as a community garden for over 300 people. The land was originally zoned for property development but became vacant as a result of the economic crash in 2008. It was made available to the local community on a meanwhile basis until the economy recovered. Ten years later, in 2018, it was reclaimed for purpose-built student accommodation. A widely publicised debate ensued as local residents campaigned to retain the land for community growing of food and protecting the green space, given D8 has some of the lowest levels on green space in the city. However, the campaign was unsuccessful and the land is currently under development. Such experiences are not unique to D8, but are common in Ireland and internationally and the question of meanwhile use is complicated and contested. Interviews with DCC staff highlighted concerns that future opportunities for growing food on a meanwhile lease basis had been damaged by the protests, deterring private corporations from sharing their land, even temporarily, for fear of bad press when the land is required

for is zoned use. However, the issue is much bigger than individual cases and reflects community concerns about the low levels of public open space for community growing both in Dublin and across Ireland compared to our European neighbours. In some cases FSIs were able to shift their activities to new locations, but this was not without the loss of investment in the land and the local community. For example, the IWGG originally operated within a plot in Weaver Square, governed by the local charity SWICN. When it lost its Weaver Square home the group continued informally using a plot in Flanagan's field community garden.

Flanagan's field is the largest community garden currently operating in D8, and is run voluntarily by the Back of the Pipes Residents Association. Details of its diverse sustainability impacts can be seen in its SHARE IT report (Appendix 5). A group of 35 volunteers manage the site weekly, with their harvest days, pumpkin festivals and pizza parties regularly attended by over 70 local residents. The garden is open to the public for enjoyment, recreation and foraging of food. It hosts a pilot grow dome where over 1000 lettuce heads are grown off-grid through aquaponics and solar panels, and is used to host regular community activities such as a parents and toddlers group and music events. Since its initial proof of concept in Flanagan's Field, the Grow Dome Project has now scaled out nationally as [an award winning social enterprise](#) offering unique off-grid food growing event spaces in multiple locations. The site is used by local corporations for team building days and by schools and further education colleges to educate children and adults about horticulture and the food system. However, it also operates on a precarious lease with DCC, where it must vacate the site for one month per year so as not to accumulate rights to the land.

While indicators of sustainability in SIAs are often quantitative in formation, there are aspects of food sharing which are hard to capture using such metrics. More intangible and affective impacts are best expressed in narrative form and below we provide some quotes to illustrate this.

Stories from the ground

“It is how much time is spent on the allotment by Allotment Growers (whether novice or expert- be it weeding, preparing the ground and rotating the plants or chatting to other allotment growers) that is the barometer of the optimisation of access to and use of a plot, rather than how successful an individual is at producing the optimum volume of crops. We look to the optimum number of allotment growers spending as much time on their plots as possible to utilise the amenity rather than the volume of crops produced.”

Local Authority Officer

“Covid has curtailed our bigger events but the herb group do workshops on creating balms and oils. Our last big event was a harvest festival in September with everyone bringing cooked food using our produce, including elderflower champagne! About 70 people came. Usually we also do a blessing of the potatoes planting day on St Patricks day. We also held storytelling and seedbombing workshops.”

Community Grower

“We are a friendship group and each of us also link in and share seeds, plants, food with other people in Flanagan's Field. It's an informal network of sharing plants, food, skills and knowledge that happen when people who garden gather. And of course ... there needs to be more green places in D8 some for gardening, some for growing food, some for letting flowers and bushes and trees grow, some wild areas left alone”

Community Grower

Surplus food Redistribution in D8

Seven local D8 FSIs distributed food in the community, often surplus food being diverted from landfill, but also donated food from private restaurants and local residents as part of local community responses to social needs. The national charity, FoodCloud, is active in D8, providing its app for local

groups to link with local supermarkets and use surplus food stock in their social work. St. Patrick's Cathedral uses FoodCloud's app and often acts as mediator between the technical interface and the face-to-face culture among some D8 community groups. Such intermediation is important given that nationally almost half of Ireland's population has "low digital literacy skills" ([Minister Simon Harris, Smart D8 Launch Webinar](#); Digital Economic and Society Index 2018). However, and surprisingly given this fact, in Dublin 8 the leading provider of free digital upskilling opportunities, the Digital Hub, [is facing a precarious future funding context](#).

While apps and technical solutions like FoodCloud's option certainly have significant impact, as demonstrated by the volumes they redistribute nationally, mediation via face to face relationships as provided by St. Patrick's Cathedral are also important to ensure equitable access to such resources. Local charities have also played a role in distributing surplus supermarket food stock flagged through the FoodCloud app in D8 beyond the district in response to needs of other groups in their networks. For example, during the pandemic, carloads of supermarket surplus in D8 went to a rural women's shelter through word of mouth first and then the FoodCloud app.

Small Changes (SHARE IT report, Appendix 2) established a very successful surplus produce redistribution scheme where growers from the local DCC allotments and local residents could exchange their home grown produce for store credit. After the success of its pilot in 2020, Small Changes has continued to scale up its community redistribution scheme with local produce grown by individual residents now regularly on sale during harvest season.

Two well established FSIs in the area adapted their shared cooking and eating activities into distribution activities under the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Little Flower Penny Dinners escalated their meals on wheels service to distribute 1500 meals per week in D8 to those in need, when their shared breakfasts and lunches had to cease under pandemic restrictions. Demand for their daily meals on wheels service increased by two thirds during the pandemic, and they operated a take-away lunch collection at 12pm Monday to Fridays.

Robert Emmet CDP operated after school homework clubs, including dinners for the children, with several D8 schools. When schools closed during the pandemic, families' food insecurity increased as they lost both school lunch and after school club dinners. Robert Emmet CDP activated its strong community networks to distribute in excess of 1500kg to 240 households per week. This saved recipients approximately €190,000 in the first six months of the food program. Their SHARE IT report (Appendix 1) shows a detailed assessment of this impressive community response. The food program also enabled the community to ask questions about access to other social and health services. As a part of the food parcel collection stations operated by Robert Emmet CDP, staff were available to provide the latest HSE guidance around practical health measures, refer people to relevant services offering supports to vulnerable community members and provide general information about Department of Social Protection Entitlements for individuals temporarily out of work.

During interviews with D8 community workers, some issues were raised anonymously about negative impacts of well-intentioned food distribution initiatives that emerged spontaneously during community responses to the pandemic in D8. Well established NGOs in the area expressed concern about risk management and the dignity of donations when engaging with food distribution in D8. It was speculated that these well-meaning but inexperienced new initiatives were sometimes taken advantage of by others seeking to exploit the vulnerable populations being supported. This was particularly emphasised in the context of working with people in an addiction cycle. Regret was also expressed that these responses often necessitated people to queue up publicly to collect food, when established FSIs in D8 had intentionally managed their responses to food insecurity in a sensitive dignified manner that included phasing out queues in public wherever possible. In contrast, other newcomers to food sharing through the community pandemic response collaborated with the existing infrastructures by plugging into established FSI-led projects, like the Robert Emmet CDP community

food program (seven community groups, NGOs and businesses that had not practiced food sharing before engaged in food sharing through Robert Emmet CDP's facilitation). This raises interesting new questions around the evolution of FSI landscapes, particularly who plugs in to existing activities and who starts a new initiative independently, and what are the motivations and reasons behind the approach adopted?

Stories from the ground

"Our Community Food Program began as a service to families of school age children affected by the mandatory closure of our own afterschool program but, due to demand, grew rapidly to cover anyone affected by food security issues in Dublin 8... None of what we do would be possible without our wonderful team of volunteers- 22 kind souls - who donate their time and talents to make our work possible. It's been a real privilege for us to lean in on the kindness that exists in our community... Anything is possible when community, voluntary sector and business work together. Our partnerships include food charities like FoodCloud and GoodGrub, donor sports clubs Geraldines P. Moran GAA Club and Oliver Bond Celtic and our volunteers."

Multifunctional FSI

"One of the staff ... also volunteers with FoodCloud, this resulted in connecting ...[us] with the local Liberties Soup Run, where we now donate our surplus bread. We also donate our used coffee beans to the local Turvey Park project for their composting, and donate our surplus fruit to Cream of the Crop Gelato. If there is a lot of surplus of a certain fruit or vegetable, sometimes our staff take it home and make jams and preserves to share with the staff team. We also act as a drop off point for a veggie box scheme, facilitating community supported agriculture. And individual growers using plots in the local allotments share their surplus with us in exchange for store credit. We hope the store space can be used for community events in the future that will have the indirect impact of creating new support networks within communities. [Our] staff can speak fluent Gaeilge, Portuguese, Japanese and English offering customers from different cultures and backgrounds the opportunity to fully participate and enjoy the community atmosphere."

Secondary FSI

Shared cooking and eating in D8

It was not possible to do a SHARE IT report for a FSI doing shared cooking and eating because pandemic restrictions ceased such activities. Although six FSIs in D8 did normally have shared cooking and eating as a part of their work before Covid-19 restrictions.

Three FSIs in D8 have shared cooking and eating together as their only food sharing activity; a school that provides dinner as part of its homework club, a school that provides cooking and nutrition classes for parents and a Solas project where cooking together is a part of the youth activities in their programs. Two of the multi-functional FSIs also provided shared cooking and eating before pandemic restrictions; Robert Emmet CDP offered cookery classes to men and a community kitchen to women asylum seekers. Flanagan's Field also regularly hosted events with shared eating such as their annual harvest day.

Little Flower Penny Dinners is the largest FSI in D8 that uses shared cooking and eating to address social issues like food insecurity (particularly among the homeless community) and loneliness (particularly among the elderly residents). But in 2020, under pandemic restrictions, they had to stop their shared community dining activities and instead amplified their pre-existing 'meals on wheels' service and operated a take away lunch (as discussed above). However, certain benefits and impacts were lost when a shared space for eating together could not be provided.

The SHARE IT report of Robert Emmet CDP community food response does illustrate the significant social, economic and environmental benefits of distributing food, but it was not possible to measure the additional benefits of shared eating experiences because of the pandemic restrictions. Be-Enriched in London can be used as an indicative model for the sustainability impacts activities like Little Flower Penny Dinners achieve. They carried out a SHARE IT report (Appendix 7) which showed

how shared eating can increase connection and create new support networks within communities and provides opportunities for participants to increase appreciation of other groups within their community.

Stories from the ground

“Before Covid struck the [FSI] was a place bursting with energy. Our ‘regulars’ sat in the same seats every day, chatting, having the craic while getting a hot cuppa. Some of our elderly friends would be in the dining room gossiping and enjoying each other’s company and our homeless pals would be in sheltering from the harsh weather in search of some friendly faces. We’re like a family – a very big family!! With over 150 members!! [We are] a second home for people who don’t have much. And that’s why we’re here. We closed our doors to the public in March 2020 in response to the global pandemic, and sadly they’ve remained shut ever since. It broke our hearts to have to close but our friends are some of the most at risk people to Covid and we have to put their safety above everything else. Since then all we have been able to do is operate a takeaway lunch service from our front door. A plastic screen divides us, we can’t share a hug or settle down to hear stories about their grandkids but at least we get to see each other and make eye contact, albeit briefly. This helps us to keep in touch, but it’s not the same. The emptiness and silence in our dining room is awful. We miss the jokes, the smiles, the bustle and even the occasional singsong that brings the whole place alive.”

Collective eating FSI

Food sharing in D8 progressing the Sustainable Development Goals

All six SHARE IT case studies in D8 had evidence of contributing to the sustainable development goals through a variety of impact pathways. The main goals progressed by food sharing in D8 are goals 1-4, 8-13 and 15-17:



Figure 3 summarises the number of indicators of impact found among the six FSI case studies in D8 according to SHARE IT’s 13 impact areas. Purple text lists which of the SDGs are being progressed by each impact area. Among the case studies, indicators of impact were identified across all social, environmental and economic impact areas. Given three of the six case studies selected were ‘growing food together’ FSIs, it is unsurprising that the highest number of indicators of Environmental impact were found for local food production (progressing SDGs 8,9,11 and 12). The highest area of social impact is ‘Community Integration and Sharing’ (SDGs 11-13, 15) and the highest number of indicators found for economic impact areas was ‘Access and affordability of food’ (SDGs 3, 11-12).

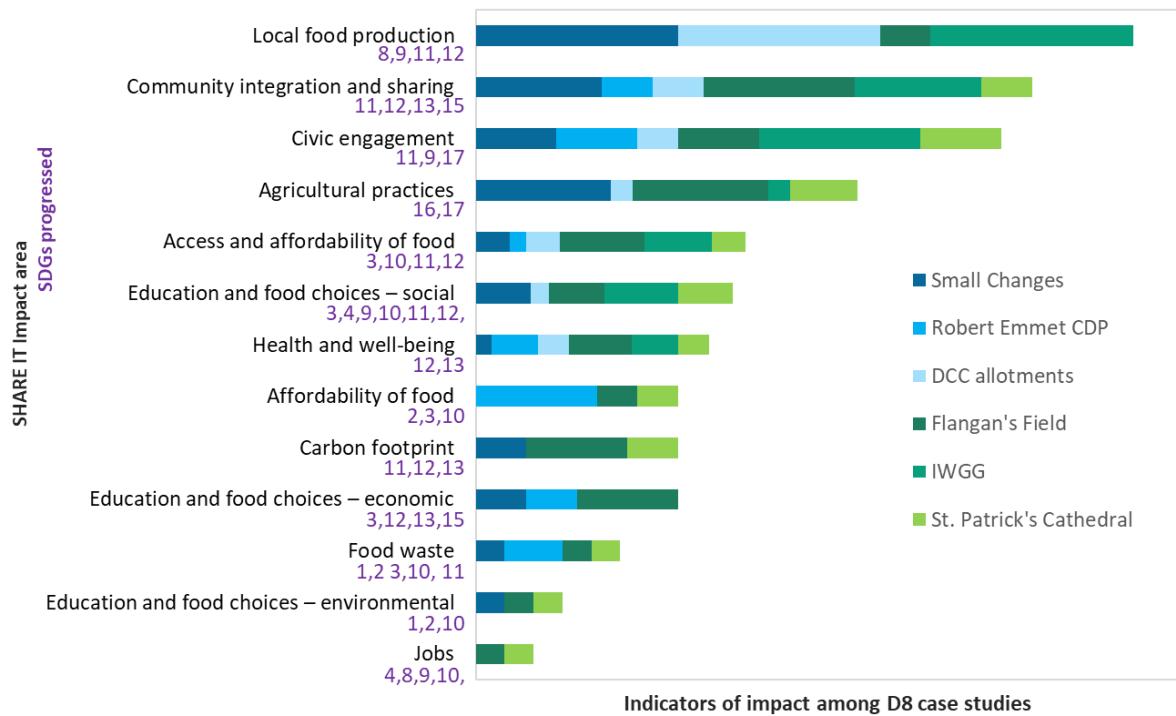


Figure 3: Indications of impact identified by SHARE IT among the six D8 FSI case studies. Purple text lists the Sustainable Development Goals being progressed by these impact areas

Comparative Analysis: Growing food in D8

Mapping the extent (using the SHARECITY100 methodology), and measuring the impacts (using SHARECITY's SHARE IT toolkit), of food sharing in D8 has demonstrated a range of sustainability impacts are being created by food sharing initiatives (FSIs) in the area. This preliminary data can also allow us to compare different types of sharing, informing decisions around maximising the sustainability return on the use of food related stuff, space and/or skills in D8. Below we consider three ways of using space in D8 to grow food with or alongside others; DCC managed allotments, Flanagan's Field Community garden and a single plot used by an informal group (IWGG). Growing food together is used as a pilot case study for this comparative analysis because we were able to conduct SHARE IT reports for these three different models; land licenced to individual growers managed by a public authority, land managed by community volunteers and land informally managed among a group of friends. Between the impact of pandemic restrictions and limited data availability, there is not enough data available to apply a similar comparative analysis to surplus food redistribution or shared cooking and eating forms of food sharing in D8.

D8 presents an excellent testbed for comparing models of using land to grow food. The three case studies selected for analysis through SHARE IT reports (Appendices 4-6) are summarised in Table 2, where they can be compared on the scale of their activities (96, 35 and 6 frequent users), their goals, and core food sharing activities. A graphical summary of sustainability impacts found by SHARE IT reports, key impacts and SHARE IT's 'Share Star' scores is provided. Growing food and plants is the only core activity for DCC allotments, however Flanagan's Field has additional activities such as shared cooking and eating and sharing knowledge and skills. The IWGG also gather together for shared meals that use their produce, creating opportunities for new friendships and support networks to emerge.

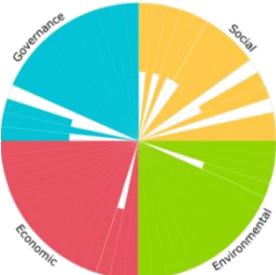
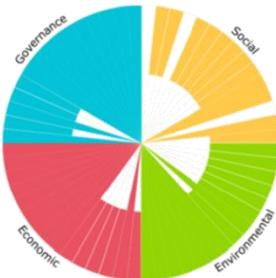
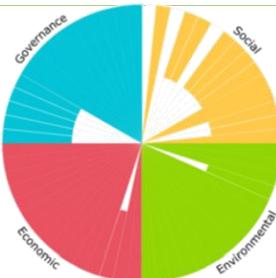
SHARE IT's pie charts (column 5, Table 2) show how sustainability impacts differ between the three case studies (number of white segments indicates number of indications of sustainability impact,

length of white segment indicates the importance of that indicator to the FSI). Flanagan's field has a wider diversity of sustainability indicators than the DCC allotments, and notably higher levels of environmental data compared to the larger allotments and the smaller IWGG.

Table 3 summarises the social, environmental and economic impacts for comparison across the three groups. Key social impacts include the visibility of green space, opportunities for interaction and intercultural learning, and access to green space. Environmental impacts include enhancing local biodiversity, soil quality and water conservation. Economic impacts include income from leasing the land, health costs avoided, savings to food budgets and the value of upskilling for employability. All three case studies achieve sustainability impacts, but in different ways and to different extents (Table 2). To highlight the particular benefits that sharing creates, SHARE IT has developed a suite of Share Stars to indicate where collective activities around food (food sharing) benefits individuals, communities, the environment, the economy and decision making (governance) created added value (Figure 4). Notably, FFCG achieved the maximum possible scores in the categories of community benefits, environmental benefits and money saving. The dotted line indicates the maximum possible number of direct impact stars. An FSI can also have additional indirect impact stars, which indicates they have evidence of additional actions that support the direct impacts in this area.

Based on the preliminary data collected by SHARECITY, approximately 1m² of land being used for a community garden achieves significantly more sustainability impacts than the equivalent m² being used for an allotment. Also per capita, community gardens return more sustainability impacts when compared to allotments. A group sharing a plot together achieves vastly more sustainability impacts per m² than the same area being used by individual licence holders, and sustainability impacts achieved per person is also significantly higher (Figure 2). Note these differences may also be due to the difference in the granularity of data; looking at 96 plots together in DCC allotments vs looking at one plot in detail in IWGG. Further interviews and data collection with the individual license holders of allotment plots are needed to better clarify the difference in impacts between an individual and group usage of a plot. However these initial case studies do indicate that sharing land for growing significantly increases the sustainability impact when compared to more individualised usage at both a land area and per person level.

Table 2: Comparison of shared growing case studies

Name & Start Date	Users	Goals	Core Activities	Sustainability Impacts ¹	Key impacts ²	Share Stars ³
DCC Allotments 4 sites: 1.Braithwaite St; 2013 2.Grattan Crescent; 2013 3.Flanagans Field; 2014 4.St.Thomas Abbey; 2016	96	<i>"Our four D8 allotment sites provide an amenity where members of the public can engage in cultivation"</i>	Growing food - Licence holders are not obligated to grow food - Often growers will have a mix of ornamental plants and food crops - Restrictions are in place on some crops e.g. strawberries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More food growing More movement and exercise Stakeholder engagement 	<u>Total:</u> 15 0.0036 /m ² 0.16/person
Flanagan's Field Community Garden (FFCG) 2014	35	<i>"Gardening together is a way for people to have something to talk about and get to know each other"</i>	Growing food - A wide range of food is grown including herbs and leafy greens, berries and soft fruits, brassicas, legumes, leaks, onions, artichokes, potatoes and apples. Cooking & eating - Harvest festival; Pumpkin day, Pizza parties, communal access to on-site BBQ and pizza oven Educational - School visits, Fatima Group's horticultural course, regular workshops		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More food growing Intercultural interaction and learning Increased access to fruit and vegetables 	<u>Total:</u> 40 0.027/m ² 1.14/person
Informal Women's Gardening Group (IWGG) 2019	6	<i>"We grow food, garden and eat together, building friendship circles and learning about growing food"</i>	Growing food - A range of food is grown including Kale, chard, cucumber, tomatoes, beetroot, Leeks, garlic, and also flowers Cooking & eating - The group gather for shared meals once a week during harvest season		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded support network Intercultural interaction and learning Fostering a wider food and sharing culture 	<u>Total:</u> 25 2.5 /m ² 4.17/person

¹ The white segments indicate that an impact is reported for an indicator in that field, a full length segment indicates a significant impact for the initiative

² Key impacts as identified by the initiative

³ SHARE IT gives an 'impact star' for each of the potential ways initiatives can create impact across eight categories with 40 share stars available: individual benefits (max potential stars: 13), Social community benefits (7), environmental benefits (5), efficient resource use (6), money saving (3), money making (5), external governance (3), internal governance (3).

Table 3: Classifying sustainability impacts

	<i>DCC Allotments</i>	<i>FFCG</i>	<i>IWGG</i>
Social	<p>DCC Allotments create a window for passers-by to appreciate both the results and activities of cultivation in an urban green space - visibility</p> <p>While there are no official collective activities amongst growers organised by DCC's management, plot license holders can and do talk together while gardening – interaction</p> <p>Provides increased access to fresh fruit and vegetables – access</p>	<p>FFCG creates a window for passers-by to appreciate both the results and activities of cultivation in an urban green space – visibility</p> <p>FFCG is a dynamic and collaborative site for collective experimentation around food growing, eating together, education and community gatherings - interaction</p> <p>Provides increased access to fresh fruit and vegetables – access</p>	<p>IWGG enables learning about growing and eating food collectively - interaction</p> <p>It brings women from different nationalities together (Ukraine, Romania, USA, Ireland & Italy) – intercultural learning</p> <p>Provides increased access to fresh fruit and vegetables - access</p>
Environmental	<p>DCC Allotments provide a range of crops for pollinators - biodiversity</p>	<p>FFCG seeks to conserve biodiversity with wild flowers, native woodland, a frog pond and a rockery habitat - biodiversity</p> <p>Soil quality is improved with their compost system – soil quality</p> <p>Rainwater is harvested from their grow dome – water conservation</p>	<p>IWGG grows plants to support pollinators - biodiversity</p> <p>Community compost is used to enhance the soil's carbon stocks – soil quality</p>
Economic	<p>DCC Allotment licence fees generate c. €11500 per year- about €2.80/m² – Local Authority income generated</p> <p>Health costs are avoided by the wellbeing benefits of gardening – health costs avoided</p> <p>Food grown supplements dietary costs – food budget costs reduced</p>	<p>FFCG is used as an education resource by Inchicore College of Further Education, Fatima Group and Tus - supports reskilling for employment</p> <p>FFCG produces approx. 1.6 tonnes p/a of food reducing health costs through the wellbeing benefits of gardening – health costs avoided</p> <p>Food grown supplements dietary costs – food budget costs reduced</p>	<p>Health costs are avoided by the wellbeing benefits of gardening – health costs avoided</p> <p>Food grown supplements dietary costs – food budget costs reduced</p>



Figure 4: SHARE IT's Sustainability 'Share Star' scores for the three models of using land to grow food in D8

Multi-Agency collaboration

Food sharing is a collaborative activity and not just in terms of the collaboration amongst FSI members, volunteers or participants. Stakeholder groups enabling food sharing in D8 include:

- Primary FSIs: Initiatives set up with food sharing as a core activity (e.g. without food sharing they would not exist)
- Secondary FSIs: Initiatives which share food related stuff, space and/or skills to support their wider activities. Without food sharing they would continue to exist but their offering would be reduced as a result
- Supportive Groups: Support FSI food sharing through providing space, materials, skills and other resources

A common theme that arose during interviews with well-established FSIs in D8 was the high level of collaboration between diverse stakeholders. The striking inter-dependency of stakeholders in D8 enables and maximises food sharing impacts. Preserving these relationships, and creating opportunities for new actors to ‘plug in’ to this established food sharing network would enhance sustainability impacts. Groups with no connections were characterised by being either once-off pandemic responses, or activities on private properties (e.g. a senior citizen home’s community garden), or where food sharing was only a small complimentary part of their broader activities. The extent and nature of relationships among food sharing stakeholders in D8 is mapped in Figures 5-7 and discussed below.

Flow of sharing

Figure 5 shows the flow of food related stuff, space and skills and governance support among FSIs in D8. DCC shares space with seven FSIs. Flanagan’s Field community garden and Robert Emmet CDP have the highest number and diversity of ‘sharing flows’ within D8’s food sharing web. Both FSIs share stuff, space, skills and governance to enable food sharing within their locality. Unusually for the year 2020, Robert Emmet CDP established an impressive additional eight once-off flows of food from a diversity of local NGOs, sports clubs and private businesses to deliver its first food redistribution food sharing project, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions stopping their homework and supper clubs and increasing local food insecurity (see SHARE IT report, Appendix 1).

Relationship significance

Three categories of relationships are mapped in Figure 6

- Supporting Relationships: This is where a stakeholder helps an FSI deliver a food sharing activity, however if this relationship was lost the food sharing activity could likely continue (although if multiple ‘support relationships’ were lost the food sharing activity may cease).
- Key Relationships: This is where a stakeholder significantly enables an FSI to deliver a food sharing activity. The loss of this relationship would be a big blow to the FSI, they might be able to adapt and continue but would need to find a replacement key relationship to maintain their work.
- Essential Relationships: This is where a relationship between an FSI and a stakeholder is essential for the ongoing practice of food sharing.

From Figures 5 and 6 we can see three ‘keystone’ stakeholders emerging, which if they stood back from supporting FSIs could cause a significant collapse in the food sharing infrastructure in D8. These are DCC, Robert Emmet CDP and Flanagan’s Field. While the SHARE IT reports (Appendices 1-7) clearly indicate FSIs contribute substantial sustainability impacts towards the local development goals of DCC, FSIs in D8 are also highly dependent on DCC to successfully deliver these impacts. Ten FSIs have an ‘essential’ relationship with DCC. These FSIs could not continue without DCC’s support (Figure 6). Flanagan’s Field enables the Grow Dome social enterprise, multiple educational courses

through the Fatima Group, Inchicore college of further education and local schools, as well as enabling small sub-groups like the IWGG (SHARE IT report - Appendix 6) to conduct food sharing activities on their site. FSIs such as Bee8 and Bridgefoot St Community Garden depend on Robert Emmet CDP for infrastructural and administrative support (Figure 5), whereby Bee8 is registered as a social enterprise with Robert Emmet CDP, and Robert Emmet CDP hosts the organising committee that will run the new Bridgefoot St Community Garden. National social enterprise FoodCloud also has quite a high cumulative relationship significance from its multiple supportive and a few key relationships with FSIs in D8, particularly through its support of D8 charities that use surplus food as a part of their activities.

Food sharing thrives in D8 through a diversity of supporting, key and essential relationships between stakeholders (Figure 6). Many relationships exist within the local D8 area, however relationships with regional level public bodies, such as DCC, and relationships with national level FSIs (FoodCloud) are also an important part of creating a resilient food sharing network.

Investment

While Figure 5 (flow of sharing) shows how food sharing is enabled through the sharing of food, materials, time, space, skills and governance among FSIs and supporting groups in D8, financial investment is still an important element of D8's food sharing success. Figure 7 highlights the key financial flows into the food sharing web in D8, considering 4 categories; customer, membership fees, donations/fundraising, grants/formal funding. Notably many groups rely on voluntary labour and national government funding (eight FSIs). However the biggest injection of cash to enable D8's food sharing is the local community (15 FSIs rely on financial flow from the local community). As customers they support many of the social enterprises that do food sharing (e.g. Small Changes, Bee8) and as individuals who rent plots from within Flanagan's Field community garden. Six FSIs are also dependent on donations from the general public to carry out their operations.

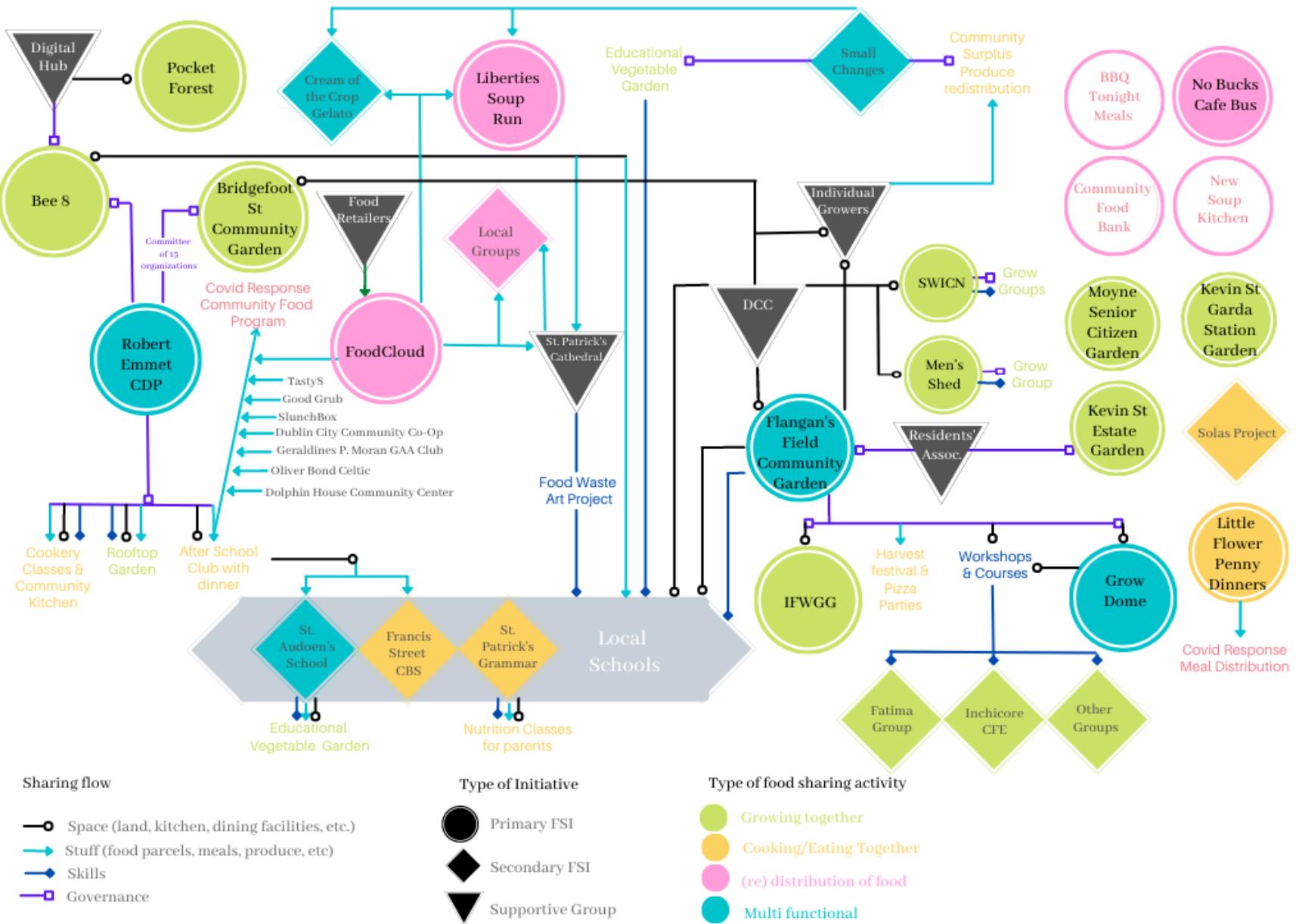


Figure 5: Flow of food related sharing in D8

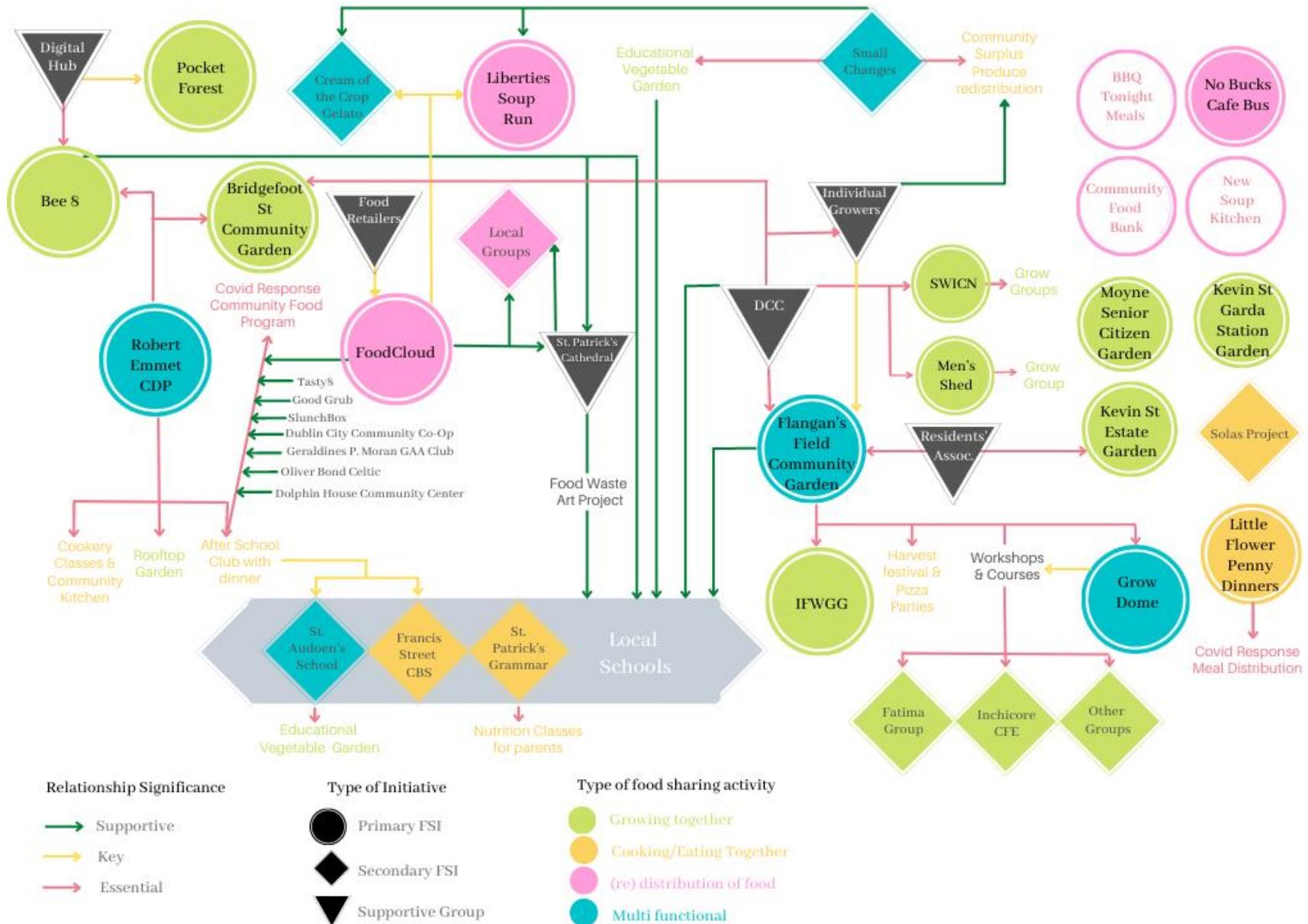


Figure 6: Significance of relationships between FSIs and supportive groups in D8

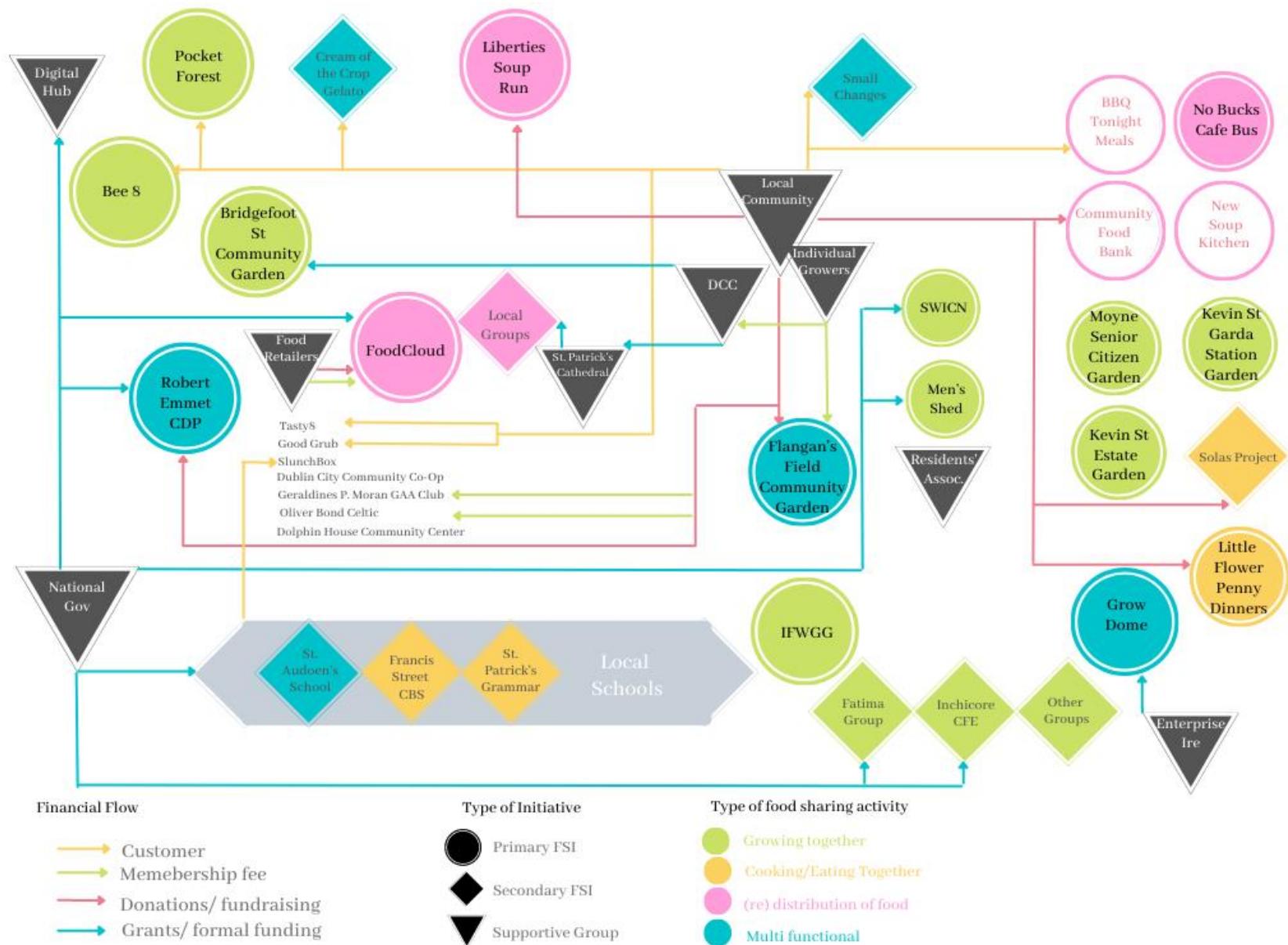


Figure 7: Flow of investment relevant to food sharing in D8

Conclusion

Mapping the 30 FSIs in D8 and the flows of sharing, the nature of the relationships around sharing and the flows of investment indicates the nature of sophisticated formal and spontaneous informal networks that create and maintain a food sharing ecosystem. Key elements needed to ensure successful food sharing in D8 include: (a) sufficient flow of food related stuff, space, skills and governance support between stakeholders; (b) sufficient supportive relationships with other FSIs and supporting groups; and (c) reliable and sufficient investment through funding, resources, skills and donations.

The six FSI case studies that SHARE IT reports were delivered for (Table 1, Appendices 1-6) are illustrative of the kind of sustainability impacts D8's FSIs are having at different scales, through different categories of food sharing, managed under different governance models. Social impacts include creating new connections and support networks within a community, enhanced intercultural understanding, wellbeing benefits from access to shared green space and successful connections to other social welfare supports through food sharing interactions. Environmental impacts include enhancing local biodiversity, diverting surplus food from landfill and reducing or offsetting carbon emissions. Economic impacts include upskilling opportunities through horticulture courses, savings to local household food budgets and prevented public health costs. All six case studies provided insights on their contributions to civic society through participation in citizen science, public consultations and advocacy.

Issues such as long term land access, financial security, administrative barriers and the impact of Covid-19 all arose in interviews with stakeholders. Tensions over the loss of Weaver Square remain a fresh memory among those growing food together in the area and DCC. Most FSIs are dependent on time bound grants and fluctuating financial support (Figure 7). Pandemic restrictions prevented a detailed investigation into the potential impacts from shared indoor space through activities such as communal dining. Notably, while the D8 community sector often relies upon a word of mouth and informal collaborative culture, community driven momentum can be negatively affected by formal administrative compliance necessities. One solution that has emerged to this conundrum is 'keystone' FSIs in the network administratively hosting other FSIs (e.g. Bridgefoot St. Community garden committee hosted by Robert Emmet CDP).

Next steps

This pilot study demonstrates the strategic insights that can be achieved when sustainability impact data is collected and analysed. However, community groups often do not have the resources, capacity and skills required to gather data in detail throughout the year, limiting awareness of the full impacts their work achieves both internally and externally.

Expanding the use of the SHARE IT platform among FSIs and supporting groups could help to embed data collection practices into everyday food sharing activities. Examples of embedded data collection practices include:

- Surplus food redistribution FSIs monitoring what type and weight of produce they are distributing which could inform cost savings and nutritional insights
- Community eating FSIs conducting an annual survey to understand the wellbeing and social benefits its space provides to the local residents.
- Gardening groups weighing their produce per m² to get an indication of their annual yield (which can be converted into savings to food budget and nutritional value)

The authors of this report are in the process of developing a method to aggregate sustainability impact data at a district level; to make indicative estimations of the cumulative sustainability impacts from

food sharing within a jurisdiction and is happy to discuss opportunities to trial this approach with local authorities.

Acknowledgements

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Robert Emmet CDP SHARE IT report

Appendix 2: Small Changes SHARE IT report

Appendix 3: St. Patrick's Cathedral SHARE IT report

Appendix 4: DCC Allotments SHARE IT report

Appendix 5: Flanagan's Field Community Garden SHARE IT report

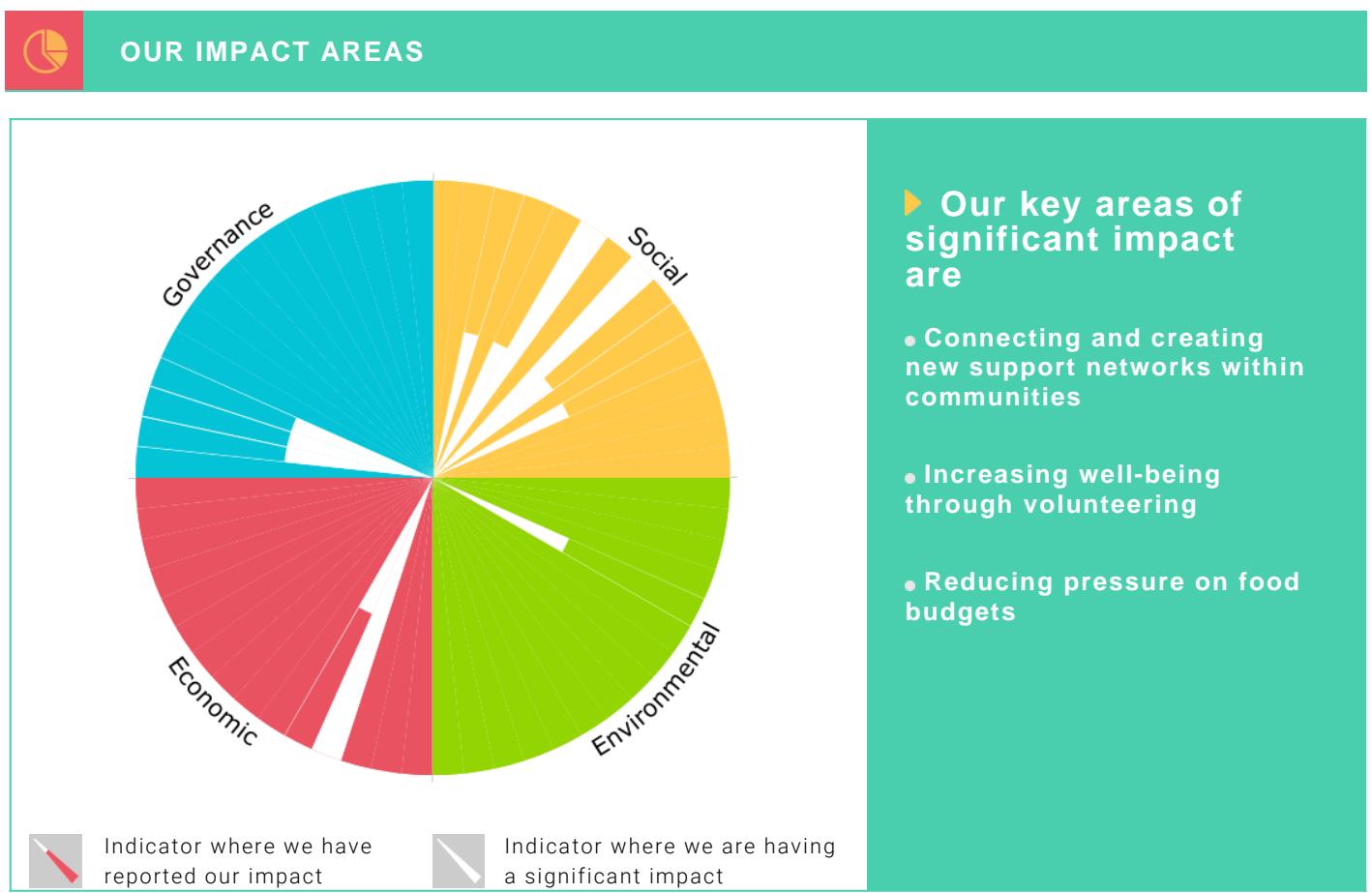
Appendix 6: Informal Women's Gardening Group SHARE IT report

Appendix 7: BeEnriched SHARE IT report- An indicative example of the impacts of shared cooking and eating outside of pandemic restrictions

Please cite this report as: McGeever, A. and Davies, A.R. (2022) Sustainability impacts of food sharing in Smart Dublin 8, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Sustainability Impact Summary

WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
Name: Robert Emmet CDP Covid-19 Community Food Program	Goals: Enable a thriving community where everyone can reach their full potential
Location: Dublin	Activities: Shared Cooking/Eating, Redistribution, Educational



SPECIFIC IMPACTS INCLUDE
11 active partnerships with other food sharing initiatives
240 people received fresh food from our initiative
190500 total saved to peoples food budgets through our activities



WHY WE SHARE FOOD

- 1 Our Community Food Program began as a service to families of school age children affected by the mandatory closure of our own afterschool program but, due to demand, grew rapidly to cover anyone affected by food security issues in Dublin 8
- 2 None of what we do would be possible without our wonderful team of volunteers- 22 kind souls - who donate their time and talents to make our work possible. It's been a real privilege for us to lean in on the kindness that exists in our community.
- 3 Anything is possible when community, voluntary sector and business work together. Our partnerships include food charities like FoodCloud and GoodGrub, donor sports clubs Geraldines P. Moran GAA Club and Oliver Bond Celtic and our volunteers



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefit are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

Story 1

We collaborated with many other organisations who were already involved with food sharing, or started supporting food sharing with us, in response to the local community need. These included schools, restaurants, sports clubs, charities and residents associations. There are too many to mention, but to name a few groups that made our Community Food Program possible: St. Audoens and Francis Street CBS schools, Slunchbox, Tasty8, FoodCloud, GoodGrub, Dublin City Community Co-Op, Geraldines P. Moran GAA Club, Oliver Bond Celtic and Dolphin House Community Center,

Story 2

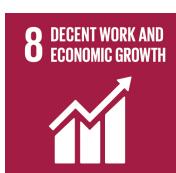
We had a team of 22 volunteers and were delivering 220 food parcels and 250 dinners to 240 individuals or families per week

Story 3

We distributed c.8000kg of food per month in Dublin 8, as meals and food parcels, from March to August in 2020, among 240 families and individuals experiencing pandemic induced food insecurity. Each kilogram of food saves that family or individual's food budget approx. €4.67 (EPA)



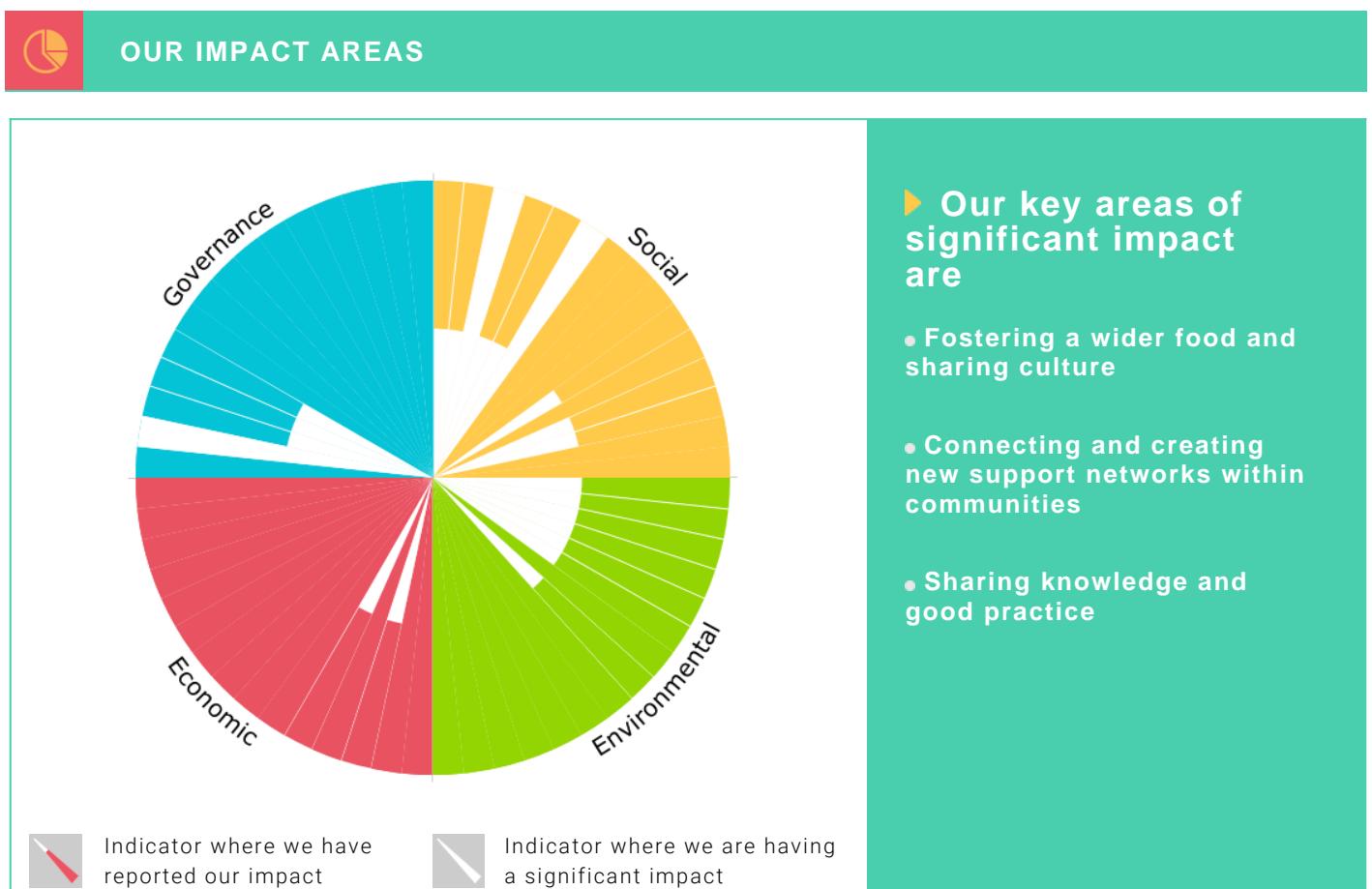
HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Sustainability Impact Summary

WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
Name: Small Changes, Inchicore Location: Dublin	Goals: to make it easy and reasonable to shop in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner Activities: Growing Food, Redistribution, Educational



SPECIFIC IMPACTS INCLUDE
 5 active partnerships with other food sharing initiatives
 10 people influenced to grow food
 7 m ² of land converted for growing food



WHY WE SHARE FOOD

- 1** We enable people to make sustainable and affordable food decisions, by selling loose products so people can buy only what they need and use reusable containers instead of single use packaging.
- 2** We avoid waste by encouraging and enabling surplus food redistribution. We achieve this through donating our surplus to other food sharing initiatives and facilitating community redistribution of surplus locally grown vegetables.
- 3** We have reclaimed a plot of land for growing organic food. After just four months we have already produced food from this converted land, which we sell in the store. We hope to use this as an education space for the local community about growing food



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefit are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

Story 1

Small Changes staff can speak fluent Gaeilge, Portuguese, Japanese and English offering customers from different cultures and backgrounds the opportunity to fully participate and enjoy the community atmosphere of Small Changes

Story 2

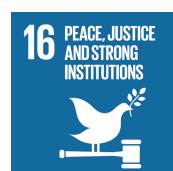
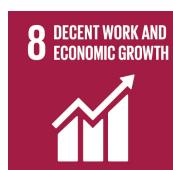
One of the staff in Small Changes also volunteers with FoodCloud, this resulted in connecting Small Changes with the local Liberties Soup Kitchen, where we now donate their surplus bread. We also donate our used coffee beans to the local Turvey Park project for their composting, and donate our surplus fruit to Cream of the Crop Gelato. If there is allot of surplus of a certain fruit or vegetable, sometimes our staff take it home and make jams and preserves to share with the staff team. We also act as a drop off point for a veggie box scheme, facilitating community supported agriculture. And individual growers using plots in the local allotments share their surplus with us in exchange for store credit

Story 3

We hope the store space can be used for community events in the future that will have the indirect impact of creating new support networks within communities.



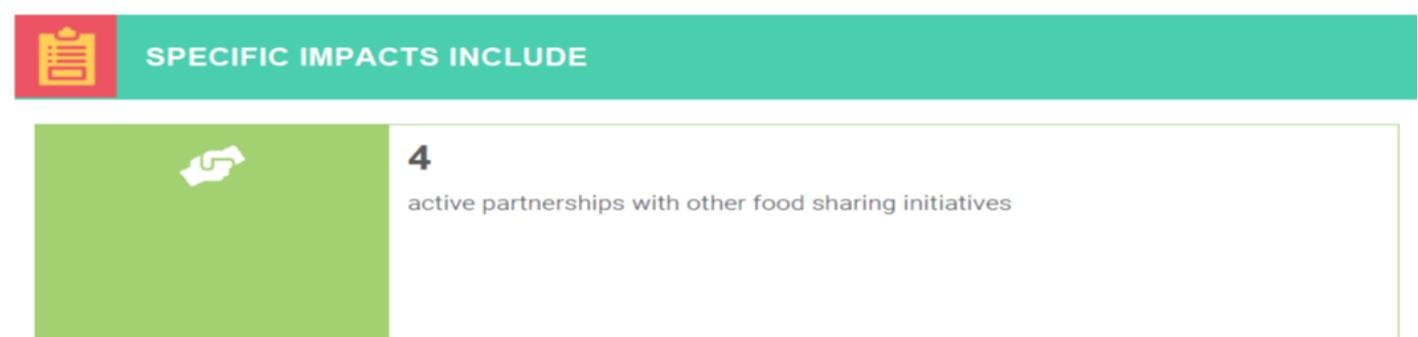
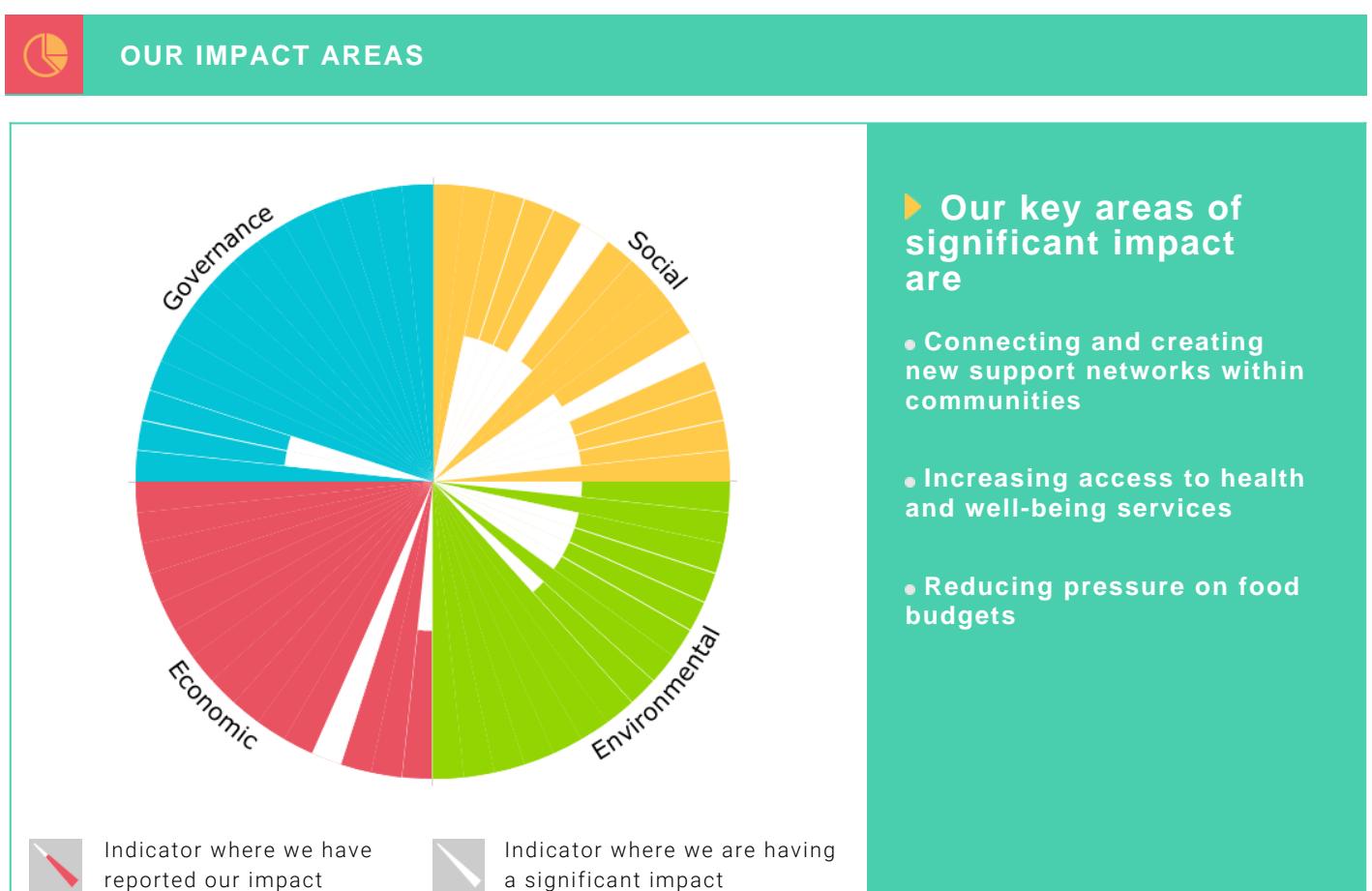
HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Sustainability Impact Summary

WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
<p>Name: St. Patrick's Cathedral</p> <p>Location: Dublin</p>	<p>Goals: We deliver community engagement projects through interagency collaboration and offering funding</p> <p>Activities: Shared Cooking/Eating, Redistribution, Educational</p>





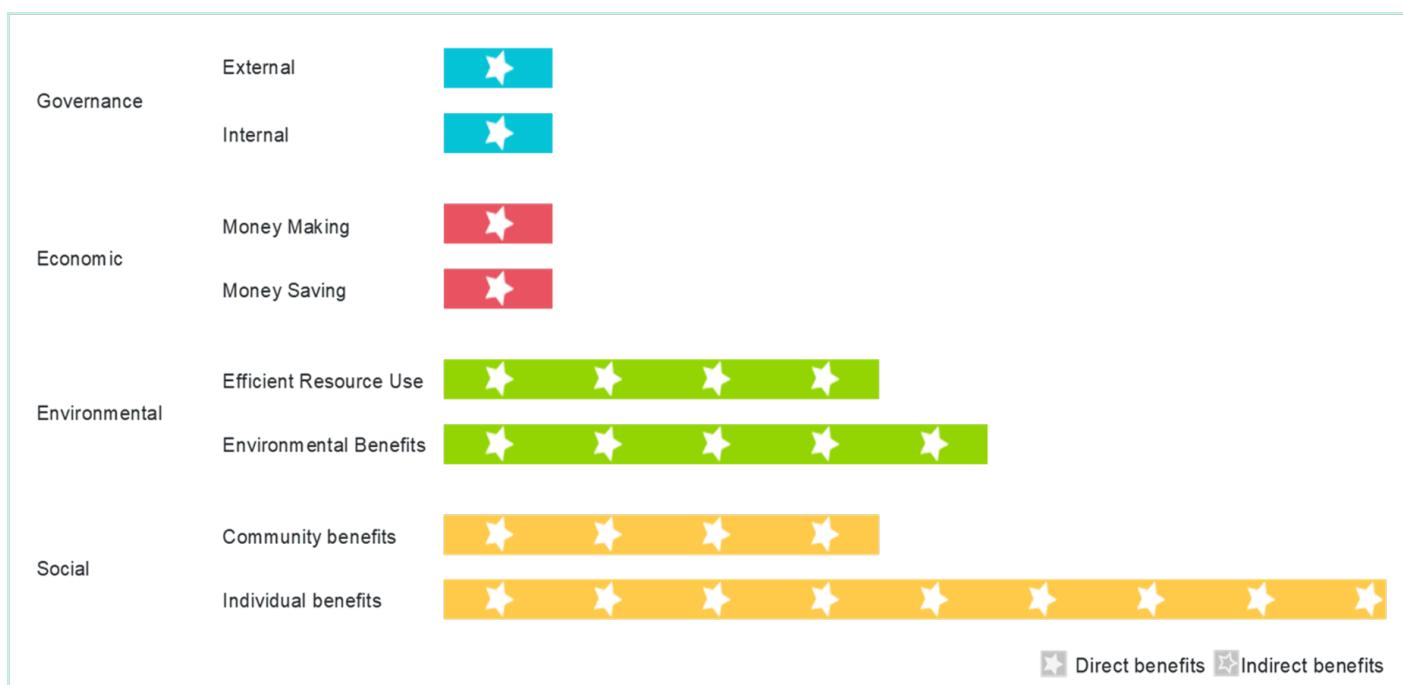
WHY WE SHARE FOOD

- 1** Our Community ethos can be summarised as 'LEAD' : Link and Liase; Engage and Enquire; Address and Act; Dream and Do
- 2** Our community faces challenges such as very low resilience to food insecurity and low awareness and access to support services
- 3** As part of the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Community and Charitable Fund, organisations must link their projects to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefit are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

Story 1

Inter agency collaboration is the foundation of our food sharing work. We offer annual funding opportunities for community projects that progress the sustainable development goals and may include food sharing. We have an account with FoodCloud to connect surplus food from supermarkets with local food using charities. We are also going to host a bee hive from Bee8. We are involved with youth boxing classes that include nutrition and cooking classes, and a local homeless hostel that has communal cooking and eating facilities and uses surplus food from supermarkets.

Story 2

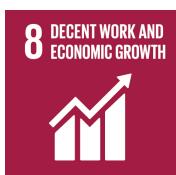
Connecting and creating new support networks within communities can happen within the wide variety of community events we do ourselves and as part of our inter agency collaboration. For example, in 2019, we partnered with the Maldron Hotel, along with members of the Cabbage Garden Inter-agency Group, to host an event for residents of the Cabbage Garden area. Inclusivity and community support are also key eligibility criteria for our annual community fund generated by monies from offertories, collections and other donations.

Story 3

As a community response to the environmental challenge that presents itself as the 'snake of our time' we commenced an initiative with the support of Dublin City Council to address the sheer volume of single use plastic consumed daily. Artist & lead facilitator, Annie Holland engaged young pupil in three locations in Dublin 8: Francis Street C.B.S., YMCA, Aungier Street & C.M.S. Learning Centre to collect the single use plastic they use daily and collectively build a large snake. Throughout the engagement the participants discussed and explored the issues related to the volumes of plastic, and how they can best address and reduce this kind of waste filling our oceans and landfill sites. Alongside this series of activity sessions, composer Eoghan Desmond created a piece of music to articulate the messages from the young people.



HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

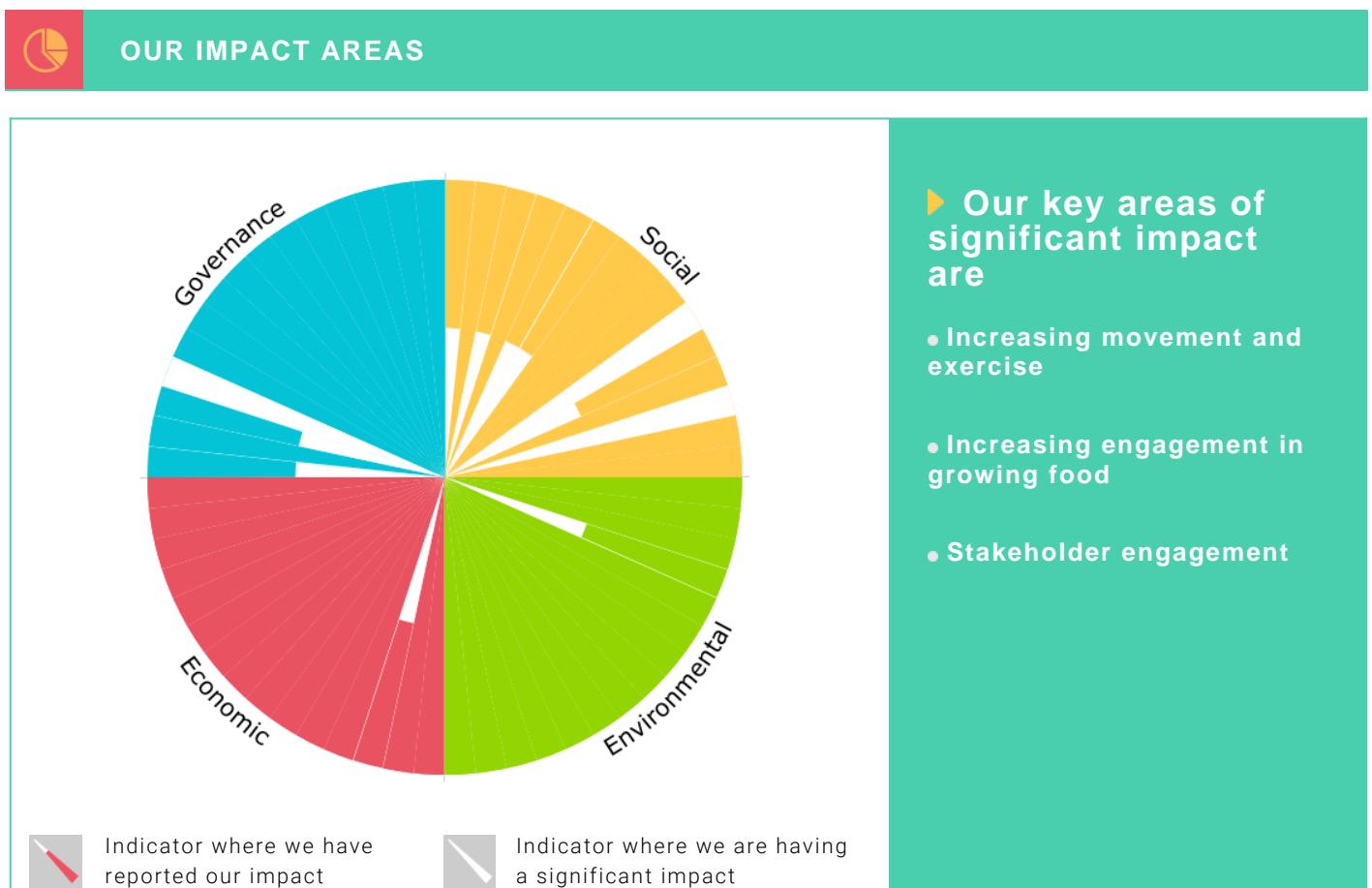




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Sustainability Impact Summary

WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
Name: DCC Allotments in Dublin 8	Goals: Our D8 allotment sites provide an amenity where members of the public can engage in cultivation
Location: Dublin	Activities: Growing Food



SPECIFIC IMPACTS INCLUDE
96 people use our facilities to grow food
3.8 tonnes of food we produced
700 m ² of land converted for growing food



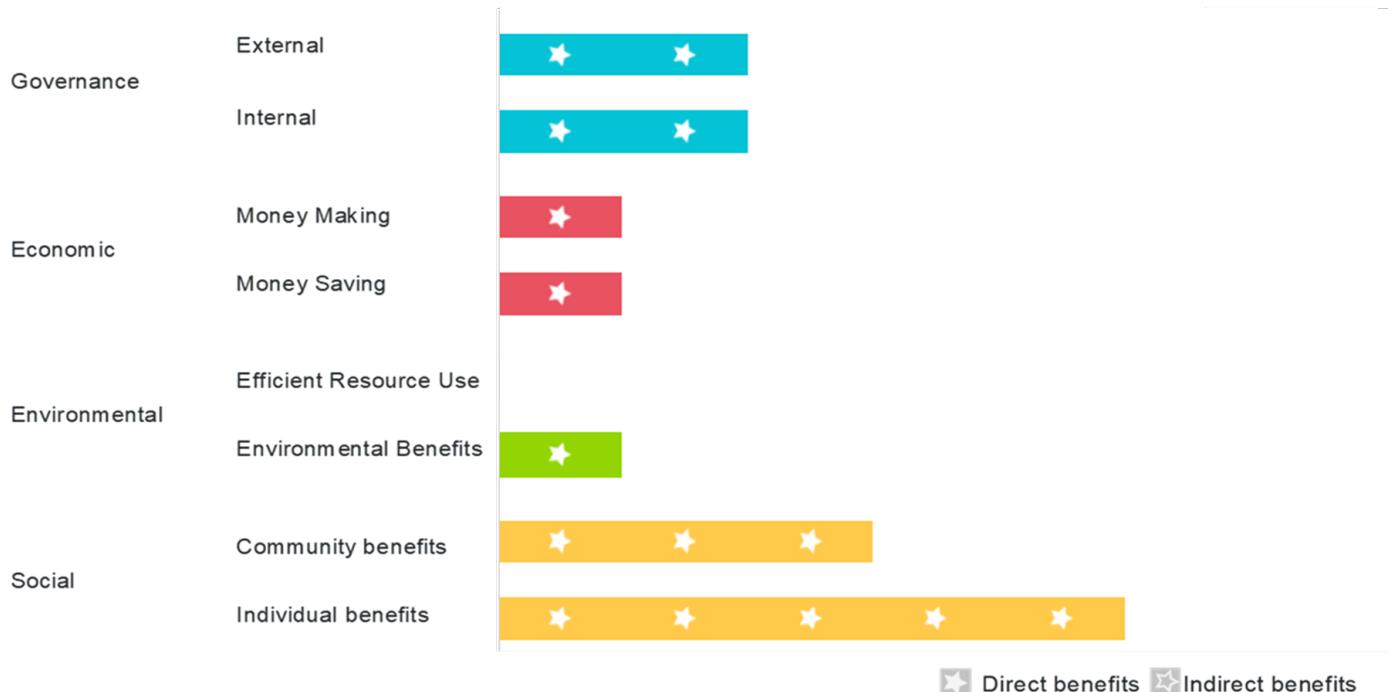
WHY WE SHARE FOOD

- 1** There are three DCC managed allotment spaces in D8 comprising of 96 plots in total. Plot sizes range from 10-40msq. These plots are used primarily by individual license holders.
- 2** The level of visible activity on an allotment site creates a window for passers-by to appreciate the evident enthusiasm of people engaged in cultivation in contrast to the urban backdrop of concrete.
- 3** From a bottom up level, most plot license holders do talk together while gardening, but there are no official top down community building activities organised as part of DCC's management.



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefit are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

Story 1

Some license holders bring their surplus produce to the local shop, Small Changes, and exchange it for store credit

Story 2

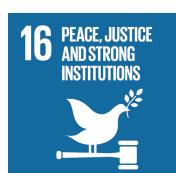
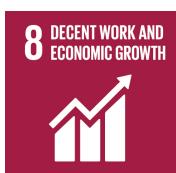
It is how much time is spent on the allotment by Allotment Growers (whether novice or expert - be it weeding, preparing the ground and rotating the plants or chatting to other Allotment Growers) that is the barometer of the optimisation of the access to and use of a plot, rather than how successful an individual is at producing the optimum volume of crops. we look to the optimum number of allotment growers spending as much time on their plots as possible to utilise the amenity rather than the volume of crops produced.

Story 3

Every license holder agrees to put in the hours of gardening activity to ensure the allotment area is weeded/hoed/dug/planted/cultivated/ fertilised according to DCC's standard cultivation and maintenance schedule, with ongoing inspections to ensure these activities take place.



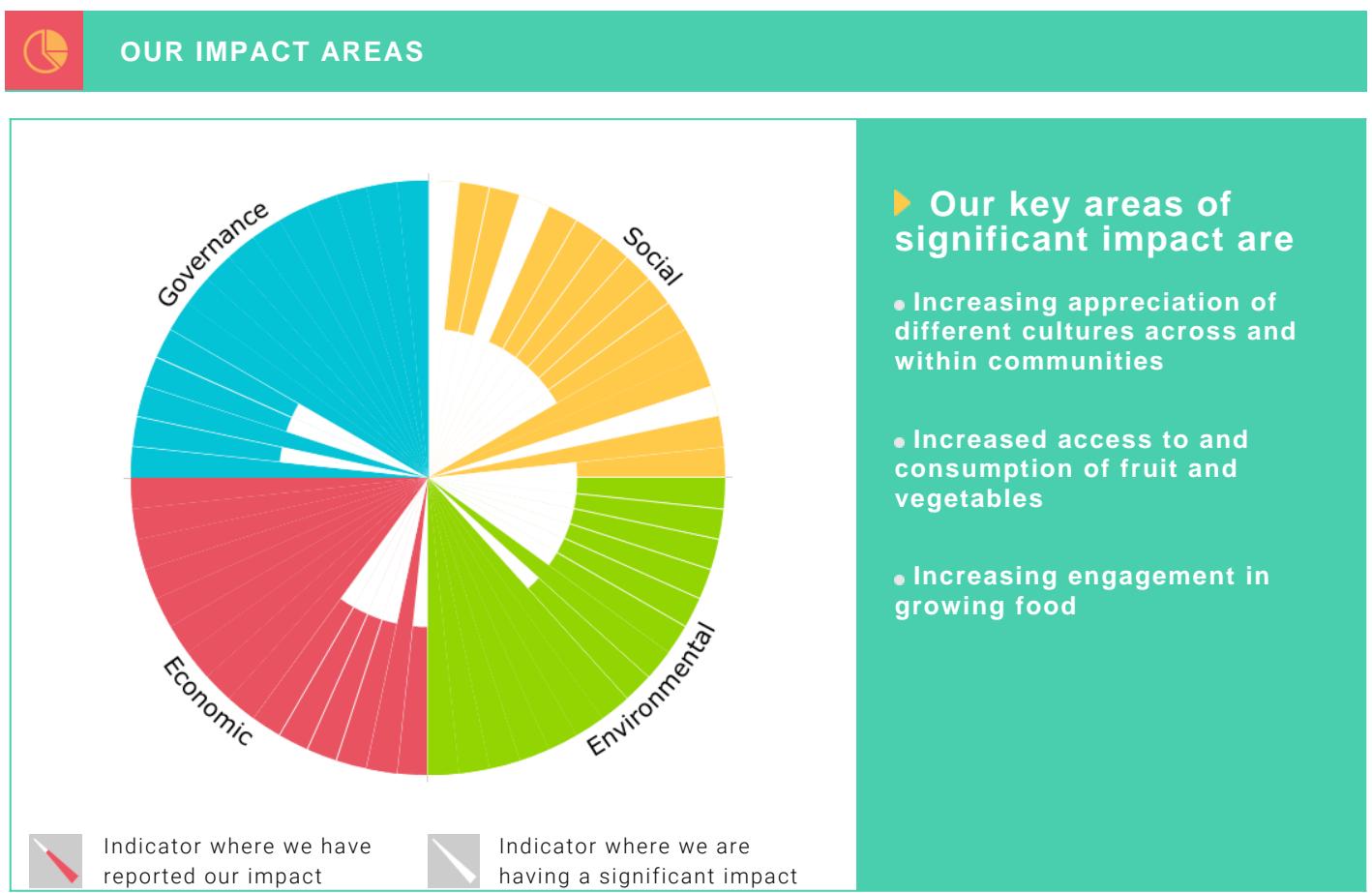
HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Sustainability Impact Summary

WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
Name: Flanagan's Field Community Garden	Goals: Gardening together is a way for people to have something to talk about and get to know each other
Location: Dublin	Activities: Growing Food, Educational



SPECIFIC IMPACTS INCLUDE	
70 people attended our events designed to increase community integration	7000 portions of fruit & vegetables distributed to participants
1.6 tonnes of food we produced	



WHY WE SHARE FOOD

1

Flanagans Field Community Garden has been run by the community since 2014; a great example of how community can benefit from the greening urban land, having become a living, collaborative site for experimentation, education and community gatherings

2

"Gardening together offers a way for people to have something to talk about and get to know each other. People bring us plants saying it was in their 'Great Aunt's garden' so we are inheriting plants from all over the local area"

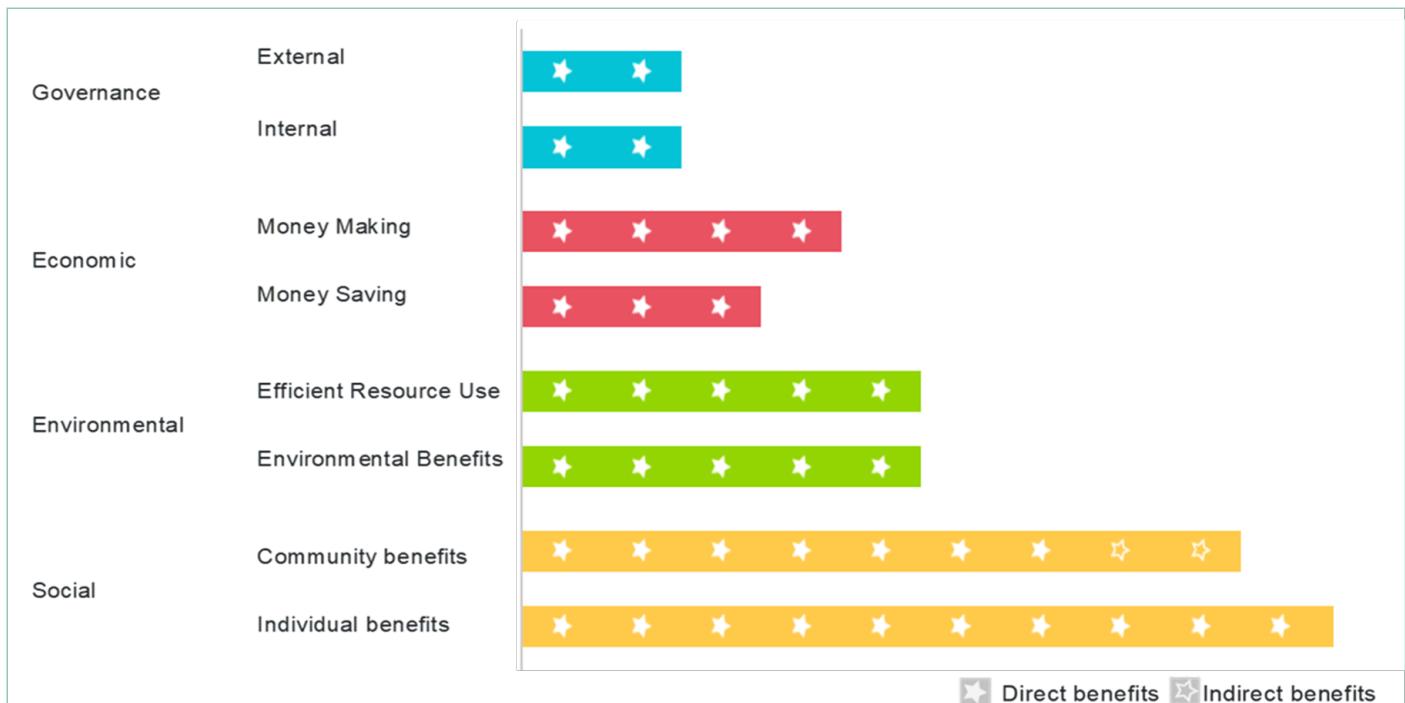
3

Our food harvest includes herbs, apples, strawberries, blackcurrants, raspberries, kale, rocket, cabbage, lettuce, sprouts, beans, peas, leeks, onions, artichokes and potatoes. A local weaver group also grows flax, and a local brewer grows hops



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefits are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

Story 1

Flanagan's Field is a community led space enjoyed by a happy band of gardeners drawn from the local community, including school children and pensioners as well as a rich mix of nationalities. One corner has a Zen garden where a statue of the Virgin Mary (a replacement for one that originally stood near the old flat complex) stands next to a Star of David and the Greek goddess Gaia's name picked out in Ogham script, all set against a backdrop representing a traditional Islamic garden. In the past, the community garden group held a Lá na Prátaí at which a local imam and the parish priest were present to bless the seed potatoes before they were planted (Irish Times Article).

Story 2

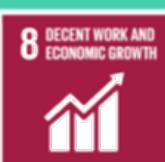
Many different groups benefit from using the community spaces or their own plots in Flanagan's Field to grow food, as well as many local individuals. Groups that use the space and collaborate with Flanagan's Field include EcoUnesco, Tús, local schools, Fatima Group, Inchicore College of further education, GIY, World Rugby, Volunteer Ireland, Dublin City Council, Parent and Toddler play groups, and many more. Niall O'Brien and the Flanagan's Field Growdome Project has become its own food sharing social enterprise, recognized at the Social Enterprise Awards in 2019, and now scaling out nationally from its pilot in Flanagan's Field

Story 3

Anyone from the local community can come into the garden and help themselves to the produce in the communal beds. We also have events where we share food made from produce in the garden, including the harvest festival and pizza parties. This gives people the opportunity to taste the food grown in their neighborhood, and make new connections and friendships. Communal food producing areas in Flanagan's field comprise about 900m², conservatively assuming a yield of about 3kg per m², that would be 700 portions of fruit and vegetables available to the local community- from our orchard, berry garden and vegetable beds. Additionally groups and individuals manage their own growing patches, which take up about 700m² of the garden. Assuming similar production rates, they are likely benefiting from about 580 portions of fruit and vegetables, cumulatively, a year. The innovative grow dome is designed to produce over 1000 lettuces per week all year round! This could achieve up to an additional 3000 portions of fresh leafy greens.

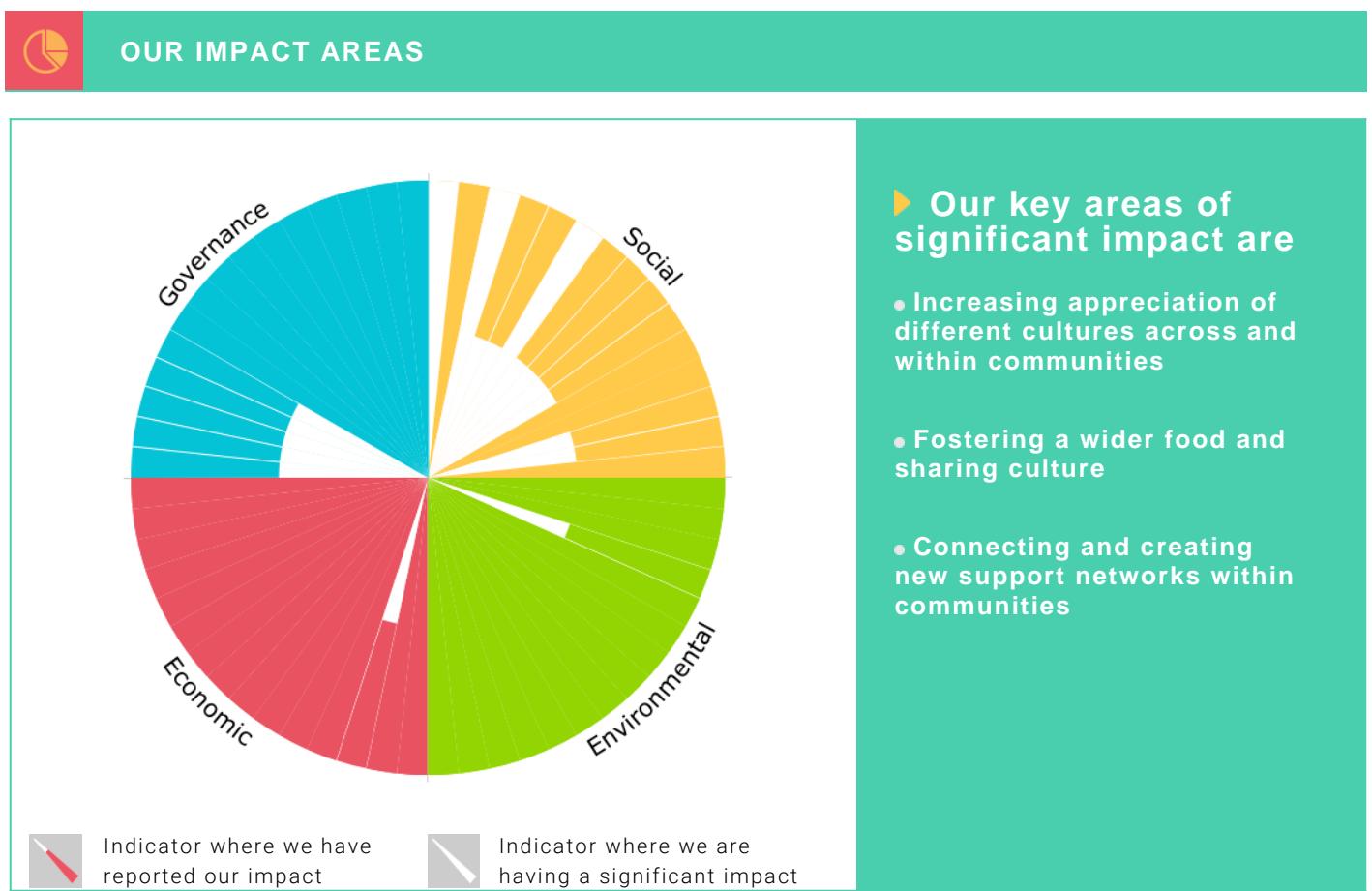


HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainability Impact Summary

WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
<p>Name: Informal Women's Gardening Group</p> <p>Location: Dublin</p>	<p>Goals: We grow food, garden and eat together, building friendship circles and learning about growing food.</p> <p>Activities: Growing Food, Shared Cooking/Eating</p>



SPECIFIC IMPACTS INCLUDE

	1 active partnerships with other food sharing initiatives		6 people have increased their support network due to our initiative		6 people shared meals at our events
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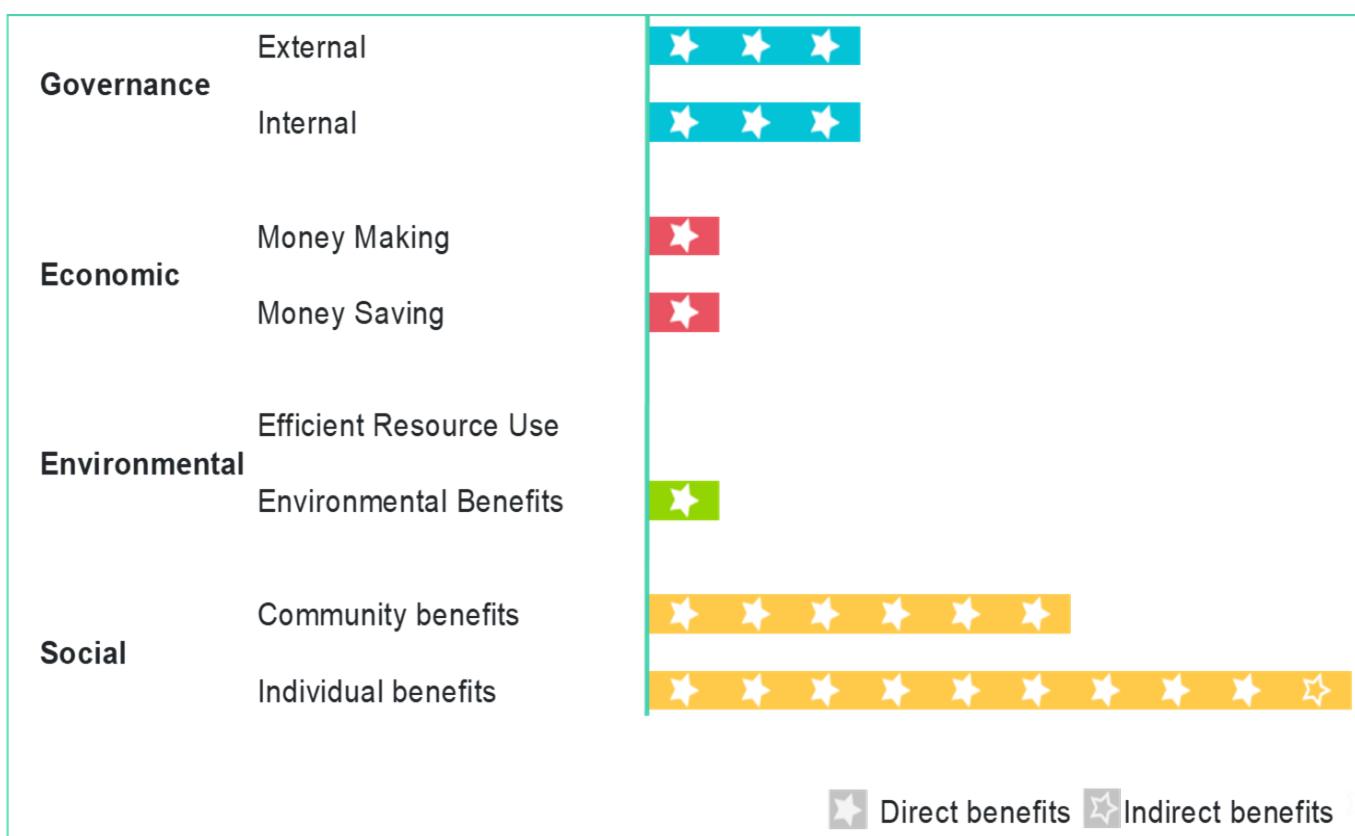
WHY WE SHARE FOOD

- 1** Our informal women's gardening social group, originally led by the local charity SWICN's community officer, is a lovely way of sharing food and learning about it and sharing company.
- 2** We lost the garden in Weaver Square (despite campaigning to save it) and have managed to stick together and grow food, garden and eat together in a new plot within the Dublin City Council allotments, 'Flanagans fields'.
- 3** In our plot these little acts of sharing and growing together are vital especially in an area with dwindling places to grow and the loss of green places and the decimation of what's left of the bits of the natural world.



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefits are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

- Story 1** Participants include women from Romania, Ukraine, North America, Italy and Ireland
- Story 2** Our members learn to grow food together and encourage each other by sharing knowledge, seeds, plants, tools and enjoying meals and eating together regularly
- Story 3** Our shared plot is a lovely way of sharing food and learning about it and sharing company.



HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

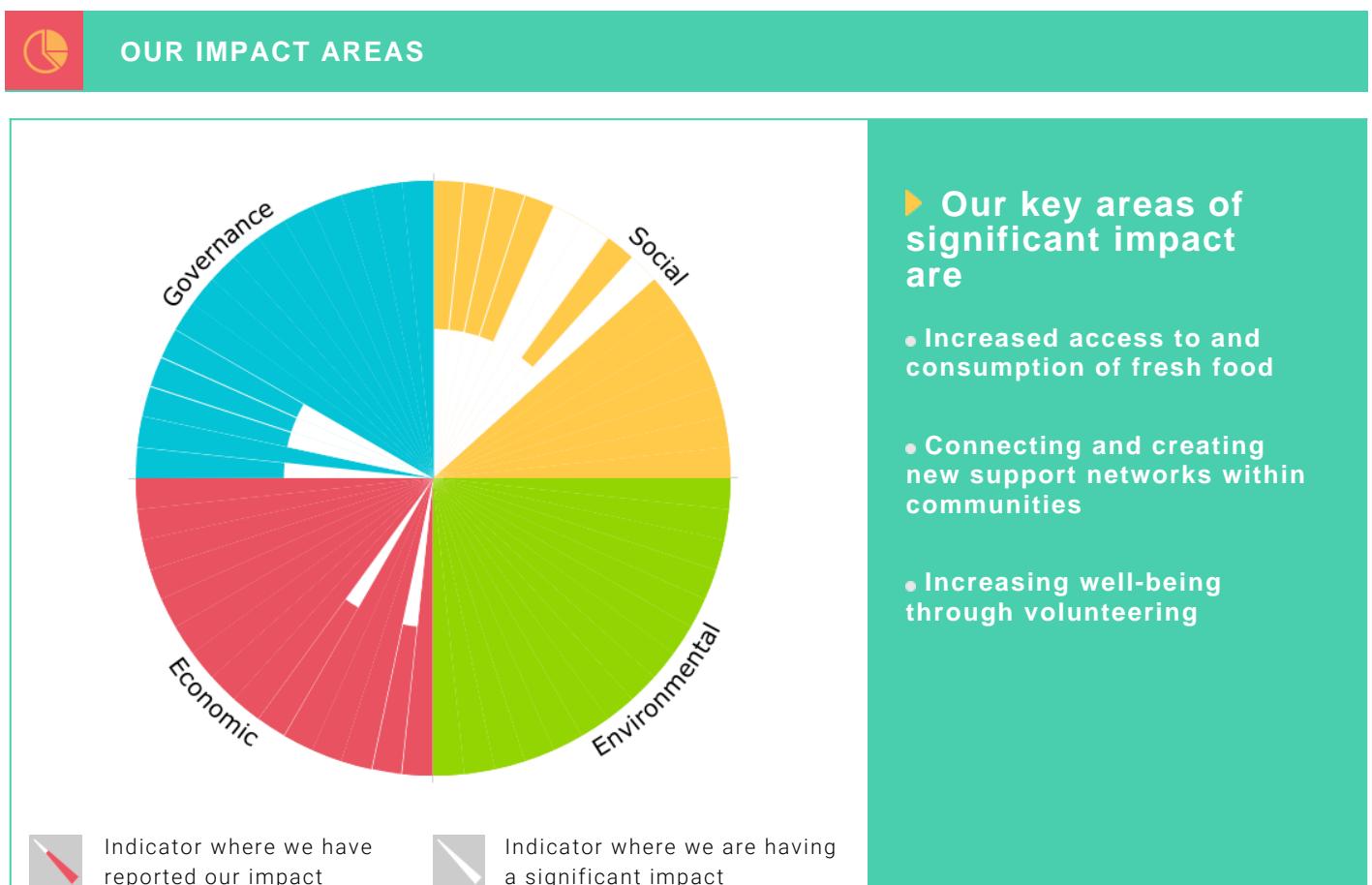


This summary report was built using the SHARE IT toolkit that formed part of the SHARECITY research project which was funded by the European Research Council. Grant Agreement No. 646883.

Sustainability Impact Summary



WHO WE ARE	GOALS AND ACTIVITIES
Name: Be Enriched	Goals: We aim to foster better relationships in local communities, reducing stigma and exclusion.
Location: London	Activities: Shared Cooking/Eating, Redistribution, Educational



SPECIFIC IMPACTS INCLUDE

	3092 participants showed increased appreciation of other groups in their community		15460 portions of fruit & vegetables distributed to participants		100 of our employees are paid >10% more than minimum wage
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WHY WE SHARE FOOD

- 1** The UK produces 6.6 million tonnes of household food waste a year (figures from WRAP), with around 30% of all food purchased wasted.
- 2** London is the loneliness capital of Europe
- 3** 8.4 million adults are at risk of food poverty everyday in the UK



BENEFITS FROM SHARING: OUR SHARESTARS

Food sharing can create multiple positive benefits from fostering social cohesion to reducing food waste. A summary of the areas where we benefit are shown in the graphic below based on the number of stars in each category.





SHARING IMPACT STORIES

Story 1

Our events are effective means to altering people's perceptions of who is homeless and why

Story 2

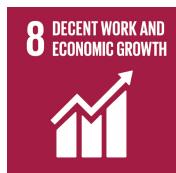
One of our former employees set up the Haslemere Kitchen, this follows our community canteen model. Haslemere was the first community cooking project in that area.

Story 3

Part of the Canteens project relates specifically to befriending and sharing experiences. In our annual survey socialising was given as top reason for people to attend and volunteer at our events. Be Enriched is a people focused food project.



HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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