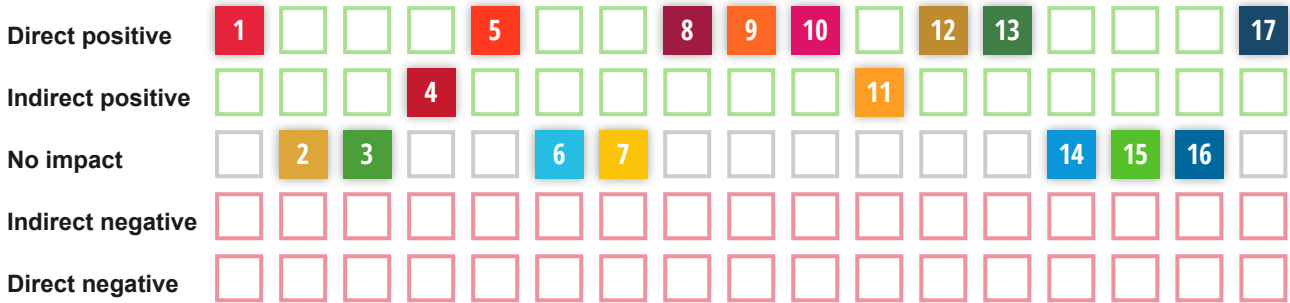




# Sugar on Top – Sustainable Fashion Design and Development Studio



Don't know - more knowledge needed

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## Description

Description: Sugar on Top is a small social enterprise from Bosnia and Herzegovina that specializes in sustainable fashion and textile product development. We focus on slow fashion principles, circular economy, and ethical production. Our work includes upcycling, zero-waste design, and the use of natural materials, while empowering women from marginalized communities through employment and skills development. Framing: Our studio bridges design, craftsmanship, and sustainability. We collaborate with independent designers and small brands to develop collections and products with a reduced environmental footprint. By integrating ethical practices from the very beginning of the design process, we create pieces that are thoughtful, durable, and made to close the loop in fashion. Scope: Design and development of small-batch collections and textile products Upcycling, and zero-waste production processes Use of deadstock and recycled materials Skills training and fair employment for women from marginalized groups Collaboration with local designers and companies seeking sustainable production solutions

## Strategic choices

These are the prioritised areas that we will take action on.

- Positive impacts we can strengthen even further
- Negative impacts we can eliminate or minimise
- Knowledge gaps we need to fill

## Strategy

At Sugar on Top, we prioritize actions that directly contribute to social empowerment, sustainable production, and local economic development. Key focus areas include: Empowering marginalized women through fair employment and skills training (SDG 1, 5, 8, 10) Promoting circular fashion practices such as upcycling, zero waste, and sustainable material use (SDG 12, 13) Building partnerships with local and international designers to strengthen the sustainable fashion ecosystem (SDG 17) Supporting innovation in local production infrastructure and traditional crafts (SDG 9) Strengthening Positive Impacts: We plan to deepen our impact by: Expanding training programs and capacity-building workshops for women and local designers to increase skill levels and economic opportunities. Scaling up recycling initiatives and integrating more traditional craft techniques into sustainable product lines. Enhancing collaboration with partners to share knowledge, resources, and jointly develop innovative solutions. Increasing awareness among consumers and stakeholders about responsible consumption and the value of ethical fashion. Filling Knowledge Gaps: To improve and scale our impact, we recognize the need to: Better measure and monitor social and environmental outcomes of our activities through data collection and impact assessment tools. Gain deeper insights into sustainable supply chain management and circular economy best practices. Understand market trends and consumer behavior related to sustainable fashion to better tailor our products and communication. Explore new technologies and methods for sustainable production, including energy efficiency. Through this strategy, Sugar on Top aims to continuously improve its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and become a leader in sustainable and ethical fashion in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Balkans.

## NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 1 – No Poverty. The company supports poverty reduction by providing fair employment opportunities and skills training for women from marginalized and vulnerable communities. By empowering these women economically and fostering sustainable livelihoods, Sugar on Top helps improve living standards and contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty in local areas.

## ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has no direct impact on SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, but may have an indirect positive effect. While the company’s core activities focus on sustainable fashion and social empowerment of women, it does not directly address food security or agricultural development. However, by providing fair employment and economic opportunities to marginalized women, Sugar on Top indirectly supports improved living standards, which can contribute to better access to food and overall well-being in local communities.

## GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top's main focus is on sustainable fashion and social empowerment. While the company promotes ethical working conditions that support the health and well-being of its employees, it does not directly engage in healthcare or public health initiatives.

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## QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

### Impact

**INDIRECT  
POSITIVE**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has an indirect positive impact on SDG 4 – Quality Education. Although the company is not primarily an educational institution, it contributes to quality education by providing skills training and capacity-building opportunities for women from marginalized communities. Through hands-on learning in sustainable fashion, ethical production, and craftsmanship, Sugar on Top helps participants develop valuable professional skills, enhancing their employability and lifelong learning prospects. Similarly, the company supports the education of local designers and businesses by sharing knowledge about sustainable practices, ethical production, and circular economy principles. This dual approach empowers individuals and strengthens the overall capacity of the local fashion ecosystem.

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## GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 5 – Gender Equality. The company actively employs and empowers women from marginalized communities, providing fair working conditions, skills development, and economic opportunities. By prioritizing female employment in rural and vulnerable groups, Sugar on Top contributes to reducing gender inequality and promoting women's participation in the workforce.

## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has no direct impact on SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, but strives to minimize indirect negative effects. While the company does not directly engage in water management or sanitation projects, it is committed to reducing water pollution and consumption through sustainable textile production practices. By using stock materials, using natural dyes, and implementing zero-waste principles, Sugar on Top helps limit water contamination and supports cleaner production processes. However, direct impact on water and sanitation access remains outside the company's current scope.

## AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has no direct impact on SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, but supports sustainable practices that can contribute indirectly. Although the company does not produce or supply energy, Sugar on Top promotes environmentally responsible production methods that minimize energy consumption and encourage the use of natural, low-impact materials. By focusing on small-scale, slow fashion and reducing waste, the company indirectly supports energy efficiency and a lower carbon footprint in the fashion supply chain. Direct involvement in clean energy initiatives, however, is currently beyond the scope of its activities.

## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

### Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth. The company creates fair employment opportunities for women from marginalized communities, ensuring ethical working conditions, fair pay, and continuous skills development. By building a sustainable production model in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sugar on Top challenges the traditional Lohn system and contributes to creating authentic local products instead of relying on imports. The studio supports the growth of local fashion by giving Bosnian designers access to ethical, small-scale production and opportunities to enter both local and international markets. In this way, Sugar on Top strengthens the local creative economy and promotes inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

# INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

## Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

## Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. The company develops innovative approaches to sustainable fashion by combining upcycling, zero-waste design, and small-scale ethical production. By creating a design and development studio in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sugar on Top contributes to building local production capacity in a country previously dominated by the lohn system. The studio provides infrastructure and expertise for local designers, enabling them to create high-quality products and access new markets. Through these efforts, Sugar on Top fosters innovation in the fashion industry and strengthens the local creative economy.

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# REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

## Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

## Motivation

Sugar on Top actively works to reduce social and economic inequalities by employing and empowering women from marginalized communities, offering fair wages, skills training, and opportunities for economic inclusion. The company's commitment to ethical practices helps address inequality within the fashion industry and local society.

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# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

## Impact

**INDIRECT POSITIVE**

## Motivation

Sugar on Top has an indirect positive impact on SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. While the company's core focus is on sustainable fashion production, it contributes to creating more resilient and inclusive local communities by promoting ethical employment and empowering marginalized women. Through supporting local designers and fostering circular economy practices, Sugar on Top helps reduce environmental impact and encourages sustainable consumption within urban and rural areas. Although not directly involved in urban planning or infrastructure, the company's work supports broader goals of sustainable and inclusive community development.

# RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION -- AND CONSUMPTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

## Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

## Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. The company is built on slow fashion principles, focusing on upcycling, zero-waste design, and the use of natural or leftover materials. Each year, Sugar on Top organizes a recycling initiative to transform production scraps into new products, which are then donated to promote awareness of responsible consumption. Currently, the company is developing a project that explores recycling through traditional crafts and handwork techniques to create new garments and textile products. By producing small-batch, ethically made items and empowering local designers to adopt circular practices, Sugar on Top actively reduces waste, extends the life of materials, and fosters more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

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## CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

## Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 13 – Climate Action. By prioritizing slow fashion, upcycling, and zero-waste production methods, Sugar on Top actively reduces the environmental footprint of its products. The company minimizes resource consumption and waste, contributing to lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with traditional textile manufacturing. Through promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness among designers and consumers, Sugar on Top supports climate action efforts aimed at mitigating the impact of the fashion industry on global warming.

## LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has no direct impact on SDG 14 – Life Below Water, but supports indirect positive effects. The company's sustainable production methods, including upcycling and zero-waste principles, help reduce textile waste and pollution that could otherwise end up in waterways and oceans. By minimizing the use of harmful chemicals and encouraging responsible consumption, Sugar on Top indirectly contributes to protecting marine ecosystems. However, direct activities related to marine conservation or waterway protection are outside the company's current scope.

## LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

While Sugar on Top focuses on sustainable fashion practices that reduce waste and encourage responsible use of natural materials, it does not directly engage in land conservation, biodiversity protection, or forest management. Its contribution to SDG 15 is indirect through promoting sustainable resource use and reducing environmental harm.

## PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG -- INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### Impact

**NO IMPACT**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has no direct impact on SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, but supports indirect positive effects. While the company does not engage directly in governance, justice, or institutional reform, its commitment to ethical production, fair employment, and empowerment of marginalized groups helps promote social inclusion and equity. By fostering transparent and fair business practices, Sugar on Top contributes indirectly to stronger, more just communities and institutions.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

### Impact

**DIRECT POSITIVE**

### Motivation

Sugar on Top has a direct positive impact on SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. The company actively collaborates with local designers, artisans, and enterprises to promote sustainable fashion and ethical production. By building strong partnerships, Sugar on Top facilitates knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and joint projects that support the circular economy and social empowerment. These collaborations strengthen the capacity of the local fashion ecosystem and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through collective action. Sugar on Top has the ambition to become a leader in sustainable and ethical fashion production in Bosnia and Herzegovina, setting a standard for innovation, social impact, and environmental responsibility.

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