

FSDS'S COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) TO UN GLOBAL COMPACT FROM 2016 TO 2024.

FONDATION SAINT DOMINIQUE SAVIO (FSDS)



P.O.BOX :1528 Kigali-Rwanda
Sector: Remera Sector, AVE KG 17,
District: Gasabo, Kigali City, **Telephone:** +2507 88 564 259
E-mail : fsdsrwanda@fsds.org.rw
fondationsaintdominiquesavio@gmail.com
Website: www.fsds.org.rw

Date: Kigali, November 1st ,2024.

H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017 USA

SUBJECT: CoE Submission Letter

Your Excellency UN Secretary General,

I am writing to formally submit our organization Communication on Engagement (CoE) to the principles of the UN Global Compact from 2016 to 2024. We have been proud to align our business practices with the ten principles encompassing human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

Since our initial commitment, we have made significant strides in integrating these principles into our operations and corporate culture mainly in implementing the SDGs 4,13,16 and 17 as was indicated in our Commitment Letter. We believe that sustainable and ethical business practices are essential not only for our success but also for the well-being of communities and the planet.

We have implemented various initiatives aimed at reducing our environmental footprint, promoting fair labor practices, and enhancing our commitment to human rights. As we move forward, we will continue to seek new opportunities to innovate and lead in sustainable practices.

We recognize that our journey is ongoing, and we are committed to transparency and accountability in our efforts. We look forward to collaborating with the UN Global Compact and other signatories to further advance our shared goals. In attachment, the CoE executive narrative report for your kind appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains the text "FONDATION ST. DOMINIQUE SAVIO" around the top edge and "SERVICE - DIGNITE" around the bottom edge. In the center of the stamp, there is a small logo and the text "BP 1520 Kigali".

Name: Patrice NSENGIYUMVA

Title: FSDS Founder & Executive Director.

ANNEX: FSDS' S COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) SUBMISSION TO UNGC FROM 2016 TO 2024.

1. FSDS -RWANDA BRIEF DESCRIPTION

- **DEFINITION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK:** FSDS is a Non-Profit Making and Non-State Business Humanitarian Organization created in the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda and operating under Legal Personality delivered by the Republic of Rwanda with registration number 043/2014/RGB/LP/6/2014 at Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) and his Taxes Identification Number 105349389 at Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA).
- **VISION:** "Becoming a well-known humanitarian organization that transforming lives through integrated education, humanitarian aid, and environmental stewardship, fostering resilient communities that uphold peace, equity, and sustainability for future generations."
- **MISSION:** FSDS's mission is about: "Working for a Peaceful and a Just World for Human Dignity."
- **OBJECTIVES:** FSDS aims at (a) Promotion of education for all, (b) Promotion of Humanitarian and Community-Based Services, (c) Promotion of Renewable Energy, Environmental Protection and Safeguarding as well as (d) Promotion of Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for equitable peace justice and sustainable development for all.
- **AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP:** FSDS is affiliated and registered under United Nations Global Compact Platform as a Non-State Business Company since 2015 and Member of Rwanda Civil Society Organization Platform.
- **AREAS OF INTERVENTION:** FSDS operates mainly in Rwanda especially in urban and rural areas especially into schools, refugees' camps, prisons and other Based Organized communities 'groups.
- **FSDS'S MEMBERS:** According to the Article 5 of FSDS's Constitution, the Organization's membership is composed by the Founder Member, Adherent and honor members working under Board of Directors elected by the National General Assembly. The FSDS Organization has different categories of staff including permanent staff, part-time, consultants, volunteers and casual staff. The Country Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day organizational management at the country level and works under supervision of the FSDS- Board of Directors (BoD).
- **KEY FUNDING PARTNERS:** The main previous and current funding agencies and partners of FSDS among are the United Nations Agencies in Rwanda mainly them: UNHCR, UNDP, UNESCO, WFP, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNFCCC, etc., and development partners namely DDC- Regional Bureau of Swiss Cooperation, TROCAIRE- Ireland, Department for International Development (DFID) and Government of Rwanda identified Institutions as partners. The new FSDS Country Operation Plan for the period 2025-2030, and its annually average budget within the proposed period of 5 years at national level is estimated around between one and five million US Dollars.

2. FSDS'S COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) EXECUTIVE NARRATIVE REPORT.

Communication on Engagement is a crucial framework for organizations committed to the principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC). It serves as a platform for companies to report on their progress, strategies, and challenges in aligning their operations with the UNGC's ten principles, which focus on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

From 2016 to 2024, our organization FSDS has made significant strides in implementing humanitarian activities, sustainable practices and enhancing transparency. This period has seen our commitment evolve through various initiatives aimed at integrating sustainability into our core business strategies.

The present CoE submission during this timeframe reflects our journey towards greater accountability and impact. Each report provides insights into our sustainability goals, achievements, and the lessons learned along the way. Additionally, we recognize the importance of constructive feedback and aim to use it to drive continuous improvement.

Despite facing challenges, including the lapse in submission in December 2018, we have implemented corrective measures to strengthen our processes. This CoE ensures that our future engagements with the UNGC are timely and meaningful, reinforcing our dedication to corporate responsibility and sustainable development.

In the following sections, we will outline our CoE submission over the past years, highlighting key achievements, areas for improvement, and our renewed commitment to the principles of the UN Global Compact.

2.1. FSDS's Efforts Related to the implementation of SDG 4: Inclusive and equitable quality education.

At Fondation Saint Dominique Savio, we are dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Our initiatives focused on creating accessible educational pathways, fostering an inclusive learning environment, and empowering students to reach their full potential.

Key Achievements, Initiatives and Efforts:

1. **Access to Quality Education:** We have implemented Eco-Schools into 26 schools around refugees' camps programs that provide skills and knowledge and resources for underprivileged students and teachers, ensuring that ecological barriers do not hinder their access to quality education. Our outreach efforts continue to target marginalized communities including refugees' children and to promote their enrollment and retention in schools.
2. **Teacher Training and Development:** Recognizing that quality education is largely dependent on effective teaching, we invest in professional development programs for educators. These initiatives enhanced teaching methodologies, integrated modern pedagogical practices, and promoted inclusive education strategies.
3. **Curriculum Enhancement:** We actively work to improve and diversify educational curricula to include relevant skills and knowledge that prepare students for the future job market. This includes integrating STEM education, digital literacy, and life skills training into our programs.



FSDS has implemented Eco-schools in 126 schools in the context of Innovation for Education to enhance environment education for sustainable development in Rwanda (Photo 2016 at Paysanat L- in Mahama, Kirehe District).

4. **Inclusive Learning Environments:** Our commitment to inclusivity extends to creating supportive learning environments for students with disabilities and other marginalized groups. We provide tailored resources and accommodations to ensure that all students can thrive academically.
5. **Community Engagement and Partnerships:** We collaborate with local communities, governments, and organizations to promote awareness of the importance of education. Through workshops and community events, we engage stakeholders in dialogue about educational challenges and solutions.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** To measure the impact of our initiatives, we regularly assess educational outcomes and gather feedback from students, parents, and educators. This data-driven approach allows us to refine our strategies and enhance the effectiveness of our programs.
7. **Advocacy for Policy Change:** Fondation Saint Dominique Savio actively advocates for policies that support equitable access to education at the local and national levels. We work to influence decision-makers to prioritize educational reforms that align with SDG 4.

Through these efforts, FSDS is committed to making a significant impact on achieving SDG 4. We believe that every child deserves access to quality education and the opportunity to learn and grow. As we continue to implement and expand our initiatives, we remain dedicated to fostering an inclusive educational landscape that empowers individuals and transforms communities.

2.2. FSDS's efforts related to the implementation of SDG 13: Climate change.

a) Operation context:

Project title:	Improving the refugees 'wellbeing through Environmental Community Based Initiatives "ECOBI".
Budget Year:	2016-2018
Situation(s):	1900,1137
Operation:	RWA ABC
Population Planning Group(s):	1RWAC Refugee in camps
Goal(s):	Emergency Response and Mixed Solutions
Cost Centre(s):	13081
Partner Code:	1223058
Submitting Partner Name:	FONDATION SAINT DOMINIQUE SAVIO (FSDS)

- b) **Projects implemented overview:** In the sector of energy and environmental management, FSDS responded partially to the needs of refugees by improving waste management and briquettes production capacity, supplying electricity with renewable energy in public places, latrines and main streets. The former activity has been piloted in Mahama and Kiziba refugee camps. Also, forest protection and trees planting have been extended in all camps. Today, there are reforestation activities on-going in all camps including establishment of tree nurseries in each camp. FSDS in close collaboration with UNHCR, MIDIMAR and local authorities identified together locations and types of trees to be planted and these would normally be around agriculture areas. Agro-forestry trees and a variety of vegetables have been also introduced into the camps and schools to reduce malnutrition issues and for a balanced diet for refugees.



FSDS has established permanent nursery beds for its periodical tree planting campaigns since 2016.

As so far as the project's population of concern is concerned, at the end of 2017, the total number of refugees living in all camps in Rwanda was estimated to 168,184. The five Congolese refugee camps (Nyabiheke, Gihembe, Kiziba, Kigeme and Mugombwa) are hosting 74,086 refugees most of whom came from neighboring North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Orientale Provinces in DRC; while Mahama camp which hosts around 80,000 non-urban Burundian refugees. All residents of those camps except those in urban areas have directly benefited from the FSDS' environmental management and protection programs implemented.

c) Demographic Data

The following tables provide the demographic data that were proposed in the Project Description both for Burundians and Congolese refugees:

1. Emergency Response

Population Planning Group:		Mahama Camp Refugee Population				
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %
0-4	5186	10%	4904	9%	10090	19%
5-17	8820	17%	8417	16%	17237	33%
18-59	12335	23%	11790	22%	24125	46%
60 and >	417	1%	765	1%	1182	2%
Total:	26,758	51%	25,876	49%	52,634	100%

Source: end of Dec UNHCR Fact sheet

2. Mixed solution

Population Planning Group:			Refugees in camp			
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %	in numbers	in %
0-4	5216	7%	5176	7%	10392	14%
5-17	13,668	19%	14,134	19%	27,802	38%
18-59	12,696	17%	19,092	26%	31,788	43%
60 and >	1,285	2%	1,880	3%	3,165	4%
Total:	32,865	45%	40,282	55%	73,147	100%
Major Sites:	Gihembe, Nyabiheke, Kiziba, Kigeme and Mugombwa.					

3. Other Supported Entities

The ECOBI project has supported all the schools which are hosting refugees' pupils and students in terms of greening and beautification, environmental education through environmental clubs. Those schools are Paysanat L in Mahama, GS Nyabiheke School in Nyabiheke, GS Kageyo, PS Gacurabwenge in Gihembe, PS Gasaka and Kigeme B secondary schools in Kigeme, GS Mugombwa, Rushaki Primary school and ECD Mugombwa in Mugombwa refugee camp, EP UMUBANO and College AMAHORO in Kiziba.

4. Implementation Arrangements

- Environmental mainstreaming by greening and beautification into the camps and schools around camps has been supported and the enforcement of the environmental protection by the national legislation produced its effects not only in host communities but also into camps. At camps and schools' level, environmental clubs have been created and environmental education for natural resources and biodiversity protection is regularly disseminated among refugees and host communities.
- Akagera River, its marshlands in Mahama and MIRAYI Lake in Bugesera have been protected from water pollution by extending bamboos plantation around these areas. For other camps, the existing drainage system directs all the wastewater down the slopes into the lower lands (agriculture areas, residential areas of host communities) without any treatment, which poses certain environmental threats and peacefully coexistence problems.
- In Mahama, ecological model villages to engage more effectively and efficiently refugees in camp environmental management and protection issues has been initiated and the model village is seen as one of durable driver solutions of change. Setting up ecological model village activity consist on putting together a certain number of households between 20-30, fencing their areas meanly with flowers or passion fruits, equipping them with kitchen gardens, water harvesting system, public lights and other environmentally friendly energy equipment and organize elections of authorities for each village referring in home grown solutions in host communities. These model villages reduce not only environmental

challenges but also engage refugees in daily camp management; build their ownership over camps infrastructures, increase their resilience and other based initiatives like tackling children school dropouts, family SGBV, health and sanitation issues and increase refugees' participation in all camps activities.

At FSDS, we recognize the critical importance of addressing climate change and its impacts, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13). Our efforts focus on promoting climate action, enhancing community resilience, and fostering sustainable practices.

Key Initiatives and Efforts:

1. **Climate Education and Awareness:** We conduct workshops and training programs to educate students and communities about climate change, its effects, and the importance of sustainable practices. Our curriculum includes topics such as environmental stewardship, renewable energy, and conservation strategies.
2. **Sustainable Practices in Education:** Our educational institutions implement eco-friendly practices, such as waste reduction, recycling programs, and energy conservation measures. We encourage students to participate in sustainability initiatives, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.



Briquettes unit was operationalized in Mahama refugee camp since 2017.

3. **Community Resilience Projects:** We engage with local communities to develop projects aimed at enhancing resilience to climate impacts. This includes creating community gardens, promoting sustainable agriculture, and implementing water conservation techniques.

4. **Partnerships for Climate Action:** We collaborate with local governments, NGOs, and other organizations to address climate change collectively. Through these partnerships, we work on initiatives that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development.



Improved cooking stove initiated and disseminated in rural villages by FSDS

5. **Advocacy and Policy Engagement:** Fondation Saint Dominique Savio advocates for policies that address climate change at the local and national levels. We work to raise awareness among policymakers about the importance of climate action and the need for sustainable practices in education and community development.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** We assess the impact of our climate-related initiatives through regular monitoring and evaluation. By collecting data on our programs' effectiveness, we can refine our strategies and ensure that we are making meaningful progress toward SDG 13.

7. **Promoting Renewable Energy:** We explore opportunities to incorporate renewable energy sources into our facilities, reducing our carbon footprint and serving as a model for sustainable energy use within the community.



Public lights with solar renewable energy installed in Mahama and Kiziba refugees 'camps (photo taken 2018).

Through these initiatives, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio is committed to advancing SDG 13 and taking meaningful action against climate change. We believe that education plays a vital role in creating a sustainable future, and we strive to empower individuals and communities to take action for a healthier planet. As we continue to develop and implement our programs, we remain dedicated to fostering resilience and promoting sustainable practices for future generations.

2.3. FSDS's efforts related to the implementation of SDG 16: access to justice, and building effective, accountable institutions

FSDS is deeply committed to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensuring access to justice, and building effective, accountable institutions, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). Our initiatives focus on fostering social cohesion, empowering communities, and advocating for human rights.

Key initiatives and efforts:

1. **Promoting Peace and Tolerance:** We conduct programs that promote dialogue and understanding among diverse community groups. Through workshops, community events, and cultural exchanges, we aim to foster a culture of peace and tolerance.
2. **Access to Justice:** We work to raise awareness about legal rights and access to justice for marginalized populations. Our initiatives include providing legal education and resources, as well as connecting individuals with legal aid services.

3. **Empowerment through Education:** We incorporate lessons on human rights, civic responsibility, and governance into our educational programs. By educating students about their rights and responsibilities, we empower them to become active and informed citizens.
4. **Youth Engagement and Leadership:** We focus on empowering youth by providing leadership training and opportunities for civic engagement. Our programs encourage young people to participate in decision-making processes within their communities.
5. **Community Policing and Safety Initiatives:** In collaboration with local law enforcement, we promote community policing initiatives that build trust between law enforcement and communities. These programs aim to enhance public safety while ensuring that community voices are heard.



Community policing is implemented through community engagement meetings.

6. **Advocacy for Human Rights:** Fondation Saint Dominique Savio actively advocates for the protection of human rights within our communities. We partner with local and national organizations to address human rights violations and promote policies that safeguard individual freedoms.
7. **Monitoring and Accountability:** We emphasize the importance of transparency and accountability in governance. Our initiatives include training community members to monitor local government actions and hold authorities accountable for their commitments to justice and equality.

Through these efforts, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio is dedicated to advancing SDG 16 and creating a more just and peaceful society. We believe that inclusive governance, respect for human rights, and community engagement are essential for sustainable development. As we continue to implement our programs, we remain committed to fostering an environment where everyone can thrive in peace and security.

2.4. FSDS's efforts related to the implementation of SDG 17: Partnership for Goals.

At Fondation Saint Dominique Savio, we recognize that partnerships are essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17), which focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Our commitment to collaboration and partnership is reflected in our diverse initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

Key Initiatives and efforts:

1. **Building Strategic Partnerships:** We actively seek partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and private sector organizations to leverage resources and expertise. By working together, we enhance our collective impact on community development and sustainability.
2. **Collaborative Projects:** Our foundation engages in collaborative projects that address specific community needs, such as education, health, and environmental sustainability. These projects are designed to pool resources and knowledge for maximum effectiveness.
3. **Capacity Building:** We invest in capacity-building programs that empower local organizations and community members. By providing training and support, we enhance the ability of partners to implement sustainable practices and initiatives.
4. **Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices:** We facilitate forums and workshops that promote knowledge sharing among stakeholders. By exchanging best practices and lessons learned, we foster innovation and continuous improvement in our initiatives.
5. **Advocacy for Policy Coherence:** Fondation Saint Dominique Savio advocates for policies that promote collaboration across sectors and align with the SDGs. We engage with policymakers to ensure that development efforts are coordinated and mutually reinforcing.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** We implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of our partnerships and initiatives. By measuring outcomes, we ensure accountability and identify areas for improvement.
7. **Community Engagement:** We prioritize community involvement in all our projects, ensuring that local voices are heard and that initiatives are aligned with community needs and aspirations. This approach strengthens our partnerships and enhances the sustainability of our efforts.

Through these initiatives, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio is committed to advancing SDG 17 and fostering effective partnerships for sustainable development. We believe that collaboration is key to addressing complex global challenges and achieving lasting positive change. As we continue to build and strengthen our partnerships, we remain dedicated to creating a sustainable future for all.

3. CHALLENGES FACED IN IMPLEMENTING SDGS 4, 13, 16, AND 17 (2016-2024)

The period from 2016 to 2024 has been marked by both significant efforts and notable challenges for Fondation Saint Dominique Savio in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 13, 16, and 17. These challenges have highlighted the complexities of driving sustainable development in a rapidly changing environment.

3.1. SDG 4: Quality Education

One of the primary challenges in advancing SDG 4—ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education—has been addressing the diverse needs of marginalized communities. Many students from low-income

families lack access to essential resources, such as textbooks and technology. This inequality has been exacerbated by socioeconomic disparities, making it difficult to create an inclusive educational environment.

Additionally, teacher shortages and inadequate training hinder the delivery of quality education. Efforts to train educators in modern pedagogical methods have often faced logistical and funding constraints, limiting our ability to provide comprehensive professional development. The COVID-19 pandemic further disrupted educational continuity, leading to learning losses that disproportionately affected vulnerable students.

3.2. SDG 13: Climate Action

In implementing SDG 13, focused on combating climate change, we encountered significant challenges related to community engagement and awareness. While there is growing recognition of climate issues, mobilizing communities to participate actively in climate action has proven difficult. Many individuals remain skeptical about the impacts of climate change or feel overwhelmed by the scale of the problem.

Additionally, securing funding for climate initiatives has been a persistent challenge. While there is a wealth of information on sustainable practices, translating this into actionable projects requires resources that are not always readily available. Furthermore, integrating climate education into existing curricula has faced resistance due to traditional educational priorities.

3.3. SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Advancing SDG 16 has posed unique challenges, particularly in promoting peace and justice in communities. We have observed that underlying issues such as social unrest, inequality, and systemic discrimination can undermine efforts to foster inclusive societies. Building trust between communities and law enforcement has been particularly challenging in regions with a history of conflict or distrust.

Additionally, advocacy for human rights has encountered pushback in certain contexts, where local political environments are less supportive of civil society initiatives. The complexity of navigating these dynamics has made it difficult to implement programs effectively and to ensure that marginalized voices are included in discussions about justice and governance.

3.4. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Implementing SDG 17 has highlighted the difficulties of forming and maintaining effective partnerships. While collaboration is essential for achieving sustainable development, aligning the interests and goals of diverse stakeholders can be complex. Differing priorities, communication barriers, and resource constraints often hinder collaborative efforts.

Moreover, coordinating initiatives across sectors—government, private, and civil society—requires significant time and effort. The challenge of ensuring that all partners are equally engaged and that their contributions are valued can lead to frustration and disengagement.

In summary, while Fondation Saint Dominique Savio has made significant strides in addressing SDGs 4, 13, 16, and 17, the challenges faced during this period have underscored the complexities of sustainable development. Addressing socioeconomic disparities, engaging communities in climate action, fostering trust in justice systems, and cultivating effective partnerships remain ongoing priorities. As we move forward, we are committed to learning from these challenges and adapting our strategies to enhance our impact in these critical areas.

4. LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTING SDGS 4, 13, 16, AND 17

As we reflect on our journey from 2016 to 2024 in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 13, 16, and 17, several key lessons have emerged that can guide future efforts and inform our Communication on Engagement (CoE):

4.1. Emphasizing Inclusivity and Equity (SDG 4)

One of the most important lessons learned in promoting quality education is the need for a strong focus on inclusivity and equity. Tailoring educational programs to meet the specific needs of marginalized groups is crucial. Engaging with communities to understand their challenges allows us to design interventions that are relevant and effective. Building partnerships with local organizations also enhances outreach and support for underrepresented students.

4.2. Community Engagement is Key (SDG 13)

Effective climate action hinges on robust community engagement. We learned that raising awareness about climate issues is not enough; active participation is essential. Creating opportunities for community members to engage in hands-on activities—such as tree planting or clean-up drives—fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility. Additionally, integrating climate education into local contexts makes it more relatable and actionable.

4.3. Building Trust and Transparency (SDG 16)

In advancing peace, justice, and strong institutions, we found that building trust within communities is foundational. Establishing transparent processes and encouraging open dialogue between community members and institutions helps to foster cooperation and resolve conflicts. Engaging youth and marginalized voices in discussions about governance and justice is essential for creating inclusive systems that reflect the needs of all community members.

4.4. The Power of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (SDG 17)

Collaboration across sectors has proven to be immensely beneficial. We learned that forming multi-stakeholder partnerships—encompassing government, civil society, and the private sector—can amplify impact and resource mobilization. Clear communication, shared objectives, and mutual respect among partners are vital to ensure that all voices are heard and that efforts are aligned towards common goals.

4.5. Adaptability and Resilience

The challenges faced, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, underscored the importance of adaptability. Our ability to pivot quickly—shifting from in-person engagement to online platforms for education and outreach—demonstrated the need for resilience in our strategies. Continuously assessing and adjusting our approaches in response to changing circumstances enhances our effectiveness and sustainability.

4.6. Data-Driven Decision Making

Collecting and analyzing data has been instrumental in informing our strategies and demonstrating impact. Regular monitoring and evaluation allow us to understand what works and what doesn't, enabling us to make

informed decisions and improve our initiatives. Sharing data and outcomes with stakeholders fosters transparency and accountability, strengthening our credibility.

4.7. Long-Term Commitment is Essential

Achieving the SDGs requires a long-term commitment to ongoing engagement and development. Short-term projects may yield immediate results, but sustainable change takes time and consistent effort. Investing in long-term relationships with communities and partners lays the groundwork for enduring impact and fosters trust.

The lessons learned during the implementation of SDGs 4, 13, 16, and 17 are invaluable as we move forward. By prioritizing inclusivity, community engagement, transparency, and adaptability, we can enhance our efforts and contribute more effectively to the global sustainable development agenda. These insights will guide our future initiatives and strengthen our commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

5. WHY EXPANSION OF SDGS IS NEEDED IN FONDATION SAINT DOMINIQUE SAVIO'S COUNTRY OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-2030?

Fondation Saint Dominique Savio has resolved to include Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) in its Country Operational Plan for 2025-2030. This decision reflects our commitment to addressing the interconnected challenges facing communities and our recognition of the need for a holistic approach to sustainable development.

5.1. Addressing Root Causes of Inequality (SDG 1)

Poverty is a fundamental barrier to achieving many other SDGs. By incorporating SDG 1, we aim to tackle the root causes of poverty within the communities we serve. Understanding that economic stability and social protection are essential for sustainable development, we plan to implement initiatives that provide skills training, employment opportunities, and financial literacy programs. This focus will empower individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty and improve their overall quality of life.

5.2. Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition (SDG 2)

Food insecurity is a pressing issue that affects health, education, and economic productivity. By including SDG 2, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio acknowledges the urgent need to promote sustainable agriculture, improve food systems, and ensure access to nutritious food for all. Our initiatives will focus on community gardens, nutritional education, and partnerships with partners like WFP and local farmers to enhance food production and distribution. Addressing hunger is critical not only for individual well-being but also for fostering resilient communities.

5.3. Access to Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and is essential for health and development. By integrating SDG 6 into our operational plan, we commit to addressing the water scarcity and sanitation challenges faced by many communities. In our area of operation, lessons learnt from Covid 19 and other diseases like Mpox, Marburg have motivated FSDS to include Initiatives aimed at improving water supply infrastructure, promoting hygiene education, and advocating for sustainable water management

and sanitation practices. Ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities will have a profound impact on community health and productivity.

5.4. Interconnectedness of SDGs

The decision to expand our focus to include SDGs 1, 2, and 6 stems from an understanding of the interconnected nature of these goals. Poverty, hunger, and access to clean water are deeply intertwined issues that require coordinated efforts. By addressing these SDGs alongside our existing focus on SDGs 4, 13, 16, and 17, we can create synergies that enhance our overall impact. For example, improving nutrition (SDG 2) contributes to better educational outcomes (SDG 4), while access to clean water (SDG 6) supports health and well-being, enabling communities to thrive.

5.5. Community-Centered Approach

Our decision also reflects our commitment to a community-centered approach. Engaging with local stakeholders has revealed a clear demand for interventions that address poverty, food security, and water access. By aligning our efforts with the priorities and needs of the communities we serve, we can foster greater trust and collaboration, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Therefore, incorporating SDGs 1, 2, and 6 into Fondation Saint Dominique Savio's Country Operational Plan for 2025-2030 represents a strategic commitment to addressing the multidimensional challenges faced by communities. By focusing on poverty alleviation, food security, and access to clean water, we aim to create a more integrated approach to sustainable development that enhances resilience, empowers individuals, and fosters long-term positive change.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) REPORT

The Communication on Engagement (CoE) report serves as a reflective document that encapsulates the journey of Fondation Saint Dominique Savio from 2016 to 2024 in implementing various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically 4 (Quality Education), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). As we look back on our efforts, we are reminded of the transformative potential of sustainable development and the critical importance of collaborative action in addressing complex global challenges.

Throughout this period, we have faced numerous challenges that tested our resilience and adaptability. From socioeconomic disparities that hinder access to quality education (SDG 4) to the pressing issues of climate change (SDG 13) and the necessity for peace and justice (SDG 16), our initiatives have sought to create meaningful impact in the communities we serve. The lessons learned have reinforced our understanding that sustainable development is not a linear journey; rather, it is a dynamic process that requires continuous engagement, reflection, and innovation.

One of the most significant insights gained during this period is the importance of inclusivity. Our commitment to ensuring that marginalized voices are heard has proven essential in fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment within communities. By actively engaging with local stakeholders and tailoring our initiatives to meet their specific needs, we have been able to create programs that resonate deeply and drive meaningful change.

Moreover, the interconnectedness of the SDGs has become increasingly evident. Our focus on education (SDG 4) has underscored the critical role that quality learning plays in addressing poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), and access to clean water (SDG 6). As we move forward, we recognize the necessity of adopting a holistic approach that considers the interrelated nature of these goals. This understanding has led us to expand our operational plan to include additional SDGs, emphasizing our commitment to a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development.

The partnerships we have cultivated have been pivotal in advancing our goals. Collaborative efforts with local governments, NGOs, and community organizations have allowed us to leverage resources, share knowledge, and maximize our impact. The power of multi-stakeholder partnerships cannot be overstated; they have been instrumental in fostering an environment conducive to innovation and progress. We have learned that building trust and transparency among partners is essential for sustained collaboration and collective action.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, our commitment to the principles of the UN Global Compact remains unwavering. We are dedicated to enhancing our strategies, learning from our experiences, and addressing the emerging challenges that confront us. Our expanded focus on SDGs 1, 2, and 6 reflects our recognition that true sustainable development requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the multifaceted nature of human needs and environmental sustainability.

In conclusion, the CoE report highlights not only our achievements but also our ongoing journey towards a more sustainable and equitable future. We remain committed to learning from our experiences, engaging with our communities, and fostering partnerships that drive meaningful change. Together, we can work towards a future where quality education, climate action, peace, and strong institutions pave the way for resilient and thriving communities. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we strive to fulfill our mission and contribute to the global sustainable development agenda.

6.1. Key Recommendations for Fondation Saint Dominique Savio

As Fondation Saint Dominique Savio moves forward in its commitment to sustainable development and the implementation of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the following key recommendations should be considered:

1. Enhance Community Engagement

- **Participatory Approaches:** Actively involve community members in the planning and implementation of programs. Utilize participatory methods to gather insights and feedback, ensuring that initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the community.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Develop targeted awareness campaigns to educate communities about the SDGs and their relevance, encouraging active participation and ownership of sustainable development efforts.

2. Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

- **Collaborative Networks:** Expand partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and the private sector to leverage resources and expertise. Establish formal networks that facilitate regular communication and collaboration among stakeholders.

- **Shared Goals:** Align the objectives of different partners to create synergies that enhance the overall impact of initiatives. Regularly assess and adjust partnership agreements to ensure mutual benefit and accountability.

3. Focus on Inclusivity and Equity

- **Target Vulnerable Groups:** Design programs specifically aimed at addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations, ensuring that no one is left behind. This includes women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Recognize and respect cultural differences in program design and implementation, fostering an inclusive environment that values diverse perspectives and experiences.

4. Integrate Data-Driven Decision Making

- **Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:** Establish robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems to assess the impact of initiatives. Use qualitative and quantitative data to inform decision-making and enhance program effectiveness.
- **Feedback Loops:** Create mechanisms for ongoing feedback from stakeholders and beneficiaries, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation of programs based on real-world outcomes.

5. Promote Sustainable Practices

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Integrate sustainability principles into all programs, focusing on practices that reduce environmental impact and promote resource conservation. Encourage the use of renewable energy and sustainable agricultural methods.
- **Education and Training:** Provide training on sustainable practices to community members and local partners, empowering them to implement environmentally friendly solutions in their daily lives and work.

6. Advocate for Policy Change

- **Engagement with Policymakers:** Actively engage with local and national policymakers to advocate for policies that support sustainable development. Provide evidence-based recommendations that highlight the benefits of investing in education, health, and environmental sustainability.
- **Public Awareness:** Raise public awareness about the importance of supportive policies for achieving the SDGs, mobilizing community support for advocacy efforts.

7. Foster Resilience and Adaptability

- **Crisis Preparedness:** Develop strategies to enhance community resilience to crises such as natural disasters, economic downturns, or public health emergencies. This includes creating contingency plans and training community members in emergency response.
- **Flexible Program Design:** Build flexibility into program design to allow for rapid adaptation in response to changing circumstances or emerging challenges.

By considering these key recommendations, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio can strengthen its efforts toward achieving the SDGs and create a more sustainable and equitable future for the communities it serves. Emphasizing community engagement, inclusivity, data-driven approaches, and collaborative partnerships will enhance the foundation's impact and contribute to the broader global sustainable development agenda.

6.2. Key Recommendations for the UN Global Compact to Address Implementation Challenges

To enhance the effectiveness of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) in supporting organizations like Fondation Saint Dominique Savio in addressing the challenges related to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, 13, 16, and 17, the following key recommendations are proposed:

1. Strengthen Capacity Building

- **Tailored Training Programs:** Develop and offer targeted training sessions for organizations on best practices in implementing the SDGs, focusing on sectors like education, climate action, and governance. This can include workshops on data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- **Resource Sharing:** Create a centralized repository of resources, toolkits, and case studies that organizations can access to enhance their understanding and application of the SDGs.

2. Facilitate Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

- **Networking Opportunities:** Organize regular forums and conferences to foster collaboration among businesses, NGOs, and governmental entities. These events can facilitate the sharing of experiences, challenges, and solutions in SDG implementation.
- **Partnership Platforms:** Establish platforms that encourage cross-sector partnerships, allowing organizations to collaborate on joint projects that address multiple SDGs simultaneously.

3. Enhance Awareness and Advocacy

- **Global Campaigns:** Launch global awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of the SDGs and the role of various stakeholders in achieving them. This can help mobilize support and resources at local and national levels.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Actively advocate for policy frameworks that support sustainable development at national and international levels. Engage with policymakers to align their agendas with the goals of the UNGC.

4. Promote Inclusivity and Equity

- **Focus on Vulnerable Populations:** Encourage member organizations to adopt policies and practices that prioritize the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups in their initiatives, ensuring that their voices are represented.
- **Cultural Sensitivity Training:** Provide guidance and training on cultural sensitivity and diversity to help organizations better engage with diverse communities and tailor their programs accordingly.

5. Implement a Robust Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- **Standardized Reporting:** Develop standardized guidelines for reporting progress on SDG implementation, enabling organizations to track and share their achievements effectively.

- **Impact Assessment Tools:** Provide tools and methodologies for assessing the impact of initiatives on communities, helping organizations to demonstrate their contributions to the SDGs.

6. Leverage Technology and Innovation

- **Digital Platforms:** Create digital platforms that facilitate knowledge sharing, collaboration, and data collection among organizations working towards the SDGs. This can enhance connectivity and resource sharing.
- **Support for Innovative Solutions:** Encourage and support innovative approaches and technologies that address sustainability challenges, promoting research and development in sustainable practices.

7. Encourage Long-term Commitment

- **Sustained Engagement:** Advocate for long-term commitments to sustainability among member organizations, encouraging them to embed the SDGs into their core strategies rather than treating them as isolated projects.
- **Recognition Programs:** Establish recognition programs that celebrate organizations making significant strides toward achieving the SDGs, promoting best practices and inspiring others to follow suit.

By implementing these key recommendations, the UN Global Compact can better support organizations in overcoming the challenges they face in implementing the SDGs. Strengthening capacity building, facilitating collaboration, enhancing awareness, and promoting inclusivity will create a more conducive environment for achieving sustainable development. Through these efforts, the UNGC can play a pivotal role in mobilizing collective action and driving meaningful progress toward a sustainable future for all.

6.3. Recommendations for the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, other Potential Future Partners and Key Stakeholders to Address Financial Gaps

To effectively address the persistent financial gaps hindering the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), key partners and stakeholders—including governments, NGOs, the private sector, and international organizations—should consider the following recommendations:

1. Innovative Financing Mechanisms

- **Establish Impact Investment Funds:** Create funds specifically aimed at investing in projects that align with the SDGs. These funds can attract private investment by demonstrating potential social and environmental returns alongside financial returns.
- **Leverage Blended Finance Models:** Utilize blended finance approaches that combine public and private capital. This can involve using philanthropic funds or public financing to de-risk investments for private investors in sustainable projects.

2. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships

- **Collaborative Initiatives:** Encourage partnerships between public and private sectors to pool resources and expertise for sustainable projects. Joint ventures can enhance project viability and attract additional funding.

- **Shared Risk Models:** Develop frameworks for shared risk in partnerships that allow private entities to participate in projects with reduced financial exposure, thus encouraging greater investment.

3. Enhancing Capacity for Fundraising

- **Training and Support:** Provide training for NGOs and community organizations on fundraising strategies, grant writing, and financial management to enhance their ability to secure funding.
- **Access to Funding Networks:** Create networks that connect organizations with potential funders, including philanthropic foundations, government grants, and international development agencies.

4. Advocating for Policy Changes

- **Support for Enabling Policies:** Advocate for policies that create a conducive environment for investment in sustainable development, including tax incentives for companies that invest in SDG-related projects.
- **Public Funding Allocations:** Encourage governments to allocate a greater percentage of public budgets towards sustainable development initiatives, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed.

5. Leveraging Technology and Digital Solutions

- **Crowdfunding Platforms:** Promote the use of crowdfunding platforms to raise small amounts of money from a large number of people for specific projects, increasing community involvement and financial support.
- **Blockchain for Transparency:** Utilize blockchain technology to enhance transparency and accountability in funding flows, thereby attracting more investors who prioritize responsible and ethical investment.

6. Engaging Local Communities

- **Community-Led Initiatives:** Empower local communities to identify their own financial needs and priorities. By involving them in the planning and execution of projects, stakeholders can ensure that funding is directed towards initiatives that have local support and relevance.
- **Microfinance Solutions:** Support microfinance institutions that provide small loans to individuals and small businesses, enabling them to invest in sustainable practices and community development.

7. Fostering Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

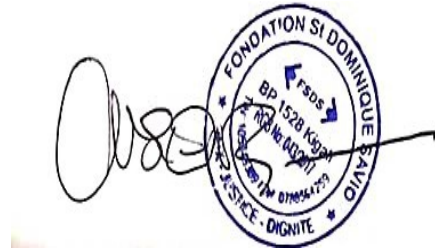
- **Create Platforms for Collaboration:** Establish forums where stakeholders can share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in financing sustainable initiatives. Knowledge sharing can lead to innovative solutions and collaborative funding opportunities.
- **Research and Data Sharing:** Collaborate on research initiatives that analyze funding gaps and identify successful financial models. Sharing data on successful projects can help attract further investment.

Conclusion

By implementing these recommendations, partners and key stakeholders can collectively address the financial gaps that impede progress towards the SDGs. Innovative financing mechanisms, strengthened partnerships, enhanced fundraising capacities, and community engagement will play crucial roles in mobilizing the necessary resources for sustainable development. Collaboration across sectors and shared commitment to addressing these challenges can pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future.

Dated at Kigali on: November 1st 2024

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains the text "FONDATION ST DOMINIQUE" at the top, "BP 1528 Kigali" in the center, and "JUSTICE - DIGNITE" at the bottom. There is also a small logo inside the stamp.

Name: Patrice NSENGIYUMVA

Title: FSDS Founder & Executive Director.