



Social sustainability assessments with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

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About me...



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Education: Architectural engineering, DTU (2013-2019)

- NIRAS 2019 -2025
- Industrial ph.d.-student 2020-2023
in QSA DTU Sustain

"Operationalization of UN
Sustainable development goals
in Absolut Sustainability
Assessments of the Danish
building industry"

Podcast host:

"Den Grønne Sofa"

Danmarks
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Universitet



NIRAS



 WELA
Wellbeing Economy Lab

Can you explain what the economic system is?

Left) Yes, definitely – I can easily do that.



Right) No, I cannot do that at all.



Do you think that the economic system plays an important role in governing our society in a sustainable direction?

Left) Yes, it is crucial.



Right) No, it has no significance .



What is most important when we must create a good future for all?

Left) Social sustainability.



Right) Environmental sustainability.



How can we achieve a sustainable future?

Left) Reducing consumption and changing behavior



Right) Developing new technologies



**What is the
economic
system?**

Wellbeing economy & wellbeing

It provides us with a positive narrative that the green transition is lacking



Definition of sustainable development:

"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Brundtland 1987

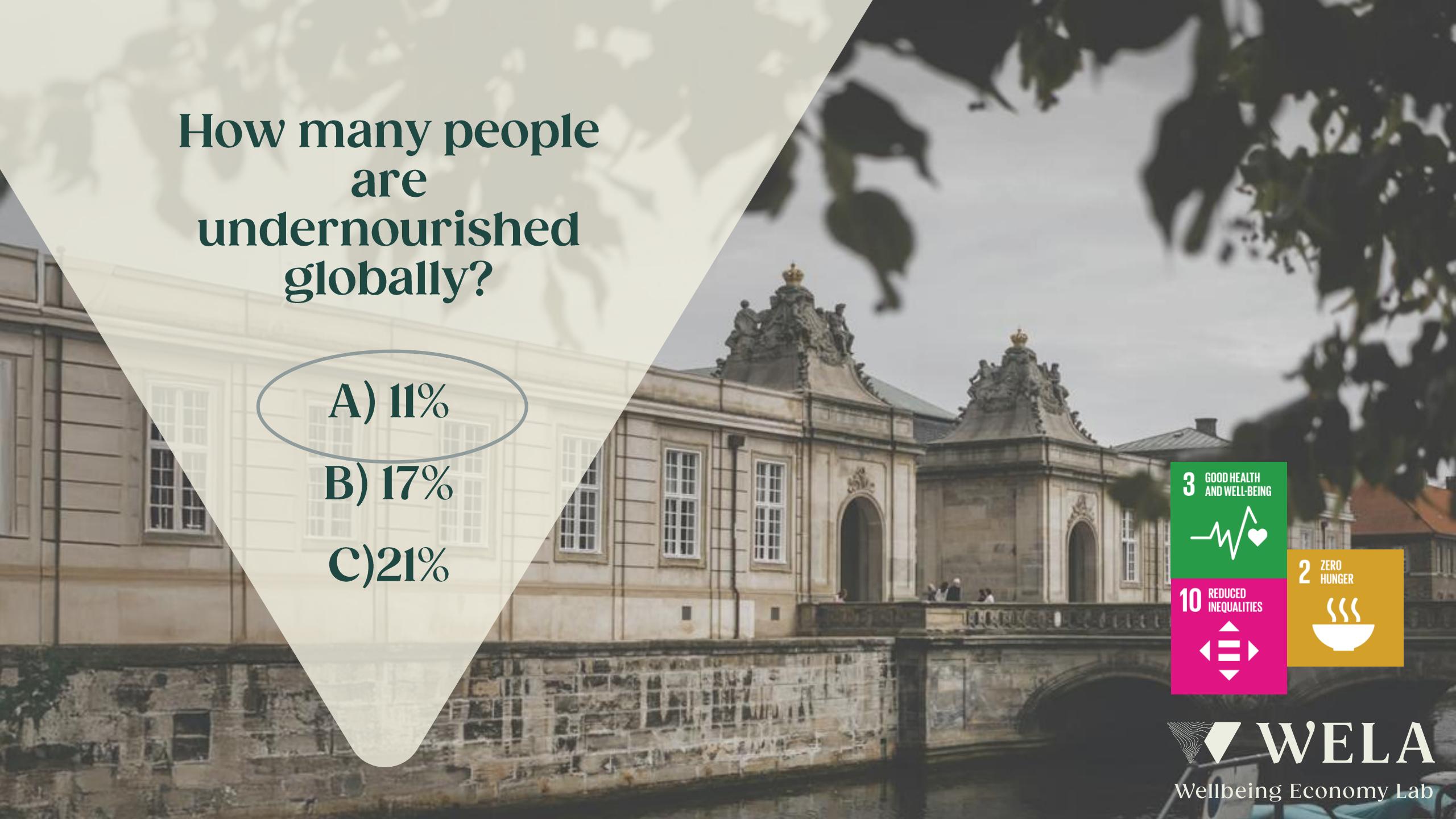


Wellbeing economy

What is it?

An economic system that
enables current and future
generations to live good
lives within planetary
boundaries.

Quiz



How many people are undernourished globally?

A) 11%

B) 17%

C) 21%

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



2 ZERO
HUNGER





How much food is wasted globally?

A) 15%

B) 25%

C) 33%





How much of Earth's land is still truly wild?

A) 13%

B) 8%

C) 3%



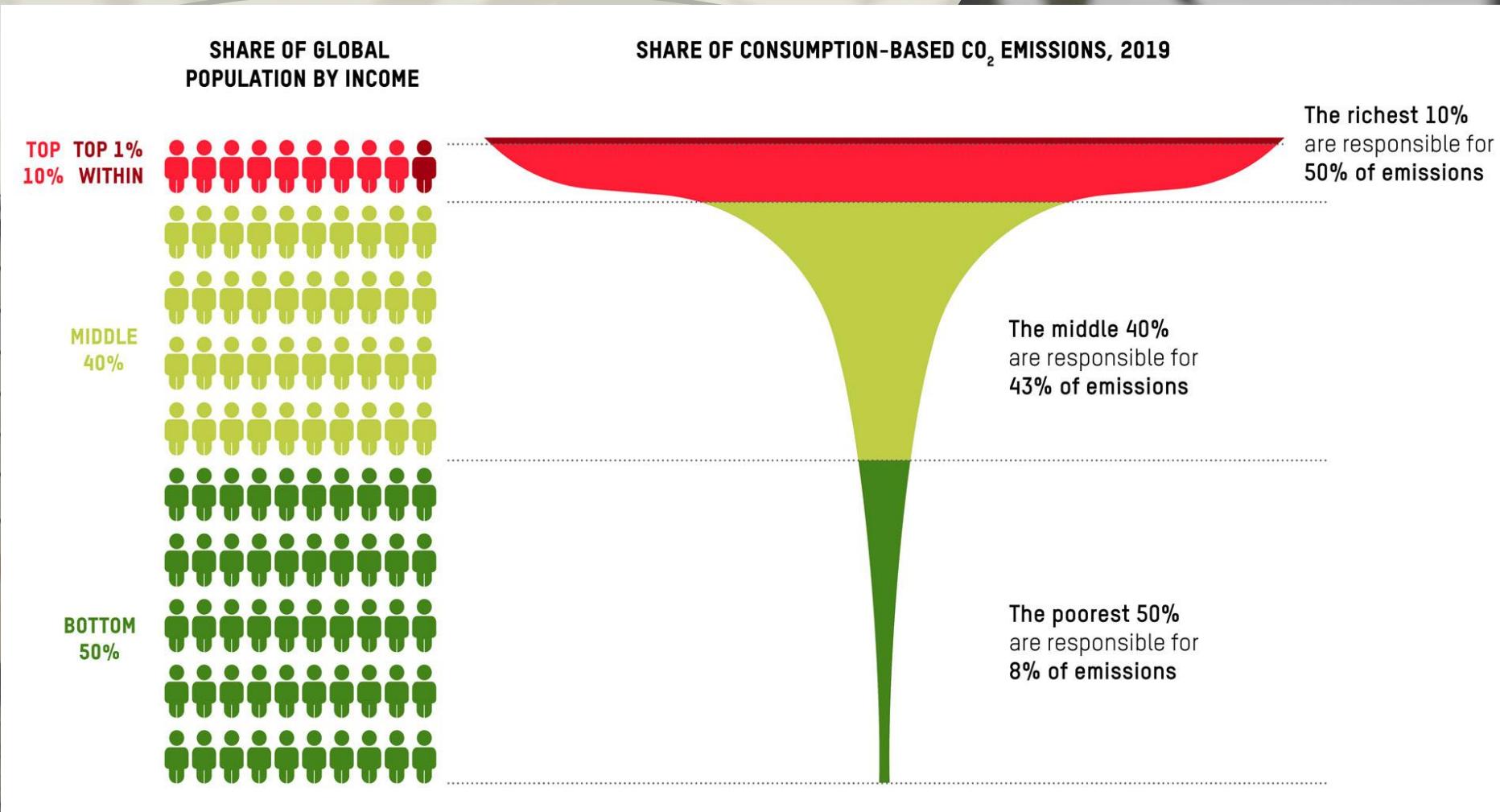
12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Who causes the largest climate impact?

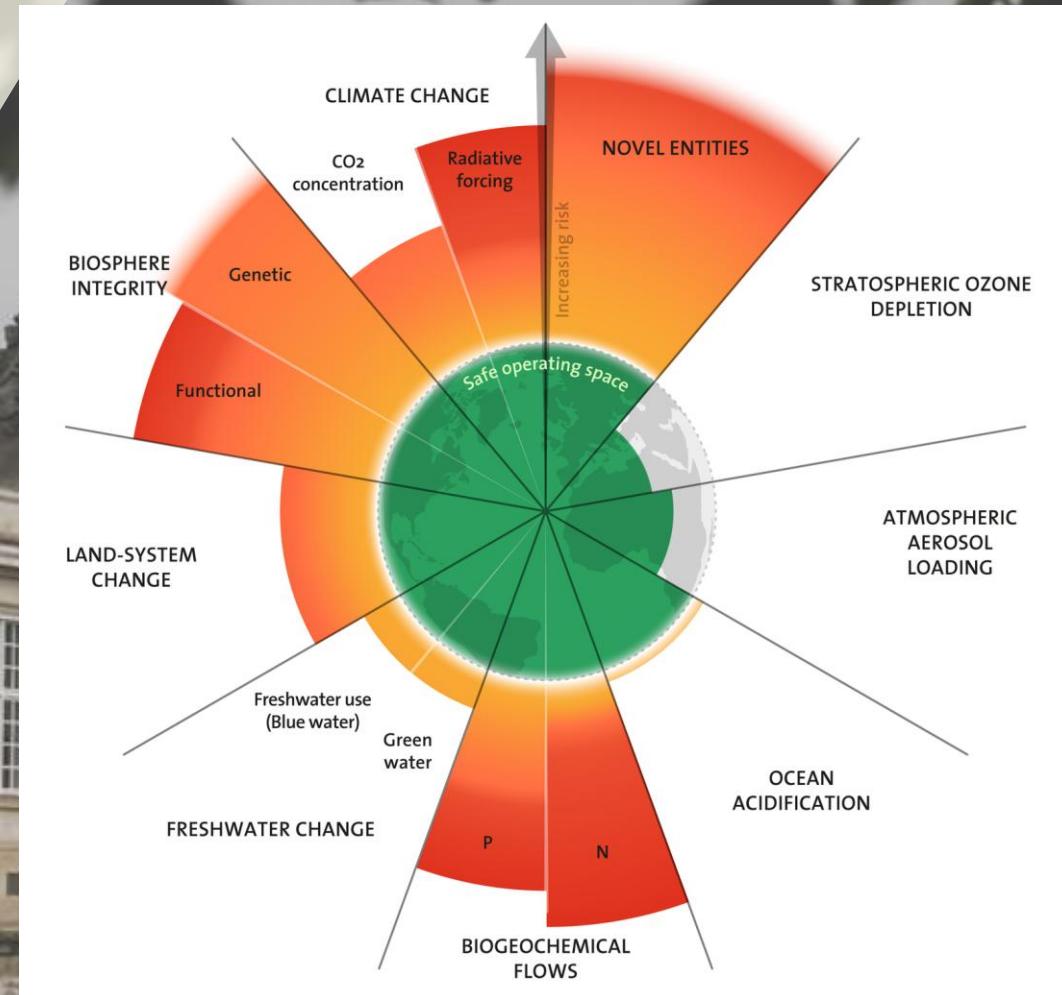


How many of the planetary boundaries have been transgressed?

A: 6

B: 7

C: 8



How much CO₂-eq is emitted when producing 100 g protein with beef and tofu?

A: app. 50 kg CO₂ for beef and 2 kg CO₂ for tofu

B: app. 70 kg CO₂ for beef and 10 kg CO₂ for tofu

C: app. 45 kg CO₂ for beef and 20 kg CO₂ for tofu

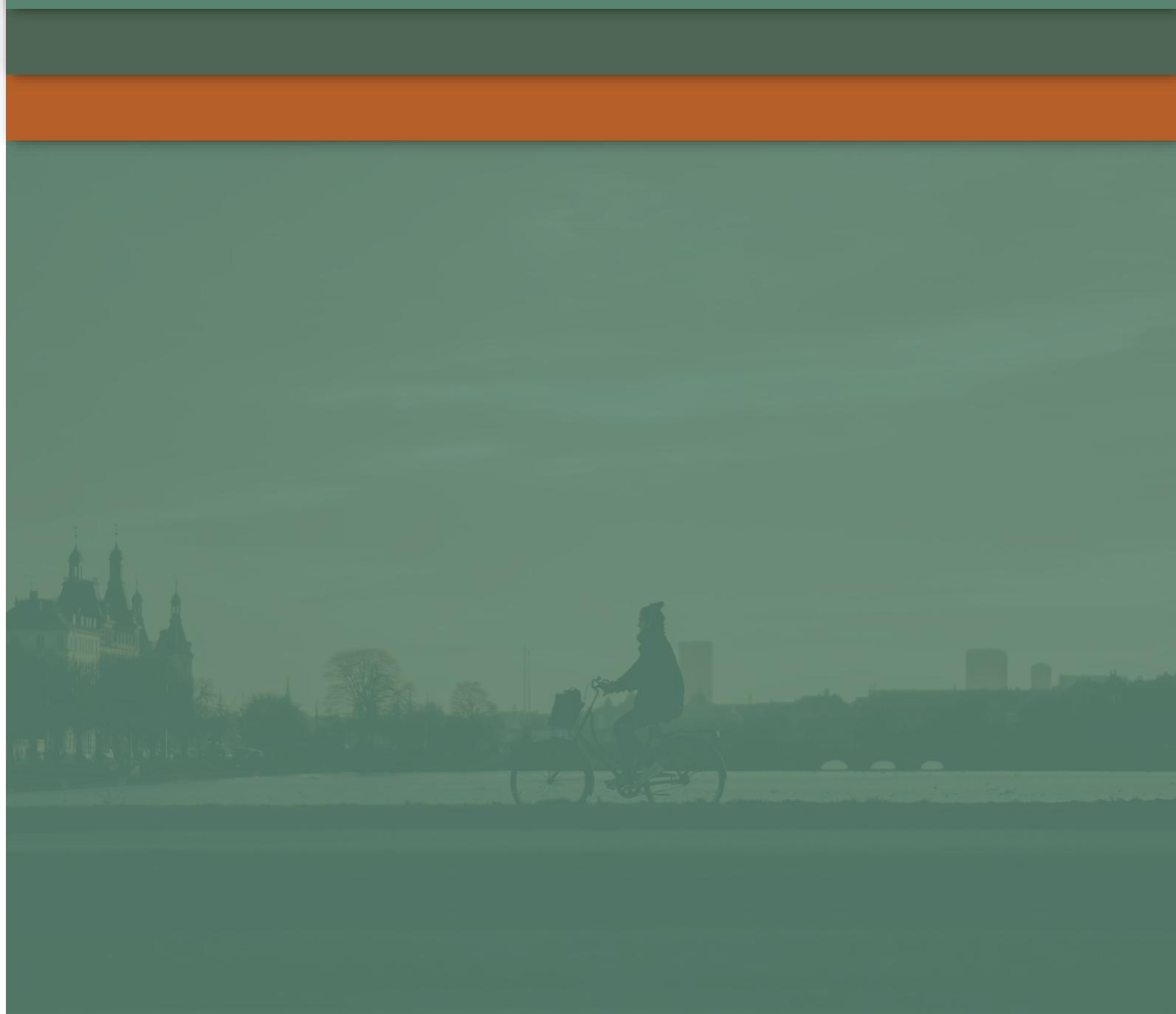
But nuts only emit
0.26 kg CO₂-eq
pr. 100 g protein.





What are human needs?

3 main definitions of wellbeing



3 main definitions of wellbeing



Preferences



Psychological States



Theory of Human Needs

3 main definitions of wellbeing



Preferences

More is always better



Psychological States

Relative to others



Theory of Human Needs

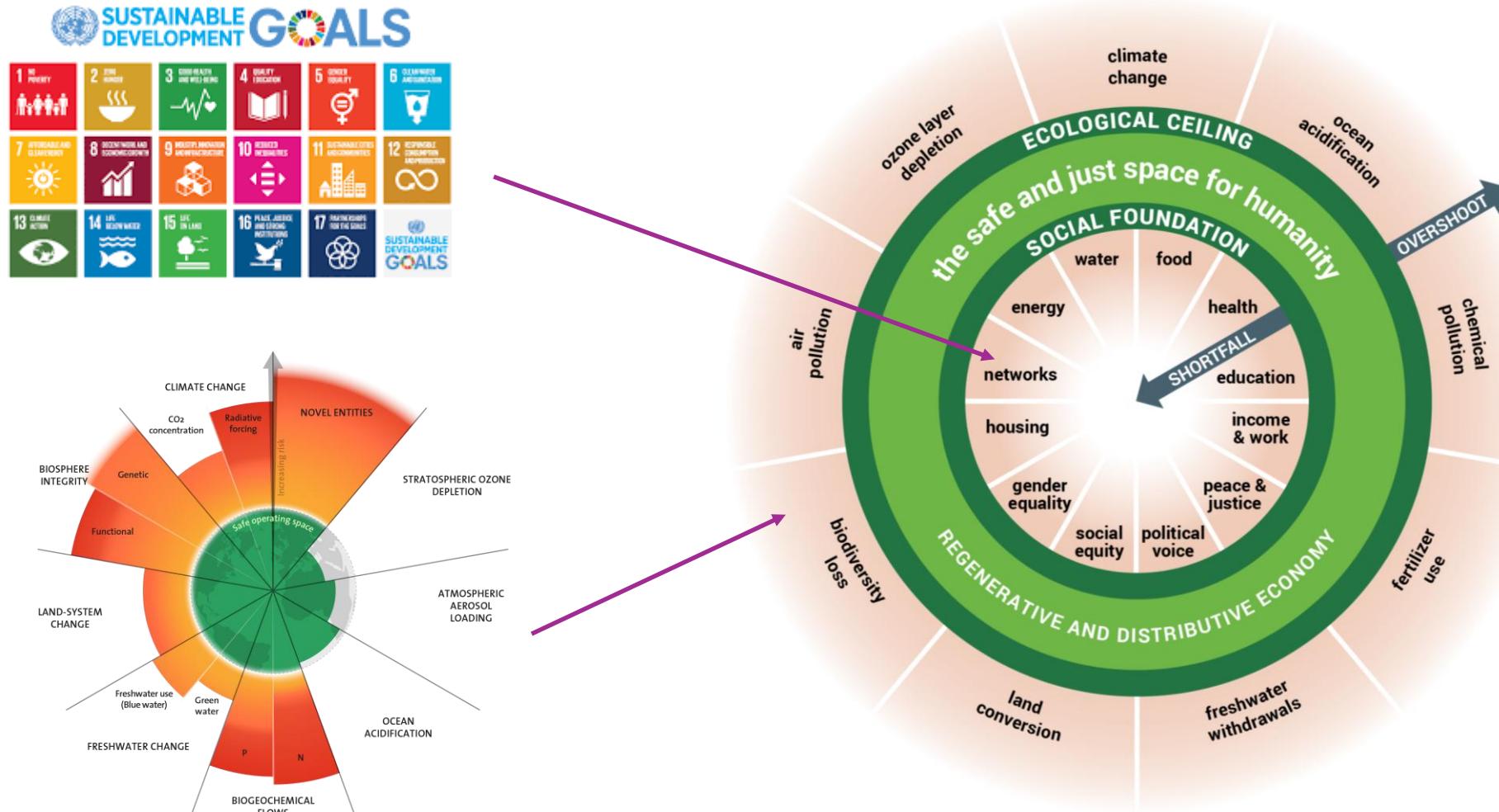
Sufficiency and satiety

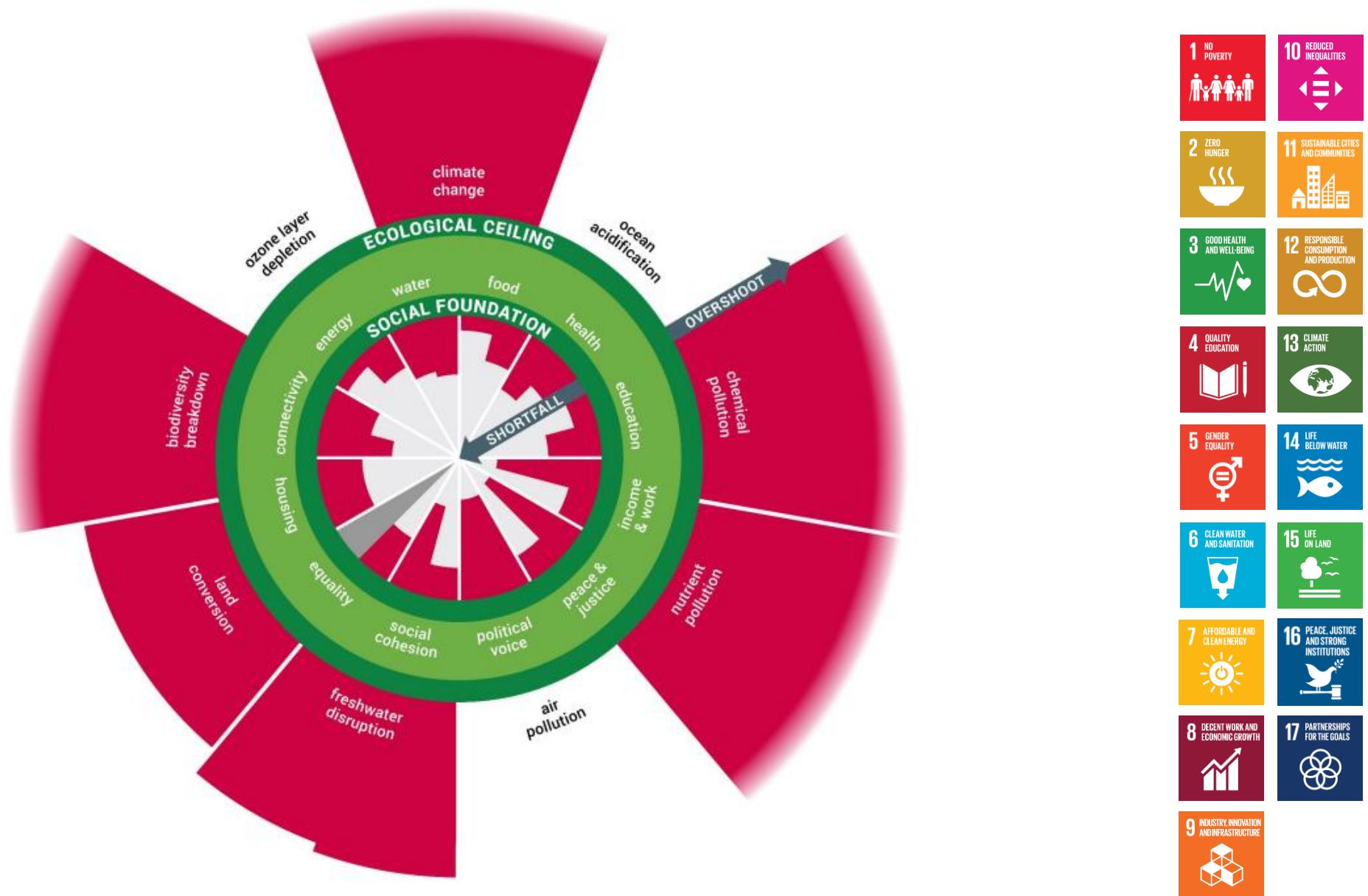


Questions?

Background

Doughnut economy





Why we need to move Upstream

The Factory Analogy

Upstream

- Assume that the economic system is a factory that wants to increase its GDP for eternity (measured by monetary transactions).
- Some of the transactions cause more harm than good, like letting out toxic waste into a river.



The General Upstream Model

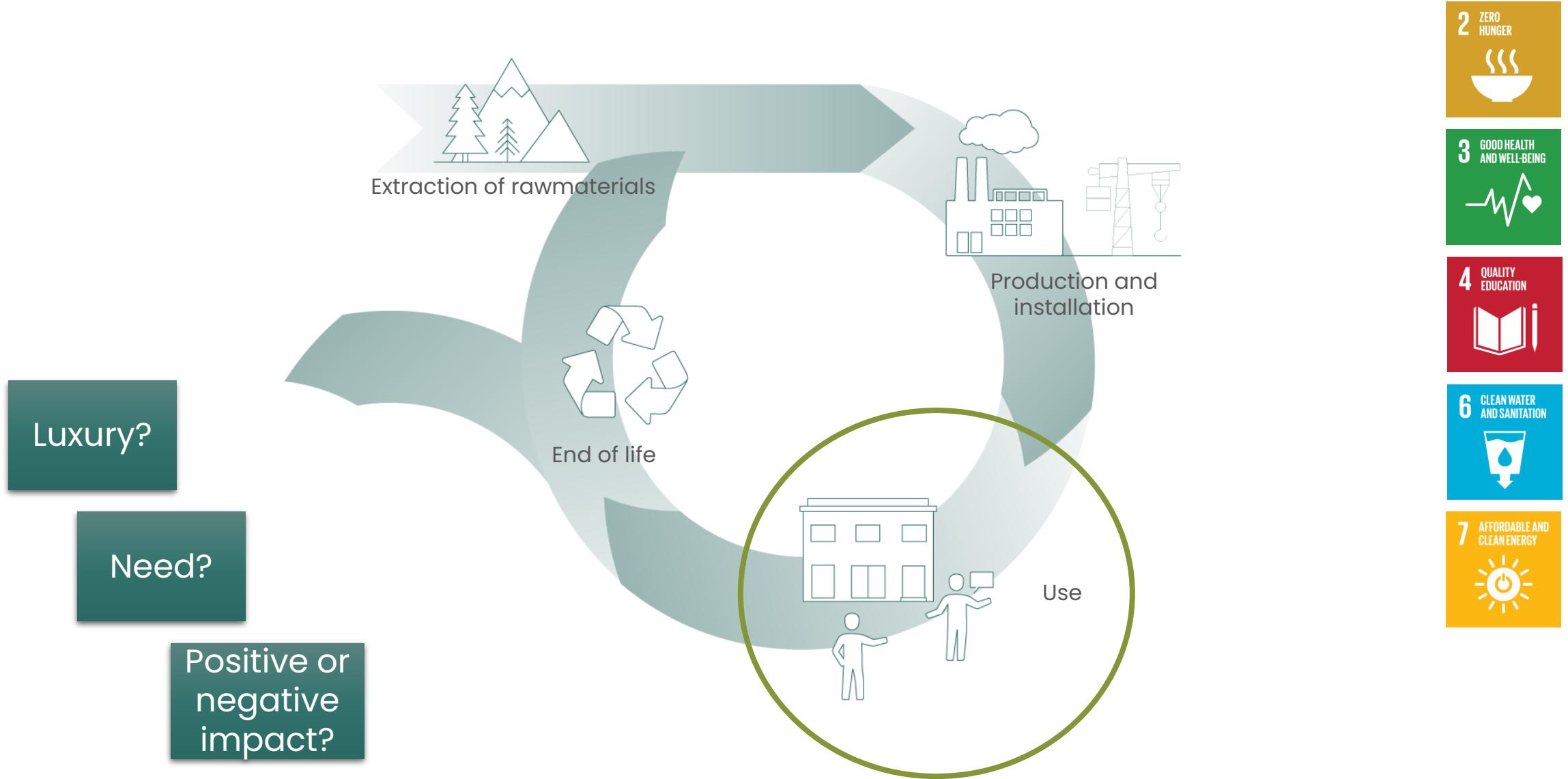
Upstream

- Initiatives that are proactive and focus on prevention by addressing the source of the problem.
- An upstream solution would be to change the production methods to avoid the toxic waste.

Downstream

- Initiatives that are reactive and focus on compartmentalized treatments in a silo or treating only symptoms.

Lifecycle thinking – how to move upstream



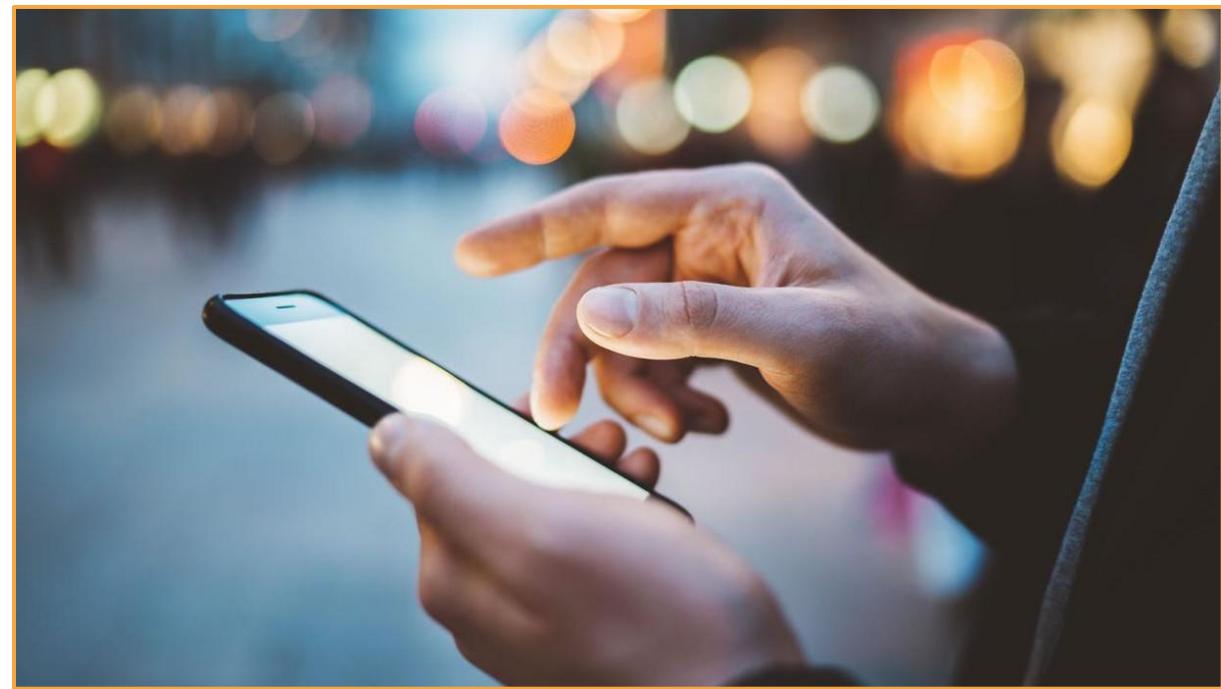
Think – pair – share

Which need is most important for people arriving in refugee camps?

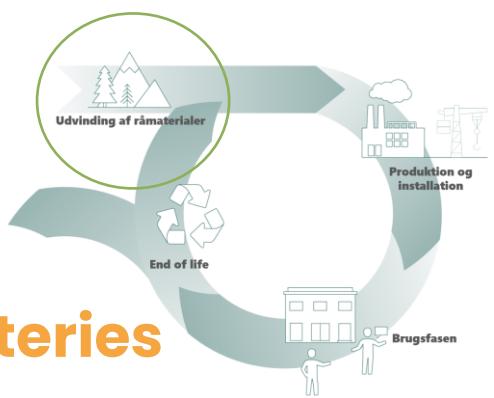


120 million refugees in 2024
65 million in 2015

Connectivity



Social challenges in the value chain



Cashews



<https://www.slowfood.com/cashew-nuts-a-toxic-industry/>

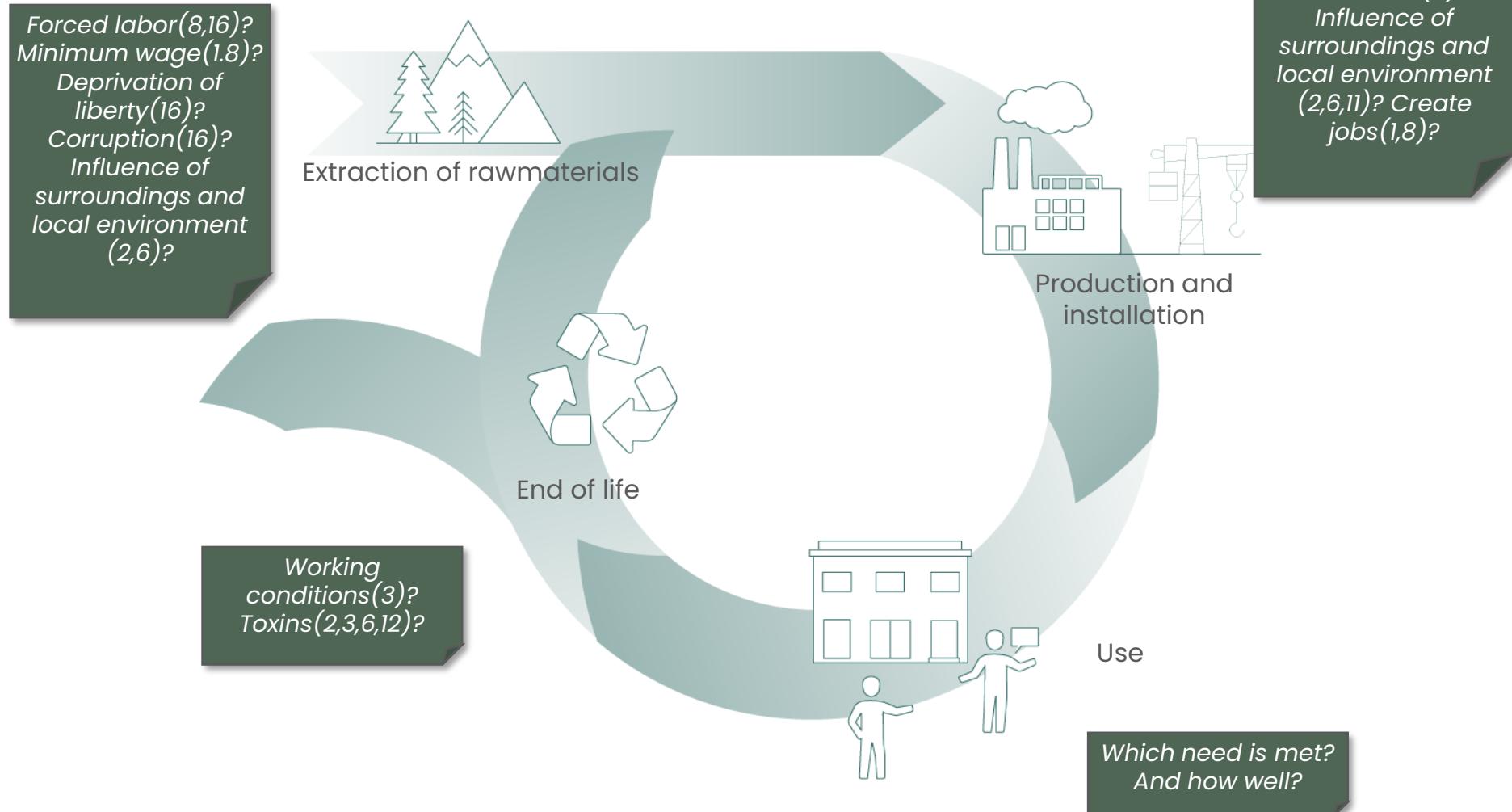
Electrical vehicles – batteries



<https://money.cnn.com/2018/05/01/technology/cobalt-congo-child-labor-car-smartphone-batteries/index.html>

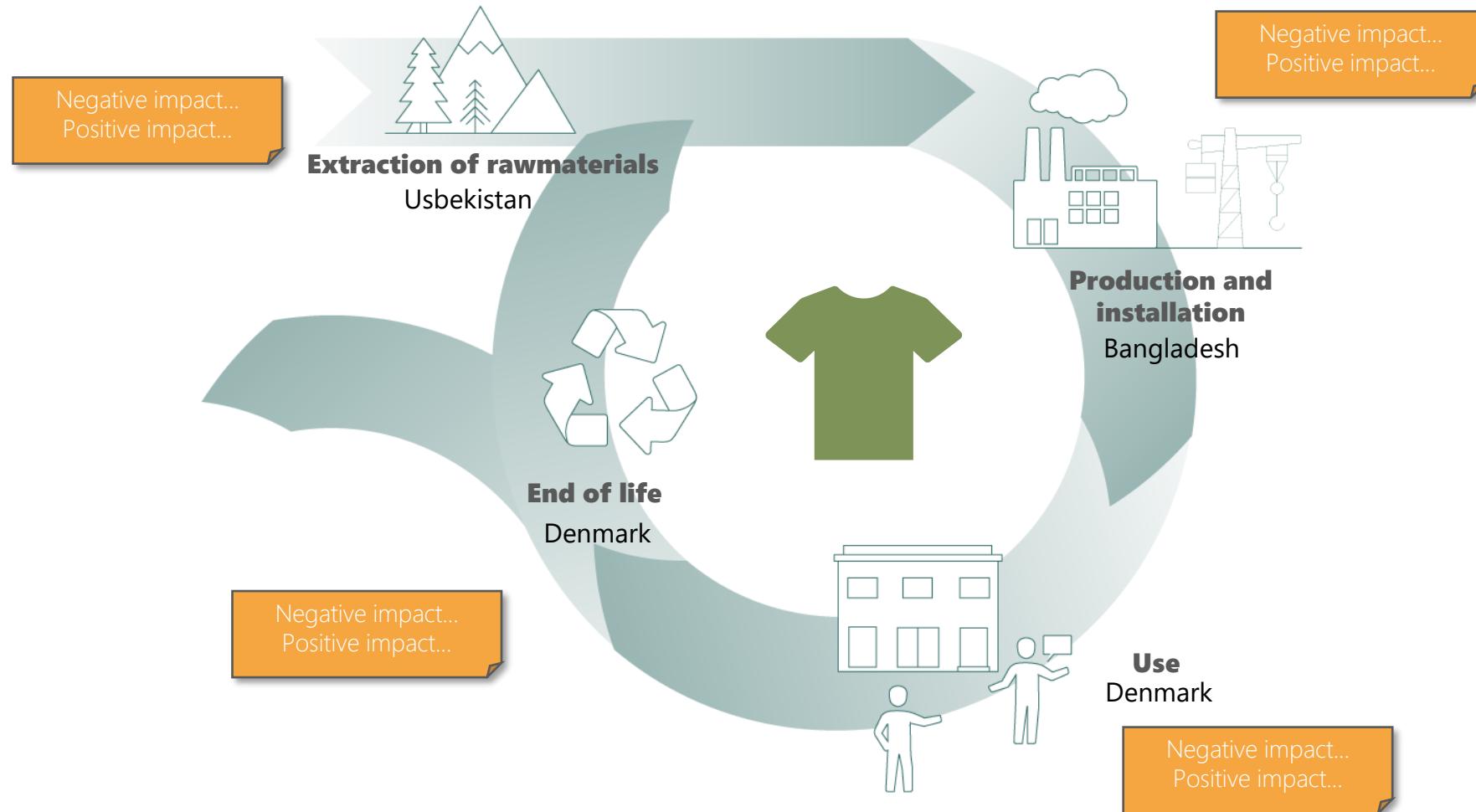
Social assessment

Who is impacted and how?



Exercise.. Which impacts can you identify?

Case: a cotton t-shirt.



Perspective

What have you learnt?

What is most important when we must create a good future for all?

Left) Social sustainability.



Right) Environmental sustainability.



Connect



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