Sustainability Report

Academic Year 2024
University of Dhaka

FOREWORD

University of Dhaka – Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

As Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious public university, founded in 1921 and constituted under the Dhaka University Order 1973, the University of Dhaka (DU) has long served as the intellectual engine of the nation. From producing the country's leading civil servants, academics, scientists, policy thinkers, and cultural leaders, to serving as the birthplace of key democratic and social movements, DU's history is deeply intertwined with Bangladesh's national aspirations.

In alignment with the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, DU recognises its statutory, academic, and ethical responsibility to lead from the front. As a comprehensive public university with 13 faculties, 83 departments, over 50 research centres and institutes, and a vast network of colleges affiliated under its academic supervision, DU is in a uniquely advantageous position to contribute to the SDG agenda across teaching, research, innovation, community engagement, and policy support.

DU's Strategic Position for SDG Implementation

Dhaka University's contributions to the SDGs are strengthened through:

- A diverse ecosystem of academic departments that span science, technology, medicine, business, social sciences, arts, humanities, and environmental studies.
- Specialized research institutes and centres—including IER, IML, DSCR, BER, CMBT, NPU, NPT, CRP, and the newly established Centre for China Studies (CCS)—that produce nationally relevant research and policy inputs.
- Extensive partnerships with government ministries, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO), national NGOs, and global academic networks.
- A strong alumni footprint in public service, education, diplomacy, science, technology, business, the judiciary, and cultural sectors.
- Active linkages with industry, particularly through the Faculties of Business Studies, Engineering & Technology, Science, and Pharmacy, enabling internships, applied research, innovation, and workforce development.
- Robust connections to policy-making bodies, as DU's faculty routinely serve on national commissions, reform committees, advisory councils, and government task forces.

Together, these strengths place DU in an advantageous national and regional position to contribute meaningfully to the SDGs and to excel in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Our Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

DU's Institutional Commitment to THE Impact Rankings

Recognising the value of THE Impact Rankings in highlighting a university's contribution to society, DU has embarked on a multi-year effort to strengthen data systems, expand evidence collection, and embed SDG-aligned practices across the institution.
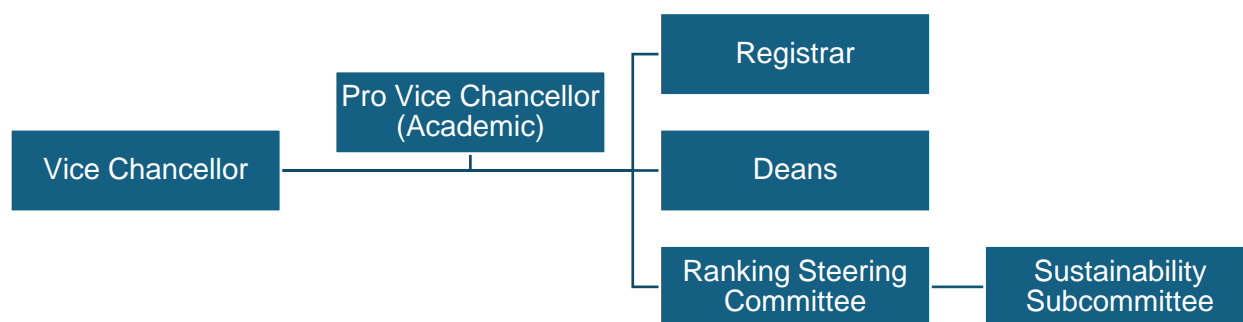
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun-Ur-Rashid Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza as the Ranking subcommittee (sustainability) convener.

Under his leadership, the committee works relentlessly to:

- Coordinate SDG-related data from all faculties, institutes, departments, offices and centres
- Validate evidence aligned with THE's measurement framework
- Facilitate training sessions and capacity building across units
- Ensure alignment with national SDG targets and development priorities
- Support data-driven decision making for institutional improvement

A network of SDG Focal Points—including deans, directors, chairpersons, and administrative leaders—works closely with the committee to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting.

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        │        │ Chancellor       │┌─────────────────┐
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│ Vice         ├─┤                  ├┤                 │
│ Chancellor   │ └──────────────────┘└─────────────────┘
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                                    │ Ranking Steering │  │ Sustainability   │
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Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed   -   Convenor
Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha   -   Member
Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka

Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD   -   Member
Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Abdus Salam   -   Member
Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain   -   Member
Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal   -   Member
Director
ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain   -   Member
Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam   -   Member
Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza   -   Member
Department of English, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam   -   Member
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder   -   Member
Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan   -   Member
Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib - Member
Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka

Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman - Member
Chairman
Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka

Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar - Member
Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka

Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez - Member-Secretary
Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka

Sustainability Sub-committee

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza - Convenor
Department of English, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal - Member
Director
ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam - Member
Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder - Member
Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib - Member
Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Mohammod Moninoor Roshid - Member
Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam - Member
Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka

Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser - Member
Department of Histoty

Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez - Member
Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka

Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar - Member
Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka

Mr. Md. Rifat Amin - Member
Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka

Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman - Member-Secretary
Chairman
Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka

Learning Through Engagement: DU in THE Masterclasses & Global Communities

To build internal capacity and learn global best practices, DU actively participates in:

- THE Masterclasses & Workshops, where team members learn from international experts on evidence preparation, SDG data management, and benchmarking.
- Peer-learning initiatives with leading universities in Asia, the UK, and the Global South.
- Policy dialogues and roundtables hosted by THE and affiliated bodies.
- Collaborative activities with UN agencies, including curriculum design (UNICEF), research grants (UNDP), health and demographic projects (UNFPA, WHO), youth engagement (UNESCO), and climate-resilience initiatives.
- DU embraces a philosophy of "learning to learn with others"—engaging globally to strengthen national capacity and embedding sustainability literacy into university culture.

Looking Forward: DU's Strategic Vision for SDG 2030

With the Government of Bangladesh aiming to achieve the SDG goals by 2030, DU reaffirms that:

- Our research, teaching, and public engagement will remain closely aligned with national priorities. Our Vision statement, reads, "Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future." [https://www.du.ac.bd/university/VisionMission]
- We will expand our documentation and impact measurement systems to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships with government bodies, international organisations and industry will be scaled up to amplify societal impact.
- We will continue to position DU as a leading SDG-driven university in South Asia, advancing the nation's knowledge economy and development agenda.

As Bangladesh's flagship university, the University of Dhaka is committed to becoming a global model of SDG excellence—through rigorous research, transformative teaching, social responsibility, and inclusive national development.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES (SDGs) of DU: AT A GLANCE

SDG 1 – No Poverty → Financial Aid | DU Fund | Workforce Mobility

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger → Food Science | Nutrition | Community Outreach

SDG 3 – Health & Well-Being→ DU Medical | NPU | Public Health | MoHFW

SDG 4 – Quality Education → IER | IML | TESL | Lifelong Learning

SDG 5 – Gender Equality → WGS Dept | Childcare | Anti-Harassment

SDG 6 – Clean Water → Water Labs | Hygiene Programs | Safe Water Units

SDG 7 – Affordable Energy → Solar Panels | Energy Audits | Green Transitions

SDG 8 – Decent Work → Career Center | Internships | Startups | AI Skills

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation→ DU Innovation Hub | Research Output | Patents

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality → Quotas | Accessibility | First-Gen Students

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities → DU Campus Public Space | Heritage | Mobility

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption→ Recycling | Waste mgmt | Paperless Systems

SDG 13 – Climate Action → DSCR | CCHPU | Climate Courses | AI Modelling

SDG 14 – Life Below Water → Marine Biology | River Research | Pollution Index

SDG 15 – Life on Land → Biodiversity Labs | Botany | Campus Ecology

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice → Governance | Transparency | Policy Research

SDG 17 – Partnerships → UN agencies | Ministries | Global MoUs | AI Research

| DU'sVision: Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future. |

DU SDG 2024: At A Glance

SDG 1 – 206+ financially supported students; 1,000+ first-gen beneficiaries across faculties

SDG 2 – 11+ subsidised food points; 3,500+ low-cost daily meals served on campus

SDG 3 – 52,000+ patient visits to DU Medical Centre; 4,300+ mental-health counselling sessions

SDG 4 – 10+ DU faculty listed in global Top 2% Scientists; 1,500+ trained teachers produced annually

SDG 5 – 1,200+ cases handled by Anti-Harassment Cell; 3 major gender-policy dialogues (2024)

SDG 6 – 600+ water-quality tests conducted; 7 hygiene/sanitation campaigns in dormitories

SDG 7 – 3 solar-power pilot rooftops; 15% reduction in electricity load during conservation hours

SDG 8 – 3,000+ internships facilitated; 50+ startups incubated across DU faculties

SDG 9 – 40+ research partnerships with industries; 12 technology-transfer projects underway

SDG 10 – 22% students admitted through equity quotas; 300+ disability-access services delivered

SDG 11 – 3-month Sustainable Shuttle Bus Pilot; 64 student workers in campus cleaning drive

SDG 12 – 120+ tonnes sorted waste annually; campus-wide paperless office transition underway

SDG 13 – 20+ climate-action research projects; 5 national training programs with CCHPU/MoHFW

SDG 14 – 18 aquatic-ecology studies; 30+ river-pollution assessments by DU labs

SDG 15 – Multiple tree-plantation drives; 90+ campus biodiversity species documented

SDG 16 – 12+ faculty advising national commissions; 3 governance policies updated (2023–24)

SDG 17 – 8+ new MoUs signed; 30+ partnerships with UN agencies, ministries & NGOs

SDG 1 — No Poverty

Executive Summary

The University of Dhaka (DU), constituted under the **Dhaka University Order 1973**, plays a national role in poverty alleviation through financial assistance, educational access, targeted scholarships, and community development initiatives. With thousands of students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds, DU's financial-aid ecosystem—including the **DU Fund for Financially Challenged Students**, hall-based stipends, faculty-level emergency grants, and alumni-supported scholarships—ensures equitable access to higher education. DU's research centres and social-science departments also conduct policy-relevant poverty research, while student-led outreach programs support vulnerable communities during floods, droughts, and economic shocks.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is one of Bangladesh's largest engines of upward mobility, lifting thousands out of poverty through higher education, financial support, and community outreach.*

SDG 1: No Poverty

Dhaka University (DU) continues to play a decisive national role in reducing poverty by ensuring that financial hardship never restricts access to higher education. In 2024, DU strengthened this mandate through targeted scholarships, trust-fund disbursements, and the revival of key alumni-supported programs.

Despite large student demand and limited resources, the University delivered substantial, quantifiable support.

DU introduced special stipends for financially disadvantaged first-year students from the 2023–2024 session. This initiative particularly strengthens DU's support for new entrants, who often face the steepest financial pressure when beginning university life.

Equally important is the revival of the Dhaka University Alumni Association's "Scholarship for Educational and Social Initiatives." After a three-year suspension, the Association plans to relaunch the program and call for applications for three backlogged sessions, offering a monthly stipend of BDT 4,000 to students—especially those from middle- and lower-middle-class rural families. This revival signals renewed alumni engagement and long-term sustainability in DU's financial aid ecosystem.

Overall, 2024 demonstrated DU's continued prioritization of financial support as its primary mechanism for advancing SDG 1. By awarding scholarships, expanding application opportunities, and restoring key programs, the University strengthened its role as a vehicle for social mobility. While challenges persist, the year's progress shows a resilient and evolving commitment to ensuring that economic hardship does not limit educational opportunity at the University of Dhaka.

Dhaka University's Financial Support at a Glance

Total Students Supported: 206+

Scholarship Breakdown

🎓 Arts Faculty Centenary Trust Fund

→ 41 students (9 departments)

🎓 Mathematics & English Trust Funds

→ 15 students

(Prof. Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman Trust • Mazeda Khatun Memorial Scholarship)

Figure 1: Students receiving scholarship

Full News Link: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/15-du-students-awarded-trust-fund-scholarships-1002366

🎓 Akij-Monowara Educational Support Trust

→ 150 first-year students

→ BDT 5,000/month stipend

🎓 DU Alumni Association Scholarship (Revived)

→ Applications reopening after 3 years

→ 3 pending sessions to be awarded

→ BDT 4,000/month stipend

→ Prioritizing rural middle- and lower-middle-income students

High-Impact Claims

✔ DU remains one of Bangladesh's largest public-sector providers of student financial aid

✔ Focus on first-generation, rural, and low-income learners

✔ Revival of alumni-driven aid strengthens long-term sustainability

✔ Financial support directly enhances student retention and equitable access