





## 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.

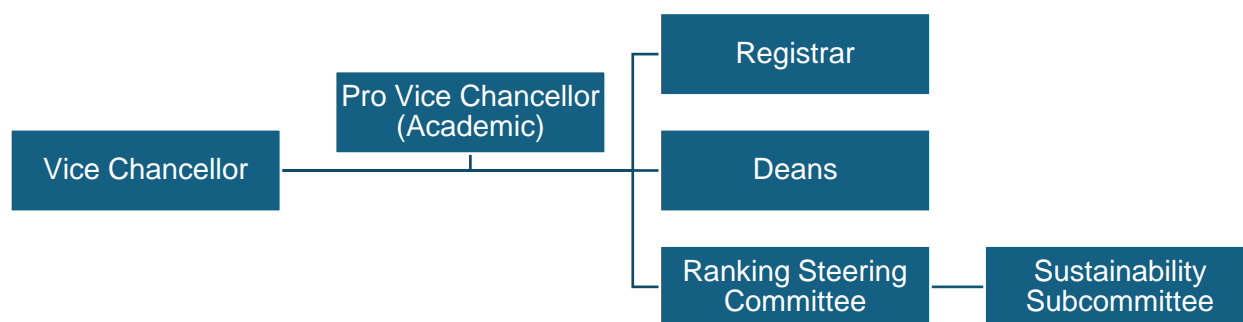
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

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.



### Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Abdus Salam Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka	-	Member

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

### **Sustainability Sub-committee**

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser Department of History	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rifat Amin Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

## **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.





## SDG 6 — Clean Water & Sanitation

### Executive Summary

DU advances water safety and hygiene through its water-quality labs, hydrology research, public sanitation awareness drives, and field testing of contaminants in Dhaka's rivers and groundwater. Departments such as Microbiology, Environmental Sciences, and Chemistry support national water-management policy. DU halls and campus areas host hygiene campaigns to improve student health and sanitation practices.

**High-Impact Claim:** *As one of the country's most research-active water laboratories, DU plays a critical role in advancing Bangladesh's safe-water agenda.*

## SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

SDG 6—ensuring clean water, sanitation, and sustainable water management—has long intersected with Dhaka University’s academic mission and civic responsibility. As one of Bangladesh’s oldest research institutions, DU has shaped national conversations on water governance, groundwater protection, and environmental health through both its scholarship and its graduates who now serve in technical and policy roles. In 2024, DU advanced SDG 6 through research-driven collaborations, national policy engagement, and practical improvements to on-campus water and sanitation infrastructure. These efforts highlight the University’s dual commitment: contributing to national water resilience while improving daily conditions for its own community.

A major achievement this year was the high-level workshop “Implementation of water quality monitoring system and purification technology to control health risks of water environment in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area” held on 29 May 2024 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban. Led by Professor Dr. Kozo Watanabe (Ehime University) and Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain (DU), this proposed SATREPS-funded initiative aims to develop advanced monitoring and purification technologies tailored to Dhaka’s chronic contamination challenges. The workshop underscored DU’s commitment to translational research—turning scientific expertise into actionable tools for public health and environmental safety.

DU’s academic leadership also extended to national water-policy discussions. On World Water Day 2024, DU faculty contributed to the roundtable “Securing Tomorrow’s Water: Building Resilience in Barind Tract,” organized by WaterAid, BRAC, and Prothom Alo. Professor Dr. Kazi Matin Uddin Ahmed emphasized agricultural over-extraction as a key driver of aquifer depletion, helping frame the Barind crisis as a multidimensional socio-environmental challenge. DU’s participation reinforced its long-standing role as a national voice in water governance, climate resilience, and community-centered resource management.

At the campus level, DU continued efforts to strengthen water safety and sanitation services. The University maintains extensive networks of gender-separated washrooms across academic buildings, offices, libraries, and residential halls. Additionally, water purifiers have been expanded and strategically installed to provide safe drinking water for thousands of students, faculty, and staff navigating the dense urban campus daily. These incremental but vital improvements reflect DU’s commitment to ensuring that clean water and sanitation are not aspirational goals but accessible everyday services.

Together, DU's 2024 activities demonstrate a multidimensional engagement with SDG 6—connecting high-impact research, national policy dialogue, international collaboration, and campus-level service improvements. By linking scientific expertise with public need, DU continues to play a pivotal role in advancing Bangladesh's clean water and sustainable resource agenda.

## DU Clean Water & Sanitation Highlights — 2024

### Research & Innovation

High-level international workshop (29 May 2024)

Proposed SATREPS-funded water-quality monitoring initiative

Collaboration between Ehime University (Japan) & DU

Focus: purification technology for Dhaka's contaminated water systems

### National Water-Governance Engagement

DU experts featured in World Water Day Roundtable

Topic: Resilience in the Barind Tract

Key insight: Aquifer depletion driven by agricultural over-extraction

Emphasis on integrated reforms & community-centered approaches

### Campus Infrastructure & Sanitation

Extensive network of gender-separated washrooms across campus

Expanded drinking-water purifier systems

Improved sanitation access across halls, libraries, and academic buildings

## High-Impact Claims (THE Impact Ranking-Aligned)

- ✓ DU remains one of Bangladesh's leading hubs for water research, shaping national environmental policy and groundwater management debates.
- ✓ The University demonstrates strong international collaboration through SATREPS-linked initiatives, positioning itself within the global water-science community.
- ✓ DU translates academic expertise into practical public-health solutions, bridging research with city-level water-quality needs.
- ✓ Campus-wide sanitation and water safety upgrades ensure that DU's own community benefits from consistent access to clean water and hygienic facilities.
- ✓ DU's integrated approach—research, advocacy, and infrastructure—makes it a key national actor in advancing SDG 6 and supporting long-term water resilience.