SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

1. Executive Summary

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation is fundamental to public health, human dignity, environmental sustainability, and institutional well-being. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) calls for ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. For a large residential university such as the University of Dhaka, this commitment involves maintaining safe drinking water systems, ensuring functional sanitation facilities, managing drainage and waste, protecting campus water bodies, and promoting responsible water management.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a range of infrastructure maintenance, sanitation, environmental management, and student-support initiatives that contributed to different dimensions of SDG 6. These activities focused particularly on improving access to drinking water in residential halls, maintaining water storage and distribution systems, renovating washrooms, strengthening drainage and vector-control operations, and planning broader campus environmental infrastructure.

Several residential facilities received targeted interventions. Four drinking water filtration units were installed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall, while filtration systems at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall underwent mechanical servicing and deep sanitization. Water storage tanks, reservoirs, and pipelines were repaired and maintained at several residential and administrative facilities, including Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, and the Institute of Social Welfare and Research.

Sanitation improvements included bathroom repairs, mosaic restoration, wall plastering, plumbing maintenance, and improvements to food-handling and laundry facilities. The university also maintained vector-control operations and undertook drainage clearance and solid waste removal activities, particularly in residential and commercial areas.

At the strategic level, the DU Further Development Project, with an estimated investment of Tk 2,841 crore, incorporated provisions for campus-wide drainage improvements, solid waste management infrastructure, public toilets, and the restoration and beautification of four campus water bodies. These provisions represent planned institutional investments rather than completed infrastructure during the reporting period.

The university's engagement with water and environmental sustainability also extended to academic support. The Department of Soil, Water and Environment announced the Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship to support financially disadvantaged students pursuing studies in relevant disciplines.

This report presents the University of Dhaka's documented contributions to SDG 6 during the full calendar year 2025. The available activity-level evidence is concentrated mainly between July and December. Accordingly, the report does not assume that undocumented interventions occurred during January–June. It also distinguishes between completed maintenance activities,

ongoing operational programmes, announced scholarship opportunities, and proposed infrastructure development.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 6

The University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 6 during 2025 was reflected in its efforts to maintain water infrastructure, improve sanitation in residential facilities, manage drainage and waste, and incorporate environmental infrastructure into long-term campus development planning.

The documented activities correspond to several SDG 6 targets:

- **Target 6.1:** Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water.
- **Target 6.2:** Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, with particular attention to the needs of women and girls and people in vulnerable situations.
- **Target 6.3:** Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing the release of hazardous materials and untreated wastewater.
- **Target 6.4:** Increase water-use efficiency and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater.
- **Target 6.5:** Implement integrated water resources management at all levels.
- **Target 6.6:** Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including rivers, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies.
- **Target 6.a:** Expand international cooperation and capacity-building support in water- and sanitation-related activities.
- **Target 6.b:** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

The university's 2025 activities were particularly concentrated on drinking water access, residential water infrastructure, sanitation maintenance, and drainage management. Its longer-term development plans also included provisions for campus water bodies and waste management.

3. Safe Drinking Water Infrastructure and Access

3.1 Installation of Drinking Water Filtration Units

Access to safe drinking water is a basic requirement for maintaining a healthy residential and academic environment. In high-density university halls, reliable filtration facilities and regular maintenance are particularly important because a large number of students depend on shared water infrastructure.

On 9 October 2025, the university completed the procurement and installation of four high-efficiency drinking water filtration units in the main student residential building of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall.

The intervention expanded the availability of drinking water filtration facilities for female residential students and strengthened the hall's point-of-use water infrastructure.

3.2 Maintenance and Sanitization of Existing Filtration Systems

Alongside new installations, the university undertook maintenance of existing drinking water facilities.

At Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, engineering staff completed comprehensive mechanical servicing and internal inspections of the student drinking water filtration units on 9 October 2025. The work included specialized deep sanitization of the filters. Broken window panes surrounding the filtration stations were also replaced to improve the physical condition of the areas where the equipment was installed.

These activities demonstrate the importance of maintaining existing water facilities alongside investing in new equipment. Regular servicing and proper maintenance are necessary to ensure that filtration infrastructure remains functional and accessible.

4. Water Storage, Reservoir Maintenance and Distribution Infrastructure

A reliable drinking water system depends not only on filtration facilities but also on the condition of the storage tanks, reservoirs, and distribution pipelines through which water is supplied. During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook several maintenance and repair activities across residential halls and administrative buildings. These interventions addressed leakage, pipeline deterioration, storage hygiene, and the maintenance of overhead and underground water reservoirs.

4.1 Residential Hall Water Infrastructure

Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall

On 17 July 2025, maintenance personnel carried out structural repairs and mechanical maintenance on the primary overhead water storage tank at Pratasha House. The work was intended to address infrastructure vulnerabilities and maintain the condition of the water storage facility.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall

On 14 August 2025, maintenance teams completed structural repairs, pipeline integrity checks, and pipe maintenance across the main water reserve tanks and primary distribution lines serving the female residential blocks.

The intervention addressed the physical condition of the hall's water supply infrastructure and supported the continued operation of its residential water distribution system.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall

On 9 October 2025, engineering teams undertook comprehensive cleaning and sludge removal across the hall's bulk water storage infrastructure. The work covered:

- The primary underground water reserve tank.

- Overhead tanks in the South residential block.
- Overhead tanks in the North residential block.
- Dedicated overhead tanks supplying the hall canteen.
- Water storage facilities serving residential teachers' quarters.

The intervention addressed the maintenance of multiple water storage facilities within the hall's residential and service infrastructure.

4.2 Water Supply Pipeline Repairs in Administrative Facilities

Water infrastructure maintenance also extended beyond residential halls. At the South Building of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, mechanical staff completed structural repairs to the supply pipeline feeding the primary overhead water tank on 9 October 2025. The repair addressed leakage in the supply line and restored water supply to the building's administrative and academic facilities.

4.3 Institutional Significance

These interventions demonstrate the university's attention to the maintenance of water infrastructure at different levels, from point-of-use filtration facilities to primary storage tanks and distribution pipelines. Regular inspection, repair, and cleaning of these facilities are important for maintaining continuity of supply and reducing infrastructure-related vulnerabilities.

However, the available documentation does not provide laboratory water-quality test results, contamination measurements, leakage volumes, or total water-consumption data. Therefore, the activities should be understood as documented infrastructure and maintenance outputs rather than evidence of quantified improvements in drinking water quality or water-use efficiency.

5. Sanitation, Washroom Maintenance and Hygiene Infrastructure

5.1 Residential Bathroom and Sanitation Improvements

Adequate sanitation facilities are essential to maintaining a healthy and dignified residential environment. University halls experience continuous and intensive use of washrooms, bathrooms, and shared hygiene facilities, making regular maintenance necessary.

During 2025, several residential facilities received structural and maintenance interventions.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall

On 17 July 2025, facility staff addressed plumbing problems and completed structural repairs across student bathroom blocks, shower stalls, and window fixtures. These interventions were intended to restore the functionality of shared sanitation facilities.

Rokeya Hall

Rokeya Hall undertook several bathroom and structural maintenance activities:

- On 17 July 2025, phase-two repairs were completed across bathroom blocks on the third and fourth floors of Chameli House.
- On 14 August 2025, specialized technicians completed deep chemical restoration and mechanical polishing of bathroom mosaics in the Aparajeyo building.
- On 18 December 2025, wall plaster restoration was completed in Rooms 67 and 87 of Aparajita House to address deteriorating concrete surfaces.

These activities contributed to maintaining the physical condition and usability of shared sanitation facilities.

5.2 Washroom and Structural Maintenance at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall

On 18 September 2025, maintenance personnel at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall removed deteriorated wall and ceiling plaster across student washrooms and balcony areas and applied new cement plaster.

The work addressed damaged surfaces and moisture-related structural deterioration. Maintaining these areas is important for supporting hygienic residential conditions and reducing the effects of persistent dampness.

5.3 Food Preparation and Laundry Hygiene

Sanitation-related infrastructure improvements also included food preparation and laundry facilities.

At the Nimontron mess of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, facility staff completed concrete paving and structural improvements in the food-handling area on 11 September 2025. The intervention improved the physical condition of the area used for food preparation.

On 18 December 2025, the hall completed a broader canteen and laundry infrastructure overhaul. The activities included:

- Repairing wall and ceiling plaster throughout the canteen.
- Installing non-slip floor tiles.
- Repairing four commercial cooking stoves.
- Expanding the dining area by removing a partition between the canteen and laundry facility.
- Renovating the laundry facility with fresh wall plaster.
- Constructing a concrete water basin, locally referred to as a *panir house*, to support laundry and washing activities.

These interventions addressed the physical condition of shared food service and laundry facilities, contributing to a more functional and hygienic residential environment.

5.4 Menstrual Hygiene Infrastructure

Access to appropriate menstrual hygiene products is an important component of equitable sanitation and hygiene provision.

On 11 December 2025, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall formally accepted and integrated an automated sanitary product vending machine provided by the Dhaka University Alumni Association.

The installation expanded point-of-use access to menstrual hygiene products for female residential students and contributed to the provision of more inclusive hygiene facilities.

6. Drainage Management, Vector Control and Environmental Sanitation

Effective sanitation management requires attention not only to indoor facilities but also to outdoor drainage systems, waste collection areas, and locations where stagnant water may accumulate.

During 2025, the university undertook drainage clearance, mosquito-control operations, and waste site remediation in several residential and surrounding areas.

6.1 Vector Control at Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall maintained an ongoing vector-control campaign during the documented reporting period. The activities included procurement of sanitation supplies and scheduled application of chemical mosquito-control treatments across hall grounds, perimeter drainage channels, and open courtyards. These activities formed part of the hall's continuing efforts to manage mosquito populations and maintain the surrounding residential environment.

6.2 Drainage Clearance and Vector Abatement at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall undertook targeted drainage and vector-control operations on 13 November 2025.

The intervention included:

Cornice Clearance: Facility staff cleared accumulated leaf litter and debris from elevated building cornices, covering areas from the ground floor to the fifth floor. Bamboo and rope rigging were used to reach these elevated areas.

Mosquito Spraying: Hall management introduced a twice-daily mosquito spraying routine, covering morning and evening operations across surrounding open drainage channels. The activities were supported by newly acquired chemical spraying machinery and specialized outsourced pest-management formulations.

These activities were intended to address mosquito breeding environments and improve sanitation around the residential facilities.

6.3 Solid Waste Site Remediation

On 13 November 2025, sanitation crews at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall cleared accumulated solid waste and leveled high soil mounds in commercial areas adjacent to nearby shops.

The activity addressed unmanaged waste accumulation in areas surrounding the hall and formed part of the broader effort to maintain environmental cleanliness.

6.4 Institutional Significance

Drainage clearance, vector-control operations, and waste removal are important components of campus environmental sanitation. These activities can help address conditions associated with stagnant water, mosquito breeding, and unmanaged waste.

Nevertheless, the source material does not provide quantified information on drainage capacity, waste volumes collected, mosquito population trends, or changes in vector-borne disease incidence. Accordingly, these activities are reported as operational sanitation interventions rather than evidence of measured environmental or public health outcomes.

7. Long-Term Campus Infrastructure and Water-Related Environmental Management

7.1 DU Further Development Project

The university's longer-term infrastructure planning includes several components relevant to sustainable water and sanitation management.

The **DU Further Development Project**, with an estimated total investment of **Tk 2,841 crore** and an implementation period of 2025–2030, received an initial Annual Development Programme allocation of Tk 60 crore during the reporting period.

The project incorporates several proposed environmental infrastructure improvements:

- Campus-wide drainage system overhauls.
- Comprehensive solid waste management infrastructure.
- Construction of two modern public toilet facilities.
- Structural restoration and improvement of four central campus water bodies.
- Dredging and beautification of the identified water bodies and reservoirs.

These proposed interventions are relevant to SDG Targets 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, and 6.6, particularly in relation to sanitation facilities, environmental management, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.

The planned improvements could contribute to better management of campus drainage and water bodies. However, during 2025, these activities were part of the approved development framework and should not be presented as completed infrastructure.

7.2 Environmental Recognition

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change conferred a national environmental recognition award on the University of Dhaka.

The recognition cited the university's green campus management, pollution mitigation policies, sustainable groundskeeping, and enforcement of restrictions on hazardous firecrackers and sky lanterns.

Although the award was not exclusively related to water and sanitation, it reflects institutional engagement with broader environmental management and provides relevant context for the university's sustainability initiatives.

The recognition also highlights the importance of integrating campus environmental management with long-term infrastructure and resource-management planning.

8. Academic Support and Financial Assistance in Water and Environmental Sciences

Universities contribute to sustainable water management not only through physical infrastructure but also by developing academic capacity and supporting students who pursue relevant scientific disciplines.

During the reporting period, the Department of Soil, Water and Environment announced the Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship, designed to support financially disadvantaged but academically capable students.

The scholarship provides a monthly stipend of Tk 500 for one year and is open to eligible students from the second-year B.S. (Honours) level through the Master's programme.

The application guidelines were announced on 11 December 2025. Interested students were required to submit formal written applications to the Departmental Chairman by 15 January 2026, including their academic performance, roll numbers, and hall affiliation.

As the application deadline fell in January 2026, this initiative is reported as an announced scholarship opportunity during the 2025 reporting period, rather than a confirmed scholarship disbursement.

By supporting students in soil, water, and environmental sciences, the programme is relevant to the development of academic capacity in disciplines connected to water resources, environmental management, and sustainability.

9. Consolidated SDG 6 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The University of Dhaka's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate contributions across several dimensions of SDG 6.

SDG 6 Target	Documented institutional contributions
Target 6.1 – Safe and affordable drinking water	Installation of four drinking water filtration units at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall; servicing and sanitization of filtration systems at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall; maintenance of water tanks, reservoirs, and pipelines.
Target 6.2 – Adequate sanitation and hygiene	Bathroom and washroom repairs; mosaic restoration; plumbing maintenance; improvements to food preparation and laundry facilities; sanitary product vending infrastructure.
Target 6.3 – Improve water quality and reduce pollution	Maintenance of water storage infrastructure; sanitation and waste site remediation; drainage clearance and environmental maintenance activities.
Target 6.4 – Improve water-use efficiency	Pipeline repair and maintenance intended to address leakage and preserve water distribution infrastructure. No quantified water-efficiency data was documented.
Target 6.5 – Integrated water resources management	Long-term planning for campus drainage improvements and water-body restoration under the DU Further Development Project.
Target 6.6 – Protect and restore water-related ecosystems	Planned restoration, dredging, and beautification of four campus water bodies and reservoirs.
Target 6.a – International cooperation and capacity building	The documented material provides limited direct evidence of specific water and sanitation-related international cooperation or capacity-building programmes.
Target 6.b – Local participation in water and sanitation management	Hall-level maintenance and sanitation activities involving residential administration and facility management. The source does not document a formal community-led water governance mechanism.

9.1 Selected Quantitative Highlights

The following figures represent selected documented outputs and planned infrastructure provisions. They are not a complete annual inventory of all university water and sanitation activities.

Area	Selected documented achievement
Drinking water filtration	Four new filtration units installed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall
Filtration maintenance	Existing student filtration units serviced and sanitized at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall
Residential water infrastructure	Water storage tanks and distribution pipelines maintained at multiple residential halls
Administrative water infrastructure	Supply pipeline repaired at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research
Sanitation	Bathroom, washroom, plumbing, and structural repairs across multiple residential facilities
Hygiene facilities	One automated sanitary product vending machine installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

Food and laundry sanitation	Canteen and laundry facilities renovated at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall
Vector control	Repeated mosquito-control activities documented at Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall
Campus water-body development	Restoration and dredging of four water bodies included in the development plan
Public sanitation infrastructure	Two modern public toilets included in the development plan
Campus infrastructure investment	Tk 2,841 crore estimated DU Further Development Project, with Tk 60 crore initial ADP allocation
Academic support	Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship announced for students of Soil, Water and Environment

10. Institutional Impact on SDG 6

University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 6 during 2025 extended across drinking water access, water infrastructure maintenance, sanitation, hygiene, drainage management, and environmental planning.

First, the installation of new filtration units and servicing of existing systems reflected efforts to maintain access to drinking water within residential halls. These interventions were complemented by maintenance of storage tanks, reservoirs, and distribution pipelines.

Second, residential sanitation improvements addressed the condition of shared bathrooms, washrooms, plumbing systems, food-handling areas, and laundry facilities. The installation of a sanitary product vending machine also demonstrated attention to gender-responsive hygiene infrastructure.

Third, repeated drainage clearance, mosquito-control operations, and waste site remediation reflected ongoing efforts to maintain environmental sanitation in residential and surrounding areas.

Fourth, the DU Further Development Project incorporated long-term provisions for drainage improvements, waste management, public toilets, and restoration of campus water bodies. These plans demonstrate the university's recognition of the need to address environmental infrastructure through coordinated institutional investment.

Finally, the Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship provided an academic support mechanism for students pursuing soil, water, and environmental sciences, connecting student development with broader environmental sustainability priorities.

11. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate institutional efforts to improve water and sanitation infrastructure through practical maintenance interventions, residential facility upgrades, environmental sanitation activities, and long-term development planning.

The installation and servicing of drinking water filtration systems, maintenance of reservoirs and pipelines, and repairs to residential sanitation facilities contributed to maintaining essential water and hygiene infrastructure across several university facilities. Drainage clearance, vector-control operations, and waste site remediation further supported the maintenance of campus environmental sanitation.

The university's broader development planning also incorporated drainage improvements, solid waste management facilities, public toilets, and restoration of four campus water bodies. These proposed investments provide an important foundation for strengthening the university's long-term approach to water and environmental management.

Moving forward, the university's priority should be to complement infrastructure maintenance with systematic monitoring of water quality, consumption, wastewater management, sanitation coverage, and environmental outcomes. Stronger coordination, preventive maintenance, and student participation will also be essential to ensuring the sustainability of these initiatives.

Through continued investment in safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, responsible resource management, and environmental infrastructure, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 6 and promote a healthier and more sustainable campus environment.