SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

1. Executive Summary

Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth) emphasizes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, productive employment, decent working conditions, entrepreneurship, innovation, and the protection of labour rights. As a leading higher education institution, the University of Dhaka contributes to these objectives through education and skills development, industry–academia collaboration, entrepreneurship promotion, labour market research, workplace safety initiatives, and institutional infrastructure development.

During 2025, the University undertook several initiatives to strengthen students' professional competencies and prepare graduates for changing labour market requirements. These included the launch of the Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course for 50 students, career development seminars, international lectures on emerging professional opportunities, language development activities, and research and writing workshops.

The University also strengthened engagement with industry and innovation ecosystems. Notable initiatives included an industry–academia symposium on healthcare and material science, the VisionX National AI Innovation Challenge involving 41 teams from 35 universities, a student entrepreneurship fair titled *Uddyokta Mela*, and discussions with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on a proposed institutional development initiative.

In the area of labour mobility and economic governance, the Department of International Relations organized research seminars addressing globalization, international labour migration, migrant workers' rights, wage protection, remittance flows, and climate-related labour market challenges. These activities contributed to academic and policy discussions on the relationship between labour mobility and sustainable economic development.

The University also documented internal initiatives relating to workplace safety, transparent recruitment, student employment, and the welfare of service personnel. A fire safety and emergency response drill was conducted at the Faculty of Social Sciences, two students were integrated into paid service roles at the DU Information Centre, and residential hall administrations undertook measures to provide protective equipment and operational support to custodial personnel.

Furthermore, the University advanced major infrastructure development and structural safety initiatives, including the DU Further Development Project, the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project, and post-earthquake structural audits and repairs across residential halls.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the University's contribution to several dimensions of SDG 8. However, the available records do not provide consolidated data on graduate employment, job placement rates, institutional job creation, wage levels, labour productivity, or the overall economic impact of infrastructure investments. The report therefore focuses on

documented institutional activities and outputs rather than claiming unmeasured economic outcomes.

2. Institutional Commitment to Decent Work and Economic Growth

The University of Dhaka contributes to sustainable economic development through its educational, research, administrative, and community engagement functions. Its role extends beyond producing graduates to preparing students with relevant professional skills, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, generating policy-oriented research, and maintaining safe and inclusive working environments.

During 2025, the University's contributions to SDG 8 were reflected in five interconnected areas:

1. **Human capital and employability:** Developing communication, professional, digital, research, and career-readiness skills among students.
2. **Industry–academia collaboration and innovation:** Connecting academic research with industrial needs and supporting technological innovation.
3. **Entrepreneurship and economic participation:** Creating opportunities for student-led ventures and market exposure.
4. **Labour governance and policy research:** Examining international labour mobility, migrant workers' rights, remittance systems, and employment-related challenges.
5. **Decent work and institutional development:** Supporting workplace safety, transparent recruitment, student employment, service staff welfare, and infrastructure development.

These activities demonstrate the University's contribution to the broader institutional and knowledge ecosystem required for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The reporting period covers January–December 2025. The available activity records, however, primarily document initiatives undertaken between July and December. The report presents these documented activities within the full-year reporting framework without assuming that undocumented activities occurred during the first half of the year.

3. Workforce Capacity Building and Career Skill Development

Preparing students for productive employment is a central contribution of higher education institutions to SDG Target 8.6, which focuses on reducing the proportion of young people not in employment, education, or training. During 2025, the University of Dhaka organized several initiatives to strengthen students' professional competencies and improve their readiness for domestic and international employment opportunities.

3.1 Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course

The Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee (ICEC), in collaboration with the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the Student Promotion and Support Unit (SPSU), launched a specialized certificate course titled *Effective Professional Communication.*

The programme was administratively announced on 13 November 2025, and its first cohort was formally inaugurated on 20 November 2025. A total of 50 final-year undergraduate and Master's students from different academic departments were selected for the first cohort.

The course was designed to develop practical communication and workplace competencies, including:

- CV and cover letter preparation and optimization.
- Professional email writing and executive communication etiquette.
- Oral presentation and communication skills.
- Digital platform communication.
- Cross-functional teamwork and coordination.
- Structured problem-solving.

The initiative addressed the importance of professional communication in graduate employability and workplace performance. By introducing structured training beyond conventional academic coursework, the University sought to strengthen students' ability to transition into professional environments.

3.2 Career Talk Show and Presentation Skill Development

On 9 October 2025, the Department of Banking and Insurance organized a programme titled *"Career Talk Show and Presentation Skill Development."*

The programme was presided over by the Departmental Chairman and attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Business Studies as Chief Guest. It focused on preparing business students for professional recruitment and corporate communication.

The session covered public speaking, corporate presentation and pitch development, and job interview techniques. These competencies are important for students preparing to enter competitive professional environments.

3.3 International Lecture on Future Careers in Library and Information Science

On 11 December 2025, the Department of Information Science and Library Management organized an international guest lecture titled **"Beyond the Library: The Future of LIS Careers?"**

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Emily Drabinski of the Graduate School of Information Studies at the City University of New York (CUNY), who previously served as President of the American Library Association.

The session explored emerging career pathways in information governance, digital curation, and enterprise database management. It provided students with insights into the changing professional landscape of library and information science and the opportunities emerging from digital transformation.

3.4 Language Development and International Engagement

The Institute of Modern Languages organized *ESOL Day (English for Speakers of Other Languages)* on 10 July 2025. The programme was inaugurated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and highlighted the importance of English language proficiency and cross-cultural communication.

On the same date, the Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan met with University leadership to discuss the potential enrolment of diplomatic personnel in the University's Bangla Language Diploma courses. The discussion also referred to previous bilateral support, including the establishment of a computer laboratory in the Department of Urdu.

These activities reflected the University's engagement with language education, international communication, and institutional exchange.

3.5 Research, Writing and Analytical Skill Development

The DU Research Society (DURS) organized a day-long **Skill Development Workshop** on 17 July 2025. The programme was opened by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and focused on strengthening undergraduate students' research competencies.

The workshop addressed research design, data synthesis, and academic publishing methodologies.

Additionally, on 13 November 2025, the Shamsun Nahar Hall Union organized a student writing workshop for female residential students. The programme focused on analytical writing, journalism techniques, media literacy, and professional writing.

Both initiatives contributed to the development of transferable skills that can support academic progression and future professional engagement.

Summary of Career and Skills Development Activities

Date	Organizing unit	Initiative	Main competencies addressed
10 July 2025	Institute of Modern Languages	ESOL Day	English communication and cross-cultural competencies
10 July 2025	University administration and Pakistan High Commission	Bangla Language Diploma engagement	Language education and international institutional exchange
17 July 2025	DU Research Society	Skill Development Workshop	Research methodology, data synthesis and academic publishing
9 October 2025	Department of Banking and Insurance	Career Talk Show and Presentation Skill Development	Public speaking, corporate presentation and interview skills

13 November 2025	Shamsun Nahar Hall Union	Student Writing Workshop	Analytical writing, journalism and media literacy
20 November 2025	ICEC, IQAC and SPSU	Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course	Professional communication, CV preparation and teamwork
11 December 2025	Department of Information Science and Library Management	Beyond the Library: The Future of LIS Careers?	Digital curation, information governance and career development

These initiatives demonstrate the University's efforts to connect academic learning with professional competencies and changing labour market requirements.

4. Industry–Academia Collaboration and Innovation

Industry–academia collaboration is important for strengthening technological innovation, improving the relevance of academic research, and supporting economic diversification. During 2025, the University of Dhaka organized and participated in several initiatives that connected academic institutions with industry representatives, development partners, and innovation stakeholders.

4.1 Industry–Academia Partnership in Healthcare and Material Science

On 18 September 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology jointly organized a national symposium titled *"Strengthening Industry-Academia Partnership in Healthcare and Material Science."*

The symposium brought together academic researchers and representatives of national pharmaceutical enterprises to explore opportunities for collaboration in research and industrial development.

The discussions focused on:

- Developing collaborative applied research and development initiatives.
- Aligning university laboratory practices with industrial Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).
- Strengthening cooperation between academic researchers and industrial engineers.
- Exploring recruitment opportunities for pharmacy and engineering graduates.
- Supporting innovation in healthcare and material science.

The symposium provided a platform for connecting academic research with industrial requirements and identifying opportunities for collaboration in high-value manufacturing and technology-oriented sectors.

4.2 VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge

On 20 November 2025, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering organized the *"VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge"* at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

The national competition brought together 41 qualified student teams representing 35 national and international universities. The participants showcased artificial intelligence-based software and hardware solutions addressing areas such as industrial automation, civil infrastructure diagnostics, and public utility management.

The event was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka. The Adviser for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Road Transport and Bridges, and Railways attended as Chief Guest.

The University of Dhaka secured the national championship in the Project Showcasing Track.

The initiative demonstrated the University's role in promoting technological innovation and creating opportunities for students to develop and present practical solutions to real-world challenges. It also strengthened engagement between emerging technological talent and national policymakers.

4.3 Strategic Technology and Research Cooperation with JICA

On 17 July 2025, senior University leadership held a strategic development meeting with a visiting delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The discussion focused on a proposed technical and financial development initiative intended to strengthen research infrastructure and technical capacity among young faculty members and students.

The proposed areas of cooperation included:

- Artificial Intelligence.
- Renewable Energy.
- Financial Technology (FinTech).
- Environmental Science and Management.
- Science and Technology Infrastructure.

The initiative was intended to support advanced research capacity, laboratory development, and technical skills among undergraduate and postgraduate students and young faculty members.

Although the available records document project-planning discussions rather than a completed partnership programme, the engagement demonstrated the University's efforts to explore international cooperation in high-growth technological and economic sectors.

4.4 Student Entrepreneurship through Uddyokta Mela

On 17 July 2025, the DU Cultural Society organized a day-long entrepreneur fair titled **"Uddyokta Mela"** at the Teacher–Student Centre (TSC), within the framework of the Asharh Parbon-1432 cultural festival.

The event was inaugurated by the University Treasurer, with the Adviser for the Ministry of Education attending as Chief Guest.

The fair provided a platform for student-led micro-enterprises, artisanal manufacturing initiatives, and sustainable start-ups to showcase their products and gain commercial exposure.

By creating an opportunity for students to present products and interact with potential customers, the initiative supported entrepreneurial learning and provided a setting for preliminary market testing.

The event demonstrated the University's contribution to promoting entrepreneurial culture and encouraging students to explore self-employment and small-scale business development.

4.5 Planning for the Career Festival and Research Fair

On 20 November 2025, the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences held a strategic planning meeting to prepare for an upcoming **Career Festival and Research Fair**, scheduled for 14 January 2026.

The meeting was chaired by the Dean and attended by the Chairpersons of the Faculty's constituent departments. The participants finalized arrangements relating to logistics, corporate sponsorship, and research exhibitions.

The planned event was intended to establish networking opportunities between environmental-sector employers, researchers, and graduating students.

As the event was scheduled for January 2026, it should be considered a preparatory milestone undertaken in 2025 rather than a completed 2025 event.

5. Labour Mobility, Economic Governance and Policy Research

Sustainable economic growth requires not only employment creation but also fair labour practices, safe working environments, effective labour governance, and protection of workers' rights. The University of Dhaka contributed to these discussions through academic research and policy-oriented seminars addressing international labour migration, globalization, remittance systems, and the challenges faced by migrant workers.

5.1 Research Seminars on Globalization, National Security and Labour Migration

On 11 December 2025, the Department of International Relations organized two major research seminars supported by the University Grants Commission's Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project.

The seminars were conducted under the research theme:

"A Study on the Foreign Policy of Bangladesh to Address the Challenges of Globalization in the Domains of National Security, Climate Change and Labor Migration."

The sessions featured keynote administrative addresses by the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration).

The presented research examined the role of foreign policy and diplomatic instruments in addressing several important labour and economic governance issues, including:

- Protection of overseas migrant workers' rights.
- Wage protection mechanisms for migrant workers.
- Climate-induced labour market displacement.
- Remittance inflows and their importance to national economic stability.
- International labour mobility and the challenges of globalization.

The research also explored policy approaches to strengthen bilateral labour governance, improve fair recruitment standards, enhance overseas wage protection, and encourage the use of formal remittance channels.

These seminars demonstrated the University's role in generating policy-oriented knowledge on international labour migration and its relationship with national economic development.

5.2 Comparative Research on Labour Mobility in Asia

Earlier in the reporting period, on 14 August 2025, the University hosted academic lectures by visiting senior faculty members from Peking University.

Prof. Wu Jiewei and Prof. Wang Xu presented comparative research on:

- *"Comparative Analysis of Labor Mobility in the Age of Globalization: Case Studies of Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Philippines."*
- *"People-Centric Economic Development upon National Security: China's Experience for Bangladesh."*

The presentations examined cross-border labour movement, national skill standardization frameworks, overseas wage competitiveness, and the relationship between labour force expansion and economic security.

The comparative approach provided an opportunity to examine Bangladesh's labour mobility framework alongside the experiences of other Asian labour-exporting countries.

5.3 Policy and Research Contributions

The documented research activities addressed several policy considerations relevant to decent work and sustainable economic growth:

Bilateral labour governance: Strengthening diplomatic protocols, fair recruitment standards, and wage protection mechanisms for overseas workers.

Remittance management: Encouraging formal financial transfer channels and improving the financial security of migrant workers.

Skills recognition and accreditation: Developing standardized occupational skills and accreditation systems to strengthen the international competitiveness of Bangladeshi workers.

Climate-related labour market adjustment: Examining strategies to address labour displacement and migration pressures associated with climate change.

These activities contributed to academic and policy discussions on labour governance. However, the available documentation does not establish that the recommendations were formally adopted as government policy or implemented as regulatory reforms during 2025.

6. Workplace Safety, Decent Work and Campus Employment Opportunities

The promotion of decent work requires institutions to maintain safe working environments, transparent employment practices, appropriate occupational safeguards, and opportunities for meaningful work. During 2025, the University of Dhaka documented several initiatives addressing these priorities within its own institutional environment.

6.1 Occupational Fire Safety and Emergency Response Training

On 9 October 2025, a hands-on fire safety and emergency response drill was conducted at the Faculty of Social Sciences building under the technical supervision of the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The exercise included practical training in:

- Fire extinguishing techniques.
- Building evacuation procedures.
- Emergency rescue operations.
- Institutional emergency preparedness.
- Workplace hazard mitigation.

The initiative targeted administrative officers, technical personnel, and service staff across the constituent departments of the Faculty.

By providing practical exposure to emergency response procedures, the exercise contributed to workplace safety awareness and institutional preparedness.

6.2 Transparent Recruitment and Employment Opportunities

On 11 September and 18 September 2025, the administration of Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall published formal recruitment notices for vacant House Tutor and Assistant House Tutor positions.

The notices invited qualified candidates to submit applications within a specified recruitment period, with 22 September 2025 set as the application deadline.

The publication of formal recruitment notices reflected an institutional approach to transparent hiring and provided an opportunity for qualified candidates to compete for residential administrative positions.

6.3 Structured On-Campus Student Employment

On 14 August 2025, the University administration integrated two regular students into paid service roles at the DU Information Centre under the Public Relations Office.

The students were assigned responsibilities relating to real-time information updates and assistance to service seekers navigating administrative processes between the Controller of Examinations and Administrative Bhaban offices.

This initiative provided students with paid work opportunities while allowing them to gain practical experience in administrative coordination, communication, and service delivery.

The arrangement also demonstrated a possible model for structured campus-based work-study opportunities that can combine student financial support with professional experience.

6.4 Welfare and Occupational Support for Service Personnel

The University also documented measures to support the working conditions of cleaning and custodial personnel in residential facilities.

During the reporting period, administrative reviews and operational discussions took place across residential facilities, including Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Kabi Jasimuddin Hall.

On 11 September, 9 October, and 11 December 2025, documented measures included the procurement of health and safety equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and mechanized fogging machinery. The initiatives were accompanied by operational schedule management during intensive sanitation campaigns.

These measures reflected attention to the occupational safety and operational needs of service personnel whose work contributes to campus hygiene and maintenance.

Summary of Workplace Safety and Decent Work Initiatives

Date / Period	Initiative	Institutional contribution
9 October 2025	Fire safety and emergency response drill at the Faculty of Social Sciences	Occupational safety awareness and emergency preparedness
11 and 18 September 2025	House Tutor and Assistant House Tutor recruitment notices	Transparent recruitment and formal employment procedures
14 August 2025	Two students integrated into paid roles at the DU Information Centre	Student employment and practical work experience
July–December 2025	Operational reviews and procurement of safety equipment for custodial personnel	Occupational protection and service staff welfare

These initiatives demonstrate the University's efforts to strengthen internal workplace practices and support safer working conditions. However, the available records do not provide comprehensive occupational injury statistics, employee satisfaction data, or consolidated information on staff employment conditions.

7. Infrastructure Development and Institutional Investment

Institutional infrastructure development can contribute to economic activity through investment in construction, engineering, procurement, and related services. It also strengthens the physical capacity of universities to deliver education, research, and public services.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka advanced several major infrastructure initiatives involving academic facilities, residential accommodation, environmental infrastructure, and structural safety.

7.1 DU Further Development Project

The University of Dhaka's Further Development Project represents a major institutional investment with a total estimated value of **BDT 2,841 crore**, covering a five-year implementation period.

On 20 November 2025, University leadership provided an update on the project's implementation progress. Key administrative and procurement milestones recorded during 2025 included:

- Securing Ministry of Education approval for an allocation of BDT 60 crore under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for FY 2025–2026.
- Formal appointment of the Project Director on 12 October 2025.
- Publication of the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the national e-GP procurement portal.
- Initiation of procurement for design consultants responsible for architectural and structural engineering of 31 major facilities.

The planned facilities and infrastructure components include:

- Six academic facilities.
- Nine residential halls, including four female halls with a planned capacity of 2,600 students and five male halls with a planned capacity of 5,100 students.
- Residential quarters for house tutors across nine halls.
- Two faculty and officer housing complexes.
- Administrative buildings.
- Restoration of four water bodies.
- Playing field improvements.
- Public sanitation facilities.
- Centralized drainage and waste management infrastructure.

The project represents a substantial planned investment in the University's physical infrastructure. Its implementation is expected to require a range of construction, engineering, procurement, and technical services.

From an SDG 8 perspective, the project provides an important framework for institutional capital development. However, the 2025 milestones primarily concern project administration, funding allocation, and design-consultant procurement. The total project value should not be interpreted as expenditure already disbursed or construction completed during 2025.

7.2 Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project

The Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project is a major residential infrastructure initiative valued at **BDT 244 crore**, financed through grant assistance from the Government of China.

The project is designed to provide modern residential accommodation for 1,500 female students.

Following formal approval by the Chinese government, technical feasibility inspections were conducted on 9 October and 18 December 2025. The inspections involved Chinese technical experts, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, the Treasurer, and other University officials.

The project site is located in the Jagannath Hall expansion area. According to the documented update, physical groundbreaking was expected to commence in early 2026.

The initiative demonstrates international development cooperation and planned investment in higher education infrastructure. Its future implementation may also support economic activity through construction and related services.

For the 2025 reporting period, the documented achievements were formal project approval and technical feasibility inspections. Construction should therefore be treated as a planned future activity rather than a completed 2025 output.

7.3 Post-Earthquake Structural Audits and Retrofitting

Following regional seismic events, the University administration prioritized structural safety assessments and repair work across residential facilities.

On 11 December 2025, the Central Coordination Committee, led by the University Treasurer and supported by structural engineering experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), completed comprehensive engineering audits across residential halls.

The documented repair and retrofitting progress included:

Residential facility	Documented progress
Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall	112 of 175 rooms fully repaired
Surja Sen Hall	96 rooms completed across the third to sixth floors
Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall	Repairs completed in 32 rooms, alongside south block ceiling repairs
Shamsun Nahar Hall	Structural and repair work included in the wider programme
Kabi Jasimuddin Hall	Structural and repair work included in the wider programme

The activities included structural retrofitting, plaster reinforcement, and ferro-cement roof work.

These measures contributed to the maintenance of safer institutional facilities and demonstrated the University's attention to infrastructure resilience and occupational safety.

The infrastructure initiatives collectively illustrate the University's commitment to long-term institutional development. They also represent potential channels for supporting employment and economic activity through construction and technical services, although the available records do not quantify associated job creation or local economic multipliers.

8. Consolidated SDG 8 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The University's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate contributions to SDG 8 through human capital development, entrepreneurship, industry collaboration, policy research, workplace safety, and infrastructure investment.

The following table summarizes the major activities and their institutional significance.

Area	Key documented initiative	Date/period	Main contribution
Career development	Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course	November 2025	Professional skills development for 50 students
Career readiness	Career Talk Show and Presentation Skill Development	9 October 2025	Corporate communication and interview preparation
International career exposure	Future LIS Careers lecture	11 December 2025	Awareness of emerging professional pathways
Language development	ESOL Day and Bangla Language Diploma engagement	10 July 2025	Language and cross-cultural competencies

Research capacity	DURS Skill Development Workshop	17 July 2025	Research and analytical competencies
Industry collaboration	Healthcare and Material Science symposium	18 September 2025	Industry–academia research cooperation
Technological innovation	VisionX National AI Innovation Challenge	20 November 2025	Innovation involving 41 teams from 35 universities
International cooperation	JICA institutional development meeting	17 July 2025	Exploration of technical and financial cooperation
Entrepreneurship	Uddyokta Mela	17 July 2025	Market exposure for student-led ventures
Labour policy research	Seminars on globalization and labour migration	11 December 2025	Research on migrant workers' rights and labour governance
Workplace safety	Fire safety and emergency response drill	9 October 2025	Occupational safety and emergency preparedness
Student employment	Two paid student positions at DU Information Centre	14 August 2025	Campus-based employment and practical experience
Service staff welfare	Procurement of safety equipment and operational support	July–December 2025	Occupational protection for custodial personnel
Infrastructure development	DU Further Development Project	2025 milestones	Long-term academic and residential infrastructure investment
International infrastructure cooperation	Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project	2025 milestones	Planned residential infrastructure for 1,500 female students
Structural safety	Post-earthquake audits and retrofitting	December 2025	Facility safety and infrastructure resilience

Selected Quantitative Highlights

The following figures represent selected documented institutional outputs:

- 50 students enrolled in the first cohort of the Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course.
- 41 teams from 35 universities participated in the VisionX National AI Innovation Challenge.
- 2 students integrated into paid service positions at the DU Information Centre.
- 1 student entrepreneurship fair was organized through Uddyokta Mela.
- 1 national industry–academia symposium organized on healthcare and material science.
- BDT 2,841 crore estimated value of the DU Further Development Project.

- BDT 60 crore approved ADP allocation for FY 2025–2026 under the Further Development Project.
- BDT 244 crore value of the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project, designed for 1,500 female students.
- 112 rooms repaired at Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall and 96 rooms completed at Surja Sen Hall under the documented structural repair programme.

These figures represent selected activities and project milestones. They should not be interpreted as a complete account of the University's total employment generation, annual investment expenditure, or economic contribution.

9. Alignment with Specific SDG 8 Targets

The University's activities can be mapped to several targets under SDG 8. The nature of the contribution varies across targets, ranging from direct institutional activities to research and enabling initiatives.

SDG target	Global focus	University's documented contribution	Nature of alignment
8.1	Sustained economic growth	Infrastructure investment and institutional development projects	Institutional investment and development
8.2	Economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation	VisionX, industry–academia symposium, JICA engagement and research activities	Innovation and technology development
8.3	Entrepreneurship, productive activities and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises	Uddyokta Mela and student-led venture exposure	Entrepreneurship promotion
8.5	Full and productive employment and decent work for all	Career development initiatives, student employment and recruitment practices	Employability and employment support
8.6	Reduction of youth not in employment, education or training	Professional communication course, career readiness programmes, language and research skill development	Youth skills and employability
8.7	Eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour	Academic research addressing migrant labour governance and worker protection	Research and policy awareness
8.8	Protection of labour rights and promotion of safe working environments	Fire safety training, PPE procurement, staff welfare measures and migrant worker protection research	Workplace safety and labour governance

8.9	Sustainable tourism and local culture	Student entrepreneurship fair within the Asharh Parbon cultural festival	Limited indirect contribution

The strongest direct institutional contributions are associated with Targets 8.5, 8.6, and 8.8 through employability, student employment, and workplace safety initiatives. Targets 8.2 and 8.3 are supported through innovation, industry collaboration, and entrepreneurship promotion.

The research activities relating to migrant workers and labour governance contribute to the knowledge and policy dimensions of Targets 8.7 and 8.8. However, they do not establish that forced labour or trafficking was directly prevented through a University intervention during the reporting period.

10. Institutional Impact and Significance

The documented activities demonstrate several important institutional contributions to decent work and economic growth.

Strengthening graduate employability: The University's career development and professional skills programmes addressed communication, presentation, research, language, and digital competencies. These activities supported students' preparation for professional environments.

Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation: Uddyokta Mela created a platform for student-led enterprises to showcase products and gain market exposure. VisionX encouraged technological innovation and demonstrated the University's ability to convene student innovators from multiple universities.

Connecting academic research with industry: The industry–academia symposium created opportunities to discuss applied research, industrial standards, and graduate recruitment in healthcare and material science.

Supporting labour governance and migrant worker protection: Research seminars and international academic lectures addressed labour mobility, fair recruitment, wage protection, and remittance systems. These discussions strengthened the University's contribution to policy-oriented knowledge on decent work.

Improving internal workplace conditions: Fire safety training, transparent recruitment notices, student employment, and protective equipment procurement demonstrated institutional attention to workplace safety and employment practices.

Advancing institutional infrastructure: Major development projects and structural repair initiatives reflected continued investment in the physical facilities required for academic delivery and institutional operations.

11. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka contributed to SDG 8 through a broad range of academic, professional, entrepreneurial, research, administrative, and infrastructure-related initiatives.

Career development programmes and professional skills training supported students' preparation for the labour market. Industry–academia collaboration, VisionX, and Uddyokta Mela encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship. Research seminars on international labour migration and economic governance strengthened academic engagement with migrant workers' rights, fair recruitment, and remittance-related policy issues.

Within the University's own institutional environment, initiatives relating to fire safety, transparent recruitment, paid student employment, and service staff welfare reflected attention to decent work and workplace protection. Major infrastructure development and structural safety initiatives further demonstrated the University's commitment to long-term institutional development.

These activities represent meaningful contributions to the knowledge, skills, innovation, and institutional dimensions of SDG 8. Going forward, systematic monitoring of graduate employment, entrepreneurship outcomes, workplace safety, and infrastructure-related economic benefits will be essential for assessing the University's broader contribution to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.