UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Established 1921

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT

2025

Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Committed to building a sustainable Nation

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

University of Dhaka

Foreword

The University of Dhaka has long been more than an institution of higher education. Since its establishment in 1921, it has played a defining role in the intellectual, cultural, political, and social development of Bangladesh. Its contribution to the country extends beyond teaching and research to include the development of generations of professionals, public servants, academics, entrepreneurs, scientists and civic leaders. Today, as the world faces interconnected challenges involving climate change, inequality, technological transformation, public health and institutional resilience, the University recognises that its responsibility must also extend to advancing sustainable development.

The University's sustainability efforts are reflected in a growing range of academic, institutional, environmental and social initiatives. Recent developments demonstrate both the breadth of this engagement and the potential for higher education institutions to contribute meaningfully to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026, the University advanced by 200 positions to the 801–1000 global band, retaining its position among the highest-ranked universities in Bangladesh. It also secured 52nd place globally and first place in South Asia in the THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026, among 911 participating universities from 94 countries. These achievements reinforce the importance of research quality, interdisciplinary collaboration and academic development in the University's broader institutional progress.

The University is also undertaking significant investments in its physical infrastructure and campus environment. The BDT 2,841-crore Further Development Project, with an initial Annual Development Programme allocation of BDT 60 crore, represents a major five-year development commitment extending to 2030. Its planned components include nine new student residential halls, six academic buildings, improved campus facilities, restoration of four water bodies and modernised waste-management systems. Alongside this longer-term investment, structural assessments and repair works following seismic activity have involved technical experts from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Reported repairs include 112 of 175 rooms at Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall and 96 of 141 rooms at Surya Sen Hall. These interventions illustrate the importance of linking campus development with safety, resilience and the well-being of the university community.

Progress in sustainability is equally evident in the University's approach to environmental responsibility and social inclusion. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change formally recognised the University for its prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers and sky lanterns during Thirty-First Night celebrations. The campus-wide "Stop Burning Fallen Leaves" campaign has further encouraged a transition from open burning towards the collection and conversion of leaf litter into organic fertiliser for campus gardens. In the area of gender equality, the planned construction of four female student halls under the Further Development Project is expected to provide 2,600 additional residential places, while a separate BDT 244-crore Chinese government-funded project is intended to accommodate another 1,500 female students. The establishment of dedicated committees addressing sexual harassment, bullying and ragging, alongside the

introduction of complaint mechanisms across university units, represents another important dimension of institutional responsibility.

The University's contribution also extends to academic opportunity, student welfare and democratic participation. Academic recognition and research support have included awards for 76 students across the Faculty of Science and financial incentives for 38 faculty members publishing in Q1 and Q2 indexed journals. The first cohort of 50 students enrolled in the Effective Professional Communication certificate course, reflecting efforts to connect university education with professional competencies. Financial support has also reached students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including a BDT 60,000 annual stipend for a visually impaired student and scholarships of BDT 10,000 each for 50 financially disadvantaged first-year Law students. Meanwhile, the DUCSU and Hall Union elections, conducted through eight voting centres and 810 booths, demonstrated the importance of student representation and participation in university governance. These initiatives show that sustainability is not confined to environmental protection or infrastructure; it is also about creating an inclusive, supportive and accountable academic community.

Partnerships remain central to this institutional agenda. Engagements with universities, international development organisations, government agencies, industry and civil society have opened avenues for collaborative research, academic exchange, faculty development and policy dialogue. Initiatives involving institutions such as Peking University, the University of Toronto, Sungkyunkwan University, Central Queensland University and the Japan International Cooperation Agency illustrate the University's efforts to connect local priorities with international knowledge and expertise. Through its departments, institutes, research centres and administrative units, the University continues to engage with partners on issues ranging from artificial intelligence and renewable energy to coastal resilience, public health, environmental protection and democratic governance.

The University’s sustainability contribution is both direct and indirect. Direct contributions emerge through research projects, institutional policies, campus operations, student support, infrastructure development and community engagement. Indirect contributions are embedded in the University's core educational mission: preparing graduates with the knowledge, skills, values and critical perspectives needed to address complex societal challenges. Its research and academic activities also contribute to the wider production and dissemination of knowledge that can inform public policy, professional practice and national development.

Institutional coordination is important to sustaining and strengthening these efforts. The University has established an SDG Cell to support coordination and engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals, while the Sustainability Ranking Committee under the University's Ranking Committee contributes to monitoring and documenting institutional performance. The Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Center, which hosts the local chapter of SDSN Bangladesh, also provides a connection to wider national and international sustainability networks, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration and policy engagement.

This Sustainability Progress Report is an effort to document these contributions, recognise the work taking place across the University and establish a clearer basis for future institutional

assessment. It brings together available information on initiatives, achievements, policies, partnerships and development projects and relates them to the relevant SDGs. At the same time, the process of compiling a university-wide sustainability report is complex. The University's large and decentralised structure means that relevant activities and data are generated across numerous faculties, departments, institutes, halls, centres and administrative units. The information presented in this report is therefore based on official records and documented information available for review. It should be regarded as a consolidated account of recorded progress rather than an exhaustive inventory of every sustainability-related contribution made by the University.

Looking ahead to 2030, the University aims to strengthen this reporting and coordination process, improve the availability and consistency of institutional data, develop more measurable indicators and assess not only the activities undertaken but also their outcomes and longer-term impact. The objective is not simply to increase the number of reported initiatives, but to build a more systematic institutional approach in which sustainability becomes increasingly integrated into teaching, research, governance, campus management and external engagement.

The University of Dhaka's legacy places it in a distinctive position to contribute to the sustainable future of Bangladesh. Building on that legacy requires continued institutional commitment, collective responsibility and meaningful collaboration. This report is both a record of progress and an invitation to strengthen that shared responsibility, within the University and through its engagement with the wider society.

Sustainability Impact of 2025 at a Glance

SDG	Progress Areas	Key developments in 2025
SDG 1 – No Poverty	Financial assistance, scholarships and social protection	Expanded student welfare through departmental scholarships, trust fund contributions and targeted financial assistance. The Department of Law launched the Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship, providing Tk. 10,000 each to 50 financially disadvantaged students. Amar Ekushey Hall increased its trust fund capital by Tk. 20 lakh, bringing the total to Tk. 40 lakh. Support also included assistance for students injured during the July 2024 uprising, disability-related financial support and humanitarian relief for war-affected children in Gaza.
SDG 2 – Zero Hunger	Food access, food storage and sustainable organic resource management	Improved residential dining and food-storage facilities through kitchen and dining-area renovations, commercial cooking equipment repairs, one 300-litre deep freezer and seven refrigerators. The university also advanced organic resource recovery through the Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign, converting collected leaf litter into compost for campus landscaping rather than open burning.
SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being	Preventive healthcare, medical access, mental well-being and sports	Strengthened preventive health measures through recurring mosquito and vector-control operations, including seven documented intervention dates at Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and bedbug treatment in 29 rooms at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall. Medical officers from the DU Medical Center provided on-site outpatient and emergency services at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall. Student well-being was also supported through blood-grouping services, mental-health-related academic activities, physical fitness facilities and inter-hall and inter-departmental sports competitions.
SDG 4 – Quality Education	Academic quality, institutional recognition, research and international academic engagement	Advanced academic quality and institutional recognition. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 placed DU in the 801–1000 band, while the Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026 placed it 52nd globally. The Faculty of Science recognized 76 students and 10 faculty members, while 38 faculty members received incentives for Q1/Q2 journal publications. Other developments included the first National IQAC Conference, international academic lectures, research conferences and initiatives to strengthen quality assurance.
SDG 5 – Gender Equality	Gender-responsive governance, protection and	Established dedicated institutional mechanisms to address sexual harassment, oppression, bullying and ragging, alongside directives for accessible complaint-reporting arrangements and regular grievance monitoring. The university also strengthened

	women's participation	the academic profile of its gender-focused work through the re-designation of its specialised centre as the Centre for Gender and Development Studies. July Female Student Day was institutionalised, with recognition and support for female students affected by the July uprising.
SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Safe drinking water, water infrastructure and sanitation facilities	Improved water supply and sanitation across residential and academic facilities through pipeline and reservoir repairs, water-tank cleaning, filtration-system maintenance and bathroom and washroom renovations. Four heavy-duty drinking-water filtration units were installed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall. Other interventions included repairs to the water supply infrastructure at Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, alongside improvements to residential sanitation facilities.
SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	Renewable-energy research and technical capacity development	Strengthened academic capacity in sustainable energy technologies through specialised seminars at the Energy Institute. Topics included microbial fuel cell technology, which explores the potential to generate electricity while treating organic waste, and solar-cell modelling using SCAPS-1D. The university also engaged with the renewable-energy sector through a workshop reviewing EnDev's 16-year journey and held discussions with JICA on potential technical cooperation in renewable energy and related research infrastructure.
SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	Employability, professional skills, entrepreneurship and industry engagement	Expanded career-oriented learning and professional development through workshops, career talks, language and research-skills activities, and the Effective Professional Communication certificate course, whose first cohort enrolled 50 students. The university promoted student entrepreneurship through the Uddyokta Mela, providing exposure to student-led micro-enterprises and small ventures. Industry engagement also included a pharmaceutical and engineering industry-academia symposium, while two regular students were employed in paid service roles at the DU Information Centre.
SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Major infrastructure investment, digital connectivity, research technology and innovation	Advanced the Tk. 2,841 crore University of Dhaka Further Development Project, with a Tk. 60 crore initial ADP allocation and procurement and consultancy preparations underway. The Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project, supported by a Tk. 244 crore Chinese government grant, progressed through formal approval and site inspection, with 1,500 planned female residential seats. Structural resilience work continued following engineering assessments of residential halls. Digital infrastructure was upgraded through Wi-Fi expansion, computer-laboratory development and modernised academic

		facilities. The university also hosted the national Robotics Fest and VisionX AI Challenge, with DU teams securing leading awards.
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	Financial assistance, inclusive student support, and cultural representation	Awarded BDT 10,000 each to 50 financially disadvantaged Law students through the Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship Fund; provided scholarships to 159 students through the Department of Islamic History and Culture; selected six financially disadvantaged students for support through the Institute of Social Welfare and Research; and approved an annual stipend of BDT 60,000 for a visually impaired student. The University also hosted the Jum Literature and Cultural Diversity Festival and the Art of Equality workshop, bringing together representatives from regional art institutions.
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Resilient campus infrastructure, student accommodation, sustainable mobility, and heritage preservation	Advanced the BDT 2,841-crore Further Development Project (2025–2030), including nine planned residential halls with 7,700 seats, six academic buildings, and improvements to campus facilities. A separate BDT 244-crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project is planned for 1,500 female students. Post-earthquake repairs included 112 of 175 rooms at Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall and 96 of 141 rooms at Surya Sen Hall. Two bicycle stands at Amar Ekushey Hall provide capacity for 150 bicycles.
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Organic waste recovery, food-loss prevention, resource management, and sustainable campus operations	Launched the campus-wide Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign and operationalised leaf collection and conversion into organic fertiliser at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall. Improved food storage and preservation through the installation of six refrigerators and one commercial deep-freezer at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, alongside food-storage and kitchen improvements at other halls. Water storage tanks and filtration systems were cleaned, repaired, and upgraded. The Further Development Project also includes planned modern waste-management and drainage infrastructure.
SDG 13: Climate Action	Climate awareness, environmental policy, clean-energy research, and climate resilience	Received national recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for the University's ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during Thirty-First Night celebrations. The Energy Institute organised research seminars on microbial fuel cell technology and solar-cell modelling using SCAPS-1D, as well as a national workshop on renewable energy with the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA). The University also engaged in discussions on coastal climate resilience and disaster-related research cooperation.
SDG 14: Life	Marine research	Engaged with Bangladesh Maritime University to explore joint educational programmes, maritime research, academic exchange,

Below Water	collaboration, coastal resilience, and water-related academic engagement	and shared research infrastructure. Discussions with Central Queensland University explored possible collaboration on coastal disaster management, research capacity building, and the continuity of education for children in disaster-prone coastal communities. The Further Development Project also incorporates the planned restoration of four campus water bodies.
SDG 15: Life on Land	Campus greening, biodiversity awareness, habitat protection, and improved land stewardship	Expanded campus greening through the inauguration of the July Smriti Udyan at Bijoy Ekattor Hall, landscaped garden beds and seating areas at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, and plant installations at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall. Hall administrations undertook landscaping, soil levelling, drainage maintenance, and sanitation activities. The University's Bird-Friendly Campus and Green Campus priorities, together with its restrictions on fireworks and sky lanterns, support a safer environment for campus birds and wildlife.
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Democratic participation, institutional accountability, transparency, and public engagement	Conducted the DUCSU and Hall Union elections through eight polling centres and 810 booths. The newly elected DUCSU leadership resolved to propose five student representatives to the University Senate under the relevant provision of the University Order. The Central Information Center was upgraded with dedicated service facilitators, feedback mechanisms, and a designated grievance officer. The University also participated in anti-corruption awareness activities with Transparency International Bangladesh and advanced procurement transparency through publication of the Annual Procurement Plan on the national e-GP portal.
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	International academic collaboration, government and development partnerships, research networks, and knowledge exchange	Expanded engagement with international universities and organisations, including Peking University, North Eastern Hill University, Kansai University, Central Queensland University, the University of Toronto, Sungkyunkwan University, and the British Council. Engagements with JICA explored capacity building in AI, renewable energy, FinTech, and environmental science. The University hosted the 6th International Mime Festival with international participation, an international conference on Iqbal and Nazrul involving 18 countries, and a winter school that brought together 70 student researchers from 30 universities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SDG	SDG Name
SDG 1	No Poverty
SDG 2	Zero Hunger
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being
SDG 4	Quality Education
SDG 5	Gender Equality
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production
SDG 13	Climate Action
SDG 14	Life Below Water
SDG 15	Life on Land
SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

1

NO POVERTY

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

---

1. Executive Summary

Poverty remains a significant barrier to equitable access to higher education, particularly for students who face financial hardship, inadequate housing, medical expenses, and other socioeconomic vulnerabilities. For a public university with a large and diverse student population, addressing these challenges requires more than providing academic opportunities. It also requires establishing institutional mechanisms that protect students from financial exclusion and enable them to continue their education with dignity.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka continued to advance its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) through a range of financial assistance programmes, institutional scholarships, trust fund allocations, disability support, residential infrastructure development, and welfare initiatives. These activities demonstrate the University's commitment to reducing the economic barriers that affect students' participation, academic performance, and overall well-being.

A significant feature of the University's approach is its decentralized welfare structure. Different departments, residential halls, faculties, alumni associations, and central administrative bodies contribute to student financial protection through dedicated scholarship funds, emergency assistance, and targeted welfare programmes. During the reporting period, several new scholarships were introduced, existing endowment funds were strengthened, and financial support was extended to students experiencing economic hardship.

The University also made progress in addressing the broader cost of student living. Major residential infrastructure initiatives, including the proposed Bangladesh-China Friendship Hall and the University's long-term development master plan, are expected to expand subsidized accommodation significantly. Alongside these projects, residential halls introduced improvements in essential facilities, including drinking water, internet access, furniture, healthcare services, and hygiene infrastructure.

The University's commitment to poverty alleviation also extends beyond its campus. Through an international humanitarian relief initiative for children affected by the Gaza conflict, the University community demonstrated solidarity with vulnerable populations experiencing severe poverty and deprivation.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect a multidimensional institutional approach to SDG 1, connecting financial assistance with access to basic services, social protection, educational continuity, and humanitarian responsibility.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 1

2.1 Understanding Poverty in the Higher Education Context

Poverty in higher education is not limited to the inability to pay tuition fees. Students from economically disadvantaged households may experience difficulties meeting accommodation costs, purchasing educational materials, accessing healthcare, maintaining adequate nutrition, and covering other essential living expenses.

These challenges can affect students' ability to participate fully in academic activities and, in severe cases, increase the risk of discontinuing their education.

Recognizing these interconnected challenges, the University of Dhaka approaches student welfare through several complementary mechanisms. These include institutional scholarships, departmental trust funds, emergency financial assistance, disability-specific support, subsidized accommodation, and improvements in residential facilities.

2.2 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The University's activities during 2025 demonstrate particular relevance to the following SDG 1 targets:

Target 1.3 – Implement social protection systems and measures for all

The University's scholarship programmes, need-based financial assistance, disability support, and emergency relief initiatives provide financial protection to students facing different forms of socioeconomic vulnerability.

Target 1.4 – Ensure equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services

Residential accommodation, affordable living facilities, healthcare support, drinking water, hygiene infrastructure, and other essential services contribute to reducing the financial burden of accessing basic necessities.

Target 1.a – Mobilize resources to implement policies and programmes to end poverty

The establishment and expansion of institutional trust funds, alumni-supported scholarships, departmental endowments, and externally supported infrastructure projects demonstrate efforts to mobilize financial resources for poverty-related interventions.

While the University's activities are primarily focused on its educational community, these initiatives also contribute to the broader objectives of inclusive development and poverty reduction.

3. Financial Assistance and Scholarship Programmes: Strengthening Educational Continuity

3.1 Building a Sustainable Financial Safety Net Through Institutional Trust Funds

For students experiencing financial hardship, even relatively small financial constraints can disrupt their academic journey. Scholarships and institutional endowments therefore play an important role in protecting students from economic pressures.

During 2025, the University continued to strengthen its financial assistance mechanisms through departmental trust funds, residential hall endowments, alumni contributions, and externally supported scholarships.

A notable example was the expansion of the Amar Ekushey Hall Trust Fund on 17 July 2025. The hall administration contributed BDT 20 lakh from its internal revenue sources, increasing the fund's total capital base to BDT 40 lakh. Originally established on 22 October 2007 with an initial capital of BDT 15 lakh, the fund represents a continuing institutional commitment to student welfare.

The annual income generated from the expanded endowment is used to provide academic scholarships to meritorious second-, third-, and fourth-year undergraduate students, excluding readmitted students.

This approach is important because it creates a recurring source of financial assistance rather than relying exclusively on one-time donations. By strengthening the fund's capital base, the hall has expanded its capacity to provide continuing educational support.

3.2 Expanding Need-Based Financial Assistance

Alongside recurring endowment support, several departments introduced or distributed targeted financial assistance to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

On 14 August 2025, the Department of Law introduced the Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship, supported by departmental alumnus Advocate Md. Shah Alam. The programme provided BDT 10,000 each to 50 meritorious students experiencing financial hardship, resulting in a total allocation of BDT 5 lakh.

This initiative represents a meaningful example of alumni engagement in supporting students who demonstrate academic potential but face financial constraints.

The University also facilitated other forms of targeted assistance:

- The Department of Economics awarded a BDT 12,000 scholarship under the Shah A.M.S. Kibria Memorial Trust Fund to Lubaba Binte Halim for achieving the highest CGPA in the 2023 BSS Honours examination.

- The Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology awarded BDT 24,000 each to three first-year MPhil students under the Bilkis-Mahbub Trust Fund, amounting to BDT 72,000.
- The Institute of Social Welfare and Research selected six first-year undergraduate students for the Prof. Dr. Golam M. Mathabor Trust Fund Scholarship.
- The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management awarded the Hena Alam Scholarship to ten first-year undergraduate students.
- The Department of Arabic distributed scholarships to 34 students through the AZM Kutubul Islam Nomani Scholarship Fund and the Khandakar Md. Habibullah Scholarship Fund.

These programmes illustrate how individual departments contribute to the University's broader social protection framework by mobilizing resources through institutional and alumni-supported mechanisms.

3.3 Supporting Students Through Recurring Financial Assistance

One-time grants can address immediate financial difficulties, but recurring financial assistance can provide students with greater financial predictability throughout an academic year.

During December 2025, several departments distributed monthly stipends and scholarships to support students' continuing educational and living expenses.

Examples include:

Scholarship / Trust Fund	Beneficiaries	Financial Support
Prof. Dr. S. H. Mahmud Trust Fund	8 students	BDT 1,000 per month for one year
Abdul Aziz Chowdhury Scholarship	2 students	BDT 600 per month for one year
Dr. Sayed Nurul Alam Memorial Scholarship	2 students	BDT 1,000 per month for one year
Alhaj Shamsuddin Hafiz & Taiba Begum Trust Fund	2 students	BDT 200 per month for one year
Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship	Eligible students from BSc second year to MS level	BDT 500 per month for one year

The Prof. Dr. S. H. Mahmud Trust Fund, administered by the Department of Psychology, supported eight undergraduate students. The Department of Information Science and Library Management extended the Abdul Aziz Chowdhury Scholarship to two students, while the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology supported two undergraduate students through the Dr. Sayed Nurul Alam Memorial Scholarship.

The Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship, announced by the Department of Soil, Water and Environment, further demonstrated the University's intention to reach students experiencing financial hardship. The scholarship offered monthly assistance to eligible students upon verification of their financial circumstances.

These recurring programmes help reduce the pressure of regular educational and living expenses, allowing students to focus more effectively on their academic responsibilities.

3.4 Recognizing Academic Achievement While Supporting Financial Welfare

The University also continued to combine academic recognition with financial support.

On 13 November 2025, the Department of Islamic History and Culture distributed special scholarships to 75 students during its 75th anniversary and alumni reunion. The department reported a total of 84 departmental scholars. In addition, 58 children of association members received recognition for their academic performance in SSC and HSC examinations, while 13 outstanding BA and MA graduates received academic awards.

Similarly, the Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall Trust Fund distributed scholarships and awards to female resident students, including merit, general, and co-curricular scholarships.

The Faculty of Pharmacy also distributed Badrunnessa Gafur Memorial Trust Scholarships to eight high-performing students across different years of the professional B.Pharm examinations. A further 16 students received Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society scholarships, alongside academic gold medals and other recognitions.

The Department of Physics awarded eight students BDT 15,000 each under the Hero Freedom Fighter Amena Zaman Memorial Trust Fund. It also recognized Falguni Biswas with a one-time financial award of BDT 1,47,360 under the Hamida Khan Memorial Award for achieving the highest CGPA in the BSc Honours examination.

Through these initiatives, the University reinforces the relationship between academic achievement, financial encouragement, and educational opportunity.

3.5 Creating Opportunities Through External Scholarship Partnerships

The University also continued to facilitate scholarships supported by external organizations.

On 9 October 2025, an application call was issued for the Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship, targeting ten regular first-year undergraduate students from the 2022–2023 academic session.

The scholarship combines academic eligibility requirements with household income verification. Applicants were required to demonstrate a minimum GPA of 4.80 in both SSC and HSC examinations, without the fourth subject, and submit official guardian income certificates.

The scholarship provides renewable financial assistance for three years, subject to satisfactory academic progress and conduct.

This initiative is particularly relevant because it combines academic performance with socioeconomic eligibility, directing external financial resources towards students who demonstrate both academic merit and financial need.

4. Targeted Social Protection: Reaching Students Facing Additional Vulnerabilities

4.1 Disability-Inclusive Financial Assistance

Students with disabilities may face additional expenses associated with assistive technologies, healthcare, mobility, and accessible learning arrangements. These costs can create further economic disadvantages for students from low-income households.

Recognizing this challenge, the University approved a specialized financial assistance programme for Abdullah Al Naim, a visually impaired first-year undergraduate student in the Department of Political Science.

On 9 October 2025, the University administration sanctioned a monthly stipend of BDT 5,000 for one year, representing total financial assistance of BDT 60,000.

This intervention reflects an important dimension of inclusive poverty alleviation. Rather than treating financial hardship as a uniform experience, the initiative recognizes that disability can create additional economic pressures and require targeted institutional support.

It also demonstrates the importance of integrating disability considerations into student welfare policies.

4.2 Financial Relief for Students Affected by Medical Trauma and Physical Injuries

Unexpected medical emergencies and physical injuries can place significant financial pressure on students and their families. In addition to medical expenses, affected students may face difficulties maintaining their academic activities and meeting daily living costs.

During July 2025, the University introduced targeted financial relief initiatives for students injured during the July Uprising.

On 14 July 2025, Rokeya Hall organized a financial assistance programme during its July Women's Day observances. Financial grants, honour crests, and certificates were provided to Sanjida Ahmed Tonwi and Cynthia Mehrin Sakal, two female resident students listed on the official government registry of individuals severely injured during the July Uprising.

The assistance was intended to support their ongoing medical, rehabilitation, and living expenses.

Similarly, on 17 July 2025, the Department of Banking and Insurance instituted financial scholarships specifically for departmental students injured during the July Revolution.

These interventions demonstrate the University's role in providing institutional support when students experience sudden and exceptional financial vulnerability.

4.3 Strengthening Need-Based Verification and Financial Assistance

Effective social protection requires financial assistance to reach individuals who genuinely need it. The University employs different administrative approaches to identify eligible beneficiaries.

Two approaches are evident in the reported initiatives.

Income-based eligibility verification

The Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship required applicants to submit official guardian income certificates alongside academic records. This approach allows the University to consider household economic circumstances before selecting scholarship recipients.

Individual hardship assessment

Some departmental and residential hall programmes assess financial difficulties through applications and administrative review.

For example, on 11 September 2025, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall provided special educational financial assistance to two non-resident female students following an official assessment of their financial hardship.

The Department of Law's Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship also targeted meritorious students identified as financially insolvent.

The Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship similarly required written applications and hardship declarations from prospective beneficiaries.

Together, these approaches provide a framework for addressing both anticipated financial vulnerability and unexpected hardship.

5. Affordable Housing and Basic Needs: Reducing the Cost of Student Living

5.1 Addressing Accommodation as a Major Component of Student Poverty

For students studying in Dhaka, accommodation is one of the most significant non-academic expenses. Students who cannot secure residential accommodation within the University may need to depend on private rentals, paying for rent, utilities, transportation, and other living expenses.

For economically disadvantaged students, these additional costs can place considerable pressure on household finances.

The University of Dhaka therefore considers residential infrastructure development an important component of student welfare and poverty alleviation.

During 2025, the University advanced major housing initiatives intended to increase access to subsidized campus accommodation.

5.2 Bangladesh-China Friendship Hall: Expanding Female Student Accommodation

One of the major infrastructure developments during the reporting period was the Bangladesh-China Friendship Hall project.

The project, estimated at BDT 244 crore and supported by the Chinese Government, is designed to provide residential accommodation for 1,500 female students.

Following official communications involving the Economic Relations Division and approval from the Chinese Government, a technical feasibility expert team visited Dhaka.

A significant milestone was achieved on 18 December 2025, when Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen and University of Dhaka Vice-Chancellor accompanied by the University Treasurer and DAKSU leadership, conducted a joint site inspection in the Jagannath Hall area.

At the time of reporting, the project was progressing towards construction, which was expected to commence within one to two months.

The project represents an important investment in reducing accommodation-related financial pressure on female students. By expanding access to subsidized residential facilities, the University aims to reduce dependence on private housing and improve students' access to a more affordable living environment.

5.3 University Development Master Plan: Long-Term Investment in Student Welfare

The University also advanced its broader development master plan, estimated at BDT 2,841 crore and covering a five-year development period through 2030.

On 20 November 2025, the University confirmed progress on the plan and secured Ministry of Education approval for an initial BDT 60 crore Annual Development Programme allocation.

The residential component includes:

- Four residential halls for 2,600 female students.
- Five residential halls for 5,100 male students.
- A total of 7,700 additional residential seats.

The broader development plan also includes house tutor quarters, academic buildings, public toilets, and modern waste management systems.

Together with the Bangladesh-China Friendship Hall project, these planned developments represent a potential addition of 9,200 subsidized residential seats.

This expansion could make a substantial contribution to reducing students' living costs, particularly for those from outside Dhaka and households with limited financial resources.

It is important to note that these figures represent planned residential capacity rather than completed accommodation during the reporting period.

5.4 Improving Access to Residential Accommodation

Alongside long-term infrastructure development, the University's residential halls continued to manage existing accommodation capacity.

On 18 September 2025, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall conducted formal interviews for 450 applicants seeking residential seats.

Amar Ekushey Hall also completed a residential seat allocation exercise on 9 October 2025, assigning seats to 117 students from a total of 225 applicants.

Similar residential allocation activities took place at Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Rokeya Hall.

These activities demonstrate the University's continued efforts to distribute available accommodation among students seeking affordable residential arrangements.

5.5 Reducing Daily Living Expenses Through Residential Welfare Facilities

The University's efforts to reduce student living costs extend beyond accommodation itself. Residential halls also introduced improvements in essential facilities and services that contribute to students' daily well-being.

Healthcare and hygiene support

Female health awareness programmes were organized at Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall on 10 July 2025 and Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall on 18 September 2025, in collaboration with Ad-din Mother Care Limited.

The programmes offered free blood grouping and medical consultations, helping students access basic healthcare services without additional financial expenditure.

On 11 December 2025, the DU Alumni Association donated and installed a sanitary vending machine at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall. This initiative supports access to essential menstrual hygiene products and helps reduce related out-of-pocket expenses for female residents.

Access to drinking water and digital facilities

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall upgraded essential student facilities by installing high-speed Wi-Fi routers in reading rooms and student offices on 11 September 2025.

The hall also installed pure drinking water filters, cleaned water reservoirs, and improved dining hall fixtures.

These improvements support a healthier and more conducive residential and learning environment while reducing the need for students to purchase certain basic services independently.

Improving residential room facilities

Amar Ekushey Hall installed 112 ceiling fans in student rooms, with a 12-year replacement guarantee. It also constructed two bicycle stands with capacity for 150 bicycles and added gym equipment.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall supplied 500 new chairs and 40 bunk beds for female resident students on 18 December 2025.

Furthermore, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall and Amar Ekushey Hall converted administrative quarters to accommodate approximately 70 additional resident students.

These interventions illustrate how relatively practical improvements in residential facilities can contribute to affordability, comfort, and the overall quality of student life.

6. Extending Poverty Alleviation Beyond the Campus: Humanitarian Engagement

The University's contribution to SDG 1 is not limited to its own students and institutional community. It also recognizes the wider responsibility of educational institutions to support vulnerable populations affected by poverty, conflict, and humanitarian emergencies.

6.1 Financial Relief for Children Affected by the Gaza Conflict

On 13 November 2025, the Master of Professional Banking Alumni Association, operating under the Department of Banking and Insurance, organized an international humanitarian financial relief initiative for children affected by the Gaza conflict.

The initiative was led by the Chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance and supervised by the University Treasurer.

As part of the programme, executive members of the alumni association visited the Embassy of Palestine in Dhaka and formally handed over a financial relief donation cheque to the Ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh, Youssef Ramadan.

The contribution was intended to support the living, medical, and nutritional needs of children affected by the ongoing conflict.

This initiative demonstrates how the University's academic departments and alumni networks can mobilize resources and contribute to humanitarian efforts beyond national boundaries.

It also reflects the broader principle of SDG 1: poverty alleviation requires collective action and solidarity with vulnerable populations, irrespective of geographical boundaries.

7. Consolidated Progress and Key Institutional Achievements

The initiatives undertaken during 2025 demonstrate progress across several dimensions of SDG 1.

The following summary highlights the principal institutional achievements documented during the reporting period.

Area of intervention	Key progress during 2025
Institutional endowments	Amar Ekushey Hall Trust Fund expanded to BDT 40 lakh
Direct financial assistance	BDT 5 lakh distributed to 50 students under the Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship
Research support	BDT 72,000 awarded to three MPhil students under the Bilkis-Mahbub Trust Fund
Disability support	BDT 60,000 annual assistance approved for a visually impaired student
Departmental scholarships	Multiple departments distributed scholarships and stipends to undergraduate and postgraduate students
Female student welfare	Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall distributed merit, general, and co-curricular awards
Residential infrastructure	Bangladesh-China Friendship Hall planned for 1,500 female students
Long-term housing development	Master plan includes 7,700 additional residential seats
Existing residential facilities	Improvements in furniture, water, internet, healthcare, hygiene, and room facilities
Emergency assistance	Financial support provided to students injured during the July Uprising
International humanitarian engagement	Financial relief donation delivered for children affected by the Gaza conflict

The figures above represent selected documented achievements and should not be interpreted as a consolidated count of all beneficiaries or total institutional expenditure.

8. Institutional Impact and Contribution to Poverty Reduction

The University's initiatives demonstrate several important pathways through which higher education institutions can contribute to poverty alleviation.

8.1 Protecting Access to Higher Education

Financial assistance reduces the economic barriers that may prevent disadvantaged students from continuing their studies.

Scholarships, monthly stipends, research grants, and emergency financial support provide students with additional resources to meet educational and living expenses.

By supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students, the University contributes to maintaining access to higher education across different academic levels.

8.2 Strengthening Financial Resilience

The expansion of institutional trust funds demonstrates the importance of developing sustainable financial mechanisms for student welfare.

Unlike isolated donations, endowment-based scholarships can generate recurring income and support successive groups of students.

The involvement of alumni, external organizations, and departmental initiatives further diversifies the University's sources of financial support.

8.3 Promoting Inclusion and Equal Opportunity

Targeted assistance for students with disabilities, female students, financially disadvantaged students, and individuals affected by medical injuries demonstrates the importance of addressing different forms of vulnerability.

Such initiatives help ensure that students' educational opportunities are not determined solely by their economic circumstances or personal challenges.

8.4 Reducing the Cost of Essential Services

Residential accommodation, healthcare services, drinking water, internet access, hygiene facilities, and improved room infrastructure all contribute to reducing students' daily living expenses.

These interventions are particularly relevant because poverty-related pressures are not limited to academic fees. They also arise from the cumulative cost of maintaining an adequate standard of living while pursuing higher education.

8.5 Encouraging Collective Responsibility

The participation of alumni associations, departmental administrations, residential halls, external scholarship providers, government agencies, and international partners demonstrates that poverty alleviation requires cooperation across institutional boundaries.

The University's initiatives provide examples of how different stakeholders can contribute to student welfare and broader humanitarian objectives.

9. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's progress towards SDG 1 during 2025 reflects a broad understanding of poverty as a multidimensional challenge that affects students' access to education, accommodation, healthcare, and essential living services.

Through institutional trust funds, departmental scholarships, alumni-supported financial assistance, disability-specific grants, emergency relief, and residential welfare initiatives, the University continued to develop mechanisms for supporting students facing economic hardship.

The expansion of institutional endowments demonstrated a commitment to sustainable financial assistance, while targeted scholarships and monthly stipends provided support to students across different academic disciplines and levels. At the same time, major residential development initiatives indicated a longer-term institutional commitment to reducing accommodation-related financial pressure.

The University's humanitarian engagement beyond the campus further demonstrated that its contribution to poverty alleviation extends to broader social responsibilities.

Although continued attention to monitoring, accessibility, beneficiary coverage, and measurable outcomes will be important, the initiatives documented during the reporting period establish a meaningful foundation for further progress.

Ultimately, the University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 1 is reflected not only in the financial resources it distributes, but also in its efforts to ensure that economic hardship does not become a barrier to educational opportunity, personal development, and human dignity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

2

ZERO HUNGER

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

---

1. Executive Summary

Access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food is an essential component of human well-being and sustainable development. For a large urban university such as the University of Dhaka, ensuring food security involves more than making meals available. It also requires maintaining hygienic food preparation environments, preserving perishable ingredients, ensuring access to clean water, and managing food-related organic waste responsibly.

During the year 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a series of infrastructure improvements, operational interventions, and environmental initiatives across its residential halls and central campus. These activities contributed to the University's efforts towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), particularly in relation to access to safe food, food hygiene, and sustainable resource management.

A significant area of progress was the improvement of residential dining and kitchen facilities. Several halls upgraded their canteens and mess facilities through structural renovation, improved food preparation surfaces, kitchen equipment repairs, and the installation of refrigeration and deep-freezing facilities. These investments support better food preservation, reduce the risk of spoilage, and improve the conditions under which meals are prepared and served to students.

The University also strengthened the connection between food safety and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Initiatives included repairing water supply infrastructure, cleaning and disinfecting underground and overhead water reservoirs, servicing existing filtration systems, and installing additional drinking water purification units. These measures are important for maintaining hygienic food preparation environments and reducing exposure to waterborne contaminants.

Another notable development was the introduction of a university-wide initiative to stop the burning of fallen leaves and convert collected organic biomass into natural bio-fertilizer, locally known as *Reb Shar*. Launched on 11 December 2025, the campaign involved several institutional and student organizations and marked an important step towards sustainable campus land management and organic resource recovery.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the University's contribution to SDG 2 through an integrated approach that connects food availability, food preservation, safe water, dining hygiene, and environmental sustainability. While the documented activities primarily focus on the institutional food environment and its supporting infrastructure, they provide a foundation for further progress towards a safer and more sustainable campus food system.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 2

2.1 Understanding Food Security in an Urban University Context

Food security is commonly associated with agricultural production, food availability, and access to sufficient nutrition. However, within a large urban university, food security also depends on the quality of institutional catering facilities, the safe handling and preservation of food, access to clean drinking water, and the management of organic waste.

The University of Dhaka operates within a densely populated metropolitan environment where residential halls, dining facilities, kitchens, water supply systems, and campus maintenance operations are closely interconnected.

Thousands of students depend on institutional and nearby food services to meet their daily nutritional requirements. Consequently, the quality of food preparation infrastructure and the availability of appropriate storage facilities have direct relevance to students' food safety and well-being.

Recognizing these requirements, the University's activities during 2025 addressed three interconnected dimensions:

- **Food access and preservation:** Improving dining facilities, refrigeration capacity, and food storage arrangements to support access to safe and affordable meals.
- **Food safety and hygiene:** Upgrading kitchen infrastructure, maintaining cooking equipment, improving water quality infrastructure, and strengthening dining hygiene.
- **Sustainable resource management:** Reducing organic waste burning and converting fallen leaves into organic fertilizer for campus soil improvement.

These interventions reflect a practical interpretation of food security within an urban higher education institution.

2.2 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The University's documented activities during the reporting period demonstrate particular relevance to three targets under SDG 2.

Target 2.1 – End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food

The improvement of residential dining facilities, installation of refrigeration equipment, and enhancement of food preparation infrastructure contribute to creating a safer and more reliable food environment for students.

Target 2.2 – End all forms of malnutrition

Access to safe drinking water, hygienic food preparation environments, and improved sanitation infrastructure helps reduce exposure to contaminants that can cause foodborne and waterborne illnesses and interfere with nutritional well-being.

Target 2.4 – Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices

The University's initiative to convert fallen leaves into organic bio-fertilizer demonstrates an effort to promote sustainable land management, improve soil quality, and establish a circular approach to organic resource utilization.

Although the reported interventions do not constitute a comprehensive university-wide food security or nutrition programme, they represent meaningful institutional contributions to the supporting systems required for a safe and sustainable food environment.

3. Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Resource Management: Moving Towards a Circular Campus

3.1 From Organic Waste Disposal to Resource Recovery

University campuses generate substantial quantities of organic waste through routine maintenance, landscaping, and the natural shedding of leaves from trees. How this material is managed has implications for air quality, soil health, and the sustainability of campus ecosystems.

Traditionally, the burning of accumulated dry leaves has been used as a means of clearing outdoor spaces. However, open biomass burning releases smoke and particulate matter while removing valuable organic material that could otherwise contribute to soil improvement.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka took steps to replace this practice with a more sustainable approach based on organic waste recovery and composting.

3.2 Launching the 'Stop Burning Fallen Leaves' Campaign

A significant institutional milestone was achieved on 11 December 2025, when the University launched the campaign titled **"Stop Burning Fallen Leaves" (Shorapata Projjalon Bondho Korun)** at the main campus mall.

The initiative was organized through collaboration among the University administration, the University of Dhaka Arboriculture Center, the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DAKSU), the Green Future Foundation, and the Environment Senate.

The campaign was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor and established an explicit institutional prohibition on burning fallen leaves.

Beyond raising environmental awareness, the initiative introduced a practical alternative for managing organic biomass. Instead of treating dry leaves as disposable waste, the University encouraged their collection, processing, and conversion into organic bio-fertilizer.

This represents an important change in campus environmental management: organic materials generated through routine campus activities are increasingly being viewed as resources that can support the University's own green spaces.

3.3 Converting Fallen Leaves into Organic Bio-Fertilizer

Following the launch of the campaign, several residential halls implemented organic waste recovery activities.

On 11 December 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall organized a systematic leaf collection initiative involving hall administration, staff, and student representatives.

Dry leaves accumulated across the hall premises over the preceding year were collected, stored, and processed through aerobic decomposition to produce organic bio-fertilizer, locally known as *Reb Shar*.

The resulting fertilizer was subsequently used in the hall's gardens and campus landscaping activities.

Similarly, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall and Rokeya Hall formally adopted the leaf-burning prohibition and integrated their maintenance staff into the organic waste recovery initiative.

These activities demonstrate how a university-wide environmental policy can be translated into practical action through the participation of individual residential halls and their communities.

3.4 Environmental and Agricultural Significance

Converting fallen leaves into organic fertilizer provides several environmental and agricultural benefits.

When dry leaves are burned, organic carbon and other valuable nutrients are released or lost. In contrast, composting allows organic matter to decompose naturally and return nutrients to the soil.

The resulting bio-fertilizer can contribute to:

- Improving soil organic matter and overall soil quality.
- Returning essential plant nutrients to campus gardens.
- Supporting beneficial soil microorganisms.
- Improving soil structure and water retention.
- Reducing dependence on externally purchased fertilizers.
- Diverting organic waste from open burning.

The initiative also establishes a practical connection between campus landscaping and sustainable agricultural practices.

By using organic materials generated within the University to maintain its own green spaces, the institution demonstrates the potential of a small-scale circular resource management system.

Importantly, this initiative aligns with the broader principles of sustainable food production under SDG Target 2.4, particularly through soil improvement, organic resource recovery, and more responsible land management.

4. Food Preservation and Dining Infrastructure: Improving Access to Safe Food

4.1 Strengthening the University's Institutional Food Environment

For residential students, dining facilities are an important part of daily campus life. Ensuring access to safe and affordable meals requires appropriate kitchen infrastructure, clean food preparation surfaces, functioning cooking equipment, and suitable storage conditions.

Inadequate food storage can accelerate the deterioration of perishable ingredients, while poorly maintained kitchen surfaces and equipment can create hygiene risks.

During the year 2025, the University implemented several dining infrastructure improvements across its residential halls. These interventions focused on upgrading food preparation environments, improving storage facilities, and maintaining essential cooking equipment.

Three major residential dining facilities received notable infrastructure improvements: Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, and Amar Ekushey Hall.

4.2 Improving Dining and Kitchen Facilities

Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall – July 2025

On 10 July 2025, the dining facility at Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall underwent a series of physical and operational improvements.

The renovation included:

- Installation of new floor tiles.
- Deep mechanical cleaning and chemical restoration of existing mosaic surfaces.
- Repainting of interior walls.
- Appointment of new catering personnel.

These improvements were intended to create a cleaner dining environment and improve the overall conditions under which meals were prepared and served.

The involvement of new catering personnel also represented an operational component of the intervention, complementing the physical renovation of the dining facility.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall – September 2025

On 11 September 2025, the University undertook structural hygiene improvements at the Nimontron mess of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall.

The food distribution and serving counter areas were upgraded using smooth, high-density concrete surfaces. This replaced previously unsealed surfaces with materials that are easier to clean and maintain.

The hall also repaired damaged gas cooking stoves to restore their proper functioning and improve cooking conditions.

These interventions addressed two important aspects of food safety: maintaining clean food-serving surfaces and ensuring that cooking equipment operates effectively.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall – December 2025

A more extensive renovation was completed on 18 December 2025 at the hall's canteen.

The project involved several structural and operational improvements:

- Replastering of interior walls and ceilings to address cracks and deteriorated surfaces.
- Installation of new floor tiles inside and outside the canteen.
- Interior and exterior painting and protective surface finishing.
- Repair and technical recalibration of four major commercial gas stoves.
- Removal of the partition wall between the canteen and adjacent laundry facility to expand dining space.

The hall also renovated its laundry facility and constructed a dedicated concrete water house to support clean water provision for laundry and sanitation.

By combining dining area renovation with improvements in cooking equipment and supporting facilities, the project represented a comprehensive effort to improve the residential food service environment.

4.3 Expanding Cold Storage and Food Preservation Capacity

Food preservation is particularly important in Bangladesh's climatic conditions, where high temperatures and humidity can accelerate the deterioration of perishable ingredients.

Refrigeration and deep-freezing facilities help maintain appropriate storage conditions for raw ingredients, reduce spoilage risks, and support more effective food inventory management.

During the reporting period, the University expanded cold storage capacity in several residential dining facilities.

Amar Ekushey Hall

On 18 September 2025, Amar Ekushey Hall purchased and installed a commercial 300-litre deep freezer in its Roshona dining hall.

The installation increased the hall's capacity to preserve perishable food ingredients and provided additional support for bulk food storage.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

On 13 November 2025, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall implemented a broader refrigeration improvement programme.

Five floor-level refrigerators were installed across the residential floors through the Hall Union initiative. An additional refrigerator was installed on the administrative floor.

The hall also installed a dedicated commercial refrigerator inside its dining facility to preserve raw ingredients before food preparation.

This intervention expanded cold storage access at both the residential and dining facility levels.

Taken together, the initiatives documented during 2025 included:

Cold storage improvement	Number
Commercial deep freezer	1
Floor-level residential refrigerators	6
Dedicated dining refrigerator	1
Total refrigeration and deep-freezing units	8

These investments support the University's efforts to improve food preservation and strengthen the operational reliability of residential dining services.

4.4 Why Food Preservation Infrastructure Matters

Appropriate food storage and kitchen infrastructure are essential for reducing food safety risks.

Refrigeration helps slow microbial growth and preserve the quality of perishable ingredients. Similarly, clean and properly maintained food preparation surfaces make routine cleaning and sanitation more effective.

Functional cooking equipment is also important because appropriate heat treatment helps reduce biological hazards associated with inadequately cooked food.

The University's investments in cold storage, kitchen repairs, and structural renovation therefore contribute to a more reliable food preparation environment.

These improvements are particularly important in high-density residential settings, where large numbers of students depend on shared dining facilities.

5. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Safeguarding the Food Supply Environment

5.1 Connecting Clean Water with Food Security

Food safety does not begin and end in the kitchen. The quality of water used for drinking, cooking, washing ingredients, and cleaning utensils is equally important.

Contaminated water can introduce harmful microorganisms into food preparation processes, undermining the benefits of otherwise hygienic kitchen facilities.

Recognizing this connection, the University undertook several water supply, storage, and filtration improvements during the reporting period.

These initiatives contributed to the objectives of SDG Targets 2.1 and 2.2 by strengthening the supporting infrastructure required for safe food preparation and consumption.

5.2 Repairing Water Supply and Storage Infrastructure

On 14 August 2025, Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall completed major maintenance work on its primary water supply infrastructure.

Engineering teams repaired incoming water supply pipelines and underground water reserve tanks. The work included sealing damaged sections of pipelines and addressing structural problems in the water storage facilities.

These repairs were intended to improve the reliability of the water supply system and reduce the risk of external contamination.

A further intervention took place at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall on 9 October 2025.

The hall conducted a comprehensive water storage cleaning and sanitation programme covering its main underground reserve tank and overhead storage tanks.

The underground reservoir was drained, mechanically scrubbed, and chemically disinfected. Overhead tanks serving the North Block, South Block, hall canteen, and residential teachers' quarters were also cleaned and sanitized.

These activities reflect the importance of routine water infrastructure maintenance in maintaining a hygienic residential and dining environment.

5.3 Expanding Access to Purified Drinking Water

Alongside reservoir maintenance, the University improved point-of-use drinking water purification facilities.

On 9 October 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall carried out technical servicing of its existing student-accessible drinking water filtration units.

The maintenance activities included internal core backwashing and replacement of filter media to support the continued operation of the purification systems.

During the same period, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall installed four heavy-duty pure drinking water filtration units across key residential buildings.

These installations expanded access to purified drinking water within student residential areas.

The initiatives are particularly relevant to food security because clean water is an essential requirement for safe drinking, cooking, washing food ingredients, and maintaining kitchen hygiene.

5.4 Improving Dining Environment Hygiene

Water quality and food safety are closely connected to the cleanliness of dining environments.

On 9 October 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall undertook additional cleaning and hygiene improvements in its mess and canteen facilities. Window curtains across the hall's mess and dining canteen were removed, laundered, disinfected, and reinstalled.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall also completed targeted deep-cleaning activities in its mess and canteen facilities. In addition, the hall conducted administrative consultation sessions focusing on catering hygiene and operational standards.

These activities demonstrate that maintaining food safety requires regular attention not only to kitchens and storage facilities but also to the wider dining environment.

5.5 The Role of WASH in Nutritional Well-being

Access to safe water and hygienic surroundings is essential for protecting public health.

Repeated exposure to contaminated food and water can contribute to gastrointestinal infections and other illnesses. Such conditions can interfere with the body's ability to absorb nutrients, even when sufficient food is available.

Consequently, maintaining clean water storage facilities, functional filtration systems, and hygienic food preparation environments contributes to the broader objective of improving nutritional well-being.

The University's WASH-related interventions therefore represent an important supporting component of its contribution to SDG 2.

However, the documented activities primarily demonstrate improvements in infrastructure and maintenance. Water quality testing results and reductions in waterborne illness have not been quantified in the available reporting data.

6. Consolidated Progress and Key Institutional Achievements

The University's activities during the year 2025 demonstrate progress across food preservation, dining infrastructure, water sanitation, and sustainable organic resource management.

The following table summarizes the principal documented achievements.

Area of intervention	Key progress during 2025
Sustainable organic waste management	University-wide Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign launched on 11 December 2025
Organic fertilizer production	Fallen leaves processed into Reb Shar at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall
Institutional participation	Arboriculture Center, DAKSU, Green Future Foundation, Environment Senate, and residential halls involved

Dining infrastructure	Major renovations completed at Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, and Amar Ekushey Hall
Food preservation	One 300-litre commercial deep freezer installed
Refrigeration capacity	Seven additional refrigerators installed across residential and dining facilities
Cooking infrastructure	Repairs and technical recalibration of six major commercial kitchen stoves reported
Water infrastructure	Main water supply pipelines and underground water reservoirs repaired
Water sanitation	Underground and overhead water storage tanks cleaned and disinfected
Drinking water access	Four heavy-duty filtration units installed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall
Existing filtration facilities	Student-accessible filtration systems serviced and filter media replaced
Dining hygiene	Mess and canteen cleaning, surface upgrades, and curtain disinfection undertaken

The reported achievements represent selected institutional outputs during the reporting period. They should not be interpreted as evidence of measured reductions in hunger, malnutrition, foodborne illness, or food waste, for which separate outcome data would be required.

7. Institutional Impact and Contribution to Zero Hunger

The University's initiatives demonstrate several important ways in which a higher education institution can contribute to SDG 2 through its operational and environmental management practices.

7.1 Supporting Access to Safe and Reliable Food

The renovation of residential dining facilities and expansion of cold storage infrastructure contribute to improving the conditions under which food is stored, prepared, and served. These improvements are particularly relevant for students who depend on shared residential dining arrangements for their daily meals. By strengthening food preservation and kitchen infrastructure, the University supports a more reliable institutional food service environment.

7.2 Reducing Food Spoilage Risks

The installation of commercial refrigeration and deep-freezing equipment strengthens the University's capacity to preserve perishable ingredients. Appropriate storage arrangements can help reduce deterioration and wastage, improve inventory management, and support the availability of food ingredients for residential dining facilities. The potential financial benefit is also important, as reduced spoilage can help limit avoidable procurement losses.

7.3 Improving Food Safety and Public Health Protection

The renovation of food preparation surfaces, repair of cooking equipment, cleaning of dining areas, and improvement of water infrastructure collectively contribute to a safer food environment. These measures help address common operational risks associated with food handling, storage, preparation, and consumption in shared dining facilities.

The University's approach recognizes that food security requires not only access to food but also attention to the safety and quality of the food being consumed.

7.4 Strengthening the Relationship Between Water and Nutrition

The maintenance of water supply systems, cleaning of storage tanks, and expansion of drinking water filtration facilities support access to safer water within residential halls. These interventions are important because water quality influences both direct consumption and the hygiene of food preparation processes.

By treating water sanitation as an integral component of food safety, the University demonstrates a more comprehensive approach to student nutritional well-being.

7.5 Promoting Sustainable Land Management

The Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign demonstrates how environmental management practices can contribute to sustainable resource utilization. By converting collected organic biomass into bio-fertilizer, the University reduces dependence on open burning and returns organic nutrients to campus soil.

The initiative also provides a practical example of circular resource management, where materials generated through routine campus activities are reused to support the maintenance of the University's green spaces.

This approach strengthens the environmental foundation for sustainable land management and complements the objectives of SDG Target 2.4.

8. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's progress towards SDG 2 during 2025 demonstrates an institutional effort to improve the systems that support food access, food safety, nutritional well-being, and sustainable environmental management.

Through improvements in residential dining facilities, expansion of refrigeration capacity, renovation of kitchen infrastructure, maintenance of water supply systems, and installation of drinking water filtration facilities, the University strengthened several essential components of its campus food environment.

The launch of the Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign represented an additional step towards sustainable resource management. By converting collected organic biomass into bio-fertilizer, the University demonstrated how routine campus operations can be aligned with environmental sustainability and soil improvement.

These initiatives highlight an important principle: addressing hunger within an urban university requires attention not only to food availability but also to the quality, safety, preservation, and sustainability of the systems through which food reaches students.

Although further progress is needed in measuring nutritional outcomes, food affordability, food waste reduction, and water quality, the initiatives documented during 2025 provide a meaningful foundation for strengthening the University's contribution to SDG 2.

Ultimately, the University of Dhaka's contribution to Zero Hunger lies in its efforts to create a campus environment where access to food is supported by safe preparation, reliable preservation, clean water, and responsible management of the natural resources that sustain the food system.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

---

1. Executive Summary

Good health and well-being are fundamental to an inclusive and sustainable academic environment. For a large public university such as the University of Dhaka, promoting health requires more than providing medical services. It involves creating safe residential environments, preventing communicable diseases, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, protecting psychological well-being, encouraging physical activity, and supporting scientific research that advances healthcare.

Throughout 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a range of health, hygiene, welfare, research, and environmental initiatives that contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being). These activities demonstrate the University's commitment to creating a healthier and safer environment for students and the wider university community.

A significant area of institutional activity involved preventive healthcare and disease control across residential halls. The University undertook recurring mosquito-control operations, targeted pest management, medical support arrangements, and other preventive interventions to address health risks associated with densely populated residential environments. Blood grouping activities and improvements in access to medical assistance further strengthened the University's approach to student health.

The University also made progress in improving sanitation, drinking water infrastructure, and reproductive health facilities. Residential halls undertook water reservoir cleaning, pipeline repairs, filtration system installation and maintenance, and improvements to shared sanitation facilities. The installation of a sanitary vending machine at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall represented an additional step towards improving menstrual hygiene access for female students.

Recognizing that health extends beyond physical conditions, the University strengthened its institutional safeguarding mechanisms against sexual harassment, bullying, and ragging. Two high-level committees were established, supported by a campus-wide complaint reporting mechanism. Academic lectures on psychological counselling, child discipline, and behavioural development further contributed to mental health awareness and psychosocial well-being.

Physical fitness and sports also remained important components of the University's health agenda. Students achieved recognition in international and national sporting competitions, while residential halls improved gymnasium and sports facilities and organized competitive athletic activities.

The University's contribution to SDG 3 also extends to scientific research and environmental health. International symposia, academic lectures on artificial intelligence in healthcare, and activities related to microbiology and biomedical innovation demonstrate the University's role in advancing health-related knowledge. Environmental initiatives, including the prohibition of open leaf burning and restrictions on fireworks, firecrackers, and lanterns, further reflect the

University's recognition of clean air and environmental safety as essential components of public health.

Collectively, these activities reflect a multidimensional institutional approach to health and well-being, connecting preventive healthcare, safe living conditions, psychological protection, physical activity, scientific research, and environmental responsibility.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 3

2.1 Understanding Health and Well-being in a University Context

A university is not simply an academic institution. It is also a residential, social, and institutional environment where thousands of individuals study, work, live, and interact.

In such an environment, health risks can arise from several sources, including communicable diseases, inadequate sanitation, unsafe water, poor residential conditions, psychological distress, physical inactivity, and environmental pollution.

Addressing these challenges requires an integrated approach that combines preventive healthcare, institutional safeguards, access to essential services, and health awareness.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka addressed these interconnected dimensions through initiatives involving residential hall administrations, university medical services, academic departments, student organizations, alumni associations, and external healthcare and research partners.

The University's activities can broadly be understood through five interconnected areas:

- **Preventive healthcare and medical services:** Disease prevention, vector control, pest management, medical consultations, and emergency support.
- **Sanitation and reproductive health:** Safe drinking water, residential sanitation, menstrual hygiene, and improved living conditions.
- **Mental health and institutional safeguarding:** Psychological awareness, anti-harassment mechanisms, and protection against bullying and ragging.
- **Physical fitness and healthy lifestyles:** Sports participation, gymnasium facilities, and athletic development.
- **Health research and environmental well-being:** Biomedical research, healthcare innovation, clean air initiatives, and environmental health governance.

2.2 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The University's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate particular relevance to the following SDG 3 targets.

Target 3.3 – Combat communicable diseases

Mosquito-control operations, targeted pest management, and improvements in sanitation contribute to preventing the spread of communicable diseases and reducing environmental health risks.

Target 3.4 – Promote mental health and well-being and reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases

Mental health awareness activities, institutional safeguarding mechanisms, sports participation, and fitness infrastructure contribute to physical and psychological well-being.

Target 3.5 – Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse

The available activity records do not document a specific substance abuse prevention or treatment programme during the reporting period. This remains an area where future institutional initiatives could strengthen alignment.

Target 3.7 – Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare

Menstrual hygiene facilities and female health awareness programmes contribute to reproductive health awareness and access to essential hygiene resources.

Target 3.9 – Reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and pollution

The University's clean air initiatives, prohibition of open leaf burning, and restrictions on fireworks and firecrackers contribute to reducing environmental exposure to air pollutants and other health hazards.

The following sections examine the University's initiatives and their institutional significance in greater detail.

3. Preventive Healthcare and Medical Services: Protecting the University Community

3.1 Strengthening Disease Prevention in Residential Halls

Residential halls accommodate large numbers of students within shared living environments. While these facilities provide important educational and social benefits, their population density can also create conditions in which communicable diseases and pest infestations spread more easily.

Preventive healthcare therefore plays an important role in maintaining a healthy residential environment.

During 2025, several residential halls implemented mosquito-control and pest-management activities to address environmental health risks.

A major focus was controlling mosquito populations associated with dengue transmission.

Kuwait Maitree Hall conducted recurring mosquito suppression operations across seven documented dates: 14 August, 11 September, 18 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December, and 18 December 2025.

The interventions included mosquito-control spraying and chemical larvicide applications to reduce mosquito breeding and transmission risks.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall also conducted mosquito-control activities on 10 July 2025 through fogger machine operations and liquid pesticide spraying.

Rokeya Hall maintained daily fogger operations and mosquito pesticide applications, as documented in its administrative monitoring update on 11 December 2025.

Another significant intervention took place at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall on 13 November 2025. The hall organized an intensive vector-control operation involving morning and evening chemical spraying in drains and manual cleaning of structural cornice spaces across all five residential floors. Specialized spray machinery and vector-control chemicals were also procured through external service arrangements.

These activities demonstrate the importance of combining routine chemical treatment with physical cleaning and environmental maintenance to address mosquito breeding and other pest-related risks.

3.2 Addressing Residential Pest Infestations

In addition to mosquito control, the University undertook targeted interventions to address other pest-related health and hygiene concerns.

On 9 October 2025, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall conducted a bedbug eradication campaign covering 29 student residential rooms.

The initiative addressed a common residential health concern that can cause skin irritation, discomfort, and sleep disturbances.

Earlier, on 14 August 2025, the hall administration distributed room-level insecticide sprays to resident students and provided technical guidance on their appropriate use, including information on acquiring and deploying pesticide adhesives.

These interventions demonstrate the importance of addressing health risks at both the institutional and individual residential levels.

3.3 Improving Access to Medical Services and Emergency Support

Preventive healthcare is most effective when individuals can also access timely medical assistance when health problems arise.

Recognizing the importance of accessible clinical support within residential facilities, medical officers from the DU Medical Center were stationed on the second floor of the Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall administrative building on 14 August 2025.

The arrangement provided scheduled outpatient consultations and nighttime emergency medical services for resident students.

This initiative brought medical support closer to students and reduced the need to travel elsewhere for initial medical attention.

The University also strengthened emergency mobility support.

On 13 November 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall procured and stationed dedicated wheelchairs within its premises to assist sick and injured students. The availability of such facilities supports the movement of individuals who experience temporary or longer-term mobility difficulties.

3.4 Supporting Preventive Health Awareness and Blood Donation

Health awareness and preventive screening are important components of a comprehensive healthcare environment.

On 10 July 2025, Badhan, a voluntary blood donation organization, conducted a free blood grouping programme at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

The initiative aimed to update students' blood group information and encourage voluntary donor registration.

Access to blood group information can be useful during medical emergencies, while voluntary donor registration contributes to the wider culture of community-based healthcare support.

Together, the University's activities demonstrate an approach that combines preventive disease control, access to medical services, emergency assistance, and community health engagement.

4. Sanitation, Safe Water and Reproductive Health: Building Healthier Residential Environments

4.1 Recognizing Sanitation as a Foundation of Public Health

Access to safe drinking water, hygienic sanitation facilities, and clean residential environments is fundamental to maintaining good health.

In a densely populated university environment, poorly maintained water storage systems, damaged pipelines, and inadequate sanitation facilities can increase exposure to waterborne contaminants and other health hazards.

During 2025, the University undertook several residential infrastructure maintenance and sanitation initiatives to improve the quality of shared living environments.

4.2 Improving Drinking Water Infrastructure

One of the notable interventions involved the installation and maintenance of drinking water filtration facilities.

On 9 October 2025, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall installed four new heavy-duty drinking water filtration units across key student residential buildings.

The initiative expanded access to purified drinking water within the hall and improved the availability of essential water facilities for resident students.

During the same period, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall conducted comprehensive technical servicing of its student-accessible drinking water filtration units. The maintenance included deep cleaning, internal servicing, and replacement of damaged glass components.

These interventions highlight the University's efforts to maintain functional water purification infrastructure and improve access to safe drinking water.

4.3 Strengthening Water Storage and Sanitation Systems

Maintaining clean drinking water requires more than installing filtration equipment. Water storage tanks, supply pipelines, and distribution systems also require regular inspection and maintenance.

On 14 August 2025, Kuwait Maitree Hall completed an extensive overhaul of its water distribution pipelines and reserve storage tanks.

At Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, a comprehensive cleaning and maintenance operation was completed on 9 October 2025.

The intervention covered underground water reservoirs, overhead tanks in the North and South buildings, canteen storage tanks, and residential mess water tanks.

The hall also repaired the overhead water distribution line in its South Building and undertook additional dining and sanitation improvements.

Rokeya Hall implemented further sanitation activities through deep chemical cleaning and polishing of bathroom floor mosaics on 17 July and 14 August 2025. On 18 December 2025, the hall also completed wall plaster repairs in Aparajita Bhaban.

These activities demonstrate the University's continued attention to the maintenance of shared sanitation and water infrastructure across its residential facilities.

4.4 Improving Dining and Laundry Hygiene Facilities

Residential health is also influenced by the cleanliness and organization of shared facilities, including dining areas and laundry spaces.

On 18 December 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall completed a major structural renovation of its canteen and laundry facilities.

The renovation included:

- Removal of the partition wall between the canteen and laundry area to expand dining space.
- Installation of new floor tiles.
- Replastering of interior walls.
- Repair of four kitchen cooking stoves.
- Construction of a dedicated concrete water house, locally referred to as a *Pani House*.

The new water facility was designed to support cleaner water arrangements for dishwashing and laundry activities.

By improving the physical separation and supporting infrastructure of shared facilities, the intervention contributed to a more hygienic residential environment.

4.5 Reducing Residential Overcrowding

Residential overcrowding can increase exposure to respiratory infections and other health risks, particularly when large numbers of students share limited living spaces.

On 17 July 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall converted former staff quarters located on the fourth and fifth floors of its South-East Block into additional student residential rooms.

The conversion created accommodation for approximately 70 additional resident students.

Beyond expanding residential capacity, the initiative helped address pressure on existing accommodation arrangements and provided additional living space within the hall.

Improving residential conditions is an important supporting measure for protecting health and well-being, particularly in shared institutional environments.

4.6 Promoting Reproductive Health and Menstrual Hygiene

Access to menstrual hygiene products and reproductive health information is an essential component of women's health and dignity.

During 2025, the University undertook initiatives to strengthen menstrual hygiene support and health awareness among female students.

On 11 December 2025, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall formally received an automated sanitary napkin vending machine donated by the DU Alumni Association.

The installation provides a more accessible mechanism for female resident students to obtain essential menstrual hygiene products within the residential facility.

Complementing this infrastructure, Ad-din Mother Care Limited conducted female health and hygiene awareness sessions at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall on 10 July 2025.

A similar programme was organized at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall on 18 September 2025.

These activities combined awareness-raising with practical improvements in access to hygiene resources.

Together, they demonstrate the University's recognition that reproductive health and menstrual hygiene should be treated as integral components of student health and well-being.

5. Mental Health, Psychosocial Well-being and Institutional Safeguarding

5.1 Recognizing Psychological Safety as an Institutional Responsibility

Health and well-being extend beyond physical conditions. A safe and supportive academic environment also requires attention to psychological security, interpersonal relationships, and protection from harassment and intimidation.

Students experiencing bullying, ragging, sexual harassment, or other forms of institutional intimidation may face significant psychological distress. Such experiences can affect their academic performance, social participation, and overall well-being.

Recognizing these challenges, the University strengthened its institutional safeguarding mechanisms during 2025 through the establishment of dedicated committees and accessible grievance reporting arrangements.

5.2 Establishing Institutional Anti-Harassment and Anti-Ragging Mechanisms

On 9 October 2025, following central Syndicate decisions, the University formally established two high-level administrative bodies.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Investigation Committee

The committee was chaired by Professor Dr. Upama Kabir, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

Its purpose was to provide an institutional mechanism for addressing complaints related to sexual harassment and ensuring formal investigation of reported incidents.

Anti-Bullying and Anti-Ragging Committee

The committee was chaired by Professor Dr. Shahnaz Huda of the Department of Law.

The committee was established to address bullying and ragging and strengthen institutional accountability for protecting students from intimidation and abusive behaviour.

These bodies represent an important institutional step towards ensuring that students can pursue their education in a safer and more respectful environment.

5.3 Establishing Accessible and Confidential Complaint Mechanisms

The establishment of safeguarding committees was accompanied by administrative measures to improve access to grievance reporting.

The Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) issued directives requiring Faculty Deans, Hall Provosts, Hostel Wardens, Department Chairpersons, Institute Directors, and the Chief Proctor to install dedicated complaint boxes across their respective units.

According to the administrative directives, these complaint boxes are to be opened and audited weekly, with collected complaints submitted directly to the respective committee chairs.

During the reporting period, dedicated complaint boxes were installed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall on 9 October 2025 and Kuwait Maitree Hall on 13 November 2025.

The initiative provides students with an additional channel for raising concerns and seeking institutional support.

By combining formal investigative committees with accessible reporting arrangements, the University strengthened the administrative foundation for campus safeguarding.

5.4 Promoting Awareness Against Ragging

Alongside formal institutional mechanisms, awareness and orientation activities are important for preventing harmful behaviour before it occurs.

On 10 July 2025, the Faculty of Fine Art organized an anti-ragging orientation and warning campaign titled *"Ragging is a Punishable Offense"* for incoming undergraduate students. The programme emphasized institutional expectations regarding student conduct and the consequences of ragging.

Such early awareness activities can help establish a culture of mutual respect, accountability, and psychological safety among newly admitted students.

5.5 Supporting Mental Health Awareness and Psychological Understanding

The University also facilitated academic engagement on psychology, counselling, and behavioural development. On 10 July 2025, the Department of Islamic Studies organized an international special lecture on Islamic Psychology and Mental Counseling.

The lecture was delivered by Professor Dr. G. Hussein Rassool, Director of Islamic Psychology and Counselling at Al Balagh Academy, UK, and Professor at Charles Sturt University, Australia.

The programme provided an academic platform for discussing psychological well-being and the role of counselling in supporting individuals.

A further academic lecture was organized by the Department of Population Sciences on 17 July 2025. Titled *"Child Discipline Practices at Home and Parental Attitudes Toward Physical*

Punishment of Children in Bangladesh," the lecture was delivered by Professor M. Mazharul Islam of Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. The discussion addressed child discipline, behavioural development, and the potential consequences of physical punishment.

These academic activities demonstrate the University's contribution to psychological awareness and research-based discussions on mental health and social well-being.

5.6 Providing Support to Students Affected by Physical Trauma

Psychosocial well-being is also closely connected to physical health and the ability to recover from traumatic experiences.

During July 2025, the University undertook targeted assistance initiatives for students injured during the July movement.

On 17 July 2025, the Department of Banking and Insurance announced financial and medical relief assistance for affected departmental students.

On the same date, Rokeya Hall recognized two severely injured female students, Sanjida Ahmed Tonwi and Synthia Mehreen Sakal, by providing financial assistance, crests, and certificates.

The support was intended to assist their ongoing medical recovery and reduce associated financial difficulties.

These initiatives reflect the importance of institutional care and solidarity in supporting students experiencing exceptional physical and psychological challenges.

6. Physical Fitness, Sports and Healthy Lifestyles

6.1 Encouraging Physical Activity as Part of Student Well-being

Regular physical activity plays an important role in maintaining good health, improving physical fitness, and supporting psychological well-being.

Within a university environment, access to sports facilities and opportunities for athletic participation can encourage students to adopt healthier lifestyles while developing teamwork, discipline, and social connections.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka continued to promote sports and physical activity through competitive events, residential hall facilities, and recognition of student athletic achievements.

6.2 Recognizing International Sporting Achievements

The University community achieved notable recognition through the international sporting success of its students.

Md. Taim Hawlader, an undergraduate student at the Institute of Education and Research and resident of Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall, achieved significant success at the South Asian Karate Championship held in Sri Lanka on 5–6 July 2025.

He won the gold medal in the Under-21 Individual 50kg category for the third consecutive year. He also secured a senior silver medal in the 50kg category and a team male fight bronze medal while representing Bangladesh. His achievements demonstrate the potential of university students to excel in competitive sports at the international level.

They also highlight the importance of recognizing athletic development as an important part of student engagement and well-being.

6.3 Improving Gymnasium and Sports Infrastructure

Access to appropriate fitness and sporting facilities is important for encouraging regular physical activity.

On 9 October 2025, Amar Ekushey Hall upgraded its gymnasium by procuring and installing modern fitness equipment, including one cross trainer and one gym cycle.

These additions expanded the available exercise facilities for resident students.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall also undertook improvements to its badminton court on 13 November 2025. The hall completed court maintenance, constructed concrete posts, and procured athletic equipment to support winter intramural sports activities.

These interventions demonstrate the University's efforts to improve access to recreational and fitness facilities within residential halls.

6.4 Promoting Competitive Sports and Student Participation

The University continued to organize and support competitive sporting activities throughout the reporting period.

Inter-Hall Swimming and Water Polo Competition – 10 July 2025

The inter-hall swimming and water polo competitions provided opportunities for students to participate in organized aquatic sports.

Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall won the men's swimming and men's water polo championships.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall and Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall secured the respective runner-up positions in these competitions.

In women's swimming, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall emerged as champion, while Shamsun Nahar Hall secured the runner-up position.

Outstanding individual swimmers included Sheikh Jamil Hasan, Rakibul Islam Tuhin, and Juwairia Ferdous.

Inter-Department Basketball Championship – 14 August 2025

The University also organized an inter-department basketball championship, providing an opportunity for students to engage in team-based competitive sports.

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism won the overall championship after defeating the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering by 51–43 in the final.

Aniruddha Talukdar Born emerged as the tournament's top scorer with 115 cumulative points, while Akib Hasan received recognition as the best player.

These sporting activities contribute to a more active campus environment and encourage students to incorporate physical exercise into their university experience.

7. Academic Research, Healthcare Innovation and Environmental Health

7.1 Advancing Healthcare Through Academic and Industry Collaboration

Universities play an important role in improving public health not only through direct healthcare services but also through scientific research, knowledge exchange, and collaboration with healthcare institutions and industries.

The University of Dhaka contributes to this broader agenda by facilitating academic discussions, research dissemination, and partnerships involving healthcare, pharmaceutical science, engineering, and biomedical innovation.

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

The programme brought together academic and pharmaceutical industry stakeholders to discuss opportunities for stronger collaboration between scientific research and industrial applications.

Such engagement provides a platform for connecting academic research with healthcare innovation, pharmaceutical development, and the practical needs of the healthcare sector.

7.2 Exploring Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

The application of artificial intelligence and machine learning is creating new opportunities for healthcare research, predictive medicine, and clinical decision-making.

Recognizing the importance of emerging technologies, the University hosted a specialized academic lecture on 18 December 2025.

Professor Dr. Javed Mostafa, Dean of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, delivered a guest lecture titled *"AI and Machine-Learning Approaches for Improving Biomedicine and Healthcare."*

The lecture discussed the application of artificial intelligence and machine-learning methods in biomedical research, predictive medicine, and clinical diagnostics.

This initiative reflects the University's engagement with emerging technologies that may contribute to more effective healthcare systems and improved medical research capabilities.

7.3 Promoting Research and Awareness on Microbiology

Understanding microorganisms is essential for addressing infectious diseases, antimicrobial challenges, and broader public health concerns.

On 18 September 2025, the Department of Microbiology, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists and icddr,b, observed **International Microorganism Day 2025**.

The event featured scientific discussions and addresses focusing on microbial control and infectious disease management.

The programme provided an opportunity to promote scientific awareness and strengthen engagement among researchers and relevant stakeholders working in microbiology and public health.

7.4 Exploring Microbial Technologies and Scientific Innovation

The University's research engagement also extended to the relationship between microbiology, environmental applications, and emerging technologies.

On 10 July 2025, the Energy Institute organized a scientific seminar titled *"A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design."*

The seminar explored the scientific principles and design applications of microbial fuel cell technology, highlighting the potential use of biological processes in energy generation.

Although primarily associated with energy and environmental applications, such research engagement contributes to the broader scientific knowledge base supporting sustainable development and interdisciplinary innovation.

7.5 Promoting Environmental Health Through Clean Air Initiatives

Environmental conditions have direct implications for human health. Air pollution, open burning, and exposure to harmful particulate matter can contribute to respiratory irritation and other health problems.

During 2025, the University introduced and strengthened environmental initiatives aimed at reducing avoidable pollution across the campus.

On 11 December 2025, the University launched the *"Shorapata Projwolon Bondho Korun" (Stop Burning Fallen Leaves)* campaign through the University of Dhaka Arboriculture Center, student representatives, Green Future Foundation, and the Environment Parliament.

The initiative prohibited the open burning of fallen leaves and promoted the collection and conversion of organic biomass into compost and fertilizer.

This intervention contributes to cleaner campus air by reducing smoke and particulate emissions associated with open biomass burning.

It also demonstrates how environmental management practices can contribute directly to public health protection.

7.6 National Recognition for Environmental Health Governance

The University's environmental health initiatives received national recognition during the reporting period.

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented a National Award and Honour to Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan.

The recognition acknowledged the University's administrative enforcement of a campus-wide prohibition on fireworks, firecrackers, and lanterns during celebration periods.

The policy was recognized for its contribution to reducing particulate pollution, preventing harmful chemical residues, minimizing noise-related disturbance, protecting people and wildlife, and reducing fire-related risks.

This recognition highlights the University's contribution to environmental health governance and demonstrates how institutional policies can support safer public spaces.

8. Consolidated Progress and Key Institutional Achievements

The initiatives undertaken during 2025 demonstrate progress across multiple dimensions of SDG 3.

The following table summarizes selected institutional achievements documented in the available records.

Area of intervention	Key progress during 2025
Mosquito control	Seven documented mosquito-control operations at Kuwait Maitree Hall, alongside interventions at other residential halls
Pest management	Bedbug eradication campaign covering 29 rooms at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall
Medical services	DU Medical Center medical officers stationed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall for outpatient and nighttime emergency support
Emergency assistance	Dedicated wheelchairs procured for sick and injured students at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall

Preventive health	Free blood grouping programme organized by Badhan
Drinking water	Four new filtration units installed at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall
Water and sanitation	Reservoir cleaning, pipeline maintenance, filtration servicing, and bathroom sanitation improvements
Reproductive health	Automated sanitary napkin vending machine installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall
Female health awareness	Two documented female health and hygiene awareness sessions
Institutional safeguarding	Two high-level committees established for sexual harassment prevention and anti-bullying and anti-ragging
Grievance reporting	Central directive for complaint boxes and weekly grievance collection across institutional units
Mental health awareness	Academic lectures on Islamic psychology, mental counselling, and child discipline
Physical fitness	Gymnasium equipment and badminton court improvements
Sporting achievements	International karate medals, inter-hall swimming and water polo competitions, and inter-department basketball championship
Healthcare research	International healthcare and material science symposium and AI in healthcare lecture
Microbiology research	International Microorganism Day programme organized with BSM and icddr,b
Environmental health	Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign and institutional restrictions on fireworks and firecrackers
National recognition	National environmental award presented to the University and Vice-Chancellor

The figures represent selected documented activities rather than a consolidated measure of the University's total healthcare expenditure, number of people reached, or overall health outcomes.

9. Institutional Impact and Contribution to Good Health and Well-being

The University's initiatives demonstrate several pathways through which a higher education institution can contribute to SDG 3.

9.1 Strengthening Preventive Healthcare

Recurring mosquito-control operations, targeted pest management, and improved sanitation demonstrate the University's attention to preventive healthcare.

By addressing environmental risks within residential halls, the University contributes to creating healthier living conditions and reducing potential exposure to communicable diseases.

9.2 Improving Access to Essential Health and Hygiene Services

Medical consultation arrangements, emergency mobility support, blood grouping activities, water filtration facilities, and menstrual hygiene infrastructure contribute to improving students' access to essential health-related services.

These interventions are particularly important in residential environments where students depend on shared facilities and institutional support.

9.3 Promoting Psychological Safety and Mental Well-being

The establishment of anti-harassment and anti-ragging committees, along with accessible grievance reporting arrangements, demonstrates an institutional commitment to protecting students from harmful behaviour.

Academic lectures on psychology and counselling further contribute to awareness of psychological well-being and behavioural development.

Together, these initiatives strengthen the institutional conditions required for a safer and more supportive academic environment.

9.4 Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles Through Sports

Gymnasium improvements, sporting competitions, and recognition of athletic achievements encourage students to participate in physical activities.

These activities support the development of healthy habits, social interaction, and physical fitness while contributing to the broader objective of preventive health.

9.5 Advancing Healthcare Knowledge and Innovation

International symposia, research-oriented events, and lectures on artificial intelligence in healthcare demonstrate the University's role in facilitating scientific exchange and interdisciplinary research.

Such initiatives strengthen academic engagement with emerging healthcare technologies and contribute to the broader knowledge environment supporting public health innovation.

9.6 Protecting Health Through Environmental Governance

The prohibition of open leaf burning and restrictions on fireworks and firecrackers demonstrate the University's recognition of environmental quality as an important component of human health.

These initiatives contribute to reducing avoidable pollution and promoting a safer campus environment for students, employees, visitors, and surrounding communities.

10. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's progress towards SDG 3 during 2025 reflects a broad institutional understanding of health as a combination of physical well-being, psychological safety, access to essential services, healthy lifestyles, scientific advancement, and environmental quality.

Through preventive healthcare initiatives, mosquito-control operations, medical support arrangements, sanitation improvements, and reproductive health facilities, the University continued to strengthen the conditions required for a healthier residential and academic environment.

The establishment of institutional safeguarding committees and accessible grievance reporting mechanisms further demonstrated the University's recognition of psychological safety and protection from harassment as essential components of student well-being.

At the same time, sports competitions, fitness infrastructure, biomedical research engagement, and environmental health initiatives expanded the University's contribution beyond conventional healthcare services.

The University's achievements also demonstrate the importance of collaboration among academic departments, residential halls, student organizations, alumni associations, medical institutions, research organizations, and government agencies.

Although further attention to systematic health monitoring, mental health services, environmental assessment, and measurable outcomes will be important, the initiatives documented during 2025 provide a meaningful foundation for advancing the University's contribution to SDG 3.

Ultimately, the University of Dhaka's commitment to Good Health and Well-being is reflected in its efforts to create an academic and residential environment where individuals can live safely, access essential health services, develop healthy lifestyles, pursue their education without fear or intimidation, and benefit from a cleaner and healthier campus environment.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

4

QUALITY EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 4: Quality Education

---

1. Executive Summary

Quality education is central to sustainable development, enabling individuals to acquire the knowledge, competencies, values, and capabilities necessary to contribute meaningfully to society. Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) calls for inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. In higher education, this commitment extends beyond access to university admission. It encompasses academic quality assurance, relevant professional skills, research excellence, student welfare, safe learning environments, international academic cooperation, and opportunities for intellectual and personal development.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a range of academic, administrative, financial, infrastructural, and collaborative initiatives that contributed to different dimensions of SDG 4. These initiatives included strengthening institutional quality assurance, introducing professional communication training, recognizing academic and research excellence, expanding scholarship and financial assistance programmes, improving student accessibility and welfare, establishing institutional safeguarding mechanisms, and pursuing major investments in academic and residential infrastructure.

The university also strengthened its international academic engagement through meetings, proposed exchange arrangements, research collaborations, specialist lectures, and participation in international knowledge-sharing platforms. Its achievements in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 and Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026 provided additional recognition of its academic and research performance.

Several initiatives demonstrated the university's commitment to making higher education more inclusive. These included financial assistance for economically disadvantaged students, dedicated support for a visually impaired student, scholarships for female students, and plans for additional female residential accommodation. At the same time, the establishment of committees addressing sexual harassment, bullying, and ragging represented important institutional steps towards safer and more supportive learning environments.

This report presents the university's documented contributions to SDG 4 during the 2025 calendar year, organized around the relevant UN targets. The available activity-level documentation is concentrated primarily in 2025. Accordingly, the report does not assume that undocumented activities took place during the first half of the year. It also distinguishes between completed interventions, ongoing initiatives, and projects that received approval or entered preparatory stages during the reporting period.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 4

The University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 4 is reflected in its institutional efforts to improve academic governance, promote research excellence, expand educational opportunities, strengthen student support systems, and establish an enabling environment for learning.

The university's initiatives during 2025 corresponded with several SDG 4 targets:

- **Target 4.3:** Equal access for women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education.
- **Target 4.4:** Increasing the number of young people and adults with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.
- **Target 4.5:** Eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.
- **Target 4.7:** Ensuring that learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, and environmental responsibility.
- **Target 4.a:** Building and upgrading educational facilities that are inclusive, safe, non-violent, and effective learning environments.
- **Target 4.b:** Expanding scholarship opportunities for higher education, particularly for students from developing countries and disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Target 4.c:** Increasing the supply of qualified teachers through international cooperation and capacity-building opportunities.

Institutional quality assurance, academic recognition, financial assistance, student welfare, international partnerships, and infrastructure development collectively contributed to these objectives. The initiatives discussed in the following sections demonstrate how the university translated these commitments into academic and institutional activities during 2025.

3. Academic Quality Assurance, Governance and Institutional Recognition

3.1 Strengthening Institutional Quality Assurance

Quality assurance is essential to maintaining academic standards, improving teaching and learning, and ensuring that higher education institutions remain responsive to changing educational and professional requirements.

An important milestone was the **First National IQAC Conference**, organized by the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) on 13 November 2025. The conference, titled *"Progress of Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Experience of IQAC Leadership in Various Universities of Bangladesh,"* brought together representatives and academic leaders from public and private universities. Held at the Professor Abdul Matin Chaudhury Virtual Classroom and the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, the event provided a platform for exchanging institutional experiences, discussing quality assurance practices, and examining approaches to improving higher education standards.

On 18 December 2025, IQAC also launched its official Facebook portal to improve the visibility of departmental research achievements, academic milestones, and national and international recognition. This initiative provides an additional communication channel for sharing institutional academic accomplishments with the wider university community.

Together, these activities reflect efforts to strengthen quality assurance culture and promote greater institutional transparency and knowledge exchange.

3.2 Academic and Research Excellence Recognition

Recognizing academic performance and research contributions is an important part of fostering a culture of excellence within higher education. During 2025, several faculties and departments organized award ceremonies and distributed research incentives, scholarships, and academic distinctions.

The Faculty of Science Dean's Award ceremony, held on 13 November 2025, recognized **76 students from eight departments and one institute** for their academic performance during the 2021, 2022, and 2023 examination cycles. The faculty also recognized 10 academic staff members for their research books and scholarly publications. In addition, **38 faculty members received financial incentives** for publishing original research in high-impact Q1 and Q2 journals.

On 20 November 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy organized its Dean's Award and Research Honors ceremony. Six Bachelor of Professional Pharmacy students received Dean's Awards, while seven faculty researchers were recognized for their research contributions between 2023 and 2025. The ceremony also included two Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society Gold Medals, two Novelist Sardar Jayenuddin Gold Medals, financial grants for eight students through the Badrunnesa Gafur Memorial Trust Fund, and scholarships for 16 high-performing students across the four professional academic years.

Other departmental initiatives further demonstrated the breadth of academic recognition across the university:

- The Department of Islamic History and Culture celebrated its 75th anniversary on 13 November 2025. Its Alumni Association distributed **84 student scholarships**, including 75 special anniversary scholarships, and recognized MPhil and PhD graduates, academically successful children of alumni, and first-position graduates.
- The Department of Arabic inaugurated the renovated Shamsul Ulama Abu Nasr Waheed Lecture Hall and the Professor A.N.M. Abdul Mannan Khan Seminar Library. The facilities were funded by departmental alumni. A total of 34 students received stipends through departmental trust funds.
- The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management awarded 10 Henna Alam Scholarships to first-year students during its 18th anniversary celebration.
- The Department of Physics awarded the Hamim Khan Memorial Award, amounting to Tk 1,47,360, to Falguni Biswas for achieving the highest CGPA among graduating female students in the B.Sc. (Honours) examinations.
- The Department of Economics recognized Lubaba Binte Halim through the Shah AAMS Kibria Memorial Trust Fund for securing the highest CGPA in the BSS (Honours) examinations.

These initiatives provided recognition and financial incentives for academic achievement while encouraging research productivity among faculty members and students.

3.3 International Academic Recognition

The University of Dhaka achieved notable milestones in international university rankings during the reporting period.

In the **Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026**, published on 9 October 2025, the university advanced 200 positions from the previous year's 1001–1200 band to the **801–1000 global ranking band**, maintaining its position among the leading universities in Bangladesh.

A further achievement came through the **Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026**, published on 20 November 2025. The university secured **52nd position globally among 911 institutions from 94 countries**, ranking first in South Asia and leading the 12 participating Bangladeshi universities.

These rankings provide external recognition of the university's performance across areas such as teaching, research environment, research quality, international outlook, industry engagement, and interdisciplinary research. They also offer useful benchmarks for continued institutional improvement.

4. Equitable Access, Scholarships and Student Financial Support

4.1 Expanding Financial Access to Higher Education

Economic barriers can affect students' ability to access higher education, continue their studies, and achieve their academic potential. The University of Dhaka's scholarship and trust fund programmes provide different forms of financial assistance to students based on academic merit, financial need, research engagement, and other eligibility criteria.

During 2025, several faculties and departments distributed scholarships and stipends through institutional, alumni-supported, and externally financed trust funds.

Among the notable initiatives were:

- **Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship:** On 9 October 2025, ten undergraduate students from the 2022–2023 academic year were selected for annual scholarship stipends. The scholarships are renewable for up to three years, subject to academic performance and conduct.
- **Muhammad Shah Alam Law Scholarship:** On 14 August 2025, 50 underprivileged first-year students of the Department of Law received Tk 10,000 each.
- **Satirtha Forum Trust Fund Scholarship:** On 11 December 2025, six B.S. (Honours) students of the Department of Political Science received grants of Tk 12,000 each.
- **Professor Dr. Golam M. Mathbor Trust Fund:** Six first-year students of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research were selected for ongoing academic stipends.

- **Henna Alam Scholarships:** Ten first-year students of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management received scholarships.
- **Arabic Department Trust Funds:** Thirty-four students received stipends through the AGM Kutubul Islam Nomani Trust Fund and Khondokar Md. Habibullah Trust Fund.
- **Veteran Freedom Fighter Amena Zaman Memorial Trust Fund:** Eight Physics students received Tk 15,000 each.
- **Alhaj Shamsuddin Hafiz and Taiba Begum Trust Fund:** Two students of Educational Psychology received monthly stipends of Tk 200 for one year.
- **Ashraf Dola Memorial Trust Fund:** Four Pharmacy students received Tk 18,000 each.
- **Rabeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarships:** Students of the Department of Soil, Water and Environment received monthly grants of Tk 500.
- **Professor Dr. S.H. Mahmud Trust Fund:** Eight Psychology students received monthly stipends of Tk 1,000 for one year.
- **Abdul Aziz Chowdhury Scholarships:** Two students of Library and Information Science received monthly stipends of Tk 600 for one year.
- **Dr. Syed Nurul Alam Memorial Scholarships:** Two Biochemistry students received monthly stipends of Tk 1,000 for one year.
- **Dr. Motiur Rahman Memorial Grants:** Five Biochemistry students received financial assistance, with grants of Tk 15,000 for M.S. students and Tk 5,000 for B.S. students.

These programmes demonstrate the role of departmental trust funds, alumni contributions, and external partners in supporting student access and academic continuity.

4.2 Supporting Research and Postgraduate Education

Financial support for postgraduate research contributes to the development of advanced knowledge and strengthens the research capacity of higher education institutions.

On 9 October 2025, the Bilqis-Mahbub Trust Fund provided research grants of Tk 24,000 each to three MPhil research scholars in the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology.

On 13 November 2025, the Darul Irfan Research Institute, in collaboration with the Department of World Religions and Culture, distributed a total of **Tk 5.8 lakh in research grants and scholarships to 18 scholars**. The beneficiaries included two PhD researchers, one MPhil researcher, two MA monograph students, and 13 general students. The support was provided through the Syed Delawar Hossain Maizbhandari and Syed Emdadul Haq Maizbhandari Research Funds.

These initiatives support the continuation of postgraduate research and provide financial assistance to scholars at different stages of academic development.

4.3 Inclusion of Students with Disabilities

Inclusive higher education requires institutional mechanisms that address the specific financial and accessibility needs of students with disabilities.

An important initiative was the approval of an annual stipend of **Tk 60,000** for Abdullah Al Naim, a visually impaired first-year student of the Department of Political Science. Approved on 9 October 2025, the assistance is structured as a monthly stipend of Tk 5,000.

The initiative represents a targeted effort to reduce financial barriers for a student with a disability and support continued participation in higher education. It also reflects the relevance of SDG Target 4.5, which calls for equal access to education for vulnerable groups.

4.4 Female Student Scholarships and Recognition

Several initiatives during the reporting period specifically supported female students and recognized their academic and co-curricular achievements.

On 13 November 2025, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall distributed stipends to **63 female students**, comprising one Gold Medal recipient, 15 merit scholarship recipients, 40 general scholarship recipients, and eight students recognized for co-curricular excellence.

The Hamim Khan Memorial Award in Physics, presented to Falguni Biswas, also recognized outstanding academic performance among graduating female students.

These interventions contributed to the university's broader efforts to promote gender equity and support women's participation and achievement in higher education.

5. Gender Equity, Female Student Accommodation and Student Welfare

5.1 Expanding Female Residential Accommodation

Access to safe and adequate residential facilities is an important consideration for students pursuing higher education, particularly those who relocate from outside Dhaka.

A major development during 2025 was the advancement of the proposed **Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project**, intended to expand female student accommodation at the University of Dhaka.

The project has an estimated investment of **Tk 244 crore**, financed through Chinese Government grant assistance, and is designed to accommodate approximately **1,500 female residential students**.

Chinese authorities formally confirmed approval of the project on 9 October 2025. On 18 December 2025, Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, Vice-Chancellor, and DUCSU representatives participated in a joint site inspection.

Physical construction was scheduled to commence in early 2026. Therefore, the project represents an approved and preparatory infrastructure commitment during the 2025 reporting period rather than a completed residential facility.

5.2 Institutional Recognition of Female Student Leadership

On 17 July 2025, the university declared 14 July as **July Female Student Day**, intended to recognize the leadership and contributions of female students during the July uprising. The day was proposed for integration into the university's permanent academic calendar.

This declaration represents institutional recognition of women's participation in student leadership and public life, extending the university's commitment to gender equality beyond access to academic opportunities.

5.3 Hall-Level Welfare and Accessibility Support

Student welfare initiatives also included practical interventions in residential facilities.

On 11 December 2025, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall received an automated sanitary napkin vending machine provided by the DU Alumni Association. The initiative supports access to menstrual hygiene products within the residential environment. On 13 November 2025, the same hall installed refrigerators across five residential floors, alongside additional refrigerators for administrative and dining facilities. These facilities were intended to improve residents' access to basic storage infrastructure. At Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, wheelchairs were procured and made available for students who were injured or unwell. The intervention supports mobility and accessibility within the residential environment.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how student welfare infrastructure can contribute to more inclusive and supportive conditions for higher education.

6. Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Learning Environments

6.1 Institutional Safeguarding Against Harassment, Bullying and Ragging

A safe learning environment is fundamental to educational participation, student well-being, and academic performance. In 2025, the University of Dhaka took institutional steps to strengthen its response to sexual harassment, bullying, and ragging.

On 9 October 2025, two university-level oversight committees were established:

1. **Investigation Committee on Sexual Harassment**, chaired by Professor Dr. Upama Kabir, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.
2. **Anti-Bullying and Anti-Ragging Committee**, chaired by Professor Dr. Shahnaz Huda of the Department of Law.

The university also issued administrative directives requiring Faculty Deans, Hall Provosts, Hostel Wardens, Department Chairpersons, Institute Directors, and the Proctor to install dedicated complaint boxes in their respective units.

The prescribed procedures included weekly collection of complaints and transmission to the relevant committee conveners. Departments were also instructed to organize orientation

sessions and awareness programmes for faculty members and incoming students regarding the legal consequences of ragging and harassment.

These measures were complemented by awareness activities, including the Faculty of Fine Arts' 10 July 2025 campaign under the message *"Ragging is a Punishable Offense."*

The establishment of committees, reporting channels, and awareness requirements represents an important institutional framework for promoting accountability and safer educational spaces.

6.2 Student Support and Administrative Accessibility

Improving access to university services is another component of an inclusive educational environment.

On 14 August 2025, the university's Central Information Center, under the Public Relations Office, introduced a service modernization initiative. The initiative included the integration of two student service coordinators, installation of suggestion boxes, and the introduction of dedicated email and WhatsApp helplines.

The initiative was intended to improve communication and access to administrative services, particularly for students seeking assistance with transcript and certificate processing and other institutional services.

These arrangements contribute to a more responsive administrative environment and provide additional channels through which students can communicate their concerns.

6.3 Earthquake Resilience and Structural Safety

The physical safety of educational facilities is essential for maintaining continuity in teaching, learning, and residential life. Following regional seismic events, the university undertook structural assessments and targeted rehabilitation work across residential halls.

Expert sub-committees from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), in coordination with the DU Engineering Office, conducted structural evaluations of residential halls and developed short-, medium-, and long-term rehabilitation plans.

By 11 December 2025, documented repair progress included:

- **Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall:** 112 of 175 student rooms had been fully repaired. Additional ferro-cement plastering was underway across rooms, balcony ceilings, drop walls, parapet walls, bathrooms, mosque areas, dining roofs, and reading room ceilings.
- **Surja Sen Hall:** 96 of 141 student rooms had been fully repaired across several floors, alongside work on balcony and corridor ceilings, canteens, and washrooms.
- **Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall:** Thirteen rooms had been repaired, seven rooms had been fully painted, and ferro-cement casting had been completed across 32 rooms on the fourth floor, in addition to rehabilitation work in other common areas.

These interventions represent important steps towards improving the structural safety and resilience of residential facilities.

6.4 Campus Infrastructure Development

The university also secured approval for a major infrastructure development initiative. On 20 November 2025, the Ministry of Education approved an initial Annual Development Program allocation of **Tk 60 crore** for the DU Further Development Project, which has an estimated total cost of **Tk 2,841 crore** and an implementation period of 2025–2030.

The project's proposed scope includes:

- Six multi-storey academic buildings.
- Four female residential halls with a planned capacity of 2,600 students.
- Five male residential halls with a planned capacity of 5,100 students.
- Residential quarters for house tutors across nine halls.
- Two residential towers for teachers and officers.
- Five administrative and utility facilities.
- Renovation and beautification of four water bodies.
- Service-line improvements, one sports field, and two public toilets.
- Campus-wide drainage and waste management systems.

The project has the potential to address infrastructure constraints, improve the learning environment, and expand residential capacity. However, the proposed facilities should be treated as planned development outputs until their construction and operational status can be verified.

7. Skills Development, Employability and Digital Competencies

7.1 Professional Communication Skills Programme

Preparing graduates for employment requires more than disciplinary knowledge. Communication, collaboration, presentation, digital interaction, and problem-solving competencies are also important for successful participation in the professional environment.

To address these needs, the Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee (ICEC), in partnership with the Student Promotion and Support Unit (SPSU) and IQAC, introduced a specialized certificate course titled **Effective Professional Communication**.

The programme was structurally rolled out on 13 November and formally inaugurated on 20 November 2025. Its first batch enrolled **50 selected students** from fourth-year undergraduate and Master's-level programmes across academic departments.

The curriculum includes:

- Professional oral and written communication.
- Digital platform interactions.
- Corporate email etiquette.

- CV and résumé preparation.
- Cover letter drafting.
- Public presentation techniques.
- Group collaboration.
- Structured problem-solving.

The course represents a direct institutional contribution to SDG Target 4.4 by linking higher education with practical skills required for employment and professional development.

7.2 Student Skill Development and Career-Oriented Learning

The consolidated activity record also identifies a student skill development and capacity-building workshop organized by the DU Research Society on 17 July 2025. Such activities provide opportunities for students to develop competencies beyond conventional classroom instruction.

On 11 December 2025, the Department of Information Science and Library Management organized a career-oriented guest lecture featuring former American Library Association President Professor Emily Drabinski. The event focused on future career opportunities in the Library and Information Science field.

Additionally, the International Library Conference on AI Technologies in Librarianship, recorded on 18 December 2025, provided another platform for discussing the relationship between emerging technologies and professional practice.

These activities demonstrate the importance of connecting academic learning with changing professional requirements and technological developments.

7.3 Innovation, Artificial Intelligence and Technological Skills

The university's academic activities also addressed the growing importance of artificial intelligence and technological innovation.

The consolidated activity record identifies **VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge**, organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering on 20 November 2025. The initiative was aligned with the development of technological and innovation-related competencies.

The university also hosted lectures and seminars addressing artificial intelligence in education, healthcare, and information services. These included the Kansai University lecture on *"Learning Assessment in the Age of AI"* on 14 August, and international lectures on AI and machine learning in biomedicine and strategies for coexisting with AI in December.

Collectively, these activities contributed to discussions on digital transformation, emerging technologies, and the competencies required for future academic and professional environments.

8. International Academic Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

8.1 Strengthening International University Partnerships

International academic cooperation contributes to higher education quality through faculty and student mobility, joint research, knowledge exchange, and exposure to international academic practices.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka engaged with several international universities and development partners to explore opportunities for academic collaboration.

Notable engagements included:

- **Peking University, China (14 August 2025):** The Vice-Chancellor met with the university's Vice-President to discuss potential collaboration in science, technology, environmental studies, language, and culture. Discussions included possible faculty, student, and cultural exchange arrangements, alongside academic lectures by Professor Wu Jiewei and Professor Dr. Wang Yu.
- **Kansai University, Japan (14 August 2025):** The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) met with Emeritus Professors to explore student and faculty exchange opportunities. The visit also included a lecture at the Institute of Education and Research titled *"Learning Assessment in the Age of AI."*
- **North Eastern Hill University, India (17 July 2025):** The Vice-Chancellor met with Professor Dr. Moses Naga, reaching a consensus to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding for reciprocal mobility involving researchers, faculty members, and students.
- **Central Queensland University, Australia (18 December 2025):** Discussions with Professor Dr. Olav Muurlink covered potential joint research programmes on coastal disaster management and early childhood education, as well as professional training workshops for early-career faculty.
- **British Council (18 December 2025):** Discussions addressed possible joint research ventures, international co-publishing in peer-reviewed journals, and faculty capacity-building initiatives.

These engagements indicate the university's efforts to strengthen its international academic network and explore opportunities for collaborative research and institutional development.

8.2 International Development and Technical Cooperation

The university also engaged with international development organizations and diplomatic missions to explore technical capacity-building and academic cooperation.

On 17 July 2025, university representatives held strategic discussions with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) regarding potential capacity-building projects for young scholars. The proposed areas included artificial intelligence, renewable energy, financial technology, environmental engineering, and climate science.

On 9 October 2025, representatives of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) met with university leadership to discuss the possible establishment of an ISESCO Chair at the University of Dhaka.

Other engagements included:

- Discussions with the Pakistan High Commission on 10 July 2025 regarding higher education cooperation, Bengali language diploma courses for foreign diplomats, and expansion of the computer laboratory previously established in the Department of Urdu.
- Discussions with the Italian Embassy on 18 September 2025 concerning the expansion of Italian language programmes at the Institute of Modern Languages and the recruitment of native Italian instructors.

These engagements provide opportunities for future institutional cooperation, specialized academic development, and international knowledge exchange.

8.3 International Lectures and Academic Capacity Building

Hosting international scholars and academic leaders provides students and faculty members with access to specialized knowledge and diverse academic perspectives.

On 18 December 2025, Professor Dr. Javed Mostafa, Dean of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, delivered an IQAC lecture titled *"AI and Machine-Learning Approaches for Improving Biomedicine and Healthcare."*

On the same date, Professor Dr. Sam Oh of Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea, delivered a lecture at the Department of Information Science and Library Management titled *"Toward Beneficial AI: Strategies for Coexisting with AI."*

These lectures provided opportunities to engage with contemporary developments in artificial intelligence and their implications for research, professional practice, and society.

9. Research, Conferences and Interdisciplinary Knowledge Dissemination

9.1 Interdisciplinary Research and Academic Conferences

The University of Dhaka's contribution to quality education also includes facilitating academic dialogue, research dissemination, and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange.

On 13 November 2025, the Department of Urdu organized a two-day international conference titled *"Awakening Philosophy in Iqbal and Nazrul's Philosophy."* The conference brought together scholars from 18 countries and featured 18 academic sessions with **133 research papers**.

On 11 December 2025, the Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought, in collaboration with the Department of World Religions and Culture, the International Institute of Islamic Thought, and the Fairfax Institute, organized a four-day Winter School on Islamic Thought. The programme

brought together **70 scholars and students from 30 public and private universities** across Bangladesh, providing a platform for interdisciplinary academic exchange.

The Department of International Relations also organized two research seminars on 11 December 2025 under the UGC Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project. The seminars addressed Bangladesh's foreign policy responses to globalization-related challenges in national security, climate change, and labour migration.

9.2 Scientific Research and Specialized Academic Seminars

Several faculties, departments, and institutes organized research-oriented events and technical seminars during the year.

Examples included:

- A seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology organized by the Energy Institute on 10 July 2025.
- A technical seminar on SCAPS-1D solar cell technology on 14 August 2025.
- International Microorganism Day 2025, organized by the Department of Microbiology in collaboration with the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists and icddr,b on 18 September 2025.
- A High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry seminar at the Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS) on 13 November 2025.
- A knowledge dissemination workshop on the 16-year journey of EnDev, organized by the Institute of Energy on 13 November 2025.
- A specialized symposium on healthcare and material science, organized by the Faculties of Pharmacy and Engineering and Technology on 18 September 2025, focusing on strengthening industry-academia partnerships.

These events supported the exchange of research findings, exposure to emerging scientific and technological developments, and engagement between academic institutions and external stakeholders.

9.3 Industry-Academia Collaboration

Connecting university education with industry is important for improving the relevance of academic programmes and preparing graduates for employment.

The healthcare and material science symposium held on 18 September 2025 represented an example of this approach. By bringing together academic faculties and pharmaceutical industry stakeholders, the event provided a platform for discussing collaboration between research institutions and industry.

Such engagements can contribute to identifying research priorities, strengthening professional competencies, and developing pathways for translating academic research into practical applications.

10. Education for Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship and Environmental Responsibility

SDG Target 4.7 emphasizes the importance of education that promotes sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity.

During 2025, several University of Dhaka activities reflected these dimensions.

10.1 Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Campus Practices

On 11 December 2025, the university's Arboriculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and Environment Parliament organized a campaign at Mall Chatwar under the banner **"Stop Burning Fallen Leaves."** The initiative promoted alternatives to burning fallen leaves and aimed to reduce smoke and pollution on campus.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall also introduced a leaf collection programme through which fallen organic matter was collected and converted into compost for campus plants.

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented a special honour to the Vice-Chancellor in recognition of the university's institutional prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during December celebrations. The recognition highlighted the university's contribution to reducing air and noise pollution and protecting campus wildlife.

These initiatives illustrate how environmental management activities can also serve as practical learning opportunities and reinforce environmental responsibility within the university community.

10.2 Cultural Diversity and International Understanding

The university's international academic and cultural activities also contributed to the promotion of intercultural understanding and global citizenship.

The International Conference on Iqbal and Nazrul, which involved scholars from 18 countries, provided an international platform for discussing cultural and philosophical traditions.

The Winter School on Islamic Thought brought together participants from 30 universities, creating opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue and exchange of perspectives.

Engagements with international universities and diplomatic missions, as well as language-related initiatives involving Italian, Urdu, and Bengali, further reflected the university's role in promoting cultural exchange and international understanding.

10.3 Civic Engagement and Democratic Participation

The university's 2025 activity record also includes the DUCSU and Hall Union elections held in September 2025. The consolidated activity record notes the election process on 9 September, involving eight centres and 810 booths, followed by town hall debates on 11 September.

These activities provide opportunities for student participation in representative processes, debate, leadership development, and democratic engagement.

The record also identifies a humanitarian contribution by the Masters of Professional Banking Alumni Association under the Department of Banking and Insurance. On 13 November 2025, the association handed over financial assistance to the Palestinian Ambassador in Dhaka to support war-affected children in Gaza.

These activities demonstrate how higher education institutions can contribute to civic awareness, international solidarity, and a broader understanding of social responsibility.

11. Consolidated SDG 4 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The initiatives documented during 2025 demonstrate the University of Dhaka's contributions across multiple dimensions of quality education.

SDG 4 Target	Major documented contributions during 2025
Target 4.3 – Access to quality tertiary education	National IQAC Conference; academic awards; research recognition; international academic lectures; interdisciplinary conferences; international university engagements.
Target 4.4 – Skills for employment and entrepreneurship	Effective Professional Communication certificate course for 50 students; student skill development activities; AI and technology-focused seminars; industry-academia symposium; career-oriented guest lectures.
Target 4.5 – Gender equality and inclusion	Female student scholarships; support for a visually impaired student; female residential accommodation project preparation; sanitary napkin vending machine; recognition of female student leadership.
Target 4.7 – Education for sustainable development and global citizenship	Environmental awareness and composting initiatives; cultural and international academic conferences; civic engagement activities; humanitarian assistance; international knowledge exchange.
Target 4.a – Safe and inclusive learning environments	Anti-harassment and anti-ragging committees; complaint box directives; student service helplines; earthquake-related structural rehabilitation; accessibility and residential welfare interventions.
Target 4.b – Scholarships for higher education	Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship; departmental trust fund stipends; merit and need-based awards; postgraduate research grants; disability-related financial assistance.

Target 4.c – Qualified educators and international cooperation	International academic engagements; JICA capacity-building discussions; British Council collaboration discussions; international guest lectures; research and faculty development exchanges.

11.1 Selected Quantitative Highlights

The following figures represent selected documented outputs rather than a complete institutional count of all SDG 4 activities during 2025.

Area	Selected documented achievement
International university ranking	801–1000 band in THE World University Rankings 2026; 52nd globally in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026
Academic recognition	76 students recognized by the Faculty of Science
Research incentives	38 Faculty of Science academics received Q1/Q2 publication incentives
Professional skills development	50 students enrolled in the first batch of Effective Professional Communication
Departmental scholarships	84 scholarships distributed during the Department of Islamic History and Culture's 75th anniversary
Female student support	63 female students received stipends from Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall
Disability inclusion	Annual stipend of Tk 60,000 approved for a visually impaired student
Postgraduate research support	Tk 5.8 lakh in grants and scholarships distributed to 18 scholars through Darul Irfan Research Institute
International academic exchange	Winter School involving 70 scholars and students from 30 universities
International research dissemination	Iqbal and Nazrul conference involving scholars from 18 countries and 133 research papers
Residential infrastructure	Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project designed for 1,500 female students
Campus development	DU Further Development Project estimated at Tk 2,841 crore, with an initial ADP allocation of Tk 60 crore

These figures highlight the scale and diversity of the documented interventions. They should not be interpreted as a comprehensive count of all beneficiaries, scholarships, academic events, or infrastructure improvements undertaken by the university.

12. Institutional Impact on SDG 4

University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 4 during 2025 extended across academic quality, equitable access, professional skills, research capacity, student welfare, and institutional development.

First, the university strengthened its academic quality assurance environment through the National IQAC Conference, faculty-level recognition programmes, research incentives, and

international ranking achievements. These initiatives support institutional benchmarking and encourage continuous improvement in teaching and research.

Second, the university continued to use scholarships, trust funds, and targeted financial assistance to address economic barriers to higher education. Support for female students and a visually impaired student further demonstrates the importance of targeted inclusion mechanisms.

Third, the introduction of professional communication training and the organization of technology-oriented seminars indicate an effort to connect academic learning with emerging employment requirements. These initiatives are particularly relevant as graduate employability increasingly depends on communication, digital, analytical, and problem-solving competencies.

Fourth, the establishment of safeguarding committees and complaint mechanisms represents an important step towards strengthening institutional accountability and student protection. Structural rehabilitation and planned campus development also demonstrate recognition of the relationship between physical infrastructure, safety, and educational quality.

Finally, international academic engagements and interdisciplinary conferences expanded opportunities for knowledge exchange and research collaboration. Such activities can strengthen the university's academic network and contribute to its long-term research and teaching capacity.

13. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate a broad institutional contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 4. Through academic quality assurance, recognition of research and academic excellence, financial assistance, professional skills development, international cooperation, and investment in safer and more inclusive learning environments, the university continued to advance important dimensions of quality higher education.

The expansion of scholarship opportunities, targeted assistance for disadvantaged students, recognition of female student achievement, and proposed residential infrastructure demonstrate the importance placed on equitable access. Meanwhile, institutional safeguarding mechanisms, structural rehabilitation, and student service improvements reflect efforts to strengthen the conditions in which education takes place.

The university's international academic engagements, interdisciplinary research platforms, and achievements in global rankings further highlight its ambition to strengthen its academic and research standing.

Moving forward, the central priority should be to translate these institutional initiatives into measurable improvements in educational access, learning quality, student progression, employability, research performance, and inclusion. A more systematic monitoring and reporting framework will be essential to assess progress, identify gaps, and ensure that the university's commitment to quality education produces sustainable benefits for its students and the wider society.

Through continued investment in academic excellence, equitable opportunities, student welfare, and international knowledge exchange, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its role in advancing SDG 4 and contributing to the broader sustainable development agenda.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

5

GENDER EQUALITY

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 5: Gender Equality

1. Executive Summary

Gender equality is a fundamental prerequisite for inclusive development, social justice, and institutional progress. Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by addressing discrimination, strengthening institutional protection, expanding access to opportunities, and ensuring meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making.

At the University of Dhaka, gender equality is reflected in initiatives that extend beyond female student enrolment and academic participation. These include institutional mechanisms for preventing harassment and discrimination, investments in female residential infrastructure, financial assistance and scholarships for female students, recognition of women's leadership, and improvements in health and welfare facilities.

During the year 2025, the university undertook several institutional initiatives aligned with SDG 5. The establishment of specialized committees addressing sexual harassment, oppression, bullying, and ragging represented an important step towards strengthening gender protection and accountability. The restructuring of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies also provided an institutional platform for advancing gender-related research and policy engagement.

Infrastructure development remained another major priority. The Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project, designed to accommodate 1,500 female students, received formal approval from the Chinese government. In addition, the university's Tk 2,841 crore Further Development Project included provisions for four new female residential halls with a planned capacity of 2,600 students. Together, these projects represent a planned expansion of 4,100 female residential seats.

The university also continued to support female students through scholarships, research grants, merit awards, and targeted financial assistance. Notable initiatives included scholarships for 63 female students at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall, academic awards for outstanding female graduates, and departmental trust fund support across several faculties.

Beyond financial and infrastructural support, the university institutionalized the observance of July 14 as Female Student Day, recognizing women's leadership during the July Mass Uprising. Activities commemorating Begum Rokeya and other female leaders further reinforced the importance of women's historical contributions and contemporary participation.

Health and welfare initiatives included the installation of a sanitary product vending machine, female health awareness activities, and participation in competitive sports and cultural platforms.

This report presents the university's documented initiatives during the year 2025, organized around the relevant SDG 5 targets. It distinguishes between completed interventions, approved

projects, and planned infrastructure development, providing a grounded account of the university's contribution to gender equality.

2. Institutional Governance and Policy Mechanisms for Gender Protection

Strong institutional governance is essential to preventing gender-based discrimination and ensuring that women and girls can participate in academic and institutional life without harassment, intimidation, or violence. SDG Targets 5.1 and 5.c emphasize the elimination of discrimination and the development of effective policies and institutional mechanisms to advance gender equality.

2.1 Establishment of Specialized Committees

An important institutional development took place on 9 October 2025, when the University of Dhaka Syndicate established two specialized committees to address harassment and misconduct across the university.

The committees included:

- **Anti-Sexual Harassment and Oppression Investigation Committee:** Led by Professor Dr. Upama Kabir, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology. The committee is responsible for investigating allegations of sexual harassment and oppression across academic and administrative settings.
- **Anti-Bullying and Ragging Committee:** Led by Professor Dr. Shahnaz Huda of the Department of Law. The committee is responsible for monitoring and addressing physical, psychological, and verbal bullying and ragging across the university.

These committees provide dedicated institutional structures for receiving and addressing complaints, strengthening accountability, and promoting a safer academic environment.

2.2 Institutional Complaint and Reporting Mechanisms

To operationalize these protective measures, the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) issued directives requiring faculty deans, hall provosts, hostel wardens, department chairpersons, institute directors, and the university proctor to establish physical complaint boxes across their respective units.

The directives also required administrative heads to submit weekly grievance reports to the conveners of the relevant committees. Departments and institutes were instructed to organize awareness workshops for students and faculty members on sexual harassment, oppression, bullying, and ragging.

At the residential level, dedicated complaint boxes were installed at:

- **Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall:** 9 October 2025.
- **Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall:** 13 November 2025.

The installations included separate reporting channels for sexual harassment and oppression complaints and for bullying and ragging-related grievances.

These arrangements represent an effort to make reporting mechanisms more accessible and to establish a regular administrative reporting process. Their long-term effectiveness will depend on confidentiality, timely investigation, appropriate follow-up, and transparent institutional accountability.

2.3 Restructuring of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies

On 11 September 2025, the university Syndicate approved a change in the designation of its specialized academic centre to the Centre for Gender and Development Studies. Subsequently, on 18 September 2025, the university issued a formal call for applications from eligible senior faculty members for the position of Director.

The restructured centre provides an institutional foundation for advancing gender-related academic research, curriculum development, and policy-oriented initiatives.

Its continued development can contribute to integrating gender perspectives into teaching, research, institutional planning, and broader development discussions.

3. Female Student Accommodation and Residential Infrastructure

Access to safe, adequate, and affordable accommodation is an important dimension of gender equality in higher education. For female students who relocate from outside Dhaka, residential facilities can directly influence their ability to access and continue university education.

During the year 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook both long-term infrastructure planning and hall-level improvements to strengthen female residential facilities.

3.1 Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project

One of the most significant developments was the advancement of the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project, a proposed residential facility designed to accommodate 1,500 female students.

The project has an estimated investment of Tk 244 crore and is financed through financial assistance from the Government of China. Following the transmission of the project proposal through the Economic Relations Division and the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, the Chinese government formally approved the proposal.

On 18 December 2025, a Chinese expert delegation, accompanied by university representatives and diplomatic officials, conducted a site feasibility inspection in the Jagannath Hall area.

The project represents an important institutional commitment to addressing the shortage of female residential accommodation. However, during the reporting period, it remained at the approval and preparatory stage, with construction yet to commence.

3.2 Female Residential Infrastructure under the DU Further Development Project

The university's broader **Tk 2,841 crore DU Further Development Project (2025–2030)** also includes significant provisions for female student accommodation.

The female-focused components include:

- Construction of four new female residential halls.
- Planned accommodation for 2,600 female students.
- Dedicated house tutor residential facilities across the four female halls.

The project received an initial Annual Development Programme allocation of Tk 60 crore in November 2025. When combined with the proposed 1,500-seat Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall, the two projects represent a planned addition of **4,100 female residential seats**.

This planned expansion is particularly relevant to SDG Target 5.b, as it seeks to improve the physical and institutional conditions that enable women's participation in higher education. The planned capacity should not, however, be interpreted as accommodation already delivered during 2025.

3.3 Improvements in Existing Female Residential Halls

Alongside major development projects, the university implemented several hall-level interventions to improve existing residential facilities.

Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

On 13 November 2025, the hall installed six residential refrigerators across its five floors, with five provided by the Hall Union and one by the hall administration. An additional refrigerator was installed in the dining facility. On 11 December 2025, construction of additional residential and office rooms on the third floor of the office block was also documented.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall

The hall received 500 study chairs and 40 double-bunk beds on 18 December 2025 to improve study and residential facilities. Earlier, on 14 August, its main water lines and clean-water storage reservoirs underwent major maintenance. Bathroom, window, and shower facilities were also repaired on 17 July.

Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall

Four heavy-duty drinking water filtration units were installed in the main residential building on 9 October 2025. Ceiling fans were also installed at eight administrative points on 18 September. During the same month, the hall conducted interviews for 450 residential seat applications as part of its room allocation process.

Rokeya Hall

On 14 August 2025, the hall completed deep-cleaning and mosaic restoration in the bathrooms of the Aparajeyo building. Structural and plumbing repairs were also completed across the third and fourth floors of the Chameli building on 17 July.

These interventions addressed practical aspects of residential life, including access to clean water, basic facilities, study infrastructure, and the maintenance of living spaces.

4. Institutional Recognition of Female Leadership and Historical Contributions

Women's participation in leadership and decision-making is a central dimension of SDG Target 5.5. Recognizing women's contributions to institutional and social development can strengthen representation, preserve historical memory, and encourage future generations of female leaders.

4.1 Institutionalization of Female Student Day

An important development during the reporting period was the university's decision to designate **14 July as Female Student Day (Nari Shikkharthi Dibosh)** within its academic calendar.

The observance recognizes the courage, leadership, and participation of female students during the July Mass Uprising. Its inclusion in the academic calendar provides a recurring institutional opportunity to reflect on women's participation in student movements and public life.

On 14 July 2025, female students from different residential halls participated in a central commemorative rally and assembly at the Raju Sculpture. The programme included commemorative addresses, cultural activities, and discussions on civic participation.

4.2 Commemorative Activities at Residential Halls

The university's residential halls organized additional activities to recognize female leadership and preserve the history of women's participation in the July movement.

At Rokeya Hall, a photo exhibition documented female student leadership during the uprising. The hall's Literary Society also published an anthology titled *Rokeyas of July* (July-er Rokeyara), reflecting the experiences and contributions of female students.

The hall also recognized two severely injured female students, Sanjida Ahmed Tonwi and Cynthia Mehreen Sakal, through commemorative crests, certificates, and financial assistance.

Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall organized commemorative programmes titled *July-te Sufia Kamal Hall* and *Smritite July* on 17 July 2025. These events reflected on the role of female residential students in promoting civil rights and student protection.

4.3 Observance of Begum Rokeya Day

On 9 December 2025, Rokeya Hall formally observed Begum Rokeya Day through floral tributes at the portrait of Begum Rokeya. University officers, hall provosts, house tutors, and student union representatives participated in the observance.

The commemoration recognized Begum Rokeya's historical contribution to women's education and empowerment and reinforced the importance of her legacy within the university community.

4.4 Recognition of Women's Contributions to Student Governance

The university also paid formal tribute to Professor Mahfuza Khanam, former Vice-President of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), following her passing in August 2025.

On 13 August, an official floral wreath was placed at the Central Shaheed Minar on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, recognizing her contributions to student governance and academic leadership.

Together, these commemorative initiatives strengthened institutional recognition of women's historical and contemporary participation in leadership, civic engagement, and university life.

5. Financial Inclusion, Scholarships and Academic Recognition for Female Students

Financial assistance and merit-based awards are important mechanisms for reducing economic barriers and supporting women's participation in higher education. SDG Targets 5.a and 5.c emphasize women's equal access to economic resources and the development of institutional mechanisms that promote gender equality.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka distributed a range of scholarships, stipends, and research grants to female students through departmental trust funds, alumni contributions, and institutional award programmes.

5.1 Merit-Based Awards and Academic Distinctions

Two notable academic recognitions during the reporting period included:

- **Falguni Biswas, Department of Physics:** Received the Hamim Khan Memorial Award, amounting to Tk 1,47,360, on 11 December 2025 for achieving the highest CGPA among graduating female students in the B.Sc. (Honours) examinations.
- **Lubaba Binte Halim, Department of Economics:** Received the Shah AAMS Kibria Memorial Trust Fund Scholarship of Tk 12,000 on 9 October 2025 for achieving the highest CGPA in the BSS (Honours) examination.

These awards recognize academic excellence and provide financial incentives for outstanding female scholars.

5.2 Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall Trust Fund Scholarships

A major scholarship distribution took place at Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall on 13 November 2025. A total of **63 female students** received financial awards across four categories:

- One Trust Fund Gold Medal for outstanding academic performance.
- 15 Merit Scholarships.
- 40 General Scholarships.
- Eight Co-Curricular Scholarships recognizing achievements in talent and hall governance.

The programme demonstrated the use of residential hall-based trust funds to support academic achievement, financial need, and participation in extracurricular activities.

5.3 Departmental Scholarships and Financial Assistance

Female students also received support through several departmental and institutional trust funds.

Department of Law: On 14 August 2025, the Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship provided Tk 10,000 each to 50 meritorious and financially constrained students. Female students were among the recipients, reflecting the scholarship's contribution to financial inclusion.

Department of Psychology: On 18 December 2025, seven female students received the Professor Dr. S.H. Mahmud Trust Fund Scholarship, providing Tk 1,000 per month for one year.

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Two female scholars, Kaniz Fatima Tanisha and Fatima Siddique Roja, received the Dr. Syed Nurul Alam Memorial Scholarship of Tk 1,000 per month for one year. In addition, Riya Saha received a Tk 15,000 postgraduate research scholarship, while four female undergraduate scholars received Tk 5,000 each through the Dr. Motiur Rahman Memorial Scholarship.

Department of Political Science: Three female students—Mosammat Sadia Khatun, Ritu Rani Saha, and Farhana Parveen—received scholarships of Tk 12,000 each through the Political Science Shohojathri Forum Trust Fund on 11 December 2025.

Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology: Wahida Parveen received a Tk 24,000 MPhil research grant through the Bilqis-Mahbub Trust Fund on 9 October 2025. Undergraduate scholar Ayesha Zaman received the Alhaj Shamsuddin Hafiz and Taiba Begum Trust Fund Scholarship, providing Tk 200 per month for one year.

Department of Pharmacy: Female scholars Raihana Haq Jebin and Fariha Annan Sristi received Tk 18,000 each through the Ashraf Dola Memorial Trust Fund on 11 December 2025.

These programmes illustrate the contribution of departmental trust funds and institutional scholarship arrangements to female students' academic progression and research participation.

6. Health, Well-being and Menstrual Hygiene Support

Gender equality requires attention to women's health and well-being alongside educational and professional opportunities. Access to appropriate health facilities and menstrual hygiene products can help create a more supportive residential and academic environment.

6.1 Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products

On 11 December 2025, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall formally received a sanitary product vending machine donated by the Dhaka University Alumni Association. The installation provides a dedicated facility for accessing menstrual hygiene products within the residential hall. This initiative contributes to improving the availability of essential hygiene supplies and addressing a practical aspect of female student welfare.

6.2 Female Health Awareness and Preventive Healthcare

On 10 July 2025, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall organized a female student health awareness programme in collaboration with Ad-din Mother Care Limited. The hall also supported a continuous free blood-grouping campaign conducted by Badhan, a student volunteer organization. These initiatives provided opportunities for health awareness and access to basic preventive health services within the residential environment.

7. Women's Participation in Sports, Cultural Activities and Co-Curricular Leadership

Women's empowerment extends beyond academic achievement to include participation in sports, cultural activities, creative expression, and student leadership. Such opportunities contribute to confidence, teamwork, representation, and personal development.

7.1 Female Participation in Competitive Sports

The university's inter-hall swimming competition on 10 July 2025 highlighted the participation and achievements of female students in competitive sports.

In the female student division:

- Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall emerged as champion.
- Shamsun Nahar Hall secured the runner-up position.
- Juwairiya Ferdous of Shamsun Nahar Hall received recognition as the Best Female Swimmer.

These achievements demonstrate the participation of female residential students in university-level competitive sporting activities.

7.2 International Cultural Recognition

Female students also demonstrated achievement in international cultural activities.

At the 6th International Mime Festival on 10 July 2025, Mashiyat Dihan Bonhi secured first place, while Jannatul Ferdous Snigdha achieved second place.

Their achievements represent female student participation and recognition in an international creative and cultural platform.

7.3 Literary and Creative Capacity Building

On 13 November 2025, the Shamsun Nahar Hall Union organized a specialized professional writing workshop to encourage female students' literary engagement and creative development.

The initiative provided a co-curricular platform for strengthening writing skills and supporting participation in literary activities.

Together, the sports, cultural, and literary initiatives demonstrate the university's contribution to creating opportunities for female students to develop and demonstrate abilities beyond the classroom.

8. Consolidated SDG 5 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The activities documented during 2025 demonstrate the University of Dhaka's contribution to several dimensions of SDG 5.

SDG 5 Target	Documented institutional contributions
Target 5.1 – End all forms of discrimination against women and girls	Establishment of the Anti-Sexual Harassment and Oppression Investigation Committee; complaint reporting mechanisms; improvements in female residential facilities; menstrual hygiene support.
Target 5.2 – Eliminate violence against women and girls	Specialized investigation committee; anti-bullying and ragging committee; dedicated complaint boxes; administrative reporting directives and awareness activities.
Target 5.3 – Eliminate harmful practices	Institutional mechanisms addressing harassment, oppression, bullying, and ragging; awareness activities promoting safer campus environments.
Target 5.4 – Recognize unpaid care and domestic work	No specific measurable initiative directly addressing unpaid care work was documented in the source material.
Target 5.5 – Ensure women's participation and leadership	Institutionalization of Female Student Day; commemorative recognition of women's leadership; recognition of female academic and cultural achievements; student participation in sports and governance-related activities.
Target 5.a – Equal rights to economic resources	Scholarships, trust fund awards, financial assistance, and research grants for female students.

Target 5.b – Promote women's empowerment through technology and enabling infrastructure	Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project; proposed female residential halls under the Further Development Project; sanitary product vending infrastructure and residential facility improvements.
Target 5.c – Adopt and strengthen policies for gender equality	Establishment of university-level committees; institutional complaint mechanisms; restructuring of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies.

8.1 Selected Quantitative Highlights

The following figures summarize selected documented outputs during the reporting period. They are not intended to represent a complete university-wide annual statistical inventory.

Area	**Selected achievement**
Gender protection	Two specialized university-level committees established
Local complaint mechanisms	Dedicated complaint boxes installed in two female residential halls
Gender research and policy	Centre for Gender and Development Studies formally designated
Proposed female residential expansion	1,500 seats under Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall
Additional planned residential capacity	2,600 seats through four proposed female residential halls
Combined planned female residential capacity	4,100 new seats
Female student scholarships	63 students supported through Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall Trust Fund
Female student academic recognition	Tk 1,47,360 awarded to a top-performing female Physics graduate
Female student hygiene facilities	One sanitary product vending machine installed
Residential study facilities	500 study chairs and 40 double-bunk beds supplied to Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall
Sports achievement	Female swimming championship at the inter-hall competition
International cultural achievement	First and second place secured by female students at the 6th International Mime Festival

9. Institutional Impact on SDG 5

The university's documented initiatives during the reporting period indicate a multi-dimensional approach to gender equality.

First, the establishment of specialized committees and institutional complaint mechanisms strengthened the formal governance structure for addressing sexual harassment, oppression, bullying, and ragging. These measures provide a foundation for improving accountability and protecting students across academic and residential settings.

Second, planned investments in female residential accommodation demonstrate institutional recognition of the relationship between safe housing and women's access to higher education. The proposed 4,100 additional female residential seats represent a substantial planned expansion, although their actual contribution will depend on implementation and completion.

Third, scholarships, merit awards, and research grants provide financial support for female students at different academic levels. These initiatives can help reduce economic barriers and recognize women's academic and research achievements.

Fourth, the designation of Female Student Day and the commemoration of Begum Rokeya and other female leaders strengthen institutional recognition of women's participation in social, academic, and civic life.

Finally, improvements in menstrual hygiene facilities, health awareness, sports participation, and creative activities demonstrate an understanding of gender equality that extends beyond academic access to the broader student experience.

10. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's documented activities during the year 2025 demonstrate institutional efforts to advance gender equality through governance reform, residential infrastructure development, financial inclusion, recognition of women's leadership, and student health and welfare initiatives.

The establishment of specialized committees addressing sexual harassment, oppression, bullying, and ragging provided an institutional foundation for strengthening gender protection. The restructuring of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies further demonstrated the university's intention to strengthen academic and policy engagement with gender-related issues.

The planned expansion of female residential accommodation, including Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall and the female halls under the DU Further Development Project, represents an important commitment to improving women's access to higher education. Meanwhile, scholarships, research grants, academic awards, and health-related facilities supported female students across different stages of university life.

The recognition of Female Student Day, observances honoring Begum Rokeya, and achievements in sports and cultural activities also reinforced the importance of women's leadership, participation, and representation.

Moving forward, the university's priority should be to translate these institutional commitments into measurable and sustained improvements in gender equality. Strengthening implementation, improving gender-disaggregated data, ensuring effective complaint resolution, and completing planned residential infrastructure will be essential to assessing and advancing progress.

Through continued institutional commitment, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen an academic environment in which women and girls have equal opportunities to participate, lead, learn, and contribute to sustainable development.

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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

1. Executive Summary

The University of Dhaka contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy) through academic research, technical capacity development, knowledge dissemination, and engagement with national and international stakeholders in the energy sector. During 2025, the University's Energy Institute (Shakti Institute) played a central role in promoting academic understanding of emerging clean energy technologies, particularly microbial fuel cells and solar photovoltaic systems.

The University's activities during the reporting period included technical seminars on microbial fuel cell technology and solar cell simulation, a national knowledge dissemination workshop examining the sixteen-year journey of the Energising Development (EnDev) initiative, and a strategic consultation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) concerning a proposed institutional development initiative that included renewable energy among its priority areas.

The University also hosted the VisionX: AI Powered National Innovation Challenge, which brought together 41 teams from 35 universities. The participation of the Advisor to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources created an opportunity to connect academic innovation with national energy-sector priorities.

These activities demonstrate the University's contribution to clean energy research, technical knowledge development, policy engagement, and the promotion of innovation. However, the available records primarily document academic and institutional engagement rather than the implementation of renewable energy infrastructure on campus. No consolidated data on renewable energy generation, campus electricity consumption, energy efficiency improvements, or greenhouse gas emission reductions were available in the source material.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 7

The University of Dhaka recognizes the importance of higher education institutions in advancing sustainable energy transitions through research, innovation, technical education, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Universities can contribute to the development of affordable and clean energy solutions by strengthening scientific knowledge, preparing skilled human resources, and supporting evidence-informed policy discussions.

Within this context, the Energy Institute (Shakti Institute) served as a key institutional platform for clean energy-related academic activities during 2025. Its seminars and technical knowledge-sharing initiatives focused on emerging technologies and research methodologies relevant to renewable energy development.

The University's engagement with JICA and the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) further demonstrated its interest in connecting academic expertise with national development priorities. These engagements reflect the University's

potential role in supporting Bangladesh's renewable energy transition through research, technical capacity building, and institutional cooperation.

The reporting period is January–December 2025. Nevertheless, the available activity records are concentrated mainly between July and November 2025. Accordingly, this report presents the documented initiatives without assuming that similar activities occurred during months for which specific evidence was not available.

3. Academic Research and Technical Capacity Development in Clean Energy

3.1 Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology

On 10 July 2025, the Energy Institute (Shakti Institute) organized a technical research seminar titled *"A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design."* The seminar was held at the Institute's seminar room and focused on the fundamental principles, structural design, biochemical processes, and operational mechanisms of microbial fuel cells.

The session was presented by Md. Rakib Hossain, Research Assistant at the Energy Institute, and chaired by Dr. S. M. Nasif Shams, Director of the Institute.

Microbial fuel cells are an emerging bio-electrochemical technology that can convert chemical energy stored in organic compounds into electrical energy through microbial activity. The seminar explored the potential of this technology to combine organic waste treatment with electricity generation.

The session contributed to academic understanding of alternative bio-energy systems and their possible applications in low-cost and off-grid energy solutions. It also provided an opportunity to strengthen institutional research capacity in an emerging area of clean energy technology.

Contribution to SDG 7: The seminar supported knowledge development and research capacity in alternative energy technologies, particularly bio-energy generation. It was relevant to the broader objective of expanding knowledge and technological capabilities for sustainable energy solutions.

3.2 Technical Seminar on Solar Cells and SCAPS-1D Modelling

On 14 August 2025, the Energy Institute organized another technical capacity-building seminar titled *"Introduction to Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D (Part-1): Prerequisites for Publication on the Technological and Knowledge Implications of Solar Cells."*

The session was chaired by the Director of the Energy Institute and presented by a Research Assistant of the Institute. It focused on the application of SCAPS-1D (Solar Cell Capacitance Simulator in 1 Dimension), a numerical simulation tool used in photovoltaic device research.

The seminar covered several technical aspects of solar cell development, including:

- Numerical modelling of photovoltaic devices and semiconductor layers.
- Analysis of carrier transport and recombination mechanisms.

- Examination of spectral response and layer thickness.
- Optimization of photovoltaic device parameters before physical fabrication.
- Research methodologies and analytical requirements for publishing studies on solar cell technology.

An important aspect of the session was its emphasis on computational modelling as a means of reducing the cost and resource requirements associated with physical research and development. By enabling researchers to examine and optimize device parameters virtually, such methods can support more efficient investigation of affordable photovoltaic technologies.

The seminar strengthened the University's academic capacity to engage with solar energy research and provided technical exposure to an important area of renewable energy development.

Contribution to SDG 7: The initiative supported research and technical knowledge development in solar photovoltaic technology, contributing to the broader objective of advancing affordable renewable energy solutions.

4. Strategic Partnerships and National Energy-Sector Engagement

4.1 Strategic Development Meeting with JICA

During the week of 17 July 2025, senior leadership of the University of Dhaka, including the Vice-Chancellor and Treasurer, held a strategic development meeting with a high-level delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The discussion focused on potential technical and financial cooperation for an upcoming institutional development project. The proposed areas of collaboration included:

- Renewable energy.
- Artificial intelligence.
- Financial technology.
- Environmental management.
- Science and technology infrastructure.

The proposed framework aimed to strengthen institutional capacity, improve laboratory infrastructure, and develop technical skills among young faculty members and undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Renewable energy was identified as one of the priority areas within this broader institutional development agenda. The proposed cooperation therefore offered a potential avenue for strengthening the University's research and technical capabilities in clean energy.

The meeting represented an important step in exploring international development cooperation. However, the available documentation records a strategic consultation and proposed areas of collaboration; it does not establish that a renewable energy project had been formally approved, financed, or implemented during 2025.

Contribution to SDG 7: The engagement demonstrated institutional interest in international cooperation for renewable energy research, technical capacity development, and science and technology infrastructure.

4.2 Knowledge Dissemination Workshop on EnDev's 16-Year Journey

During the week of 13 November 2025, the Energy Institute (Shakti Institute) organized a national-level knowledge dissemination workshop titled *"EnDev's 16-Year Journey."*

The workshop examined the sixteen-year implementation experience of the Energising Development (EnDev) initiative, which focuses on expanding access to sustainable energy in developing contexts.

The Chairman of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Board attended as the Chief Guest. The workshop featured two analytical sessions in which academic researchers and policy practitioners presented papers reviewing experiences in areas such as:

- Rural electrification.
- Clean cooking technologies.
- Off-grid renewable energy deployment.
- Sustainable energy access and development.

The workshop provided a platform for reviewing programme experiences and discussing their relevance to future energy-sector planning. Its engagement with SREDA leadership also connected academic knowledge dissemination with national institutional priorities.

By facilitating discussion between researchers and energy-sector policymakers, the University contributed to the exchange of knowledge on practical approaches to expanding sustainable energy access.

Contribution to SDG 7: The workshop supported knowledge sharing on renewable energy access, rural electrification, and clean cooking, with relevance to national energy policy and the expansion of sustainable energy services.

5. Innovation, Technology and Engagement with National Energy Priorities

5.1 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 of the University of Dhaka.

The national competition brought together 41 teams from 35 national and international universities to showcase applied artificial intelligence and software-based innovations. The event was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, while the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) delivered the opening remarks.

The University of Dhaka achieved the Champion position in the Project Showcasing Track.

An important feature of the event was the participation of the Advisor to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources as the Chief Guest at the prize distribution ceremony. The participation of senior energy-sector leadership created an opportunity to connect university-led technological innovation with national development priorities.

Although the competition was not exclusively focused on energy technology, its engagement with the national energy leadership was relevant to discussions on the potential application of digital technologies in energy-sector modernization. Artificial intelligence and software-based innovation may have applications in areas such as energy management, smart systems, and resource monitoring.

The event therefore demonstrated the University's broader commitment to innovation and technology development, while creating opportunities for interaction between emerging talent and national policymakers.

Contribution to SDG 7: The event offered an indirect contribution to the technology and innovation dimensions of sustainable energy development. Its relevance to SDG 7 should be understood as an institutional innovation and stakeholder-engagement contribution rather than evidence of a completed energy technology deployment.

6. Consolidated SDG 7 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The University's documented initiatives during 2025 demonstrate contributions across research, technical capacity development, stakeholder engagement, and innovation. The following table summarizes the principal activities and their relevance to the SDG 7 framework.

Date	Activity	Organizing unit / stakeholders	Main contribution
10 July 2025	Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology	Energy Institute (Shakti Institute)	Academic capacity in bio-energy and emerging clean energy technology
17 July 2025	Strategic development meeting with JICA	University administration and JICA delegation	Exploration of renewable energy cooperation and technical capacity development
14 August 2025	Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D Modelling Seminar	Energy Institute (Shakti Institute)	Technical knowledge in photovoltaic research and simulation

13 November 2025	EnDev's 16-Year Journey Workshop	Energy Institute and SREDA	Knowledge dissemination on rural electrification, clean cooking, and renewable energy access
20 November 2025	VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge	Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources leadership	Technology innovation and engagement with national energy-sector priorities

7. Alignment with Specific SDG 7 Targets

The University's documented activities can be mapped to several SDG 7 targets. The strength of alignment varies depending on whether an initiative directly addressed a particular target or contributed indirectly through research, capacity development, and institutional engagement.

SDG target	Focus area	University's documented contribution	Nature of alignment
7.1	Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	EnDev workshop discussions on rural electrification, clean cooking, and sustainable energy access	Knowledge and policy engagement
7.2	Increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	Research seminars on microbial fuel cells and solar photovoltaic technologies	Research and technical capacity development
7.3	Improve energy efficiency	SCAPS-1D modelling seminar and discussion of computational optimization of photovoltaic devices	Indirect technical contribution
7.a	Enhance international cooperation and access to clean energy research and technology	JICA consultation on proposed renewable energy cooperation; engagement with SREDA through the EnDev workshop	Institutional cooperation and knowledge exchange
7.b	Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for sustainable energy services	Technical research capacity, proposed institutional development cooperation, and engagement with energy-sector leadership through VisionX	Research and innovation-related contribution

The strongest documented contributions relate to research and technical capacity development under Target 7.2 and international cooperation and knowledge exchange under Target 7.a. The

other target linkages are more indirect and should not be interpreted as evidence of completed infrastructure expansion or measurable improvements in energy access and efficiency.

8. Institutional Impact and Significance

The initiatives during 2025 demonstrate the University's contribution to sustainable energy development through its academic and institutional functions.

Strengthening research capacity: The seminars on microbial fuel cells and solar photovoltaic modelling expanded opportunities for academic engagement with emerging renewable energy technologies. These activities helped establish a foundation for further research and technical exploration.

Promoting technological understanding: The use of computational simulation in photovoltaic research highlighted the importance of digital tools in exploring more affordable and efficient renewable energy technologies.

Connecting academic knowledge with policy: The EnDev workshop brought together academic researchers and national energy-sector stakeholders, including SREDA leadership. This provided a platform for discussing practical experiences and policy considerations relating to sustainable energy access.

Encouraging international cooperation: The JICA meeting reflected the University's interest in exploring international technical and financial cooperation, including in renewable energy and science and technology infrastructure.

Promoting innovation and interdisciplinary engagement: VisionX demonstrated the University's capacity to convene national and international university teams around applied technological innovation. The participation of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources leadership further strengthened the connection between academic innovation and national priorities.

Taken together, these activities illustrate the University's role as a contributor to the knowledge, research, and institutional collaboration needed to support Bangladesh's transition towards affordable and clean energy.

9. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka demonstrated its commitment to Affordable and Clean Energy through academic research, technical capacity development, stakeholder engagement, and technological innovation. The Energy Institute's seminars on microbial fuel cells and solar photovoltaic modelling strengthened academic engagement with emerging clean energy technologies. The EnDev knowledge dissemination workshop connected research and policy discussions on sustainable energy access, while the JICA consultation explored potential international cooperation in renewable energy and institutional capacity development.

The VisionX national innovation challenge further demonstrated the University's broader role in promoting technological innovation and connecting academic talent with national development priorities.

While these initiatives represent meaningful institutional contributions to the knowledge and collaboration dimensions of SDG 7, further progress will require stronger documentation of campus-level renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and measurable energy performance. By combining its existing academic strengths with practical infrastructure development, research partnerships, and systematic monitoring, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its contribution to Bangladesh's transition towards affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.

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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

1. Executive Summary

Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) emphasizes the development of resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and the promotion of innovation. As a leading public higher education institution, the University of Dhaka contributes to these objectives through infrastructure development, digital connectivity, scientific research, technological innovation, international academic cooperation, and industry–academia partnerships.

During 2025, the University advanced several major infrastructure development initiatives, including the BDT 2,841 crore University of Dhaka Further Development Project and the BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project. The University also undertook structural safety audits and rehabilitation work across residential halls following heightened concerns about seismic vulnerability. These initiatives reflected institutional efforts to strengthen physical infrastructure, improve safety, and expand residential and academic capacity.

The University also made progress in digital infrastructure development. High-speed Wi-Fi facilities were expanded across residential halls, a modern computer laboratory was established in the Department of Urdu with support from the Pakistan High Commission, and academic facilities in the Department of Arabic were modernized. Additional initiatives included accessible walkways and wheelchair distribution, as well as the installation of an automated sanitary napkin vending machine.

Technological innovation remained another important area of institutional activity. The University organized VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge, bringing together 41 teams from 35 universities, and the Robotics Fest Project Showcase, which involved approximately 900 participants and 200 teams from 50 educational institutions. University teams achieved notable competitive results in both events.

The University further strengthened its research and innovation environment through specialized seminars on artificial intelligence, robotics, biomedical applications, mass spectrometry, solar photovoltaic modelling, and microbial fuel cell technology. Research recognition and international academic rankings also highlighted the University's performance in scientific and interdisciplinary research.

In addition, industry–academia collaboration and international research partnerships remained important institutional priorities. Initiatives included a symposium on healthcare and material science, strategic consultations with JICA, and discussions with Peking University on joint research and academic exchange.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the University's contribution to resilient infrastructure, research capacity, technological development, and innovation. However, the available records do not provide consolidated information on research expenditure, patent applications, technology commercialization, industrial productivity, or the economic returns of

infrastructure investments. The report therefore focuses on documented activities, institutional outputs, and project milestones rather than unmeasured outcomes.

2. Institutional Commitment and Strategic Alignment with SDG 9

The University of Dhaka recognizes that modern higher education requires reliable physical infrastructure, accessible digital connectivity, advanced research facilities, and strong collaboration between academia, industry, and international knowledge networks.

The University's contributions to SDG 9 during 2025 can be understood through five interconnected areas:

1. **Resilient physical infrastructure:** Developing academic and residential facilities, improving structural safety, and modernizing campus infrastructure.
2. **Digital infrastructure and accessibility:** Expanding high-speed internet connectivity, modernizing computing facilities, and improving access to inclusive campus amenities.
3. **Technological innovation:** Supporting artificial intelligence, robotics, mechatronics, and other emerging technologies through research activities and competitive platforms.
4. **Scientific research and technological capacity:** Strengthening research capabilities in renewable energy, biomedical applications, analytical science, and interdisciplinary fields.
5. **Industry–academia and international collaboration:** Connecting academic research with industrial requirements and developing partnerships for technology transfer, joint research, and institutional capacity building.

These priorities reflect the University's role in building the institutional, scientific, and technological foundations required for sustainable industrial and economic development.

The reporting period is January–December 2025. The available source records document activities mainly between July and December 2025. Accordingly, the report presents the documented initiatives within the full-year reporting framework without assuming that undocumented activities occurred during the first half of the year.

3. Large-Scale Campus Infrastructure Development and Structural Resilience

Developing reliable and resilient infrastructure is a central component of SDG Target 9.1. During 2025, the University of Dhaka advanced major capital development projects and undertook structural rehabilitation initiatives to strengthen its academic and residential facilities.

3.1 Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Construction Project

The University of Dhaka advanced the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project to address residential accommodation requirements for female students.

The project carries an estimated investment of BDT 244 crore, financed through financial cooperation and official development assistance from the Government of the People's Republic

of China. Upon completion, the facility is expected to provide 1,500 residential seats for female students.

The project received formal approval from the Chinese government following an official technical assistance request transmitted through the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance and the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka.

In December 2025, a high-level joint delegation conducted a physical site inspection in the Jagannath Hall area. The delegation included Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, the Treasurer, the Vice-President of the DU Central Student Union (DUCSU), and specialized Chinese feasibility study experts.

The inspection focused on site boundaries, feasibility considerations, and civil engineering arrangements. According to the source report, construction activities were expected to commence within one to two months following final feasibility report approval.

The project represents an important example of international development cooperation supporting higher education infrastructure. Its completion is expected to expand residential capacity and improve access to university accommodation.

For the 2025 reporting period, the documented milestones include formal approval and technical site inspection. The planned residential capacity should not be interpreted as accommodation already delivered during the year.

3.2 University of Dhaka Further Development Project (2025–2030)

The University initiated a major institutional development programme titled the University of Dhaka Further Development Project, with an estimated investment of BDT 2,841 crore over a five-year implementation period covering 2025–2030.

The project is designed to modernize the University's physical infrastructure, accommodate growing student demand, improve institutional facilities, and strengthen campus-wide utilities.

Several important administrative and financial milestones were achieved during 2025:

- Appointment of a dedicated Project Director on 12 October 2025.
- Publication of the Annual Procurement Plan (APP) for FY 2025–2026 through the national e-GP procurement portal.
- Approval of a BDT 60 crore allocation under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the first year.
- Initiation of consultant selection for architectural master planning and structural engineering across 31 targeted building projects.

The planned infrastructure components include:

Infrastructure component	Planned scope
Academic facilities	6 multi-storey academic buildings
Female student accommodation	4 residential halls with 2,600 seats
Male student accommodation	5 residential halls with 5,100 seats

Residential facilities for academic staff	House tutor quarters across 9 halls
Faculty and officer accommodation	2 residential complexes
Administrative and operational facilities	5 specialized facilities
Sports infrastructure	1 full-scale field development project
Public sanitation	2 public sanitation blocks
Environmental and utility infrastructure	Campus-wide stormwater drainage and solid waste management improvements
Waterbody restoration	Rehabilitation and restoration of 4 major campus waterbodies

The planned residential halls are expected to provide accommodation for a combined 7,700 students. Together with the 1,500 planned seats under the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project, the two initiatives represent a potential expansion of 9,200 residential seats.

The project is significant not only for expanding institutional capacity but also for improving the quality, resilience, and functionality of the University's physical infrastructure.

The 2025 milestones primarily concern project governance, funding allocation, and procurement preparation. The total project value represents the estimated multi-year investment rather than expenditure completed during 2025.

3.3 Post-Earthquake Seismic Auditing and Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Following heightened regional seismic activity, the University administration strengthened its attention to structural safety and the rehabilitation of aging campus buildings.

The Vice-Chancellor convened technical review and monitoring sessions, while a specialized technical subcommittee comprising structural engineering experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) undertook detailed inspections and assessments across residential halls.

The technical assessment process included:

- Visual inspections of building conditions.
- Non-destructive testing.
- Structural integrity evaluations.
- Identification of vulnerable building components.
- Recommendations for short-, medium-, and long-term rehabilitation.

The audit findings were documented through the University Engineering Office and relevant hall administrations to guide subsequent repair and rehabilitation work.

The reported structural rehabilitation progress as of December 2025 included:

Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall

- 112 of 175 rooms had been fully repaired.
- Ferrocement application and masonry repairs were ongoing in residential rooms and other building sections.
- Repair activities covered veranda ceilings, drop walls, parapet walls, sanitary blocks, the hall mosque, dining hall roofing, reading room ceilings, and ground-floor corridor soffits.

Surja Sen Hall

- 96 of 141 rooms had been fully repaired across the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors.
- Structural and cosmetic improvements were completed in the ground-floor canteen, main corridors, and sanitary blocks.
- Plastering and ferrocement ceiling repairs remained ongoing in the hall mosque and upper residential levels.

Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall

- 32 of 121 rooms had been fully repaired.
- Work included repairs in rooms on the fourth and fifth floors of the South Block.
- Ferrocement casting was completed on veranda roofs across the third, fourth, and fifth floors, as well as selected sanitary, reading room, and roof sections.

These activities demonstrated the University's efforts to improve the structural integrity and safety of residential infrastructure. They also established a more systematic approach to campus-level risk assessment and infrastructure maintenance.

4. ICT Access Expansion and Digital Infrastructure Modernization

Access to reliable digital infrastructure is increasingly essential for academic research, communication, teaching, and institutional administration. Under SDG Target 9.c, the University undertook several initiatives to expand digital connectivity and modernize computing and academic facilities.

4.1 Expansion of High-Speed Wi-Fi Connectivity

During 2025, the University expanded high-speed wireless internet access across several residential halls.

Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall

In September 2025, the hall administration installed four high-speed Wi-Fi routers to improve connectivity across the:

- Reading Room.
- Debating Club office.
- Badhan blood donation office.

- Hall Union executive office.

The initiative expanded access to digital resources and improved connectivity in important academic and student activity spaces.

Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall

In November 2025, the administration expanded high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity into the reading zones of Pratikkha Hall, supporting students' access to online academic materials and digital research resources.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

The hall administration completed router installations across three internal reading rooms in November 2025 to strengthen digital access for residential students.

These initiatives reflected a practical approach to extending digital connectivity beyond central academic buildings into student residential and learning environments.

4.2 Modern Computer Laboratory in the Department of Urdu

In July 2025, the Department of Urdu inaugurated a modern computer laboratory established with technical and financial assistance from the High Commission of Pakistan.

The facility expanded computing access within the Department and supported academic activities relating to language digitization and research.

The initiative demonstrated the contribution of international institutional cooperation to the modernization of departmental computing infrastructure.

4.3 Modernization of Academic Lecture Hall and Seminar Library

In November 2025, the Department of Arabic completed the renovation and modernization of two important academic facilities:

- Shamsul Ulema Abu Nasr Waheed Lecture Hall.
- Professor Abul Kashem Abdul Mannan Seminar Library.

The improvements were financed entirely through alumni contributions and incorporated updated acoustic arrangements, digital presentation equipment, and ergonomic study stations.

The initiative enhanced the physical and technological environment for academic presentations, seminars, and independent study.

4.4 Accessible Infrastructure and Inclusive Campus Facilities

The University also documented improvements to physical accessibility and student support infrastructure.

In November 2025, Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall procured and distributed wheelchairs to support students with mobility limitations and students recovering from injuries.

The hall administration also undertook civil works around the quadrangle, including soil leveling, debris removal, and the construction of barrier-free accessible walkways.

These improvements contributed to the development of a more accessible residential environment.

4.5 Specialized Health and Amenity Infrastructure

In December 2025, the University of Dhaka Alumni Association funded and installed an automated sanitary napkin vending machine at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

The installation improved access to menstrual hygiene products within the residential facility and represented an additional example of student-oriented infrastructure development supported through alumni engagement.

Summary of Digital and Facility Modernization

Facility/location	Infrastructure improvement	Date / funding partner
Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	4 high-speed Wi-Fi routers	September 2025; Hall Administration
Department of Urdu	Modern computer laboratory	July 2025; Pakistan High Commission
Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	Wheelchair distribution and accessible walkways	November 2025; Hall Administration
Department of Arabic	Modernization of lecture hall and seminar library	November 2025; Department alumni
Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall	Wi-Fi expansion in Pratikkha Hall reading zones	November 2025; Hall Administration
Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Wi-Fi routers across 3 reading rooms	November 2025; Hall Administration
Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Automated sanitary napkin vending machine	December 2025; DU Alumni Association

These developments demonstrate the University's efforts to integrate digital access, academic facility modernization, and inclusive infrastructure into its campus development activities.

5. Technological Innovation, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

Scientific innovation and technological development are central to SDG Target 9.5, which emphasizes strengthening scientific research and upgrading technological capabilities. During 2025, the University of Dhaka organized national innovation competitions, robotics showcases, and specialized research seminars to encourage technological creativity and strengthen academic engagement with emerging technologies.

5.1 VisionX: AI-Powered National Innovation Challenge

In 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 competition brought together 41 teams from 35 domestic and international universities. Participants presented AI-driven software and hardware applications addressing practical challenges in areas such as industrial automation, civil infrastructure diagnostics, and public utility management.

The University of Dhaka secured the Champion position in the Project Showcasing Track.

The competition provided an opportunity for students to demonstrate applied technological capabilities and engage with other emerging innovators. It also created a platform for evaluating student-developed solutions against practical and industry-oriented challenges.

5.2 Robotics Fest Project Showcase

In August 2025, the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering organized a two-day national *Robotics Fest Project Showcase.*

The festival attracted approximately:

- 900 participants.
- 200 competing teams.
- 50 educational institutions across Bangladesh.

The competition featured specialized technology tracks, including:

- Soccer Bot.
- Line Follower Robot.
- Micromouse.
- Artificial Intelligence challenges.

University of Dhaka engineering teams achieved notable results in the University-Level Project Showcase:

- *Turtle Bot* secured the Champion position.
- *IHABOT* achieved the Runner-up position.

The event demonstrated the University's contribution to robotics education, practical engineering, and experiential technological learning. By bringing together students from multiple institutions, the festival also supported wider engagement with emerging technologies across the higher education sector.

5.3 Specialized Research Seminars and Expert Knowledge Exchange

In addition to competitive innovation platforms, the University organized specialized seminars and international lectures addressing emerging scientific and technological fields.

High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry

In November 2025, the Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS) organized a technical seminar titled *"High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) and its Applicability."* The session examined advanced analytical chemistry techniques and their applications across multidisciplinary laboratory research.

Artificial Intelligence and Biomedical Research

In December 2025, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) hosted a guest lecture by Prof. Javed Mustafa, Dean of the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto. The lecture, titled *"AI and Machine-Learning Approaches for Improving Biomedicine and Healthcare,"* examined the application of computational models in clinical diagnostics and therapeutic optimization.

Ethical and Beneficial Artificial Intelligence

In December 2025, the Department of Information Science and Library Management organized an expert seminar titled *"Toward Beneficial AI: Strategies for Coexisting with AI."* The session was presented by Prof. Sam Oh of Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea, and focused on algorithmic governance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence.

AI Applications in Library and Information Science

In December 2025, the Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) organized an international conference at the Senate Bhaban titled *"Reimagining Librarianship: Forging the Future with AI Technologies."* The conference examined the application of AI in automated cataloguing, natural language processing for information retrieval, and digital asset management.

Artificial Intelligence in Educational Assessment

In August 2025, the Institute of Education and Research organized a specialized lecture titled *"Learning Assessment in the Age of AI."* The lecture was delivered by an Emeritus Professor from Kansai University, Japan, and addressed algorithmic assessment tools and academic integrity frameworks.

Collectively, these activities demonstrated the University's engagement with artificial intelligence across scientific research, healthcare, education, information management, and ethical governance.

6. Renewable Energy Research and Applied Sustainable Technology

Research and technological development in renewable energy and sustainable technologies represent an important contribution to SDG Targets 9.4 and 9.5. During 2025, the University's Energy Institute conducted academic seminars and knowledge-sharing activities on emerging clean energy technologies.

6.1 Microbial Fuel Cell Technology

In July 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical seminar titled *"A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design."*

The session, presented by Research Assistant Md. Rakib Hossain, examined the fundamental principles and design considerations of microbial fuel cells.

The seminar explored bio-electrochemical systems capable of converting chemical energy stored in organic compounds into electricity through microbial activity. It also discussed the potential of combining organic waste treatment with clean electricity generation.

The initiative strengthened academic engagement with emerging bio-energy technologies and created opportunities for further research into low-cost and alternative energy systems.

6.2 Solar Cell Modelling and SCAPS-1D Simulation

In August 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical workshop titled *"Introduction to Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D (Part-1): Prerequisites for Publication on the Technological and Knowledge Implications of Solar Cells."* The workshop introduced researchers to SCAPS-1D simulation software for numerical modelling of photovoltaic devices.

The session covered photovoltaic device modelling, semiconductor layer parameters, and the technical considerations involved in solar cell research. It also highlighted how computational simulation can help researchers examine and optimize photovoltaic device parameters before physical fabrication, supporting more efficient research and development.

6.3 Sustainable Energy Policy and Industry Engagement

In November 2025, the Energy Institute, in collaboration with the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), organized a knowledge dissemination workshop titled *"EnDev's 16-Year Journey."*

The workshop reviewed sixteen years of experience under the Energising Development initiative, including activities relating to:

- Energy access partnerships.
- Clean cooking technologies.
- Rural electrification.
- Off-grid renewable energy infrastructure.

The workshop provided an opportunity for academic researchers and energy-sector stakeholders to examine practical experiences in sustainable energy development and discuss their relevance to national policy priorities.

These initiatives demonstrate the University's contribution to renewable energy research, technical capacity development, and knowledge dissemination. However, the available records do not establish that the seminars resulted in completed renewable energy installations or commercial technology deployment during 2025.

7. Scientific Research Performance and Institutional Recognition

Strengthening research capacity and scientific productivity is an important dimension of SDG Target 9.5. During 2025, the University received notable recognition in international higher education rankings and continued to support scientific research through institutional awards and publication incentives.

7.1 Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026

In November 2025, the University of Dhaka achieved 52nd position globally in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026. The rankings evaluated 911 universities across 94 countries. The University secured first position in South Asia and ranked first among the 12 participating universities from Bangladesh. This recognition highlighted the University's performance in interdisciplinary scientific research and its capacity to engage with research across multiple academic fields.

7.2 Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026

In October 2025, the University advanced to the 801–1000 global ranking band in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026. This represented an improvement of approximately 200 positions compared with its previous position in the 1001–1200 band.

The University maintained its position as a joint top-ranked institution in Bangladesh. The reported improvement was associated with stronger performance in areas including research environment, research quality, and industry collaboration. These rankings provided an important indicator of the University's international academic and research standing during the reporting period.

7.3 Science Faculty Research Awards and Publication Incentives

In November 2025, the Faculty of Science organized its Dean's Award ceremony at the Senate Bhaban. The ceremony recognized:

- 76 students for published scientific monographs, original research books, and peer-reviewed papers.
- 10 faculty members for their contributions to scientific books and publications.
- 38 faculty members who received cash research incentives for publications in Q1 and Q2 indexed journals.

The initiative demonstrated the University's efforts to recognize research achievements and encourage scientific publication.

By supporting and rewarding academic research, the University contributed to strengthening the institutional environment for scientific knowledge generation and dissemination.

8. Industry–Academia Partnerships and International Research Collaboration

Connecting university research with industrial needs is essential for technological upgrading, innovation, and industrial diversification. During 2025, the University of Dhaka pursued several initiatives to strengthen relationships with industry, international universities, and development partners.

8.1 Industry–Academia Partnership in Healthcare and Material Science

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

The event brought together academic researchers and representatives of national pharmaceutical enterprises.

The symposium focused on strengthening cooperation between university laboratories and industrial research and development facilities. Discussions included opportunities for applied research, technical exchange, industrial standards, and collaboration in healthcare and material science.

The initiative represented an important institutional effort to align academic research with industrial needs and encourage practical applications of scientific knowledge.

8.2 Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee

The University strengthened its institutional framework for industry engagement through the Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee (ICEC).

In collaboration with IQAC and SPSU, ICEC launched the *Effective Professional Communication Certificate Course* in November 2025, enrolling an initial cohort of 50 final-year undergraduate and Master's students.

The course focused on professional writing, technical reporting, CV and cover letter development, digital presentations, workplace adaptability, and structured problem-solving.

Although primarily a professional skills initiative, the course also reflected the University's broader efforts to align academic preparation with industry expectations.

8.3 JICA Technical Partnership Framework

In July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor and senior University leadership held strategic consultations with a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The discussions explored potential technical assistance, institutional development, and project financing in several high-growth areas:

- Artificial intelligence.
- Renewable energy systems.
- Financial technology.
- Environmental management.
- Science and technology infrastructure.

The proposed cooperation was intended to strengthen research facilities and technical capabilities among young faculty members and students.

The consultation demonstrated the University's interest in international cooperation for research infrastructure and technological capacity development. The available records document the exploration of a partnership framework rather than a completed project implementation.

8.4 Research and Academic Cooperation with Peking University

In August 2025, a high-level bilateral meeting took place between the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka and the Vice-President of Peking University, China.

The discussion focused on the possibility of establishing a formal Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate:

- Joint scientific research.
- Faculty and student exchanges.
- Collaborative technology research.
- Environmental science programmes.
- Wider academic cooperation.

The proposed partnership reflected the University's efforts to expand international research networks and facilitate cross-border academic and technological knowledge exchange.

The available source records the bilateral discussion and proposed areas of cooperation; it does not confirm that a formal MoU was signed during 2025.

9. Consolidated SDG 9 Progress and Institutional Contributions

The University's documented activities during 2025 demonstrate progress across physical infrastructure, digital connectivity, technological innovation, research capacity, and industry–academia collaboration.

9.1 Consolidated Activity Matrix

Activity/project	Organizing unit/partner	Main contribution
Microbial Fuel Cell Technology Seminar	Energy Institute	Research on bio-energy and waste-to-energy technology
JICA technical cooperation consultation	University administration and JICA	Exploration of research infrastructure and technical capacity development
Modern computer laboratory	Department of Urdu and Pakistan High Commission	Departmental computing and research infrastructure
Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D workshop	Energy Institute	Photovoltaic research and computational modelling
Robotics Fest Project Showcase	Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering	Robotics and applied engineering innovation
Learning Assessment in the Age of AI lecture	Institute of Education and Research; Kansai University	AI-related academic knowledge exchange
Peking University collaboration meeting	University administration and Peking University	Joint research and international academic cooperation
Healthcare and Material Science symposium	Faculties of Pharmacy and Engineering and Technology; pharmaceutical firms	Industry–academia collaboration
High-speed Wi-Fi installation	Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	Digital connectivity
THE World University Rankings 2026	University of Dhaka	International research and academic recognition
Project Director appointment	DU Further Development Project	Infrastructure project governance
EnDev's 16-Year Journey workshop	Energy Institute and SREDA	Sustainable energy knowledge dissemination
VisionX National AI Innovation Challenge	Department of Computer Science and Engineering	AI and technological innovation
THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026	University of Dhaka	International research recognition
Science Faculty Dean's Awards and publication incentives	Faculty of Science	Research recognition and publication support
Department of Arabic lecture hall and seminar library modernization	Department alumni	Academic facility modernization
Wheelchair distribution and accessible pathways	Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall	Inclusive infrastructure

Wi-Fi expansion in residential reading spaces	Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Digital access
Annual Procurement Plan and ADP allocation	DU Further Development Project	Capital development and procurement preparation
Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall feasibility inspection	University administration and Chinese delegation	International infrastructure cooperation
BUET-supported seismic audits and rehabilitation	University administration and BUET experts	Structural resilience and infrastructure safety
AI and biomedical research lecture	IQAC and University of Toronto	Biomedical AI knowledge exchange
Beneficial AI seminar and international AI conference	Department of Information Science and Library Management; LAB; Sungkyunkwan University	AI governance and digital innovation

9.2 Selected Quantitative Highlights

The following figures summarize selected documented outputs and institutional project milestones:

- **BDT 2,841 crore:** Estimated value of the University of Dhaka Further Development Project.
- **BDT 60 crore:** Approved ADP allocation for FY 2025–2026 under the Further Development Project.
- **BDT 244 crore:** Estimated value of the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall Project.
- **9,200 planned residential seats:** Combined potential capacity of the Further Development Project's residential halls and Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall.
- **31 targeted building projects:** Included in the Further Development Project's architectural and structural planning.
- **4 Wi-Fi routers:** Installed at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall.
- **3 reading rooms:** Equipped with Wi-Fi routers at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
- **41 teams from 35 universities:** Participated in the VisionX AI Innovation Challenge.
- **200 teams from 50 educational institutions:** Participated in Robotics Fest.
- **Approximately 900 participants:** Engaged in Robotics Fest.
- **52nd globally:** University of Dhaka's position in the THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026.
- **76 students and 10 faculty members:** Recognized through the Faculty of Science Dean's Awards.
- **38 faculty members:** Received research incentives for Q1 and Q2 journal publications.

These figures represent selected activities and documented project parameters rather than a complete inventory of the University's research, innovation, infrastructure, or investment performance.

10. Alignment with Specific SDG 9 Targets

The University's initiatives can be mapped to several targets under SDG 9. The following table distinguishes direct institutional activities from broader enabling contributions.

SDG target	Global focus	University's documented contribution	Nature of alignment
9.1	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure	Further Development Project, Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall, seismic audits and structural rehabilitation	Infrastructure development and resilience
9.2	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization	Industry–academia symposium and engagement with pharmaceutical enterprises	Industrial collaboration and knowledge exchange
9.3	Improve access of small-scale enterprises to financial services and markets	Student entrepreneurship and innovation platforms provide an indirect enabling environment	Limited indirect contribution
9.4	Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable	Renewable energy research, campus modernization and sustainable technology seminars	Research and infrastructure modernization
9.5	Enhance scientific research and technological capabilities	Robotics Fest, VisionX, research seminars, publication incentives and interdisciplinary research recognition	Research and innovation
9.a	Facilitate sustainable infrastructure development through financial and technical support	Chinese government grant assistance, JICA consultations, and institutional development financing	International cooperation and infrastructure support
9.b	Support domestic technology development, research and innovation	AI and robotics challenges, industry–academia collaboration and research partnerships	Technological innovation and capacity development
9.c	Increase access to ICT and the internet	Wi-Fi expansion, modern computer laboratory and digital academic facilities	Digital infrastructure and connectivity

The University's strongest documented contributions relate to Targets 9.1, 9.5, and 9.c through physical infrastructure development, scientific research, technological innovation, and digital access.

Targets 9.2, 9.4, 9.a, and 9.b are supported through industry collaboration, sustainable technology research, international cooperation, and innovation activities.

The contribution to Target 9.3 is more indirect, as the available records do not document specific financing mechanisms or market-access programmes for small-scale enterprises.

11. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka demonstrated substantial engagement with the objectives of SDG 9 through infrastructure development, structural rehabilitation, digital connectivity, technological innovation, scientific research, and industry–academia collaboration.

The Further Development Project and Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall initiative represented major long-term infrastructure commitments, while seismic auditing and rehabilitation activities addressed the importance of structural safety and institutional resilience. Digital connectivity expanded through Wi-Fi installations, computer laboratory development, and modernization of academic facilities.

The University's innovation ecosystem was further strengthened through VisionX, Robotics Fest, specialized research seminars, and international knowledge exchange. Recognition in the Times Higher Education rankings and the Faculty of Science's research awards highlighted the University's continuing efforts to strengthen scientific research and institutional research performance.

Industry–academia engagement, JICA consultations, and discussions with Peking University also demonstrated the University's interest in connecting research capacity with industrial needs and international technological cooperation.

These initiatives represent meaningful contributions to the infrastructure, research, and innovation dimensions of SDG 9. Going forward, stronger monitoring of infrastructure implementation, research investment, technology commercialization, digital access, and industry collaboration outcomes will be essential for measuring the University's long-term contribution to sustainable industrial and technological development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

1. Executive Summary

Reducing inequalities in higher education requires more than providing equal access to academic opportunities. It requires institutions to identify and address the economic, social, physical, cultural, and administrative barriers that prevent individuals from participating fully in university life. The University of Dhaka (DU), through its academic departments, residential halls, administrative offices, alumni associations, and institutional partners, undertook a range of initiatives during 2025 to advance this broader understanding of inclusion.

The available institutional records for 2025 demonstrate a multi-dimensional approach to reducing inequalities. These initiatives focused on supporting financially disadvantaged students, improving accessibility for students with disabilities, strengthening protection against harassment and bullying, advancing gender-responsive student welfare, promoting ethnic and cultural diversity, and addressing inequalities in access to safe and adequate student accommodation.

Financial assistance constituted one of the most visible areas of progress. Through departmental trust funds, alumni contributions, corporate partnerships, and research endowments, the university extended scholarships, stipends, and research grants to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Notable interventions included financial assistance to 50 economically disadvantaged first-year students in the Department of Law, scholarships for 159 students in the Department of Islamic History and Culture, and research grants and scholarships amounting to BDT 5.80 lakh for 18 scholars and students in the Department of World Religions and Culture.

The university also undertook targeted measures to improve educational participation for students with disabilities. These included a dedicated monthly stipend for a visually impaired student, wheelchair facilities in a residential hall, improved administrative support services, and accessible voting arrangements during the 2025 student union elections.

Gender equity and student protection received considerable institutional attention. The university established high-level committees addressing sexual harassment, bullying, and ragging, while introducing complaint-reporting mechanisms across academic and residential units. It also institutionalized Female Student Day in its academic calendar, expanded access to reproductive healthcare and menstrual hygiene facilities, and advanced residential infrastructure projects intended to accommodate additional female students.

Beyond individual welfare interventions, DU promoted social inclusion through indigenous cultural activities, inter-university policy debates, and regional artistic collaboration. At the infrastructure level, the university advanced a BDT 2,841 crore Mega Development Project, with plans to create 7,700 additional residential seats across nine halls. Emergency structural repairs were also completed across 240 student rooms in three residential halls following seismic events in late 2025.

Taken together, these activities demonstrate the university's commitment to addressing inequalities through both immediate student support and longer-term institutional development. They also illustrate the importance of combining financial assistance, inclusive governance, accessible infrastructure, cultural recognition, and student protection in building a more equitable higher education environment.

2. Institutional Approach and Alignment with SDG 10

The University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 10 during the reporting period can be understood through an institutional approach that recognizes inequality as a multi-dimensional challenge.

Within higher education, inequalities may arise from differences in family income, disability status, gender, access to accommodation, administrative barriers, and unequal recognition of cultural identities. Addressing these challenges requires interventions that go beyond conventional academic support.

During 2025, the university's activities reflected five interconnected priorities:

1. **Socioeconomic inclusion:** Reducing financial barriers to higher education through scholarships, stipends, and research grants.
2. **Equal access and participation:** Supporting students with disabilities and improving access to administrative and democratic processes.
3. **Protection and gender equity:** Strengthening institutional safeguards against harassment and improving gender-responsive welfare services.
4. **Cultural and social inclusion:** Recognizing ethnic diversity, promoting minority cultural heritage, and encouraging dialogue on social justice.
5. **Equitable infrastructure:** Improving residential conditions, expanding student accommodation, and strengthening campus safety.

These priorities contribute primarily to the following SDG 10 targets:

- **Target 10.2 – Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all:** Through financial assistance, disability support, cultural inclusion, and accessible participation in university activities.
- **Target 10.3 – Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome:** Through transparent student support mechanisms, anti-harassment policies, accessible services, and institutional safeguards.
- **Target 10.4 – Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, to progressively achieve greater equality:** Through institutional financial assistance, student welfare provisions, and investments in equitable residential and support infrastructure.

The university's initiatives also demonstrate the relevance of institutional partnerships. Alumni associations, departmental trust funds, corporate donors, healthcare providers, government agencies, and international partners contributed to different aspects of the university's inclusion agenda.

3. Socioeconomic Inclusion Through Scholarships and Financial Assistance

3.1 Reducing Financial Barriers to Higher Education

Economic inequality remains an important barrier to participation and progression in higher education. Students from financially disadvantaged families may face difficulties meeting educational and living expenses, even when they demonstrate strong academic potential.

Recognizing this challenge, the University of Dhaka continued to mobilize departmental trust funds, alumni contributions, corporate partnerships, and institutional endowments to provide targeted financial assistance. These mechanisms supported students at different stages of their academic careers, from first-year undergraduate education to postgraduate research.

Rather than relying on a single university-wide funding mechanism, the university's approach involved decentralized financial support across academic departments and residential institutions. This enabled individual departments and alumni networks to respond to the specific circumstances of their students.

3.2 Departmental Trust Funds and Alumni Contributions

Several departments extended direct financial support to economically disadvantaged students during the reporting period.

On 14 August 2025, the Department of Law awarded one-time grants of BDT 10,000 each to 50 meritorious and economically underprivileged first-year undergraduate students through the Muhammad Shah Alam Scholarship Fund. Funded by alumnus Advocate Md. Shah Alam, the initiative sought to reduce financial pressure during the early stages of university education and help prevent academic discontinuation due to economic hardship.

Similarly, the Institute of Social Welfare and Research selected six financially disadvantaged first-year undergraduate students for support through the Prof. Dr. Golam M. Matbor Trust Fund Scholarship.

The Department of Islamic History and Culture demonstrated another significant example of alumni-supported student welfare. Through its 75th anniversary reunion scholarships, the department distributed special scholarships to 75 students and general scholarships to another 84 students, reaching a total of 159 student recipients. The initiative was supported by the department's Former Students Association.

Other departments also maintained targeted scholarship programmes:

- The Department of Arabic awarded scholarships to 34 high-achieving but underprivileged undergraduate and postgraduate students through the A.Z.M. Kutubul Islam Nomani and Khandakar Md. Habibullah Trust Funds.
- The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management provided scholarships to 10 economically disadvantaged first-year BBA students through the Henna Alam Scholarship.

- The Department of Political Science awarded one-time scholarships of BDT 12,000 each to six underprivileged undergraduate students through the Political Science Satirtha Forum Trust Fund.
- The Department of Physics awarded one-time scholarships of BDT 15,000 each to eight deserving undergraduate students through the Bir Muktijoddha Amena Zaman Memorial Trust Fund.

These interventions demonstrate how departmental endowments and alumni engagement can complement institutional resources to address financial barriers and support students from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

3.3 Supporting Postgraduate Research and Academic Excellence

The university's financial assistance programmes also extended beyond undergraduate education. Several initiatives supported postgraduate students and early-career researchers, recognizing that financial constraints can affect not only access to higher education but also the ability to pursue advanced academic work.

The Department of World Religions and Culture distributed a total of BDT 5.80 lakh through the Syed Delawar Hossain Maizbhandari and Syed Emdadul Hoque Maizbhandari Funds. The assistance reached 18 scholars and students, including two PhD researchers, one MPhil researcher, two MA research monograph students, and 13 undergraduate and postgraduate students. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Darul Irfan Research Institute.

The Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology also awarded postgraduate research grants through the Bilquis-Mahbub Trust Fund. Three first-year MPhil students received one-time awards of BDT 24,000 each, with selection based on research progress, attendance, and academic conduct.

Other academic support initiatives included:

- A BDT 12,000 one-time award to a high-performing Economics graduate through the Shah A M S Kibria Memorial Trust Fund.
- Scholarships for undergraduate students through the Badrunnesa Gafur Memorial Trust and Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society funds at the Faculty of Pharmacy.
- Monthly stipends for undergraduate students through departmental scholarships in Psychology, Information Science and Library Management, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
- Financial awards for undergraduate and postgraduate students through the Dr. Sayed Nurul Alam Memorial and Dr. Motiur Rahman Memorial Scholarships.

These programmes reflect an approach that combines financial need, academic performance, and research potential. They also help strengthen the connection between socioeconomic inclusion and the development of future researchers.

3.4 Corporate and Institutional Partnerships

The university also pursued external partnerships to diversify its student financial assistance mechanisms.

On 9 October 2025, the university issued a notice inviting applications from 10 regular undergraduate students of the 2022–2023 academic session for the Sumitomo Corporation Asia & Oceania Pvt Ltd Scholarship. Applicants were required to have obtained a minimum GPA of 4.80 in both SSC and HSC examinations, excluding the fourth subject.

The scholarship was designed to be renewable for three consecutive years, subject to satisfactory academic progress, regular attendance, and good conduct.

This initiative represents an important example of corporate engagement in promoting educational opportunity. Its multi-year structure also has the potential to provide more sustained support than a one-time financial award.

Overall, the financial assistance initiatives demonstrate the university's efforts to reduce the influence of economic circumstances on students' educational opportunities. By combining alumni philanthropy, departmental trust funds, corporate partnerships, and postgraduate research support, DU continued to strengthen the financial foundations of a more inclusive academic environment.

4. Disability Inclusion and Accessible Student Services

4.1 Supporting Students with Disabilities

Reducing inequalities requires ensuring that students with disabilities can access educational opportunities and participate in university activities without facing unnecessary physical or financial barriers.

During the reporting period, the University of Dhaka introduced targeted welfare and accessibility measures to address some of these challenges.

On 9 October 2025, the Department of Political Science authorized a dedicated monthly financial allowance of BDT 5,000 for Abdullah Al Naim, a visually impaired first-year student from the 2023–2024 academic session. The allowance amounted to BDT 60,000 over one year and was intended to provide sustained financial assistance throughout the academic year.

This initiative represents an important example of targeted support based on individual accessibility and welfare needs. It recognizes that students with disabilities may require additional financial resources to participate effectively in higher education.

4.2 Improving Physical Mobility and Residential Accessibility

Physical accessibility is another essential component of an inclusive university environment.

On 13 November 2025, Kavi Jasimuddin Hall procured and stationed dedicated wheelchairs within its premises. These facilities were intended to support injured, physically challenged, and ailing students, helping them move more easily across residential facilities.

Although limited in scale, this intervention reflects the importance of providing practical mobility support within student accommodation and shared campus spaces.

4.3 Improving Access to Administrative Services

Administrative complexity can create additional barriers for students, particularly when obtaining academic documents or resolving urgent institutional matters.

To address this issue, the university enhanced the operational capacity of its central Information Center on 14 August 2025. Two dedicated student service officers were attached under the supervision of the Public Relations Office to coordinate directly with the Controller of Examinations and other administrative offices.

The initiative was designed to expedite student requests for transcripts, certificates, and mark sheets.

A direct administrative support channel was also established under a Deputy Registrar through email and WhatsApp to facilitate the resolution of urgent student complaints.

These measures demonstrate that inclusion also depends on how efficiently students can access institutional services. Simplified administrative coordination can reduce unnecessary delays and make university services more responsive to student needs.

4.4 Ensuring Accessible Democratic Participation

The university also addressed accessibility in student representation and democratic participation.

During the student union elections held on 11 September 2025, election management restructured the voter station at the Physical Education Center. Specialized barrier-free entrance and exit pathways were constructed for voters from Jagannath Hall, Shahid Sergeant Jahurul Haq Hall, and Salimullah Muslim Hall.

This arrangement was intended to facilitate orderly and non-discriminatory participation in the electoral process.

The initiative highlights an important dimension of SDG 10: inclusion should extend beyond access to education and encompass participation in institutional decision-making and student governance.

Collectively, these interventions demonstrate the university's efforts to address disability-related financial, physical, administrative, and participation barriers.

5. Institutional Protection, Anti-Harassment and Equal Opportunity

5.1 Strengthening Institutional Safeguards

A genuinely inclusive university must provide an environment in which students can study, work, and participate without fear of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or discrimination.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka strengthened its institutional mechanisms for addressing gender-based harassment, bullying, and ragging through the establishment of high-level committees and the introduction of decentralized complaint-reporting arrangements.

On 9 October 2025, following decisions of the university Syndicate, two high-level oversight bodies were established:

- The Sexual Harassment Prevention and Investigation Committee, chaired by Professor Dr. Upama Kabir, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.
- The Anti-Bullying and Anti-Ragging Committee, chaired by Professor Dr. Shahnaz Huda of the Department of Law.

The establishment of these committees represented an important institutional step towards strengthening accountability and providing formal mechanisms for addressing misconduct.

5.2 Decentralizing Complaint-Reporting Mechanisms

Alongside the formation of the committees, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) issued directives to faculty deans, hall provosts, hostel wardens, department chairs, institute directors, and the university Proctor.

The directives required the installation of locked physical complaint boxes across academic and residential units. A mandatory weekly collection schedule was introduced, with complaints to be transmitted directly to the respective committee chairs.

Departments and institutes were also instructed to organize joint faculty-student awareness workshops on harassment and ragging prevention.

The importance of this initiative lies in making complaint-reporting mechanisms available closer to students' everyday academic and residential environments. Decentralized reporting channels can help reduce the practical difficulties students may experience when seeking institutional assistance.

5.3 Extending Protection to Academic and Residential Spaces

Several university units undertook complementary activities to reinforce the new institutional framework.

The Faculty of Fine Arts organized orientation programmes for incoming undergraduate students on 10 July 2025, explicitly communicating that ragging is a punishable criminal offense.

Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall and Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall installed dedicated complaint boxes for sexual harassment prevention and anti-bullying and anti-ragging in their administrative and residential spaces.

Furthermore, the university Syndicate officially renamed the Centre for Women's Studies as the Centre for Gender and Development Studies on 11 September 2025. This change reflected an institutional effort to align the centre's research and advocacy scope with contemporary gender and development concerns.

Together, these initiatives strengthened the institutional foundation for a safer and more accountable academic environment. Their contribution to SDG 10 lies in reinforcing equal opportunity and protecting students from discriminatory or abusive practices that may undermine their participation in university life.

6. Gender Equity, Women's Empowerment and Student Welfare

6.1 Recognizing Female Student Leadership

Gender equality is closely connected to reducing inequalities in higher education. Universities have an important role in recognizing women's contributions, ensuring their safety, and addressing structural barriers that may limit their academic and social participation.

On 14 July 2025, the University of Dhaka institutionalized Female Student Day and incorporated the observance into its permanent academic calendar. The decision was formally promulgated on 17 July.

The inaugural observance took place at the Raju Sculpture and recognized injured female students Sanjida Ahmed Tonwi and Synthia Mehreen Sakal for their leadership during social uprisings. They received crests, certificates, and financial assistance in recognition of their contributions.

By formally incorporating the observance into the academic calendar, the university established a recurring institutional platform to recognize female student leadership and contributions to society.

6.2 Expanding Women's Healthcare and Reproductive Health Support

Access to appropriate healthcare is an important component of student welfare and gender-responsive education.

On 18 September 2025, Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall established a healthcare partnership with Ad-din Mother Care Limited. The partnership aimed to organize female health awareness campaigns, routine medical consultations, and specialized reproductive health support services for resident students.

The initiative addressed an important aspect of student welfare by extending healthcare support into the residential environment.

The university also expanded access to menstrual hygiene facilities. Automated sanitary vending machines were procured and installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, with support from the DU Alumni Association. These machines were intended to ensure continuous and subsidized access to essential menstrual hygiene products.

Such initiatives contribute to a more supportive residential environment by recognizing the specific healthcare and hygiene requirements of female students.

6.3 Expanding Female Residential Accommodation

Access to safe and adequate accommodation is an important factor influencing women's participation in higher education.

During the reporting period, the university advanced the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall construction project, valued at BDT 244 crore and funded by the Chinese Government. The proposed residential facility is designed to accommodate 1,500 female students.

Internal university approvals were completed in October 2025. Subsequently, on 18 December 2025, Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, accompanied by a technical feasibility team and university representatives, conducted an on-site inspection near the Jagannath Hall area. Physical construction was scheduled to begin within the following one to two months.

Although the project had not yet entered the construction stage during the reporting period, its planned capacity represents a significant commitment to addressing the shortage of female residential accommodation.

6.4 Improving Existing Residential Facilities

In addition to long-term construction plans, the university undertook immediate improvements to existing female residential facilities.

On 18 December 2025, Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall received 500 ergonomic chairs and 40 double bunk beds to improve residential living conditions.

These improvements addressed practical accommodation and furnishing needs while supporting a more comfortable residential environment for female students.

Overall, the university's gender-focused initiatives combined recognition of female leadership, healthcare access, menstrual hygiene support, and residential infrastructure development. This integrated approach reflects the importance of addressing both immediate welfare needs and structural inequalities affecting women's participation in higher education.

7. Cultural Diversity, Minority Inclusion and Social Equity Advocacy

7.1 Promoting Indigenous Heritage and Cultural Recognition

Reducing inequalities also requires recognizing and respecting the identities, languages, traditions, and cultural contributions of different communities.

The University of Dhaka promoted cultural inclusion during the reporting period through programmes that provided opportunities for ethnic minority students and communities to preserve and showcase their cultural heritage.

On 10 July 2025, the Dhaka University Jum Literature and Cultural Council organized the Jum Magazine Publication and Cultural Diversity Festival at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). The Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the event.

The festival provided a platform for the publication, preservation, and presentation of the literary, linguistic, and artistic traditions of indigenous and ethnic minority student communities.

Beyond celebrating cultural diversity, the initiative contributed to creating greater institutional visibility for communities whose cultural identities and heritage are often underrepresented in mainstream academic and social spaces.

7.2 Encouraging Policy Dialogue on Social Inclusion

The university also promoted critical discussion of social inequalities and inclusive public policy.

On 9 October 2025, the Dhaka University Debating Society, in collaboration with ActionAid, organized a two-day inter-university debate festival titled "Proposing Policies for Social Inclusivity" at the TSC Auditorium.

The event brought together student debaters from different universities to examine national legislative frameworks concerning equity, social justice, and institutional accessibility.

This initiative provided students with an opportunity to engage critically with the policy dimensions of inequality. It also encouraged inter-university dialogue on how institutional and national policies can contribute to a more inclusive society.

7.3 Promoting Equality Through Art and Regional Collaboration

Art and cultural expression can provide important platforms for discussing equality and social justice.

On 20 November 2025, the Department of History of Art organized a four-day national workshop titled "Art of Equality" (Samatar Shilpa).

The workshop brought together art faculty members and students from several institutions, including Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Jagannath University, Khulna University, Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, Dhaka Art College, Narayanganj Fine Arts Institute, and S.M. Sultan Fine Arts College.

Through this regional academic and artistic engagement, the workshop explored egalitarian visual culture and provided a collaborative platform for examining equality through artistic expression.

7.4 Demonstrating Solidarity with Vulnerable Communities

The university community also demonstrated humanitarian solidarity beyond the national context.

On 13 November 2025, the Master of Professional Banking Alumni Association of the Department of Banking and Insurance presented financial assistance to Palestinian Ambassador Yousuf Ramadan at the Embassy of Palestine in Dhaka. The contribution was intended to support war-affected children in Gaza.

Although this initiative was humanitarian in nature rather than a direct campus-based inclusion programme, it reflected the university community's engagement with the welfare of vulnerable populations and its broader commitment to social responsibility.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate that the university's contribution to reducing inequalities extends beyond financial assistance and campus facilities. Cultural recognition, public dialogue, artistic collaboration, and humanitarian engagement also contribute to building a more inclusive academic community.

8. Equitable Infrastructure, Residential Housing and Campus Safety

8.1 Addressing Structural Inequalities in Student Accommodation

Adequate and safe student accommodation is an important condition for equitable participation in higher education. Limited residential capacity and overcrowded living conditions can disproportionately affect students who have fewer financial resources or limited alternatives for accommodation.

Recognizing these challenges, the University of Dhaka pursued both immediate safety interventions and long-term infrastructure development during the reporting period.

These activities were particularly significant following seismic events in late 2025, which highlighted the need to strengthen the structural safety of existing residential facilities.

8.2 Emergency Structural Repairs in Residential Halls

Following the seismic events, central coordination committees chaired by the university Treasurer, supported by technical subcommittees from Bangladesh University of Engineering

and Technology (BUET), conducted structural safety assessments and emergency repair activities across several residential halls.

By December 2025, substantial repair work had been completed in three halls.

Haji Muhammad Muhsin Hall: Structural repairs were completed across 112 of the hall's 175 student rooms. Additional work included ferrocement plastering and restoration of dining hall roofs, balcony ceilings, drop walls, parapet walls, bathrooms, the hall mosque, and reading room ceilings.

Surya Sen Hall: Repairs were completed across 96 of 141 student rooms on the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors. The work also covered corridor ceilings, ground-floor canteen facilities, bathrooms, and mosque structures.

Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall: Physical repairs were completed across 32 of 121 student rooms. The interventions included room repairs, repainting, and ferrocement roof casting over the North Block, ground-floor reading rooms, and shared washrooms.

Across these three residential halls, a total of 240 student rooms received reported repair interventions.

These activities were important not only for maintaining physical infrastructure but also for protecting students' safety and improving the reliability of residential facilities. For students who depend on university accommodation, safe housing is directly connected to educational continuity and overall well-being.

8.3 Advancing the University Master Development Plan

While emergency repairs addressed immediate safety concerns, the university also advanced a long-term infrastructure programme to address structural inequalities in campus facilities.

On 20 November 2025, the Ministry of Education approved the university's BDT 2,841 crore Mega Development Project. An initial Annual Development Programme allocation of BDT 60 crore was approved for immediate procurement activities.

A Project Director had been appointed on 12 October 2025, and the Annual Procurement Plan was published through the government electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) portal.

One of the most significant components of the project is the expansion of student residential accommodation. The plan includes:

- Four new female residence halls with an additional capacity of 2,600 seats.
- Five new male residence halls with an additional capacity of 5,100 seats.
- A combined increase of 7,700 residential seats across nine halls.

This expansion is intended to address the university's longstanding accommodation shortages and improve the availability of residential facilities for students.

The broader development plan also covers 31 buildings and associated infrastructure, including six modern academic buildings, two residential blocks for faculty and administrative officers, dedicated house tutor quarters across the nine new halls, and five administrative and utility service buildings.

In addition, the plan includes environmental restoration and landscaping of four central campus waterbodies, improvements to the main sports field, construction of two public toilet blocks, upgraded drainage networks, and modernized waste management infrastructure.

Although these developments extend beyond SDG 10 alone, they have important implications for campus equity. Better residential capacity, safer facilities, improved sanitation, and more reliable infrastructure can help create a more supportive educational environment for students from different backgrounds.

8.4 Promoting Transparent Residential Seat Allocation

Equitable access to residential accommodation also depends on transparent allocation procedures.

On 9 October 2025, Amar Ekushey Hall processed 225 applications for residential accommodation and assigned 117 available seats in accordance with official university guidelines.

This example demonstrates the importance of formal allocation procedures in managing limited residential resources. Transparent processes can strengthen accountability and reduce the scope for arbitrary or discriminatory decisions.

Overall, the university's infrastructure-related interventions combined immediate structural safety improvements, transparent allocation procedures, and large-scale residential expansion plans. Together, these measures represent an important contribution towards more equitable and secure campus living conditions.

9. Consolidated Performance and Institutional Outputs

The following table summarizes some of the selected measurable outputs from the university's SDG 10-related activities during the available reporting period.

Strategic area	Selected institutional output
Financial inclusion	50 economically disadvantaged Law students received one-time grants of BDT 10,000 each.
Alumni-supported scholarships	159 students received scholarships through the Department of Islamic History and Culture's 75th anniversary programme.
Research and academic support	18 scholars and students received BDT 5.80 lakh in grants and scholarships through the Department of World Religions and Culture.
Departmental scholarships	34 underprivileged students received scholarships through the Department of Arabic.

Disability inclusion	One visually impaired student received approval for a BDT 5,000 monthly stipend for one year.
Physical accessibility	Dedicated wheelchairs were stationed at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.
Administrative accessibility	Two dedicated student service officers were attached to the central Information Center.
Democratic participation	Barrier-free voter pathways were arranged for students from three residential halls during the September student union elections.
Institutional protection	Two high-level committees were established to address sexual harassment, bullying, and ragging.
Complaint mechanisms	Mandatory locked complaint boxes and weekly collection arrangements were directed across academic and residential units.
Gender equity	Female Student Day was incorporated into the permanent academic calendar.
Healthcare and hygiene	Healthcare partnership established at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall; sanitary vending machines installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
Female accommodation	Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project advanced, with a planned capacity of 1,500 female students.
Cultural inclusion	Jum Cultural Diversity Festival and national Art of Equality workshop organized.
Residential safety	Structural repair interventions covered 240 student rooms across three residential halls.
Long-term housing equity	BDT 2,841 crore Mega Development Project approved, with BDT 60 crore initial ADP allocation and 7,700 planned additional residential seats.

10. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a broad range of initiatives addressing socioeconomic disadvantage, disability-related barriers, gender inequality, institutional protection, cultural exclusion, and unequal access to residential infrastructure.

The university's efforts combined immediate interventions, such as scholarships, stipends, healthcare services, mobility support, and emergency repairs, with longer-term institutional measures, including regulatory committees, residential expansion projects, and improved administrative arrangements. The scale and diversity of these initiatives demonstrate that reducing inequalities within higher education requires coordinated action across academic, administrative, residential, and community-oriented functions.

While several initiatives were still at the approval, planning, or early implementation stages by the end of 2025, the available evidence indicates meaningful institutional progress towards a more inclusive university environment. By continuing to strengthen financial assistance, accessibility, accountability, gender-responsive welfare, cultural recognition, and equitable infrastructure, the University of Dhaka can further advance its contribution to SDG 10 and its broader responsibility to promote inclusive and equitable higher education.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

1. Executive Summary

Universities are not only centres of education and research; they are also complex urban environments where thousands of people live, study, work, and interact every day. Their buildings, residential facilities, transportation systems, public spaces, sanitation infrastructure, and environmental management practices directly influence the quality of life of their communities. As a major public university located in the heart of Dhaka, the University of Dhaka recognizes the importance of developing a campus that is safe, accessible, environmentally responsible, and resilient.

Throughout 2025, the university undertook a range of initiatives contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11): Sustainable Cities and Communities. The available institutional records for 2025 demonstrate progress across several interconnected areas, including residential infrastructure development, structural safety, environmental conservation, sustainable mobility, public health, disaster preparedness, and cultural heritage preservation.

A major development during the reporting period was the advancement of two significant infrastructure projects. The BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project, covering the period 2025–2030, received Ministry of Education approval, including an initial BDT 60 crore Annual Development Programme allocation. The project includes nine new residential halls with a planned capacity of 7,700 students, six academic buildings, public sanitation facilities, drainage improvements, waste management infrastructure, and the restoration of four campus waterbodies. In parallel, the BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project advanced towards implementation, with a planned capacity of 1,500 female students.

Campus safety and infrastructure resilience also received significant attention following seismic events in late 2025. The university, with technical support from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), conducted structural assessments and initiated repair interventions across several residential halls. By December, reported repairs covered 112 rooms at Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, 96 rooms at Surja Sen Hall, and 32 rooms at Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Environmental management emerged as another important area of progress. The university introduced a campus-wide prohibition on burning fallen leaves under the campaign "Shorapata Projjolon Bondho Korun", encouraging the preservation of organic materials for fertilizer production. It also received national recognition for enforcing a ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during year-end celebrations, reflecting its commitment to reducing air and noise pollution and protecting campus wildlife.

Efforts to improve the campus environment extended to public spaces and green infrastructure. Residential halls introduced landscaped garden beds, plant-integrated facilities, shaded seating, and bicycle parking arrangements. The university also incorporated the restoration of four major waterbodies, public toilets, and integrated drainage and waste management systems into its long-term development plans.

Sustainable mobility and clean energy were supported through the expansion of bicycle parking facilities, including two new stands at Amar Ekushey Hall with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles. Academic institutes also organized technical seminars and workshops on microbial fuel cells, photovoltaic technology, solar cell simulation, and renewable energy policy.

The university further strengthened its disaster preparedness through fire safety and emergency rescue drills, youth volunteer mobilization, and international collaboration on coastal disaster management and climate resilience. Public health and sanitation initiatives included water reservoir cleaning, drinking water filtration, mosquito control, medical support in residential halls, and improved hygiene facilities.

In addition, the university continued to preserve historical memory and cultural heritage through the establishment of memorial spaces, historical archives, public art exhibitions, and national commemorative programmes.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the university's efforts to transform its campus into a safer, healthier, greener, and more resilient urban environment. While several major infrastructure projects remain at the planning or early implementation stage, the activities undertaken during the reporting period establish an important foundation for the university's longer-term contribution to SDG 11.

2. Institutional Approach and Alignment with SDG 11

2.1 The University Campus as a Sustainable Urban Community

A university campus can be understood as a small urban ecosystem. It brings together residential communities, academic buildings, public spaces, transportation networks, sanitation systems, environmental resources, and essential public services.

For the University of Dhaka, advancing SDG 11 therefore involves more than constructing new buildings or maintaining existing facilities. It requires an integrated approach to campus planning that balances human well-being, environmental responsibility, infrastructure development, public safety, and cultural preservation.

During 2025, the university's activities reflected six major strategic priorities:

1. **Safe and adequate housing:** Expanding residential capacity and improving the quality and safety of existing student accommodation.
2. **Environmental sustainability:** Reducing pollution, improving organic waste management, restoring natural resources, and expanding campus greenery.
3. **Sustainable mobility:** Encouraging non-motorized transportation and improving bicycle parking infrastructure.
4. **Disaster resilience:** Strengthening structural safety, emergency preparedness, and institutional capacity for disaster response.
5. **Public health and sanitation:** Improving drinking water quality, hygiene, healthcare access, and vector control.
6. **Cultural heritage and inclusive public spaces:** Preserving historical memory, promoting public art, and improving the usability of campus spaces.

2.2 Contribution to Specific SDG 11 Targets

The university's initiatives are particularly relevant to the following SDG 11 targets:

SDG target	Relevance to university initiatives
Target 11.1 – Safe and affordable housing	Expansion of student residential facilities, improvement of existing halls, and structural safety interventions.
Target 11.2 – Sustainable transport systems	Development of bicycle parking facilities and promotion of non-motorized transportation.
Target 11.3 – Inclusive and sustainable urbanization	Integrated campus planning through the 2025–2030 Mega Campus Development Project.
Target 11.4 – Protection of cultural and natural heritage	Preservation of historical memorials, archives, graffiti, public art, and campus heritage.
Target 11.5 – Reduction of disaster impacts	Structural safety assessments, emergency response drills, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
Target 11.6 – Reduction of environmental impact	Organic waste management, prohibition of leaf burning, pollution control, and integrated waste management planning.
Target 11.7 – Access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces	Campus greening, shaded seating, restoration of waterbodies, and improved public spaces.
Target 11.b – Integrated disaster risk management	Technical partnerships, disaster response capacity building, and institutional resilience planning.

These areas demonstrate how the university translates the global SDG framework into practical campus-level interventions.

3. Sustainable Housing, Campus Development and Infrastructure Resilience

3.1 Addressing the Challenge of Student Accommodation

Safe and adequate accommodation is one of the most important requirements for a sustainable university environment. As a large public institution, the University of Dhaka faces considerable pressure on its residential infrastructure. Limited accommodation capacity, ageing buildings, and growing demand for student facilities make long-term infrastructure planning essential.

During 2025, the university advanced two major residential development projects intended to address these challenges.

3.2 Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall: Expanding Female Student Accommodation

One of the significant infrastructure developments during the reporting period was the advancement of the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project.

The BDT 244 crore project, supported by financial cooperation from the Chinese Government, is designed to provide modern residential accommodation for 1,500 female students.

Following the transmission of official project approval communications through the Economic Relations Division to the Chinese Embassy, the Chinese Government formally approved the project proposal in October 2025.

A major implementation milestone occurred on 18 December 2025, when a specialized Chinese technical feasibility team visited the proposed construction site adjacent to the Jagannath Hall area. The team was accompanied by the Vice-Chancellor, the university Treasurer, Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, and DUCSU student representatives.

The visit represented an important step towards assessing the feasibility of the proposed development. Physical construction was expected to commence within one to two months following the reported inspection.

The project is particularly significant because it addresses the shortage of female residential accommodation. Expanding safe and structured housing facilities can improve residential access, support educational continuity, and create a more enabling environment for female students.

3.3 Mega Campus Development Project: A Long-Term Infrastructure Vision

Beyond individual residential projects, the university advanced a broader campus development programme covering the period 2025–2030.

The BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project received approval from the Ministry of Education, including an initial Annual Development Programme allocation of BDT 60 crore.

Administrative implementation progressed during the year through the appointment of a Project Director on 12 October 2025 and publication of the Annual Procurement Plan on the government e-GP portal. Tender notices for architectural and structural design consultants covering 31 major buildings were also issued in late November.

The development plan includes:

- Six modern academic buildings.
- Four new female residence halls accommodating 2,600 students.
- Five new male residence halls accommodating 5,100 students.
- A total of 7,700 additional residential seats across nine halls.
- Dedicated house tutor quarters across the nine new halls.
- Two residential quarters for faculty and administrative officers.
- Five administrative and utility service buildings.
- Integrated campus drainage and waste management networks.
- Restoration of four major campus waterbodies.
- Improvement of one main athletic sports field.
- Construction of two public sanitation facilities.

The project represents a major institutional effort to address long-standing infrastructure shortages while improving the overall quality of the campus environment.

Its significance extends beyond the construction of individual buildings. The integration of residential accommodation, academic infrastructure, sanitation, drainage, waterbody restoration, and waste management reflects a more comprehensive approach to sustainable campus planning.

Although the project remained at the procurement and early implementation stage during the reporting period, its planned infrastructure provides a substantial foundation for the university's long-term urban sustainability agenda.

3.4 Strengthening Structural Safety After Seismic Events

Infrastructure sustainability depends not only on constructing new facilities but also on maintaining and strengthening existing buildings.

Following seismic events in late 2025, the university prioritized structural safety assessments across residential halls. A Central Coordination Committee chaired by the university Treasurer worked with a specialized technical subcommittee comprising structural engineering experts from BUET.

The committee completed technical assessments and undertook further inspections of selected residential facilities, including Shamsun Nahar Hall, Kavi Jasimuddin Hall, and Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall.

Reported repair progress across major residential halls included:

Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall

Structural repairs were completed across 112 of the hall's 175 student rooms. Additional work included ferrocement structural casting and repairs involving ceilings, balconies, drop walls, parapet walls, bathrooms, the mosque, dining hall roof, and reading room.

Surja Sen Hall

Repairs were completed across 96 of 141 student rooms, particularly on the third to sixth floors. Work also covered corridors, the ground-floor canteen, and bathrooms, while additional structural repairs continued in the mosque and corridor ceilings.

Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall

Structural plastering and room repairs were completed across 32 of 121 rooms. Additional ferrocement casting was undertaken on balconies, bathrooms, reading room facilities, and the North Block roof.

Rokeya Hall and Shamsun Nahar Hall

Engineering inspections led to further structural plaster and wall reinforcement activities. At Rokeya Hall, plaster repairs were completed in Rooms 67 and 87 of the Aparajita Building.

These interventions reflect the university's effort to strengthen the physical safety of existing residential infrastructure. For a large residential university, structural maintenance and disaster resilience are essential to protecting students and maintaining uninterrupted campus operations.

4. Environmental Conservation, Pollution Control and Green Campus Development

4.1 Moving Towards More Responsible Organic Waste Management

Universities generate significant quantities of organic waste through routine campus maintenance, particularly fallen leaves and other plant materials. How these materials are managed has direct implications for local air quality and environmental sustainability.

Traditionally, the burning of fallen leaves can contribute to air pollution and unnecessary emissions. Recognizing this challenge, the University of Dhaka introduced a campus-wide environmental stewardship initiative in December 2025.

On 11 December, the university launched the campaign "Shorapata Projjolon Bondho Korun" (Stop Burning Fallen Leaves) at the Central Mall. The initiative was launched by the Vice-Chancellor in collaboration with the University of Dhaka Arbiculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and the Environment Parliament.

The campaign established a prohibition on burning fallen leaves across campus grounds and introduced protocols for preserving organic materials for fertilizer production.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also incorporated this approach into its regular facility management by collecting and preserving fallen leaves for conversion into natural fertilizer for hall gardens.

This initiative represents an important shift towards circular environmental management. Instead of treating fallen leaves as waste requiring disposal through burning, the university encouraged their reuse as a resource for maintaining campus greenery.

The approach can help reduce open burning, improve local air quality, and support more sustainable management of organic materials.

4.2 Reducing Air and Noise Pollution Through Environmental Regulation

Environmental management also requires addressing activities that create unnecessary pollution and threaten public safety.

During 2025, the university enforced a campus-wide ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during 31st Night celebrations.

The policy addressed several environmental and safety concerns associated with pyrotechnics, including air pollution, chemical residue, noise pollution, fire hazards, and harm to urban wildlife and bird populations.

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan with a national honor and commemorative crest in recognition of the university's enforcement of this policy.

The Ministry recognized the initiative as an exemplary model of environmental governance.

This recognition demonstrates how university-level administrative decisions can contribute to broader environmental protection objectives. By regulating activities that create unnecessary pollution, the university sought to protect both its human population and the surrounding urban ecosystem.

4.3 Expanding Campus Greenery and Improving Public Spaces

Green spaces are essential components of sustainable urban environments. They improve the visual quality of public spaces, support environmental well-being, and provide opportunities for recreation and social interaction.

During the reporting period, several residential halls introduced small but practical improvements to their outdoor environments.

At Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, a landscaped garden bed was constructed beside the lobby driveway on 17 July 2025. The hall administration also developed three shaded seating spaces, including one near the breakfast kiosk and two at the former bicycle parking area.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall introduced another form of green infrastructure by integrating plant tubs into custom shoe racks installed outside student rooms on the fourth and fifth floors of the South Block East wing. This initiative encouraged vertical greening within the residential environment.

These interventions demonstrate how green spaces can be incorporated into both outdoor and shared residential areas, even where available land is limited.

4.4 Restoring Campus Waterbodies and Improving Environmental Infrastructure

Natural waterbodies play an important role in the environmental health of urban campuses. They contribute to local ecological balance and can improve the quality and attractiveness of public spaces.

The university incorporated the restoration of four major campus waterbodies into the BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project.

The planned interventions include dredging, cleaning, restoration, and associated environmental engineering work. The project also includes improvements to drainage networks, construction of two public toilets, and the introduction of an integrated solid waste management system.

Although these activities were part of the approved development plan rather than completed restoration works during the reporting period, they represent an important commitment to improving the university's environmental infrastructure.

Taken together, the leaf preservation campaign, pyrotechnics ban, campus greening activities, and planned waterbody restoration reflect a broader effort to improve the environmental quality and sustainability of the campus.

5. Sustainable Mobility, Clean Energy and Low-Carbon Campus Development

5.1 Encouraging Non-Motorized Transportation

Sustainable transportation is an important component of SDG 11, particularly in densely populated urban environments where traffic congestion and vehicle emissions create significant challenges.

Within the university campus, bicycles provide a practical alternative for short-distance transportation. However, the availability of secure and designated parking facilities is important for encouraging their regular use.

During 2025, the university expanded bicycle parking infrastructure across several residential halls.

On 9 October 2025, Amar Ekushey Hall constructed two designated bicycle stands, Mandura-2 and Mandura-3, with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles.

Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall and Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also introduced dedicated bicycle parking stands and multi-purpose corridor racks.

These interventions support non-motorized transportation while helping maintain orderly residential spaces and clear emergency exit corridors.

Although the available records do not provide data on changes in bicycle usage or reductions in vehicle emissions, the expansion of bicycle parking represents a practical step towards encouraging lower-emission mobility.

5.2 Advancing Research and Knowledge on Renewable Energy

Sustainable urban development also depends on access to cleaner and more efficient energy technologies.

The University of Dhaka contributed to this area through academic seminars and technical knowledge-sharing activities organized by its energy-related institutes.

On 10 July 2025, the Institute of Energy organized a technical seminar titled "A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design". The session, presented by Research Assistant Md. Rakib Hossain, introduced participants to biochemical energy conversion systems.

On 14 August 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical session titled "Introduction to Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D (Part-1)". The programme provided specialized training on photovoltaic devices, numerical simulation, and research applications in solar cell technology.

A further initiative took place on 13 November 2025, when the Energy Institute collaborated with the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) to organize a national workshop titled "EnDev's 16-Year Journey".

Chaired by the SREDA Chairman, the workshop focused on clean energy transitions and the deployment of off-grid technologies.

These activities demonstrate the university's contribution to the knowledge and research dimensions of sustainable energy development. By creating opportunities for technical learning and collaboration with national energy institutions, the university helps strengthen the expertise required for future clean energy applications.

6. Disaster Preparedness, Emergency Response and Urban Resilience

6.1 Strengthening Campus Emergency Preparedness

A sustainable urban environment must be capable of anticipating, responding to, and recovering from emergencies.

For the University of Dhaka, disaster preparedness involves protecting residential buildings, academic facilities, administrative offices, and the wider campus community against different types of hazards.

During 2025, the university undertook several practical initiatives to strengthen emergency response capacity.

On 9 October 2025, a fire safety, fire-extinguishing, and emergency rescue drill was conducted for administrative staff and officers at the Social Science Faculty building under the technical supervision of the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

A similar student-focused fire safety training programme was conducted at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall on 14 August 2025.

These activities helped introduce practical emergency response knowledge within both academic and residential environments.

The inclusion of administrative personnel and students is particularly important because effective disaster response depends on the preparedness of the entire campus community.

6.2 Mobilizing Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction

The university also emphasized the role of youth and volunteers in strengthening disaster resilience.

On 11 December 2025, the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), in partnership with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Bangladesh, organized a national convention titled "Every Contribution Matters" at the Senate Bhaban.

Inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, the convention brought attention to youth volunteer mobilization and institutional cooperation in local disaster response.

The initiative recognized that disaster resilience cannot depend solely on government agencies or institutional authorities. Local communities, volunteers, and young people can also play important roles in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

6.3 Building International Partnerships for Climate and Coastal Resilience

Recognizing the importance of knowledge exchange and specialized expertise, the university also advanced international collaboration in disaster risk reduction.

On 18 December 2025, the Vice-Chancellor held a strategic meeting with Professor Dr. Olaf Murlink of Central Queensland University, Australia.

The institutions established a partnership framework focused on joint research programmes, capacity-building workshops, and specialized training modules in coastal disaster management, climate resilience, and youth empowerment.

This collaboration provides an opportunity to connect academic research with practical disaster management challenges, particularly those relevant to climate-vulnerable coastal communities.

The university's engagement in structural safety assessments, emergency drills, volunteer mobilization, and international partnerships demonstrates a multi-level approach to disaster resilience.

7. Public Health, Water, Sanitation and Inclusive Campus Facilities

7.1 Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water

Access to safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is fundamental to a healthy and sustainable campus.

During 2025, the university undertook several maintenance and improvement activities across residential halls to strengthen water supply systems.

At Kavi Jasimuddin Hall, underground reservoirs and overhead water tanks serving the North and South Blocks, canteen, and house tutor quarters underwent deep cleaning and maintenance.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall also undertook water tank cleaning and maintenance activities.

The Social Welfare and Research Institute repaired its main overhead water supply line, improving the reliability of water distribution.

In addition, four high-capacity drinking water filtration units were installed in the main student building of Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall on 9 October 2025. Scheduled servicing of filtration systems was also undertaken at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.

These activities demonstrate the university's attention to the maintenance of essential water infrastructure and the availability of safer drinking water within student residential facilities.

7.2 Maintaining Sanitation and Hygienic Residential Environments

The university also undertook sanitation-related maintenance activities across different halls.

These included deep cleaning of bathrooms, restoration of floor mosaics, and improvements to shared residential facilities.

For example, the Aparajita Building of Rokeya Hall underwent bathroom floor cleaning and mosaic polishing in August 2025. Similar maintenance work was undertaken at the main dining hall of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

Such maintenance activities may appear routine, but they are essential for maintaining healthy residential environments in high-density student accommodation.

At the strategic level, the Mega Campus Development Project also incorporates two new public sanitation facilities, upgraded drainage networks, and integrated waste management infrastructure.

7.3 Strengthening Vector Control and Disease Prevention

Vector-borne diseases, particularly dengue, present a recurring public health concern in Dhaka.

To reduce mosquito breeding and related health risks, several residential halls maintained regular vector control and pest management operations during the reporting period.

Thermal fogging, larvicidal treatment, and targeted spraying were undertaken across Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, Rokeya Hall, Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, and Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also outsourced specialized pest control services and upgraded chemical application equipment to improve coverage of drainage lines.

At Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, a targeted bedbug extermination programme was conducted across 29 rooms on 9 October 2025.

These interventions reflect the importance of preventive environmental health management in maintaining safe and hygienic student accommodation.

7.4 Improving Access to Medical and Emergency Health Services

The university also introduced measures to improve access to medical support within residential facilities.

On 14 August 2025, medical officers from the DU Medical Center were assigned to Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall during designated evening and night shifts to provide emergency medical consultations.

The initiative brought essential medical support closer to students and reduced the need to rely exclusively on off-site services for immediate consultations.

Free blood grouping drives were also organized by Badhan, while women's health awareness activities were conducted in collaboration with Ad-din Mother Care Limited.

These initiatives demonstrate the university's recognition that sustainable campus development must include health services, preventive healthcare, and accessible emergency support.

7.5 Supporting Universal Accessibility and Gender-Responsive Facilities

Inclusive infrastructure must address the needs of students with different physical and health requirements.

On 13 November 2025, Kavi Jasimuddin Hall procured and deployed dedicated wheelchairs for sick and injured students residing in the hall.

At Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, an automated sanitary napkin vending machine donated by the DU Alumni Association was received in December 2025 to improve access to essential menstrual hygiene products.

These interventions illustrate the importance of incorporating accessibility and gender-responsive facilities into everyday campus management.

8. Preserving Cultural Heritage, Historical Memory and Public Spaces

8.1 Protecting the University's Historical and Civic Identity

Sustainable communities are not defined only by physical infrastructure. They also depend on the preservation of cultural identity, historical memory, and shared public spaces.

As one of Bangladesh's historically significant academic institutions, the University of Dhaka has an important role in preserving the country's intellectual, cultural, and democratic heritage.

During 2025, the university undertook several initiatives to document historical events and create public spaces that recognize important moments in national history.

8.2 Establishing Memorial Grounds and Historical Archives

On 17 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor inaugurated July Smriti Udyan at Bijoy Ekattor Hall. On the same day, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) inaugurated July Protirodh Prangon at Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah Hall.

These landscaped public spaces were established to memorialize the historical contributions of young people during national democratic movements.

The university also established specialized historical literature shelves under the name "July Corner" at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall. Equipped with three custom bookshelves, the archive was designed to preserve literature documenting the democratic movements of 1947, 1971, and 2024.

In addition to these physical spaces, the university initiated projects to systematically document historical graffiti and public artwork across campus.

The planned activities included publishing collections of graffiti, compiling accounts from students and faculty members, establishing a digital documentary archive, and finalizing structural designs for a central uprising memorial monument.

These activities contribute to preserving the university's historical and cultural identity for future generations.

8.3 Promoting Public Art and Cultural Engagement

The university also used public exhibitions and artistic activities to strengthen cultural engagement across the campus.

On 10 July 2025, the Faculty of Fine Arts hosted the solo painting exhibition "Urkavye Prakriti" by artist Md. Rakibul Hasan at Zainul Gallery, alongside the sculpture exhibition "Uno-Ekti 29 Projojona".

On 11 September 2025, the Oriental Art Practice Association organized the "Guru-Disciple: Disciple-Guru (Phase-3)" exhibition at Zainul Gallery-1. The exhibition featured works by Proti Chokma, Amit Nandi, Jahangir Alam, and Moloy Bala under the supervision of Mikhail Idris.

The Department of History of Art further organized a four-day national workshop titled "Art of Equality" on 20 November 2025. The workshop brought together faculty members and student artists from nine higher education and art institutions to explore equality through artistic expression.

These initiatives demonstrate how academic and cultural institutions can use public spaces to support artistic creativity, social dialogue, and cultural participation.

8.4 Commemorating National Heritage and Historical Contributions

The university also observed National Victory Day and Martyred Intellectuals Day through public commemorative programmes on 14 and 16 December 2025.

Activities included illumination of major campus landmarks such as Curzon Hall, the Arts Building, the Teacher-Student Centre, and Smriti Chirantan.

Wreath-laying ceremonies were organized at national monuments, while documentary screenings were arranged across residential halls.

These activities strengthened the role of the university campus as a shared space for preserving national memory and cultural identity.

Collectively, the establishment of memorial spaces, historical archives, public art exhibitions, and commemorative programmes demonstrates the university's contribution to SDG Target 11.4.

9. Consolidated SDG 11 Performance and Institutional Outputs

The following table presents selected measurable outputs and major institutional milestones from the available records for 2025.

Strategic area	Selected institutional outputs and milestones
Student housing	BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project advanced, with planned accommodation for 1,500 female students.
Campus development	BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project approved, with an initial BDT 60 crore ADP allocation.
Residential expansion	Nine new halls planned, providing 7,700 additional residential seats: 2,600 female and 5,100 male.
Structural resilience	Repairs reported across 112 rooms at Muhsin Hall, 96 at Surja Sen Hall, and 32 at Ziaur Rahman Hall.
Environmental management	Campus-wide prohibition on burning fallen leaves introduced through the Shorapata Projjolon Bondho campaign.
Pollution control	Campus-wide ban on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during year-end celebrations received national recognition.
Green infrastructure	Garden beds, shaded seating, and plant-integrated facilities introduced at residential halls.
Waterbody restoration	Restoration of four major campus waterbodies incorporated into the approved development plan.
Sustainable mobility	Two new bicycle stands at Amar Ekushey Hall with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles.
Renewable energy knowledge	Technical seminars on microbial fuel cells, solar cells, photovoltaic simulation, and a national renewable energy workshop.
Disaster preparedness	Fire safety and emergency rescue drills conducted at the Social Science Faculty and Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall.
Disaster resilience partnerships	National volunteer convention organized with VSO Bangladesh and international collaboration advanced with Central Queensland University.
Drinking water	Four high-capacity drinking water filtration units installed at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall.
Public health	Water tank cleaning, supply-line repairs, mosquito control, medical support, and health awareness programmes undertaken across residential facilities.

Inclusive facilities	Wheelchair support introduced at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall and menstrual hygiene vending facilities installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
Cultural heritage	July Smriti Udyan, July Protirodh Prangon, and July Corner archives established.
Public art and cultural engagement	Fine arts exhibitions and a four-day Art of Equality workshop organized, involving nine institutions.

10. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a wide range of initiatives to strengthen its contribution to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The university's activities addressed several fundamental dimensions of sustainable campus development, including safe housing, structural resilience, environmental conservation, green infrastructure, sustainable mobility, disaster preparedness, public health, sanitation, and cultural heritage preservation.

The advancement of the BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project and the BDT 244 crore Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall project represents a significant long-term commitment to improving campus infrastructure and residential capacity. At the same time, structural repairs, environmental regulations, bicycle parking facilities, public health interventions, and cultural heritage initiatives demonstrate progress through more immediate institutional actions.

An important feature of these efforts is the recognition that a sustainable university campus must function as a healthy, safe, inclusive, and environmentally responsible community. Infrastructure development alone is insufficient without effective environmental management, disaster preparedness, accessible public facilities, and the preservation of shared cultural resources.

Although several major projects remained at the approval, procurement, feasibility, or early implementation stage by the end of 2025, the available evidence demonstrates meaningful progress towards a more sustainable campus environment.

By continuing to integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning, campus operations, environmental management, public health, and cultural preservation, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its role as a contributor to sustainable urban development in Bangladesh.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

1. Executive Summary

Responsible consumption and production are essential to building sustainable institutions. Universities consume significant quantities of water, energy, food, construction materials, and other resources through their academic, administrative, and residential operations. They also generate different forms of waste and contribute to local environmental pressures. As a major public university, the University of Dhaka recognizes the importance of managing these resources responsibly and embedding environmental considerations into its institutional operations.

During 2025, the university undertook a range of initiatives contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12): Responsible Consumption and Production. The available institutional records for 2025 demonstrate progress in environmental governance, pollution prevention, organic waste management, food preservation, water resource management, sanitation, and sustainable infrastructure development.

One of the most important institutional developments was the strengthening of campus-wide environmental regulations. The university maintained restrictions on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during year-end celebrations, receiving national recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in December 2025. It also launched the "Stop Burning Fallen Leaves" campaign on 11 December 2025, establishing a campus-wide prohibition on open leaf burning and promoting the conversion of organic waste into fertilizer.

The university also demonstrated practical progress in circular resource management. At Kavi Jasimuddin Hall, fallen leaves were collected and processed into organic fertilizer for use in hall gardens. This initiative provides an example of how waste materials generated through routine campus maintenance can be recovered and reused rather than discarded or burned.

Food preservation and waste prevention received attention through improvements to residential dining and storage facilities. Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall installed six floor-level refrigerators and one commercial dining deep-freezer, while Kavi Jasimuddin Hall improved food storage surfaces and repaired cooking stoves. These interventions support better food storage and handling, helping reduce the risk of spoilage and avoidable food waste.

Water management was another important area of institutional activity. Several residential halls undertook cleaning, disinfection, and maintenance of water reservoirs and supply lines. Four drinking water filtration units were installed at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, while other facilities improved their water distribution and storage systems.

The university also advanced long-term infrastructure planning through the BDT 2,841 crore Mega Campus Development Project. The approved project incorporates modern waste management facilities, upgraded drainage systems, and restoration of four major campus waterbodies. These planned investments provide an opportunity to strengthen the university's capacity for sustainable resource management.

In addition, the university undertook preventive sanitation and pest management activities across residential halls. These included physical cleaning of potential mosquito breeding areas, targeted pest control, hygiene improvements, and the introduction of less chemically intensive pest management approaches.

Taken together, these initiatives demonstrate the university's efforts to integrate responsible resource use into both institutional policy and everyday campus operations. Although several major infrastructure components remained at the planning or early implementation stage by the end of 2025, the available evidence indicates meaningful progress towards more sustainable consumption and production practices.

2. Institutional Approach and Alignment with SDG 12

2.1 Responsible Resource Management in University Operations

Universities have a direct responsibility to ensure that their daily operations do not create unnecessary environmental pressures. This responsibility extends to food procurement and storage, water consumption, waste generation, sanitation, pollution control, and the management of physical infrastructure.

At the University of Dhaka, SDG 12 is particularly relevant to the management of a large and diverse campus environment involving academic buildings, administrative facilities, residential halls, dining facilities, and shared public spaces.

During 2025, the university's initiatives reflected five interconnected priorities:

1. **Pollution prevention and environmental governance:** Strengthening institutional regulations to prevent harmful waste disposal and pollution.
2. **Waste reduction and circular resource use:** Recovering organic materials and promoting their reuse as productive resources.
3. **Food loss and waste prevention:** Improving food storage, preservation, and dining infrastructure.
4. **Water resource management and sanitation:** Maintaining water supply systems, filtration facilities, and hygienic residential environments.
5. **Sustainable infrastructure development:** Integrating waste management, drainage, and environmental restoration into long-term campus development planning.

These priorities align particularly with the following SDG 12 targets:

SDG target	Institutional relevance
Target 12.3 – Food waste and food loss reduction	Improving food preservation, cold-storage capacity, and dining facilities.
Target 12.4 – Environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste	Preventing open burning, restricting harmful pollutants, and strengthening responsible pest management.
Target 12.5 – Waste reduction and recycling	Recovering organic waste and converting fallen leaves into fertilizer.

Target 12.8 – Sustainability awareness and information	Conducting campus environmental campaigns and promoting responsible environmental practices.
Target 12.a – Scientific and technological capacity for sustainable consumption and production	Developing sustainable waste, drainage, water, and environmental infrastructure.

An important characteristic of the university's approach is the connection between central administrative policies and decentralized implementation. While central authorities establish environmental regulations, individual halls and institutional units translate these directives into practical operational activities.

This combination of institutional governance and hall-level implementation provides a foundation for integrating responsible consumption and production into the university's everyday management practices.

3. Campus-Wide Environmental Governance and Pollution Prevention

3.1 Strengthening Institutional Environmental Regulations

Responsible consumption and production require institutions to address environmental problems at their source rather than relying exclusively on corrective measures after pollution has occurred.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka strengthened its environmental governance through administrative restrictions and public awareness initiatives targeting activities that contribute to air pollution, noise pollution, and unnecessary waste generation.

One significant example was the university's prohibition on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during Thirty-First Night celebrations.

The restrictions were enforced during the 31 December 2024 celebrations and received formal national recognition in December 2025.

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented an honorary award and commemorative crest to Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan at the Department of Environment.

The recognition highlighted the university's environmental leadership and its efforts to prevent the use of hazardous pyrotechnic materials within the campus.

The restrictions addressed several environmental and safety concerns:

- **Air pollution:** Reducing toxic smoke emissions and particulate matter associated with fireworks and firecrackers.
- **Noise pollution:** Limiting excessive noise and associated disturbance within the campus.

- **Fire and safety risks:** Preventing potential fire incidents in densely populated academic and residential areas.
- **Wildlife protection:** Reducing acoustic stress, physical injury, and habitat disturbance among campus birds and other urban wildlife.
- **Waste reduction:** Avoiding the accumulation of chemical residues, plastic debris, and other non-biodegradable materials after celebrations.

The initiative was also connected to four broader institutional environmental designations: Clean Campus, Green Campus, Pollution-Free Campus, and Bird-Friendly Campus.

The national recognition demonstrates the value of consistent environmental regulations and provides an example of how university-level policies can contribute to wider environmental protection objectives.

3.2 Preventing Air Pollution Through the Stop Burning Fallen Leaves Campaign

Open burning of organic waste is a common but environmentally harmful disposal practice. Fallen leaves generated through routine campus maintenance can contribute to localized air pollution when burned instead of being collected and reused.

Recognizing this issue, the university launched a major environmental awareness campaign on 11 December 2025 under the slogan "Stop Burning Fallen Leaves" (Shorapata Projjolon Bondho Korun).

The campaign was organized at the campus main square through collaboration among the Dhaka University Arboriculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and the Environment Parliament.

The Vice-Chancellor led a public awareness symposium and rally addressing the environmental and public health consequences of biomass combustion.

The initiative established an institutional prohibition on burning fallen leaves and promoted the collection and preservation of organic materials for productive reuse.

This campaign represents an important shift in campus waste management. Instead of treating fallen leaves as unwanted materials requiring immediate disposal, the university encouraged their recovery as a useful resource.

The initiative also emphasized the importance of changing everyday environmental practices among students, faculty members, administrative personnel, and residential hall maintenance staff.

By combining administrative restrictions with public awareness and practical alternatives, the university sought to establish a more responsible approach to organic waste management.

4. Circular Economy and Organic Waste Transformation

4.1 Converting Organic Waste into Useful Resources

A central principle of responsible production and consumption is the reduction of waste through prevention, reuse, and recycling.

For a university campus with substantial green areas, fallen leaves represent a recurring source of organic material. Rather than treating this material as waste, the university began demonstrating how it could be converted into a productive resource.

On 11 December 2025, Kavi Jasimuddin Hall implemented an organic waste recovery process as part of the university's broader leaf-burning prevention initiative.

The process involved three interconnected stages.

Collection and preservation: Fallen leaves across the hall premises were systematically collected and stored without open burning.

Organic decomposition and conversion: The collected biological material was allowed to undergo managed decomposition and conversion into organic fertilizer.

Reuse in campus gardening: The resulting fertilizer was used directly for maintaining hall gardens and supporting campus greenery.

Hall maintenance personnel participated in the process, making organic waste recovery part of routine facility management.

Similar administrative participation was encouraged across other residential facilities, including Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

4.2 Environmental and Operational Benefits

This initiative demonstrates a practical application of circular economy principles within university operations.

First, it provides an alternative to open burning, helping prevent smoke emissions and associated particulate pollution.

Second, it reduces the amount of organic material requiring conventional disposal.

Third, it creates an internally available resource for maintaining campus gardens, potentially reducing dependence on commercially purchased synthetic fertilizers.

The initiative also creates an opportunity to demonstrate sustainable waste management through everyday institutional practices.

Rather than treating waste management as a separate environmental activity, the university connected it directly with gardening, landscaping, and routine maintenance.

This approach aligns with SDG Target 12.5 by promoting waste prevention, recovery, and reuse.

Although the available records do not quantify the volume of leaves collected or the amount of fertilizer produced, the initiative provides a practical foundation for developing a more systematic campus-wide organic waste recovery programme.

5. Sustainable Infrastructure and Institutional Waste Management

5.1 Integrating Resource Efficiency into Long-Term Campus Development

Effective waste management requires more than individual recycling activities. It also depends on appropriate physical infrastructure, collection systems, drainage networks, and organized waste treatment facilities.

Recognizing this requirement, the University of Dhaka incorporated several environmental infrastructure components into its BDT 2,841 crore Further Development Project.

The five-year development programme, covering 2025–2030, received an initial Annual Development Programme allocation of BDT 60 crore for its first year.

A Project Director was appointed on 12 October 2025, and the Annual Procurement Plan was published through the national e-GP portal under the supervision of a dedicated Project Management Unit.

The project includes several infrastructure components directly relevant to responsible consumption and production.

Modern municipal waste management facilities: The plan includes dedicated waste segregation, recycling, and disposal infrastructure to support more organized management of campus waste streams.

Drainage system modernization: Comprehensive renovation and expansion of underground drainage networks are intended to improve water flow and reduce problems associated with inadequate drainage.

Waterbody restoration: Four major campus waterbodies are included in the development plan, with proposed dredging, ecological restoration, and environmental improvement.

Improved sanitation infrastructure: Two public toilet facilities are included in the broader development programme.

These investments are important because sustainable resource management depends on the availability of reliable physical systems. Without appropriate waste collection and treatment infrastructure, individual waste reduction initiatives may remain fragmented.

5.2 Moving Towards an Integrated Resource Management System

The inclusion of waste segregation, recycling, drainage, and waterbody restoration within one development programme creates an opportunity to adopt a more integrated approach to campus resource management.

For example, organized waste segregation facilities could help distinguish organic, recyclable, and non-recyclable materials. Improved drainage systems could reduce the movement of unmanaged waste into water channels. Restoration of campus waterbodies could also contribute to protecting local aquatic environments.

These components are currently part of the approved development plan rather than fully operational facilities during the reporting period.

Nevertheless, their inclusion demonstrates that environmental management is being considered within the university's broader infrastructure planning process.

The project provides an opportunity to move from localized waste management activities towards a coordinated and institution-wide system.

6. Responsible Water Consumption and Resource Management

6.1 Maintaining Safe and Reliable Water Supply Systems

Water is an essential resource in university operations. Residential halls, dining facilities, academic buildings, and administrative units depend on reliable water supply systems for drinking, cooking, sanitation, and everyday activities.

Responsible water management therefore requires not only access to water but also proper maintenance of storage facilities, supply pipelines, and filtration systems.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook several water infrastructure maintenance activities across its residential and institutional facilities.

At Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, major water supply pipeline improvements and technical repairs to reserve water storage tanks were undertaken on 14 August 2025.

The Social Welfare and Research Institute repaired damaged overhead water tank supply lines serving its South Building on 9 October 2025.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall conducted comprehensive mechanical cleaning, flushing, and chemical disinfection of its reserve water tanks and overhead storage facilities on 9 October 2025. The work covered the North and South residential blocks, canteen, mess facilities, and house tutor residence. Student drinking water filtration units were also serviced.

These activities reflect the university's attention to the maintenance of essential water infrastructure and the importance of preventing contamination within high-density residential environments.

6.2 Expanding Access to Filtered Drinking Water

In addition to maintenance, the university expanded drinking water filtration capacity.

On 9 October 2025, Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall installed four new high-capacity pure drinking water filtration units in its main student residential building.

The installation improved access to filtered drinking water within the hall and complemented the broader water supply maintenance activities undertaken across the university.

Such interventions demonstrate how responsible resource management can support both environmental and public health objectives.

By maintaining filtration facilities and water storage infrastructure, the university can help reduce water contamination risks and improve the reliability of essential residential services.

6.3 The Importance of Regular Water Infrastructure Maintenance

The activities undertaken during the reporting period highlight that water sustainability requires continuous operational attention.

Cleaning and disinfecting storage tanks, repairing supply lines, and servicing filtration systems are essential for maintaining the quality and reliability of water distribution.

The university's activities therefore contribute to SDG 12 through more responsible management of institutional water resources and the maintenance of supporting infrastructure.

Future monitoring of water consumption, leakage, water quality, and maintenance frequency would further strengthen the effectiveness of these interventions.

7. Food Waste Prevention and Responsible Dining Infrastructure

7.1 Addressing Food Spoilage in Residential Facilities

Food waste is an important sustainability challenge in residential universities. Large student dining facilities must manage food preparation, storage, preservation, and distribution on a regular basis. Inadequate storage infrastructure can increase the risk of food spoilage, particularly in high-density communal living environments.

Recognizing the importance of food preservation, the University of Dhaka undertook several improvements to residential dining and food storage facilities during 2025. These initiatives were particularly visible at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall and Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.

7.2 Expanding Cold-Storage Capacity at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

On 13 November 2025, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall introduced a comprehensive food preservation improvement initiative. The hall installed six floor-level refrigerators and one commercial deep-freezer in its dining area. Of the six refrigerators, five were procured by the

Hall Union and one by the Hall Administration. The commercial deep-freezer further expanded the hall's food storage capacity.

This intervention is significant because appropriate refrigeration helps maintain food quality, reduce spoilage, and support safer food handling. In a residential environment where large quantities of food are handled regularly, improved cold-storage facilities can also reduce the risk of unnecessary food disposal.

The initiative therefore contributes to SDG Target 12.3, which calls for reducing food loss and waste.

7.3 Improving Food Preparation and Storage Facilities

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall also undertook practical improvements to its dining infrastructure. On 11 September 2025, the hall completed concrete upgrades to food storage surfaces and repaired broken cooking stoves within its Nimantran student mess. These improvements were intended to support more hygienic food storage and preparation.

The hall also undertook additional kitchen and food service maintenance during the reporting period, helping improve the physical conditions of its dining operations. Such interventions demonstrate that reducing food waste requires attention not only to refrigeration but also to the quality of food preparation and storage environments.

7.4 Connecting Food Preservation with Responsible Consumption

The food storage initiatives at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall and Kavi Jasimuddin Hall illustrate how improvements to basic residential infrastructure can contribute to broader sustainability goals. Better refrigeration helps reduce spoilage, while hygienic storage and preparation facilities support food safety.

These interventions may also reduce financial losses associated with discarded food and help prevent unnecessary organic waste generation.

8. Sustainable Sanitation, Pest Management and Responsible Chemical Use

8.1 Maintaining Hygienic Residential Environments

Responsible consumption and production also involve the safe management of cleaning materials, chemicals, and other operational inputs.

In residential university environments, sanitation activities must balance effective hygiene management with responsible chemical use and environmental protection.

During the reporting period, different residential halls undertook regular sanitation and maintenance activities to improve cleanliness and reduce potential health risks.

At Rokeya Hall, specialized cleaning activities included deep cleaning and restoration of bathroom mosaic floors. Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall maintained regular procurement of cleaning compounds and implemented recurring sanitation schedules across several months.

These activities supported the maintenance of hygienic shared residential facilities.

8.2 Adopting More Responsible Pest Management Practices

Pest and vector control is essential in high-density residential environments, particularly in a city where mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue present recurring public health concerns. However, the excessive or inappropriate use of chemical pesticides can create additional environmental and health risks.

During 2025, the university's residential halls undertook several pest management interventions, combining chemical applications with physical cleaning and less chemically intensive alternatives.

At Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, pesticide spray bottles were distributed across student residential rooms on 14 August 2025. The hall also organized safety training on pesticide handling and introduced non-hazardous pest glue applications.

On 9 October 2025, the hall conducted a targeted bedbug eradication programme covering 29 student rooms.

Kavi Jasimuddin Hall adopted a complementary physical approach on 13 November 2025. Maintenance personnel used bamboo scaffolding and ropes to remove loose wall plaster and clear cornices from the ground floor to the fifth floor. The activity also involved levelling unmanaged soil mounds and clearing blocked perimeter drainage channels.

These measures addressed potential mosquito breeding areas and reduced reliance on chemical spraying as the only method of pest management.

8.3 Promoting Integrated Environmental Sanitation

The combination of targeted pest control, physical cleaning, drainage maintenance, and pesticide safety training demonstrates a more comprehensive approach to residential environmental management.

Rather than relying exclusively on chemical applications, the university's activities included preventive maintenance and physical removal of conditions that can support pest breeding and infestation.

This approach contributes to SDG Target 12.4 by emphasizing the importance of environmentally sound chemical management.

It also highlights an opportunity for the university to further strengthen integrated pest management through systematic monitoring, safer product selection, appropriate chemical handling, and regular staff training.

9. Sustainability Awareness and Institutional Participation

9.1 Making Responsible Practices Part of Campus Culture

Responsible consumption and production cannot be achieved through administrative directives alone. Long-term improvements require participation from students, faculty members, administrative staff, and residential hall communities.

During 2025, the university's environmental campaigns demonstrated the importance of combining institutional policies with public awareness and practical participation.

The Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign was particularly important in this regard. By involving the Arboriculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and the Environment Parliament, the university brought together institutional and student stakeholders around a common environmental objective.

The participation of hall maintenance staff in organic waste collection and fertilizer production further connected sustainability awareness with everyday operational responsibilities.

9.2 Institutionalizing Environmental Responsibility

The university's broader environmental designations—Clean Campus, Green Campus, Pollution-Free Campus, and Bird-Friendly Campus—provide a framework for promoting environmentally responsible behaviour across campus facilities.

These institutional commitments can help strengthen awareness of responsible waste disposal, pollution prevention, organic waste recovery, and the protection of campus biodiversity.

The national recognition received for the pyrotechnics ban also reinforces the importance of institutional leadership in promoting sustainable practices.

Together, these activities demonstrate that sustainability awareness is most effective when supported by clear policies, visible campaigns, practical alternatives, and participation from the wider university community.

10. Consolidated SDG 12 Performance and Institutional Outputs

The following table summarizes selected outputs and milestones from the available official records for 2025.

Strategic area	Selected institutional outputs
Environmental governance	Campus-wide restrictions on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns maintained; national recognition received in December 2025.
Air pollution prevention	Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign launched on 11 December 2025, with a campus-wide prohibition on open leaf burning.
Circular economy	Kavi Jasimuddin Hall collected and preserved fallen leaves for organic fertilizer production and garden reuse.

Sustainable infrastructure	BDT 2,841 crore Further Development Project advanced, with an initial BDT 60 crore ADP allocation.
Waste management	Modern waste segregation, recycling, and disposal facilities included in the 2025–2030 development plan.
Water resource management	Water supply pipelines, reserve tanks, and overhead storage facilities cleaned, disinfected, repaired, and maintained across several institutional units.
Drinking water	Four new high-capacity drinking water filtration units installed at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall.
Food preservation	Six floor-level refrigerators and one commercial deep-freezer installed at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
Food preparation	Concrete upgrades to food storage surfaces and cooking stove repairs completed at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.
Pest management	Targeted bedbug control across 29 rooms at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, pesticide safety training, and physical clearing of potential mosquito breeding areas at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall.
Sanitation	Deep cleaning, bathroom floor restoration, and recurring residential sanitation activities undertaken.
Waterbody restoration	Restoration of four major campus waterbodies incorporated into the approved development plan.
Institutional awareness	Collaboration among the Arboriculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and Environment Parliament for environmental advocacy.

11. Conclusion

During 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a range of initiatives to strengthen its contribution to SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. The university's efforts addressed several important dimensions of responsible institutional resource management, including pollution prevention, organic waste recovery, food preservation, water infrastructure maintenance, sanitation, pest management, and long-term environmental infrastructure development.

The Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign and the conversion of organic materials into fertilizer represent practical examples of circular resource management. The restrictions on fireworks and sky lanterns demonstrate the importance of institutional regulations in preventing pollution and protecting the campus environment. Improvements to residential food storage and water facilities further reflect the university's attention to responsible management of essential resources.

At the same time, the BDT 2,841 crore Further Development Project provides an opportunity to institutionalize more comprehensive waste management, drainage, and environmental restoration systems over the coming years. Although several major infrastructure components remained under planning or early implementation by the end of 2025, the available evidence indicates meaningful progress towards more environmentally responsible university operations.

Moving forward, the university can strengthen these efforts by introducing measurable resource consumption indicators, expanding waste segregation and recycling systems, monitoring food waste, improving water efficiency, and integrating sustainability principles into procurement and infrastructure management. By embedding responsible consumption and production into both institutional governance and everyday campus practices, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its contribution to SDG 12 and demonstrate how higher education institutions can become practical models of environmental responsibility.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

13

CLIMATE ACTION

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 13: Climate Action

1. Executive Summary

Climate change presents significant challenges for Bangladesh, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, coastal vulnerability, flooding, and environmental degradation. Universities have an important role in responding to these challenges through research, education, institutional governance, technological innovation, and practical environmental management.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka (DU) advanced its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) through a combination of institutional environmental policies, campus-level interventions, academic research, international collaboration, and disaster resilience initiatives. The university's approach connected administrative leadership with practical environmental management and academic engagement.

A major feature of the university's climate action agenda was the strengthening of environmental governance. The administration maintained its commitment to a Clean Campus, Green Campus, Pollution-Free Campus, and Bird-Friendly Campus. Its prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during major celebrations received national recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in December 2025. The university also launched the *Stop Burning Fallen Leaves* campaign, encouraging residential halls to replace open burning with organic waste collection and composting.

Alongside these policy measures, the university introduced practical interventions to promote sustainable campus operations. These included bicycle parking facilities with a combined capacity of 150 bicycles, installation of 112 energy-efficient ceiling fans at Amar Ekushey Hall, and the conversion of collected fallen leaves into organic fertilizer at Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall. The university also advanced plans for a major campus development programme that includes restoration of four water bodies, modernized drainage and waste management systems, and improvements to residential and academic infrastructure. These planned investments have the potential to strengthen the campus's long-term climate resilience.

The university's academic contribution was equally important. Through the Energy Institute, DU organized technical seminars on microbial fuel cell technology and solar-cell modelling. Other academic activities addressed climate change in foreign policy, climate-induced migration, community participation in sustainable development, and disaster preparedness. International partnerships and discussions with institutions such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Peking University, and Central Queensland University further expanded opportunities for collaboration in environmental management, renewable energy, and coastal disaster resilience.

Overall, the university's 2025 activities demonstrate progress in connecting climate-related research, institutional policy, and campus operations. However, the available records do not provide quantified data on greenhouse gas emissions, energy savings, renewable energy generation, carbon sequestration, or climate-risk reduction. Establishing measurable indicators

and a regular climate reporting system will therefore be important for assessing the long-term impact of these initiatives.

2. Institutional Approach to Climate Action

2.1 Climate action as an institutional responsibility

The University of Dhaka recognizes that climate action extends beyond academic research and environmental awareness. As a large public university operating within a densely populated urban environment, it has a responsibility to manage its own environmental footprint while contributing to broader national and international climate efforts.

In 2025, the university's environmental agenda was guided by the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka. The administration emphasized a campus-wide approach that connected environmental policy with practical action across academic buildings, residential halls, public spaces, and university facilities.

Four institutional priorities provided a broad framework for this approach:

- Clean Campus
- Green Campus
- Pollution-Free Campus
- Bird-Friendly Campus

These priorities translated into practical measures covering pollution prevention, organic waste management, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, ecological conservation, and climate resilience.

The university also sought to connect its institutional initiatives with national and international development priorities. Engagement with government agencies, international development partners, research institutions, and academic departments helped broaden the scope of its climate action activities.

2.2 Alignment with SDG 13 targets

The university's reported activities in 2025 were particularly relevant to the following SDG 13 targets:

SDG 13 target	Relevant University of Dhaka initiatives
13.1 – Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	Coastal disaster management research, disaster preparedness conferences, international collaboration, and climate-resilient infrastructure planning.
13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning	Campus environmental policies, pollution-control measures, renewable energy discussions, and the Master Development Plan.

13.3 – Improve education, awareness and institutional capacity on climate change	Academic seminars, renewable energy research workshops, community participation discussions, and coastal climate education partnerships.

The activities also contribute to related SDGs, particularly SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

3. Environmental Governance and Institutional Climate Policy

3.1 Strengthening environmental responsibility through institutional policy

Effective climate action requires more than individual environmental activities. It depends on institutional rules, administrative commitment, and consistent implementation. During 2025, the University of Dhaka continued to strengthen its environmental governance by translating its sustainability priorities into campus-wide operational directives.

The university's environmental framework emphasized pollution prevention, protection of campus greenery and biodiversity, responsible waste management, and the promotion of environmentally responsible behaviour among students, staff, and visitors.

This approach was particularly visible in the university's restrictions on environmentally harmful celebratory activities and its campaign against open burning of fallen leaves.

3.2 National recognition for the prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns

On 18 December 2025, the University of Dhaka received a special national honour and crest from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The recognition was presented at a formal ceremony held at the Department of Environment's conference room.

The award acknowledged the university's environmental leadership, particularly its policy introduced in December 2024 prohibiting fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns across the campus during Thirty-First Night and major holiday celebrations.

The policy addresses several environmental and public safety concerns. Fireworks and firecrackers can contribute to localized air and noise pollution, while combustion releases chemical residues that may affect surrounding soil, vegetation, and water bodies. Sky lanterns can create fire hazards and pose risks to birds and other campus wildlife.

By restricting these activities, the university established an institutional standard for environmentally responsible public celebrations within its campus.

The national recognition in 2025 was significant because it demonstrated that a university-level environmental policy could receive acknowledgement from a national government authority. It also strengthened the university's position as an institutional example of pollution prevention and responsible urban environmental governance.

Importantly, the underlying prohibition was introduced in December 2024; the achievement recorded for 2025 was the Ministry's formal recognition of that policy.

3.3 International engagement for sustainable campus development

The university also explored international cooperation to strengthen its environmental management and technological capacity.

On 17 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor and the University Treasurer met with a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The discussion focused on a potential environmental development initiative involving several areas:

- Renewable energy deployment and green power systems.
- Environmental protection and management.
- Advanced green technologies.
- Application of artificial intelligence and science and technology infrastructure.
- Financial technology solutions for more efficient campus resource management.

The engagement reflected the university's interest in applying technological solutions to improve environmental performance and modernize campus infrastructure.

In addition, on 14 August 2025, university leadership met with a delegation from Peking University, led by its Vice-President, to explore opportunities for collaboration in environmental science, clean technologies, and academic exchange.

These engagements created opportunities for future cooperation. The available records, however, describe strategic discussions and collaboration opportunities rather than completed renewable energy installations or fully operational joint projects.

4. Campus Greening, Emissions Prevention and Sustainable Operations

4.1 Moving away from open burning of organic waste

The management of fallen leaves is a practical environmental issue for a large urban university campus. Traditionally, the burning of accumulated leaves can be treated as a convenient waste disposal method. However, this practice releases smoke and particulate matter into the surrounding environment and wastes organic material that could otherwise be returned to the soil.

Recognizing this concern, the University of Dhaka launched the *Stop Burning Fallen Leaves* campaign, locally known as *Shora Pata Projjolon Bondho Korun*, on 11 December 2025 at the main campus plaza.

The initiative was jointly organized by the DU Arboriculture Center, Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), Green Future Foundation, and Environment Parliament. Vice-Chancellor addressed the gathering and led a rally across the campus to promote compliance with the anti-burning directive.

The campaign was designed not simply as an awareness activity but as a change in campus maintenance practices. It encouraged university units and residential halls to collect fallen leaves rather than burn them.

4.2 Residential halls adopting organic waste recycling practices

The campaign was followed by practical action in residential halls.

At Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall, the administration completely stopped open burning of fallen leaves. Hall staff began systematically collecting the leaves and converting them into organic fertilizer for use in the hall gardens. Hall staff, administrators, and student representatives also participated in the university-wide rally.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall undertook hall-level mobilization and awareness activities to implement the anti-burning directive across its residential premises.

These activities demonstrate how a central environmental policy can be translated into everyday operational practices. Instead of treating fallen leaves as waste requiring disposal, the university began promoting their use as an organic resource.

The initiative has two important environmental dimensions. First, avoiding open burning helps prevent localized air pollution. Second, composting organic material provides an alternative to synthetic inputs for campus gardening and supports the return of organic matter to the soil.

The available data do not quantify the amount of leaves collected, fertilizer produced, or emissions avoided. Nevertheless, the initiative represents a practical step towards low-emission campus maintenance and circular resource management.

4.3 Promoting non-motorized transportation

Transportation is another area where universities can influence their environmental footprint. Encouraging walking and cycling can reduce dependence on motorized transport for short journeys within campus areas.

On 9 October 2025, Amar Ekushey Hall introduced two dedicated bicycle parking facilities named *Mandura-2* and *Mandura-3*. Together, the facilities can accommodate 150 bicycles.

The infrastructure provides students with designated parking spaces and supports the use of bicycles as a non-motorized mode of transportation.

Although the available records do not provide bicycle usage rates or estimates of avoided vehicle emissions, the facilities represent an important investment in sustainable campus mobility. Future monitoring of bicycle use could help the university assess the extent to which this infrastructure contributes to lower-emission transportation.

4.4 Improving residential energy efficiency

Alongside transportation improvements, the university undertook an energy-efficiency intervention at Amar Ekushey Hall.

On 9 October 2025, the hall installed 112 energy-efficient ceiling fans in double-occupancy student rooms. The fans were reported to have 12-year replacement guarantees.

The intervention reflects an effort to improve the efficiency of residential electricity use while maintaining student comfort. Energy-efficient appliances can contribute to lower electricity demand when they replace less efficient equipment.

The installation is a tangible operational achievement. However, the available records do not provide comparative electricity consumption data or measured energy savings. Establishing electricity-use baselines for residential halls would help the university assess the actual contribution of such upgrades to its emissions reduction objectives.

5. Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions

5.1 Integrating climate resilience into campus development

Long-term climate action requires infrastructure that can respond to environmental pressures, including intense rainfall, drainage congestion, urban heat, and ecological degradation.

During 2025, the University of Dhaka advanced the administrative implementation of its Master Development Project through a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU). The project carries an estimated allocation of BDT 2,841 crore and is scheduled for implementation over five years, from 2025 to 2030. An initial allocation of BDT 60 crore was approved under the Annual Development Programme.

The development plan includes several components relevant to climate resilience and sustainable campus management. These include the restoration of campus water bodies, modernization of drainage systems, improvement of solid waste management, and development of residential and academic infrastructure.

The project is particularly important because it creates an opportunity to incorporate environmental considerations into the university's long-term physical development.

5.2 Restoration of campus water bodies

One of the environmental components of the Master Development Plan is the restoration of four major campus water bodies or reservoirs.

The proposed work includes structural restoration, dredging, and environmental and aesthetic improvements. Beyond their immediate campus functions, water bodies can contribute to urban environmental management by providing natural water storage and supporting local ecological systems.

In a densely developed urban area such as central Dhaka, properly maintained water bodies can support stormwater management and help reduce pressure on drainage systems during heavy rainfall. They may also contribute to localized cooling and provide habitats for urban biodiversity.

The proposed restoration therefore offers an opportunity to apply nature-based solutions within the university campus.

As of the available 2025 records, these interventions were part of the approved development framework. The restoration of all four water bodies should not be interpreted as completed during the reporting year.

5.3 Modernizing drainage and waste management systems

The Master Development Plan also includes modernization of campus-wide drainage systems and improvements to solid waste management infrastructure.

These interventions are relevant to climate adaptation because inadequate drainage and waste accumulation can increase the vulnerability of urban areas to waterlogging and localized flooding, particularly during periods of intense rainfall.

The proposed improvements are expected to strengthen the physical systems needed for a cleaner and more climate-resilient campus. Their implementation will be important for ensuring that infrastructure development supports environmental sustainability rather than simply expanding the university's built environment.

5.4 Planned residential and institutional infrastructure

The wider development programme includes:

- Four new female residential halls with a planned capacity of 2,600 students.
- Five new male residential halls with a planned capacity of 5,100 students.
- House tutor accommodation across the nine proposed halls.
- Six academic buildings.
- Five administrative and other buildings.
- Two residential buildings for faculty members and officers.
- Two public toilet facilities.
- Development of one sports field.

These components are primarily part of the university's wider infrastructure modernization programme. Their climate relevance will depend on how environmental considerations are incorporated into design and implementation, including energy efficiency, water management, drainage, waste handling, and green space provision.

The project offers an opportunity to introduce climate-responsive building standards and resource-efficient infrastructure across the university's future development.

6. Climate Research, Education and Disaster Resilience

6.1 Connecting academic research with climate policy

Universities contribute to climate action not only through their own environmental management but also by producing knowledge, developing solutions, and preparing future professionals.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka used its academic departments and research institutes to address climate change from several perspectives, including international relations, environmental governance, disaster management, renewable energy, and community resilience.

These activities helped connect climate science and environmental research with broader questions of national security, public policy, migration, and sustainable development.

6.2 Climate change and Bangladesh's foreign policy

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

The seminars examined the topic:

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 discussions considered the relationship between climate change, international relations, and national security. Addresses by the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) highlighted the importance of incorporating climate-induced displacement, environmental migration, and international climate adaptation financing into national security and foreign policy planning.

This academic engagement is particularly relevant for Bangladesh, where climate vulnerability has implications beyond environmental management. Climate-related displacement and migration can affect livelihoods, communities, labour markets, and national development priorities.

By examining these issues through an international relations perspective, the university contributed to broader policy discussions on climate diplomacy and national resilience.

6.3 Strengthening coastal disaster management and climate education

Coastal communities in Bangladesh face significant risks from climate-related hazards. Strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters requires research, education, institutional cooperation, and community-level engagement.

On 18 December 2025, the Vice-Chancellor met with Prof. Olaf Murlings of Central Queensland University, Australia. The meeting established a joint education and research

partnership focused on coastal disaster management and early-childhood climate education in coastal areas.

The proposed collaboration included capacity-building workshops for early-career researchers working in vulnerable coastal zones.

The initiative is important because climate resilience depends not only on physical infrastructure but also on knowledge and preparedness. Early climate education can help younger generations understand environmental risks and develop awareness of appropriate adaptation practices.

The partnership also provides an opportunity to connect the university's academic expertise with the practical challenges faced by vulnerable coastal communities. The available records describe the establishment of the partnership and its intended areas of cooperation; they do not yet report completed workshops or measurable community-level outcomes.

6.4 Community participation and disaster preparedness

On 11 December 2025, the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), in collaboration with Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) Bangladesh, organized an international conference titled *Every Contribution Matters* at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

The conference was held in observance of International Volunteer Day and was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor.

The discussions examined the role of community-level volunteer networks in emergency disaster response and localized climate adaptation. This approach recognizes that effective disaster preparedness requires coordination between institutions and communities, as well as the participation of individuals and local volunteer groups.

The conference helped create a platform for discussing how volunteer networks can contribute to emergency response, community preparedness, and resilience in disaster-prone areas.

6.5 Environmental governance and community participation in sustainable development

On 14 August 2025, the Department of Political Science organized a PhD seminar titled *Right Base Approach Community Participation and Ownership in Sustainable Development of Bangladesh*.

The seminar examined rights-based approaches, community participation, and local ownership in sustainable development.

Although the seminar addressed sustainable development more broadly rather than climate change alone, its themes are relevant to climate governance. Effective adaptation requires the involvement of communities that experience environmental risks directly. Participation and local ownership can help ensure that environmental policies respond to actual community needs.

The university also engaged with Peking University on 14 August 2025 to explore opportunities for collaboration in environmental science, green technologies, and academic exchange.

6.6 Supporting environmental research and green career pathways

On 20 November 2025, the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences convened a planning meeting for a Career Festival and Research Fair scheduled for 14 January 2026.

The proposed event aimed to connect environmental science research with career opportunities in green sectors.

Although the fair was scheduled for the following year, its planning during 2025 demonstrated the university's interest in connecting academic knowledge with emerging professional opportunities in environmental and sustainability-related fields.

7. Renewable Energy Innovation and Clean Technology

7.1 Developing research capacity in renewable energy

The transition towards low-carbon development requires innovation in renewable energy technologies, improved energy efficiency, and stronger technical capacity.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka's Energy Institute organized several research seminars and knowledge-sharing activities focused on alternative energy systems and solar technology.

These activities contributed to the university's academic role in supporting the development of clean energy knowledge and technical expertise.

7.2 Research on microbial fuel cell technology

On 10 July 2025, the Energy Institute organized a seminar titled *A Seminar on Microbial Fuel Cell Technology: Introduction, Theory, Design*.

The seminar was presented by Research Assistant Md. Rakib Hossain and chaired by the Institute Director, Dr. S. M. Nasif Shams.

The discussion introduced the theoretical foundations and structural design of microbial fuel cells. This technology explores the possibility of generating electricity through biological processes involving the degradation of organic matter.

The research area is relevant to climate action because it connects waste management with potential bioenergy generation. It represents an example of how scientific research can explore technologies that may support more efficient resource use and alternative energy production.

The seminar was a research and knowledge-sharing activity. The available information does not establish that a commercial or operational microbial fuel cell system was installed at the university during 2025.

7.3 Solar-cell research and photovoltaic modelling

On 14 August 2025, the Energy Institute organized a technical seminar titled *Introduction to Solar Cell and SCAPS-1D (Part-1): Prerequisites for Publication on the Technological and Knowledge Implications of Solar Cells*.

The seminar focused on the use of SCAPS-1D numerical simulation for photovoltaic research. Participants were introduced to modelling techniques used to examine solar-cell structures and optimize their performance.

Computational modelling can help researchers investigate solar-cell layer configurations and identify potential improvements before undertaking more resource-intensive physical experiments.

This activity contributed to the university's research capacity in solar energy and provided a technical foundation for further work in photovoltaic technology.

7.4 Knowledge exchange on Bangladesh's renewable energy transition

On 13 November 2025, the Energy Institute organized a national dissemination workshop titled *EnDev's 16-Year Journey*.

The workshop featured the Chairman of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) as Chief Guest and reviewed 16 years of renewable energy implementation in Bangladesh.

The discussion examined decentralized solar power systems, including off-grid applications, and considered priorities for the country's future renewable energy development.

The event created an opportunity to connect university-based research and technical knowledge with national renewable energy policy discussions. It also strengthened the role of the university as a platform for dialogue between academic institutions and public-sector energy authorities.

8. Summary of Key SDG 13 Initiatives in 2025

The following table consolidates the principal activities documented for the reporting year.

Date	Initiative	Main contribution to climate action
10 July 2025	Energy Institute seminar on microbial fuel cell technology	Research and knowledge development in waste-to-energy technology.
17 July 2025	Strategic meeting with JICA	Exploration of renewable energy, environmental management, and green technology cooperation.

14 August 2025	Meeting with Peking University	International research collaboration in environmental science and clean technology.
14 August 2025	SCAPS-1D solar-cell modelling seminar	Technical capacity development in photovoltaic research.
14 August 2025	PhD seminar on community participation in sustainable development	Academic discussion on participatory environmental governance.
9 October 2025	Bicycle parking and energy-efficiency upgrades at Amar Ekushey Hall	Support for non-motorized transport and more efficient electricity use.
13 November 2025	EnDev renewable energy workshop	Knowledge exchange on renewable energy deployment and national policy.
20 November 2025	Master Development Plan implementation framework	Planned water-body restoration, drainage modernization, and waste management improvements.
20 November 2025	Environmental research fair planning	Preparation for connecting environmental research with green-sector careers.
11 December 2025	Foreign policy and climate change seminars	Academic engagement with climate migration, national security, and climate policy.
11 December 2025	International disaster resilience conference	Discussion of volunteer networks and community-based disaster response.
11 December 2025	Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign	Prevention of open organic waste burning and promotion of composting.
11 December 2025	Hall-level leaf collection and organic fertilizer production	Practical organic waste recycling and greener campus maintenance.
18 December 2025	National environmental recognition	Formal recognition of the university's prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns.
18 December 2025	Partnership discussion with Central Queensland University	Collaboration framework for coastal disaster management and climate education.

11. Conclusion

In 2025, the University of Dhaka continued to develop its institutional response to climate change through environmental governance, campus-level interventions, academic research, and international cooperation.

The prohibition of environmentally harmful celebratory activities, the campaign against open leaf burning, the introduction of bicycle parking and energy-efficient fans, and the advancement of climate-responsive infrastructure planning demonstrate the university's commitment to improving its environmental performance.

At the same time, research and academic engagement on renewable energy, climate diplomacy, coastal disaster management, and community resilience strengthened the university's contribution to the wider climate action agenda.

The next stage of progress should focus on moving from individual initiatives towards a measurable and integrated institutional climate action system. Establishing emissions baselines, monitoring energy consumption, evaluating infrastructure performance, and expanding climate adaptation research will be essential for demonstrating long-term results.

Through continued institutional commitment and stronger measurement systems, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its role as a centre of climate research, environmental responsibility, and climate-resilient development in Bangladesh.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

14

LIFE BELOW WATER



UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 14: Life Below Water

1. Executive Summary

Water resources and aquatic ecosystems are essential to environmental sustainability, public health, biodiversity, and economic development. For Bangladesh, a deltaic country closely connected to its rivers, estuaries, and the Bay of Bengal, protecting aquatic environments is particularly important. Universities have a significant role in this effort through marine and freshwater research, environmental education, scientific collaboration, responsible campus management, and the development of institutional capacity.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka (DU) advanced its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) through a range of academic, administrative, infrastructural, and environmental initiatives. Its activities addressed marine research capacity, coastal disaster management, freshwater resource management, pollution prevention, and aquatic engagement.

A key area of progress was the expansion of academic collaboration in maritime and coastal research. On 10 July 2025, the university held a high-level meeting with Bangladesh Maritime University to explore joint educational programmes, collaborative marine research, and institutional cooperation. Later in the year, a partnership discussion with Central Queensland University, Australia, focused on coastal disaster management, climate-related challenges in vulnerable coastal areas, and capacity building for early-career researchers. The Department of Soil, Water and Environment also announced applications for the Raeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship to support students pursuing academic and research work in relevant fields.

The university also advanced its freshwater resource management efforts. Residential halls and academic units undertook maintenance of water supply pipelines, cleaning and sanitation of reserve and overhead water tanks, and installation or servicing of drinking water filtration systems. These interventions helped strengthen the management of campus water infrastructure and support access to safer drinking water.

At the infrastructure planning level, the university advanced its BDT 2,841-crore Further Development Project, which includes the proposed restoration of four major campus water bodies and modernization of drainage and waste management systems. These measures are relevant to the protection of freshwater ecosystems and the management of land-based pollution. However, the restoration activities were part of a development plan and should not be interpreted as completed during 2025.

Environmental pollution prevention was another important component of the university's approach. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change formally recognized the university in December 2025 for its prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during major celebrations. The restriction helps prevent potentially harmful residues and other waste from entering campus drainage systems and surrounding aquatic environments.

The university also promoted aquatic engagement through its inter-hall swimming and water polo competitions, organized by the Physical Education Centre and the Inter-Hall Athletics

Committee. These activities supported student participation in aquatic sports and provided an opportunity to promote water safety and engagement with aquatic environments.

Overall, the university's 2025 activities demonstrate progress in connecting academic cooperation, freshwater infrastructure management, pollution prevention, and coastal resilience. Future progress would benefit from stronger quantitative monitoring, particularly in relation to water quality, wastewater discharge, freshwater consumption, campus water-body restoration, and marine research outcomes.

2. Institutional Approach to SDG 14

2.1 Recognizing the connection between campus water management and aquatic ecosystems

The University of Dhaka's contribution to SDG 14 reflects an understanding that protecting aquatic environments requires action at different levels. Marine conservation is closely connected to freshwater management, urban drainage, waste disposal, pollution control, and the development of scientific knowledge.

Although the university is located inland, its environmental management practices are relevant to the wider aquatic system of Bangladesh. Rainwater runoff and drainage from urban areas can carry waste and pollutants into nearby rivers and, eventually, downstream aquatic environments. Responsible management of campus drainage, waste, and water bodies is therefore an important part of preventing land-based pollution.

In 2025, the university's approach combined three broad areas of intervention:

1. **Research and academic capacity:** Strengthening marine and coastal research through institutional partnerships, scholarships, and academic collaboration.
2. **Water resource management:** Improving campus water infrastructure, maintaining water storage systems, and planning the restoration of campus water bodies.
3. **Pollution prevention and environmental engagement:** Supporting pollution-control policies, aquatic sports, and greater institutional awareness of water-related environmental responsibilities.

This approach recognizes that SDG 14 requires more than activities directly conducted in marine environments. It also requires effective management of the land-based activities that influence aquatic ecosystems.

2.2 Alignment with SDG 14 targets

The university's documented initiatives in 2025 were particularly relevant to the following SDG 14 targets.

SDG 14 target	Relevant University of Dhaka initiatives
14.1 – Reduce marine pollution	Environmental restrictions on fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns; proposed drainage and waste management improvements; prevention of land-based pollution.
14.2 – Protect and restore aquatic ecosystems	Proposed restoration of four campus water bodies; coastal disaster management research and collaboration.
14.a – Increase scientific knowledge and research capacity	Collaboration with Bangladesh Maritime University, partnership discussions with Central Queensland University, and the Raeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship.

The university's freshwater infrastructure and sanitation initiatives also contribute indirectly to the wider objectives of SDG 14 by strengthening responsible water resource management and reducing the risk of contamination within campus water systems.

3. Strengthening Marine Research and Academic Collaboration

3.1 Building institutional cooperation for maritime research

Bangladesh's maritime and coastal environments face several interconnected challenges, including marine pollution, coastal erosion, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and pressure on aquatic ecosystems. Addressing these issues requires specialized scientific knowledge and cooperation among universities and research institutions.

Recognizing the importance of institutional collaboration, the University of Dhaka engaged with Bangladesh Maritime University (BMU) to explore opportunities for strengthening maritime education and research.

On 10 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellors of the two universities held a high-level bilateral meeting. The discussion focused on expanding joint educational programmes, collaborative marine research projects, academic exchange, and mutual institutional support.

The proposed cooperation offers an opportunity to combine the academic expertise and research facilities of both institutions. It may also support the development of specialized knowledge in oceanography, maritime studies, marine resource assessment, and aquatic ecosystem conservation.

The engagement is relevant to SDG Target 14.a, which emphasizes the importance of scientific knowledge, research capacity, and the transfer of marine technology.

For Bangladesh, stronger cooperation between higher education institutions can help develop the scientific expertise needed to understand and manage marine resources. The meeting therefore represented an important step towards expanding the university's engagement with maritime research.

The available records document the bilateral meeting and its intended areas of cooperation. They do not provide evidence of completed joint research projects or newly established degree programmes during 2025.

3.2 Advancing research on coastal disaster management

Coastal communities are among the groups most exposed to environmental and climate-related hazards in Bangladesh. Cyclones, storm surges, coastal flooding, erosion, and other hazards can disrupt livelihoods, damage infrastructure, and affect access to essential services.

Addressing these risks requires research that connects environmental science with disaster management, education, and community preparedness.

On 18 December 2025, the Vice-Chancellor held an international partnership meeting with Prof. Dr. Olaf Muralink of Central Queensland University, Australia.

The discussion focused on establishing joint research initiatives related to disaster management in vulnerable coastal areas of Bangladesh. The proposed areas of cooperation included:

- Research on disaster management in coastal regions.
- Educational continuity for children during climate-related disasters.
- Capacity-building workshops for early-career researchers.
- Collaboration on research relevant to coastal vulnerability and resilience.

The initiative is significant because coastal disaster management requires both scientific understanding and practical knowledge of the communities affected. Research on educational continuity, for example, can help examine how environmental disasters disrupt children's access to learning and how education systems can respond.

The partnership also provides an opportunity for early-career researchers to strengthen their skills and contribute to research on coastal vulnerability.

The meeting established a framework for future cooperation. Its long-term contribution will depend on the implementation of joint research, training programmes, and related academic activities.

3.3 Supporting young researchers in soil, water and environmental sciences

Developing marine and aquatic research capacity requires sustained investment in students and early-career researchers. Academic scholarships can help students pursue specialized research and build the expertise needed to address environmental challenges.

On 11 December 2025, the Department of Soil, Water and Environment announced application procedures for the **Raeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship**.

The scholarship framework provides for full-year financial stipends for eligible second-year B.Sc. Honours and Master's students. Applicants were required to submit written applications to the Department Chair by 15 January 2026, outlining their academic merit and research interests.

The initiative is relevant to SDG 14 because research in soil and water sciences contributes to understanding aquatic pollution, hydrological processes, water chemistry, and the relationship between land-based activities and aquatic ecosystems.

By supporting students in these disciplines, the university can strengthen the academic foundation required for future research on freshwater and marine environmental challenges.

The scholarship announcement represents an institutional commitment to academic capacity building. As applications were scheduled to close in January 2026, the available 2025 record does not establish how many students ultimately received the scholarship or what research outputs resulted from it.

4. Restoration of Campus Water Bodies and Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems

4.1 Recognizing the ecological importance of campus water bodies

Urban water bodies provide important environmental functions. They can support local biodiversity, store rainwater, contribute to drainage management, and provide ecological and recreational value within densely developed areas.

The University of Dhaka's campus includes several water bodies and reservoirs that form part of its local environmental landscape. Maintaining these areas is relevant not only to campus aesthetics but also to water resource management and ecological sustainability.

During 2025, the university advanced plans to restore four major campus water bodies under its broader development programme.

4.2 Four-water-body restoration under the Further Development Project

The proposed restoration is part of the **Dhaka University Further Development Project**, which carries an estimated allocation of BDT 2,841 crore and a five-year implementation period extending to 2030.

On 20 November 2025, the project received confirmation of an initial BDT 60 crore Annual Development Programme allocation from the Ministry of Education.

The university's Project Management Unit (PMU) was responsible for advancing the project implementation framework, including procurement planning and compliance with applicable public procurement procedures.

The water-related components include:

- Structural renovation of four major campus water bodies and reservoirs.
- Dredging and restoration works.
- Ecological stabilization and environmental improvement.
- Modernization of campus drainage systems.
- Integration of drainage and waste management improvements.

These proposed interventions have significance beyond the physical restoration of individual water bodies. They provide an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between campus drainage, water quality, and the wider urban environment.

4.3 Linking drainage management with aquatic pollution prevention

Water bodies are affected not only by direct activities within their boundaries but also by the condition of surrounding drainage and waste management systems.

In urban environments, poorly managed runoff can carry solid waste, sediment, and other pollutants into nearby water bodies. Effective drainage and waste management are therefore important for reducing land-based pollution.

The proposed modernization of DU's drainage infrastructure, alongside water-body restoration, reflects an integrated approach to campus water management.

The approach is relevant to SDG Target 14.1, which calls for the prevention and significant reduction of marine pollution, particularly pollution originating from land-based activities.

The source material also identifies the broader hydrological connection between the campus environment, surrounding river systems, and downstream aquatic ecosystems. However, the available records do not provide water-flow studies or pollution measurements establishing the specific volume of campus-originating pollutants reaching the Buriganga or Turag rivers.

The planned restoration and drainage improvements should therefore be understood as preventive environmental infrastructure rather than evidence of measured reductions in downstream pollution.

5. Aquatic Engagement, Student Participation and Water Literacy

5.1 Promoting engagement with aquatic environments through sports

Building awareness of aquatic environments requires more than formal academic instruction. Student participation in water-based activities can also provide opportunities to develop water safety skills, physical confidence, and a greater understanding of aquatic environments.

In July 2025, the University of Dhaka hosted its Inter-Hall Swimming and Water Polo Competitions for the 2024–2025 academic session.

The event was organized by the Physical Education Centre and the Inter-Hall Athletics Committee. Male and female athletes representing different residential halls participated in the competitions.

5.2 Inter-hall swimming and water polo achievements

The competitions included separate boys' and girls' divisions.

Boys' division

- Inter-Hall Swimming Champions: Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.
- Inter-Hall Swimming Runner-Up: Kabi Jasimuddin Hall.
- Inter-Hall Water Polo Champions: Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.
- Inter-Hall Water Polo Runner-Up: Shahid Sergeant Jahurul Huq Hall.
- Joint Best Male Swimmers: Sheikh Jamil Hasan of Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall and Rakibul Islam Tushar of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall.

Girls' division

- Inter-Hall Swimming Champions: Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
- Overall 2024–2025 Aquatic Sports Champions: Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.
- Inter-Hall Swimming Runner-Up: Shamsun Nahar Hall.
- Best Female Swimmer: Juwairiya Ferdous of Shamsun Nahar Hall.

The event provided an institutional platform for student participation in swimming and water polo. It also supported the development of aquatic sports within the university community.

5.3 Relevance to broader aquatic awareness

The inter-hall competitions contribute indirectly to SDG 14 by encouraging student engagement with aquatic activities and supporting water-related skills and awareness.

However, aquatic sports should not be treated as a direct measure of marine conservation or aquatic ecosystem protection. Their contribution is primarily educational and participatory.

Future programmes could strengthen this connection by integrating water safety education, aquatic biodiversity awareness, and environmental conservation messages into university sports and student engagement activities.

6. Pollution Prevention and Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems

6.1 Addressing land-based pollution through institutional environmental policy

Marine pollution is often associated with activities taking place directly in oceans and coastal areas. However, a significant share of aquatic pollution originates from land-based sources, including urban waste, drainage systems, chemical residues, and other forms of environmental contamination.

Universities can contribute to pollution prevention by regulating activities on their campuses and reducing the release of harmful materials into surrounding drainage networks.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka received national recognition for its environmental policy prohibiting fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during major celebrations.

6.2 National recognition for the prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns

On 18 December 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, together with the Department of Environment, presented the University of Dhaka's Vice-Chancellor with a commemorative crest and certificate of appreciation.

The recognition acknowledged the university's policy prohibiting sky lanterns, firecrackers, and fireworks during New Year's Eve celebrations.

The restriction was introduced in December 2024 and was recognized by the Ministry in December 2025.

The policy is relevant to aquatic ecosystem protection because fireworks and sky lanterns can leave behind chemical residues and physical waste. These materials may accumulate on land and potentially enter drainage systems through rainfall and surface runoff.

The university's prohibition therefore represents a preventive approach to reducing avoidable pollution and protecting the surrounding environment.

It also contributes to broader environmental protection objectives by limiting fire risks, noise pollution, and potential harm to birds and other wildlife.

6.3 Connecting campus environmental governance with SDG 14

The university's pollution-prevention policy demonstrates how institutional rules can contribute to wider environmental objectives.

Although the policy is not a direct marine conservation programme, it addresses a potential source of land-based pollution. It also reinforces the importance of considering the downstream environmental consequences of activities conducted within urban campuses.

The Ministry's recognition provides evidence of national acknowledgement of the university's environmental governance efforts.

Future reporting could strengthen this contribution by documenting the policy's continued implementation, compliance monitoring, quantities of waste prevented, and other measurable environmental outcomes.

7. Summary of Key SDG 14 Initiatives in 2025

The following table consolidates the main initiatives documented in the available official records.

Initiative	Main contribution to SDG 14
DU–Bangladesh Maritime University bilateral meeting	Expansion of opportunities for maritime research, academic cooperation, and scientific capacity building.
Inter-Hall Swimming and Water Polo Competitions 2024–2025	Student participation in aquatic sports and indirect promotion of water-related awareness.
Four campus water-body restoration plan	Planned restoration of freshwater ecosystems and associated drainage improvements.
Raeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship announcement	Support for academic capacity building in soil, water, and environmental sciences.
Coastal disaster management partnership discussion with Central Queensland University	Proposed joint research and capacity building for vulnerable coastal areas.
National recognition for the fireworks and sky lantern prohibition	Recognition of pollution prevention and environmental governance measures.

8. Conclusion

In 2025, the University of Dhaka continued to strengthen its contribution to SDG 14 through academic collaboration, freshwater infrastructure management, pollution prevention, and engagement with aquatic activities.

The university's cooperation with Bangladesh Maritime University and Central Queensland University expanded opportunities for marine and coastal research. The announcement of the Raeya Mobarak Memorial Scholarship demonstrated an institutional effort to support academic capacity in soil, water, and environmental sciences.

At the operational level, maintenance of water supply pipelines, sanitation of storage tanks, and installation of drinking water filtration systems supported improved freshwater resource management. The proposed restoration of four campus water bodies and modernization of drainage infrastructure also created a foundation for longer-term aquatic ecosystem protection.

The national recognition for the prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns further demonstrated the importance of institutional environmental policies in preventing pollution. Meanwhile, inter-hall swimming and water polo competitions supported student engagement with aquatic activities.

The next stage of progress should focus on translating these activities into measurable environmental outcomes. Regular water quality monitoring, effective wastewater management, implementation of water-body restoration projects, and stronger support for marine research will be important for strengthening the university's long-term contribution to aquatic ecosystem protection.

Through continued academic collaboration, responsible campus management, and evidence-based environmental governance, the University of Dhaka can further develop its role in advancing freshwater and marine sustainability in Bangladesh.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

15

LIFE ON LAND

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Sustainability Progress Report 2025

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

SDG 15: Life on Land

1. Executive Summary

Terrestrial ecosystems provide essential environmental services, including biodiversity conservation, soil fertility, climate regulation, and the maintenance of healthy urban environments. In densely populated cities, universities have an important responsibility to protect green spaces, manage land and organic waste responsibly, preserve urban biodiversity, and promote environmental awareness through education and research.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka (DU) advanced its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land) through a combination of institutional environmental policies, campus greening, organic waste recycling, land maintenance, environmental health management, academic research, and cultural engagement.

A major feature of the university's approach was the strengthening of institutional environmental governance. The administration promoted four interconnected priorities: a Clean Campus, Green Campus, Pollution-Free Campus, and Bird-Friendly Campus. Its prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during major celebrations received formal recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in December 2025. The policy addresses environmental concerns associated with air and noise pollution, chemical residues, fire hazards, and disturbance to birds and other wildlife.

The university also took practical steps to improve the management of organic waste. On 11 December 2025, it launched the *Stop Burning Fallen Leaves* campaign to discourage open burning of leaf litter. At Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, collected leaves were converted into organic fertilizer and used in campus gardens. This initiative demonstrated how routine campus maintenance can be connected with circular resource management, cleaner air, and improved soil health.

Campus greening and land stewardship were also visible through the inauguration of the July Memorial Garden at Vijay Ekattor Hall, landscaping activities at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, and the placement of potted plants across residential floors at Kavi Jasimuddin Hall. The university's wider Further Development Project also incorporated environmental infrastructure, including planned restoration of four campus water bodies, drainage modernization, and improved solid waste management facilities.

In addition, residential halls undertook a range of sanitation and vector-control activities. These included regular cleaning, mosquito control, removal of stagnant water and organic debris, and targeted pest management. Such activities contributed to maintaining healthier residential environments while highlighting the importance of combining physical maintenance with responsible pest-control practices.

Academic and cultural engagement formed another important part of the university's contribution. The Department of Soil, Water and Environment announced the Rabeya Moverk Memorial Scholarship to support students studying soil conservation, water resource management, and terrestrial environmental science. The Department of Political Science organized a seminar on community participation in sustainable development, while the Faculty of Fine Arts hosted an exhibition titled *Nature in Heart's Poetry*, using visual art to encourage reflection on nature and ecosystem conservation.

Overall, the university's 2025 initiatives demonstrate a broad institutional approach to terrestrial sustainability. The activities connected administrative policy with practical campus management and academic engagement. However, the available records do not provide quantified information on tree cover, biodiversity, soil quality, organic waste volumes, or ecological outcomes. Establishing measurable indicators and a regular monitoring system will be important for assessing the long-term impact of these interventions.

2. Institutional Approach to SDG 15

2.1 Making terrestrial ecosystem protection part of campus governance

The University of Dhaka operates within a densely populated urban environment where the management of green spaces, soil, waste, and public areas has direct implications for environmental quality. Its campus includes academic buildings, residential halls, administrative facilities, gardens, roads, and other shared spaces. Managing this environment sustainably requires coordination between university leadership, administrative units, academic departments, residential halls, and students.

In 2025, the university followed an approach that connected central environmental policies with practical activities across campus. The administration promoted environmental responsibility through institutional directives, while individual halls and departments implemented measures relating to sanitation, landscaping, organic waste management, and environmental awareness.

Four institutional priorities provided a broad framework for this approach:

- **Clean Campus:** Maintaining public spaces through systematic waste management, cleaning, and regular ground maintenance.
- **Green Campus:** Expanding greenery, maintaining green areas, and promoting floral landscaping.
- **Pollution-Free Campus:** Preventing environmentally harmful activities, including open burning and unnecessary pollution.
- **Bird-Friendly Campus:** Protecting avian habitats and reducing activities that disturb campus birds and other wildlife.

These priorities reflect the university's recognition that terrestrial sustainability requires more than occasional tree planting or cleaning campaigns. It involves continuous management of the physical environment and the adoption of practices that reduce pressure on urban ecosystems.

2.2 Alignment with SDG 15 targets

The university's documented activities in 2025 were particularly relevant to the following SDG 15 targets.

SDG 15 target	Relevant University of Dhaka initiatives
15.1 – Conserve and restore terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems	Campus greening, memorial gardens, planned water-body restoration, and environmental land management.
15.2 – Promote sustainable management of forests and halt deforestation	Promotion of green spaces, preservation of campus vegetation, and protection of bird-friendly habitats.

15.5 – Reduce the degradation of natural habitats and protect biodiversity	Prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns, bird-friendly campus measures, and pollution prevention.
15.9 – Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into planning	Environmental components of the Further Development Project and institutional green-campus priorities.
15.a – Mobilize resources for biodiversity and ecosystems	Academic scholarship support and institutional investment planning related to environmental management and restoration.
15.c – Strengthen efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species	No specific activity directly addressing this target was documented in the available source material.

The university's activities also contribute to other sustainability goals, particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

3. Environmental Governance and Biodiversity Protection

3.1 Strengthening institutional responsibility for wildlife protection

Urban green spaces can provide important habitats for birds, insects, and other forms of wildlife. However, these environments are vulnerable to noise, chemical pollution, fire hazards, and human activities that disturb natural habitats.

The University of Dhaka's environmental governance framework recognizes the importance of protecting the ecological value of its campus. In 2025, the administration continued to promote restrictions on environmentally harmful activities and strengthened its institutional commitment to a bird-friendly environment.

A major example was the university's prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during major celebrations.

3.2 National recognition for the prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns

On 18 December 2025, the University of Dhaka received formal recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at a ceremony held at the Department of Environment.

The Ministry presented a commemorative crest and honour to the Vice-Chancellor in recognition of the university's environmental leadership.

The recognition specifically acknowledged the university's prohibition of fireworks, firecrackers, and sky lanterns during the 31st Night celebrations in December 2024.

This policy addressed several environmental concerns associated with pyrotechnic activities. Fireworks and firecrackers can release particulate matter and chemical residues, generate intense noise, and create fire hazards. Sky lanterns can also leave behind non-biodegradable materials and create risks for vegetation and wildlife.

For birds and other animals, sudden explosions and intense noise can cause stress and disturbance. Fireworks and sky lanterns may also create risks for nesting and roosting habitats within urban green spaces.

By prohibiting these activities, the university sought to reduce avoidable environmental disturbance and establish a more responsible approach to public celebrations.

The Ministry's recognition was an important institutional achievement because it demonstrated national acknowledgement of the university's environmental governance efforts. It also reinforced the university's broader Clean Campus, Green Campus, Pollution-Free Campus, and Bird-Friendly Campus priorities.

The distinction between the policy and the recognition is important: the prohibition was enforced during the 2024 celebration, while the formal national recognition took place in 2025.

3.3 Expanding the Bird-Friendly Campus framework

The university's Bird-Friendly Campus framework forms part of its wider environmental management approach.

The framework emphasizes the protection of natural nesting habitats, campus canopy structures, and spaces used by birds. It also recognizes the importance of limiting unnecessary noise and other disturbances that may affect urban wildlife.

The prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns is one practical expression of this commitment. The wider framework provides an opportunity to incorporate biodiversity considerations into campus landscaping, maintenance, and infrastructure planning.

Future progress could be strengthened through regular bird surveys, documentation of nesting areas, identification of native plant species, and monitoring of changes in campus biodiversity.

4. Organic Waste Management, Air Quality and Soil Conservation

4.1 Moving away from the traditional practice of burning fallen leaves

Fallen leaves are a natural part of the campus environment. However, when collected leaves are treated as ordinary waste and burned in open spaces, their disposal can contribute to air pollution and the loss of valuable organic material.

Open burning releases smoke and particulate matter and can affect the quality of the surrounding environment. It also prevents organic matter from returning to the soil through natural decomposition.

Recognizing this concern, the University of Dhaka introduced an initiative to change how fallen leaves are managed across campus.

4.2 Launching the Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign

On 11 December 2025, the university launched the *Stop Burning Fallen Leaves* campaign, locally known as *Shora Pata Projjolon Bondho Korun*, at the campus Mall Area.

The initiative was jointly organized by the DU Arboriculture Center, Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), Green Future Foundation, and Environment Parliament.

University of Dhaka Vice-Chancellor addressed the gathering and led an awareness rally across the campus. The campaign encouraged university staff, students, and residential hall administrations to stop burning fallen leaves and adopt more environmentally responsible disposal practices.

The initiative was important because it connected environmental awareness with routine campus maintenance. Rather than treating leaf burning as an isolated operational issue, the university sought to establish a broader institutional expectation against open combustion.

Administrative personnel from Kabi Jasimuddin Hall and Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall participated in the campaign and implemented the directives within their respective residential areas.

4.3 Converting fallen leaves into organic fertilizer

The campaign was followed by practical implementation at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall.

The hall established a process for collecting and preserving fallen leaves accumulated from the previous season. Instead of burning the collected biomass, the hall converted it into organic bio-fertilizer.

The resulting fertilizer was applied to garden beds, floral displays, and residential grounds across the campus.

This initiative represents a practical example of circular resource management. Organic material that would otherwise have been discarded or burned was redirected into a useful resource for campus landscaping.

The approach provides several environmental benefits:

- Reduces the need for open burning of organic waste.
- Helps prevent the release of smoke and particulate matter from leaf combustion.
- Returns organic material to campus soil.
- Supports soil fertility and the maintenance of garden areas.
- Creates opportunities to reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers in campus landscaping.

The initiative also demonstrates the potential for residential halls to become active participants in university-wide environmental management.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall undertook awareness and mobilization activities in support of the anti-burning directive. The available records do not, however, quantify the volume of leaves collected or the amount of fertilizer produced across the participating halls.

4.4 Environmental significance of organic waste recycling

The conversion of leaf litter into organic fertilizer is relevant to both pollution prevention and soil conservation.

Open burning can release carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, fine particulate matter, and other combustion products. Diverting leaves from burning helps prevent these emissions at the point where they would otherwise occur.

Composting, when properly managed, also returns organic matter and nutrients to the soil. This can support soil structure, moisture retention, and the maintenance of soil biological activity.

The university's initiative therefore connects three important areas of environmental management: cleaner air, responsible organic waste handling, and improved soil stewardship.

Future reporting should include the quantity of leaves collected, the amount of compost or fertilizer produced, and the areas where the material is applied. These measurements would help demonstrate the scale and effectiveness of the programme.

5. Campus Greening, Landscaping and Ecological Land Management

5.1 Improving green spaces within the university campus

Green spaces play an important role in urban environments. They provide visual and recreational value, support local biodiversity, and contribute to the environmental quality of densely populated areas.

The University of Dhaka's campus greening activities in 2025 included the development of a memorial garden, preparation of landscaped areas in residential halls, and the placement of plants across residential buildings.

Although these activities were relatively localized, they demonstrated how environmental improvements can be incorporated into the daily management of university facilities.

5.2 Inauguration of the July Memorial Garden

On 17 July 2025, the university inaugurated the **July Smriti Uddan (July Memorial Garden)** at Vijay Ekattor Hall.

The garden created a dedicated green space within the residential hall environment. Beyond its memorial significance, the initiative contributed to the development of a landscaped area for students and other members of the university community.

Memorial gardens can serve both symbolic and environmental purposes. They provide spaces for reflection and recreation while offering opportunities to incorporate vegetation into the built environment.

The initiative also demonstrated how residential institutions can contribute to the university's broader Green Campus objectives.

5.3 Landscaping and green-space improvements at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall

On 17 July 2025, Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall undertook landscaping improvements in the lobby car veranda.

The activities included preparing new garden beds, installing seating canopies, and arranging decorative plant displays.

These improvements enhanced the appearance and usability of the hall's shared spaces while introducing additional greenery into the residential environment.

The initiative reflects an approach to campus greening that integrates vegetation with the design and management of everyday institutional spaces.

5.4 Residential-floor greening at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall

On 14 August 2025, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall carried out a floor-by-floor beautification initiative.

Plant tubs and pots were placed alongside student shoe racks across residential floors. This introduced greenery into shared indoor and semi-indoor spaces that are not normally associated with conventional landscaping.

The initiative demonstrated that campus greening does not need to be limited to open gardens or large green areas. Residential buildings can also contribute through the use of plants in common spaces.

Together, the initiatives at Vijay Ekattor Hall, Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall, and Kabi Jasimuddin Hall reflected a distributed approach to campus greening, with individual residential units contributing to the university's wider environmental priorities.

5.5 Physical land maintenance and soil stewardship

Sustainable land management also requires routine maintenance of soil surfaces and surrounding spaces.

On 13 November 2025, groundskeeping personnel at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall undertook physical land maintenance around commercial shop premises. The work included levelling elevated soil mounds and clearing accumulated waste.

These activities helped improve the condition and usability of the area. Proper site maintenance can also reduce localized erosion risks and prevent waste accumulation from affecting surrounding land.

Although the activity was relatively small in scale, it illustrates the importance of routine groundskeeping as part of institutional land stewardship.

6. Sustainable Infrastructure and Long-Term Land Management

6.1 Integrating environmental considerations into campus development

As the university expands its academic and residential facilities, sustainable land management becomes increasingly important.

Infrastructure development can place pressure on available land, green spaces, drainage systems, and local ecosystems. For this reason, environmental considerations should be incorporated into the planning and implementation of major campus development programmes.

In November 2025, the University of Dhaka advanced its Further Development Project, which includes several components relevant to land management, ecological restoration, and environmental infrastructure.

6.2 The BDT 2,841-crore Further Development Project

On 20 November 2025, the university's Project Management Unit (PMU) outlined the implementation roadmap for the Further Development Project.

The project carries an estimated allocation of BDT 2,841 crore and a five-year implementation period, with a target completion date of 2030. An initial BDT 60 crore allocation was made under the Annual Development Programme for FY 2025–2026 to initiate project activities.

The development programme includes several components with environmental relevance.

Residential infrastructure

- Four female residential halls with a planned capacity of 2,600 students.
- Five male residential halls with a planned capacity of 5,100 students.
- House tutor accommodation across the nine proposed halls.

Academic and administrative infrastructure

- Six new academic buildings.
- Two residential buildings for faculty members and officers.
- Five administrative and supporting structures.

Environmental and land-related infrastructure

- Restoration of four major campus water bodies and reservoirs.
- Modernization of the campus-wide drainage system.
- Development of modern solid waste management facilities.
- Construction of one sports playground.
- Construction of two public toilet facilities.
- Site development incorporating environmental safety considerations.

The project also refers to vertical building footprints and surrounding green zones as part of its infrastructure planning approach.

6.3 Potential contribution to sustainable land management

The environmental significance of the Further Development Project extends beyond the construction of new facilities.

Restoring campus water bodies and improving drainage can support better management of surface runoff and help reduce localized waterlogging. Modern solid waste management facilities can improve the handling of institutional waste and reduce pressure on surrounding land.

The proposed use of vertical footprints for residential facilities may also help manage land requirements as the university expands its residential capacity. However, the actual land-use implications will depend on the final designs and implementation of the project.

The inclusion of environmental components in a large development programme provides an opportunity to integrate sustainability into long-term campus planning rather than treating it as a separate activity.

The university should ensure that the implementation of these projects protects existing vegetation and incorporates suitable green spaces, soil protection measures, and ecological safeguards.

7. Environmental Health, Sanitation and Integrated Vector Management

7.1 Maintaining healthy residential environments

In a large urban university, environmental health depends on the condition of residential buildings, drainage systems, water storage facilities, and surrounding outdoor spaces.

Poorly maintained drains, stagnant water, accumulated organic debris, and pest infestations can create risks for students and staff. At the same time, pest management must be undertaken carefully to avoid unnecessary chemical exposure and environmental contamination.

During 2025, several residential halls implemented sanitation and vector-control activities. These included regular cleaning, mosquito control operations, targeted pest eradication, and physical removal of potential breeding sites.

7.2 Vector control activities across residential halls

Different residential halls undertook vector-control interventions during the reporting period.

Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

On 10 July 2025, the hall carried out mosquito and larval control activities using fogger machines and sprayers across residential grounds.

Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall

The hall maintained recurring cleanliness and vector-control activities. Recorded operations took place on 10 July, 17 July, 14 August, 18 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December, and 18 December 2025.

These activities included scheduled pesticide applications and manual cleaning.

Rokeya Hall

On 11 December 2025, the hall reported daily mosquito-control operations using fogger machines across its building wings.

Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall

On 9 October 2025, the hall completed targeted bedbug eradication treatment across 29 designated student rooms.

These interventions addressed different environmental health concerns within residential facilities and demonstrated the continued involvement of hall administrations in maintaining hygienic living conditions.

7.3 Mechanical removal of mosquito breeding sites at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall

On 13 November 2025, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall undertook a physical cleaning operation to remove accumulated organic debris and stagnant water from external window cornices.

Using bamboo poles and safety ropes, maintenance personnel cleared cornices from the first through fifth floors. The activity targeted areas where standing water and accumulated debris could create suitable conditions for mosquito breeding.

The hall also undertook routine drainage cleaning, arranged outsourced spray equipment, and scheduled morning and evening larvicide applications across surrounding drainage channels.

This initiative is important because vector management can involve both physical and chemical methods. Removing standing water and accumulated debris addresses breeding conditions at their source, while targeted treatments can complement these efforts.

The activity demonstrates the value of incorporating structural maintenance into routine environmental health management.

7.4 Water storage hygiene and environmental sanitation

On 9 October 2025, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall also conducted a water hygiene and maintenance operation covering its major storage facilities.

The operation included manual cleaning, scrubbing, and flushing of:

1. The main ground-level reserve water tank.
2. The North Building overhead water tank.
3. The South Building overhead water tank.
4. The hall canteen overhead water tank.
5. The house tutor building overhead water tank.

Maintaining these facilities is important for reducing the accumulation of sediment and organic material and supporting hygienic water storage.

Although the activity is primarily connected with water quality and public health, it forms part of the wider environmental management system within the residential hall.

7.5 Moving towards more integrated and environmentally responsible pest management

The university's recorded activities show that residential halls used a combination of physical cleaning, drainage maintenance, fogging, pesticide applications, and targeted pest treatments.

A more integrated approach to vector management can help reduce dependence on broad, repeated chemical applications. Physical removal of standing water, cleaning of drains, and elimination of breeding sites should therefore remain central components of future programmes.

The university could strengthen this approach by documenting the chemicals used, application frequency, safety procedures, and environmental precautions. Monitoring non-target effects and ensuring appropriate disposal of chemical containers would also improve environmental accountability.

The available records describe operational activities but do not provide quantified data on pesticide use, vector population changes, or associated environmental impacts.

8. Academic Research, Education and Cultural Engagement

8.1 Developing environmental knowledge through academic activities

Universities contribute to terrestrial sustainability not only by managing their own campuses but also by producing knowledge, supporting research, and developing environmental awareness.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka engaged with SDG 15 through academic scholarship support, research-related activities, seminars, and cultural programmes.

These initiatives reflected the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to environmental sustainability. Soil and environmental sciences contribute technical knowledge, social sciences examine governance and community participation, and fine arts provide accessible ways to communicate environmental ideas.

8.2 Supporting students in soil and environmental sciences

On 11 December 2025, the Department of Soil, Water and Environment announced the **Rabeya Moberk Memorial Scholarship**.

The scholarship provides a monthly stipend of BDT 500 for one year to eligible undergraduate students from the second year onwards and postgraduate students.

The scholarship is intended to support students pursuing studies related to:

- Soil conservation.
- Water resource management.
- Terrestrial environmental science.

The initiative provides financial support for students in disciplines that are important to understanding land degradation, soil health, natural resource management, and environmental protection.

By supporting students in these fields, the university can help strengthen the academic and research capacity needed to address environmental challenges in Bangladesh.

The available record documents the scholarship announcement and its intended coverage. It does not provide the number of recipients or the research outputs generated through the scholarship during 2025.

8.3 Research and discussion on community participation in sustainable development

On 14 August 2025, the Department of Political Science organized its first PhD seminar titled *Right-Based Approach: Community Participation and Ownership in Sustainable Development of Bangladesh*.

The seminar examined how rights-based approaches, community participation, and local ownership can contribute to sustainable development and environmental governance.

This topic is relevant to SDG 15 because the protection of terrestrial ecosystems requires more than technical interventions. It also depends on the participation of communities, responsible resource management, and institutional arrangements that recognize local interests and responsibilities.

The seminar provided an academic platform for examining these governance dimensions and their relevance to sustainable development in Bangladesh.

8.4 Connecting environmental research with professional opportunities

On 20 November 2025, the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences convened a planning committee for a Career Festival and Research Fair scheduled for 14 January 2026.

The proposed event aimed to connect environmental research with professional opportunities in relevant sectors.

Although the event was scheduled for 2026, its planning during the reporting year reflected the university's interest in linking environmental education with career development.

Such initiatives can help students understand how academic knowledge in environmental sciences can be applied in research, public policy, conservation, and professional practice.

The available record documents the planning activity, not the completion of the event.

8.5 Promoting nature conservation through visual arts

Environmental awareness can also be strengthened through cultural and artistic engagement.

On 10 July 2025, artist Md. Rokibul Hasan held a solo painting exhibition titled *Nature in Heart's Poetry* at Zainul Gallery. The exhibition was organized by the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The artworks presented visual interpretations of terrestrial ecosystems, rural landscapes, and botanical conservation.

The exhibition provided an opportunity to communicate environmental themes through visual expression. By presenting nature and conservation as subjects of artistic reflection, the initiative helped connect environmental awareness with the university's cultural and creative activities.

This contribution is important because environmental sustainability is not limited to scientific research or administrative policy. Cultural activities can also influence how individuals understand and value the natural environment.

9. Summary of Key SDG 15 Initiatives in 2025

The following table consolidates the main activities documented in the available official records.

Initiative	Main contribution to SDG 15
Nature in Heart's Poetry painting exhibition	Promoted nature conservation and ecological awareness through visual arts.
Vector-control activities at Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall	Supported residential environmental health and mosquito control.
Inauguration of July Smriti Uddan at Vijay Ekattor Hall	Added a dedicated landscaped green space to the campus.
Landscaping at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall	Improved residential green spaces through garden beds, canopies, and plant displays.
Residential-floor greening at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall	Introduced plants into shared residential spaces.
PhD seminar on community participation in sustainable development	Promoted academic discussion on rights-based environmental governance.
Bedbug eradication across 29 rooms at Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall	Addressed residential environmental health concerns.
Water hygiene and sanitation at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall	Improved maintenance of residential water storage facilities.
Vector-control and sanitation activities across residential halls	Supported cleaner and healthier campus environments.
Physical land maintenance at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall	Improved ground conditions through soil levelling and waste clearance.
Mechanical removal of potential mosquito breeding sites	Combined physical cleaning with targeted vector management.
Further Development Project implementation roadmap	Included planned water-body restoration, drainage modernization, and waste management infrastructure.
Environmental Career Festival and Research Fair planning	Prepared an academic platform connecting environmental research with career opportunities.
Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign	Promoted open-burning prevention and responsible organic waste management.
Organic leaf collection and fertilizer production at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall	Supported circular organic waste management and soil improvement.
Rabeya Moverk Memorial Scholarship announcement	Supported student development in soil conservation and environmental sciences.

National recognition for the fireworks and sky lantern prohibition	Recognized institutional efforts to protect wildlife and prevent environmental pollution.

10. Conclusion

In 2025, the University of Dhaka continued to strengthen its institutional commitment to terrestrial ecosystem protection through environmental governance, organic waste recycling, campus greening, land maintenance, environmental health management, and academic engagement.

The national recognition for its prohibition of fireworks and sky lanterns demonstrated the importance of institutional policy in protecting wildlife and reducing environmental disturbance. The Stop Burning Fallen Leaves campaign and the conversion of leaf litter into organic fertilizer provided a practical example of how campus maintenance can support cleaner air and healthier soil.

Localized greening activities, including the July Memorial Garden and landscaping initiatives across residential halls, contributed to the university's Green Campus priorities. Meanwhile, the Further Development Project created a framework for incorporating water-body restoration, drainage modernization, and improved waste management into long-term infrastructure planning.

The university also supported terrestrial sustainability through research-related scholarships, academic discussions on community participation, and cultural advocacy for nature conservation.

The next stage of progress should focus on strengthening the measurement and monitoring of environmental outcomes. Establishing biodiversity baselines, maintaining tree and green-space inventories, quantifying organic waste recycling, and integrating ecological safeguards into infrastructure development will be important for demonstrating long-term results.

Through continued institutional commitment, interdisciplinary research, and evidence-based environmental management, the University of Dhaka can further strengthen its role in promoting sustainable land use and terrestrial ecosystem conservation in Bangladesh.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

1. Executive Summary

Strong institutions are essential to sustainable development. Universities contribute to this goal not only through teaching and research but also through transparent administration, inclusive decision-making, protection of rights, and the promotion of justice and accountability. As a major public university, the University of Dhaka has an important responsibility to maintain an institutional environment where students, faculty members, employees, and other stakeholders can participate meaningfully in university affairs and access services through fair and accountable processes.

During 2025, several initiatives at the University of Dhaka contributed to the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). The available institutional records, covering July to December 2025, demonstrate progress across four interconnected areas: democratic student representation, administrative transparency and accountability, campus safety and protection of rights, and social inclusion and civic engagement.

A major development was the successful organization of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and Hall Council Elections on 11 September 2025. The elections provided a formal platform for student representation, subsequently strengthened through the nomination of five elected student representatives to the University Senate. The university also introduced improvements to its central information and grievance-support arrangements, including dedicated student service facilitators, physical feedback boxes, and direct communication channels for complaints and service-related concerns.

Institutional accountability was further supported through the formation of statutory committees for preventing sexual harassment, abuse, bullying, and ragging. Campus safety received attention through fire safety training, emergency response exercises, and technical structural assessments of residential halls following regional seismic activity. The university also strengthened its commitment to transparency in public expenditure through procurement procedures under the Public Procurement Rules and the publication of its Annual Procurement Plan on the national e-Government Procurement platform.

Alongside these governance measures, the university undertook initiatives to support vulnerable students, promote non-discrimination, and encourage civic awareness. These included a targeted educational grant for a visually impaired student, the provision of wheelchairs in a residential hall, commemorations recognizing student participation in democratic movements, and educational programmes on democracy and constitutional reform.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate the university's efforts to translate the principles of SDG 16 into institutional practices. They also provide a foundation for further progress through stronger monitoring systems, accessible grievance mechanisms, transparent reporting, and sustained participation by the university community.

2. Institutional Approach and Alignment with SDG 16

SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions. Within a university setting, these objectives are reflected in the quality of institutional governance, the protection of students and employees, the accessibility of administrative services, and the participation of different stakeholder groups in decision-making.

The University of Dhaka's available 2025 initiatives demonstrate an approach that connects these principles with its internal governance and broader educational responsibilities. Rather than treating institutional sustainability solely as an environmental or operational concern, the university's activities recognize that a sustainable campus also requires fairness, safety, transparency, and meaningful representation.

The initiatives documented during the reporting period can be organized around the following SDG 16 priorities:

- **Inclusive and participatory governance (Target 16.7):** Strengthening democratic student representation through DUCSU and Hall Council Elections, student participation in the University Senate, and structured engagement with elected representatives.
- **Transparency and accountability (Target 16.6):** Improving access to administrative information, introducing grievance-support arrangements, strengthening quality assurance, and making institutional information publicly accessible.
- **Reducing corruption and strengthening integrity (Target 16.5):** Promoting anti-corruption awareness and ensuring compliance with public procurement and financial accountability requirements.
- **Protection from violence and abuse (Targets 16.1 and 16.2):** Establishing statutory committees to address sexual harassment, abuse, bullying, and ragging, alongside initiatives to improve campus safety.
- **Institutional capacity and partnerships (Target 16.a):** Strengthening emergency preparedness, technical safety assessments, and collaboration with external institutions.
- **Non-discrimination and inclusion (Target 16.b):** Providing targeted educational and mobility support to students with disabilities and promoting civic and interfaith awareness.

These priorities demonstrate how university governance can contribute to the broader SDG agenda while responding to the practical needs of its campus community.

3. Democratic Participation and Inclusive University Governance

3.1 Re-establishing Democratic Student Representation

Meaningful student participation is an important component of accountable university governance. Students are among the principal stakeholders of a university, and their representation in institutional decision-making can help ensure that academic, administrative, and residential concerns receive appropriate attention.

In 2025, the University of Dhaka undertook a series of administrative preparations for the DUCSU and Hall Council Elections. On 10 July, the Chief Returning Officer issued a directive to academic departments, institutes, residential halls, and administrative offices requiring formally admitted students to complete their registration and update their institutional identification cards by 15 July. The measure was intended to support accurate voter-list preparation and ensure that eligible students could participate in the electoral process.

The election authorities also consulted student representatives from different campus bus route committees on 10 July. Discussions focused on polling logistics, security arrangements, administrative coordination, and maintaining a peaceful voting environment across campus transportation routes.

To reduce potential conflicts between academic responsibilities and electoral participation, the university subsequently announced the rescheduling of examinations that had been scheduled between 8 and 10 September 2025.

These preparations culminated in the DUCSU and Hall Council Elections on 11 September 2025. Voting took place across eight designated polling centres, comprising 810 voting booths, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. At the Physical Education Centre polling facility, separate entry and exit routes were arranged for voters from Jagannath Hall, Shahid Sergeant Jahurul Huq Hall, and Salimullah Muslim Hall to manage movement and reduce congestion.

The administration also took immediate action when a polling officer at Amar Ekushey Hall inadvertently issued two ballot papers to one student. The officer was relieved of electoral duties on the day of the election. This response demonstrated the importance placed on procedural compliance and electoral oversight.

The election represented an important institutional development because it restored a formal mechanism through which students could elect representatives and participate in university affairs. The preparatory measures, polling arrangements, and response to procedural irregularities collectively illustrate the administrative requirements involved in organizing an inclusive and accountable electoral process.

3.2 Integrating Student Leadership into Statutory Governance

The significance of the elections extended beyond the voting process. On 18 September 2025, the newly elected DUCSU Executive Council held its inaugural meeting under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor. During the meeting, the council adopted a resolution under Article 20(1)(m) of the University of Dhaka Order, 1973, nominating five elected student representatives to the University Senate.

This development created a formal connection between elected student leadership and the university's highest statutory governing body. It provided a channel through which student representatives could participate in institutional deliberations and contribute to discussions concerning university governance and development.

The university continued this engagement through the DUCSU and Hall Council Representative Conference 2025, held on 20 November at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban. Chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, the conference brought together elected student

representatives and university administrators to discuss long-term governance, budget planning, and institutional development priorities.

These initiatives demonstrate a progression from electoral participation to formal representation and institutional dialogue. By connecting elected student leadership with statutory governance structures, the university strengthened the institutional basis for more inclusive decision-making.

3.3 Promoting Public Debate and Youth Participation in Policy Formulation

Democratic governance requires more than the election of representatives. It also depends on informed public discussion, the ability to question leadership, and opportunities for citizens to engage with policy issues.

In this context, the DU Debate Society, in collaboration with the DUCSU Election Commission, organized the DUCSU Electoral Debate 2025 for candidates contesting the positions of Vice-President and General Secretary. The debate, reported on 11 September 2025, was structured around four segments: introductory remarks, specialized policy questioning, rebuttal, and town hall interaction.

The format provided candidates with an opportunity to explain their positions and respond to questions in a public setting. It also enabled students to assess candidates based on their ideas and proposed priorities rather than relying solely on campaign messages.

The university further supported youth participation in policy discussions through the ActionAid-DUDS Inter-University Debate Festival, which concluded on 9 October 2025 at the Teacher-Student Centre Auditorium. Organized around the theme *"Proposing Policies for Social Inclusivity,"* the festival engaged university debaters in developing policy recommendations relating to social inclusion and public and higher education governance.

Together, these initiatives helped create spaces for civic discussion, policy scrutiny, and youth-led advocacy. They demonstrate the university's contribution to developing a culture in which participation is supported by debate, evidence, and the exchange of ideas.

4. Institutional Integrity, Transparency and Accountability

4.1 Improving Administrative Services and Grievance Redressal

Accessible administrative services are an essential part of institutional accountability. Students and members of the public need clear channels through which they can obtain information, seek assistance, and communicate concerns.

On 14 August 2025, the University of Dhaka introduced several improvements to its central Information Center. Two student service facilitators were integrated into the centre under the operational oversight of the Public Relations Office. Their responsibilities included coordinating between service seekers, the Controller of Examinations Office, and relevant central administrative divisions.

The university also installed physical suggestion and grievance feedback boxes at the Information Center to collect comments and complaints from students and members of the public.

In addition, Deputy Registrar Aminul Islam from the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) was designated as the central officer responsible for urgent grievance handling. Direct communication channels were established through a dedicated email address and a text-only WhatsApp helpline.

The designated channels were:

- Email: servicesupport@du.ac.bd
- WhatsApp: 01797-490575

These arrangements were intended to make administrative assistance more accessible and improve coordination between service users and university offices. The introduction of designated personnel and identifiable communication channels also provides a clearer institutional route for raising service-related concerns.

The next step in strengthening this system would be to monitor the number and types of complaints received, the time taken to resolve them, and the satisfaction of service users. Such information would help the university assess whether the mechanisms are delivering timely and effective responses.

4.2 Promoting Anti-Corruption Awareness and Institutional Integrity

A culture of integrity is essential for building public confidence in educational institutions. Universities can contribute to this objective by promoting ethical conduct, encouraging critical discussion of corruption, and engaging students and the wider community in accountability-related activities.

On 11 December 2025, the University of Dhaka partnered with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to organize the Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition, Awards Giving Ceremony, and Exhibition 2025. The programme was held at Bokultola and Zainul Gallery 1 and 2 within the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The initiative used cartoons and visual satire to communicate concerns relating to corruption, ethical conduct, and public accountability. By using creative expression as a medium for public engagement, the programme made anti-corruption advocacy accessible to a wider university audience.

The collaboration with TIB also connected the university's educational and cultural environment with a national organization working on transparency and accountability. Such partnerships can help strengthen awareness of corruption as a governance challenge and encourage students to consider their own roles in promoting ethical institutional practices.

4.3 Strengthening Quality Assurance and Public Access to Information

Institutional quality assurance is closely connected to SDG 16 because effective institutions require clear standards, continuous evaluation, and public accountability for performance.

On 13 November 2025, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the University of Dhaka convened a national conference titled *"Progress of Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Experience of IQAC Leadership in Various Universities of Bangladesh."* The programme began at the Prof. Abdul Matin Chowdhury Virtual Classroom and continued at the Senate Bhaban. Academic leaders from public and private universities participated in discussions on institutional accreditation, quality assurance, and the standardization of higher education practices.

The conference provided a platform for sharing institutional experiences and discussing how universities could strengthen their quality assurance systems. It also positioned the University of Dhaka within a broader national dialogue on institutional effectiveness and accountability.

A further step was taken on 18 December 2025, when IQAC established a dedicated digital transparency portal through the university's official social media platform. The portal was designed to archive and publicly disseminate information on peer-reviewed research publications, national and international awards, research grants, technological innovations, and conference outcomes across faculties, institutes, and research centres.

This initiative can improve public visibility of the university's academic activities and make institutional achievements easier to access. It also provides a foundation for more systematic communication of research and innovation outcomes.

For the portal to become a stronger accountability instrument, its effectiveness will depend on regular updates, consistent coverage across academic units, and the availability of information in formats that are easy for different stakeholders to access and understand.

4.4 Ensuring Transparency in Public Procurement and Institutional Development

Large public infrastructure projects require strong financial controls, transparent procurement, and compliance with national regulations. These safeguards are particularly important when public funds are allocated to long-term institutional development.

In November 2025, the University of Dhaka reported progress in the administrative and procurement arrangements for its BDT 2,841 crore Further Development Project. The university published the Annual Procurement Plan on the national e-Government Procurement (e-GP) portal and appointed a dedicated Project Director on 12 October 2025.

The university also secured consent from the Ministry of Education for an initial allocation of BDT 60 crore under the Annual Development Programme. Procurement of architectural and structural design consultants was initiated for 31 proposed capital construction projects planned through 2030.

These activities were undertaken within the framework of the Public Procurement Rules, public planning guidelines, and financial audit requirements.

Publishing the procurement plan through the national e-GP platform supports transparency by making procurement information accessible through an established public system. Compliance with procurement rules also provides an important safeguard for the appropriate use of public resources.

The significance of these measures extends beyond the immediate procurement process. As the university proceeds with a major infrastructure development programme, consistent disclosure, competitive procurement, audit compliance, and public reporting will remain essential to maintaining institutional trust.

5. Human Rights Protection, Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness

5.1 Establishing Institutional Mechanisms to Prevent Harassment and Abuse

A safe and inclusive university environment requires formal mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, abuse, bullying, and ragging. Students and employees must be able to raise concerns through accessible procedures and receive appropriate institutional attention.

In October 2025, following decisions of the University Syndicate, the administration formally constituted two specialized committees:

1. Investigation Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse, chaired by Prof. Dr. Upama Kabir, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.
2. Anti-Bullying and Anti-Ragging Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Huda of the Department of Law.

To support the implementation of these arrangements, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) issued a directive to Deans, Institute Directors, Department Chairmen, Hall Provosts, Hostel Wardens, and the Proctor. The directive required the installation of dedicated physical complaint boxes in academic buildings, institutes, residential halls, hostels, and the Proctor's Office.

Administrators were instructed to collect complaints on a mandatory weekly basis and forward them to the respective committee conveners.

The implementation of this directive was reflected in residential halls. Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall installed separate complaint boxes on 9 October 2025, while Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall installed dual complaint boxes on 13 November 2025 for reporting anti-ragging and sexual harassment concerns.

The formation of these committees and the introduction of structured complaint collection procedures represent an important institutional step. They establish designated bodies and reporting channels for addressing sensitive concerns rather than leaving students dependent on informal or uncertain processes.

However, the effectiveness of these mechanisms will depend on confidentiality, protection against retaliation, impartial investigation, timely resolution, and awareness among students about how to submit complaints. Regular reporting on the operation of the committees, while protecting the identities and privacy of complainants, would further strengthen institutional accountability.

5.2 Improving Fire Safety and Emergency Response Capacity

Physical safety is another important dimension of a peaceful and secure university environment. Academic buildings and residential halls must have appropriate emergency procedures, and members of the university community need practical knowledge of how to respond to incidents.

On 14 August 2025, Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall organized fire safety training for students alongside an infrastructure safety audit of residential facilities. The combined approach addressed both individual preparedness and the physical conditions of the residential environment.

A further practical exercise took place on 9 October 2025, when the Fire Service and Civil Defense Department conducted a fire safety, prevention, and rescue drill for officers and staff at the Social Sciences Faculty Building.

The exercise provided an opportunity for university personnel to become familiar with emergency response procedures and practical rescue arrangements.

These activities demonstrate the importance of combining institutional safety assessments with training and practical exercises. Their long-term contribution would be strengthened through regular drills, documented risk assessments, updated evacuation procedures, and systematic follow-up on identified safety concerns.

5.3 Assessing Structural Safety Following Seismic Activity

The safety of university buildings is particularly important in a dense campus environment where large numbers of students and employees use academic and residential facilities every day.

Following regional seismic activity, the University of Dhaka established a Central Coordination Committee led by the University Treasurer. The committee worked with structural engineering experts from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to conduct technical evaluations of selected residential halls.

The inspections, reported on 11 December 2025, covered:

- Shamsun Nahar Hall;
- Kabi Jasimuddin Hall;
- Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall;
- Surya Sen Hall; and
- Bijoy Ekattor Hall.

The university administration committed to making the technical sub-committee reports publicly available. The Engineering Office was also assigned responsibility for supervising short-, medium-, and long-term structural repair activities.

The involvement of external engineering expertise is important because structural safety assessments require specialized technical knowledge. Public disclosure of findings can further strengthen confidence in the university's approach to risk management.

The available records document the inspections and the administrative commitments that followed. They do not establish that all identified structural risks had been resolved by the end of 2025. Continued monitoring, completion of recommended repairs, and publication of follow-up information will therefore be important for assessing progress.

6. Social Inclusion, Equal Access and Protection of Rights

6.1 Supporting Students with Disabilities and Financial Vulnerabilities

An inclusive institution must ensure that students can participate in education without being excluded by financial hardship or physical barriers. This requires both targeted financial assistance and practical arrangements that support mobility and access.

On 9 October 2025, the University of Dhaka administration approved a specialized educational support grant for Abdullah Al Nayeem, a visually impaired first-year undergraduate student in the Department of Political Science, from the 2023–2024 session. The grant amounted to BDT 60,000, to be disbursed at BDT 5,000 per month over one year.

The support was intended to help maintain the student's educational continuity and provide financial security.

The university also addressed mobility needs within its residential facilities. On 13 November 2025, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall procured and deployed dedicated wheelchairs to assist injured and differently-abled residential students.

These measures illustrate two complementary dimensions of inclusion: reducing financial barriers and improving practical access to residential facilities. Although the documented initiatives relate to specific forms of support, they provide a useful foundation for developing more comprehensive disability-inclusive services across the university.

Future efforts could include accessibility assessments of academic and residential buildings, accessible learning materials, assistive technologies, and systematic consultation with students with disabilities.

6.2 Preserving Civic Memory and Recognizing Student Participation

Universities play an important role in preserving historical memory and encouraging students to understand the development of democratic institutions and civic freedoms.

In July 2025, the University of Dhaka launched a series of commemorative programmes marking the first anniversary of the July People's Uprising. The university formally recognized

the contribution of students, including women students, to civic resistance and democratic participation.

As part of this initiative, the Vice-Chancellor declared 14 July as Women Student Day (Nari Shiksharthi Dibosh) in recognition of the role of female students in civic movements. The university also declared 17 July as Anti-Terrorism Day (Santras Protirodh Dibosh). Both observances were incorporated into the official academic calendar.

The university also established physical spaces to preserve the history of civic movements. These included:

- **July Smriti Udyan**, inaugurated at Bijoy Ekattor Hall on 15 July 2025;
- **July Protirodh Prangon**, inaugurated at Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah Hall on 15 July 2025; and
- **July Corner**, established in the guest room of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, featuring curated bookshelves with historical literature covering democratic movements of 1947, 1971, and 2024.

These initiatives connect historical remembrance with the university's educational and institutional environment. By incorporating commemorative observances into the academic calendar and establishing dedicated spaces for historical materials, the university provides opportunities for students to engage with civic history as part of campus life.

6.3 Promoting Democracy and Constitutional Awareness

A strong democratic culture depends on citizens' understanding of constitutional principles, institutional responsibilities, and the processes through which public decisions are made.

On 17 July 2025, the DU Applied Democracy Lab, in partnership with International IDEA, organized a special lecture titled *"Democracy and Constitutional Reform"* under the Students of Youth Democracy Academy programme.

The lecture was delivered by the Vice-Chancellor and engaged 90 student leaders representing 25 academic departments. The programme provided an opportunity for student leaders to examine democratic institutions and discuss constitutional reform.

The initiative is significant because it connects university-based civic education with the broader development of democratic understanding. Engaging student leaders from different departments also creates opportunities for the discussion of governance and constitutional issues across academic disciplines.

6.4 Encouraging Interfaith Understanding and a Non-Discriminatory Society

Social inclusion also requires respect for religious and cultural diversity. Universities can contribute by creating spaces for dialogue, encouraging mutual understanding, and examining the ethical foundations of non-discrimination.

On 18 September 2025, the Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, together with the Department of World Religions and Culture, co-hosted an international seminar titled *"Muhammad's (PBUH) Teachings in Building a Discrimination-free Society."*

The seminar examined ethical principles relating to equality and the creation of a society free from discrimination. Through this initiative, the university provided an academic platform for discussing the relationship between religious teachings, social responsibility, and inclusive coexistence.

Such programmes can contribute to a campus culture in which differences are addressed through dialogue, knowledge, and mutual respect.

6.5 Extending Humanitarian Solidarity Beyond the Campus

The principles of peace and justice also extend beyond institutional boundaries. Universities can contribute to global solidarity by encouraging humanitarian awareness and supporting initiatives that respond to human suffering.

On 13 November 2025, the Master of Professional Banking Alumni Association of the Department of Banking and Insurance formally transferred financial relief funds collected for war-affected children in Gaza, Palestine, to Palestinian Ambassador Yousuf Ramadan. The transfer took place under the direct supervision of the University Treasurer.

This initiative reflected the university community's engagement with an international humanitarian concern. It also demonstrated how alumni networks and academic departments can contribute to solidarity beyond the university campus.

7. Summary of Key SDG 16 Initiatives in 2025

The following table summarizes the principal activities documented in the available institutional records.

Governance area	Key initiative	Date / period	Contribution
Democratic governance	DUCSU and Hall Council Elections	11 September 2025	Voting conducted at 8 polling centres with 810 booths
Student representation	Nomination of elected student representatives to the Senate	18 September 2025	Five elected student representatives nominated under Article 20(1)(m)
Participatory governance	DUCSU and Hall Council Representative Conference	20 November 2025	Dialogue between elected student representatives and university administration

Civic participation	DUCSU Electoral Debate	September 2025	Public debate and scrutiny of VP and GS candidates
Youth policy engagement	Inter-University Debate Festival	9 October 2025	Youth debate on policies for social inclusivity
Administrative services	Central Information Center improvements	14 August 2025	Two student service facilitators, feedback boxes, and designated grievance officer
Anti-corruption	Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition and Exhibition with TIB	11 December 2025	Public awareness and creative engagement on corruption and integrity
Quality assurance	National IQAC conference	13 November 2025	National dialogue on higher education quality assurance
Digital transparency	IQAC digital information portal	18 December 2025	Public dissemination of research, grants, awards, and innovations
Procurement accountability	Further Development Project procurement arrangements	October–November 2025	Annual Procurement Plan published on e-GP; procurement initiated under PPR
Protection from harassment	Statutory sexual harassment and anti-ragging committees	October 2025	Designated committees and campus-wide complaint-box requirements
Emergency preparedness	Fire safety training and rescue drills	August–October 2025	Practical safety and emergency response exercises
Structural safety	Post-earthquake engineering assessments	December 2025	Technical inspections of five residential halls with follow-up commitments
Disability inclusion	Educational grant for a visually impaired student	9 October 2025	BDT 60,000 grant, disbursed at BDT 5,000 per month for one year
Mobility support	Wheelchair deployment	13 November 2025	Dedicated wheelchairs provided at Kabi Jasimuddin Hall
Civic memory	Women Student Day and Anti-Terrorism Day	July 2025	Two observances incorporated into the academic calendar

Democratic education	Democracy and Constitutional Reform lecture	17 July 2025	90 student leaders from 25 departments engaged
Non-discrimination	Interfaith and intercultural dialogue seminar	18 September 2025	Academic discussion on building a discrimination-free society
Humanitarian solidarity	Relief fund transfer for children in Gaza	13 November 2025	Financial relief funds transferred to the Palestinian Ambassador

8. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's documented activities in 2025 demonstrate an institutional commitment to strengthening democratic participation, administrative accountability, human rights protection, campus safety, and social inclusion. The DUCSU and Hall Council Elections and the subsequent integration of elected student representatives into the University Senate represent important developments in participatory governance. Improvements to grievance-support arrangements, quality assurance, digital transparency, and public procurement procedures further reflect efforts to strengthen institutional accountability.

At the same time, the establishment of statutory anti-harassment committees, campus safety training, structural assessments, and targeted support for students with disabilities demonstrate that strong institutions must also protect the rights, safety, and dignity of their communities.

These initiatives provide a foundation for the university's continued contribution to SDG 16. Sustaining this progress will require consistent implementation, effective monitoring, transparent communication, and meaningful engagement with students and other stakeholders. By strengthening these institutional practices, the University of Dhaka can continue to advance its role as an accountable, inclusive, and socially responsible public university.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
Sustainability Progress Report 2025

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

1. Executive Summary

Partnerships are essential to achieving sustainable development. Universities increasingly depend on collaboration with governments, international academic institutions, research organizations, industries, development agencies, civil society organizations, and philanthropic networks to strengthen their institutional capacity and contribute to wider development priorities. Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) recognizes this importance by emphasizing the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, technology transfer, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization.

As one of Bangladesh's leading public universities, the University of Dhaka has an important role in building partnerships that connect academic knowledge with national development priorities and global sustainability challenges. Its contribution to SDG 17 involves more than formal institutional agreements. It also includes collaborative research, international academic exchange, industry engagement, public-sector cooperation, external funding, professional development, and partnerships with civil society.

The available institutional records for July–December 2025 demonstrate a broad range of partnership activities across these areas. During this period, the university expanded its international academic engagement through consultations and academic exchanges with universities and organizations in Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These engagements addressed areas such as artificial intelligence, biomedical research, environmental studies, climate resilience, language education, information science, and interdisciplinary research.

The university also strengthened cooperation with national public institutions and technical organizations. Notable examples included collaboration with the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on structural safety assessments, engagement with the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) on renewable energy policy, and cooperation with the Bangladesh Maritime University on marine science and oceanographic research. A major resource-mobilization achievement was the approval of a BDT 244 crore grant from the Government of China for the construction of Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall, planned to accommodate 1,500 female students.

Industry and private-sector partnerships contributed to student development, research collaboration, and financial support. Initiatives included a professional communication certificate course, industry-academia engagement in pharmaceutical and material science research, corporate scholarships, alumni-funded financial assistance, and health awareness programmes for female residential students. The university also continued to engage with civil society and non-governmental organizations through programmes on democracy, social inclusion, anti-corruption, environmental sustainability, and volunteerism.

International research and knowledge-sharing activities further expanded the university's academic networks. These included an international conference involving participants from 18 countries, a multi-institutional research winter school involving 70 student researchers from 30 universities, international scientific seminars, and research grants and scholarships amounting to BDT 5.8 million for 18 scholars through the Darul Irfan Research Institute.

The university's international standing also improved during the reporting period. It entered the 801–1000 band in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 and ranked 52nd globally in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026. These achievements provide evidence of the university's performance in areas including research, international outlook, and interdisciplinary collaboration, although rankings alone do not establish the direct impact of any individual partnership.

Overall, the documented activities demonstrate that the University of Dhaka's approach to SDG 17 extends across international cooperation, national development partnerships, private-sector engagement, research funding, and community collaboration. Sustaining these efforts will require moving beyond individual meetings and events towards long-term partnerships with measurable outcomes, shared research programmes, sustained funding, and institutionalized mechanisms for collaboration.

2. Institutional Approach and Alignment with SDG 17

SDG 17 focuses on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development. For universities, this goal is particularly relevant because research, teaching, innovation, and institutional development increasingly depend on cooperation across organizational and national boundaries.

The University of Dhaka's partnership activities during 2025 reflect an approach built around several complementary dimensions:

- **International academic cooperation:** Building relationships with foreign universities, academic institutions, embassies, and international organizations to support research, teaching, academic mobility, and knowledge exchange.
- **Public-sector and inter-institutional collaboration:** Working with government ministries, public universities, regulatory agencies, and technical institutions to address national development needs and strengthen institutional capacity.
- **Industry-academia partnerships:** Connecting academic research and student development with private-sector expertise, professional requirements, technological innovation, and employment opportunities.
- **Civil society and NGO engagement:** Collaborating with non-governmental organizations, development partners, and community groups to promote civic participation, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and ethical governance.
- **Research and knowledge networks:** Hosting international conferences, scientific seminars, interdisciplinary programmes, and collaborative research activities that connect local researchers with international academic communities.
- **Resource mobilization:** Securing external grants, corporate scholarships, alumni endowments, research fellowships, and philanthropic contributions to support education, research, and infrastructure development.

These activities are particularly relevant to SDG Targets 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.14, 17.16, and 17.17. Together, they illustrate how the university can mobilize external knowledge, expertise, finance, and institutional support to advance its academic mission and contribute to sustainable development.

3. International Academic Partnerships and Global Cooperation

3.1 Expanding International Academic Networks

International cooperation enables universities to access new research methods, exchange academic expertise, improve teaching practices, and develop joint responses to global challenges. For the University of Dhaka, engagement with international institutions provides opportunities to connect its academic departments and research centres with a wider global knowledge network.

During the second half of 2025, the university undertook a series of bilateral discussions, academic visits, and knowledge-sharing activities with institutions across several regions.

On 10 July 2025, the Department of Islamic Studies organized an international guest lecture titled *"Islamic Psychology,"* featuring Prof. Dr. G. Hussein Rassool, Director of the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilizations at Charles Sturt University, Australia, and Director of Islamic Psychology and Counselling at Al Balagh Academy, United Kingdom. The Vice-Chancellor attended as Chief Guest, and the engagement included discussions on developing specialized joint research frameworks.

On 17 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor held bilateral discussions with Prof. Dr. Moses Naga of North Eastern Hill University, Meghalaya, India. The meeting established mutual understanding regarding a proposed formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering student, faculty, and researcher exchanges, alongside joint regional research programmes.

A further engagement took place on 14 August 2025, when the Vice-Chancellor met with the Vice-President of Peking University, China. Discussions covered cooperation in science, technology, environmental studies, language, and culture. The meeting established a roadmap for teacher, student, and cultural troupe exchanges under a proposed formal MoU.

The visit was accompanied by academic lectures at the Professor Abdul Matin Chowdhury Virtual Classroom. Prof. Wu Jiewei delivered a lecture on comparative labour mobility in the age of globalization, drawing on Bangladesh, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Prof. Dr. Wang Xu delivered a lecture on people-centred economic development and national security, focusing on China's experience and its relevance to Bangladesh.

The university also engaged with Kansai University, Japan, on 14 August 2025. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) met with an Emeritus Professor to discuss joint research protocols and academic exchange visits. The visiting scholar subsequently delivered a lecture titled *"Learning Assessment in the Age of AI"* at the Institute of Education and Research.

These engagements indicate the university's interest in expanding academic cooperation beyond traditional subject areas. Topics such as artificial intelligence, labour mobility, environmental studies, and educational assessment provide opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and research.

3.2 Strengthening Cooperation with International Universities and Knowledge Institutions

The university continued its international engagement during December 2025 through academic visits and specialized lectures.

On 11 December, the Department of Information Science and Library Management hosted an international guest lecture titled *"Beyond the Library: The Future of LIS Careers?"* The lecture was delivered by Prof. Emily Drabinski, Professor and Chair at the City University of New York Graduate School of Information Studies and former President of the American Library Association. The session provided an opportunity to engage with international professional perspectives on the changing role of library and information science.

On 18 December, the Vice-Chancellor received courtesy calls from Dean Prof. Dr. Javed Mostafa of the University of Toronto, Canada, and Prof. Dr. Sam Oh of Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea. The visits included two technical presentations. Prof. Mostafa discussed artificial intelligence and machine-learning approaches for improving biomedicine and healthcare, while Prof. Oh presented strategies for developing beneficial AI and coexisting with artificial intelligence.

These engagements connected the university with international expertise in emerging technologies and their applications in healthcare, research, and society.

On the same date, the Vice-Chancellor consulted with Prof. Dr. Olaf Muralink of Central Queensland University, Australia. The discussion focused on developing joint research projects in coastal disaster management and early childhood education in Bangladesh. The proposed cooperation also included technical capacity-building workshops for early-career faculty members and students.

The university also engaged with the British Council on 18 December. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) held executive consultations with Deputy Director Mariya Rehman and the Head of Education. The discussion focused on expanding joint research funding, co-publishing academic journals, facilitating student and faculty mobility, and organizing skill-development workshops in cooperation with UK universities.

These engagements demonstrate the university's efforts to connect its research and teaching priorities with international academic networks. They also identify potential areas for future cooperation, particularly in research funding, academic mobility, technology, and professional development. However, the available records describe several of these activities as consultations and proposed arrangements; their longer-term outcomes will depend on the development and implementation of formal collaborative programmes.

3.3 Diplomatic and Cultural Partnerships for Academic Development

Embassies and diplomatic missions can serve as important channels for developing academic cooperation, language education, cultural exchange, and international research relationships.

On 10 July 2025, representatives of the Pakistan High Commission, including Deputy High Commissioner Mohammad Wafeeq and Counsellor Kamran Dangal, met with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Discussions focused on expanding joint higher education programmes, bilateral exchange visits, and opportunities for Pakistani diplomats to enrol in Bengali language diploma courses at the university's Institute of Modern Languages. The meeting also addressed the expansion of the Computer Lab at the Department of Urdu, which had received support from the High Commission.

On 18 September 2025, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Italy in Dhaka met with the Vice-Chancellor to discuss expanding the Italian language programme at the Institute of Modern Languages. The proposed arrangements included recruiting native Italian language instructors and establishing joint research and educational partnerships with leading Italian universities.

These engagements demonstrate how diplomatic relationships can support internationalization at the institutional and departmental levels. They also create opportunities for language learning, cultural understanding, and academic mobility.

3.4 Overall Contribution of International Academic Cooperation

The international engagements undertaken during the reporting period covered a wide geographical and thematic range. Partnerships and consultations involved institutions from Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Their collective significance lies in the range of knowledge and expertise made accessible to the university community. The activities addressed artificial intelligence, biomedical research, environmental management, climate resilience, language education, information science, and interdisciplinary research.

These engagements contribute to SDG Target 17.6 by promoting international cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. They also support Target 17.9 by creating opportunities for academic capacity building in a developing-country context.

The next stage should focus on converting consultations and proposed arrangements into sustained research collaborations, faculty and student mobility, joint publications, structured training programmes, and formal agreements with clearly defined implementation responsibilities.

4. Public-Sector, Government and Inter-Institutional Partnerships

4.1 Strengthening Cooperation with National Government Institutions

Universities contribute to national development not only through independent academic work but also by collaborating with public institutions and aligning research with national policy priorities.

On 15 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka held a high-level meeting with the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government at State Guest House Jamuna. The Vice-Chancellor presented reports on DUCSU election preparations, campus security, academic stabilization, and convocation planning. Discussions also addressed the need for expedited approval of major residential hall construction projects through the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), as well as increased government budgetary allocations for scientific research.

The meeting reflected the university's engagement with national policy and public resource mobilization. It also demonstrated the importance of communication between public universities and national decision-making institutions in addressing infrastructure, research, and governance priorities.

4.2 Mobilizing International Grant Support for Student Infrastructure

A major example of international resource mobilization during 2025 was the foreign grant for the Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall construction project.

On 9 October 2025, the university reported formal approval of a BDT 244 crore grant from the Government of China for the construction of the proposed residential hall, which is planned to accommodate 1,500 female students. The project proposals had been processed through the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Bangladesh.

On 18 December 2025, a Chinese technical delegation, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen and representatives of the University of Dhaka, including the Vice-Chancellor and Treasurer, conducted an on-site feasibility study near Jagannath Hall. The visit included technical inspection and discussion of spatial allocation and pre-construction engineering arrangements.

This partnership demonstrates how international development finance can support the expansion of public university infrastructure. The proposed hall is intended to address residential capacity needs for female students. The grant approval and feasibility study represent important project milestones, although they should not be interpreted as completion of the construction itself.

The project illustrates the contribution of international partnerships to SDG Target 17.3 through resource mobilization and Target 17.9 through support for institutional capacity and infrastructure development.

4.3 Technical Cooperation with BUET for Campus Safety

Inter-institutional technical partnerships are particularly important when universities face challenges that require specialized engineering knowledge and independent technical assessment.

Following regional seismic activity, the University of Dhaka collaborated with the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to assess the structural safety of selected residential halls. The collaboration involved the university's Central Coordination Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, and a technical sub-committee comprising BUET experts.

The assessments, reported in December 2025, covered several residential facilities and informed repair and maintenance activities.

The documented progress included:

- **Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall:** Structural repairs were completed in 112 of 175 rooms. Additional ferrocement roof repair work was underway, covering areas such as third-floor rooms, balcony drop-walls, parapet walls, the mosque, dining hall roof, and reading room ceiling.
- **Surya Sen Hall:** Structural repairs were completed in 96 of 141 rooms across the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors. Repairs were also completed in the canteen, ground-floor washrooms, and corridors.
- **Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall:** Repairs were completed in 32 of 121 rooms. The reported work included room repairs and painting in the South Block, repairs to fourth-floor rooms and balconies, washroom and reading room improvements, and roof ferrocement casting.
- **Shamsun Nahar Hall and Kabi Jasimuddin Hall:** Re-inspections were completed by BUET experts and the university's Chief Engineer to inform short-, medium-, and long-term structural maintenance plans.

This partnership demonstrates the practical value of cooperation between public universities. BUET's engineering expertise supported technical assessments and repair planning, while the University of Dhaka coordinated implementation within its residential infrastructure.

The collaboration is relevant not only to institutional safety but also to the broader role of universities in sharing specialized expertise to address public infrastructure challenges.

4.4 Collaboration with National Agencies on Energy and Environmental Policy

The University of Dhaka also engaged with national regulatory and technical agencies to connect academic research with public policy.

On 13 November 2025, the university's Energy Institute organized a national knowledge dissemination workshop titled *"EnDev's 16-Year Journey."* The programme featured the Chairman of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) as Chief Guest. Academic researchers and public-sector energy representatives participated in discussions on renewable energy implementation and policy development.

The workshop created a platform for exchanging experiences from renewable energy initiatives and considering evidence-based approaches to national energy policy.

On 18 December 2025, the university also received national recognition from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for its environmental governance initiatives. The recognition was presented to the Vice-Chancellor by the Environment Adviser at the Department of Environment. The documented basis included the university's policy measures relating to fireworks, sky lanterns, sound pollution, and plastic waste.

Although this recognition primarily reflects the university's environmental initiatives, it also demonstrates the value of cooperation and policy alignment between a public university and national environmental authorities.

4.5 Research and Policy Collaboration under the UGC HEAT Project

The University Grants Commission's Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project provided another platform for connecting university research with national policy concerns.

On 11 December 2025, the Department of International Relations organized a national policy seminar titled *"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 seminar brought together university researchers and institutional leadership to discuss research-based foreign policy options. The subject matter connected academic inquiry with practical national concerns, including climate displacement, labour migration, and national security.

This activity illustrates the importance of public-sector-supported research programmes in strengthening the relationship between higher education institutions and national policy formulation.

4.6 Cooperation with Bangladesh Maritime University

On 10 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka held an inter-university planning meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Maritime University.

The meeting established institutional agreement to explore cooperation in sharing scientific infrastructure, conducting joint marine science studies, and integrating oceanographic research programmes.

This engagement is particularly relevant to Bangladesh, where marine resources, coastal ecosystems, and maritime development are important national priorities. Collaboration between universities with

complementary expertise can strengthen research capacity and improve access to specialized scientific infrastructure.

The proposed cooperation provides a foundation for future joint studies and academic programmes. Its longer-term contribution will depend on the development of specific research projects, shared facilities, and implementation arrangements.

4.7 Cooperation with Fire Service and Civil Defense

Public-sector partnerships also contributed to campus emergency preparedness.

On 9 October 2025, the Fire Service and Civil Defense Department conducted practical fire safety training and emergency response exercises at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The activities included fire suppression exercises, rescue procedures, and building evacuation drills for university officers and staff.

This collaboration demonstrates the value of working with specialized public agencies to improve institutional readiness. It also creates opportunities for the university to strengthen safety practices through professional guidance and practical training.

5. Industry-Academia Partnerships and Private-Sector Engagement

5.1 Connecting Higher Education with Industry Skills and Employment Needs

Partnerships with industry can help universities respond to changing labour market requirements, strengthen graduate employability, and ensure that academic programmes remain relevant to professional practice.

On 13 November 2025, the Industry Collaboration and Employment Committee (ICEC), working jointly 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 Vice-Chancellor formally inaugurated the programme on 20 November 2025.

The initial cohort comprised 50 fourth-year undergraduate and Master's students from different departments.

The course was designed to address professional communication and workplace skill requirements. Its curriculum covered:

- Professional business writing;
- CV and cover letter preparation;
- Executive presentation delivery;
- Digital communication practices;
- Group problem-solving; and
- Adaptability in corporate workplaces.

This initiative represents an institutional effort to connect academic learning with practical professional competencies. By involving multiple university units, it also demonstrates the importance of coordination within the university when developing programmes in response to external labour market needs.

5.2 Promoting Research Collaboration in Healthcare and Material Science

Industry-academia collaboration is particularly important in research-intensive sectors where scientific knowledge must be connected with industrial processes, testing facilities, and commercial applications.

On 18 September 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology organized a national symposium titled *"Strengthening Industry-Academia Partnership in Healthcare and Material Science."* The programme involved leading domestic pharmaceutical firms.

The symposium focused on establishing operational frameworks for joint industrial research, specialized pharmaceutical material formulation, and commercial product testing.

The engagement created a platform for university researchers and pharmaceutical industry representatives to identify areas of shared interest. It also reflected the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration between pharmacy and engineering in addressing research and innovation needs.

The longer-term value of this initiative will depend on whether the discussions lead to funded research projects, joint laboratories, technical testing arrangements, patents, or other documented outputs.

5.3 Mobilizing Corporate Support for Student Scholarships

Private-sector financial support can help improve access to higher education by reducing financial barriers for students and providing resources for academic continuity.

On 9 October 2025, Sumitomo Corporation Asia & Oceania Pvt. Ltd. announced the continuation of its scholarship programme for ten regular undergraduate students at the University of Dhaka from the 2022–2023 session.

The programme requires recipients to have achieved a minimum GPA of 4.80 in their Secondary School Certificate and Higher Secondary Certificate examinations, excluding the fourth subject. It provides renewable financial support for three subsequent academic years, subject to satisfactory academic performance.

This corporate scholarship arrangement demonstrates how private-sector resources can contribute to student support and educational access. Its multi-year structure is particularly relevant because sustained assistance can help students plan for the continuation of their studies.

5.4 Alumni-Led Philanthropy and Educational Support

Alumni networks are another important source of institutional support. Former students and graduates can contribute to their university through scholarships, research funding, endowments, mentorship, and professional networks.

On 14 August 2025, the Department of Law Alumni, funded by Alhaj Advocate Md. Shah Alam, handed over the *Advocate Muhammad Shah Alam Law Scholarship*. Under the programme, 50 selected underprivileged and high-achieving first-year LL.B. students each received a one-time grant of BDT 10,000.

The grants were handed over by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) to support students' educational expenses.

This initiative demonstrates the contribution of alumni philanthropy to educational access. It also highlights the potential of departmental alumni networks to mobilize resources for students who may face financial challenges.

5.5 Corporate Partnerships for Student Health and Well-being

Partnerships with private healthcare providers can complement university services by expanding access to preventive health information and awareness activities.

During 2025, Ad-din Mother Care Limited partnered with the university to sponsor health awareness, preventive care, and wellness programmes for female residential students.

The activities were held at Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall on 10 July and Kavi Sufia Kamal Hall on 18 September.

These programmes demonstrate how corporate partnerships can contribute to student well-being beyond traditional academic activities. They also provide an example of cooperation between university residential administrations and external healthcare providers.

5.6 Developing Multilateral Scientific and Industrial Networks

On 9 October 2025, the Vice-Chancellor met with the Head of the Science and Technology Department of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO). The discussions focused on plans to establish an ICESCO Chair at the University of Dhaka.

The proposed initiative was intended to support regional scientific, industrial, and technological networking.

The consultation reflects the university's interest in developing institutional platforms that can connect researchers and professionals across countries and disciplines. The proposed Chair could provide a framework for future cooperation, although its establishment and operational activities would require subsequent implementation.

6. Partnerships with NGOs, Civil Society and Community Organizations

6.1 Supporting Democratic Participation and Civic Education

Partnerships with civil society organizations can strengthen the university's role as a platform for public dialogue, civic education, and democratic engagement.

On 17 July 2025, the DU Applied Democracy Lab partnered with International IDEA under the Students of Youth Democracy Academy programme to organize a special lecture titled *"Democracy and Constitutional Reform."* The programme engaged 90 student leaders representing 25 academic departments.

The partnership provided an opportunity to connect university-based civic education with the expertise of an international organization working on democracy and institutional development.

The initiative illustrates how collaboration with civil society and international organizations can strengthen student understanding of governance and encourage informed participation in public affairs.

6.2 Cooperation with JICA on Technical Capacity Building

On 17 July 2025, the Vice-Chancellor and Treasurer held technical consultations with a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The discussions focused on designing a multidisciplinary technical capacity-building project for young faculty members and students. The proposed areas included:

- Artificial intelligence;
- Renewable energy;
- Financial technology;
- Environmental management; and
- Science and technology.

The consultation identified areas in which international development cooperation could support the university's technical and research capabilities.

The proposed initiative is relevant to SDG Target 17.9, which emphasizes capacity building, particularly in developing countries. Its impact will depend on the development of a formal project framework, the mobilization of resources, and the delivery of the proposed training and technical activities.

6.3 Promoting Social Inclusion through Debate and Youth Advocacy

On 9 October 2025, ActionAid Bangladesh and the Dhaka University Debating Society jointly organized the two-day ActionAid-DUDS Inter-University Debate Festival at the Teacher-Student Centre.

The festival was organized around the theme *"Proposing Policies for Social Inclusivity."* It brought together debaters from universities across Bangladesh to develop and present policy proposals relating to social and economic inclusion.

The initiative demonstrates how partnerships between civil society organizations and university-based student groups can provide opportunities for youth participation in policy discussions.

By encouraging students to formulate evidence-based proposals, the programme connected academic and extracurricular activities with broader social development concerns.

6.4 Recognizing Volunteerism and Community Contribution

On 11 December 2025, the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS) partnered with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Bangladesh to host the International Volunteer Day Convention at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Organized under the theme *"Every Contribution Matters,"* the convention brought attention to the role of volunteerism and collective action in addressing development challenges.

The partnership reflected the importance of cooperation between universities and international development organizations in promoting community engagement and volunteer participation.

It also provided an opportunity to recognize the contribution of individuals and organizations working towards social and sustainable development.

6.5 Collaborating on Environmental Sustainability and Campus Action

Partnerships with local environmental organizations can help universities translate sustainability principles into practical campus activities.

On 11 December 2025, the DU Arboriculture Center, DUCSU, Green Future Foundation, and Poribesh Sangsad jointly organized the *"Stop Burning Fallen Leaves"* campaign at Mall Kallyan Chattar.

The campaign focused on reducing air pollution and promoting improved campus waste management. Residential participation included Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, and Rokeya Hall.

A notable example of practical implementation was the work undertaken by Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, which collected and preserved fallen leaf biomass and converted it into organic fertilizer for campus gardens instead of burning it.

This initiative demonstrates how cooperation between university bodies, student representatives, and environmental organizations can turn public awareness into practical environmental action.

6.6 Strengthening Anti-Corruption Awareness through Civil Society Engagement

On 11 December 2025, Transparency International Bangladesh partnered with the Faculty of Fine Arts to organize the Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition, Awards Ceremony, and Exhibition 2025 at Bokultala and Zainul Gallery.

The programme used visual art to engage students and the wider university community in discussions on corruption, institutional transparency, and ethical governance.

The partnership demonstrates the potential of civil society organizations and academic departments to use creative and educational platforms to promote public awareness of governance issues.

6.7 Overall Contribution of Civil Society Partnerships

The university's engagement with International IDEA, JICA, ActionAid Bangladesh, VSO Bangladesh, Green Future Foundation, Poribesh Sangsad, and Transparency International Bangladesh demonstrates the diversity of its civil society partnerships.

These collaborations addressed democracy, technical capacity building, social inclusion, volunteerism, environmental management, and anti-corruption awareness.

They also demonstrate that partnerships need not be limited to formal institutional agreements. Joint programmes, public campaigns, student engagement, and knowledge-sharing activities can also contribute to the implementation of SDG 17.

7. International Knowledge Sharing, Research Networks and Cultural Exchange

7.1 Hosting International Cultural Exchange and Knowledge-Sharing Programmes

Universities contribute to international cooperation not only through scientific research but also through cultural exchange and the sharing of artistic and intellectual traditions.

On 10 July 2025, Dhaka University Mime Action organized the three-day 6th International Mime Festival at the Teacher-Student Centre. The festival brought together international mime artists from Denmark, South Korea, Turkey, and India alongside Bangladeshi performance groups.

The programme included public performances, technical workshops, poster displays, mime competitions, and the release of the festival publication *Naibashabda*.

The festival provided a platform for international artistic exchange and cultural interaction. It also demonstrated how university-based cultural organizations can contribute to global cooperation through creative and non-formal educational activities.

7.2 Advancing Scientific Cooperation and Research Awareness

On 18 September 2025, the Department of Microbiology and the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists jointly organized International Microorganism Day 2025. The programme featured the Executive Director of icddr,b as a key speaker.

The seminar aimed to promote public awareness of microbiological research and global biosecurity.

The involvement of a national scientific society and a leading research institution strengthened the connection between university-based education and the wider scientific community. Such engagement can support knowledge exchange and raise awareness of research issues with implications for public health and global development.

7.3 Building International Research Networks in Humanities and Social Sciences

On 13 November 2025, the Department of Urdu hosted a two-day international conference titled *"Philosophy of Awakening in Iqbal and Nazrul"* at the Senate Bhaban.

The conference brought together academic delegates from 18 countries and featured 18 specialized sessions. A total of 133 research papers were presented on philosophy, literature, and social awakening.

The event demonstrated the university's capacity to convene international academic networks in the humanities. It also provided a platform for scholars from different countries to exchange research findings and perspectives on shared intellectual traditions.

The conference illustrates that international research cooperation is not limited to science and technology. The humanities and social sciences also contribute to global knowledge exchange, cultural understanding, and interdisciplinary dialogue.

7.4 Mobilizing Philanthropic Research Funding

Research funding is a central component of SDG 17 because strong research institutions require sustained financial resources and opportunities for researchers at different academic levels.

On 13 November 2025, the Darul Irfan Research Institute (DIRI), in collaboration with the Department of World Religions and Culture, awarded BDT 5,800,000 in research grants and scholarships to 18 scholars.

The endowment included the Syed Delawar Hossain Maizbhandari Memorial Scholarship and the Syed Emdadul Haq Maizbhandari Research Fellowship.

The support was distributed across different levels of academic research:

- Two PhD researchers;
- One MPhil researcher;
- Two MA research monograph students; and
- Thirteen undergraduate scholars.

This initiative demonstrates the role of philanthropic and research-oriented organizations in supporting academic work. The funding also provides opportunities for researchers at different stages of their academic careers, including undergraduate students.

The initiative is particularly relevant to SDG Target 17.3, which emphasizes mobilizing additional financial resources for developing countries, and Target 17.9, which focuses on capacity building.

7.5 Promoting Inter-University Research Capacity through International Winter School

On 11 December 2025, the Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT), the Department of World Religions and Culture at the University of Dhaka, the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), USA, and the Fairfax Institute, USA, jointly organized a four-day international Winter School programme at the university.

The programme brought together 70 selected student researchers from 30 public and private universities across Bangladesh. It focused on interdisciplinary research training and contemporary global issues.

The initiative created a shared learning platform across institutional boundaries and connected students with international research organizations.

Its significance lies in the opportunity to strengthen research capabilities among students from different universities, encourage interdisciplinary thinking, and build networks among emerging researchers.

7.6 Supporting International Humanitarian Cooperation

International partnerships also extend to humanitarian concerns. The University of Dhaka's alumni and academic networks participated in an initiative to mobilize financial support for children affected by the conflict in Gaza, Palestine.

On 13 November 2025, the Master of Professional Banking Alumni Association of the Department of Banking and Insurance raised financial relief funds for war-affected children. Under the supervision of the University Treasurer, alumni representatives handed over the relief funds to the Palestinian Ambassador at the Embassy of Palestine in Dhaka.

This activity demonstrated the capacity of university-linked alumni networks to mobilize resources for humanitarian purposes and engage with international partners.

It also reflects the wider role of universities in promoting global citizenship, solidarity, and cooperation in response to humanitarian challenges.

8. International Institutional Recognition and Research Performance

8.1 Improvement in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings

The University of Dhaka's international institutional standing improved during the reporting period.

On 9 October 2025, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 were published. The University of Dhaka entered the global 801–1000 performance band, improving from its previous position in the 1001–1200 band.

The university maintained its position as the joint top-ranked university in Bangladesh among the 3,118 institutions evaluated globally.

The ranking assessed institutional performance across five core areas:

- Teaching;
- Research environment;
- Research quality;
- International outlook; and
- Industry collaboration.

The improvement provides an international benchmark of the university's performance across teaching, research, international engagement, and industry-related activities.

8.2 Strong Performance in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings

A further milestone was achieved in the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026, published on 20 November 2025. The University of Dhaka ranked 52nd globally among 911 universities across 94 countries. It also secured the first position in South Asia and ranked first among the 12 participating Bangladeshi public and private universities included in the assessment.

The ranking focused on interdisciplinary scientific integration, research funding, and collaborative research infrastructure. This result provides evidence of the university's international performance in interdisciplinary science. It also highlights the importance of research collaboration and institutional capacity in supporting cross-disciplinary scientific work.

8.3 Significance for the University's Partnership Strategy

These ranking achievements strengthen the university's international profile and provide useful external benchmarks for evaluating institutional performance.

A stronger international standing may help the university attract academic partners, participate in competitive research opportunities, and strengthen its visibility among international research and development networks.

However, rankings should be interpreted as indicators of institutional performance rather than direct measures of the impact of specific partnerships. Demonstrating the contribution of collaboration will require additional evidence, such as joint publications, externally funded research projects, international mobility, research infrastructure development, and measurable collaborative outputs.

9. Summary of Key SDG 17 Initiatives in 2025

The following table provides a consolidated overview of the principal partnership and resource-mobilization activities documented during the reporting period.

Partnership category	Key initiative	Documented contribution
International academic cooperation	Engagement with Charles Sturt University and Al Balagh Academy	Guest lecture on Islamic Psychology and discussion of joint research frameworks
Regional university partnership	North Eastern Hill University, India	Consensus to pursue an MoU covering academic and researcher exchanges
International university partnership	Peking University, China	Cooperation roadmap and specialized academic lectures
International academic exchange	Kansai University, Japan	Consultation on research and academic exchange; lecture on AI and learning assessment
International academic cooperation	City University of New York	Guest lecture on future careers in library and information science
International research cooperation	University of Toronto and Sungkyunkwan University	Technical presentations on biomedical AI and beneficial AI
Research and capacity building	Central Queensland University	Proposed joint research and capacity-building workshops
Internationalization	British Council	Discussion of joint research funding, co-publishing, and academic mobility
Diplomatic cooperation	Pakistan High Commission	Discussions on academic exchange, Bengali language training, and IT infrastructure

Language and academic partnership	Embassy of Italy	Expansion of Italian language programmes and proposed academic partnerships
Public-sector cooperation	Interim Government of Bangladesh	Discussion of university infrastructure, research funding, and institutional priorities
International development finance	Government of China and ERD	Approval of BDT 244 crore grant for a proposed 1,500-capacity female student hall
Technical institutional partnership	BUET	Structural assessments and support for residential hall repair planning
Energy-sector partnership	SREDA	Knowledge-sharing workshop on renewable energy implementation and policy
Higher education policy research	UGC HEAT Project	Research-based policy seminar on globalization challenges
Inter-university research	Bangladesh Maritime University	Agreement to explore shared research infrastructure and marine science cooperation
Public safety cooperation	Fire Service and Civil Defence	Fire safety training and emergency response exercises
Industry-academia cooperation	Pharmaceutical and material science symposium	Framework discussions on joint research and product testing
Corporate student support	Sumitomo Corporation scholarship programme	Continuing scholarship support for 10 undergraduate students
Alumni philanthropy	Advocate Muhammad Shah Alam Law Scholarship	BDT 10,000 grants for 50 underprivileged and high-achieving students
Corporate health partnership	Ad-din Mother Care Limited	Health awareness and preventive care programmes in female residential halls
Professional development	Effective Professional Communication course	Initial cohort of 50 undergraduate and Master's students
Multilateral research networking	ICESCO Chair consultation	Discussion of a proposed scientific and technological networking platform
Democracy and civic education	International IDEA and DU Applied Democracy Lab	Lecture involving 90 student leaders from 25 departments

Technical capacity building	JICA	Consultation on a proposed multidisciplinary capacity-building project
Youth policy engagement	ActionAid Bangladesh and DUDS	Inter-university debate festival on social inclusion
Volunteerism	VSO Bangladesh and IDMVS	International Volunteer Day Convention
Environmental cooperation	Green Future Foundation, Poribesh Sangsad and DU Arboriculture Center	Joint campaign on fallen-leaf management and organic fertilizer
Anti-corruption advocacy	Transparency International Bangladesh	Anti-corruption cartoon competition and exhibition
International scientific cooperation	Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists and icddr,b	Scientific seminar on microbiology and biosecurity
International humanities research	Iqbal and Nazrul Conference	133 research papers across 18 sessions, with delegates from 18 countries
Research philanthropy	Darul Irfan Research Institute	BDT 5.8 million in grants and scholarships for 18 scholars
Inter-university research capacity	BIIT, IIIT and Fairfax Institute Winter School	Four-day programme for 70 student researchers from 30 universities
Humanitarian cooperation	Master of Professional Banking Alumni Association and Embassy of Palestine	Financial relief mobilized for children affected by the Gaza conflict
International institutional benchmarking	THE World University Rankings 2026	University of Dhaka placed in the 801–1000 global band
Interdisciplinary research benchmarking	THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026	52nd globally and first in South Asia

10. Conclusion

The University of Dhaka's documented partnership activities during 2025 demonstrate its growing engagement with international universities, national government institutions, technical agencies, private-sector organizations, civil society groups, and philanthropic networks.

The period was marked by international academic consultations, collaborative research and knowledge-sharing programmes, public-sector technical cooperation, industry-academia initiatives, external scholarship and research funding, and community-based partnerships. The approval of a BDT 244 crore grant for the proposed Bangladesh-China Maitree Hall, the BDT 5.8 million research endowment through DIRI, the professional development programme for students, and the collaboration with BUET on residential hall safety illustrate the different ways partnerships can contribute to institutional development.

The university's improved performance in international rankings further reflects its standing in areas relevant to research, international outlook, and interdisciplinary science. These achievements provide a useful foundation for strengthening its global academic relationships.

Nevertheless, the long-term value of partnerships depends on more than the number of engagements or agreements. Sustainable collaboration requires clear objectives, shared responsibilities, reliable financing, implementation mechanisms, and measurable results.

By strengthening partnership management, expanding joint research, improving external resource mobilization, and systematically evaluating collaborative outcomes, the University of Dhaka can further advance its contribution to SDG 17 and reinforce its role as an internationally connected public university working towards sustainable development.