

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF LEBANON REPORT ON SDG 17

PARTNERSHIP FOR
THE GOAL



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SDG 17 - PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOAL

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, represent basic principles to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They were gestated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, replacing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG, 2000), to create a set of global goals related to environmental, political and political challenges. economic conditions that our world faces. They were launched in January 2016 and will guide the policies and funding of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for the next 15 years.

The United Nations Development Program works with governments to integrate the SDGs into their national development plans and policies, and this in turn has led to the need to implement a new agenda to promote Sustainable Development, Agenda 2030. Agenda 2030, is a new tool for sustainable development, which aims to end poverty, promote prosperity and well-being for all people, in addition to protecting the environment by 2030.

More and more institutions are auditing their situation with respect to the SDGs to lay the foundations of the new agenda, Agenda 2030. Those most committed and more aware of this international need will be the best positioned to carry out necessary improvements in the current management model and infrastructures with technical and financial assistance from the United Nations Development Program.

Within these institutions are the universities, where the relationship between the SDGs and the universities can be seen as mutually beneficial and necessary for both parties. On the one hand, anticipating offering training on the SDGs is a way of demonstrating the institution's ability to adapt to these changing circumstances, and on the other, funding entities and sponsors are allocating more and more aid to meeting the Goals.

Sustainable Development Goal 17 "Partnerships for the goals" refers to the need for cross-sector and cross -country collaboration in pursuit of all the goals by the year 2030. SDG 17 is a vision for improved and more equitable trade, as well as coordinated investment initiatives to promote sustainable development across borders. It is about strengthening and streamlining cooperation between nation-states, both developed and developing, using the SDGs as a shared framework and a shared vision for defining that collaborative way forward.

At the Islamic University of Lebanon, we have a strong belief that in order for our country to develop sustainably, we have to abide by and follow these SDGs where people will enjoy a better life as well as a higher standard of living. The Islamic University has already implemented many of the requirements of the SDGs and is much willing and able to implement the remaining and incorporate it in its programs and policies.

At the end, it is extremely important to note that we need as human beings living on earth to live happily and with dignity by partnering together. All of us have to have the ultimate respect and

appreciation of each other's rights; the human right. However, to be able to enjoy that and develop our lives, many elements have to be taken with great consideration. We need as humans living on this planet to care for each other by providing assistance to the less fortunate ones. And what could be better to assist than a collaborative and joint effort among all countries under the United Nations umbrella. This is the reason behind the SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals.

We, countries of the world, need to assist in preventing hunger, stressing the importance of sustainable and drinkable water, being ready to face climate change, protecting life under water and on land, respecting the order of law, treating each other equally and without discrimination, continuously and relentlessly working on looking out for other sources of affordable and clean energy, sustaining city life without having to continuously run away to the suburbs, preserving justice among us all through a good and fair judicial system, consuming and producing responsibly, stressing innovation and creativity, promoting decent jobs and good work environments without any human trafficking or child labor or money laundering, promoting good health and well-being, making education affordable and reflective of the job market demand and assuring each other of zero tolerance for hunger.

When all of these are implemented then the world will be a much better place to live. The quality as well as the standard of living of people will be better leading to a decrease in the gap between the rich and the poor. There will be more respect for the human rights, lesser crime and extremism and finally peace will prevail.

SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER

Life below water is primordial and essential for the human being. In fact, the humanity should protect the life under water to sustain survivability. Efforts must be done by all the active bodies to ensure good life below water. The sustainable management of the under water resources is one of the most important culture to be taught and spread worldwide. In the front line, universities are loaded to fulfill this mission, through collaboration with all potential communities and to organize events, in order to raise awareness about under water ecosystems conservation.

IUL and life below water:

To Support aquatic ecosystems through education and to be part of the efforts targeting to reduce pollution and to raise awareness about under water ecosystems, The Islamic University of Lebanon offers some educational programs on fresh-water ecosystems. These courses can be beneficial in the marine fields such as Hydrology (Civil Engineering), Cartography - Underground and Hydrographic (Surveying Engineering) - Environment for Engineering (Surveying Engineering). In addition, the IUL supports the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism through: for free events, seminars, brochures and booklets, etc [1].



Figure 1. Taken from [1]

On the other hand, and in order to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, the IUL supports the activities for local or national communities to respect the national and international maritime laws.

To Support the aquatic ecosystems, The IUL encourages the events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and marine resources to ensure sustainable food. In this regards, some students are engaged in a project aiming to produce plants and fish at home. This E-FARM project is an innovative farm involving some recent technologies such as controllers, telecom and programming.

E-FARM is an innovative farm producing 100% organic plants and fish while saving 90% of water usage [2].

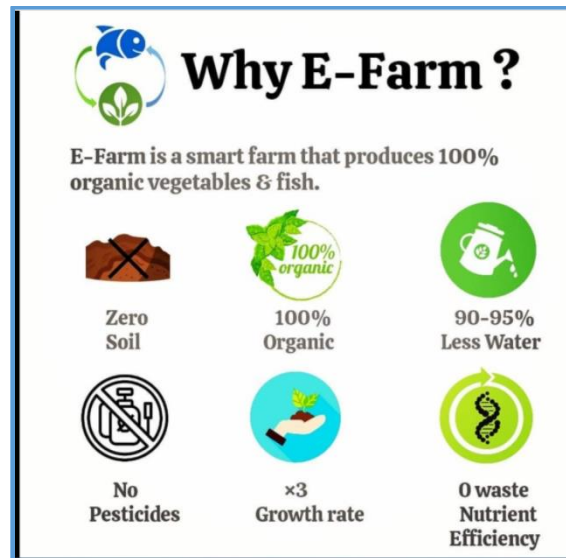


Figure 2. Taken from [2]

To protect ecosystems and human health, The IUL provides potable water to all employees and ensures sanitation and drainage systems for the sewers according to national standards. To help reducing the pollution, The IUL provides and guarantees all the instructions for waste sorting to reduce marine pollution. For that, a group of students from IUL is engaged to collect and sort the recyclable plastic water bottles.

To maintain local ecosystems, the IUL has signed some agreements with some local organizations.

An agreement with Tyre municipality offers some scientific and technical advices to exploit the fresh water fountains under sea water at the coasts of Tyr city and the turtle's safe park (reserve).

For example, the municipality of Deir Qanoun En Nahr (Tyr (Sour) District) inaugurated a drinking water treatment plant, partly funded by United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to provide water to residents. Deir Qanoun Nahr, which is one of the largest cities of Tyr (Sour) District, has more than 10,000 residents. Drinking water supply of the population is a priority for the municipal council. This plant was built as part of a cooperation project between the contingents of UNIFIL and the municipality. UNIFIL has funded the project to the tune of \$ 24,000.00, Korean battalion of UNIFIL up to \$ 29,000.00 and the municipality of Deir Qanoun En Nahr up to \$ 1,300.00 [3].

Another agreement has been signed with Baalbek municipality and the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training, in order to distribute waste containers in the university (Baalbek campus) and to host events for Training and rehabilitation about waste sorting of IUL students. This will help to clean and restore irrigation canals as well as the Litani river.

In 2012, The IUL and The Beirut Arab University (BAU) and under the umbrella of Tempus project, a project has been proposed to introduce some courses concerning the green engineering in the curriculum of the faculties of engineering. But this project was not continued due to some constraints and limitations.

At the invitation of the Islamic University in Lebanon and the cultural movement in Lebanon, the Minister and Deputy Dr. Inaya Ezz El-Din a lecture titled "Approach to Waste Management: Between Sustainability Principles and Reality" this morning in the university branch hall in Tire, attended by the Secretary-General of the University, Prof. Hussein Badran, and the Dean of the College of Political Science and Diplomacy, Prof. Ramez Ammar, the organizational officer of the Jabal Amel region in the Amal Ali Ismail movement, the director of public relations at the university, Dr. Hisham Al-Husseini, educational and social events, heads of municipalities, university professors, students, and interested persons [4].



Figure 3. Taken from [4]

Quality policy at the Islamic University

The Islamic University of Lebanon is committed for consolidating the culture and the principles of quality of education and scientific research. By applying the highest national and international requirements and standards for accreditation and quality in the sector of higher education and scientific research, IUL aims to assure permanent and continuous improvement of the educational process, taking into account the needs of the individual, society and the environment.



Figure 4. Quality policy at the Islamic University

Conclusion and future perspectives:

Nowadays, the sustainable management of the under-water resources is a very important and very complex problem. To reduce the impact of pollution: climate change and the asymmetrical consumption of under-water resources, this problem requires collective efforts of all the active bodies, such as policy makers, educational institutions, etc.

In order to reduce the pollution and to save and conserve the life under-water, the Islamic University of Lebanon (IUL) takes important care to spread the awareness concerning the sustainability of under-water resources. For that and in order to be part of the worldwide efforts regarding the under-water resources conservation, agreements are signed, activities are done and also educational programs are included in the curriculum of many departments.

References

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