



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainable Development Goal_01 (No Poverty) Report

Al-Balqa Applied University
2025

Foreword

Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU) is a prominent public university in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with a student body of over 60,000 and multiple satellite campuses across the country. BAU's vision is to excel as a globally competitive applied university, renowned for creativity, innovation, applied scientific research, and leadership. The university is dedicated to fostering Jordan's knowledge economy and society, delivering high-quality education that equips students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



Spanning an estimated **11,100,000 m²**, BAU's campuses are home to a wide array of educational, research, medical, sports, and cultural facilities. Additionally, the campuses feature extensive green spaces and recreational areas, creating a vibrant, supportive environment for student development and engagement.

BAU's main campus is located in the ancient city of [As-Salt](#), in Al-Balqa' Governorate, home to a number of important cultural and historical sites, and a [UNESCO world heritage](#) site. Built by Macedonians, [As-Salt](#) occupied an important trading position by Roman, Byzantine, and Mamelukes. Along with its historical value, As-Salt city is located 20 minutes from the lowest point on earth, the [Dead Sea](#) and is very close to the [holy baptism site of Jesus Christ](#) on the East bank of the Jordan River. A sunny day at As-Salt rewards visitors with a breathtaking view of the holy lands.

Alongside BAU's main campus, the university's satellite campuses are hubs for quality education and research and offer students the opportunity to explore Jordan's rich cultural heritage. For example, [Aqaba University College](#) located in Jordan's only port, offers maritime transport technology programs as well as easy access to the golden triangle of [Petra](#), [Wadi Rum](#) and [Aqaba](#). And Shoubak University College, which is located close to the

stunning [Dana Biosphere Reserve](#). and [Huson University College](#) in the north, which closest to [Jerash](#) which is the second to Petra on the list of favorite destinations in Jordan

Al-Balqa Governorate is a province of intellectual heritage and folklore, and it is popular for recreational and religious tourism; traveler may visit many ruins and sacred shrines for Prophet Shu'ayb (Maqam Nabi Shu'ayb), Prophet Joshua Ben-nun, Prophet Gad Ben Jacob, Prophet Ayub, Prophet Hazir, and Prophet Gilad (May Peace Be Upon Them), as well as the shrines of two of Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) Companions: Abu Obeida Al-Jarah and Dirar Ibn Azwar.

Such an integral role along with other cities of the Kingdom was deeply rooted during the establishment of the Emirate of Jordan in 1921 moving towards developing the country. Salt City was prominent with its scientific and educational legacy, which was marked by the founding of Salt School, inaugurated by His Majesty King Abdullah the First – may God rest his soul – (Prince at that time) in 1923, to be the first school in the kingdom having its graduates as great officials and leaders of the nation.

Upon firmly acknowledging the educational and scientific long history of Salt City along with its leading role in the field of education by the Hashemite leadership, Late King Hussein Bin Talal – May God rest his soul – honored Balqa' governorate by the issuance of the royal decree to establish Al Balqa Applied University in Salt city on the 22nd of August 1996. This has enhanced the city's role, commemorated the pioneers of its early graduates, and scientifically empowered its legacy which we hope to continually flourish.

Our Strategic Response

BAU operates through a network of campuses across Jordan, covering diverse climatic regions—from the highlands in the mid-west to the arid governorates in the south and far east. This geographical diversity has driven BAU to undertake extensive initiatives in climate variability and adaptation, establishing itself as a leader in climate resilience.

BAU is at the forefront of research and innovation in areas such as water conservation, drought management, capacity building, and technology transfer. Its initiatives span solar energy, wastewater treatment and reuse, and smart agriculture. The university has also introduced specialized academic programs in fields like smart agriculture, water treatment, smart buildings, and electric and hybrid vehicles, alongside conducting numerous climate

change awareness activities.

On another hand (BAU) adopts the United [Nations Sustainable](#)

[Development Goals \(UN SDGs\)](#), and

Paris Agreement goals which are

adopted by all nations as a universal call

to protect the planet and ensure that all

people enjoy peace and prosperity by

2030 through ethical management of

resources, openness to societies and

contributing to their development and

solving their problems, and creating a

conscious generation of its students who adopt the dimensions of sustainable development

in their lives, directing scientific research to contribute to achieving sustainable

development, and strengthening national and international partnerships, also (BAU)

became a member of [United Nations Academic Impact \(UNAI\)](#), and [United Nation -](#)

[Sustainable Development Solution Network \(UNSDSN\)](#).



INTRODUCTION:

BAU has adopted a sustainability-driven approach rooted in continuous improvement, with a mission to fully integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its core strategies, policies, and daily operations. This commitment has inspired transformative initiatives, projects, and programs across all faculties and campuses. Through responsible resource management, innovative teaching, impactful research, and strong national and international partnerships, BAU continues to redefine its institutional identity as a leader in sustainability.

To strengthen its contribution to the SDGs, BAU established a **dedicated [Sustainability Office](#)** and implemented best practices that have earned international recognition.

Remarkably, the university ranked **first nationally and 2nd in the Arab region, and 53rd globally** in the **2023 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings**.

These accomplishments align with the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, which serve as a guiding framework for meaningful action toward people and the planet. By embracing these goals, BAU continuously assesses its progress and sets clear priorities for future advancement.

BAU remains steadfast in empowering students as agents of change, community leaders, and responsible global citizens. Faculty and students actively engage in sustainability-oriented education through diverse courses, academic programs, and research projects that advance SDG principles in teaching, learning, and innovation.

In alignment with its [Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#), BAU continues to pioneer innovative approaches through training programs, applied research, and community engagement initiatives—all designed to contribute effectively to the realization of the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

1 NO POVERTY



INTRODUCTION

Extreme poverty living on less than US\$3.00 per day has declined over past decades, yet in 2025 around 808 million people (1 in 10 globally) still lived in extreme poverty. If current trends persist, 8.9% of the world's population will remain in extreme poverty by 2030. Hunger has also risen to levels last seen in 2005, while food prices continue to increase in many countries.

Poverty persists due to unemployment, social exclusion, and high vulnerability to disasters, disease, and other shocks. Strong social protection systems are vital, yet nearly half of the world's population remains unprotected. Although many temporary measures were introduced during recent crises, long-term, universal systems are still needed.

Everyone should care because poverty and inequality weaken economic growth, threaten social cohesion, and increase instability. Individuals can contribute by engaging in policymaking and supporting community initiatives. Governments must create inclusive job opportunities, and the private sector can drive equitable economic growth. Science also plays a key role by improving access to clean water, sanitation, and health, helping to reduce poverty and its impacts.

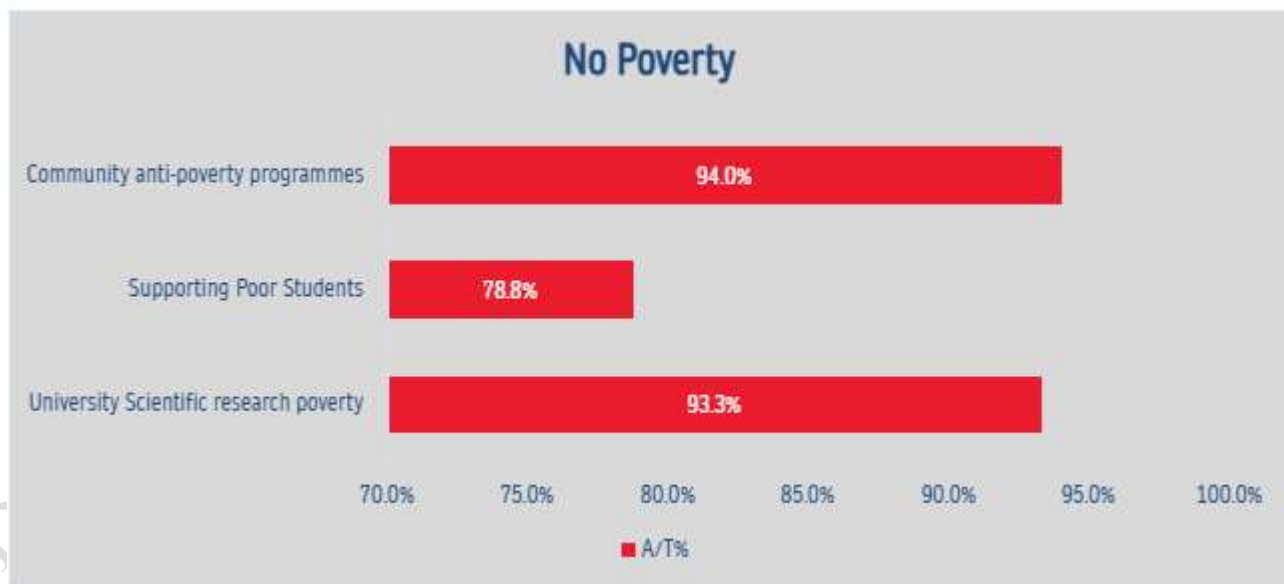
Al-Balqa Applied University (BAU) is deeply committed to supporting the local community and contributing to sustainable development. To reinforce this commitment, the



university has aligned its strategies, policies, and governance structures with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, placing special emphasis on **Goal 1: No Poverty**. With its wide geographical presence across Jordan, BAU plays a significant role in advancing poverty alleviation efforts at both local and national levels.

Through its extensive network, BAU provides grants and financial aid to students facing economic challenges that could hinder their education. These resources are facilitated through partnerships with the **Ministry of Higher Education** and the **Student Support Fund**, along with collaborations with various donor institutions. To effectively contribute to the SDGs, BAU has outlined specific sub-goals aligned with the broader aim of sustainable development, particularly targeting Goal 1:

- **Advanced scientific research** focused on combating poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods, in addition to scientific publication and research collaboration with institutions in low-income and developing countries.
- **Supporting economically disadvantaged students** to help them complete their education and overcome difficult circumstances.
- **Engaging in community initiatives and** national programs aimed at alleviating poverty and promoting social equity.



[Strategic Achievement for SDG2 /2025](#)

SUPPORT & FINANCIAL AID

BAU has implemented a robust suite of initiatives to support students from low-income backgrounds by leveraging its internal resources and collaborating closely with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHE) and local community organizations. Through its dedicated Student Support Fund, BAU offers targeted assistance to students facing financial difficulties. In parallel,

Balqa University, UNHCR sign MoU to expand higher education opportunities for refugees



via the national Student Support Fund system, it contributes alongside other public universities in delivering grants and loans to students across Jordan — for example, MOHE announced the disbursement of roughly JD 5 million for eligible students in the 2024–2025 academic year, including those at BAU.

Beyond national support, BAU plays an active role in supporting the education of refugee students and those from low-income countries hosted in Jordan. This includes signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which establishes the “Higher Education Alliance” in Jordan to expand access to higher education for refugee students, and treating refugee students admitted through the university's parallel programs with tuition parity to Jordanian students.

Additionally, BAU has fostered various international partnerships such as the agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to upgrade its diploma-level programs at Irbid and Karak—which enhance its capacity to provide better educational opportunities and infrastructure to students from diverse backgrounds.

Through these combined efforts direct financial aid programs, national grant systems, inclusive policies for refugees, and international partnerships BAU is strengthening its commitment to equity, access and social inclusion for all students, especially those from economically disadvantaged or under-represented backgrounds.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND EDUCATION RESOURCES

The university has implemented targeted support programs to assist female students and other students facing financial challenges. The university has reduced tuition fees for its master's programs and waived fees for English language course materials, significantly easing the financial burden for students pursuing advanced studies. In a notable step toward equity, BAU has also standardized tuition fees for international students enrolled in parallel programs, aligning them with the rates for Jordanian students. These measures promote fairness, inclusiveness, and broader access to higher education for all members of the university community.

LOCAL COMMUNITY – NO POVERTY AT BAU

Significant efforts are being made to support local communities and address socio-economic challenges, in line with **SDG 1: No Poverty**. Community groups are empowered to establish and sustain their own ventures through logistical support, specialized training, and capacity-building programs that provide essential skills in marketing and business management.

To enhance visibility and market access for these initiatives, BAU organizes events, festivals, and bazaars that provide platforms for local products. Notable examples include the Pomegranate Festival and the Black Iris Festival, along with periodic bazaars held across various regions of Jordan.

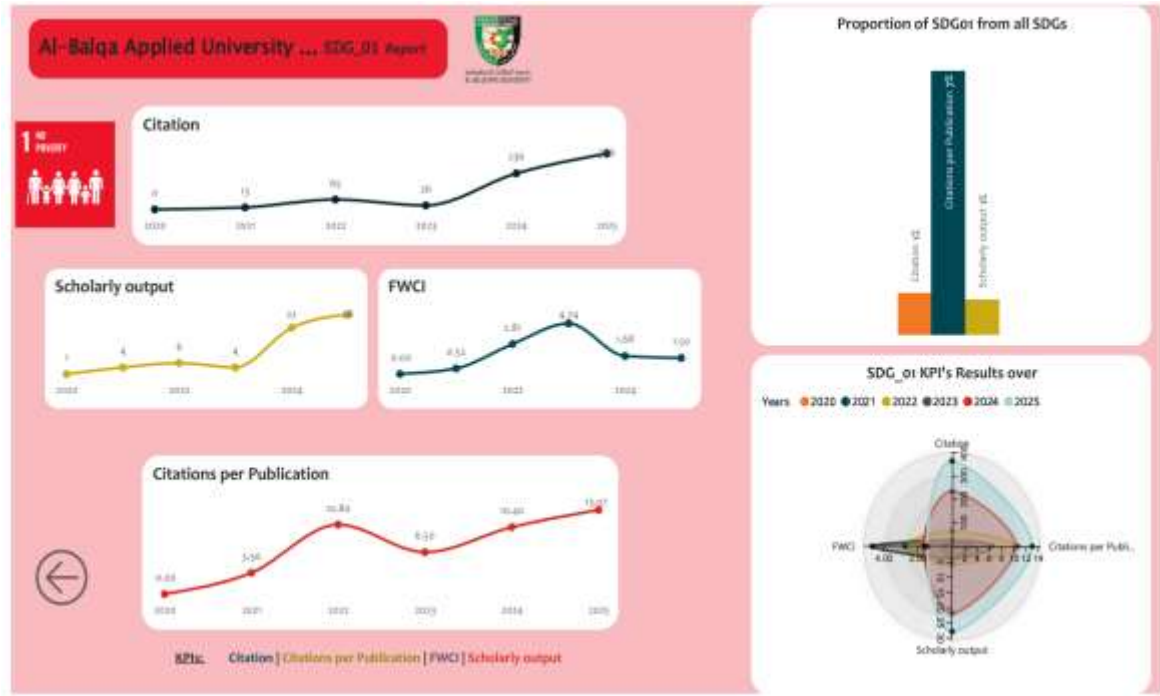


BAU also extends its support to vulnerable populations, organizing targeted activities for orphans and underprivileged groups. These include charitable initiatives, free medical services, and programs aimed at meeting essential community needs.

Furthermore, the university participates in international projects such as INTERNSA and My Community, which focus on enhancing youth employability, entrepreneurship, and social innovation. These projects provide training, internships, and community-based activities, empowering young people particularly women and marginalized groups to gain practical experience, develop leadership skills, and improve livelihoods.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOLUTIONS



SDG01 BAU No Poverty Publications (2021-2025)

The dashboard shows strong, steady improvements across all SDG 1 research performance indicators at BAU. Citations and scholarly output both demonstrate noticeable upward trends, especially in 2024–2025, indicating growing research engagement and visibility. The FWCI peak in 2023 suggests a period of high impact, and although it slightly declined afterward, it remains within a positive range. Citations per publication continue to rise, reflecting improving research quality. Overall, the visualized data highlights BAU's expanding contribution to SDG 1 and its increasing influence within the global research community.

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