

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



جامعة الكويت
KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

SDG Accord Reporting 2022 CASE STUDY

Summary:

SDG 4: Quality Education

KU opened the 1st activities of joint Gulf action to activate what was approved by the Committee of Trustees of the Joint Action Committees in the field of higher education in the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in its 15th meeting regarding the adoption of e-learning as a path of university education and urging member universities to use artificial intelligence techniques and virtual reality, and see the experiences of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in this field.

SDG 4: Quality Education - SDG 5: Gender Equality - SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

KU - College of Architecture in cooperation with the Kuwait Autism Centre launched initiative of designing the Kuwait Centre for Social Integration and to organize an exhibition for the course (Architectural Design 4) to present the final projects of the 3rd year students, which included 28 projects, with the aim of encouraging students and advancing their pioneering role in serving their communities and countries, and highlighting their ability to Create projects that accommodate societal challenges and address them in an innovative way.

SDG 5: Gender Equality - SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Kuwait University (KU) represented by the Department of Disabled People from the Deanship of Student Affairs, in the developmental training program (D-Partners), the 5th generation, entitled (Improving the lives of individuals with disabilities within the Kuwait Vision 2035 - challenges and aspirations of education, accessibility and media) under the supervision of the global training portal.

KU launched the Kuwait Female Engineers Program in its 3rd edition in cooperation with Limak Company. The program aims to train female students and engineers in various disciplines in the College of Engineering and Petroleum with approx. 200 hours of training divided into several axes, and upon successful completion of the program, the participants receive three certificates, the most important of which is the BTEC certificate from the Technology Education Council for Management and Leadership in Britain.

Implementing SDG 5: KU achievements and challenges at the regional level, social sciences inaugurate the work of the 8th Women's Forum in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program.

One of KU faculty members Dr. Fawzia H. Abdullah from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the College of Science is among the top3 female leaders in the oil industries for 2019 by LEWAS symposium & award women for Excellence Leadership.

KU UNESCO Club of the Cultural and Artistic Activities Department held cultural exhibition "Across Continents" at the KU - College of Business Administrative. The exhibition included different cultural identities, in the presence of many faculty members, students and students of the Language Centre and Arab and foreign communities interested in learning about the various participating civilizations and cultures.

KU – College of Law inaugurated the international conference entitled (Legal Legislation and Social Prospects Related to the Role of the Family and Sustainable Development 2035, Women, Children and Juveniles) in cooperation with the International Organization for Empowerment of Women and Capacity Building.

KU launched the distance education training plan, which includes disabled people of students, faculty members, academic support staff, administration staff, and students.

SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy

The activities of the 7th International Conference on Energy Research and Development kicked off at KU - College of Engineering and Petroleum.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

KU participated to prepare a unified strategy for universities and higher education institutions in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, according to the regulations set by the Committee of Ministers of Higher Education, This is by formulating a specific vision that stipulates excellence in the system of joint Gulf action in the field of higher education and scientific research, innovation and knowledge transfer in accordance with policies, frameworks and programs to achieve sustainable development and global competitiveness.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

Applying the sustainable development goals at the local and international levels helped to raise the level of plans and services, which directly affected awareness of the importance of establishing clear foundations and policies that serve the implementation of these goals. It opened doors for local and external cooperation with the aim of improving the implementation of these goals, in particular for improving learning platforms and distance education, empowering women role in Kuwaiti community, applying energy methods on large scale of sustainability and innovation, emphasising on non-discriminatory in recruitments, services ...etc, and promoting Gulf countries partnership in the field of higher education, scientific research, innovation and knowledge transfer in accordance with policies, frameworks, and programs to achieve sustainable development and global competitiveness.

KU is committed to align with the SDGs based on its role in society and the University mission. KU has direct contribution to the SDGs in many related directives in the strategic plan (18-22) shown in the link below: <http://kuweb.ku.edu.kw/ku/AboutUniversity/AboutKU/StrategicPlan/index.htm>

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

Due to COVID-19 circumstances, many activities have been stopped/ suspended which directly affect KU achievements and accomplishments and the progress of education, in order to overcome this pandemic many applicable solutions such as:

- Activating digital learning platforms after adopting the materials design for e-learning, in terms of transferring classroom or university learning to e-learning or distance education, using e-learning as a path of university education and urging member universities to use artificial intelligence techniques and virtual reality,
- Holding on-line meetings, on-line classes, and on-line workshops,
- Activating the remote work system for employees whose job duties do not require attendance to work sites,
- Developing a clear, studied and approved emergency plan to deal with various types of crises, (e.g. but not limited to: health crises such as the Covid-19),
- Applying all the necessary health precautions and preventive measures.

These types of solutions were addressed by KU top management with cooperation of governmental stakeholders such as Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Educations, Ministry of Health ...etc.

- As well as KU participated in different local and international meetings such as: 4th Arab Regional Virtual Meetings on Education 2030 (AR-MED IV) for participating as Kuwait measurement of achievements under Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global citizenship has posed several challenges in terms of development of indicators to monitor both at global and country levels, to find out whether all learners have acquired knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including ESD, human rights, gender equity, promotion of a culture of peace and non- violence, Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Conclusions and recommendations

KU has cooperated with different sectors in Kuwait such as General Secretariate of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and United Nations in Kuwait to adopt SDGs officially in September 2015 for the State of Kuwait and took a decision reflecting all Goals: strategically and substantively in 1st national development plan of Kuwait Vision 2035, including SDGs within the national institutional development framework, plans, budget and national governance structure, engaging government entities, civil societies, private sectors and other stakeholders at the policy, and institutional levels, allocating resources for advocacy and consensus building.

Focusing on developing 7 main pillars of Kuwait Vision 2035 and compatible with "New Kuwait" it relays on: Global Positioning, High Quality Health Care, Creative Human Capital, Sustainable Living Environment, Developed Infrastructure, Sustainable Diversified Economy, and Effective Government Administration.

