## Initiatives Addressing SDG 1 at UPR: Targeting Admission of Underprivileged Students

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR), situated in the challenging territory along the border with India and the disputed Kashmir region, is a leading institution in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Pakistan. As per the AJK POLICY BRIEF on SDG from 2018, the AJK population, about 24.9%, grapples with multidimensional poverty.

At UPR, we are deeply committed to inclusivity and ensuring that no deserving student should face educational barriers due to financial constraints, aligning with the first SDG 1. Our endeavor to empower the underprivileged is announced through admission notices on our official website and general media coverage.

In support of this commitment, the University has devised various financial aid programs and scholarships, designed to facilitate access for students belonging to the lowest income quintile. For proof of these efforts, please refer to the admission notice for the Fall 2022 semester.



## UPR admission advisement showing a list of scholarships for deserving students are marked by a red circle

A major portion of students at the University come from marginalized communities in AJK. Most of these students come from families living below the poverty line (\*Extreme poverty), with incomes of less than \$ 2.15 per person per day. In the period from January to December 2022, the Directorate of Student Financial Assistance and University Advancement (DSFA&UA) and the Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA) analyzed student data, revealing that approximately 82.06 % of enrolled students belong to families living below the poverty line. For 2021, the enrolled students from underprivileged families were 78.1 %. In response, our

university is committed to enhancing its financial aid program by establishing connections with the Government of Pakistan, Provincial Governments, international and local NGOs, as well as prominent philanthropists and diaspora, in alignment with SDG 1.

\*Extreme poverty— defined as those who live on less than \$2.15 per person per day [1].

Reference

[1] https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview