



UPRs Annual Report on SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) holds a distinguished position as a leading academic institution within the region of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), situated in the challenging and remote landscapes of Pakistan. Nestled in hard, hilly terrain, UPR serves as a crucial educational hub, contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of an area marked by its geographical intricacies. The context in which UPR operates is particularly noteworthy, given that nearly a quarter of AJK's population, as revealed in a comprehensive 2016 report jointly published by the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform (MoPD & R) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is classified as multi-dimensionally poor. The report sheds light on the complex and diverse dimensions of poverty in the region, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts in education and development.

At our university, there is a distinct emphasis on fostering partnerships for sustainable development goals (SDGs), with a robust relationship established with regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to formulate policies aligned with SDGs. Faculty members from the Department of Social Sciences at UPR actively contribute to the policy and operational frameworks of both local and international NGOs. Notably, Dr. Nighat Younas, a senior faculty member and Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, has forged connections with a UK-based NGO and Think Tank founded by the Diaspora from AJK. The faculty's engagement extends to the Sudhan Educational Conference, a local NGO focused on educational development and women's empowerment, where they play a pivotal role in policy formulation. UPR maintains active associations and linkages with various NGOs, providing valuable contributions to policy formulation, reviewing processes, and supporting program execution. The Department of Sociology at UPR is dedicated to policy-based research, offering policy advocacy to NGOs on critical issues such as drug addiction, climate change, and social protection. Presently, the department is actively involved in the publication of a book addressing the societal impact of drug addiction.

Furthermore, UPR is an integral part of ongoing policy guidelines related to social protection, collaborating closely with the social welfare department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and UNICEF to ensure a sustained and impactful contribution to social development initiatives.

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) is actively engaged in multiple international collaborative studies, demonstrating its commitment to advancing knowledge in various fields. Department of Horticulture, UPR is engaged in an international collaboration focusing on the "Domestication of wildy grown black raspberries for exploiting their nutritional and commercial potential under climatic conditions of Rawalakot, Azad Jammu and Kashmir." This project involves expertise from the Department of Horticulture and Department of Botany at UPR, in conjunction with Prof. Dr. Asghar Ali from the School of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus. The aim is to harness the nutritional and commercial benefits of black raspberries in the specific climatic conditions of Rawalakot. Additionally, UPR's experts from the Department of Horticulture and Department of Botany are collaborating with Dr. Boris Duralija from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, on a project focused on the "Exploring the biodiversity of Rubus species in the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir." This initiative aims to contribute to the nutritional and socio-economic uplift of indigenous communities in AJK by delving into the biodiversity of Rubus species. UPR is also collaborating with the Department of Forest and the Directorate of Agricultural to restore the Ecosystem. The university has taken a proactive role in supporting the climate action envisioned by the Prime Minister's 10 billion tree tsunami project", it has established collaboration with the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir's (AJK) Department of Forest and Directorate of Agricultural to carry out a massive plantation drive at the university and neighboring communities.

UPR through the Planning & Development Department of the Go AJK (Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir), entered into collaboration with Extreme Commerce for the Introduction of E-Commerce in AJK in order to enhance the capacity of Human Resources generated at UPR. The university is also collaborating with Hamdard Laboratories for Educational Resources. The Department of Eastern Medicine and Surgery at UPR initiated a learning resource project with the Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf). The project offered access to the students of UPR to modern laboratories, equipment, instrument, and research on various products from medicinal plants. UPR

and Hamdard Signed a two years MoU to share educational resources and also organized joint activities like medical camps, seminars, symposia, and workshops to benefit the local communities.

UPR has a commitment to meaningful education around the SDGs across the university by offering courses in various programs. The university is offering over 36% of the total courses mapped to SDGs education with over 80 % mandatory courses. In addition, the UPR is also offering four full degree programs supporting sustainable development education.

UPR also has dedicated outreach educational activities for the wider community. The “World Soil Day” was celebrated on the main campus of the UPR on 25th September 2022. Every year on December 25, agriculturists, soil scientists and students celebrate World Soil Science Day. Vice Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences highlighted the role of healthy soil in uplifting the health, decreasing food security in masses. An awareness walk for food safety was also organized by Department of Food Science and Technology building to the main Hajira road Rawalakot. Department of Pharmacy also played its role in making awareness of the disease in collaboration with “PINK RIBBON PAKISTAN” During the awareness campaign, large banners were displayed in different areas of the UPR while awareness pamphlets were distributed among students and community members. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with Karakoram International University for mutual collaboration in research and academia.



Vice Chancellor University of Poonch Rawalakot & Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University, at MoU signing Ceremony



Glimpses of different activities held in University of Poonch Rawalakot during 2022 with collaboration of different government and non-government organizations

Indicator	Indicator Name	Action taken
17.2.1	Relationships with regional NGOs and government for SDG policy.	<p>1. Formulating of policy along with District Government Raalakot and District Health Department.</p> <p>2. Revision of policy along with District Government Raalakot, District food authority and District Health Department.</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3d1682afe-17.2.1%20food%20waste%20management%20policy.pdf</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3cbb28ec9-17.2.1%20climate%20action%20policy.pdf</p>
17.2.2	Cross Sectoral dialogue about SDGs	<p>1. Organized Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture: Innovations and Adaptations in Collaboration with</p> <p>2. Organized Seminar on "Role of Women in Society" in partnership with women's rights advocates, the District Police Department Rawalakot, and Psychologists.</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3d5a50ae7-17.2.2%20cross%20sectoral%20dialogue%20target%201.pdf</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3d8657604-17.2.2%20cross%20sectoral%20dialogue%20target%202.pdf</p>
17.2.3	International collaboration data gathering for SDG	<p>1. Data gathering of Selenopsis Invicta in partnership with Department of Entomology at the College of Agriculture, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China.</p> <p>2. Data gathering of Rubus species in partnership with University of Zagreb, Croatia.</p> <p>3. Data gathering for SDG of black raspberries in partnership with University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus.</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3eab94908-17.2.3%20International%20Collaboration%20for%20data%20gathering%20target_1.pdf</p>

		https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f452d104d4-17.2.3%20International%20Collaboration%20for%20data%20gathering%20on%20Entomology%20_target%202.pdf
17.2.4	Collaboration for SDG best practice	<p>1. International Collaboration Institute of Agricultural Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences for honey bee of the Himalayan region in Pakistan to tackle SDG-</p> <p>2. International Collaboration with Inonu University, Malatya Turkey on the “development of spreadable cheese analogues by using vegetable oils as a substitute of milk fat” to tackle SDG-1 and SDG-2.</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f40d9ad89a-17.2.4%20Internatinalcollaboration%20for%20SDGs%20best%20practices%20target%201.pdf</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3ef52c532-17.2.4%20International%20Collaboration%20for%20SDGs%20best%20practices_target%202.pdf</p>
17.2.5	Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs	<p>1. Collaboration with Sudhan Education Conference, a non-governmental organization for Educational and Research development.</p> <p>2. Partnership with the SOS Children Villages Program, a non-governmental organization for Educational and Research development.</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3f2fc9a1b-17.2.5%20Collaboration%20with%20NGOs%20target_1.pdf</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3f6cc87d2-17.2.5%20Collaboration%20with%20NGOs%20target_2.pdf</p>
17.4.1	Education for SDGs commitment to meaningful education	<p>1. 445 courses offered on SDGS out of 1220 (36.5%) integrated across curriculum</p> <p>2. Mandatory seminars attendance by each students on SDGs.</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3fb879735-17.4.1%20meaningful%20education%20target_1.pdf</p> <p>https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f3fe6a0137-17.4.1%20meaningful%20education%20target_2.pdf</p>

17.4.2	Education for SDGs: specific courses on sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelor of Education (2.5 and 1.5 years) program (SDG-4) 2. M.Sc.(Hons.) and PhD. in. Horticulture (SDG-2) 3. M. Sc. Program in Food Science and Technology (SDG-2) 4. M.Sc. Power and Energy System Engineering (SDG-7 and SDG-9) <p style="text-align: center;"> https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f400ced3ed-17.4.2%20Specific%20course%20on%20sustainability%20target%201.pdf </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f4032053dc-17.4.2%20Specific%20course%20on%20sustainability%20target%202.pdf </p>
17.4.3	Education for SDGs in the wider community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UPR in Collaboration with SOS Children Villages Program (NGOs) for providing professional guidance to mothers and conducting regular classes for beneficiaries. 2. UPR in Collaboration with Prime Minister’s Green Youth Movement to drive Clean and Green Tourism. 3. UPR in Collaboration with Alumni for continuous improvement of the curriculum. <p style="text-align: center;"> https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f410787e03-17.4.3%20Education%20for%20SDGs%20in%20wider%20community%20target_1.pdf </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/655f413fa55a9-17.4.3%20Education%20for%20SDGs%20in%20wider%20community%20target_2.pdf </p>