



UPRs Annual Report on SDG 1: No Poverty

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) is one of the leading University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in Pakistan. UPR is situated in the challenging territory along the border with India and the disputed Kashmir region and 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 university has special emphasis and conviction to reach out to the bottom 20% of the household income group. In addition, the university also works for the poverty elevation of the community.

Summary of university anti-poverty programs

The data from the Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA) reveals 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 reaction to this, our university is dedicated to strengthening its financial assistance initiative through collaborations with the Government of Pakistan, Provincial Governments, global and local NGOs, as well as influential philanthropists and diaspora. Our institution UPR ensures a dignified approach to aiding students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in pursuing their education, thus contributing to the affordability of higher education and aligning with the objectives of SDG 1. The institution offers affordable semester fees (USD 156) when compared to both public (USD 282.3) and private (USD 1461.04) universities in the country. These reduced fees, coupled with accessible financial assistance programs, serve as a great support for students from low-income families to access higher education and make progress in their professional journeys.

A Directorate of Student Financial Assistance and University Advancement (DSFA & UA) is set up at UPR in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. In the

financial year 2022, the DSFA & UA allocated a significant sum of PKRs. 132.79 million to support 1650 students out of a total of 5446, covering 30.29 % of the university's intake. There are many designated scholarships for needy students, i.e., Ehsaas Scholarships, HEC Need Based, the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) Scholarships, HBL Platinum Scholarships, and Sudhan Education Scholarships. In addition, UPR offers free transportation, indoor medical services, subsidized food, and lodging facilities to reduce socio-economic inequalities to ensure that students complete their university education without any constraints.

Summary of community anti-poverty programs

The commitment of the UPR is dedicated to alleviating poverty in the surrounding community, thereby providing services to approximately one million people. This involves supporting local businesses through relevant education, mentorship initiatives, training workshops, and access to university resources. Due to challenging topography and rough terrain, farmers face significant difficulties in seeking Veterinary Care and Medical Assistance. The situation is exacerbated by poverty, preventing farmers from affording treatment and transportation costs. The community-based initiatives of UPR focus on reducing poverty and bringing essential services to the local community at their doorstep. These initiatives include;

- a. Empowering farmers to improve crop productivity
- b. Preventing diseases in fruits and crops
- c. Free of cost lab testing services for milk, water, and soil analysis
- d. Free lab facilities for disease diagnosis in animals
- e. Pregnancy screening through ultrasonography and rectal palpation
- f. Free surgical and medical care for pets, livestock, and poultry
- g. Provision of cost-free medicines to livestock keepers and humans
- h. Free healthcare services to students and the local community.
- i. University Ambulance Service for emergency assistance in case of referral.

The UPR is unwavering in its pledge to benefit the local community through free training workshops. These workshops, offered at no cost, play a crucial role in enhancing the professional development and expertise of the local community, eliminating financial barriers to accessing such valuable resources. Furthermore, awareness workshops are often held to increase public knowledge of human and veterinary diseases in order to improve management and control. A brief pictorial and tabulated summary related to SDG 1 (No Poverty) is given in Figure and Table 1, respectively.



Figure 1: (a) Centre for Student's Financial Assistance (b) University Transport for male and female students (c) Community-based provision of zero-cost veterinary medical care to livestock keepers (d) Skill development community-based Sericulture workshop

Table 1: A summary of UPRs initiatives to related to SDG 1 (No Poverty)

Indicator no.	Indicator Name	Action taken
1.3.1	Bottom financial quintile admission target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) Promotes Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) through Affordable Higher Education • Targeting Admission of Underprivileged Students Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/bottom-financial-quintile-admission-target
1.3.2	Bottom financial quintile student success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPR has dedicated scholarships for deserving students • UPR has a support and guidance center for students • Partial tuition assistance programs for students exist Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/bottom-financial-quintile-student-success
1.3.3	Low-income student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPR empowers students with free transportation • Complimentary healthcare services for students are available • Program for affordable housing and food availability Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/low-income-student-support
1.3.4	Bottom financial quintile student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Financial Support Students’ Assistance through the Directorate of Student Financial Assistance and University Advancement • Scholarship distribution events reported Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/bottom-financial-quintile-student-support
1.3.5	Low or lower-middle income countries student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPR Support for Low or Lower-Middle Income Countries through policies and scholarships Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/low-or-lower-

		middle-income-countries-student-support
1.4.1	Local start-up assistance	<p>UPR offers the local community comprehensive startup support in the form of free community-based training workshops. Free mentorship programs: and access to university resources</p> <p>Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/local-start-up-assistance</p>
1.4.2	Local start-up financial assistance	<p>UPR extends financial support to local startups within the community by offering complimentary medication assistance to livestock keepers, free healthcare services and medicines to people, and conducting community training workshops at no expense for skill development in sericulture, fruit product preparation, and information technology</p> <p>Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/local-start-up-financial-assistance</p>
1.4.3	Programmes for services access	<p>UPR provides comprehensive services to the community, indoor and outdoor free veterinary care, and cost-free medical facilities for people. Additionally, UPR offers robust awareness services through the organization of specific seminars.</p> <p>Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/programmes-for-services-access</p>
1.4.4	Policy addressing poverty	<p>UPR has participated in policy-making at different to end poverty in all its dimensions.</p> <p>Reference link https://www.upr.edu.pk/policy-addressing-poverty</p>

