



## UPRs Annual Report on SDG 1: No Poverty

The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) is a leading institution in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Pakistan, located in a challenging region near the border with India and the disputed Kashmir territory. According to the 2018 AJK Policy Brief on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approximately 24.9% of the AJK population experiences multidimensional poverty. UPR is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and ensuring that no deserving student is denied education due to financial limitations, in line with SDG 1 (No Poverty). The university prioritizes supporting the bottom 20% of households by income and actively engages in poverty alleviation initiatives for the community

### Summary of university anti-poverty programs

Data from the Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA) indicates that approximately 82.06% of students enrolled at the University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) belong to families living below the poverty line, an increase from 78.1% in 2021. In response, UPR has intensified its financial assistance efforts through partnerships with the Government of Pakistan, provincial authorities, international and local NGOs, philanthropists, and the diaspora community. The university is committed to providing dignified support to economically disadvantaged students, ensuring access to affordable higher education in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1.

UPR's semester fees are notably affordable at USD 156, significantly lower than the average fees at public (USD 282.3) and private universities (USD 1461.04) in Pakistan. This affordability, combined with robust financial assistance programs, helps low-income students pursue higher education and advance their careers.

To further support this mission, the university has established the Directorate of Student Financial Assistance and University Advancement (DSFA & UA) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. In the financial year 2022, DSFA & UA allocated PKR 133.033

million to assist 1,667 students out of a total enrollment of 5,446, benefiting 30.29% of the student body. UPR offers various scholarships for underprivileged students, including Ehsaas Scholarships, HEC Need-Based Scholarships, Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (PEEF) Scholarships, HBL Platinum Scholarships, and Sudhan Education Scholarships. Additional support services include free transportation, on-campus medical care, subsidized food, and lodging facilities. These initiatives aim to minimize socio-economic barriers and ensure that students can successfully complete their education.

### **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 Agricultural issues. 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 of cost lab testing services for honey
- e. Free lab facilities for disease diagnosis in animals
- f. Pregnancy screening through ultrasonography and rectal palpation
- g. Free surgical and medical care for pets, livestock, and poultry
- h. Provision of cost-free medicines to livestock keepers and humans
- i. Free healthcare services to students and the local community.
- j. 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.

**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"> <li>• The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) Promotes Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) through Affordable Higher Education</li> <li>• Targeting Admission of Underprivileged Students</li> </ul> <a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483ea44f900-1.3.1%20Bottom%20financial%20quintile%20admission%20target%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483ea44f900-1.3.1%20Bottom%20financial%20quintile%20admission%20target%201.pdf</a>
1.3.2	Bottom financial quintile student success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPR has dedicated scholarships for deserving students</li> <li>• UPR has a support and guidance center for students</li> </ul> <a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483ec239a20-1.3.2%20Bottom%20financial%20quintile%20student%20success%201....pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483ec239a20-1.3.2%20Bottom%20financial%20quintile%20student%20success%201....pdf</a>
1.3.3	Low-income student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPR empowers students with free transportation</li> <li>• Complimentary healthcare services for students are available</li> <li>• Program for affordable housing and food availability</li> </ul> <a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483eda3b875-1.3.3%20Low-income%20student%20support%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483eda3b875-1.3.3%20Low-income%20student%20support%201.pdf</a>
1.3.4	Bottom financial quintile student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Financial Support Students’ Assistance through the Directorate of Student Financial Assistance and University Advancement</li> <li>• Scholarship distribution events reported</li> </ul> <a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483ef00c90e-1.3.4%20Bottom%20financial%20quintile%20student%20support%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483ef00c90e-1.3.4%20Bottom%20financial%20quintile%20student%20support%201.pdf</a>
1.3.5	Low or lower-middle income countries student support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPR Support for Low or Lower-Middle Income Countries through policies and scholarships</li> </ul> <a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f0612fae-1.3.5%20Low%20or%20lower-middle%20income%20countries%20student%20support%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f0612fae-1.3.5%20Low%20or%20lower-middle%20income%20countries%20student%20support%201.pdf</a>
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> <a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f1e0b6e0-1.4.1%20Local%20start-up%20assistance%202.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f1e0b6e0-1.4.1%20Local%20start-up%20assistance%202.pdf</a>

1.4.2	Local start-up financial assistance	<p>UPR extends financial support to local startups within the community by conducting community training workshops at no expense for skill development in beekeeping, and Mashroom Cultivation.</p> <p><a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f3ca7fb1-1.4.2%20Local%20start-up%20financial%20assistance%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f3ca7fb1-1.4.2%20Local%20start-up%20financial%20assistance%201.pdf</a></p>
1.4.3	Programmes for services access	<p>UPR extends financial support to local startups within the community by offering complimentary medication assistance, free healthcare services and medicines to people.</p> <p><a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f574a8d9-1.4.3%20Programmes%20for%20services%20access%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f574a8d9-1.4.3%20Programmes%20for%20services%20access%201.pdf</a></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><a href="https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f709755c-1.4.4%20Policy%20addressing%20poverty%201.pdf">https://upr.edu.pk/storage/uploads/blogs/67483f709755c-1.4.4%20Policy%20addressing%20poverty%201.pdf</a></p>