

SDG01

No Poverty

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



NO POVERTY

ADVANCING SDG 1 THROUGH EDUCATION, INCLUSION, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. ***RESEARCH TOWARD NO POVERTY***
2. ***ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION***
3. ***COMMUNITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMMES***

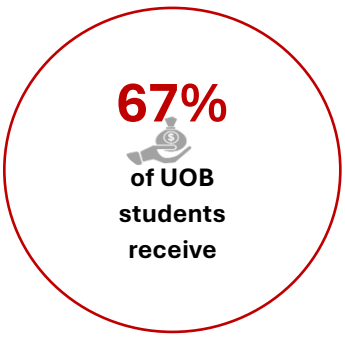
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF CRISIS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND RESILIENCE
SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THE SOUTH
STUDENT CLUBS ACTIVITIES

Advancing SDG 1 through Education, Inclusion, and Community Support

The University of Balamand (UOB) recognizes that access to quality education is one of the most effective and sustainable pathways out of poverty.

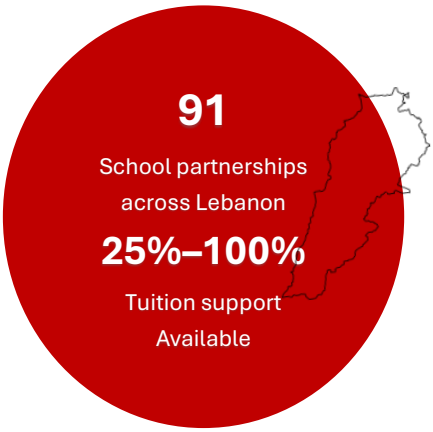
Through financial aid and scholarship programs, community engagement initiatives, humanitarian assistance, and applied research, UOB contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) by reducing barriers to education, improving access to essential services, and supporting vulnerable populations across Lebanon.

Serving students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, including those from underserved and economically disadvantaged regions, the University promotes social mobility through inclusive educational policies and targeted financial support.



For more details: *Visit the University of Balamand | Financial Support.*

By making higher education more accessible, UOB empowers students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to improve their livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development.



Beyond the classroom, UOB advances poverty alleviation through a range of community-based programs and outreach initiatives. Through the Department of Community Engagement's Healthier Society Program, the University promotes equitable access to health and social services for vulnerable groups, including refugees, displaced communities, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. These efforts address key social determinants of health and well-being, helping to improve living conditions and reduce socioeconomic vulnerability.

The University's Landmines Resource Center (LMRC) further supports disadvantaged populations by providing rehabilitation services, psychosocial support, educational grants, and income-generating projects for landmine

survivors and affected families. By fostering economic independence and social inclusion, these interventions help build long-term resilience and improve quality of life.

In response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the 2024 conflict in Lebanon, the Faculty of Engineering launched a free water quality testing initiative through its Environmental Engineering Laboratory. In collaboration with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners, faculty members conducted physical, chemical, and microbiological analyses of water sources serving shelters hosting displaced populations. The initiative helped ensure access to safe drinking water, reduced public health risks, and supported vulnerable communities facing displacement and economic hardship.

The University community also actively participates in charitable and relief initiatives. Through campaigns such as Lent for Love, student organizations mobilized volunteers and fundraising efforts to provide direct support to individuals and families in need. Additional student-led initiatives collected food supplies and essential aid for families affected by conflict in Southern Lebanon, demonstrating a strong culture of solidarity, volunteerism, and civic responsibility.



Together, these initiatives reflect UOB's holistic approach to poverty reduction by combining access to education, humanitarian assistance, health and social services, community engagement, and livelihood support. Through both immediate relief efforts and long-term development interventions, the University continues to contri8butr more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities across Lebanon.

1. RESEARCH TOWARD NO POVERTY

Over the past two years, SDG 1-related research focused on strengthening resilience and reducing the socioeconomic consequences of crises, particularly in the context of the war on Lebanon. Studies examined industrial development and regional economic disparities in Lebanon, identifying sectoral strengths and uneven development patterns that influence employment and economic opportunities [1]. Research also explored organizational resilience among fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) firms operating amid multiple crises, highlighting factors that help businesses sustain operations and livelihoods in developing countries [3].

In the health domain, investigations addressed access to treatment for anxiety, mood, and substance use disorders, emphasizing unmet needs and barriers to care that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations [4]. Another study assessed immunization safety monitoring, vaccine hesitancy, and vaccination coverage in crisis-affected settings, with evidence from Lebanon, Ukraine, and Sudan [2]. Collectively, these publications addressed economic resilience, regional inequality, health access, and social protection challenges that are closely linked to poverty reduction and sustainable development [1–4].

SDG01 Publications

[1]. Alhajj, O., Alawa, K., Fakhri, C., ... Romanos, J., & Sabat, M. (2026). *Mapping Lebanon's industrial landscape: A data-driven assessment of sectoral strengths and regional disparities*. **Humanities and Social Sciences Communications**.

[2]. Nasr, R., Swaidan, E., Hachem, S., ... Abdel Rahman, A., & H Alami, N. (2025). *Immunization safety monitoring: Addressing vaccine hesitancy and enhancing coverage in crisis-affected regions: Insights from Lebanon, Ukraine, and Sudan*. **Therapeutic Advances in Vaccines and Immunotherapy**.

[3]. Skaf, Y., Harb, Y., Vrontis, D., ... El Nemar, S., & Seif, M. (2026). *Key resilience factors amid concurrent crises: The case of FMCG firms in developing countries*. **Business Perspectives and Research**.

[4]. Stein, D. J., Vigo, D. V., Harris, M. G., ... Al-Hamzawi, A., & Aguilar-Gaxiola, S. (2025). *Patterns and predictors of 12-month treatment of common anxiety, mood,*

and substance use disorders in the World Mental Health (WMH) surveys: Treatment in the context of perceived need. **International Journal of Mental Health Systems**.

2. ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The University of Balamand enhances equitable access to higher education through financial support programs that reduce economic barriers and support student success with more than 60% of students receiving financial support in the past five years.

In addition to broad-based financial aid, the University places particular emphasis on supporting vulnerable groups through its financial aid assessment process.

While there are no scholarships exclusively designated for women, special consideration is given to applicants facing socioeconomic challenges, including single mothers, divorced women, widows, and families under financial hardship. This approach helps ensure that women facing additional economic burdens are not excluded from higher education opportunities.

Female students consistently represent the majority of financial aid beneficiaries, reflecting the University's commitment to gender-inclusive access to education.

These figures indicate that women account for more than half of all students receiving financial support.

By prioritizing assistance for economically vulnerable students and maintaining strong female participation among aid recipients, the University contributes to reducing inequalities, expanding educational opportunities, and supporting the long-term socioeconomic empowerment of individuals and communities.

This supports SDG1,4, and 5.

For more details visit the University of Balamand | Financial Support page

ACADEMIC YEAR	STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OUT OF TOTAL	FEMALE STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OUT OF TOTAL
2022-23	60%	55.20%
2023-24	60%	57.60%
2024-25	60%	56.30%
2025-26	67%	57.80%

3. COMMUNITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMMES

Supporting Communities in Times of Crisis

In response to the humanitarian challenges faced by Lebanon, the University of Balamand launched the **Balamand Civil Society Support Campaign**, mobilizing students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners across its campuses in Koura, Akkar, Dekwaneh, and Souq El Gharb. Through volunteer work, donation drives, and community outreach initiatives, the University provided meaningful support to affected and displaced populations. This supports SDG1 and 17.

Faculty of Engineering Leads Initiative for Shelter Water Safety in Times of Crisis

In response to the humanitarian challenges resulting from the 2024 conflict in Lebanon, the University of Balamand's Faculty of Engineering launched a free water quality testing initiative to support shelters hosting displaced populations. Conducted through the Environmental Engineering Laboratory in collaboration with national Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners, the initiative assessed drinking water sources and distribution points to ensure compliance with basic safety standards.

Water samples were analyzed for key physical, chemical, and microbiological parameters, including pH, conductivity, total dissolved solids, E. coli, and coliform bacteria. In addition to laboratory testing, technical guidance and consultation were provided to organizations managing shelters and emergency response efforts, helping to strengthen safe water management practices during the crisis.



READ MORE ABOUT THE EVENT

By facilitating access to safe drinking water and supporting humanitarian relief efforts, the initiative contributed to protecting vulnerable and displaced populations, improving living conditions, reducing health risks, and strengthening community resilience during a period of significant socioeconomic hardship.

This supports SDG1, 3, 6, and 11.

Community Engagement for Poverty Alleviation and Resilience

More to the point, the Department of Community Engagement continued to advance SDG01 through community-based humanitarian and development initiatives that strengthen access to basic services and promote sustainable livelihood opportunities. Through the Healthier Society Program, the Department works to ensure accessible, stable, equitable, and secure services that address key social determinants of health and well-being, including support for vulnerable populations, refugees, displaced communities, women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

In parallel, the Landmines Resource Center supports survivors and affected families through rehabilitation, psychosocial assistance, education grants, and income-generation projects that foster economic independence and long-term resilience. These interventions contribute directly to poverty reduction by improving access to health and social services, enhancing living conditions, and creating sustainable business and employment opportunities that generate positive social impact within local communities. This supports SDG1,3,8 and 10.

Supporting Families in the South

With the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch John X and on an initiative of the Patriarchal Monastery of Our Lady of Balamand, and following coordination with the University of Balamand administration and Our Lady of Balamand High School, the PreMed, Music, IEEE, and Red Cross Youth Clubs joined high school students from both branches in collecting food and material aid for families remaining steadfast in the South. The donations were channelled through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Sidon and Tyre and its dependencies. The Monastery's abbot, Archimandrite George Yacoub, met with the students responsible for the collection to thank them for their cooperation and underline the spiritual and moral significance of the initiative in a difficult and delicate period. The participating clubs have committed to continuing the collection effort to support both the affected and the displaced.



This aligns with SDG1,2 and 17.

Student Clubs Activities

Bites & Prizes Donation Campaign

The Business Connections Club organized a vibrant donation campaign titled "Bites & Prizes," where a variety of sweets and pastries were sold alongside exciting gifts and vouchers.



The initiative created a lively and engaging campus experience while encouraging students to contribute to a meaningful charitable cause.

This supports SDG1 and 17.

Lent for Love

The 2gether & Helping Hands Clubs demonstrated their commitment to community service and social responsibility through a fundraising initiative held during Lent.



Organized at the campus square, the event featured the sale of vegan burgers, with all proceeds donated to support a charitable cause. The initiative successfully engaged the university community while promoting compassion, solidarity, and meaningful social impact.

40 orphans enjoyed an Easter celebration funded by the proceeds raised.
This supports SDG1, 3, 8, and *10*.

The University of Balamand demonstrated its commitment to SDG 1 – No Poverty through its Civil Society Support Campaign, which mobilized academic expertise, institutional resources, student volunteers, and community partnerships to assist vulnerable populations affected by Lebanon's humanitarian and economic challenges. Through free water-testing services, community engagement programs, and humanitarian support for displaced families, UOB helped reduce hardship and strengthen community resilience. The campaign engaged all four university campuses, while broader outreach initiatives reached over 12,000 individuals through explosive ordnance risk education and targeted medical, psychosocial, rehabilitation, and livelihood support.