

## Report on SDG 4: Quality Education

**Date:** November 2024

**Committee:** Al-Turath University SDG Impact Committee

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### Introduction

Al-Turath University (TU) aligns its mission with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), ensuring inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all. Through open access to knowledge resources, continuing education, community outreach, and partnerships with schools, TU empowers youth, educators, and lifelong learners to acquire the skills and values needed for sustainable development.

<https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

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### 1. Institutional Commitment to Quality Education

TU views education as a right and a social responsibility. Its academic strategy supports inclusive access, lifelong learning, and research excellence. The University collaborates with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, NGOs, and international partners to strengthen educational quality and accessibility across Iraq.

### 2. Community Access to Educational Resources

TU's Central Library serves as a hub for academic and public learning. As detailed in Al-Turath University Library Welcomes Community Access, the library invites students from other universities, independent researchers, and local residents to use its digital and printed collections. Through open-door policies and workshops on digital literacy and research methodology, TU advances equitable access to knowledge beyond its campus.

<https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/06/al-turath-university-library-welcomes-community-access-supporting-local-students-and-faculty-members/>

Healthwise Alturath medical center opens its door to the public for many educational events. In fact it serves as Comprehensive Health and Training Facility for the surrounding community. Sport facilities are open for the public in many events, specially small kids tournaments.

<https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/medical-center/>

### 3. Continuing Education and Professional Development

The **Continuing Education Center (CEC)** at TU is a national model for lifelong learning. In 2024 alone, CEC delivered over 100 training courses in digital skills, languages, environmental education, pedagogy, and entrepreneurship.

These programs are open to the public at minimal or no cost, enabling community members, educators, and graduates to gain competencies for employability and innovation.

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#### 4. Educational Outreach and Community Engagement

TU's outreach activities extend learning beyond the classroom. Below points demonstrated good examples of community outreach

- **School Health Screening Programme** – Students and faculty conducted lectures and demonstrations in local schools on hygiene, health, and preventive education.
- **Annual Community Dental Services Initiative** – Includes awareness sessions and student-volunteer training on oral health for schoolchildren and families.
- **Educational Workshops and Symposia** – In partnership with the **Ministry of Education** and the **Swedish Center for Cognitive and Behavioural Therapy**, These initiatives confirm that TU undertakes continuous **educational outreach beyond campus**, combining faculty expertise with voluntary student participation to strengthen community education.
- **School health screening**: it is voluntary events for slum schools to help local community <https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/school-health/>

#### 5. Inclusivity and Lifelong Learning Opportunities

TU's evening and continuing-study programmes provide opportunities for working adults and non-traditional learners. The **Student Financial Support Center** extends tuition grants to disadvantaged students, ensuring equitable participation in higher education. Community seminars at CEC on topics such as digital transformation, climate literacy, and civic responsibility promote continuous learning for all ages.

#### 6. Research and Academic Innovation

TU encourages pedagogical innovation and interdisciplinary research on educational technology, health education, and sustainability. Faculty and students collaborate on studies addressing digital learning, gender equality in education, and curriculum modernization aligned with national reforms.

#### 7. Partnerships and Collaboration

Through partnerships with ministries, NGOs, and international organizations, TU implements training workshops, teacher-development initiatives, and student-exchange programs. The university also cooperates with schools in Baghdad to provide mentoring, tutoring, and career-guidance sessions for secondary-school students aspiring to higher education.

Impact Measurement and Achievements (2024)

8 000 + participants benefited from CEC and library programs.

50 000 + resources made accessible through open library services.

Over 30 community training sessions delivered beyond campus.

Volunteer involvement increased by 25 % through school outreach initiatives.

These figures reflect TU's measurable progress toward inclusive, lifelong, and equitable education.

## 8. Iraq National English Language Test

The Continuing Education Center (CEC) at Al-Turath University hosts the Iraq National English Language Test (INELT/INPT) under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research. The exam is based on the CEFR framework, serves undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral applicants across the country, and is open to anyone seeking qualification for higher education. Exam sessions are held twice weekly on Monday and Wednesday at the CEC's testing facility. Applicants must register online, pay a fee (30,000 IQD for the first attempt) and present an official ID. The certificate is valid for two years, and the test location offers full accessibility through the university's facilities. <https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/cec/inpt/>

### Future Directions

Looking forward, TU aims to expand its open-access digital repository, launch a Teacher Training Hub for modern pedagogy, and formalize a Community Mentorship Program for low-income schools. These initiatives will strengthen TU's leadership in advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education) both nationally and regionally.



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