Report on SDG 2: Zero Hunger at Al-Turath University

Reporting period: calendar year 2025 and academic year 2024-25

Committee: Al-Turath University SDG Impact Committee

Web page: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/

Introduction

In 2025 Al-Turath University (TU) distributed more than 5,000 complete food baskets to needy families, hosted iftar banquets for orphans and families of fallen security personnel, and gave low-income students free meals and allowances. TU presented its sustainable development work at the First Central Festival for Sustainable Development in Baghdad in August 2025, held under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/08/sustainable-leadership/). This report is organized by the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2027 indicators for SDG 2, so each section documents one indicator.

1. Campus food waste (2.2.1 and 2.2.2)

TU was the first university in Iraq to sort waste at source, with separate bins for plastic, paper and organic waste in every corridor (Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition (p. 30). It also runs campaigns urging staff and students to cut waste and consumption (p. 28) (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf). In 2025, TU weighed the food waste from all campus restaurants and cafes:

Data point (2025)	Value
Measurement covers	Whole University
Total food waste, including composted food	620
Campus population (FTE students + FTE employees, including outsourced staff)	32545

2. Programme on student food insecurity (2.3.1)

TU runs a continuous, annual programme that identifies students who cannot afford enough food and gives them free meals. Students apply each year from 20 November to 10 December. A committee of three professors checks proof of need and interviews each applicant in confidence.

- **Food Allowance Program:** 200 free meals for each low-income student, open to Iraqi and international students.
- **Women's Scholarship:** 200 free meals for each low-income female student.
- **Student Allowance Program:** a monthly stipend and interest-free loans for students with below-average family income, so they can buy food. In 2025, around 500 students received free meals under these programmes. Evidence: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/

3. Interventions against student hunger (2.3.2)

Beyond the annual programme, TU gives students in need direct, practical food help.

- **Free meals:** each Food Allowance student can eat 200 meals free of charge in campus outlets.

- **Ramadan:** TU hosts collective iftar meals on campus for students during Ramadan, as it did each year. https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/03/ramdan/
  https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/03/chairman-hosts-iftar-dinner-for-families-of-security-forces-martyrs-and-injured/
- **Emergency help:** Food allowance program is designed specially for the students who suffering financial crises who prevent them even from having a sufficiently good meals.

Evidence: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/students-grants/

4. Sustainable food choices on campus, including vegetarian and vegan (2.3.3)

Cafeterias are located throughout the campus and serve faculty, administrative staff, students and workers (Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition (p. 20). The main restaurants and cafes are in the Central Student Club (Al-Turath Palace) , which offers a variety of cuisines, including vegetarian and vegan dishes. (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/campus-life/).







5. Healthy and affordable food on campus (2.3.4)

TU keeps prices affordable; prices fixed in the restaurant lease and subsidised meals; All the food supplies are well monitored and investigated by the health committee in the university. Also, they check the heathy food condition is available such as salads, fruit, grilled food and water are offered at every outlet. TU also runs workshops and lectures on healthy eating to combat obesity and malnutrition (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/).

6. Interventions against staff hunger (2.3.5)

The Financial Support Center serves university employees in financial need as well as students (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/students-grants/)

8. Food security knowledge for local farmers and food producers (2.5.1 to 2.5.3)

TU teaches food security, community nutrition, sustainable farming techniques and reducing food waste, and runs urban farming projects on campus and in the community (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/). It also holds symposiums and community discussion groups on solutions to hunger (Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition (p. 8) (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf).

Indicator	What THE asks	2025 evidence
2.5.1 Knowledge access	Free training or advice for local farmers on food security and sustainable farming	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/12/erasmus-2/ Courses of many colleges including college of science and engineering.
2.5.2 Events	Events where local farmers and food producers meet and share knowledge	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/08/sustainable-leadership/
2.5.3 Facilities	Free use of university labs or equipment by farmers	https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf

9. Sustainable food purchasing (2.5.4)

TU applies waste-reduction and responsible-sourcing practices across its cafeterias and facilities, and uses environmentally friendly supplies in all its activities (Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition p. 30) (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf).

10. Food support for the wider community

TU has given free food to poor families since 2009. In 2025 this work continued, with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ali Al-Ogaili, taking part in person.

Activity	Who benefited	Scale	Evidence
Complete food baskets, prepared and distributed with the Chairman	Needy families	More than 5,000 baskets	Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition, p. 6 https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf

Activity	Who benefited	Scale	Evidence
taking part in person			
Group iftar banquet on campus	Orphans from orphanages in Baghdad and other governorates, and charitable associations of diabetes patients	More than 200	Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition, p. 8 https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf
Iftar dinner, March 2025	Families of fallen and wounded security personnel	Several families	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/03/chairman-hosts-iftar-dinner-for-families-of-security-forces-martyrs-and-injured/
Meals on campus with free dental care, clothes and gifts, 13 December 2025	Children with Down syndrome, orphans and underprivileged children, with companions	More than 60 children	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/12/humanitarian-initiative-supporting-children/
Free Food Basket Program (standing programme)	Poor families; hospitals, orphanages and nursing homes	More than 1,000 meals a year	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/students-grants/

The university also sends its buses to bring orphans to campus for special programmes, and hosts and honours elderly people from care homes (Al-Turath University Journal for Sustainable Development, 2nd edition (2025–2026), pp. 6 and 8). For comparison, the 2024 report recorded more than 2,000 free meals during Ramadan and 350 families supported through food distribution.