Report on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being 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/health/

Introduction

Al-Turath University (TU) promotes health and well-being through its health colleges (Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Health and Medical Technologies), a free on-campus clinic and ambulance, the Al-Turath Medical Center, confidential psychological counselling, a smoke-free campus policy, shared sports facilities, and outreach to schools, children and low-income families. TU describes its work under five pillars: public health education, health research, health development programmes (medical examinations and vaccinations for staff and students), sports promotion, and partnerships with health institutions that give students internships in hospitals and health centers (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/health/).

1. Health and Wellness Center and free medical services on campus

The Health & Wellness Center supports the physical, mental and social well-being of students, faculty and staff, through a multidisciplinary team. It provides:

- **First aid and emergency care** for injuries, sudden illness and on-campus emergencies.
- **Psychological counselling:** confidential one-on-one sessions with licensed psychologists for stress, anxiety, personal challenges and mental health concerns.
- **Disability and accessibility services:** support, counselling and accommodation guidance for students and staff with physical or learning disabilities.
- **On-campus pharmacy** inside the clinic: prescription medicines, over-the-counter remedies and basic health supplies.

Evidence: (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/health/)

The university provides an integrated medical clinic with specialized medical staff and a modern ambulance, free of charge for students, and applies advanced sterilization systems for the medical devices used in applied lectures for medical students (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/al-turath-university-continues-providing-free-medical-services-for-students-adhering-to-global-health-environmental-standards/). The Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine describes the same free clinic, ambulance and medical staff on p. 10 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf).

Al-Turath Medical Center is an integrated facility providing round-the-clock medical services for students, staff and the wider community. Its units are: Diagnostic Radiology; Cosmetic and Laser; Consultation Clinics, including a Pediatrics Clinic and a Women's Health Clinic delivered by qualified physicians and supervised student interns; a Specialized Medical Laboratory; an Eye and Laser Treatment Unit; a Dialysis Unit; Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing Clinics; a 24-hour Emergency Department; and a Student Clinical Training Unit that gives students of Dentistry, Pharmacy and Health Technologies hands-on experience (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/medical-center/).

2. Graduates in health professions (3.2)

TU's health-related colleges are the College of Dentistry, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Health and Medical Technologies. The College of Health and Medical Technologies has six undergraduate departments (not all of them have graduate students yet): Anesthesia Techniques, Medical Laboratory Technology, Dental Technology, Radiology Technology, Optical Technologies, and Laser Aesthetic Techniques (https://tucomht.uoturath.edu.iq/en/). Students train in the Al-Turath Medical Center and through internships in hospitals and health centers (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/health/). Medical Laboratory Technology students also receive summer training in advanced laboratories using the latest medical devices (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine, p. 20) https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf.

3. Collaborations with health institutions (3.3.1)

TU works with health bodies and institutions that it does not own:

Partner	Level	What TU did with them	Evidence
Local NGOs and health authorities	Local	The College of Dentistry runs the Annual Community Dental Services Initiative with local NGOs and health authorities, providing free preventive and restorative treatment	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/06/annual-community-dental-services/ Annual Program which runs every year, it part of the graduation requirements.
Al-Raseekh Foundation (NGO), Baghdad	Local	Free school health screenings (vision, hearing and general physical examination) with referral to the Al-Turath Medical Center, April 2024	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/school-health/
Iraqi Dentists' Syndicate	National	The head of the Syndicate and a delegation of its council visited the College of Dentistry to discuss	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/07/%d8%b2%d8%a7%d8%b1-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b3%d9%8a%d8%af-%d9%86%d9%82%d9%8a%d8%a8-%d8%a3%d8%b7%d8%a8%d8%a7%d8%a1-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%a3%d8%b3%d9%86%d8%a7%d9%86-%d9%81%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%d8%b1%d8%a7%d9%82/

Partner	Level	What TU did with them	Evidence
		developing the dentistry profession through joint cooperation	
Iraqi Nurses Syndicate	National	TU sponsored the Syndicate's celebration of International Nurses Day,	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/06/%d8%a8%d8%b1%d8%b9%d8%a7%d9%8a%d8%a9-%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%85%d8%b9%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b1%d8%a7%d8%ab-%d9%86%d9%82%d8%a7%d8%a8%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d9%85%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%b6-%d8%aa%d9%82%d9%8a/
Ministry of Education: Department of Environmental Education and School Health	National	Specialized training workshop on environmental education and school health for heads of school health branches and directors of Al-Farah model schools in Karkh and Rusafa, hosted by the Continuing Education Center	https://cec.uoturath.edu.iq/environmental-education-health/
Iraqi colleges of dentistry	National	TU hosted the National Gathering of Dental Colleges in Iraq in August 2025, bringing together deans and students to discuss dental care, community outreach and public health	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/08/al-turath-university-gathers-the-colleges-of-dentistry/
Swedish Center for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Global	Partner in the July 2025 school health workshop above	https://cec.uoturath.edu.iq/environmental-education-health/
Ahvaz University (Iran)	Global	Agreement for an integrated programme of postgraduate studies in medical	

Partner	Level	What TU did with them	Evidence
		specialties, Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine, p. 38	
University of Iowa Hospital (USA)	Global	Public health education initiatives for students and their families.	https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SDG3-Annual-report-2023.pdf
EU commission	Global	Health awareness SDG3	https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/10/erasmus/

4. Community health outreach (3.3.2)

TU runs outreach for local residents and for disadvantaged groups:

- **Humanitarian initiative for children, December 2025.** Under the patronage of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, TU hosted more than 60 children, including children with Down syndrome, orphans and underprivileged children. Therapeutic services were provided by professors and specialist doctors at the College of Dentistry hospital, supervised by the Dean, Dr. Tahani Al-Sandouk. The children and their companions also received meals on campus, a guided tour of the university, new clothes and a gift (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/12/humanitarian-initiative-supporting-children/).
- **Annual Community Dental Services Initiative.** Fourth- and fifth-year dental students treat residents free of charge, under the supervision of expert faculty members. The services are preventive and restorative and aimed at underserved communities (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/06/annual-community-dental-services/).
- **College of Dentistry community service programme.** Free supervised teaching clinics for citizens; medical and awareness caravans to schools, orphanages and rural areas with free examinations and oral-health guidance; community seminars on gum disease, oral hygiene and nutrition; and participation in World Oral Health Day (https://tucod.uoturath.edu.iq/society-support/).
- **School health screenings.** The College of Health and Medical Technologies, with the Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing, offered free vision and hearing screening and general physical examination for children. A mobile unit of the Al-Turath Medical Center provided diagnosis and primary care, and children who needed it were followed up in the Medical Center's clinics (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/04/school-health/).
- **Drug prevention seminar, November 2025.** The Continuing Education Center and the College of Law held a seminar, "Drugs between permissibility and criminalization", on the university's role in prevention and in following up students (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/11/drug-awareness-seminar/).
- **Health awareness lectures.** In November 2025 the College of Health and Medical Technologies held lectures on endometriosis (early diagnosis and modern treatment) and on early diagnosis, treatment and psychological support (https://tucomht.uoturath.edu.iq/en/). TU also lists a Breast Cancer Awareness Week and a scientific symposium on breast cancer and early detection (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/women-empowerment/).

- **Public health symposiums** open to the public on women's health, mental health and communicable diseases (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/TU_SDG3_Report_2025.pdf).

Reported results: more than 300 community members used the free dental programmes, and more than 700 students attended health events in 2024 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/TU_SDG3_Report_2025.pdf).

5. Shared sports facilities (3.3.3)

TU has equipped advanced sports fields and halls and organizes Ramadan sports events in which dozens of student teams take part (Al-Turath University Sustainability Magazine, p. 10) (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/sdg-magazine-2026-en.pdf). Its football stadium and grounds are open to the community, and TU hosts an annual Ramadan football tournament with separate events for children and adults (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/11/29006/). TU also holds university championships, such as the Table Tennis Championship of January 2025, supervised by the President's Assistant for Scientific Affairs and attended by a former Minister of Youth and Sports and a world champion player, with 18 students from different colleges taking part (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/01/sport/). The university has a College of Physical Education & Sports.

6. Sexual and reproductive health services for students (3.3.4)

The Al-Turath Medical Center includes a Women's Health Clinic, and its Student Clinical Training Unit provides reproductive health services together with educational programmes and awareness initiatives that promote informed and responsible health choices (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/medical-center/). In November 2025 the College of Health and Medical Technologies gave a lecture to its students on endometriosis (https://tucomht.uoturath.edu.iq/en/). For students these services are free of charge.

7. Mental health support for students (3.3.5)

TU actively promotes student mental health:

- Confidential one-on-one counselling with licensed psychologists is available at the Health & Wellness Center (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/health/). The counselling is free for students (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/TU_SDG3_Report_2025.pdf).
- The mental health team runs workshops and a "Mental Health Awareness Month" to reduce stigma. In 2024 it expanded to weekly mental wellness workshops and private sessions, and participation in mental health workshops rose by 25% compared with 2023 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/TU_SDG3_Report_2025.pdf).
- The Continuing Education Center and the Swedish Center for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy took part in the July 2025 school health workshop, which included a lecture on behavioral and educational approaches for working with students (https://cec.uoturath.edu.iq/environmental-education-health/).
- The November 2025 drug prevention seminar covered the university's role in prevention and student follow-up (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/11/drug-awareness-seminar/).

8. Smoke-free campus policy (3.3.6)

TU adopted a Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy in 2024. It bans the use, sale and advertising of tobacco and nicotine products, including e-cigarettes, in all university facilities and vehicles. It is aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and provides free

smoking-cessation counselling for students and staff through the Health and Wellness Office. Policy: (https://uoturath.edu.iq/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Smoke-Free-TobaccoFree-Campus-Policy.pdf)

- **Launch event:** the symposium "Towards a Smoke-Free Campus: Health, Awareness, and Responsibility" introduced the policy, with students, faculty and local health professionals, expert talks on the dangers of smoking and tobacco pollution, and the "Breathe Clean" campaign with a Smoke-Free Pledge. It was published on 8 November 2024 (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/11/no-smoking/).
- **Continued promotion:** the Continuing Education Center, with the College of Dentistry, held a lecture on smoking and periodontal disease that covered e-cigarettes and called for a preventive approach based on medical evidence. The article presents the campus-wide ban on smoking as an institutional choice reflecting moral and health responsibility toward students and staff, published on 2 March 2026 (https://cec.uoturath.edu.iq/anti-smoking-awareness/).

9. Mental health support for staff (3.3.7)

The Health & Wellness Center serves faculty and staff as well as students. Staff can use the same confidential one-on-one sessions with licensed psychologists, as well as first aid, the on-campus pharmacy and the free cessation counselling under the smoke-free policy (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/health/).

TU also supports staff well-being through maternity leave (17 female employees in 2021 and 21 in 2022) and a university kindergarten and nursery, which it expanded in 2022 to help employees balance work and childcare (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/women-empowerment/).

Al-Turath University (TU) provides comprehensive partially paid mental-health support services for employees and staff through its dedicated Health and Wellness Office and the Psychiatry and Mental-Health Unit at the Al-Turath Medical Center. Also, it provides free access to supporting groups in case of needs such as losing relatives and health issues.