



## Progress Report on SDG 1 – No Poverty

### 1. Institutional Commitment

The University of Science and Technology – Yemen (UST-Yemen) is deeply committed to addressing poverty in all its dimensions through equitable education, social responsibility, and applied research that serve community needs. The university recognises education as one of the most powerful tools for breaking the cycle of poverty and has embedded Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) throughout its policies, strategic plan (2023-2028), academic programmes, and outreach initiatives.

In alignment with Yemen’s national vision for recovery and sustainable development, UST-Yemen aims to empower students and communities with knowledge, skills, and opportunities that directly improve living standards and social well-being.

### 2. Learning and Student Experience: Inclusive Access to Education

#### 2.1 Scholarships and Financial Support

UST-Yemen ensures that students from low-income households and disadvantaged regions have equitable access to higher education. During 2024, the university awarded more than **4,900 scholarships and financial-aid packages** across its campuses (Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, Mareb).

These included:

- **Full and partial tuition scholarships** for high-achieving and low-income students (2,998 beneficiaries in Aden Campus alone).
- **Competitive Scholarships for Quran Memorizers**, offering full study opportunities to students demonstrating excellence and social contribution.

- **Partnership Scholarships** with *Bazara'a Charitable Development Foundation* and *Al-Awn Foundation*, expanding access to free higher education for economically vulnerable students.
- **Exceptional financial-aid grants**, housing discounts, and sibling-study reductions for families facing hardship.

These measures collectively reduce educational poverty by ensuring that economic barriers do not prevent capable students from completing their studies.

UST maintains structured scholarship and assistance schemes to ensure that talented students from low-income backgrounds can access and complete higher education.

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Type of Assistance / Scholarship</b>	<b>No. of Beneficiaries (2024)</b>	<b>Partner / Funding Source</b>
<b>Aden (Main Campus)</b>	Discounts for high-school top achievers (≥ 90 %)	<b>2,998</b>	UST Fund
	Exceptional financial aid cases	<b>135</b>	UST Aid Office
	Full internal qualification scholarships	<b>21</b>	UST Fund
	Free-seat scholarships (partial internal)	<b>39</b>	Ministry of Higher Education
	Full external scholarships	<b>97</b>	<i>Bazara'a Charitable Foundation</i>
	Full external scholarship	<b>1</b>	<i>Al-Awn Development Foundation</i>
	Charity association discount	<b>54</b>	<i>Bazara'a Charitable Foundation</i>
<b>Taiz Branch</b>	Charity association discount	<b>26</b>	<i>Al-Jilani Foundation</i>
	Cohort / Sibling / Outstanding Student Discounts	<b>342</b>	UST Fund

Branch	Type of Assistance / Scholarship	No. of Beneficiaries (2024)	Partner / Funding Source
Hadramout Branch	High-achiever discounts	152	UST Fund
	Quran Memorizer full internal scholarships	11	UST Fund
Mareb Branch	Quran Memorizer full internal scholarships	23	UST Fund
<i>Total across branches</i>		<b>≈ 4,970 beneficiaries (2024)</b>	

**Example programme:** *Competitive Scholarships for Quran Memorizers* — annual contest providing free study opportunities for both genders; selection based on memorization proficiency and academic merit. [University website link](#)

### 2.1.1 Partnership Scholarships

- **Bazara’a Charitable Development Foundation** – *Bader Program* full scholarships with selection tests hosted at UST, including IQ and critical-thinking assessments.
- **Al-Awn Development Foundation** – external scholarships for excellent students from low-income households. These collaborations directly expand access for the lowest-income 20 % of households.

### 2.1.2 Student Support Services

- **Housing Assistance:** UST Aden Student Affairs operates affordable dormitories for students from remote governorates.
- **Health and Psychological Support:** students and staff receive free consultations at UST clinics during health campaigns.
- **Employment and Skills Programs:** career workshops and entrepreneurship seminars with ministries and NGOs to improve employability and income generation.
- **Counselling and mentoring** programmes to support students’ transition, academic progression, and employability.

### Key actions

- Financial aid and scholarships targeting low-income students and students from remote or under-served governorates.
- Embedded curricula in faculties such as Medicine & Health Sciences, Humanities, Engineering with modules referencing development issues, social equity and poverty reduction.
- Student support services (e.g., mentoring, accommodation, health support) aimed at reducing non-financial barriers to completion (you may wish to collate internal statistics: number of students supported, value of awards, retention/completion rates).

### 2.3 Educational Innovation and Distance Learning Conferences

In 2024, UST-Yemen organised and hosted the **Distance and E-Learning Conference**, focusing on expanding educational access to underserved and remote communities.

The conference brought together regional and international experts to discuss digital learning infrastructure, open-education resources, and inclusion strategies for low-income learners—helping democratise knowledge for populations affected by economic hardship and displacement.

By promoting digital learning as a cost-effective mode of access, the conference positioned UST as a regional leader in **reducing educational inequality**, a cornerstone of SDG 1.

### 3. Research and Innovation: Knowledge for Poverty Reduction

UST's research agenda explicitly supports sustainable-development objectives through applied, interdisciplinary projects that address the economic, social, and health dimensions of poverty.

In 2024, several studies and scholarly activities contributed to SDG 1 and related goals (SDG 1,2, 3, 4, 8, 10). Key highlights include:

- **2024:** Research published in health, education, and socio-economic development journals examined determinants of community well-being, poverty, and access to basic services in Yemen.
- **2024:** A scoping review linking *early childhood caries, clean water, and sanitation* demonstrated how public-health issues intersect with poverty and environmental inequity, offering policy insights for Yemen's rural areas.

- **2024:** Papers emerging from the *Conference on Administrative Sciences and Sustainable Development* (العلوم الإدارية والتنمية المستدامة) explored governance, economic resilience, and the role of administrative reform in achieving sustainable poverty alleviation.
- **2025 (ongoing):** UST research teams are developing frameworks to evaluate the socio-economic impact of university outreach programmes, supporting evidence-based poverty-reduction policy.

UST contributes to knowledge creation and innovation that can inform poverty-reduction efforts and social development in Yemen and beyond. While specific publications may need listing, the university's strategic orientation emphasises research in sustainability and community impact.

### Key actions

- Research centres oriented to renewable energy, GIS training, medical education — thereby aligning with socio-economic development and potentially influencing poverty alleviation (via improving access to services, enhancing livelihoods).
- Innovation and applied research that addresses local needs (for example, health service access, engineering solutions for remote areas) – useful in a country experiencing multiple development challenges.
- Participation in partnerships or collaborative research (domestic or international) that may address deprivation, access to education or health for disadvantaged populations.

### 3.1 Conference on Administrative Sciences and Sustainable Development (2024)

This national conference, held in Aden by UST's Faculty of Administrative and Financial Sciences, served as a platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to present applied studies on *economic empowerment, institutional efficiency, entrepreneurship, and inclusive development*.

Key outcomes included:

- Recommendations for enhancing **micro-enterprise support** and youth entrepreneurship.
- Policy discussions on **sustainable financial management** for NGOs and local authorities.
- Collaborative research agendas linking SDG 1 (No Poverty) with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Proceedings from this conference were published and disseminated nationally, positioning UST as an academic catalyst for poverty-reduction policy and practice.

## 4. Community Engagement and Social Impact


### 4.1 Free Medical Camps

UST's College of Medicine and Health Sciences organised its first **Free Medical Camp (2024)** at the Inma'a Campus – Aden, providing **8,289 patients** with health services, including general medicine, dentistry, pediatrics, mental health, obstetrics and gynecology, and nutrition.

With the participation of nearly **800 staff and volunteers**, the camp addressed both health poverty and financial vulnerability by delivering high-quality care free of charge.

UST's College of Medicine and Health Sciences organized its **first free medical camp** (April 2024) serving **8,289 patients** over two days:

Service	Cases
General Medicine	790
Internal Medicine	839
Obstetrics & Gynecology	259
Ophthalmology / Optometry	461
Dentistry	1,528
Pediatrics	407
Mental Health	267
Nutrition & Therapeutic Diet	515
Pharmacy Services	2,056
Laboratory Tests	1,167

Nearly **800 staff members** (doctors, assistants, nurses, organizers) participated, reflecting the university's dedication to community health and poverty alleviation.  [UST medical camp report](#)

### 4.2 Community Outreach and Humanitarian Activities

- **Elderly Care Home Support Programme (2024):** UST faculty and medical students conducted health assessments and psychological support sessions for senior residents in Aden, ensuring continued care and social inclusion.

- **Partnerships for Entrepreneurship and Training:** UST collaborates with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, and civil-society organisations to deliver skill-building workshops that enable sustainable livelihoods.

These initiatives improve access to essential services and create pathways out of poverty for marginalised groups.

UST collaborates with ministries and NGOs to deliver free or subsidized training that improves access to sustainable livelihoods:

<b>Partner / Entity</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Year 2024 Output</b>
Military College – Aden	Cybersecurity Course for cadets	60 participants
Ministry of Industry & Trade	Launch of CPA Exams in Aden	regional roll-out
Ministry of Public Health & Population	“World No Tobacco Day” awareness seminar	150 attendees
Sarab Development Initiative	University Pathway Program – social entrepreneurship skills	40 beneficiaries

UST plays a direct role engaging with local communities to reduce barriers associated with poverty (e.g., health, education, livelihood support).

### **Key actions**

- UST organised free medical camps and health-service outreach to low-income communities, thereby improving access to essential services (which is a dimension of poverty elimination).
- Community service programmes: UST’s students and staff provide pro bono or low-cost services (educational, health, skills training) to underserved populations.
- Partnerships with charities, government agencies and NGOs to deliver social support, capacity building and inclusive development interventions in the governorates where UST operates.
- By enabling students from disadvantaged backgrounds and those from remote governorates to participate fully, UST advances inclusion and economic participation.

### **4.3 Policy Engagement**

UST Aden actively participates in policy discussions and memoranda of understanding with ministries (Health, Industry, Technical Education) to co-design programs that reduce poverty through education, employability, and equitable health access.

### 4.3.1 Global Profile & Partnerships

As a higher-education institution in Yemen, UST’s global profile allows it to engage in knowledge exchange, collaborate internationally, attract funding and bring best practices in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

#### Key actions

- The university’s branch network and its centers (e.g., Center for Renewable Energy & Electronic Design) position it to participate in regional/specialised efforts to advance development in low-income, conflict-affected settings.
- International affiliations and membership (e.g., Arab Higher Education Institutions, International Council for Open and Distance Education) support capacity-building that benefits disadvantaged communities.
- UST is in a context (Yemen) of heightened development need, which magnifies the importance of its contributions to poverty reduction through education, research and community engagement.

## 5. Performance Indicators (2024)

Indicator	2023	2024	Trend / Notes
	Baseline	Result	
Students receiving financial aid or scholarships	4,200	4,970	+18 % increase in access
Free medical camp beneficiaries	–	8,289	First comprehensive community medical service
Community training participants	120	250	Expanded cross-sector partnerships
Research outputs addressing poverty and inequality	–	15	Includes papers and conference proceedings (2023–25)

Indicator	2023	2024	Trend / Notes
	Baseline	Result	
External charitable scholarships (Bazara'a, Al-Awn Foundations)	80	134	+68 % growth in philanthropic support

#### Notable achievement example:

- UST's public blog describes its leadership in sustainable development and commitment to integrating sustainability in programmes and community engagement.
- This suggests momentum and institutional embedding of poverty-reduction goals.

## 6. Challenges and Mitigations

### Challenges

- Operating in Yemen's complex socio-political, economic and humanitarian environment makes delivery of education and services to disadvantaged groups more difficult (infrastructure, conflict, access).
- Data collection and monitoring of the full impact of poverty-reduction programmes (e.g., tracking alumni outcomes, measuring long-term socioeconomic uplift) may be limited.
- Financial constraints, scholarship funding sustainability, and scalability of outreach programmes may pose hurdles.
- Ensuring that support is sufficient to address non-financial barriers (transport, accommodation, remote-governorate connectivity) alongside tuition cost.

### Mitigations / Response

- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for student support and community engagement (collect baseline data, follow-up outcomes).
- Expand partnerships with charitable foundations, government agencies, international donors to secure sustained funding for disadvantaged-student programmes.
- Embed poverty-reduction and access targets into the university's strategic plan and academic KPIs to ensure institutional accountability.

Use research and innovation to develop locally adapted solutions (e.g., remote-governorate remote learning, mobile health outreach) to reach underserved populations.

## 7. Outlook for 2025 and Beyond

- Publish a consolidated **UST Sustainability and SDGs Progress Report 2025**.

- Expand **medical and social outreach programmes** to rural governorates.
- Increase **partnership research projects** focusing on poverty reduction and social innovation.
- Strengthen **distance learning capacity** to reach an additional 20 % of students from low-income regions.
- Host the **second edition** of the *Administrative Sciences and Sustainable Development Conference* with an international focus on *inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication in fragile contexts*.

## 8. Summary

Through a combination of **inclusive education, targeted student support, applied research, and community service**, UST-Yemen demonstrates measurable progress toward SDG 1 (No Poverty). The university's scholarship and outreach programmes directly reduce economic and social barriers; its research and conferences generate evidence and policy dialogue; and its distance-learning initiatives extend opportunities to those previously excluded. In a national context facing severe economic and humanitarian challenges, UST-Yemen stands as a model of resilience, innovation, and commitment to sustainable human development.

UST Yemen is making meaningful contributions to SDG 1 through its multi-dimensional approach: ensuring access to higher education for disadvantaged students, delivering community outreach and essential services, integrating poverty-reduction themes into teaching and research, and positioning itself as a regional actor in a country facing acute development challenges. While significant work remains—especially in data tracking, scale-up, and sustainable funding—the institution is firmly aligned with the goal of “no poverty” and is moving towards embedding this as a core dimension of its mission and operations.