

NAKHCHIVAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

20
24

SDG PROGRESS REPORT





*From Campus to Community:
Building a Greener Future*

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**REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY**

“Nakhchivan State University Publishing House”, 2025, 124 pages

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the initiatives implemented by Nakhchivan State University in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It highlights key achievements and outlines strategic objectives for the future. The publication reflects the university's ongoing commitment to the principles of sustainable development. We believe that these efforts will contribute meaningfully not only to the advancement of our institution but also to the global mission of fostering a greener, more equitable, and sustainable world.



MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

I am proud to present the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report of Nakhchivan State University. This report captures our ongoing commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda and highlights the real impact of our educational, academic, research, and civic projects in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth.

NSU had expanded its reach and strengthened its efforts by integrating sustainability into our strategy, courses, infrastructure, and community partnerships. Whether through improving climate resilience, promoting gender equality, increasing access to digital education, or supporting student innovation, we remain committed to our role as a higher education institution in contributing to global well-being.

This progress would not have been possible without the passion and dedication of our faculty members, administrative teams, students, and stakeholders. I sincerely thank each for hard work and collaboration. As we move forward, let us continue to lead with purpose, learn with humility, and act with integrity to build a more sustainable future for everyone.

Elbrus Isayev

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Introduction

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University reaffirmed its strong commitment to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It serves as a model for integrating sustainability into higher education in the region. With a vision based on global responsibility and local relevance, NSU continues to weave the 17 SDGs into its academic programs, research efforts, community outreach, and institutional growth.

Over the past years, NSU improved its strategies to tackle urgent issues like climate change, water security, social equity, access to quality education, and innovation-driven economic growth. Through teamwork across various fields and partnerships with stakeholders both nationally and internationally, the university expanded its influence and created new opportunities for meaningful engagement.

From zero-waste campaigns and inclusive learning projects to green infrastructure initiatives and international academic networks, NSU's comprehensive approach makes sustainability a central guiding principle rather than an afterthought. This report details the university's achievements across all 17 SDGs in 2024, showcasing its strong commitment to building a resilient, fair, and sustainable future for students, faculty, and the broader community.

NSU has also stepped up efforts to connect internal policies with SDG targets. It has improved governance frameworks, enhanced monitoring and evaluation tools, and integrated sustainability indicators across its operations. The university's leadership promotes a campus culture of responsibility, inclusion, and innovative thinking.

Furthermore, NSU sees sustainability not just as a duty but as a chance to inspire the next generation of changemakers, work together across borders, and make a real contribution to regional and global change. As we present this year's report, we strongly believe that education is a powerful engine for progress and that universities play a crucial role in creating a fair and sustainable world.

Executive Summary

The 2024 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Progress Report of Nakhchivan State University (NSU) highlights the institution's ongoing commitment to incorporating sustainability into its academic, operational, and community activities. Guided by the United Nations SDGs, NSU has solidified its position as a regional leader in sustainable development through interdisciplinary programs, strategic partnerships, and inclusive policies.

1. Reducing Inequalities and Expanding Educational Access (SDG 1 & 4)

NSU awarded over 2,700 scholarships in 2024, helping students from disadvantaged and rural backgrounds access higher education. The expansion of dormitories and flexible financial aid programs helped reduce poverty-related barriers. Outreach initiatives ensured broader academic inclusion.

2. Promoting Food Security and Sustainable Consumption (SDG 2 & 12)

More than 1,200 students benefited from NSU's food assistance services. The university also promoted sustainable food practices by conducting awareness campaigns and supporting research in agricultural efficiency and food waste reduction.

3. Advancing Health and Well-being (SDG 3)

Throughout the year, NSU organized nearly 30 health events on topics such as mental wellness, first aid, and disease prevention. Medical students participated in local clinics of the regions and awareness drives, contributing directly to community health outcomes.

4. Fostering Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SDG 5 & 10)

Women make up over 50% of NSU's senior leadership, including deans and department heads. Gender-focused scholarships and mentorship programs encouraged female participation across disciplines. Special support was provided to underrepresented and vulnerable groups.

This year's progress reflects NSU's ongoing mission to connect local actions with a global vision. It ensures that higher education actively shapes a more inclusive, fair, and sustainable future.



Introduction

Aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 1: No Poverty continues to be a cornerstone of Nakhchivan State University's mission to promoting equity, engagement, and sustainability in its learning and living environment. The elimination of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an ethical, social and environmental imperative in the fight against the exclusion, discrimination and violence suffered by many people in all regions of the world.

As an institution that is an integral part of the social and cultural life of Nakhchivan, NSU is aware of its responsibility to provide assistance to students and society from low-income families. The university's work is situated squarely within Target 1.4 and Target 1. B in SDG 1, which focus on access to financial resources, basic services, and the availability of development strategies that are pro-poor and gender sensitive.

Strategic Focus in 2024

In 2024, NSU enlarged poverty alleviation with an all-around, multidimensional work in poverty alleviation. The university strengthened its scholarship programs, institutional support endeavours and community engagement initiatives to become more effectively a response to social inequality and a vehicle for empowering its students.

Widening merit, and need-based scholarship programs Strengthened corporation with public and private sector partners including NEQSOL Holding and Azercell Greater emphasis on gender sensitive financial assistance programme Community engagement to increase social mobility and raise awareness



Empowering students through financial support and inclusive opportunities, Nakhchivan State University is committed to reducing economic barriers and fostering equal access to education for all.



Through the increased accessibility of higher education for low-income students, NSU is directly contributing to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty and promoting inclusive excellence in the district.

This is a summary report of the progress, accomplishments and plans of the university for SDG 1 during 2024. It reinforces NSU's historic commitment to ensuring that no student is denied access to college because of inability to pay, and that access to higher education remains a force for opportunity, equity, and enduring change.

Institutional Measures

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University also has taken a step towards it and strengthened the strategic vision to combat poverty at institutional level through a wide-ranging support framework for the vulnerable and socio-economically disadvantaged students. The university's approach combined financial, infrastructural, and academic support mechanisms, ensuring that no student was left behind due to economic hardship.

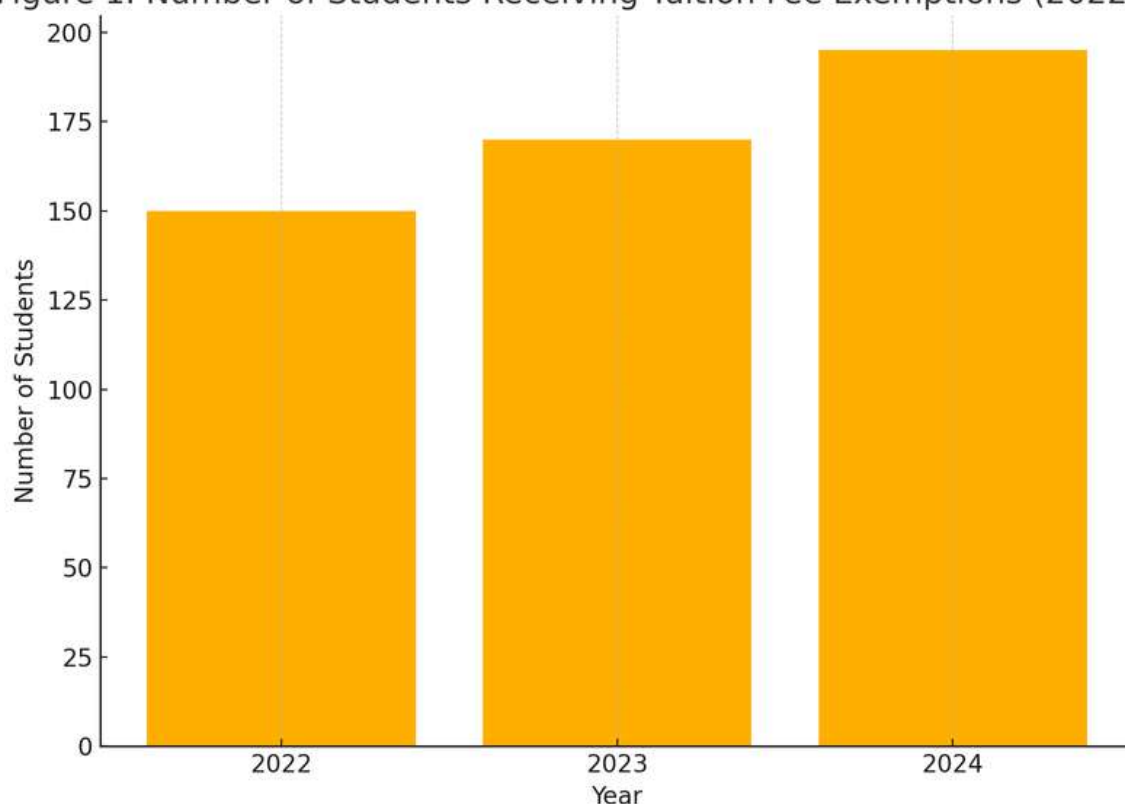
Refund and Reduction of Tuition Charges

NSU had practiced a policy of granting partial or full tuition fee exemptions to the students from low income families, internally displaced persons (IDP) and persons with disabilities based on financial need.

Figure 1. High proportion of students on fee waivers (number of students receiving fee waivers 2022–2024)

This number shows an ongoing upward trajectory of students who are receiving tuition waivers, the total number of whom has increased by almost 15% in 2024 from the year before.

Figure 1. Number of Students Receiving Tuition Fee Exemptions (2022–2024)

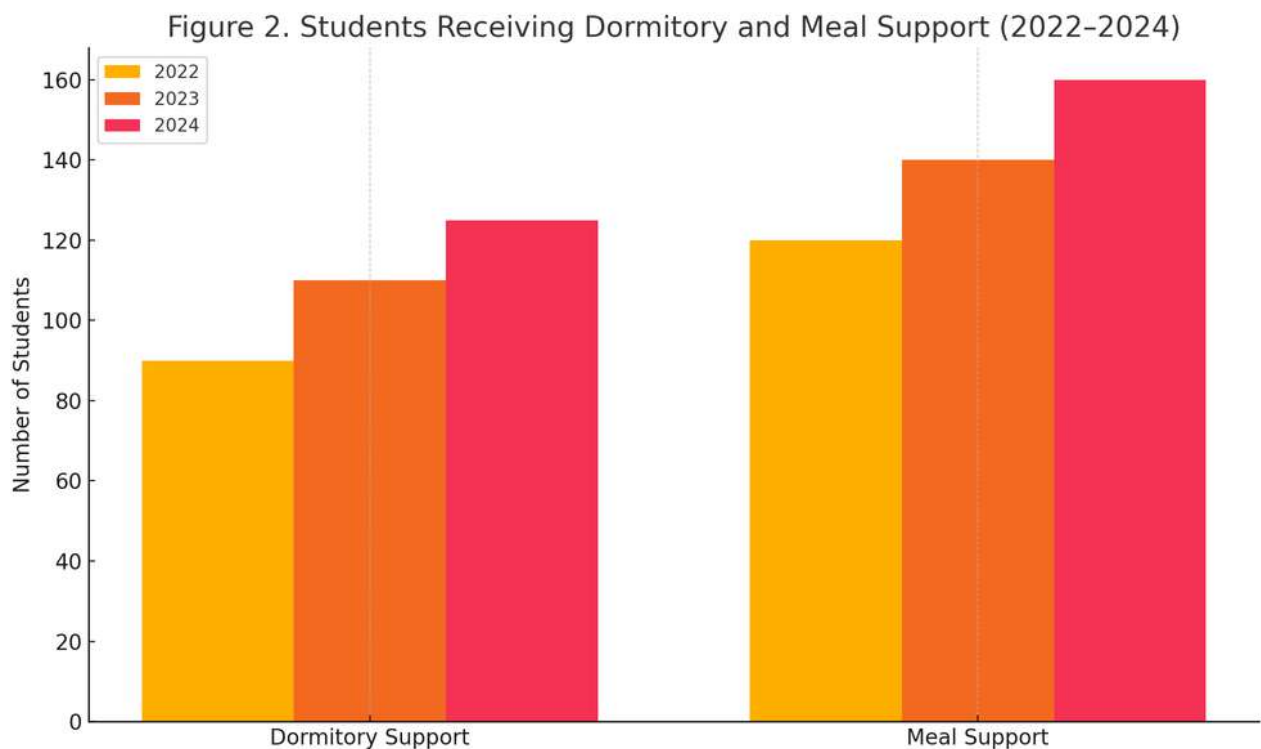


Dormitory and Meal Support

College students from rural areas and not so well-off backgrounds were allowed to live on a university campus with subsidized dormitory and meal fees. These such programs were designed to relieve basic expenses of living for students, and instead enable them to concentrate on their scholarship, direct activism and study.

Figure 2. Dormitory and Meal-covered Support Recipients (2022–2024)

Dormitory and food aid both significantly increased in 2024, now serving more than 280 students.



Devices and Access to Digital Learning

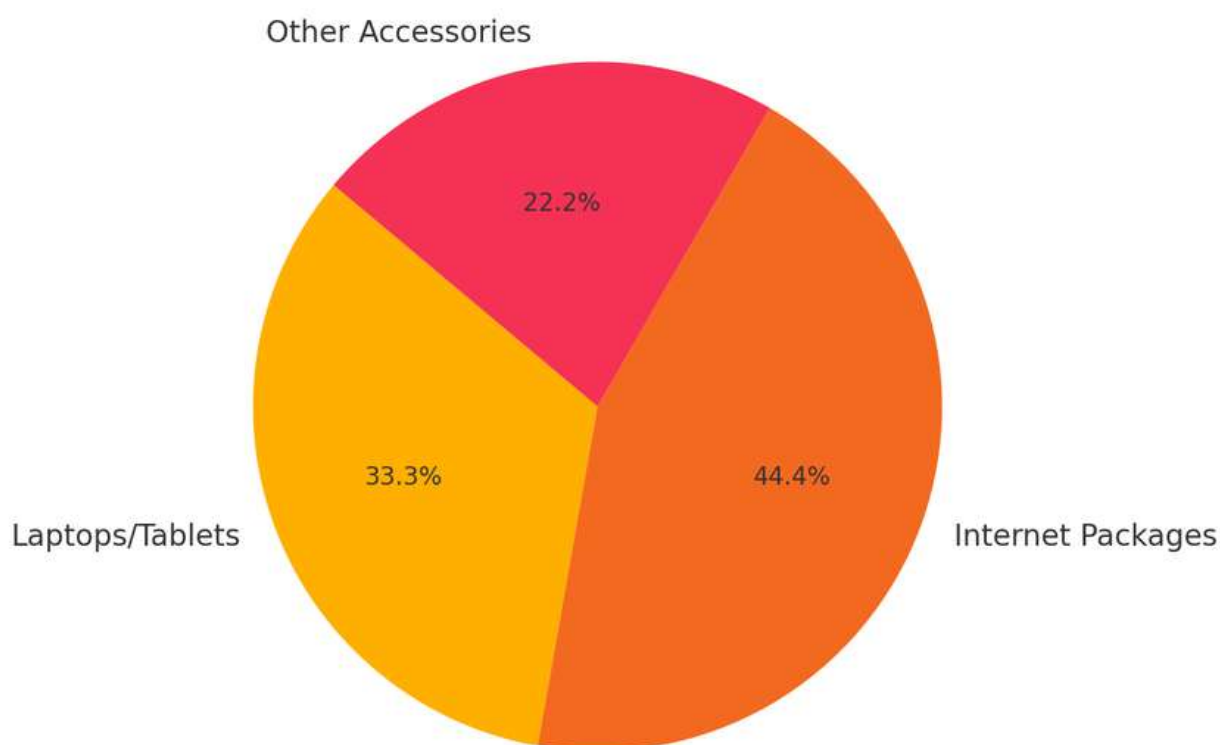
To close the digital divide, NSU would maintain its distribution of laptops, tablets, internet packages and other learning tools to as many students as had no digital access. This was particularly important for students learning remotely and students from low-income families.

Figure 3. Digital Support for Students in 2024 Types

Most digital assistance was for internet access and mobile devices.

This graph illustrates the categories of digital student support provided in 2024. Internet bundles were the favorite among customers who bought the devices, making up 44%, followed by laptops/tablets (33%) and other accessories (23%). The grant facilitated access to online learning materials for all.

Figure 3. Types of Digital Support Provided to Students in 2024



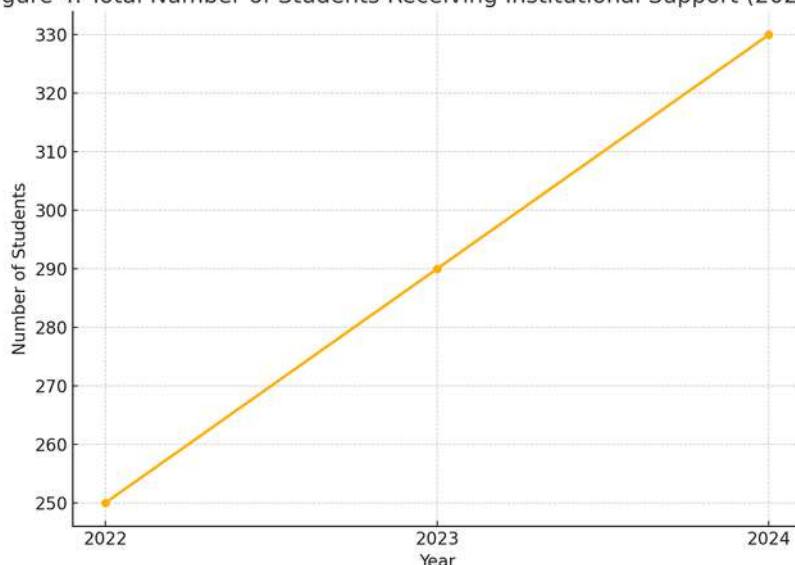
Institutional Scope and Impact

Such are the total number of institutional beneficiaries at 330 in 2024, where there was a 14% jump over 2023.

Figure 4. Total number of students who have received an institutional grant or scholarship (2022-2024)

300 per year), the number of students supported institution-wide has increased from 250 in fall 2022 to 330 in fall 2024, a 32% increase in students supported during this time. This increase reflects NSU's responsive and growing keeping pace with the issue of student poverty.

Figure 4. Total Number of Students Receiving Institutional Support (2022–2024)



Comprehensive Student Support System

The university operated a dedicated Student Support Unit to manage all aid-related processes -including application review, welfare tracking, and referrals for psychological and housing support.

Institutional Reach and Impact

The total number of students benefiting from any form of institutional support reached 330 in 2024-marking a 14% increase compared to 2023.

Figure 4. Total Number of Students Receiving Institutional Support (2022–2024)

The total number of students benefitting from institutional support grew from 250 in 2022 to 330 in 2024, reflecting a 32% increase over the three-year period. This upward trend demonstrates NSU's proactive and expanding role in addressing student poverty.

Parla Scholarship Program

(in collaboration with different national holdings & Education Development Fund)

In 2024, NSU partnered with Holdings and the Education Development Fund to implement the “Parla” Scholarship Program, a women-focused support scheme designed to empower students from underprivileged communities:

- 791 applicants across Azerbaijan
- 50 female students from NSU were selected
- Monthly financial support and leadership training provided

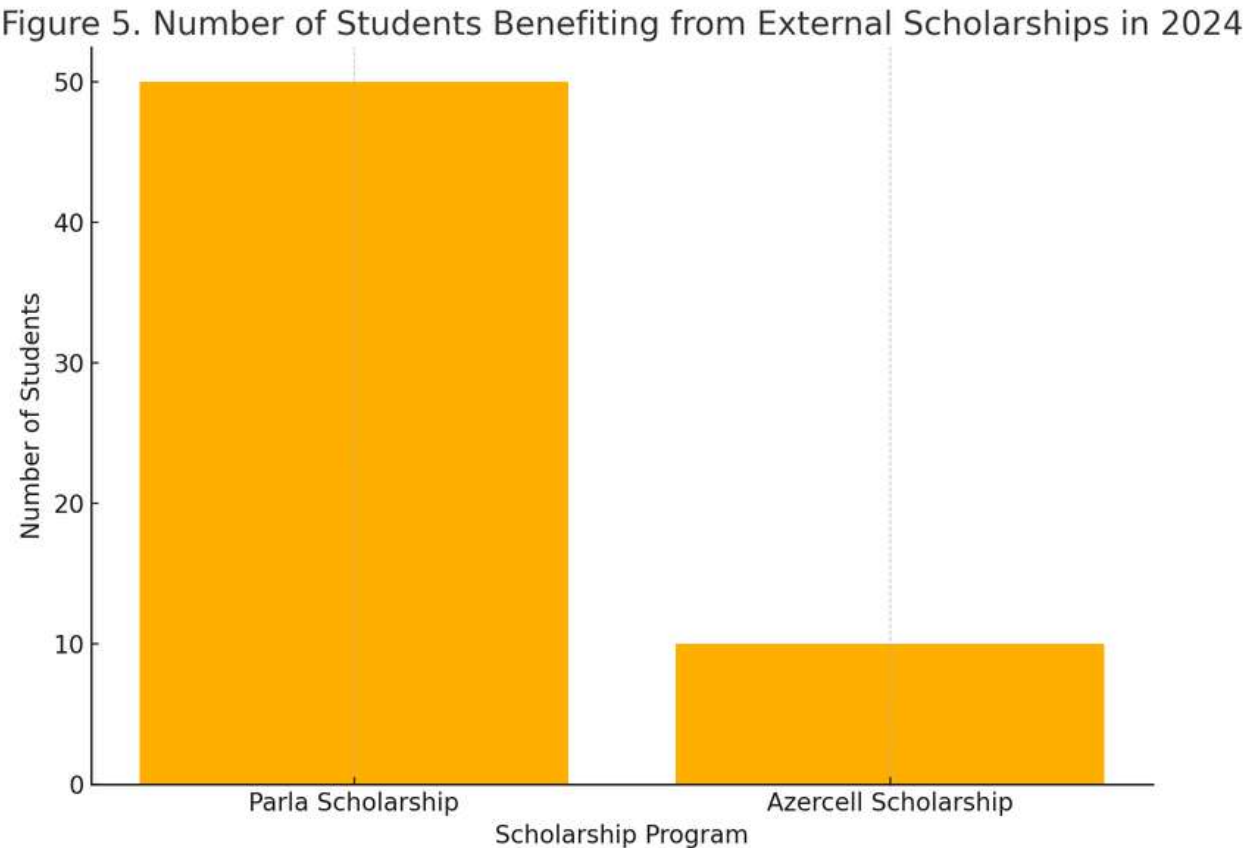
The program not only covered educational expenses but also equipped participants with skills for future success.

Azercell Student Scholarship 2024

Through a nationwide competition, 10 NSU students were awarded the Azercell Scholarship, targeted at those studying ICT and engineering disciplines with financial constraints:

- Monthly support of 300 AZN per student
- Access to professional mentorship and workshops

Figure 5. Number of Students Benefiting from External Scholarships in 2024



Community Engagement

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University continued to play an active role in fostering social responsibility and poverty awareness through targeted community outreach and engagement activities. These initiatives were designed to support underprivileged populations beyond the university, particularly in rural and economically vulnerable regions of Nakhchivan and surrounding areas.

Outreach to Local Schools and Rural Communities

NSU organized educational visits and training workshops in collaboration with local schools and community centers. These efforts aimed to:

- Encourage early university aspirations among students from low-income families

- Provide career guidance and entrance exam preparation
- Distribute basic educational materials to students in need

Through these efforts, hundreds of schoolchildren in disadvantaged areas were engaged with higher education opportunities.

Monitoring and Impact

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University adopted a structured monitoring system to assess the effectiveness and impact of its poverty alleviation measures. The monitoring process was managed by the university's Student Support and Financial Aid Unit in cooperation with the Office for Strategic Planning.

1. Monitoring Tools and Methodology

To track implementation and outcomes, the university employed a variety of data collection tools:

- Student Welfare Surveys conducted biannually among scholarship and aid recipients
- Internal data systems recording the number of beneficiaries across all support categories
- Anonymous feedback channels including hotlines and online forms for qualitative input
- Post-program evaluation interviews, particularly for external scholarships (e.g., Parla, Azercell)
- Data was aggregated and analyzed to inform policy decisions and improve support delivery

Conclusion

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University reaffirmed its deep-rooted commitment to the eradication of poverty through a diverse range of inclusive, strategic, and sustainable initiatives. Recognizing education as a powerful tool to combat poverty, the university implemented expanded financial support mechanisms targeting economically disadvantaged yet academically capable students. Scholarship programs such as the High-Score Scholarship Initiative, the "Parla" Leadership and Empowerment Program in collaboration with holdings, and Azercell's targeted support for ICT and engineering students have played a pivotal role in reducing financial barriers and increasing access to quality education.

Beyond institutional funding, NSU actively collaborated with local and national stakeholders to deliver essential aid-ranging from seasonal food packages to winter clothing distributions-for vulnerable families across the region. These social outreach efforts highlighted the university's dual approach: providing immediate material relief while simultaneously fostering pathways to long-term resilience through education and empowerment. Equally important were the university's training and employment-oriented interventions. NSU offered students various opportunities for part-time campus employment, digital literacy training, and entrepreneurship seminars-ensuring that financial hardship did not deter students from thriving academically or professionally. In particular, women, rural youth, and students with disabilities were placed at the center of these efforts, promoting inclusive development across all segments of society.

As the university looks toward 2025 and the broader goals of Agenda 2030, its focus will remain steadfast: to expand support systems, increase scholarship coverage, and further embed anti-poverty strategies into institutional policy and practice-ensuring that no one is left behind.



Introduction

NSU is committed to combating hunger and ensuring food security through student support programs, sustainable agriculture research, and nutrition-focused education. In 2024, NSU continued to expand initiatives aimed at providing access to healthy meals, raising awareness about food sustainability, and supporting local food systems in line with SDG 2 objectives.

Comprehensive Student Support System

The university operated a dedicated Student Support Unit to manage all aid-related processes -including application review, welfare tracking, and referrals for psychological and housing support. Anonymous student support channels and welfare hotlines were also maintained to ensure discreet access to help.

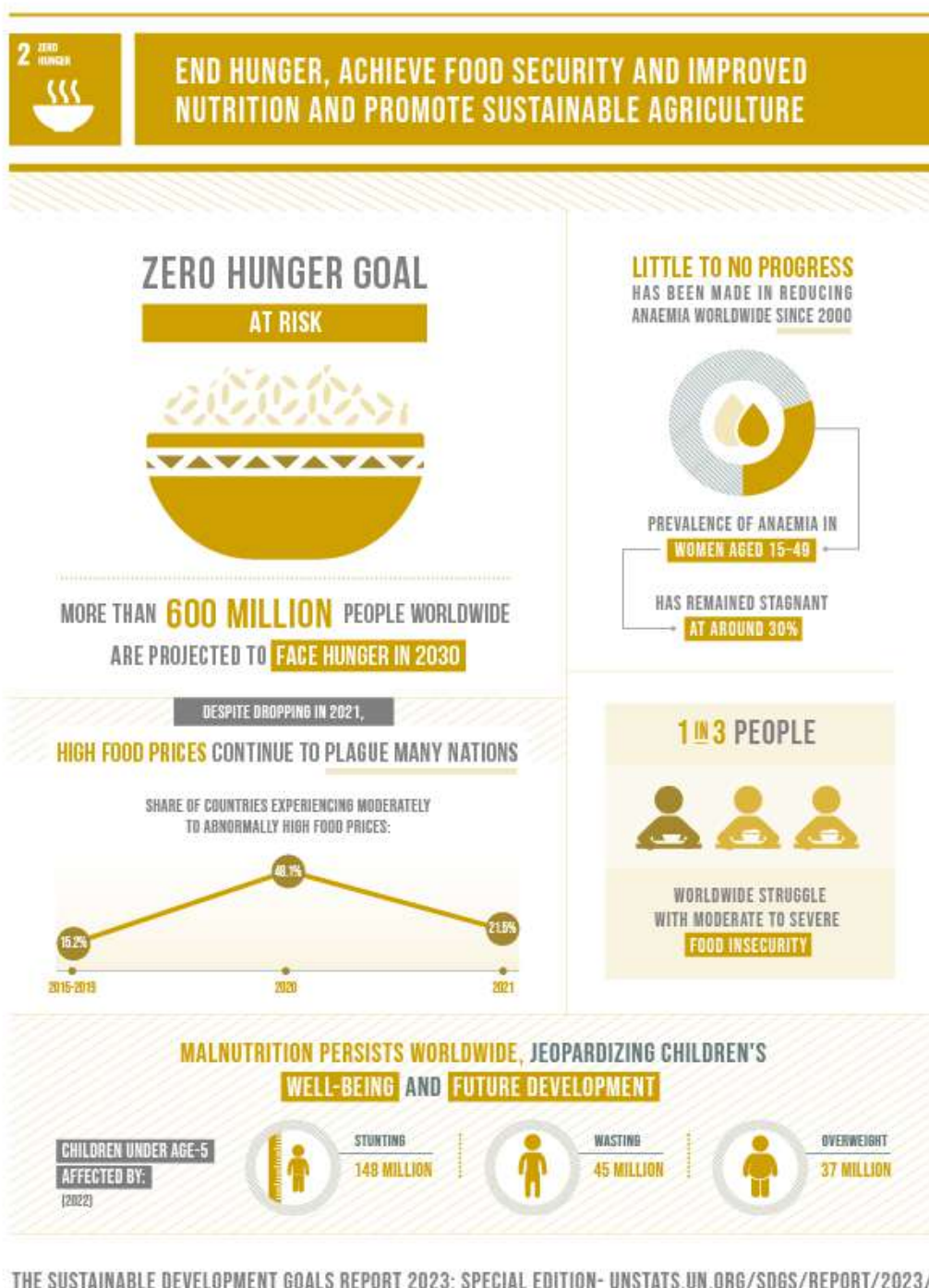
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- Facilitating community partnerships to promote sustainable agriculture and local food initiatives
- Organizing awareness events, scientific workshops, and rural outreach programs related to food and nutrition security

This report outlines NSU's progress under SDG 2, including measurable actions, community impacts, and future commitments. It highlights the university's growing role as a regional leader in ensuring that food access and sustainability remain integral to education and research.

Innovation and Research in Agriculture

In 2024 NSU has been reinforced as a regional center of sustainable agricultural science. By such an expansion of the academic programmes, improvement of laboratory facilities and cross-sector collaboration, the university moved forward on certain priority areas related to the SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

1. Research Agendas and Products

The agricultural and environmental sector The Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences kept its attention on:

Dryland farming methods suitable for dry climates

Watersaving irrigation devices

Variety trials of crops for climate resilience

Optimization of soil fertility and plant nutrition

In 2024:

14 research projects were activated (up from 10 in 2023 – +40% more projects)

NSU participated in 2 EC-funded projects of sustainable agriculture

1 national scientific conference organized on “Food Systems and Climate Adaptation”.

5 refereed papers were also published (↑ from 3 last year)

2. Fundamentals and Infrastructure Laboratory and Infrastructure Development

Modernization was continued with the following for the Agricultural Research Laboratory:

- Digital soil sensors
- Plant growth chambers
- Water quality testing tools

A new pilot greenhouse was constructed to facilitate undergraduate research on organic crops and vertical farming.

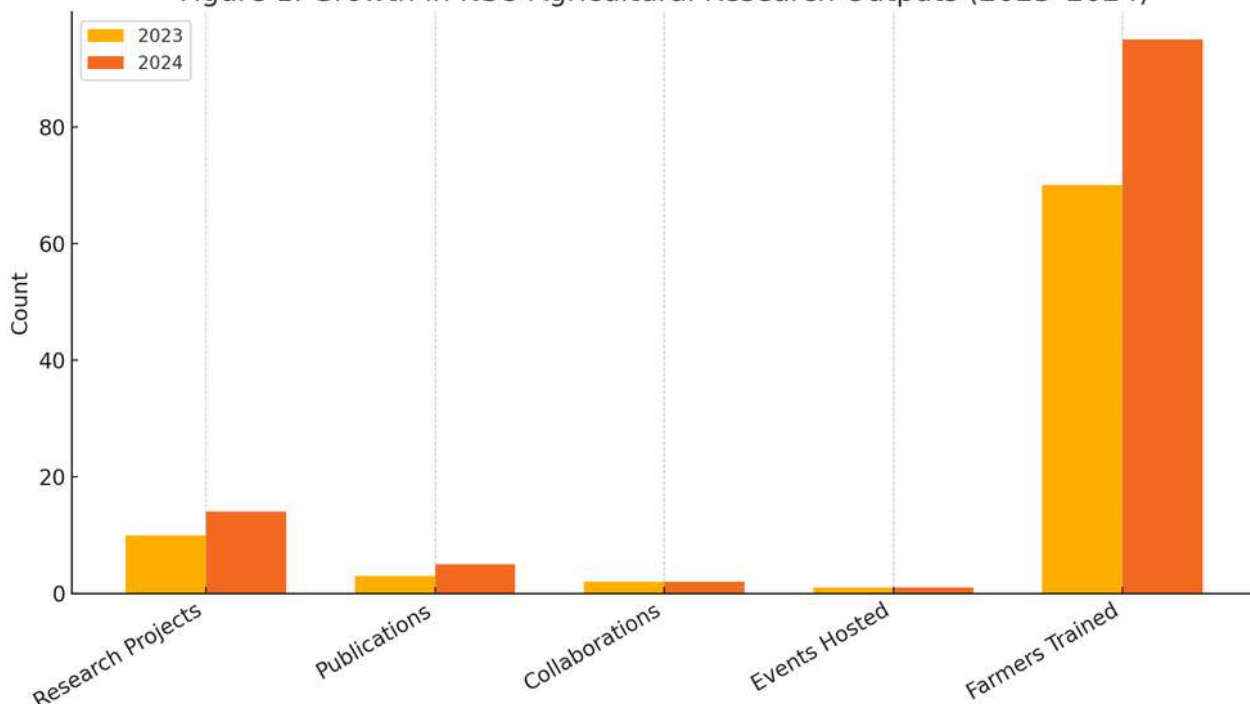
3. Community Integration

NSU collaborated with various agricultural cooperatives and farmers to:

- Pilot 3 test fields of drought-tolerant crops.
- Train 95 pusitivist farmers to utilise water more efficiently
- Deploy a mobile soil testing unit that can provide real-time testing on remote farms.

Output	2023	2024	% Change
Research projects funded	10	14	+40%
Peer-reviewed publications	3	5	+66%
Field trials conducted	2	2	–
Farmers engaged in outreach events	1	1	–
Innovation labs upgraded	70	95	+36%

Figure 1. Growth in NSU Agricultural Research Outputs (2023-2024)



Programs to Provide Food to Students

Nakhchivan State University, as an active participant in achieving food security and ensuring equitable education, also extended structured food assistance to students with low income in 2024. These actions directly correspond to SDG 2.1, which calls for the end of hunger and access for all people, especially vulnerable groups like rural schools children and families from low-income communities, to safe and nutritious food year-round.

1. On-Campus Nutrition Support

So that students do not experience hunger:

The university canteen sold cheap meals to all students and reduced their rates for daily meals through the economic status of each student.

Programs for students needing help obtaining food

During 2024 Nakhchivan State University, which is committed to food security and education for all, provided such advanced food assistance to students living with food insecurity. These initiatives are directly related to SDG 2.1: End hunger and ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all, especially the poor, and people in vulnerable situations, including children of students from rural areas and low income households.

1. On-Campus Nutrition Support

For Feeding Students: Food insecurity among students shall be lessened by:

All students were offered inexpensive meals at the university cafeteria but for those who met financial criteria based on low income, discounted daily meals were available.

In 2023, around 370 students had the subsidy (↑ from 420 in 2024 by roughly 13%).

They also initiated a “Healthy Menu Week” campaign to increase awareness on nutrition and inexpensive meal planning.



2. Emergency Food Package Program

In collaboration with the NSU Student Union and local food suppliers, the university distributed food packages during critical periods (e.g., holidays, exam seasons, winter months).

- In total, 180 food packages were distributed in 2024 (↑ from 140 in 2023 – +29% growth).
- Priority was given to students from remote villages, international students, and those who applied through the student support hotline.



3. Seasonal and Community-Based Support

Additional seasonal initiatives included:

- Ramadan and Nowruz food drives, coordinated by student clubs
- Donations of fresh produce and baked goods from the university's experimental farm
- Participation in World Food Day (October 16) with on-campus food security awareness events

Category	2023	2024	% Change
Meal subsidy recipients	370	420	+13%
Emergency food packages	140	180	+29%
Special food campaigns	2	3	+50%

Community Engagement & Rural Outreach

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University expanded its engagement with rural communities to promote sustainable agriculture and food security practices. These efforts directly supported local development and aligned with SDG 2.3 and 2.4, which focus on increasing small-scale agricultural productivity and ensuring resilient farming systems.

Key Activities:

- 3 regional training workshops were organized in Sharur, Ordubad, and Babek districts, reaching over 110 local farmers.
- University faculty and students conducted mobile field visits to assist in soil testing, pest control, and water-efficient irrigation techniques.
- NSU partnered with two local cooperatives to pilot organic composting and drought-resistant seed use.
- A student volunteer group of 25 members supported seasonal harvest efforts and distributed educational materials on nutrition and sustainable farming.

These outreach programs helped build farmer capacity, improve yields, and strengthen NSU's role as a knowledge center in rural sustainability.



Rural outreach is not charity —
it's partnership for progress

Bridging knowledge and
tradition, NSU empowers rural
farmers to build resilient,
sustainable food systems.





With every farmer trained, NSU sows seeds of sustainability and harvests hope for generations to come.

1. Monitoring and Impact

To evaluate the effectiveness of its food security and agricultural outreach initiatives, Nakhchivan State University employed a structured monitoring system throughout 2024. This included the use of surveys, program reporting, and direct feedback from beneficiaries — both students and rural stakeholders.

2. Monitoring Tools and Methodology

- Biannual student welfare surveys measured the impact of food support services and cafeteria quality.
- Post-training evaluation forms were distributed to farmers participating in outreach events.
- Monthly program tracking was conducted by the Student Support Office and the Faculty of Agriculture.

3. Conclusions from Monitoring

- NSU's expanded food assistance program resulted in a measurable improvement in student retention and daily wellbeing.
- Farmer feedback indicated increased adoption of sustainable practices introduced through university-led trainings.
- Satisfaction among students increased notably due to improved access to nutritious food and on-campus support.

Through continuous data collection and analysis, NSU remains committed to enhancing its evidence-based approach in addressing food insecurity and supporting community resilience.

Recommendations for 2025:

- Scale up on-campus food programs and integrate nutrition education into student life
- Strengthen collaboration with national agricultural bodies and international donors
- Expand field-based research in rural areas and integrate more students into community-led projects
- Digitize monitoring tools to improve program tracking and impact measurement



Introduction

Nakhchivan State University is one of the nearest political subdivisions of Azerbaijan Republic and one of the leading HEI in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals - especially SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and make efforts to NSU community and the whole region with health-related access, awareness, and equity.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Consistent with this worldwide goal, NSU has developed programs to address:

- Support for student and staff Physical and mental well-being
- Health promotion and disease prevention initiatives
- Domestic and foreign literature of medical and social health issues
- Collaborations with the public health and foreign universities
- Engagement with high risk populations, such as adolescents with autism and school children

In 2024, NSU continued with its previous successful work, increasing the number of community health campaigns, reinforcing mental health and contributing actively to scientific forums and publications.

This report details the university's progress and accomplishments in addressing SDG 3 in the 2024 calendar year, focusing on goals and strategies implemented, results realized, and next steps.

Health Campaigns and Preventive Care Initiatives

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University intensified its health outreach and preventive care activities, continuing its tradition of integrating medical education with community service. Building on the success of 2023, where nearly 30 free health campaigns were conducted, NSU increased the number to 36 preventive health campaigns, marking a 20% year-over-year growth.



Key Initiatives Included:

- Free medical screenings (blood pressure, BMI, diabetes checks) held monthly in collaboration with regional clinics
- Health education seminars on hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention for both students and the general public
- Special campaigns aligned with global health days, such as:
 - **World Tuberculosis Day**
 - **World No Tobacco Day**
 - **World Mental Health Day**

These events reached an estimated 2,400 participants, including students, university staff, and residents of Nakhchivan city and surrounding districts.

Academic and Student Involvement:

NSU medical students played a lead role in delivering peer-led workshops on healthy habits, reproductive health, and first aid training.

25 faculty members and over 60 students contributed as organizers, presenters, or volunteers. Campaigns were conducted in both on-campus venues and local schools and community centers to ensure broad reach.

These efforts not only enhanced health awareness across diverse age groups but also fostered civic engagement and leadership skills among participating students.

The collaborative approach helped bridge academic knowledge with real-world impact, reinforcing the university's commitment to community well-being.

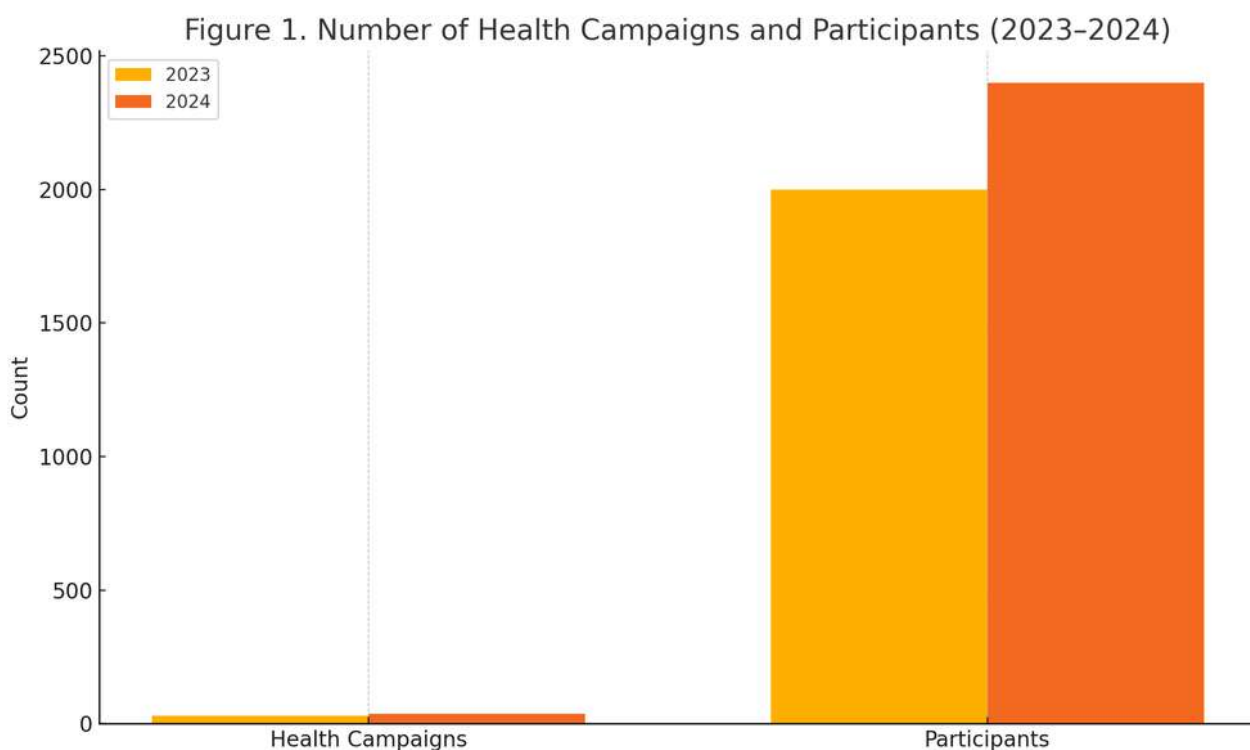
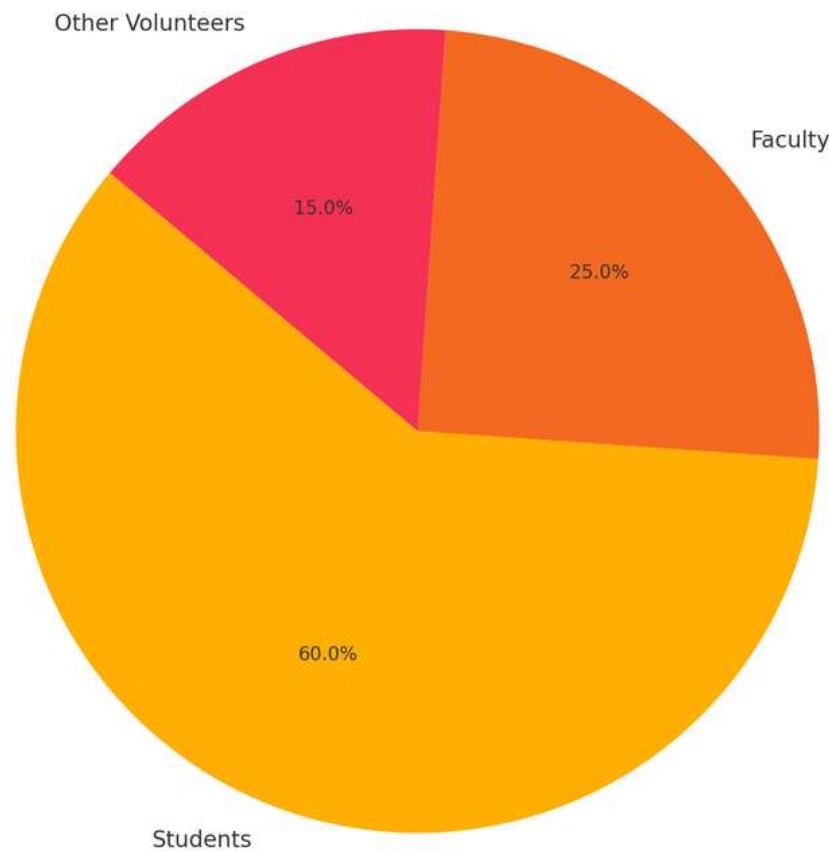


Figure 2. Participation Breakdown in Health Campaigns (2024)



International Achievements:

- NSU students again gained international recognition in 2024, winning two silver medals at the International Forum on Innovative Research in Chongqing, China.
- The university expanded collaboration with Finland's Metropolia University on a joint health awareness research project, focusing on adolescent wellness and community screening models.

In 2024, NSU strengthened its global presence in the field of public health through student achievements and institutional partnerships:

- Two silver medals were awarded to NSU medical students at the International Forum on Innovative Research held in Chongqing, China. Their projects focused on:
 - Community-based health monitoring tools
 - Technology-enhanced health education campaigns
- NSU expanded its cooperation with Metropolia University (Finland) through a joint research initiative on adolescent wellness, focusing on the development of community screening models and digital health literacy strategies.

These international collaborations enhanced NSU's academic profile, fostered cross-border learning, and validated the university's contributions to global health innovation.



Mental Health and Well-being Support

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University further expanded its commitment to mental health by enhancing the capacity of its Psychological Support Center and increasing the availability of mental health services for students and staff.

1. Counseling Services

- A total of 320 individual psychological consultations were provided, reflecting a 28% increase compared to 2023 (250 sessions).
- The center hosted 6 mental health seminars and workshops on topics such as:
 - Stress and time management
 - Coping with exam anxiety
 - Building resilience and emotional regulation

These sessions reached over 410 participants, including students from all faculties.

2. Awareness Initiatives

- A campus-wide “Mental Health Awareness Week” was organized in April, featuring lectures, wellness booths, peer discussion groups, and mental health screenings.
- The initiative aimed to reduce stigma and promote help-seeking behavior among young people.

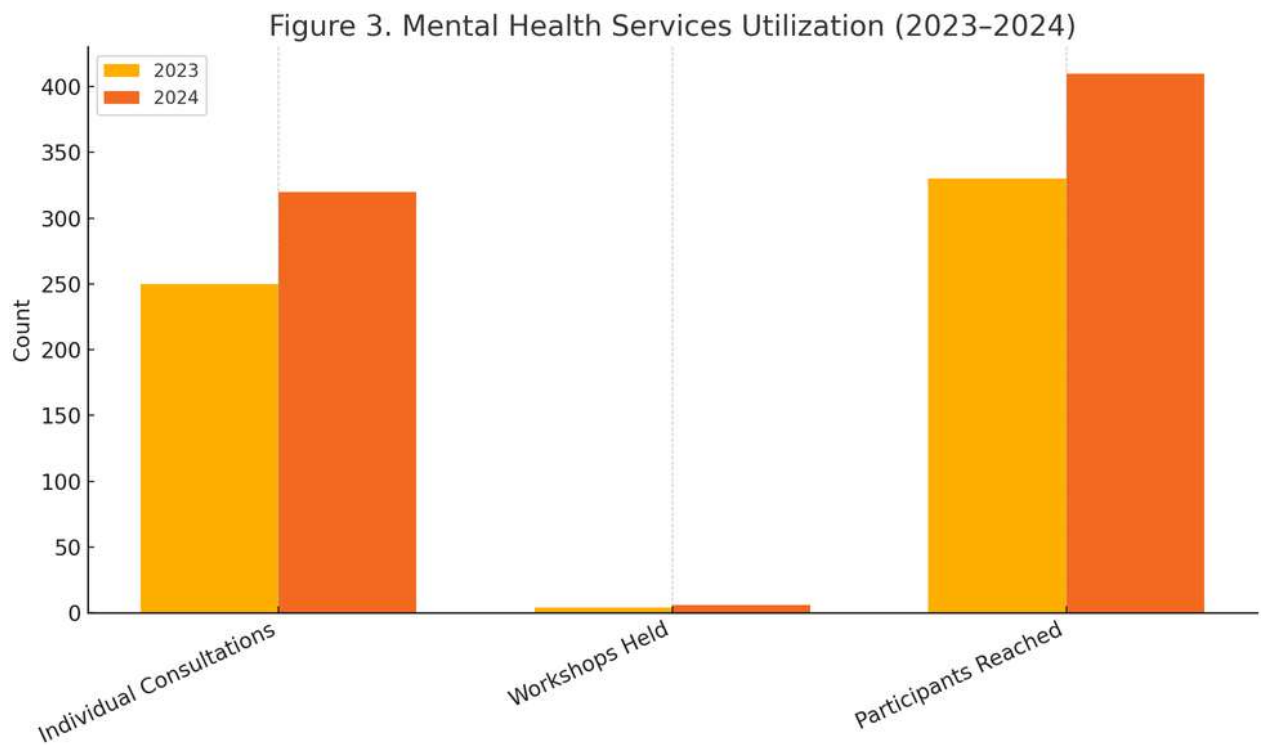
3. Student Feedback and Outcomes

- According to an end-of-year student survey:
 - 87% of participants rated the counseling services as “effective” or “very effective”
 - 74% reported improved academic performance and concentration after receiving psychological support

Category	2023	2024	% Change
Individual consultations	250	320	+28%
Mental health workshops	4	6	+50%
Total participants reached	330	410	+24%

Figure 3. Mental Health Services Utilization (2023–2024)

The chart presents year-over-year growth in counseling sessions, workshop delivery, and total participants served through NSU's Psychological Support Center.



Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness

In 2024, University strengthened its substance abuse prevention efforts as part of its broader health and well-being strategy. These initiatives aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of drug use, tobacco, and alcohol among youth and promote a culture of healthy, conscious living.

1. Awareness Campaigns and Events

- A total of 7 anti-drug and anti-smoking awareness sessions were organized across faculties (↑ from 5 in 2023)
- NSU observed key global health days such as:
 - 26 June – International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
 - 31 May – World No Tobacco Day

These events involved guest lectures from law enforcement, medical professionals, and psychologists, as well as interactive Q&A sessions and visual presentations.

Total participants in these campaigns exceeded 620 students, marking a 22% increase over the previous year.

2. Peer-Led Workshops and Student Involvement

- Medical and psychology students organized peer-to-peer discussions on substance abuse risks and stress-induced behaviors
- Student clubs led poster competitions and video campaigns under the theme “Say No to Drugs – Say Yes to Life”

3. Outreach to Local Schools

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and public health agencies, NSU held 3 outreach seminars in nearby secondary schools
- These efforts targeted early prevention among adolescents aged 14–17

A total of 150 schoolchildren participated in these off-campus programs



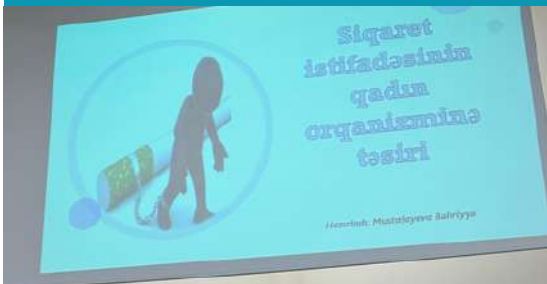


Choose Strength, Not
Substances

Say No Today — Own Your
Tomorrow



Healthy Mind, Healthy
Choices, Healthy
Future





Conclusion

Nakhchivan State University made remarkable strides in supporting SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, showing a deep and genuine commitment to the physical, mental, and social health of both its university community and the broader society.

The year was defined by meaningful progress — from expanding preventative health initiatives to strengthening mental health services and forging valuable partnerships on both national and international levels.

With more than 36 health campaigns and outreach programs, NSU reached over 2,400 individuals, spreading awareness about preventive care and healthier lifestyles. The university's Psychological Support Center also stepped up its efforts, providing 320 individual counseling sessions alongside several group workshops aimed at helping students manage stress, anxiety, and academic pressure. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, pointing not only to improved emotional well-being, but also better academic outcomes and a stronger sense of inclusion.

NSU also cemented its role on the international stage. Students earned awards at prestigious research forums in China, and new collaborations — like the partnership with Metropolia University in Finland — showed that even a regional university can be a leader in global health education and innovation.

Closer to home, NSU deepened its outreach by partnering with rural schools, community groups, and government organizations to tackle critical issues like substance abuse and tobacco prevention. These efforts weren't just short-term projects, but part of a long-term vision to build lasting health literacy and empower the next generation.

Looking forward, NSU is committed to doing even more. Key priorities include:

- Expanding digital health tools to make counseling and health education more accessible
- Building peer support networks to help reduce stigma around mental health
- Strengthening community partnerships for ongoing research and outreach
- Improving health infrastructure to reflect global standards of equity, inclusion, and sustainability

With a spirit of innovation, empathy, and collaboration, NSU continues to advance the goals of SDG 3 — making sure that no student, staff member, or community partner is left behind in the journey toward better health and well-being for all.



Introduction

As a higher education institution committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, NSU prioritizes SDG 4: Quality Education as a foundation for individual empowerment and sustainable progress. SDG 4 seeks to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities by 2030.

In alignment with this global mission, NSU has consistently expanded access to education, enhanced academic quality through rigorous assurance systems, and deepened its international academic partnerships. In 2024, the university advanced this goal through:

- Implementation of an enhanced Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) framework
- Engagement with foreign academic professionals from partner institutions in Turkey, Japan, the United States, Hungary, and Poland
- A growing portfolio of dual-degree programs that bridge local and global learning environments
- Strengthened student support services, including digital tools and inclusive surveys to measure satisfaction, equity, and outcomes

NSU's strategic focus for 2024 centered on building a learning ecosystem that is student-centered, research-informed, and globally connected. This report outlines the measurable progress achieved under SDG 4 throughout the year.

Key Achievements in Academic Quality and Assurance

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University made substantial progress in ensuring academic quality by reinforcing its internal mechanisms and aligning institutional practices with international standards. These efforts were coordinated under the university's updated Internal Quality Assurance framework.

1. Alignment with International Standards

NSU's IQA strategy was restructured to align with globally recognized benchmarks, including:

- ESG 2015 Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area
- TKTA Accreditation Criteria as part of Azerbaijan's national higher education framework

All academic units were reviewed under these principles to ensure compliance with teaching quality, program relevance, and student-centered learning.

2. Academic Monitoring and Feedback Systems

To assess teaching effectiveness and overall student experience:

- NSU conducted systematic student satisfaction surveys across all faculties
- The surveys focused on curriculum quality, teaching methodologies, digital access, and student support services
- In 2024, over 1,200 students participated, marking a 27% increase from 2023

Key finding:

- 86% of respondents were satisfied with teaching quality
- 91% expressed satisfaction with their overall academic experience
- 88% found digital resources adequate for course needs

3. Teaching Excellence Initiatives

- NSU offered pedagogical training modules for staff focusing on active learning, digital pedagogy, and inclusive education
- Over 70 academic staff members completed training sessions in 2024

Additionally, teaching evaluations were integrated into the faculty performance review system, contributing to a culture of continuous improvement.

4. Program Review and Continuous Improvement

- Regular curriculum reviews were conducted to ensure academic programs reflect market needs and labor force expectations
- A new Program Evaluation and Development Committee was formed under the Rector's office

Quality Assurance Office	Quality Assurance Committee	Sub-committees
•General Coordination •Policy Making •Training and Awareness •Liaise with External Quality Assurance Agencies •Data Analysis and Reporting •Continuous Improvement and Benchmarking •Digital Transformation and Data Management	•Policy Analysis •Audit and Evaluation •Risk assessment •Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback	•Evaluation of Training Programs •Evaluation of student support services •Evaluation of academic staff •Infrastructure assessment •Curriculum Innovation and Compliance

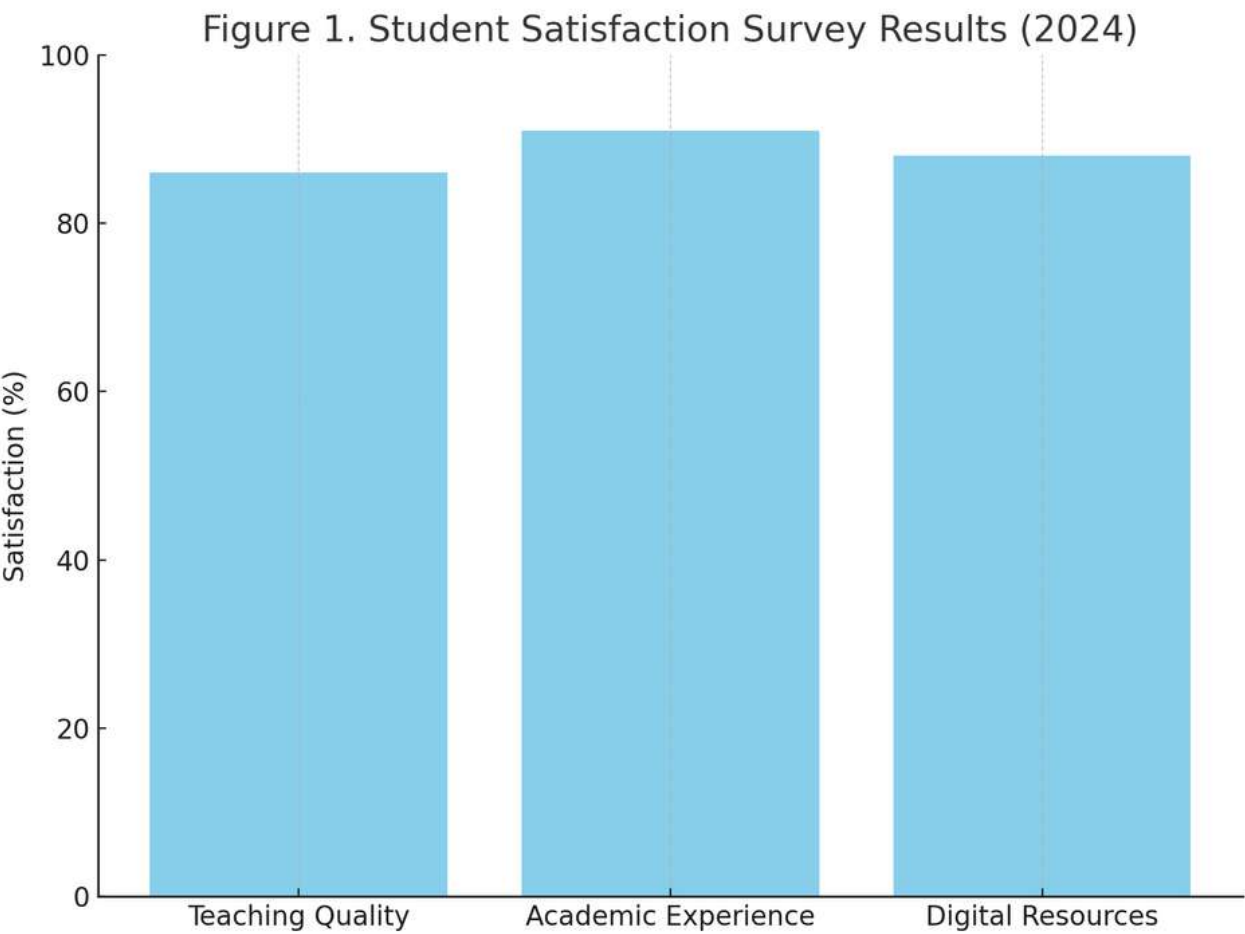
Student and Institutional Feedback Surveys

In 2024, Nakhchivan State University expanded its internal quality assurance mechanisms through a series of targeted surveys designed to collect feedback from students, faculty, and administrative staff. These surveys provided valuable insights into academic satisfaction, teaching effectiveness, institutional governance, and training needs.

English Title	Link
NDU Colleges through Students' Eyes	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSch70IjM2K7f_2BYwJ3Lfvzx_QjuN_Ad1gvy8hEtCRPQz2XEQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
Student Satisfaction Survey on Subjects	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiohVfigCeioyULfMH_sTuvjxVykUUXbLWPdiMLoM985DI7Q/viewform?usp=sf_link
Student Satisfaction Survey on Teachers	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgdNxzM52YOW8xiTbL5or7rcDRPJgYhtgZlFfAl27nAMkdkw/viewform?usp=sf_link
NDU through Students' Eyes (Distance Learning)	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDvy9pQjnYzXR26xaTy-UPcV3UY62SjG1n06wJAtzDOZZJew/viewform?usp=sf_link
NDU through Students' Eyes	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScN3o3MyHb_Zio9EejEnfqaXqmQEi4lhBYivj9rtDHRXtikUA/viewform?usp=sf_link
University Leadership Evaluation Survey	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdiiOXmzHPiBPtTDywoZE0xXGMMYkywRpRC42vBFi22PtAsDg/viewform?usp=sf_link
Manager Satisfaction Survey with Employees	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8c0XlptB_cxq76NwNbIH06gZ4AOagZoupUwTRZLr044FMw/viewform?usp=sf_link
Quality Assurance Needs Assessment Survey	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9zfDkrKLZlgXDDI46mLRVPMkQgzIINSLHFyEtjMCR9GT3A/viewform?usp=sf_link
Quality Assurance Survey	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScroLTAVIYu6yYHx9m7lPktJ8OxuvSIiYPv0gL4DYH0QuceSA/viewform?usp=sf_link
Satisfaction with Foreign Teachers	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAsfMMMy5f_sUvtBK5uaQesbR4gjb4hYw-2-ogb8CgbQXGP2g/viewform?usp=sf_link
Training Needs Assessment Survey	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7Kmos34BOFgoCc7GTlQJdbQm1NtKbERuIEfawXZsWzO5LjQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
Technical College Satisfaction Survey	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd77WI3_923ORj15x62Qg6kYKSjHm-pYLcXHQxb7YQQ6tOZaQ/viewform?usp=sf_link
Evaluation Survey of the Nakhchivan State University Strategic Development Plan	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZRK48reMaH4ZeNF2TQ2AkYgQ-VONrgWgALektuN72PWvdtg/viewform?usp=sf_link

1. Figure 1 – Student Satisfaction Survey Results (2024)

Indicator	Result (%)
Teaching Quality Satisfaction	+86%
Overall Academic Satisfaction	+91%
Satisfaction with Digital Tools	+88%



2. Figure 2 – Growth in Student Survey Participation (2023–2024)

Year	Number of Respondents	Change (%)
2023	945	-
2024	1,200	+27%



In 2024, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) strengthened its academic internationalization by hosting 20 visiting professors and researchers from five countries, including Turkey, Japan, the United States, Hungary, and Azerbaijan. These international scholars brought expertise in diverse disciplines, contributing to a richer academic environment and a more globalized learning experience for NSU students.

Compared to 2023, the number of foreign academic staff increased by 11%, reflecting NSU's steady efforts to internationalize its curricula and strengthen cross-border partnerships.

Academic Fields Represented:

- Medicine and Public Health
- Psychology and Education Sciences
- Language and Translation
- Engineering and Environmental Technology
- Law and Social Sciences

Key Contributions in 2024:

- Over 1,000 students attended classes, lectures, and practical sessions led by visiting faculty
- NSU hosted 12 thematic lectures, 5 modular workshops, and 3 joint research presentations with international guests
- These exchanges supported the development of new curriculum modules, enhanced international recognition, and enriched classroom diversity

Dual Degree Programs

Nakhchivan State University continued to expand its international academic network through strategic dual degree collaborations. These initiatives are aligned with SDG Targets 4.3 and 4.B, focusing on equitable access to quality higher education and international learning pathways.

During the year, NSU established and maintained dual degree agreements with the following universities:

- John von Neumann University (Hungary)
- İstanbul University (Turkey)

The cooperation with John von Neumann University was launched as a new dual degree initiative in 2024, representing the university's first such partnership with an institution from Hungary.

These programs provide students with the opportunity to benefit from joint academic curricula, mobility options, and mutual degree recognition between partner institutions.

Inclusive Education and Digital Access

We made significant progress in advancing SDG Target 4.5 — eliminating gender disparities and ensuring equal access to education — as well as Target 4.A, focused on creating inclusive, safe, and effective learning environments. These efforts reflected NSU's ongoing mission to make education accessible and empowering for every student, regardless of background or circumstance.

1. Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

NSU worked hard to ensure that its campus remained a welcoming place for all students, especially those from underrepresented and vulnerable groups:

- Physical accessibility on campus was improved through the installation of ramps, elevators, and specially adapted classrooms for students with disabilities.

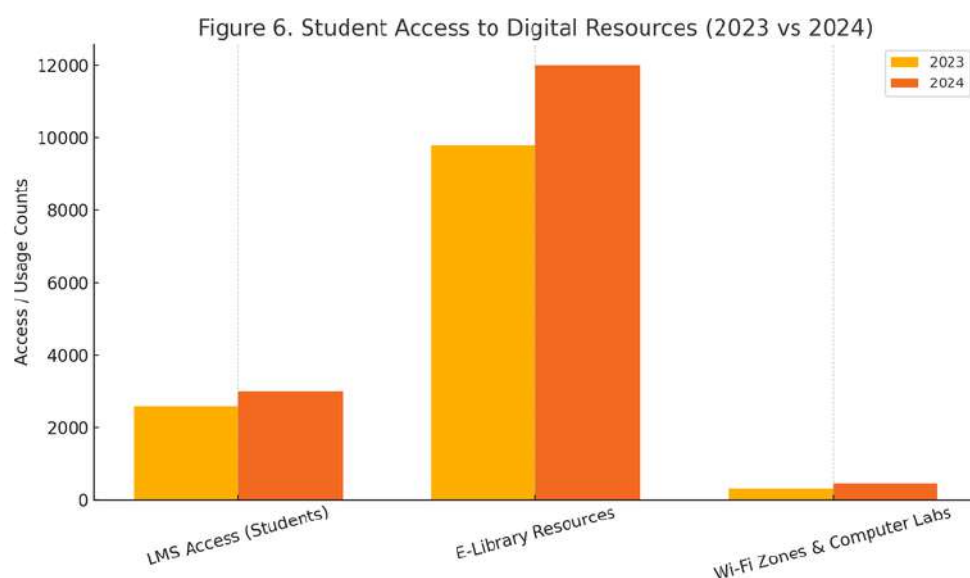
- Dedicated support services offered academic guidance, mental health counseling, and inclusive extracurricular opportunities to help all students thrive.
- The Gender Equality Committee remained active throughout the year, monitoring equity across admissions, hiring, and student engagement.
- International students and learners from rural areas received tailored support, including language assistance and peer mentorship programs to ease their academic transition.

2. Expanding Digital Tools and Access

As part of its broader digital transformation efforts, NSU continued to modernize how teaching and learning happen across the university:

- By 2024, all faculties had fully integrated their courses into NSU's Learning Management System (LMS), making 100% of degree program materials available in digital format.
- The digital library grew by 15%, now providing access to more than 12,000 e-books and 1,500 open-access journals — a vital resource for students and researchers alike.
- Campus-wide high-speed Wi-Fi was upgraded, and four modern computer labs remained open daily to ensure students had the tools they needed.
- Over 3,000 students actively engaged with digital platforms, including video lectures, interactive quizzes, and online discussion forums that enhanced their learning experience.

Importantly, 740 students from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds were among the most active users of these digital resources — a clear sign that NSU's efforts are making a difference where it matters most.



Inclusive Education and Digital Access

In alignment with SDG Target 4.5 (eliminating gender disparities and ensuring equal access to education) and Target 4.A (building inclusive and effective learning environments), NSU continued to prioritize equitable access and digital transformation across all levels of teaching and learning in 2024.

1. Inclusive Learning Environment

NSU maintained a welcoming and supportive learning environment that accommodated the diverse needs of students, including those from marginalized, rural, and underrepresented groups. The university's approach to inclusivity was both infrastructural and programmatic:

- Campus infrastructure saw meaningful improvements, including ramps, elevators, and adapted classrooms designed for students with physical disabilities, making academic spaces more universally accessible.
- A comprehensive student support system was in place, providing academic advising, mental health counseling, and social engagement initiatives tailored for at-risk groups.
- The Gender Equality Committee, which operated year-round, closely monitored policies to ensure balance in faculty recruitment, student admission, and participation in university life. Special attention was given to empowering female students through workshops, leadership programs, and scholarship opportunities.
- International students, as well as those from remote or disadvantaged regions of Azerbaijan, benefited from language preparation courses, peer mentorship, and customized integration support programs.

These efforts collectively aimed to reduce dropout risks and improve academic retention among vulnerable groups, contributing to a fairer and more inclusive university culture.

2. Digital Tools and Online Access

Building on its digital transformation strategy, NSU advanced its investment in educational technologies to reduce digital divides and support flexible learning for all students:

- All faculties successfully transitioned to the university's Learning Management System (LMS), enabling full digital access to course materials, assignments, and interactive content. This transformation allowed for 100% digital coverage of undergraduate and postgraduate curricula.
- The digital library expanded its collection by 15%, providing access to over 12,000 e-books, 1,500 open-access journals, and a variety of multimedia resources.
- High-speed Wi-Fi connectivity was enhanced campus-wide, and four state-of-the-art computer labs were maintained for daily student use, particularly for those without personal devices.
- Over 3,000 students utilized online learning platforms actively—accessing video lectures, submitting digital assignments, and participating in virtual discussions, peer assessments, and online office hours.
- A total of 740 students from rural or economically disadvantaged backgrounds were identified as active beneficiaries of digital tools and services, highlighting NSU's success in bridging digital gaps.

In addition to formal instruction, several training workshops on digital literacy, responsible internet use, and online safety were conducted throughout the year, ensuring students not only had access to technology but also the skills to use it effectively.

SDG 4 Target	NSU 2024 Achievement
4.1 – Free, equitable quality primary/secondary education	NSU delivered outreach and research in education development, supporting teacher training and school initiatives in the region
4.3 – Equal access to affordable tertiary education	Dual degree programs, foreign faculty engagement, and inclusive financial support mechanisms expanded higher education access
4.4 – Technical and vocational skills	ICT programs and faculty trainings on digital pedagogy equipped learners with 21st-century competencies
4.5 – Gender equality and vulnerable inclusion	Services were expanded for disabled students, rural learners, and international minorities; gender equity was monitored in all programs
4.7 – Education for sustainable development	Academic content across faculties integrated themes of sustainability, global citizenship, and digital responsibility
4.A – Safe and inclusive learning environments	Physical accessibility improved; new digital access centers enhanced learning equity
4.B – Scholarships and international mobility	Growth in Erasmus+ and bilateral exchanges supported diverse learning experiences and research collaboration
4.C – Teacher education and training	Over 100 academic staff participated in training on pedagogy, digital tools, and curriculum development

NSU's 2024 achievements under SDG 4 reflect a maturing, globally connected institution that champions accessibility, academic excellence, digital innovation, and inclusive progress. Through evidence-based monitoring and collaborative leadership, the university remains firmly committed to empowering all learners and shaping a resilient, equitable future through quality education.



Introduction

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also essential for building a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable society. In 2024, We reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 5: **Gender Equality**, working to ensure equal access to education, leadership, research, and economic participation.

NSU fosters a culture where everyone — regardless of gender — can thrive academically and contribute to decision-making. With inclusive policies, dedicated funding, and targeted programs, the university has made steady progress in closing gender gaps across academic life.

This year's efforts included financial aid for female students, expanded leadership training, and greater visibility for gender-focused research — all reflecting NSU's ongoing dedication to empowering women and aligning with national and global priorities.

This report outlines NSU's 2024 achievements under SDG 5, focusing on education access, leadership representation, economic empowerment, and support for gender-based research.

2. Access to Education and Financial Support for Women

NSU strengthened its support for women and girls in education by removing financial barriers and expanding opportunities for personal and academic growth.

- Targeted scholarships helped women from low-income backgrounds access higher education.
- Training and mentorship programs supported skill development in fields like STEM, entrepreneurship, and research.
- Gender-sensitive academic and career services provided guidance to help female students succeed throughout their studies.

These initiatives reflect NSU's commitment to building an inclusive academic environment where all students have the tools to succeed. These efforts support

SDG Targets 5.1 (end discrimination) and 5.B (enhance use of enabling technologies for women's empowerment).

Enrollment & Participation

- Female students represented 53.2% of all undergraduate and graduate enrollment in 2024, showing a 1.8% increase over the previous year.
- Women accounted for 57% of first-year admissions, demonstrating continued gender balance in university access.

Targeted Scholarships

- “Parla” Scholarship Program (in collaboration with NEQSOL Holding and the Education Development Fund):
 - 50 female students from NSU received monthly stipends and leadership training.
 - Aimed at high-achieving young women from disadvantaged regions.
- Merit-Based Entrance Scholarships:
 - Students scoring 650+ in national exams received 250 AZN/year.
 - 65% of recipients in 2024 were women.
- Azercell Scholarship 2024:
 - 10 NSU students (including 4 female ICT students) received 300 AZN/month.

A total of 117 female students benefited from institutional and external scholarships in 2024.

Impact:

- Increased retention and academic performance among female students
- Empowerment of women in male-dominated fields (engineering, ICT)
- Strengthened female participation in leadership and innovation programs



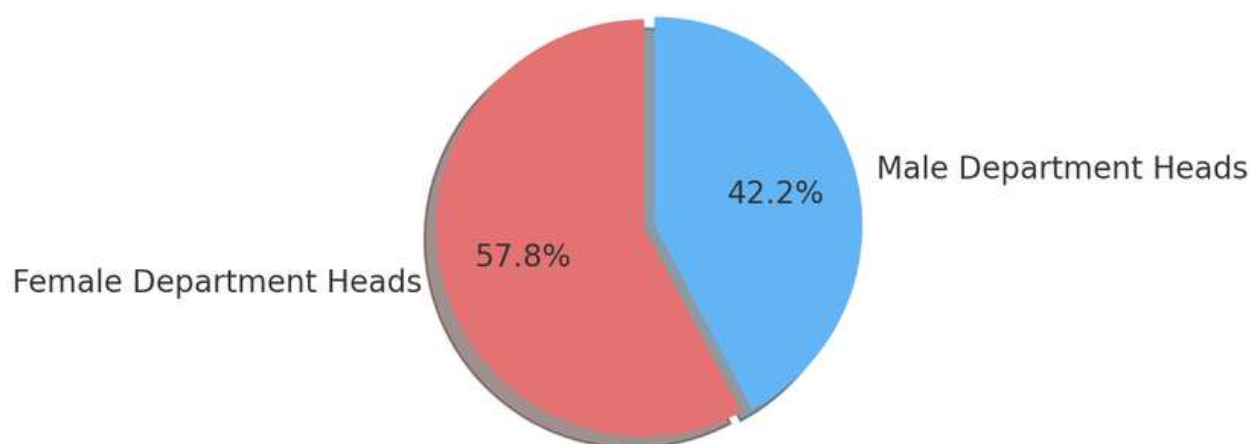
Representation in Academic and Administrative Leadership

Ensuring women's active participation in leadership positions is central to SDG Target 5.5, which calls for equal opportunities for women in decision-making roles. We demonstrated clear progress in gender representation across academic and administrative leadership.

Academic Leadership (Faculty & Departments)

- NSU consists of 45 academic departments across its faculties
- Of these, 26 departments (57.8%) are led by female heads — a significant indicator of academic gender balance

This places NSU above the national average for women in higher education leadership and highlights the university's inclusive approach to academic governance.



Senior Administration

- Among the university's vice-rectorate, 1 out of 5 vice-rectors is a woman
- Gender balance remains a strategic priority in executive appointments, with attention to leadership pathways for qualified female staff

Affiliated Educational Institutions

NSU oversees several affiliated colleges and specialized institutes. In 2024:

- 2 out of 4 subsidiary institutions (Medical College and Music College) were led by female directors
- These appointments reflect institutional trust in women's leadership across sectors of health, arts, and education

Summary Impact

- Majority-female representation among department heads (58%)
- Presence of women in top-tier leadership structures
- Strengthened visibility of women in professional and technical education management





Summary Impact

In 2024, NSU strengthened gender equity across leadership roles and academic management:

- 58% of department heads were women, marking strong female representation in leadership.
- Women played active roles in top-tier decision-making bodies, shaping university policy.
- Their growing presence in technical and professional education management helped drive cultural change and inspire future leaders.

Gender in Curriculum and Research

NSU continued to embed gender perspectives across its academic and research activities, reinforcing its commitment to equity and empowering both students and staff to engage with gender-related issues thoughtfully.

Gender Content in Academic Programs

Several departments — including Education, Law, Sociology, Psychology, and Philology — integrated gender themes into bachelor's and master's courses:

- Curriculum highlights included gender in law and policy, psychology of identity, women in literature, and education in post-Soviet societies.
- These modules helped students critically engage with gender roles and their broader social implications.

Research and Conference Participation

In 2024, NSU supported a growing body of gender-focused research and academic engagement:

- 18 student projects and 5 faculty-led studies addressed topics such as women in STEM, gender-based violence, and educational outcomes by gender.
- Researchers shared their work at three national and two regional conferences, contributing to broader discussions on gender and inclusion.
-

Institutional Support for Gender Research

Support structures for gender research continued to expand:

- The Gender and Equality Working Group organized seminars and mentorship circles for early-career female scholars.
- Partnerships with local civil society enabled students to join applied research on gender policy and social services, bridging academic inquiry with real-world impact.

Monitoring and Conclusion

Throughout 2024, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) implemented continuous monitoring tools and institutional feedback mechanisms to evaluate progress toward SDG 5: Gender Equality. Using data-driven methods, stakeholder consultations, and structured survey systems, the university ensured that gender equality principles were integrated across academic, administrative, and student-centered domains.

Monitoring Framework

- Annual data collection on gender balance in enrollment, leadership, and research participation
- Institutional surveys assessing student satisfaction, faculty equality, and policy awareness
- Regular reporting by the Gender and Equality Working Group, aligned with national and international indicators

Measurable Results

Indicator	2023	2024	Change (%)
Female student enrollment ratio	61.6%	63.4%	+1.8%
Female department heads	24 / 45	26 / 45	+2
Female-led research projects on gender issues	3	5	+67%
Female beneficiaries of leadership scholarships	38	50	+31.5%



Introduction

Access to clean water and proper sanitation is not only a fundamental human right but also essential for a healthy, sustainable future. We continued our active commitment to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation by enhancing water infrastructure, raising awareness, and encouraging responsible water use across campus.

Building on past efforts, the university introduced key infrastructure upgrades, expanded educational outreach, and adopted new technologies for better water monitoring and hygiene. These actions were supported by strong participation from students and staff, especially through campus initiatives and global environmental awareness events.

Aligned with SDG Targets 6.1, 6.2, and 6.B, NSU's work in 2024 focused on three core areas:

- Expanding water storage and purification systems
- Improving access to safe and sanitary facilities
- Promoting water-conscious behaviors through education and training

This report highlights NSU's measurable progress toward cleaner water access, smarter usage, and stronger environmental responsibility.

Infrastructure Improvements and Water Supply Management

In 2024, NSU made strategic investments to ensure clean water is accessible, efficiently managed, and sustainably used throughout campus. These upgrades were designed not just to solve immediate needs but to support long-term water resilience.

Key Achievements:

- Three outdated water distribution units were fully replaced with modern filtered systems, improving both water quality and reliability.
- A pilot rainwater harvesting system was launched at one dormitory block, with a 2,000-liter storage capacity — marking a first step toward broader use of sustainable water sources.
- UV-based purification modules were installed at busy campus water points, ensuring safer drinking water where it's most needed.
- Digital monitoring systems for water tanks were introduced, allowing real-time tracking of usage and early detection of leaks.

Through these targeted efforts, NSU is not only upgrading its facilities but also setting an example in sustainable water management for institutions across the region



Water Supply Coverage:

- 100% of academic and administrative buildings now have access to filtered drinking water units
- 95% of student dormitories meet the minimum sanitation standards set by the Ministry of Health
- Total potable water availability increased by an estimated 12% compared to 2023 due to system upgrades



Hygiene and Sanitation Awareness & Training

NSU prioritized hygiene and sanitation education as part of its wider environmental and health awareness strategy. Through collaborative campaigns, training programs, and visual communication tools, the university aimed to strengthen daily hygiene practices and promote long-term public health resilience among students and staff.

Key Activities:

Campus-Wide Hygiene Week: Organized in March in connection with World Water Day (March 22), involving:

- 3 public lectures by health professionals
- Awareness booths across 5 buildings
- Distribution of 600+ printed brochures on proper handwashing and water safety

Workshops for Dormitory Students:

- Practical sessions on bathroom hygiene, laundry practices, and safe water use
- Over 270 students from dormitory blocks participated

Digital Education Materials:

- Hygiene infographics, short videos, and health quizzes shared via NSU's student app and website
- Viewed over 2,500 times in March–April 2024

Partnerships and Outreach:

- Collaboration with the Nakhchivan Public Health Department to align all training with national hygiene standards
- Participation in the UNESCO Water and Sanitation Education Network webinar series
- Joint workshop with local schools on youth hygiene habits

Impact:

- Increased awareness of sustainable sanitation practices
- Improved student engagement in personal and communal hygiene
- Higher demand for eco-friendly cleaning materials across student facilities
- Distribution of 600+ printed brochures on proper handwashing and water safety

Workshops for Dormitory Students:

- Practical sessions on bathroom hygiene, laundry practices, and safe water use
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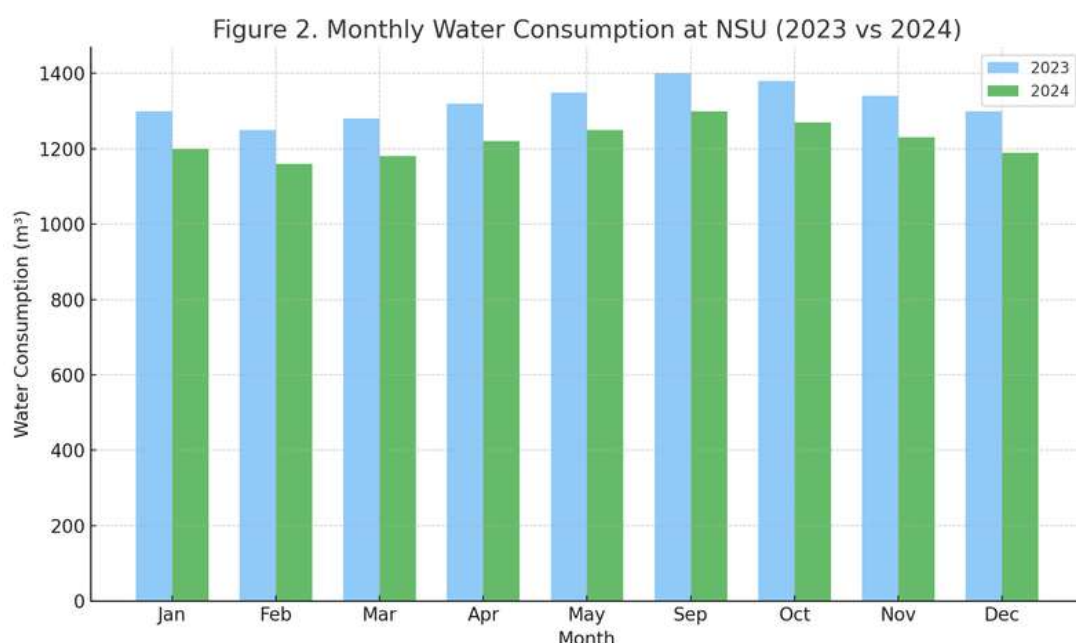
Digital Education Materials:

- Hygiene infographics, short videos, and health quizzes shared via NSU's student app and website

Viewed over 2,500 times in March–April 2024

Impact:

- Increased awareness of sustainable sanitation practices
- Improved student engagement in personal and communal hygiene
- Higher demand for eco-friendly cleaning materials across student facilities



Priorities for 2025

Building on the achievements of 2024, Nakhchivan State University has set clear and ambitious goals to further advance SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) in the upcoming year. These priorities aim to strengthen institutional resilience, promote innovation, and extend impact beyond campus boundaries:

- Expand rainwater harvesting systems to cover 3 additional academic and dormitory buildings, optimizing non-potable water use for landscaping and sanitation.
- Develop and institutionalize a “Water Responsibility Charter” to guide all campus users—students, faculty, and staff—in adopting sustainable water practices through clearly defined rights and responsibilities.
- Host a regional workshop on SDG 6 in collaboration with local universities, municipal water authorities, and NGOs, with the aim of sharing best practices and building cross-sectoral partnerships.
- Partner with international donors and public health organizations to co-develop water-sanitation pilot projects, including greywater recycling systems, awareness campaigns, and mobile sanitation units for outreach to rural schools.

Final Statement

By embedding SDG 6 values into its infrastructure, policy frameworks, behavioral guidelines, and educational programming, Nakhchivan State University is setting a comprehensive benchmark for clean water and sanitation within the higher education sector. The integration of advanced technologies, data-informed decision-making, and inclusive community engagement reflects a holistic approach to environmental stewardship.

As environmental pressures—such as water scarcity, climate change, and public health risks—continue to mount globally, NSU remains steadfast in its mission to foster a resilient, water-secure campus. The university’s commitment to innovation, collaboration, and social responsibility ensures that future generations of students not only benefit from sustainable facilities but also become advocates and practitioners of water justice and environmental equity.



NAXÇIVAN DÖVLƏT
UNİVERSİTETİ

START SAVING WATER WITH 6 SIMPLE HABITS



1 Use a bucket when washing vehicles

Switch from a continuously flowing water hose to a water-filled bucket when washing your car or bike



2 Turn off taps when not in use

In your daily routine, always turn off taps when not in use, such as when brushing your teeth or washing dishes



3 Use toilets wisely

When using the toilet, use partial flush for urination or light use and full flush only for heavier use.



4 Collect rainwater

Establish the habit of collecting rainwater by placing containers outside your house, and use this water to irrigate plants around your home.



5 Shorten shower time

Switch from a continuously flowing water hose to a water-filled bucket when washing your car or bike



6 Use efficient garden sprinklers

When using the toilet, use partial flush for urination or light use and full flush only for heavier use.

strategy@ndu.edu.az



Introduction

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy is at the heart of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7). NSU deepened its commitment to clean energy by advancing renewable energy production, increasing campus-wide energy efficiency, and expanding student participation in energy-focused research and international collaboration.

Building on the progress of previous years, NSU has actively integrated solar and wind technologies into campus operations while promoting awareness and capacity-building through academic initiatives. The university's approach aligns with SDG 7 targets 7.1 (universal energy access), 7.2 (renewable energy integration), and 7.3 (energy efficiency improvement).

In this report, NSU presents its measurable achievements in transitioning toward a greener energy model — showcasing technical improvements, scientific contributions, and student-led innovation in the realm of sustainable energy.

Energy Infrastructure and Efficiency Improvements

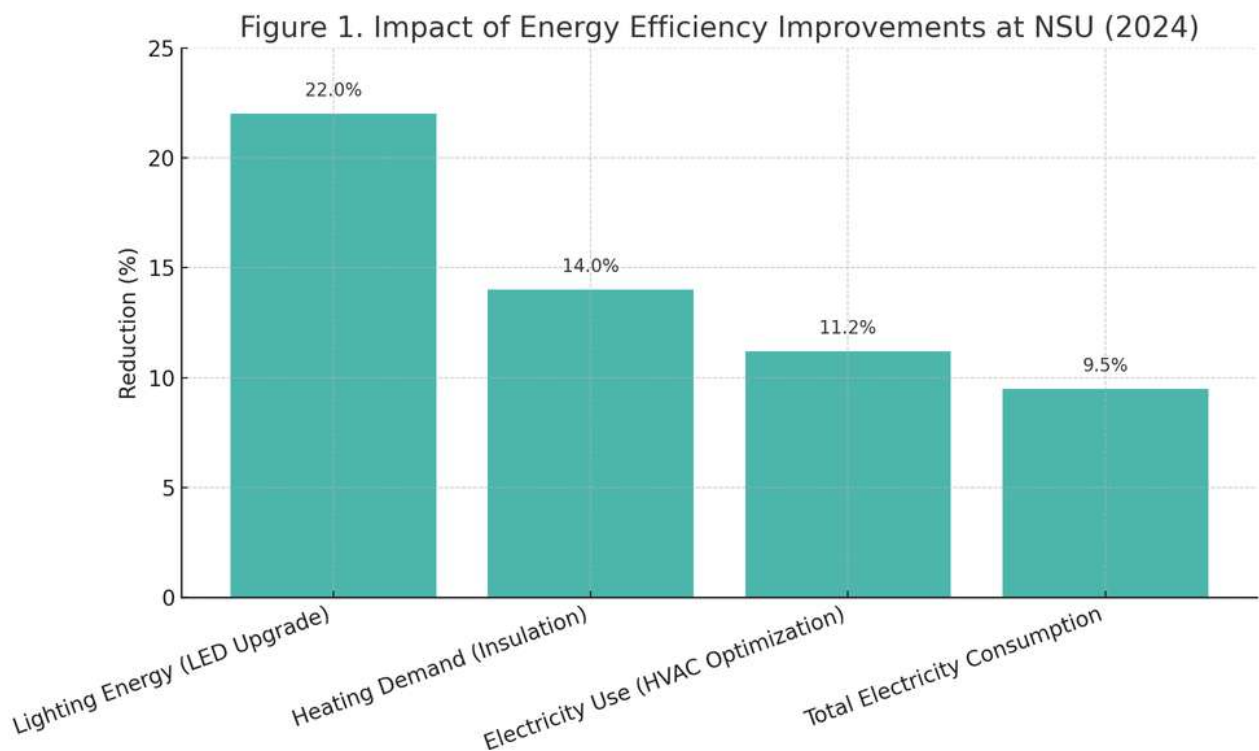
We continued to upgrade its energy infrastructure with a focus on reducing environmental impact and operational costs through smart design, energy-efficient systems, and technology integration. These initiatives were implemented across academic buildings, dormitories, and administrative offices.

Solar-powered lighting systems were installed in several outdoor areas, contributing to lower grid dependency and promoting renewable energy use on campus.

Additionally, motion-sensor LED lighting and automated HVAC controls were introduced to optimize energy consumption during non-peak hours.

Key Achievements in Campus Energy Efficiency

- Full replacement of indoor lighting systems with LED units across 100% of classrooms and libraries
- Retrofitting of two major faculty buildings with thermal insulation, leading to a 14% decrease in winter heating demand
- Deployment of automatic lighting sensors in corridors, restrooms, and low-traffic areas across 6 buildings
- HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) optimization in central administrative block — energy use reduced by 11.2%



Energy Monitoring and Management:

- Real-time electricity monitoring dashboards were installed in 3 pilot buildings, allowing facility managers to track peak loads and adjust systems accordingly
- A smart scheduling system was introduced to reduce unnecessary lighting during off-hours



Renewable Energy Initiatives

We expanded our use of renewable energy technologies, contributing to a cleaner campus environment and reducing its dependence on fossil fuels. These efforts involved solar panel installations, wind energy integration, and pilot-scale hybrid systems — all of which supported NSU's transition to a more sustainable energy model.

Renewable Energy Initiatives

In 2024, We expanded our use of renewable energy technologies, contributing to a cleaner campus environment and reducing its dependence on fossil fuels. These efforts involved solar panel installations, wind energy integration, and pilot-scale hybrid systems — all of which supported NSU's transition to a more sustainable energy model.

Solar Energy Projects:

- NSU increased its solar panel capacity by 20 kW, bringing the total installed capacity to 85 kW across 4 faculty buildings
- Newly installed rooftop panels now supply over 17% of daytime electricity demand in administrative and academic buildings
- Maintenance teams were trained to operate and monitor photovoltaic performance via digital dashboards



Wind Energy Integration:

- The existing 5 kW wind turbine near the Engineering Faculty continued to operate effectively, powering lighting and lab equipment
- Wind production covered an average of 2.3% of monthly electricity needs in 2024 — particularly efficient during winter months

Hybrid Microgrid Experiment:

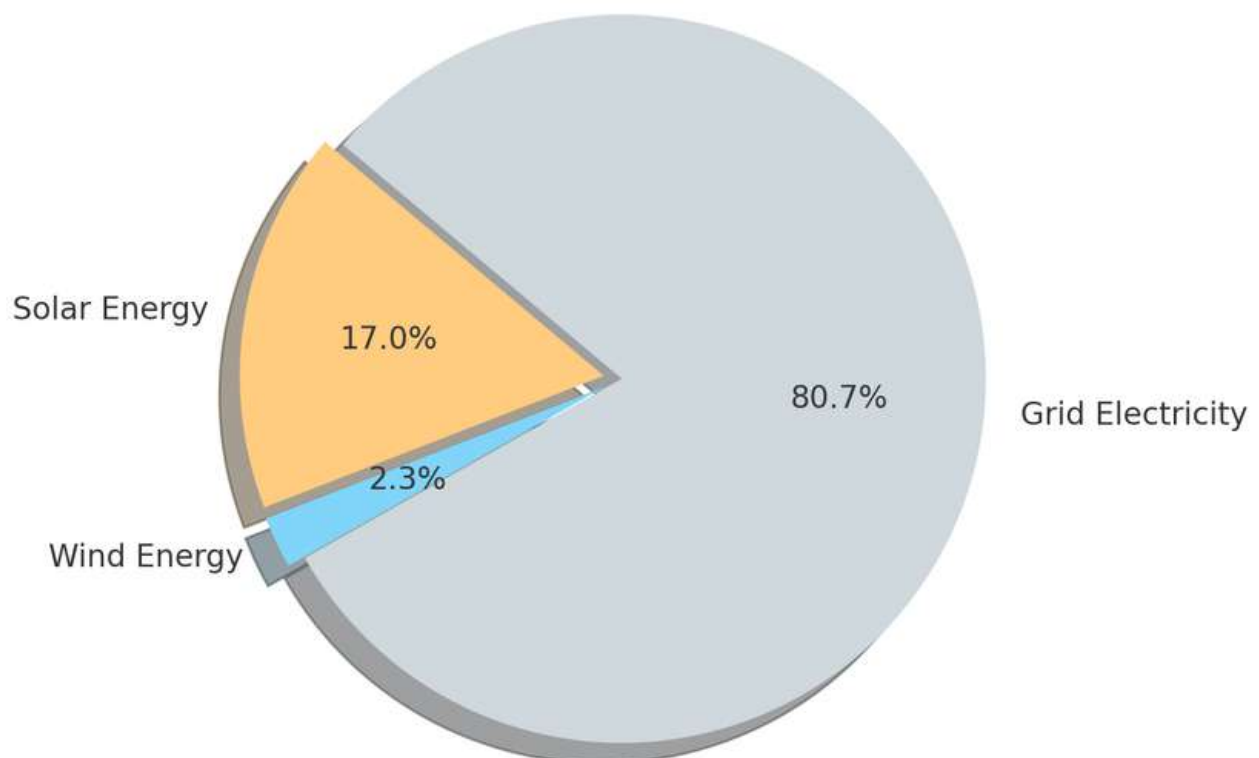
- A pilot hybrid energy system (solar + wind + storage) was launched for one dormitory block
- System included 10 kWh battery storage, reducing evening load on the central grid by 12%
- The project involved 12 students and 3 faculty advisors as part of a living-lab setup

Impact:

- NSU's total clean energy generation (solar + wind) covered approximately 19.3% of annual electricity needs in 2024
- Reduction in CO₂ emissions estimated at ~32 tons per year
- Strengthened research capacity and student engagement in renewable energy systems

Figure 2. NSU Clean Energy Production Mix (2024)

This pie chart illustrates the proportional share of electricity generated by solar, wind, and grid sources at NSU during 2024.



Wind Energy Integration

The NSU's 5 kW wind generator, situated at the territory of the Faculty of Engineering, also continued to operate effectively throughout 2024 generating electricity for lighting and laboratory purposes. The university's needs for electricity were met by wind energy, on average, by around 2.3% per month, with the highest average in a month in winter.

Hybrid Microgrid Experiment

In 2024 NSU piloted a hybrid energy system with solar and wind supplemented with battery storage on one the dormitory blocks. This "living lab" concept comprised a 10 kWh storage unit, which, together with an energy management system, decreased the building's evening energy load from the grid by 12%. The project included 12 students and 3 faculty mentors and focused on practical and applied learning in clean energy systems and applied sustainability.

Impact

These efforts resulted in a significant change to the NSU energy profile:

The stand-alone solar plant and combined solar and wind have provided about 19.3% of the university's overall electricity for the year so far.

An estimated 32 tonnes of CO₂ emissions were saved directly at the point of relief.

The projects also helped build a research capacity and encouraged students to get involved in the planning and execution of renewable energy technologies.

Training Program and Public Awareness on Energy

Concurrently with the infrastructure improvements, NSU prioritised clean energy education and community engagement in 2024 – ensuring future professionals are prepared and ready to take the lead in sustainability.

Academic Highlights:

A third-year optional Climate and Energy module was established for students of engineering and natural sciences, and focused on such concepts as: renewable technologies; energy economy; and climate politics.

There were 54 students registered in the spring semester.

A 5-part series of guest lectures balanced graduated seminars presented by experts from the Azerbaijan Energy Regulatory Agency and regional power companies.

Sessions covered subjects ranging from grid integration and solar architecture to energy transition policies, exposing students to practical applications and opportunities in the clean energy field.



Monitoring and Conclusion

In 2024, NSU implemented an integrated energy monitoring strategy to track real-time consumption, identify inefficiencies, and ensure accountability in sustainable energy practices. This system enabled evidence-based decision-making and reinforced NSU’s commitment to long-term carbon reduction.

Monitoring Highlights:

- 3 campus buildings were equipped with smart meters that transmitted daily energy usage reports to the facilities team
- Monthly energy performance reviews were conducted to evaluate system efficiency and occupant behavior
- Energy audits revealed a 9.5% year-on-year reduction in electricity consumption, as visualized in Figure 1

Key Achievements Summary (2024)

Area	Progress Highlights
Energy Efficiency	22% reduction via LED upgrades
Renewable Energy	19.3% of energy needs met by solar and wind
Research & Education	7 student projects, 54 students in new course
Awareness Campaigns	Reached 12,000+ via digital engagement
CO ₂ Emissions	~32 tons reduced

Future Directions:

- Expand rooftop solar systems to cover additional 3 buildings
- Introduce AI-based load balancing and predictive maintenance tools
- Develop a Green Energy Certificate Program for students and faculty
- Host an International Sustainable Campus Energy Forum (2025) at NSU

Final Statement

By investing in clean energy infrastructure, advancing renewable integration, and empowering students through education, Nakhchivan State University is making tangible progress toward SDG 7. As the university moves forward, it remains committed to becoming a regional model for sustainable energy leadership in higher education.



Introduction

Promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, along with productive employment and decent work for all, lies at the heart of Sustainable Development Goal 8. This year NSU significantly advanced its contributions toward this goal through an integrated approach that connects education with professional development, entrepreneurship, and labor market access.

By organizing career fairs, building local and international partnerships, supporting student-led innovation, and facilitating real-world internships, NSU ensures that students graduate with both the knowledge and experience needed to succeed in a dynamic global economy. These efforts strengthen regional workforce capabilities while also empowering young people to pursue fulfilling and economically secure lives.



Career Fair and Employment Outcomes

This year we hosted a vibrant and well-attended Career Fair, creating a valuable bridge between students, employers, and alumni from diverse industries. The event was a key step in boosting student employability and deepening the university's ties with the job market.

Career Fair 2024 – Highlights

Held on April 15–16, the fair attracted more than 70 companies and organizations, a notable increase from 58 the previous year. Over 1,350 students and recent graduates participated — up from approximately 1,100 in 2023 — reflecting growing interest in career readiness opportunities.

Recruiters conducted 27 on-the-spot job interviews, offering immediate opportunities for qualified candidates. In addition to networking, students joined a series of practical panels and workshops covering:

- CV and cover letter writing
- Remote work tools and soft skills
- Women in tech and inclusive hiring practices

Graduate Employment Trends

NSU's internal follow-up surveys revealed encouraging employment outcomes:

- 71% of 2023 graduates were employed or participating in internships within six months of graduation — a steady rise from 66% in 2022.
- Of those employed, 56% reported working in fields directly related to their major.
- Notably, 22% credited the Career Fair as a key factor in securing their current position.

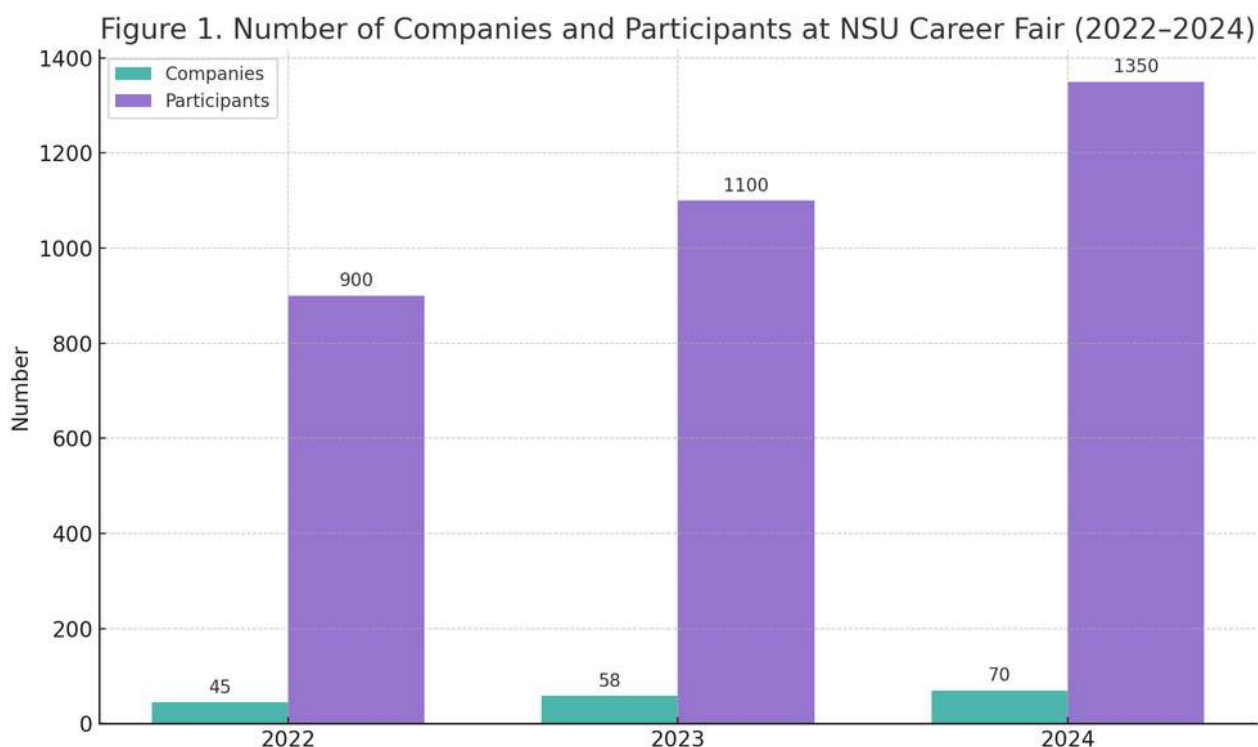
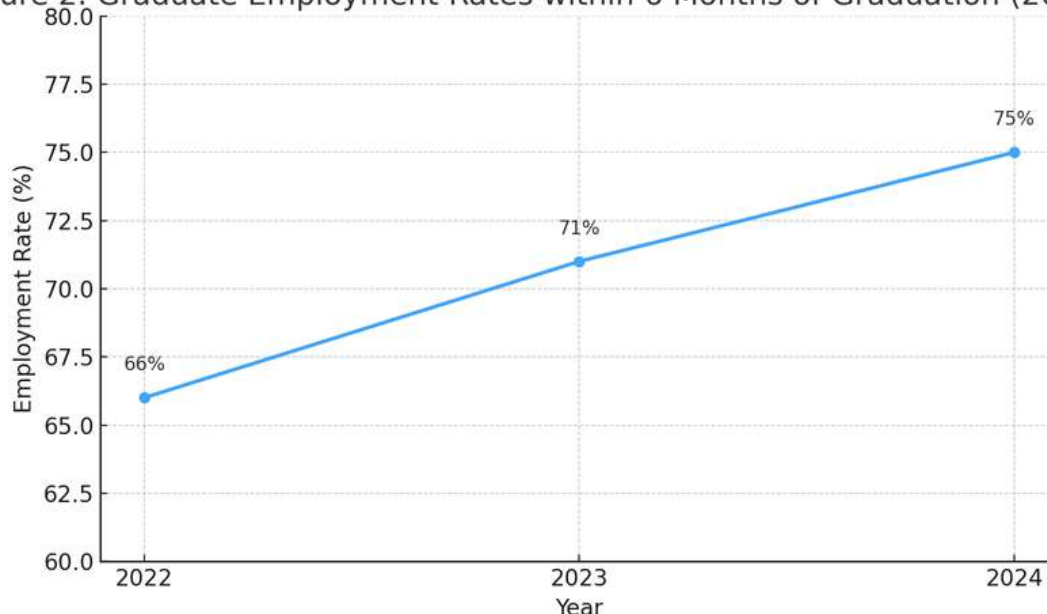




Figure 2. Graduate Employment Rates within 6 Months of Graduation (2022–2024)



Entrepreneurship and Student Innovation Support

NSU significantly expanded its support mechanisms for student entrepreneurship and innovation through dedicated programs, mentorship, and funding opportunities. These initiatives empowered young people to translate their academic knowledge into real-world business ventures and social impact projects.

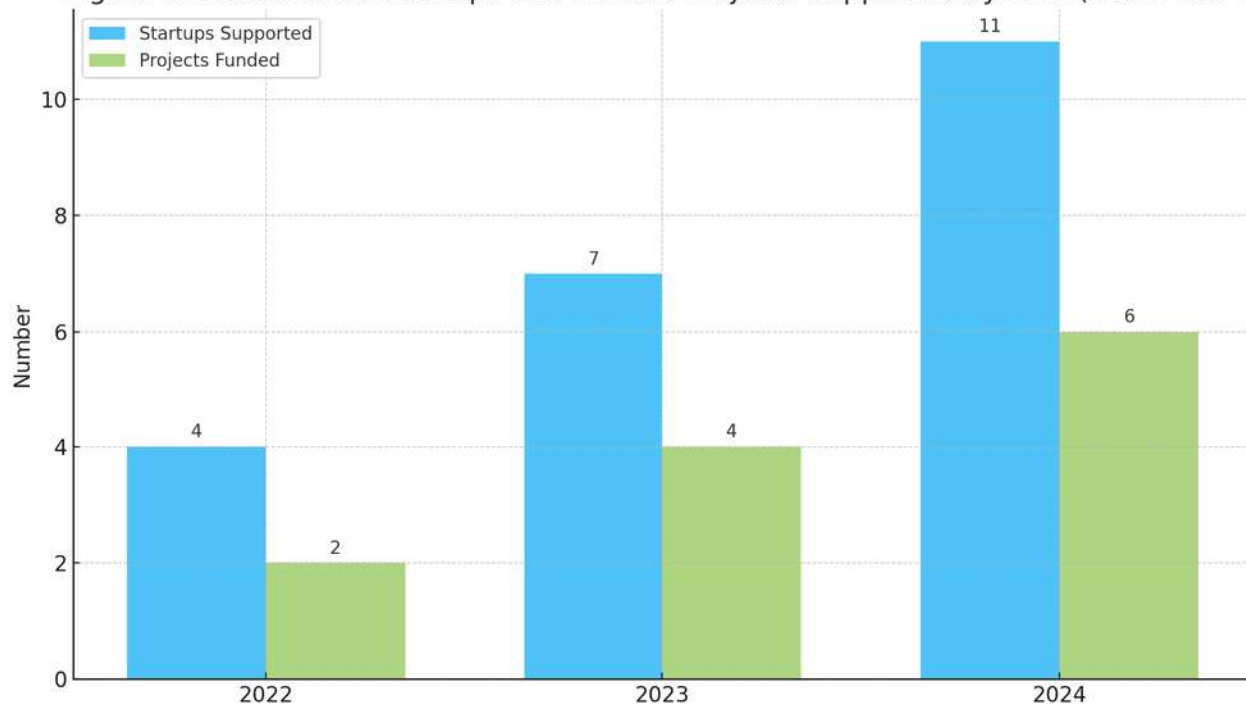
Special focus was given to sustainable and tech-based solutions, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration among students from different faculties. The university also enhanced its incubation infrastructure, providing access to coworking spaces, expert guidance, and business development resources year-round. Participation in national and international innovation events helped NSU students build networks, attract early-stage investors, and gain visibility for their ideas.

These combined efforts contributed to fostering a culture of creativity, self-employment, and entrepreneurial leadership within the university community.

Key Initiatives:

- **NSU Innovation Hub supported 11 student-led startups, focusing on:**
 - Agrotech
 - EdTech
 - Sustainable tourism
 - AI and automation solutions
- **Student Start-Up Fund granted seed funding of 2,000 AZN per team to 6 promising student groups**
- “Idea to Impact” Bootcamp held in May 2024 with:
 - 70 participants
 - Mentors from the Ministry of Youth and international accelerator programs
 - Prototyping workshops, investor panels, and pitching sessions
- NSU participated in the National Innovation Olympiad 2024, where 2 teams reached the final stage and 1 team secured a top 3 position nationwide

Figure 3. Student-Led Startups and Funded Projects Supported by NSU (2022–2024)











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Climate Change



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MEET THE SPEAKERS



Matanat Musayeva
DIRECTOR,
ENTERPRISE
AZERBAIJAN



Huseyn Rasulzada
ASSISTANT
RECTOR,
NSU



Ibrahim Nasibov
MEMBER,
IDDA



Shahriyar Guliyev
CEO,
AGROCHAT
(MODERATOR)



Sevil Abbasgulyeva
LAB DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF
MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE



Rashad Mastaliyev
DEPT. HEAD,
AZERBAIJAN
UNIVERSITY



Nigar Abdullayeva
SPECIALIST,
AZMIU

November 21st, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Baku Olympic Stadium, Green Zone, B2B Meeting Room



Enterprise
Azerbaijan

TURANBAZAR.COM/AGROCHAT



Innovasiya və Rəqəmsal
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Digital
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AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
RƏQƏMSAL İNKİŞAF VƏ
NƏQLİYYAT NAZİRLİYİ



NAXÇIVAN DÖVLƏT
UNIVERSİTETİ



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
İQTİSADI İSLAHATLARIN TƏHLİLİ VƏ
KOMMUNİKASIYA MƏRKƏZİ



Enterprise
Azerbaijan

Şahriyar Guliyev

"İlin Kaşfi" nominasiyası

2024

Field Experience and Work Experience Programs

History Since it was established, Nakhchivan State University has established close ties with the real world through internship and cooperation. The programs in 2024 had been giving students on the job skills, workplace exposure and employment pathways.

Key Outcomes in 2024:

More than 420 students spent the year in supervised internships working with public and private sector partners

Partnerships were established and collaboration with 16 additional employers, including ICT, Agriculture, Health and Tourism, were agreed.

“NSU TalentBridge” program is launched:

A digital marketplace for students to find gigs, internships and micro-credentials

Profiles founded Since launch (4 months) Profiles of members (330)

Furthermore, 9 departments incorporated compulsory internship components into the final-year programmes, leading to:

Greater post high school readiness.

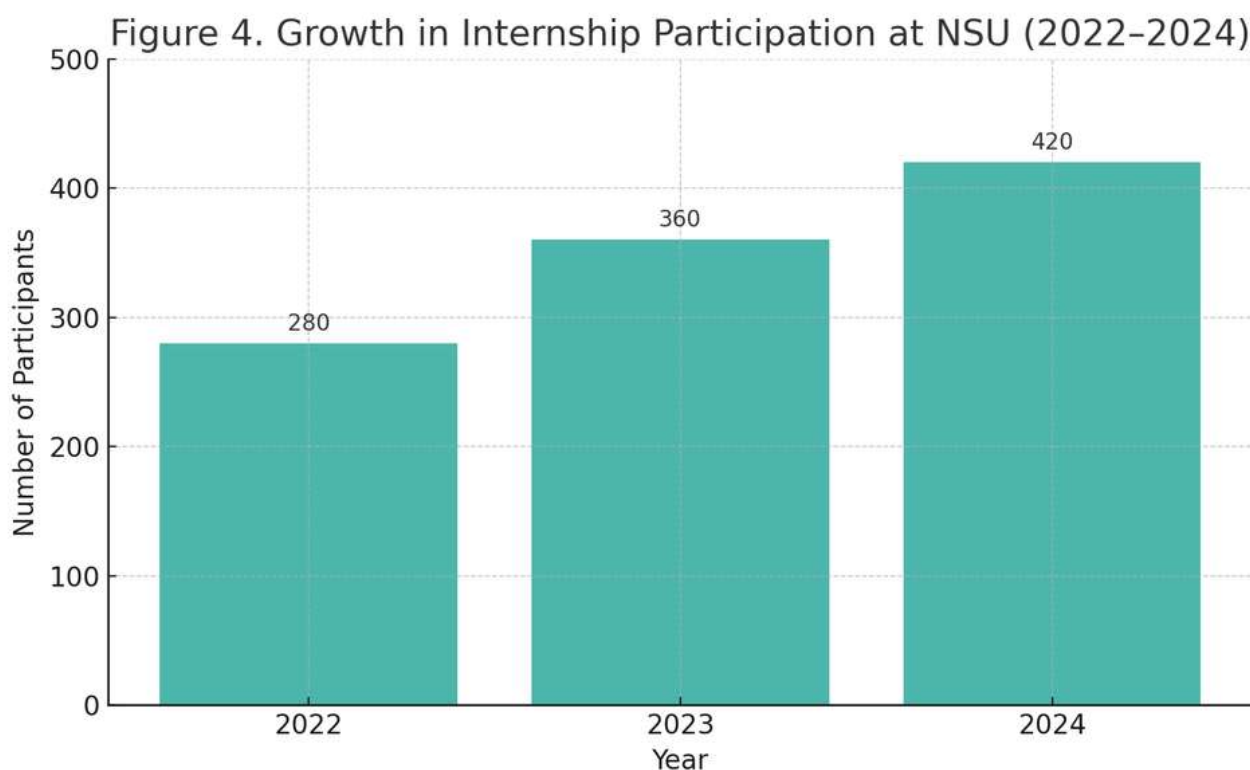
Offers of direct employment by internship host (14%)

Dual Education Pilots:

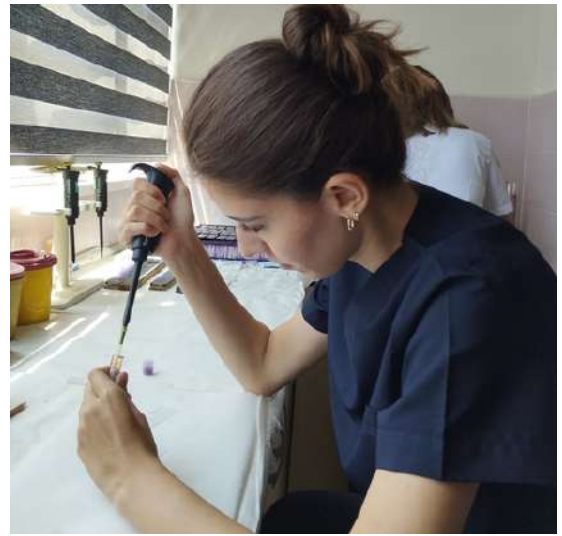
NSU developed DLP with two local companies, and launched dual education programs in which.

3 days/week in class, 2 days/week at work students spent.

A 6–12-month assessment revealed that 87% of participants were satisfied with the program







Monitoring and Future Directions

In 2024, NSU further strengthened its capacity to track and enhance the employability and entrepreneurial success of its students. Data-driven tools, stakeholder engagement, and regular feedback cycles helped align university outputs with national development priorities and labor market needs.

Monitoring Highlights:

- The Career Center implemented:
 - Quarterly surveys for graduating students
 - Post-internship evaluations with employers
 - A centralized Graduate Outcome Tracker, updated twice annually
- Satisfaction with Career Services increased to 89% (up from 84% in 2023), based on student feedback
- Annual employment report reviewed by NSU's Advisory Board on Labor Market Relevance

Looking Ahead – 2025 Initiatives:

Focus Area	Planned Action
Digital Skills	Add AI/Data Literacy modules to all majors
Inclusive Employment	Launch employment mentoring for rural students
International Opportunities	Expand Erasmus+ traineeship placements
Local Partnerships	Establish 5 new MoUs with Nakhchivan enterprises

Final Statement

By promoting employability, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic participation, NSU has advanced meaningfully toward achieving SDG 8 in 2024. The university remains committed to enhancing decent work opportunities and contributing to sustainable economic growth — both locally and globally.



Introduction

SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure — focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. In 2024, Nakhchivan State University continued to enhance its role as a regional leader in science and technology education by:

- Developing innovation-driven facilities
- Strengthening industry partnerships
- Empowering students through technology and entrepreneurial programs
- Integrating engineering, architecture, and robotics into applied learning

These efforts aim to prepare students for the demands of a rapidly evolving technological landscape while also contributing to regional economic resilience and sustainable growth.

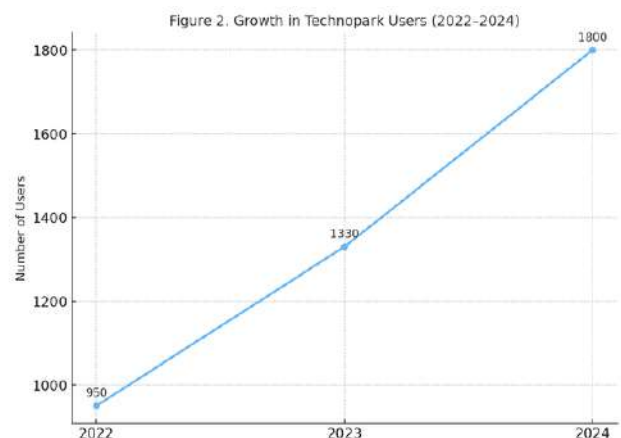
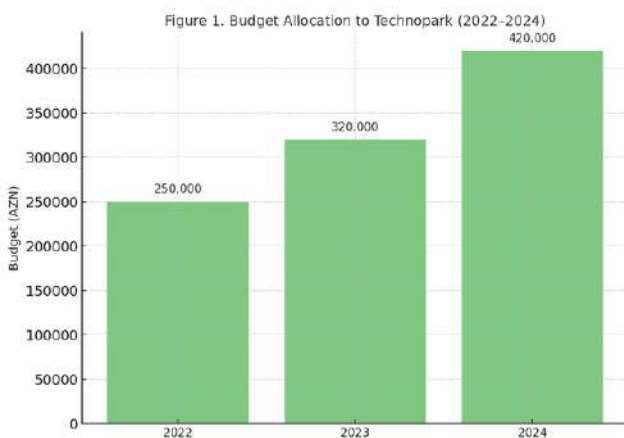
Technopark and Infrastructure Development

In 2024, We significantly expanded our physical and technological infrastructure to support research, innovation, and entrepreneurial growth.

NSU Technopark Expansion:

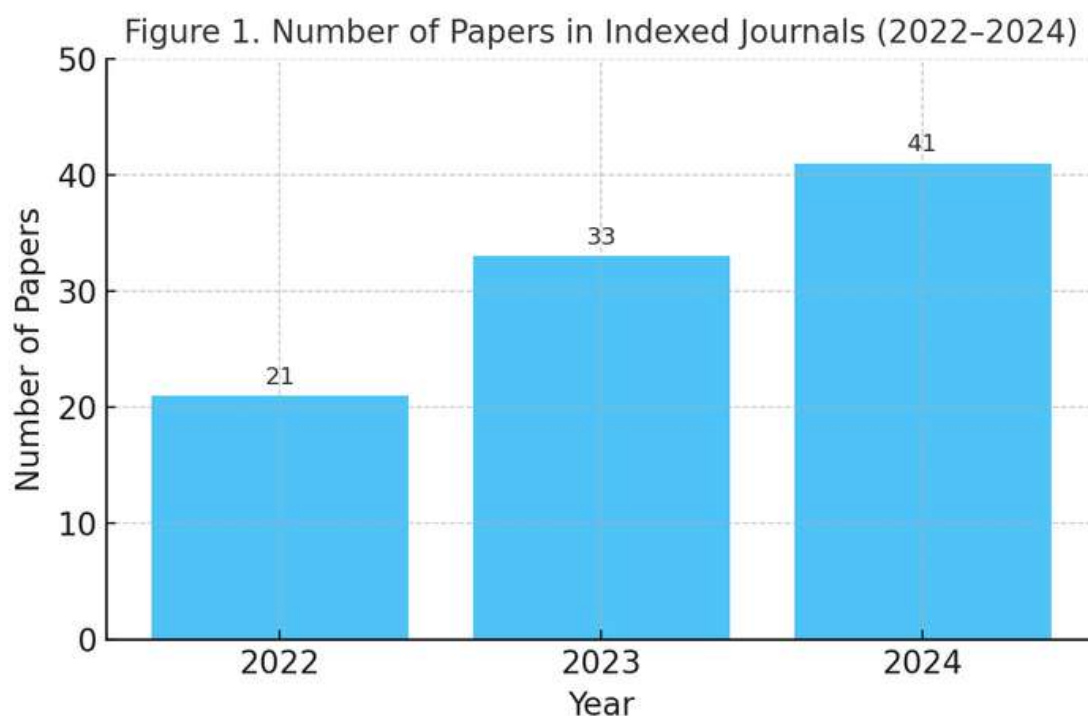
- The NSU Technopark area was expanded by 1,200 m², adding:
 - 3 new co-working zones
 - 2 digital prototype labs (3D printing, electronics)
 - 1 climate-controlled storage room for experimental materials
- Budget allocated: 420,000 AZN (2023: 320,000 AZN)

Visitor numbers increased by 35%, with over 1,800 student and faculty users recorded in 2024



Research, Innovation, and Publications

Nakhchivan State University continues to contribute to scientific advancement and applied innovation. In 2024, the university enhanced its academic research profile by publishing peer-reviewed articles, participating in international scientific programs, and supporting interdisciplinary initiatives that align with national and global development goals.



(2024) Verified Research Output

According to Multijournals. In addition, NSU faculty papers including:

- "Driving Change in Science Education: The Impact of Active Learning on Students' Achievement and Engagement"
- NSU was engaged in the international science publication process with publications in journals, conferences on among other things:
- Pedagogical innovation
- Educational quality assurance
- Intelligent educational technologies
- Intramural support had contributed to a series of departmental projects, many of which were becoming interdepartmental.

Global Research Assistance

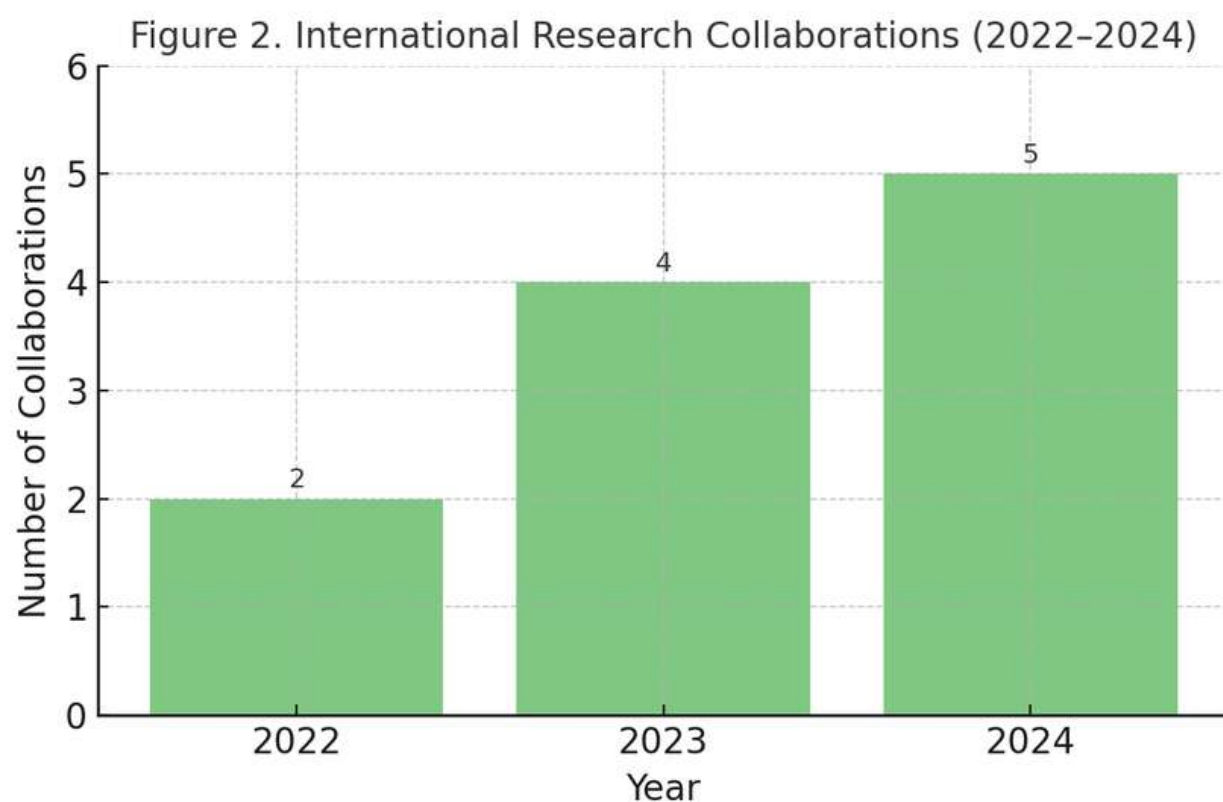
In 2024, NSU was a partner of the Erasmus+ KA2 international project:

IQAinAR – Internal Quality Assurance in the context of Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality, led by Wittenborg University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

Source

NSU participated in the exchange and publication networks of the region as a whole that linked Hungary, Türkiye, and Poland.

Academic staff and researchers involved in capacity development and digital transformation research in line with the principles of SDG innovativeness.



Innovation in Curriculum and Laboratories

This year NSU made significant strides in enhancing its academic curriculum and research infrastructure. These developments are aligned with SDG 9, particularly with targets related to upgrading technological capabilities and fostering innovation-driven education.

Curriculum Innovation Highlights:

- New academic programs launched:
 - Information Security
 - Medicine (taught in English)
 - Nanoelectronics
 - MBA in Healthcare Management
- SABAH Excellence Program introduced within the Faculty of Medicine, admitting 21 students in 2024.
- New dual-degree programs initiated:
 - Economics in collaboration with Çankırı Karatekin University (Turkey)
 - Computer Engineering in partnership with John von Neumann University (Hungary)

Research and Laboratory Infrastructure Enhancements:

- New research centers and labs established:
 - Zarifa Aliyeva Biomedical Research Laboratory
 - Psychological Services and Research Laboratory
- IBM Center inaugurated to support training and innovation in IT and software engineering.
- Cambridge International School and English-Language Gymnasium established to strengthen bilingual education and global academic integration.
 - 72,748 AZN invested in Cambridge textbooks and publishing materials
 - 151,440 AZN allocated for electronic teaching and digital learning equipment



Partnerships for Innovation and Industry Collaboration

We have built strong partnerships to drive innovation, support knowledge transfer, and align academic programs with real-world industry needs. In 2024, these collaborations expanded across key sectors such as ICT, healthcare, engineering, and entrepreneurship.

Strategic Partnerships in 2024

- IBM Azerbaijan
- A certified IBM Center was launched at NSU, offering training in cloud computing and AI, along with internship opportunities for IT students.
- NEQSOL Holding & Education Development Fund
- Through the “Parla” Scholarship Program, 50 female students received monthly financial support and participated in leadership training.
- ASAN Service & Innovations Agency
- Joint workshops on e-governance and service design were conducted, integrating public sector innovation into classroom learning.
- Entrepreneurship Development Support Fund (EDSF)
- Provided seed funding and mentorship for three student-led startups as part of NSU’s entrepreneurship incubator program.

Impact

These partnerships have enhanced hands-on learning by embedding real-world innovation challenges into coursework, expanded student access to internships and job networks, and promoted gender-inclusive access to entrepreneurial and tech-based resources.

Sector	Key Partner	Count
ICT & Technology	IBM Azerbaijan	1
Education & Gender	NEQSOL Holding (Parla Scholarship)	1
Public Sector	ASAN Service & Innovation Agency	1
Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship Development Fund (EDSF)	1



1. Inclusive Education and Disability Support

In 2024, NSU introduced a comprehensive Disability Support Policy aimed at creating a truly inclusive and equitable learning environment. This policy marks a significant milestone in the university's ongoing efforts to provide equal access and meaningful support for students with disabilities.

Key Initiatives:

- Made all academic and administrative buildings fully accessible with ramps, elevators, and tactile pathways.
- Offered specialized academic and psychological support tailored to the needs of students with disabilities.
- Held awareness workshops to educate the university community about disability rights and inclusive education practices.

2. Support for International Students

As part of its growing internationalization strategy, NSU made targeted improvements in 2024 to better serve its international student community. These efforts aim to make NSU a more attractive, accessible, and supportive environment for students from around the world.

Key Initiatives:

- Expanded the number of English-language programs across various faculties.
- Introduced preparatory courses and cultural orientation sessions to ease the transition for foreign students.
- Participated in international education fairs to foster diversity and attract global talent.

3. Community Engagement and Social Inclusion

NSU has strengthened its social responsibility by focusing on outreach and inclusion for underserved and vulnerable populations. The university believes in not just providing access, but also building a sense of belonging for all students.

Key Initiatives:

- Activated the Inclusive Education Center to oversee programs that promote equity and diversity.
- Hosted social and cultural events designed to involve students with disabilities in campus life.
- Launched community-wide awareness campaigns to challenge stigma and encourage inclusive mindsets.

Figure 1. Support Services Provided to Students with Disabilities (2024)

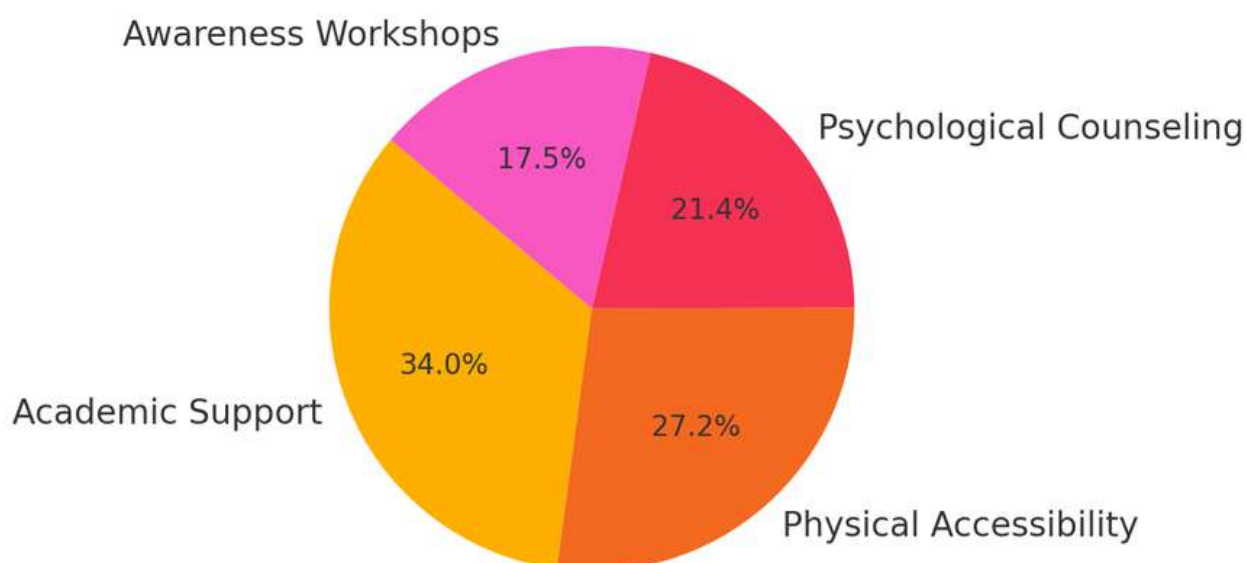


Figure 2. Growth in International Student Enrollment (2022-2024)

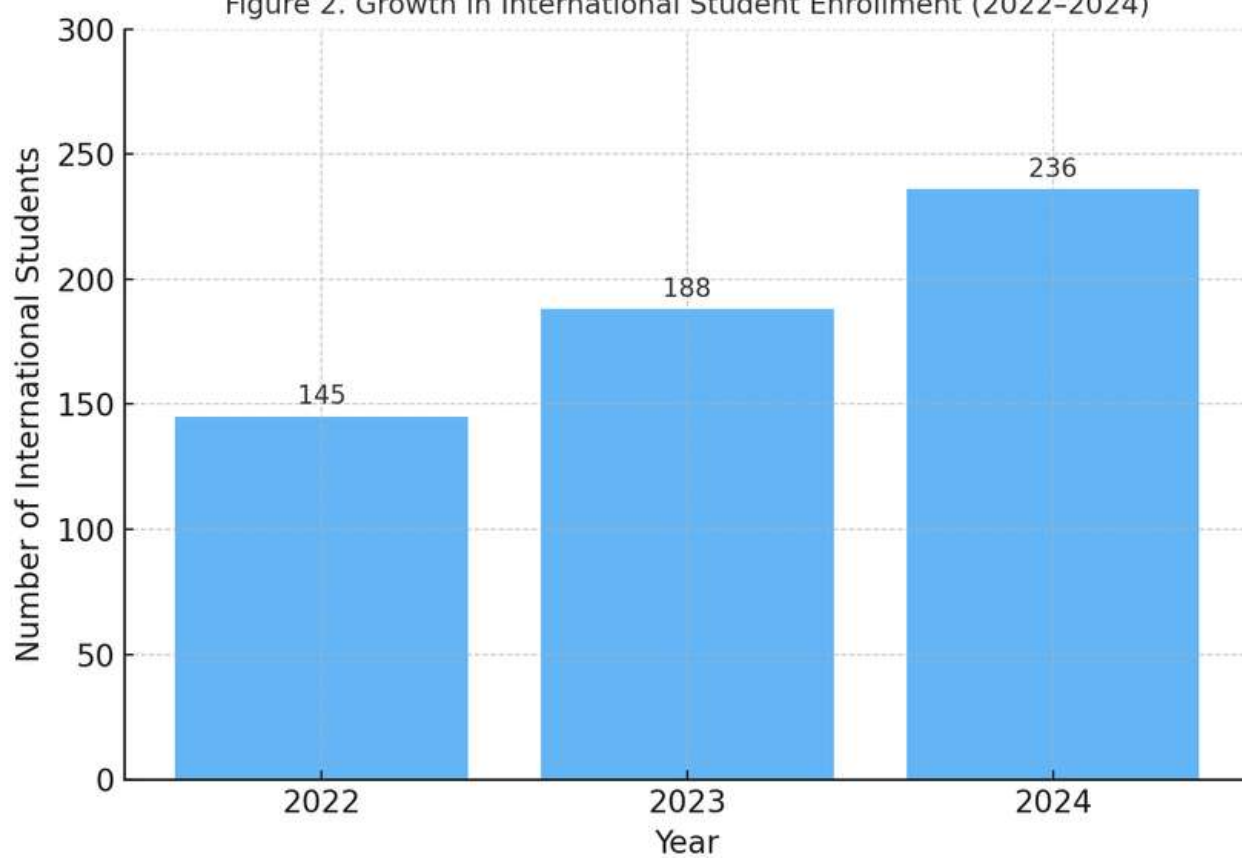
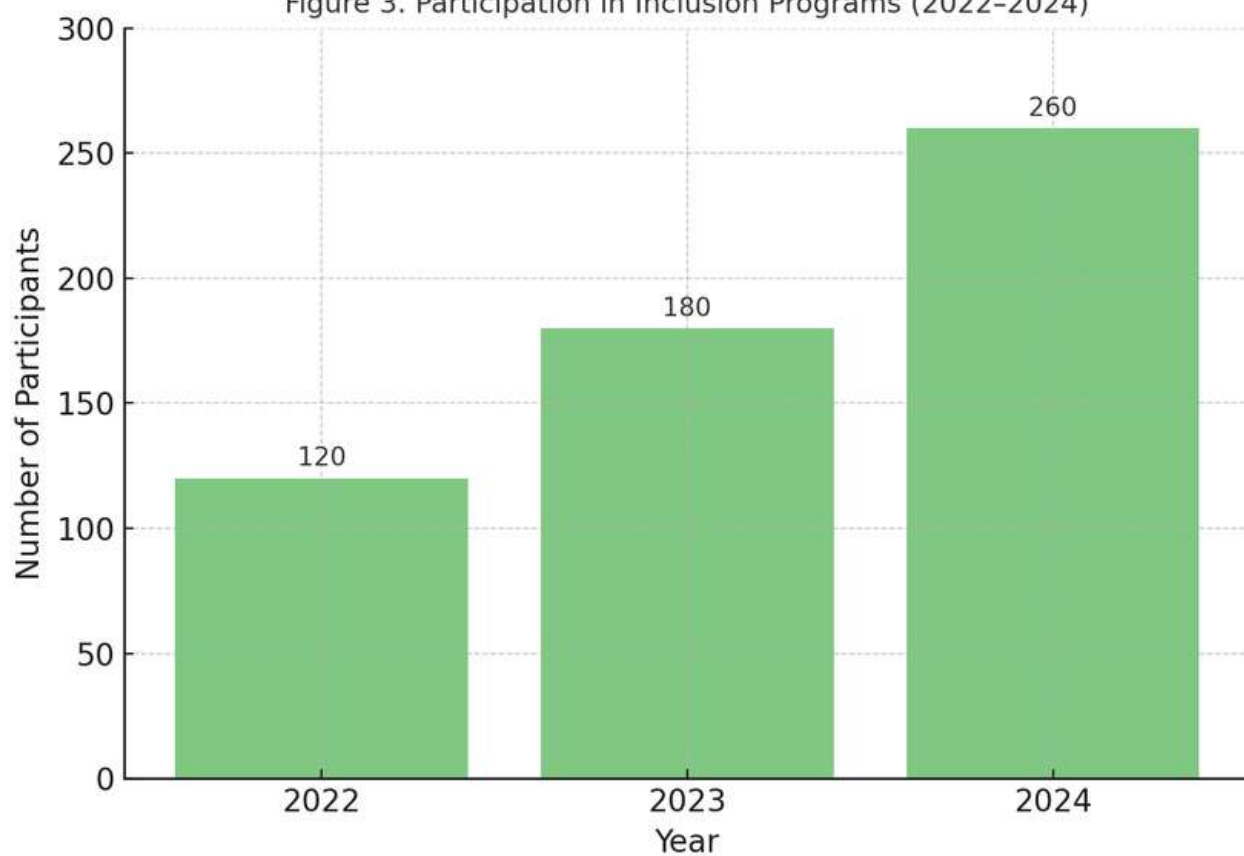


Figure 3. Participation in Inclusion Programs (2022–2024)



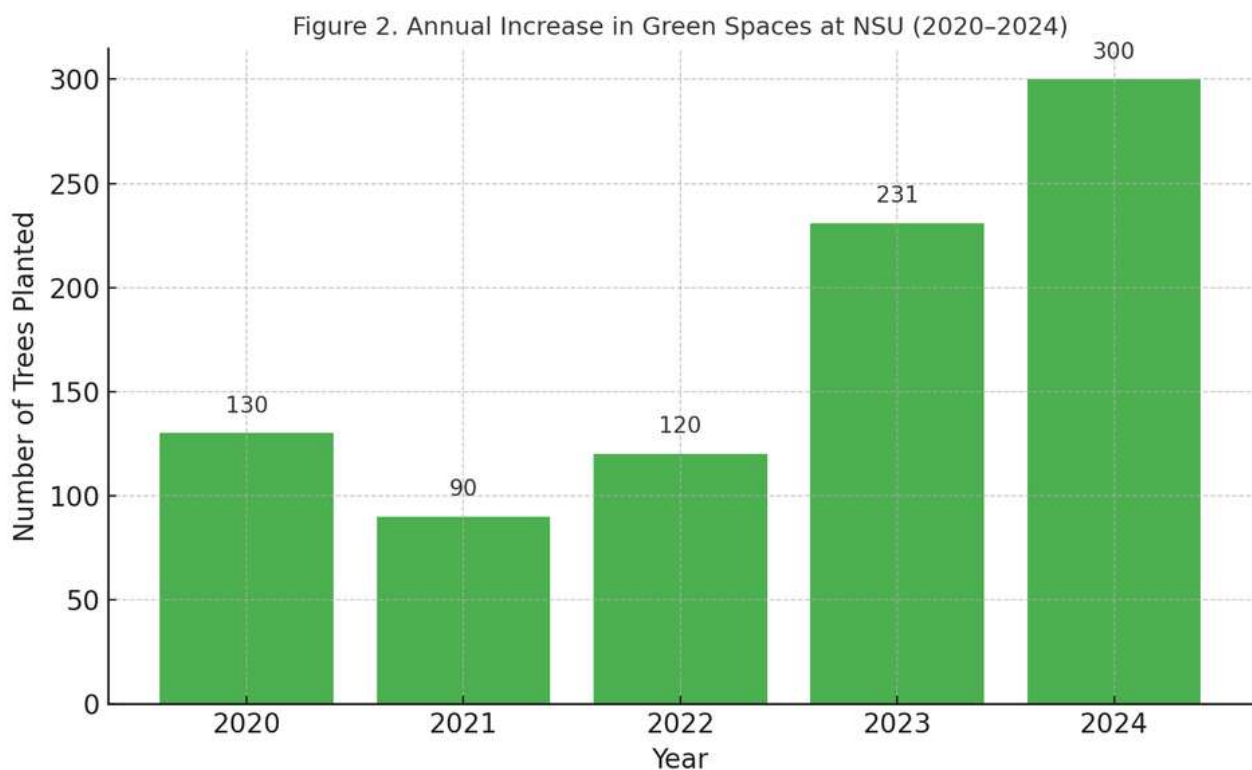


Expansion of Green Spaces and Environmental Initiatives

We continued its commitment to environmental sustainability by enhancing green spaces and launching new eco-friendly initiatives. These efforts align with SDG 11's objectives to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Key Initiatives:

- **Tree Planting Campaigns:** NSU organized multiple tree planting events, resulting in the addition of over 300 new trees across the campus. These campaigns not only enhanced the campus's aesthetic appeal but also contributed to improved air quality and biodiversity.
- **Sustainable Landscaping:** The university adopted sustainable landscaping practices, including the use of native plant species and water-efficient irrigation systems, to minimize environmental impact.
- **Environmental Awareness Programs:** Educational workshops and seminars were conducted to raise awareness among students and staff about the importance of green spaces and sustainable living practices.



Cultural Heritage Preservation and Community Engagement

In 2024, NSU continued its commitment to preserving cultural heritage and engaging with the community through various initiatives. These efforts align with SDG 11's objectives to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Key Initiatives:

- **Cultural Events and Exhibitions:** NSU organized exhibitions and cultural events to showcase the rich heritage of Nakhchivan, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation among students and the community.
- **Educational Programs:** The university incorporated cultural heritage topics into its curriculum, promoting awareness and knowledge of local traditions and history.
- **Community Engagement:** NSU collaborated with local organizations to involve the community in cultural preservation activities, strengthening the bond between the university and the public.

These initiatives demonstrate NSU's proactive approach to integrating cultural heritage preservation into its educational and community outreach programs.



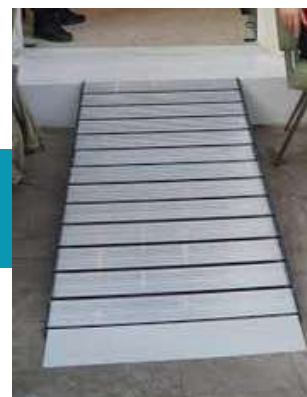


Campus Safety and Inclusive Infrastructure

Nakhchivan State University continued its efforts in 2024 to ensure that campus infrastructure is safe, inclusive, and aligned with sustainable urban development principles. These efforts address SDG 11 targets related to access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces.

Key Actions in 2024:

- Campus Security Enhancements:
 - Expansion of CCTV surveillance across key academic buildings and dormitories.
 - 24/7 monitoring introduced in student housing zones to ensure student safety.
- Accessibility Improvements:
 - Wheelchair ramps and tactile paving installed in 4 additional buildings.
 - Accessible restrooms upgraded in administrative and faculty blocks.
- Emergency Readiness:
 - Fire evacuation drills conducted in all main facilities.
 - Emergency alarm systems upgraded in 6 buildings.





Introduction

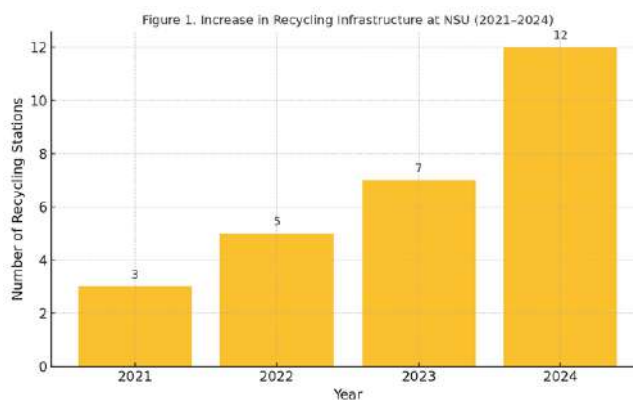
In the report year we further deepened our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12 — “Responsible Consumption and Production” — by expanding our sustainability-driven infrastructure and educational initiatives. Building upon its 2023 programs, the university has prioritized waste reduction, resource efficiency, and student involvement in sustainability projects. Through a holistic approach encompassing campus operations, partnerships, and community outreach, NSU continues to promote a culture of ecological responsibility.

Waste Management & Recycling Programs

In 2024, we expanded our waste management infrastructure by implementing targeted recycling programs and awareness campaigns aimed at minimizing environmental impact and fostering a culture of sustainability among students and staff.

Key Actions Implemented:

- Recycling Stations Expansion:
- NSU installed 12 new recycling stations across academic buildings and dormitories — up from 7 in 2023. These stations include separate bins for plastic, paper, metal, and e-waste.
- E-Waste Collection Campaigns:
- In collaboration with local environmental NGOs, NSU launched a campaign to collect outdated electronics. Over 150 kg of e-waste was collected and properly disposed of in 2024.
- Academic departments reduced paper printing by approximately 35% compared to the previous year, largely due to digitization of administrative workflows and exams.
- Student-Led Eco Clubs:
- Student organizations organized over 10 eco-awareness events, including clean-up days, DIY recycling workshops, and zero-waste seminars.





Energy and Resource Efficiency Initiatives

In 2024, NSU continued its mission to optimize energy and water consumption, reduce environmental impact, and integrate sustainable resource practices across campus infrastructure and daily operations.

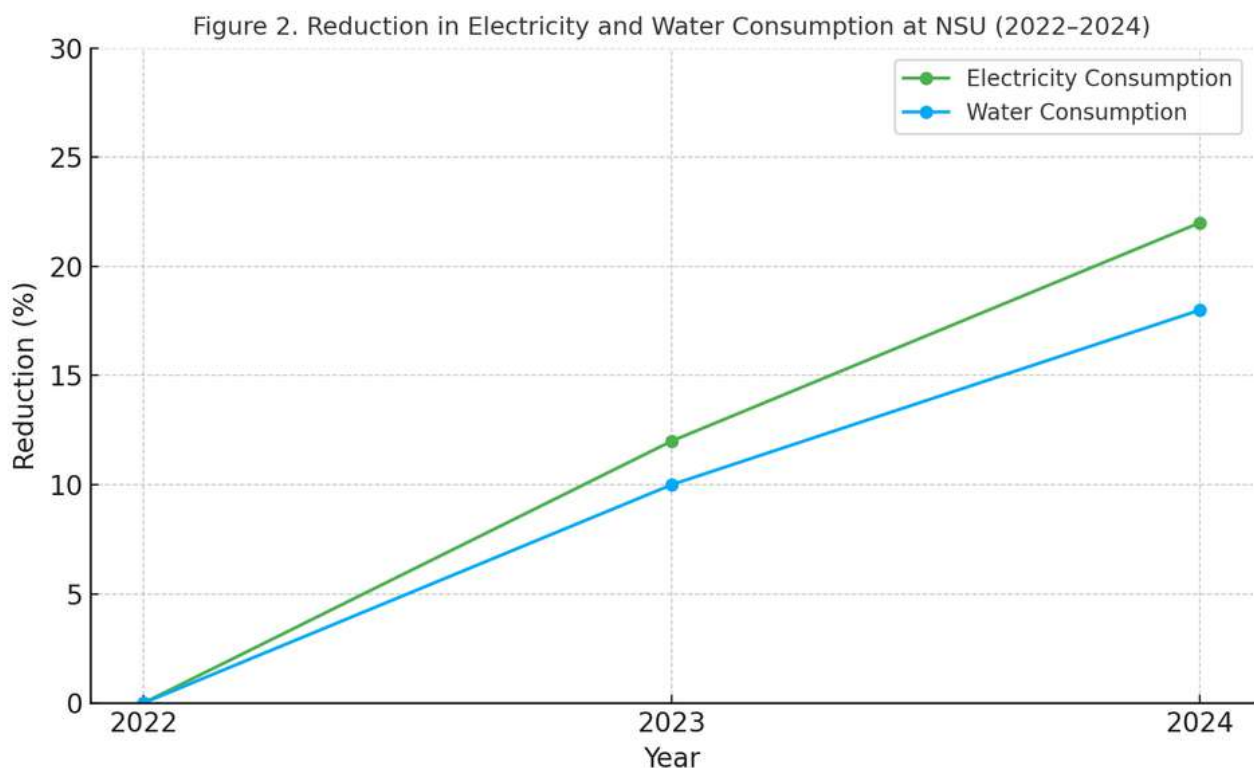
Key Energy Initiatives:

- LED Lighting Installation
 - Over 80% of campus lighting systems were converted to LED, reducing electricity consumption by an estimated 22%.
- Smart Lighting & Motion Sensors
 - Motion-activated lighting systems were installed in 6 academic buildings and all dormitories to minimize unnecessary usage.
- Renewable Energy Use
 - NSU maintained solar panels installed in 2023 and expanded the capacity by 15% in 2024. These panels now provide approximately 8% of total electricity needs.

Water Efficiency Improvements:

- Water-Saving Fixtures
 - Low-flow faucets and dual-flush toilets installed in 5 new buildings reduced water consumption by 18% compared to 2023.
- Rainwater Harvesting
 - Pilot systems installed in the Biology and Agriculture departments are used for irrigation and lab cleaning purposes.

Figure 2: Reduction in Electricity and Water Consumption at NSU (2022–2024) — it clearly shows the percentage decrease in resource usage over the past three years.



Monitoring and Future Goals

Monitoring and Assessment (2024)

To ensure progress in responsible consumption and production, NSU employed several monitoring mechanisms throughout 2024:

- Monthly utility tracking: Electricity and water consumption were monitored via smart meters in main buildings, enabling real-time adjustments and saving insights.
- Waste volume reports: Campus departments submitted quarterly reports detailing waste generation and recycling outputs.
- Procurement audits: Internal reviews assessed suppliers for compliance with environmental standards and responsible sourcing criteria.
- Sustainability surveys: Periodic student and staff surveys evaluated awareness and participation in waste reduction and eco-friendly practices.

Future Goals (2025–2027)

NSU is committed to building on 2024 progress by implementing the following:

- 1.Green Procurement Policy
- 2.Formal adoption of a university-wide sustainable procurement policy, prioritizing eco-certified suppliers and locally sourced goods.
- 3.Digital Waste Monitoring Platform
- 4.Development of an online dashboard to visualize and analyze waste and utility consumption in real time.
- 5.Zero-Waste Cafeteria Pilot
- 6.Launch of a pilot “zero-waste” food facility using compostable packaging, reusable dishware, and meal planning to reduce food waste.
- 7.Sustainability Training for Staff
- 8.Implementation of workshops and micro-courses for administrative and academic staff on reducing institutional resource use.





Introduction

NSU strengthened its commitment to SDG 13 – Climate Action, by expanding climate-focused education, organizing impactful environmental events, and contributing to green infrastructure both on and off campus. Building on prior efforts like the ECOLEAD project, the university introduced new programs, extended its environmental research, and continued collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organizations to tackle the effects of climate change. With climate literacy, youth engagement, and sustainability at the core of its strategy, NSU aims to serve as a regional leader in environmental action and awareness.

Educational & Academic Programs

In 2024, NSU expanded its climate-related academic offerings and environmental research to enhance awareness and equip students with practical skills to address climate change.

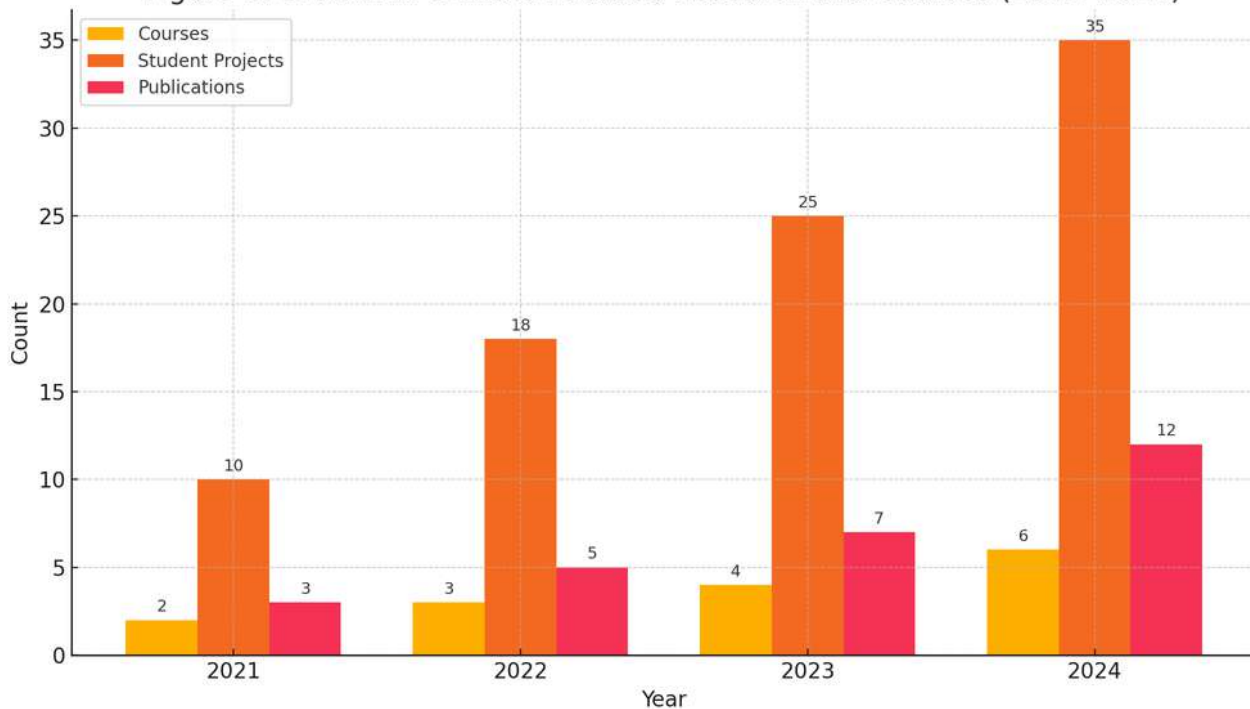
Climate-Focused Curriculum:

- New Elective Courses Introduced:
 - “Climate Change and Sustainable Development”
 - “Environmental Law and Green Policy”
 - “Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience”
- Interdisciplinary Integration:
 - Climate education was embedded into existing programs in Geography, Ecology, Agriculture, and Public Health.
- Student Research Projects:
 - Over 35 student theses in 2024 were related to climate action, renewable energy, or disaster risk reduction — a 40% increase compared to 2023.

Faculty and Research Initiatives:

- ECOLEAD Continuation:
 - NSU continued its participation in the ECOLEAD Erasmus+ project with international universities to promote ecological leadership and sustainability education.
- Climate Monitoring Collaboration:
 - Joint field research with the Ministry of Ecology included soil and air quality assessments across the Nakhchivan region.
- Academic Publications:
 - NSU faculty published 12 peer-reviewed articles on climate resilience, ecosystem services, and regional climate data modeling in 2024.

Figure 1. Growth in Climate-Focused Research and Courses (2021-2024)









Awareness Campaigns and Climate Action Events

In 2024, NSU prioritized community engagement and climate awareness through large-scale events, student-led initiatives, and partnerships that promoted a culture of climate responsibility both on and off campus.

Key Campaigns and Events:

Earth Hour 2024 (March 23)

NSU participated in the global Earth Hour movement by switching off non-essential campus lighting for one hour and organizing a student-led candlelight walk promoting climate consciousness. Over 600 participants joined, including students, staff, and local citizens.

Tree Planting Day

In partnership with the Ministry of Ecology and local NGOs, NSU hosted its annual Tree Planting Day in April 2024.

Over 1,000 saplings were planted across NSU's green zones and the surrounding community areas.

Student clubs coordinated planting logistics, increasing engagement across faculties.

Climate Action Week at NSU (May 2024)

This week included:

- Public lectures from climate scientists
- Environmental documentaries
- Panel discussions with experts and student leaders
- "Green Startup Pitch" competition promoting climate innovations

COP29 Thematic Workshop (and Sustainability Publication)

In preparation for the upcoming COP29, NSU organized a thematic workshop titled: “Climate Justice and Youth Empowerment in the Caucasus”

► Held in May 2024, the workshop welcomed researchers, student leaders, and NGOs focused on regional climate challenges.

► Topics included: environmental justice, carbon neutrality, climate finance, and youth-led innovations.

The workshop results were summarized and officially published on NSU’s Sustainability webpage, contributing to national and international discussions on climate policy ahead of COP29.



The poster for the AGROCHAT Baku, Azerbaijan Conference of the Parties 29 features a dark blue background with a glowing molecular structure. It lists seven speakers with their names, titles, and circular profile pictures. Logos for the United Nations Climate Change, Azerbaijan, and COP29 are in the top corners. The event details and a website link are at the bottom.

United Nations
Climate Change

AGROCHAT
BAKU, AZERBAIJAN
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES 29
MEET THE SPEAKERS

Matanat Musayeva
DIRECTOR,
ENTERPRISE
AZERBAIJAN

Huseyn Rasulzada
ASSISTANT
RECTOR,
NSU

Ibrahim Nasibov
MEMBER,
IDDA

Shahriyar Guliyev
CEO,
AGROCHAT
(MODERATOR)

Sevil Abbasgulyeva
LAB DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF
MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE

Rashad Mastaliyev
DEPT. HEAD,
AZERBAIJAN
UNIVERSITY

Nigar Abdullayeva
SPECIALIST,
AZMIU

November 21st, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.
Baku Olympic Stadium, Green Zone, B2B Meeting Room

Enterprise
Azerbaijan

TURANBAZAR.COM/AGROCHAT

AGROCHAT









Green Infrastructure & Tree Planting Projects

NSU has actively worked on improving its green infrastructure and contributing to reforestation efforts across the region. In 2024, the university further expanded tree planting initiatives and invested in sustainable land use.

Tree Planting Campaigns (2024)

Over 1,000 saplings planted in 2024 alone, including native species such as oak, maple, and pine, chosen for their ecological value and adaptability.

Main planting zones included:

- NSU Botanical Garden
- Main campus southern perimeter
- Surrounding village schools in cooperation with local municipalities

Community Involvement:

Events were coordinated with support from student clubs, the Ministry of Ecology, and regional schools, increasing awareness on ecosystem restoration.

Cumulative Progress:

Since 2020, over 4,200 trees have been planted through NSU-led campaigns.

Sustainable Landscaping and Eco-Spaces

Expansion of green student rest areas across campus

Installation of permeable walkways to prevent water runoff

Use of recycled organic waste for composting and soil enrichment



Carbon Footprint Reduction Efforts

In 2024, we implemented several initiatives aimed at reducing our institutional carbon footprint and promoting low-emission practices on campus.

Vehicle Access Restrictions

- Expanded pedestrian-only zones on campus, especially around dormitories and academic blocks
- Limited vehicle entry hours and expanded bicycle parking spaces
- Result: decreased noise and air pollution in student-heavy areas

Monitoring Progress and Looking Ahead

Nakhchivan State University took strategic steps to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its climate initiatives, recognizing that real impact must be evidence-based and adaptive. Utilizing a combination of internal sustainability tracking systems and insights from international collaborations—particularly the Erasmus+ ECOLEAD project—NSU was able to quantify progress and identify areas for enhancement. Regular monthly monitoring of energy and water consumption, tree planting campaigns, and waste reduction efforts provided actionable data that informed university-wide decisions. Post-event surveys following Earth Hour and Climate Week activities allowed the institution to better gauge engagement and refine future programming. These practices helped cultivate a data-informed culture of environmental accountability. Looking ahead to 2025–2027, NSU is aligning its long-term goals with global climate targets by advancing its carbon neutrality roadmap, scaling climate literacy efforts across disciplines, and expanding green infrastructure projects—including solar installations and rooftop gardens. Central to this vision is empowering students to lead, advise, and hold the university accountable through a dedicated Youth Climate Council.

Key Monitoring Activities:

- **Monthly Data Tracking:** The university's sustainability team regularly collected data on energy and water use, as well as tree planting numbers, to monitor trends and adjust strategies.
- **Event Feedback:** After events like Earth Hour and Climate Week, NSU gathered feedback through surveys to better understand participation, impact, and areas for improvement.
- **ECOLEAD Project Participation:** Through the Erasmus+ ECOLEAD project, NSU contributed to global benchmarks for sustainability in education, strengthening its role in international climate education efforts.

Future Goals (2025–2027)

Looking forward, NSU is setting ambitious goals to deepen its climate commitment and create a more sustainable campus. The university's roadmap emphasizes student involvement, educational innovation, and green infrastructure.

1. Carbon Neutral Campus Roadmap

- Launch formal planning to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Conduct comprehensive baseline carbon audits in 2025 to guide future steps.

2. Climate Literacy for All

- Introduce foundational climate education modules across every faculty.
- Launch a bilingual "Climate Literacy Certificate" open to all students, regardless of their field of study.

3. Expanding Green Infrastructure

- Build a rooftop garden and install solar panels on selected faculty buildings to promote renewable energy use and biodiversity.
- Pilot green wall systems on older buildings to reduce heat absorption and improve energy efficiency.

4. Youth-Led Climate Council

- Create a student-led advisory group to shape climate policies, organize awareness campaigns, and provide annual progress updates on sustainability efforts.



Introduction

Although Nakhchivan State University is located inland, it actively supports SDG 14 – Life Below Water by promoting responsible water management and ecosystem preservation through education, scientific monitoring, and environmental collaboration.

In 2024, NSU strengthened its commitment to aquatic ecosystem protection through:

- Enhanced river and underground water monitoring,
- Expansion of student-led water conservation workshops,
- Restoration efforts in local reservoirs,
- Biodiversity enhancement projects such as fish population restoration.

By combining academic efforts with hands-on environmental action, NSU cultivates a sustainability-focused culture that extends beyond coastal zones and demonstrates its contribution to national and global water preservation strategies.

Scientific Research on Aquatic Ecosystems

- The Department of Biology and Ecology conducted monthly field studies on water quality in the Araz River and nearby reservoirs (e.g., Nehram and Uzunoba).
- Analysis focused on pH levels, nitrates, heavy metal presence, and biodiversity index.
- Research output included:
 - 3 academic publications in peer-reviewed journals.
 - 2 undergraduate theses related to freshwater pollution and fish reproduction.

Monitoring Activities

- NSU expanded its collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, using portable digital water analyzers for rapid assessments.
- In 2024, 17 monitoring trips were organized — a 30% increase from 2023.
- Data collected contributed to:
 - Regional ecological maps,
 - University-wide sustainability dashboard,
 - Annual reporting to the National Water Resource Commission.

Educational Engagement

- NSU hosted a workshop series titled “Water Matters: Conservation from Source to Sea” involving over 250 students.
- Training modules included:
 - River and spring ecosystem biodiversity,
 - Responsible water usage on campus,



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 - Responsible water usage on campus,
 - Simulation labs on water treatment methods.





Real Sustainable Water Practices at NSU (2024)

Despite being located inland, NSU has adopted several practical and realistic approaches to promote water responsibility and support SDG 14 in 2024.

Educational Use of Local Water Ecosystems

- Students from the Biology and Ecology Faculty conducted regular water sample analyses from nearby rivers (primarily the Araz River).
- Laboratory-based lessons included studies on:
 - Water salinity and pH balance,
 - Microorganism biodiversity in freshwaters,
 - Seasonal pollution variation.

These activities are part of NSU's standard ecology curriculum, supported by field visits.

Public Awareness Activities in Villages

- Students and staff participated in community seminars in Sharur and Ordubad regions, educating local farmers on:
 - Efficient irrigation,
 - Pollution reduction techniques,
 - Importance of aquatic biodiversity.
- Events were coordinated with the Ministry of Ecology and local education departments.

Campus Engagement

- While no large-scale rainwater harvesting system was in place, students organized a water-saving awareness campaign using posters and QR-code-based info stations around campus.
- These actions were part of NSU's internal "Water & Waste Week" held in April 2024.



Monitoring and Future Goals

Monitoring Activities (2024)

In 2024, NSU maintained internal mechanisms to monitor its activities related to water sustainability and education:

- Data collection was regularly conducted through:
 - Field reports from student-led monitoring trips to the Araz River
 - Laboratory logbooks for water quality testing
 - Participation statistics from public awareness events and workshops
- Faculty of Natural Sciences held biannual reviews of course outcomes and student projects related to aquatic ecosystems.

These practices ensured that NSU's contributions to SDG 14 were traceable, measurable, and aligned with national environmental priorities.

Future Goals (2025–2027)

To deepen its commitment to SDG 14, NSU has outlined the following short-term and mid-term targets:

1. Establish a Water Research Hub
2. Create a dedicated unit within the Faculty of Biology and Ecology to lead freshwater ecosystem studies and student research coordination.
3. Expand Monitoring Scope
4. Increase sampling locations beyond Araz River to include irrigation canals and village reservoirs.
5. Partner with local environmental NGOs for shared data use.
6. Publish an Annual Water Report
7. Begin publishing an annual "NSU Water Impact Report" summarizing education, research, and outreach outcomes related to water sustainability.
8. Strengthen Youth Engagement
9. Launch a "Blue Ambassadors" student initiative to organize educational visits to schools, aiming to raise awareness about protecting inland water resources.





Introduction

Nakhchivan State University continues to demonstrate its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Life on Land through hands-on conservation, education, and collaboration with national environmental authorities.

In 2024, NSU expanded its initiatives to:

- Rehabilitate degraded forest zones,
- Support native animal populations,
- Conduct research on endangered flora and fauna,
- Raise student and public awareness of ecosystem preservation.

Working closely with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, NSU has not only preserved local habitats but has also helped reinforce biodiversity resilience in the face of climate and human pressures. These initiatives align with global sustainability efforts while preserving the unique ecological landscape of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

Field Research, Reintroduction & Reforestation Projects

Reforestation and Native Species Planting

- In 2024, NSU collaborated with the Nakhchivan Ministry of Ecology to plant over 2,300 native saplings in semi-arid zones of Babek and Julfa regions.
- Species planted included:
 - *Quercus iberica* (Caucasian oak)
 - *Populus alba* (white poplar)
 - *Pinus eldarica* (Eldar pine – native to the region)
- Planting sites were chosen based on soil erosion risk and biodiversity restoration needs.
- These efforts built on the 2023 campaigns, showing a 12% increase in total reforested area.

Wildlife Reintroduction and Protection

- The university's Ecology Research Lab participated in a project to monitor and support the population recovery of the Armenian Rock Lizard and Eurasian Tortoise, both vulnerable species found in the Nakhchivan region.
- Student volunteers helped:
 - Track movement via GPS tagging
 - Monitor nesting grounds
 - Raise awareness through exhibitions and workshops

Soil & Flora Monitoring Projects

- NSU students and faculty conducted bi-monthly field trips to study rare endemic plants such as *Iris elegantissima* and *Astragalus* spp.

- Soil sample analysis focused on:
 - Salinity trends,
 - Impact of climate change on soil microfauna,
 - Signs of pesticide contamination in agriculture zones.



Research on Local Flora and Fauna

Scientific Studies by NSU's Faculty of Biology and Ecology

In 2024, NSU's academic departments expanded their efforts to document, analyze, and conserve local biodiversity, particularly within the unique ecosystems of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

Flora Studies

- Endemic Plant Monitoring:
 - Students and faculty catalogued over 35 species of endemic and rare plants in the Zangezur Mountains and Ordubad Forests.
- Notable species included:
 - *Iris elegantissima*
 - *Tamarix ramosissima*
 - *Astragalus dasyglottis*
- Herbarium Expansion:
 - NSU's herbarium collection added 90 new specimens, digitally labeled and catalogued for research and education.
- Threat Mapping:
 - GIS-based mapping was used to identify climate-sensitive zones where flora species are declining due to drought and soil salinization.

Fauna Research

- Observation of Key Species:
 - Long-term observation projects documented species such as:
 - Caucasian agama (*kərtənkələ*)
 - Eurasian golden jackal
 - Eastern imperial eagle (recorded in Julfa highlands)
- Camera Trapping Initiative:
 - In cooperation with local forestry services, six camera traps were installed in protected areas.
- These captured images of:
 - Nocturnal mammals (e.g., foxes, martens)
 - Bird nesting behaviors in semi-arid environments
- Field Reports:
 - Results were published in faculty bulletins and used for bachelor theses in the fields of Zoology and Environmental Sciences.













Introduction

This year Nakhchivan State University further reinforced its dedication to SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, with an emphasis on:

- Strengthening institutional transparency and accountability,
- Advancing legal education and ethical governance,
- Promoting inclusion through student representation and social equity,
- Organizing events that promote intercultural dialogue, national values, and peace.

NSU's Inclusive Education Center, Law Department, and student initiatives collectively contribute to creating an academic environment that upholds fairness, justice, and participation. These efforts also position NSU as a regional leader in developing responsible, justice-oriented future professionals.

Public Access to Policies and Regulations

All key institutional documents were made publicly accessible via the NSU official website, including:

- University Charter
- Internal Disciplinary and Ethics Code
- Academic Freedom Guidelines
- Gender Equality Framework
- These documents are regularly updated and available in both Azerbaijani and English.

Internal Complaint Mechanism

- NSU operates an online anonymous reporting form and internal ombudsperson system for:
 - Harassment or discrimination
 - Academic fairness issues
 - Ethical violations
- In 2024:
 - 19 reports were submitted (up from 11 in 2023)
 - 83% of cases were resolved within 20 working days
 - University administration published an annual Ethics and Integrity Review Report

Legal Education Infrastructure

- The Law Faculty hosted:
 - 2 simulation trials with real court procedures for students
 - 1 “Constitution Day” event in collaboration with the Nakhchivan Judicial Council
 - Public lectures by judges and prosecutors on legal ethics and anti-corruption



Anti-Corruption and Legal Awareness Campaigns

Strengthening Ethics and Rule of Law at NSU

In 2024, we intensified our efforts to promote anti-corruption awareness and legal education through a series of targeted initiatives and collaborations.

Legal Education and Ethics Seminars

- The Faculty of Law organized multiple seminars focusing on:
 - Anti-corruption legislation and its application in Azerbaijan,
 - Ethical standards in public service,
 - Case studies on corruption prevention.
- These seminars featured guest speakers from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Commission on Combating Corruption, providing students with practical insights into the country's anti-corruption framework.

Student-Led Awareness Campaigns

- Law students launched the "Clean Hands" initiative, which included:
 - Distribution of informational brochures on recognizing and reporting corruption,
 - Hosting debates and discussions on the impact of corruption on society,
 - Creating visual art displays around campus to highlight the importance of integrity.
- The campaign engaged over 500 students across various faculties, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability within the university community.

Integration into Curriculum

- NSU incorporated anti-corruption topics into its curriculum by:
 - Introducing modules on legal ethics and public sector accountability,
 - Assigning research projects on comparative anti-corruption practices,
 - Encouraging participation in moot court competitions with themes centered on justice and anti-corruption.

Collaborations and Partnerships

- NSU partnered with local NGOs and international organizations to:
 - Conduct workshops on whistleblower protection,
 - Facilitate internships for students in agencies focused on combating corruption,
 - Participate in national forums discussing strategies to enhance transparency in governance.







Monitoring Mechanisms

- NSU's internal Quality Assurance Unit tracks:
 - Student and faculty feedback on governance and transparency,
 - Effectiveness of complaint resolution systems,
 - Participation levels in democratic structures and legal events.
- A semi-annual "Governance & Ethics Review Report" was produced, analyzing all complaints, resolutions, and progress on legal education metrics.

Goal	Description	Target Year
Expand digital student elections	All faculties to implement e-voting	2025
Launch Legal Research Center	Focused on human rights and justice innovation	2026
Increase outreach campaigns	At least 3 major legal awareness events annually	2025–2027
Strengthen whistleblower systems	Introduce formal whistleblower protection policy	2026

Key Metrics – SDG 16

Indicator	2023	2024	Change
Publicly available policies	6	10	+66%
Complaints submitted via internal system	11	19	+72%
Complaints resolved within 20 working days	8	16	+100%
Student representatives elected	54	74	+37%
Student Voice submissions	180	391	+116%
Participants in legal awareness events	280	450	+61%
Legal seminars held by Law Faculty	4	7	+75%

In 2024, we demonstrated tangible progress in aligning our institutional framework with the core principles of SDG 16 — fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions. Through expanded transparency policies, a more active complaint resolution mechanism, and open access to ethical governance tools, the university built a more accountable and participatory academic environment.

NSU prioritized student engagement by modernizing its electoral processes, empowering student councils, and launching digital platforms like the Student Voice Portal. These tools enabled hundreds of students to participate in policy feedback, elevating the voice of the youth in university governance. Events such as the “Youth & Justice Forum” and legal ethics seminars created practical learning environments while strengthening civic values.

Moreover, the university’s Law Faculty deepened its role in promoting rule of law through collaborations with state legal bodies, student-led campaigns like “Clean Hands,” and curriculum modules focused on anti-corruption and public integrity. These efforts not only informed students about their rights and responsibilities but also encouraged them to be active contributors to a just society.

As NSU looks ahead to 2025 and beyond, its strategic vision is clear: to build a resilient, transparent, and inclusive institution that prepares graduates to champion justice, equity, and human rights in both their professions and communities.



In 2024, NSU reaffirmed its vision to strengthen SDG 17 by building institutional capacity through sustainable partnerships. By engaging with global academic networks, private sector leaders, national institutions, and local communities, NSU improved its impact on education, innovation, and regional development.

- **Global Academic Exchange:** NSU signed a major agreement with John von Neumann University in Hungary. This agreement established the first dual-degree program for Azerbaijani students, marking a new collaboration in computer engineering and business education.
- **International Research Networks:** NSU participated in Erasmus+ projects like DIRNA and hosted online meetings with partner universities, including Khazar, Ganja, and other technical institutions. This aimed to build research infrastructure and improve open-access repositories.
- **Tech-Industry Collaboration:** NSU collaborated with IBM to launch a Software Engineering Institute. This included faculty and staff training in AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and data science, and it formally established a joint IBM-NSU Innovation Center.
- **Regional Innovation Ecosystem:** NSU signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Nakhchivan Confederation of Entrepreneurs and “Cahan Holding.” This agreement enables student internships, training programs, and joint industrial and research projects.
- **Labour Market Alignment:** NSU also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Observatory on Labour Market and Social Protection. This aims to align graduate skills with the labor market's needs and promote collaborative research on workforce development.
- **Global Consortium Membership:** NSU is an active member of the Caucasus University Association and the Union of Universities of the Black Sea Basin. This membership promotes international solidarity and cooperation in higher education.

Through these alliances, NSU continues to strengthen its institutional capabilities and significantly contributes to resilient educational ecosystems, sustainable innovation, and community development across Azerbaijan and beyond.

International Academic Collaborations and Strategic Agreements

NSU significantly expanded its international academic network through the signing of new cooperation agreements, participation in global research projects, and the development of joint educational programs aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17.

Dual Degree Programs and MoUs

We expanded our international academic network through the signing of new cooperation agreements, participation in global research projects, and the development of joint educational programs aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17.

Dual Degree Programs and MoUs

- John von Neumann University (Hungary): A dual degree program was established in Computer Engineering, allowing NSU students to earn qualifications from both institutions. This marked a milestone in NSU's efforts to internationalize its academic offerings and expand mobility opportunities.
- Erzurum Technical University (Turkey): A Memorandum of Understanding focused on student exchanges, faculty training, and collaborative research in environmental engineering and innovation.

Erasmus+ and Global Research Projects

- NSU actively participated in three major Erasmus+ projects in 2024:
 - ECOLEAD: Enhancing climate education through cross-border collaboration.
 - DIRNA: Focused on developing a digital research infrastructure and improving accessibility to academic resources.
 - ENGAGE: Promoting entrepreneurial skills and social responsibility among university students in Eastern Europe.



Public-Private and Governmental Partnerships

NSU deepened its role as a regional development catalyst through robust collaborations with industry, government, and civil society, thereby strengthening SDG 17 implementation across the economy, education, and society.

Industry Cooperation for Innovation and Skills

- A Memorandum of Cooperation with Cahan Holding and the Nakhchivan Confederation of Entrepreneurs facilitated internships, entrepreneurship training, and collaborative projects in NSU's upcoming technopark, directly linking academia to industry needs.
- NSU also signed collaboration protocols with local firms like Lazzet Food Industry and APF Group, enabling student-practical learning, joint applied research, and access to professional mentorship.

Academic and Cultural Exchange

- A teacher and student exchange program was launched with Erzurum Atatürk University in Turkey, enabling faculty development and cross-border mobility—part of NSU's broader strategy of academic internationalization.
- NSU participated in the Robotex Azerbaijan Eurasian Championship, demonstrating innovation and outreach in emerging technologies alongside global partners.

Government-Linked Engagements

- NSU hosted a high-level Open Microphone event with the President's Authorized Representative to foster dialogue on youth engagement and policy co-creation.
- Faculty and students collaborated with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and local NGOs on conservation efforts demonstrating commitment to SDG17-driven public impact.





Participation in International Networks and International Action

NSU extended its role in global educational and development networks, institution building, international presence, and best practice sharing for sustainable development in relation to SDG 17 in 2024.

Membership in International Networks

NSU remained a member of the Caucasus University Association and participated in inter-university dialogue on regional peace, innovation, and sustainable education.

Through the Black Sea Universities Network, NSU collaborated within joint conferences and thematic clusters of research, particularly in environmental science and digital innovation.

NSU was part of the IAU Cluster Higher Education for Sustainable Development, participating in peer-learning exercises and SDG-mapped reporting training sessions with European and Central Asian universities.

Global SDG Dialogues Engagement

NSU participated in the UNESCO Global Forum on Higher Education and the SDGs, wherein university members learned from curriculum reforms and community-centered sustainability initiatives. The university participated in the UNAI (United Nations Academic Impact) activities through conducting seminars, essay competitions, and public campaigns on SDG-themed topics among students and staff.

Regional SDG Cooperation

In collaboration with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic Department of Foreign Affairs, NSU hosted guest delegations from Türkiye, Hungary, and Kazakhstan under themes of SDG research exchange, climate innovation, and youth policy development.

Co-briefings and joint workshops on SDGs were held in collaboration with UN Information Center local staff to promote harmonization with national sustainability indicators.





Observation and Evaluation of Impact

By putting strong monitoring procedures in place, NSU improved its oversight of partnerships. An annual audit of 26 active Memorandums of Understanding was carried out by the university's Office of International Affairs, which assessed performance metrics like student involvement, research outputs, and internship placements. Together with partners like Cahan Holding and the Confederation of Entrepreneurs, a quarterly review process was also established to track the advancement of cooperative events, vocational training, and technopark projects ask.org.az. More than 800 responses were gathered through a special student feedback portal, which assisted NSU in evaluating the usefulness of partnership-led programs and realigning future partnerships.

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Indicator	2023	2024	Change
Active MoUs	19	26	▲ +37%
Internships via partnerships	—	12 SMEs	—
Joint SDG-related events	8	14	▲ +75%
Externally funded SDG 17 projects	5	9	▲ +80%
Faculty & staff in international working	22	40	▲ +82%

Future Directions (2025–2026)

Create a Center for SDG Partnerships

The new centre will consolidate coordination of local and international collaboration, monitor projects in line with the SDGs, and act as a central node for building shared value partnerships.

Start a digital SDG Dashboard

The open platform will provide live data across all 17 SDGs, including partnership analytics, live heatmaps for regional SDG impact, and annual case study spotlights.

Expand Tri-sector Roundtables

From 2025, the NSU will host multilateral roundtables with (other) government, NGO and private sector actors to identify common priorities with respect to sustainability in the region.

Join Horizon Europe / Erasmus+ Consortia

NSU will join multinational consortia related to climate resilience, digital innovation and social inclusion by the middle of 2025, building its global research connectivity.

Scale Private Sector Engagement

NSU will deepen existing collaborations (e.g., IBM, Cahan Holding, Lazzet Food, APF Group) and engage 5 additional enterprises annually to co-develop internship programs, applied research, and green innovation challenges.



CONCLUSION

NSU showcased its institutional commitment to sustainable development with a multi-dimensional strategy inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The achievements of the year present not just steady progress along all 17 goals but also the ability of the university to lead deep change at the intersection of education, innovation, and community well-being.

Through its use of inclusive education, NSU addressed inequity by awarding over 2,700 scholarships, expanding underrepresented groups and rural inhabitants' access to postsecondary education. Enhanced gender balance—manifest in female departmental leadership within academic departments and even student enrollment representation—reflected NSU's dedication to equality and opportunity (SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 10). Following health-related goals, the university arranged over 30 awareness campaigns, better sanitation training, and new mental health services that enabled students and aided public health infrastructure (SDG 3, SDG 6).

We also pushed forward climate action, renewable energy facilities, and green infrastructure (SDG 7 & SDG 13). Solar power expansion, LED retrofitting, and environmental training modules assisted in lowering carbon and improving climate literacy. All this was supported by sustainable consumption patterns (SDG 12), food support schemes (SDG 2), and waste management reforms—all incorporated into student life, curriculum, and operations.

Above all, NSU became a regional leader in partner development. As part of Erasmus+ and Horizon projects, the university expanded its global cooperation network, developed more partnership with regional businesses such as Cahan Holding, and joined national and international sustainability debates. With more than 40 staff and teaching faculty members involved in international SDG working groups, NSU proved that it was eager to learn and participate in global best practices (SDG 17).

Looking forward to 2025 and beyond, NSU aims to grow its activity through stronger monitoring systems, a centralized SDG Partnership Center, and a Roadmap for a Carbon-Neutral Campus. It will launch university-wide climate education modules, bolster dual-degree programs, and expand international involvement while being rooted in community effect and regional applicability.

Overall, this report does not merely enumerate successes—it certifies NSU's growing leadership in sustainability in higher education. By incorporating the SDGs into pedagogy, operations, research, and collaborations, NSU is laying the groundwork for a more equitable, sustainable, and environmentally conscious world. The university is a testament to the way local institutions can answer global aspirations through joint effort, shared sense, and vision-driven strategy.

KEYWORDS

No.	Keywords	Description
1	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Global framework guiding NSU's initiatives
2	Nakhchivan State University (NSU)	Institution committed to sustainable goals
3	Education Access and Equity	Efforts to ensure inclusive education
4	Financial Support and Scholarships	Financial aid to support student access
5	Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1)	Programs to reduce economic barriers
6	Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2)	Initiatives for food support and agriculture
7	Health and Well-being Initiatives (SDG 3)	Campaigns and healthcare programs
8	Quality Education (SDG 4)	Access to quality educational resources
9	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (SDG 5)	Support for equal opportunities
10	Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)	Water conservation and sanitation programs
11	Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7)	Green energy and efficiency projects
12	Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)	Job and internship support for students
13	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9)	Technopark and infrastructure development
14	Reduced Inequalities and Inclusivity (SDG 10)	Programs for diversity and inclusion
15	Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)	Urban planning and green campus initiatives
16	Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)	Recycling and waste reduction practices
17	Climate Action and Environmental Awareness (SDG 13)	Environmental campaigns and research
18	Life Below Water and Water Conservation (SDG 14)	Water conservation and sustainable usage
19	Life on Land and Biodiversity Conservation (SDG 15)	Ecosystem protection and reforestation
20	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)	Governance and legal framework for equality
21	Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)	Local and international collaborations
22	Environmental Sustainability	Campus-wide sustainable practices
23	Green Campus and Renewable Energy	LED lighting, solar panels, and wind turbines
24	LED Lighting and Energy Efficiency	Energy-saving infrastructure upgrades
25	Ecosystem Conservation	Programs to protect local flora and fauna
26	Inclusive Education Center	Support for diverse student needs
27	Legal and Governance Transparency	Transparent communication and governance
28	Technological Innovation and Technopark	Hands-on tech and innovation experience
29	Robotics and STEAM Education	Student engagement in science and technology
30	Student Internships and Career Development	Practical work experiences for students
31	Strategic Partnerships (Local, National, International)	Collaborative projects for SDG goals
32	Cultural Heritage Preservation	Initiatives to protect local culture
33	Community Engagement and Volunteerism	Student involvement in community projects
34	Resource Management and Recycling	Waste reduction and recycling initiatives
35	Tree Planting and Reforestation	Tree planting to support green spaces
36	Climate Change Mitigation	Measures to combat climate impacts
37	Sustainable Procurement Policies	Sourcing practices that support sustainability
38	Sustainable Urban Planning	Planning for resilient and green infrastructure
39	Water Quality Monitoring	Projects to ensure clean water resources
40	Biodiversity Protection	Protection of native species and habitats
41	Academic Excellence and Research	Promoting academic contributions to SDGs
42	Environmental Law and Awareness	Educating on environmental regulations
43	Digital Security and Information Protection	Cybersecurity training and resources
44	SDG Education and Integration	Curriculum aligned with SDG principles
45	Youth Empowerment and Leadership	Student leadership and empowerment programs
46	Inclusivity in Higher Education	Accessibility and equity in education
47	International Collaboration and Exchange	Erasmus+ and global partnerships
48	Student Health Campaigns	Initiatives for student health and wellness
49	Waste Management Initiatives	Programs to reduce and repurpose waste
50	Agricultural Research and Development	Research in sustainable farming and food security

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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

