

NAKHCHIVAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

20
24

SDG PROGRESS REPORT



THE GLOBAL GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY





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.

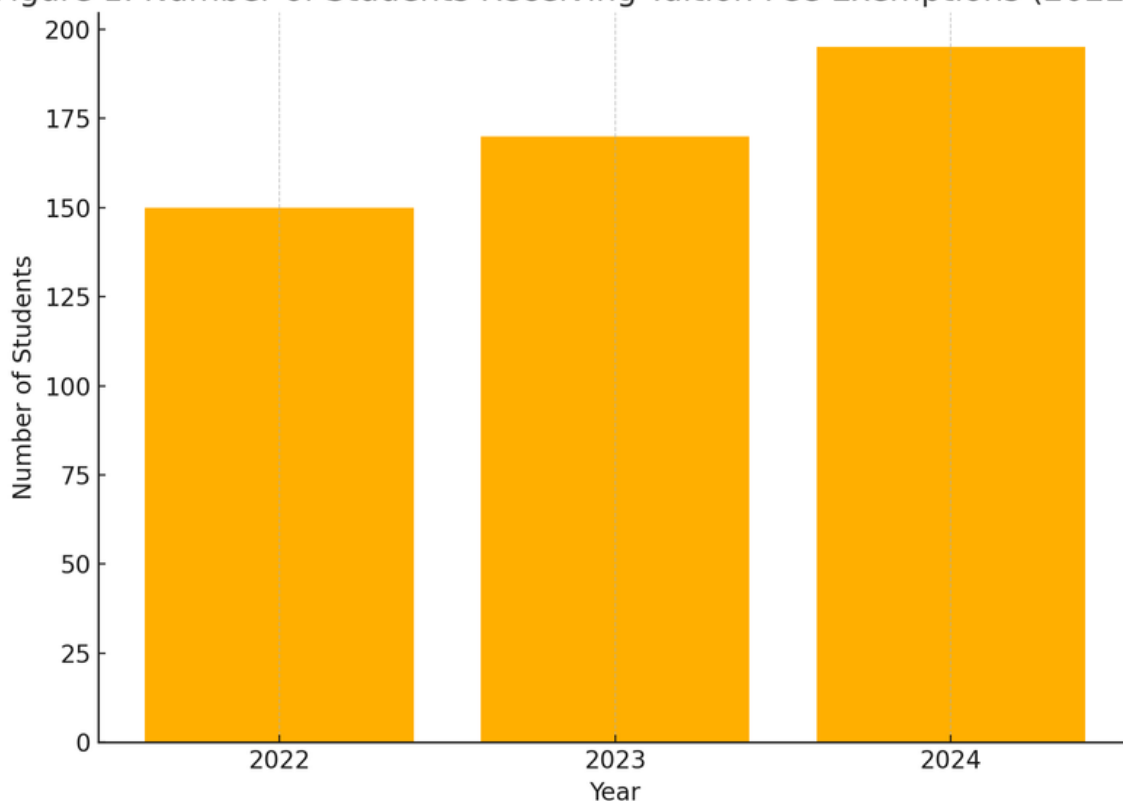
Refund and Reduction of Tuition Charges

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)



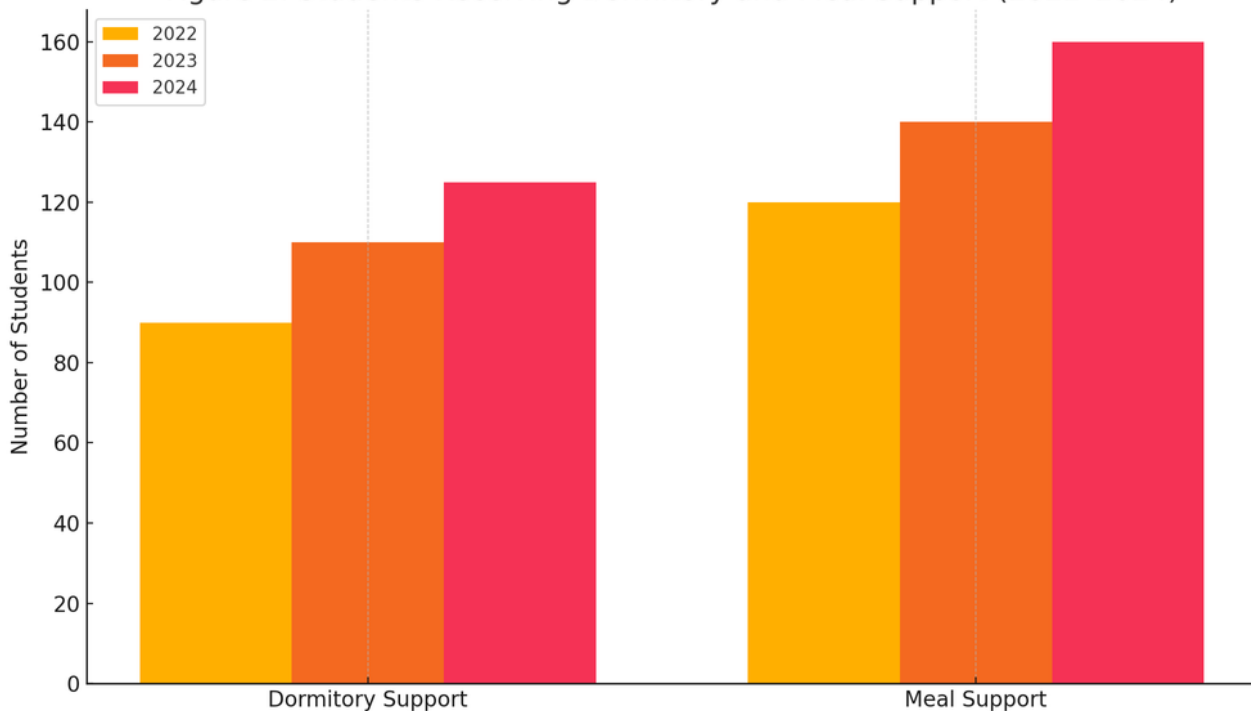
Dormitory and Meal Support

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.

Figure 2. Students Receiving Dormitory and Meal Support (2022-2024)



Devices and Access to Digital Learning

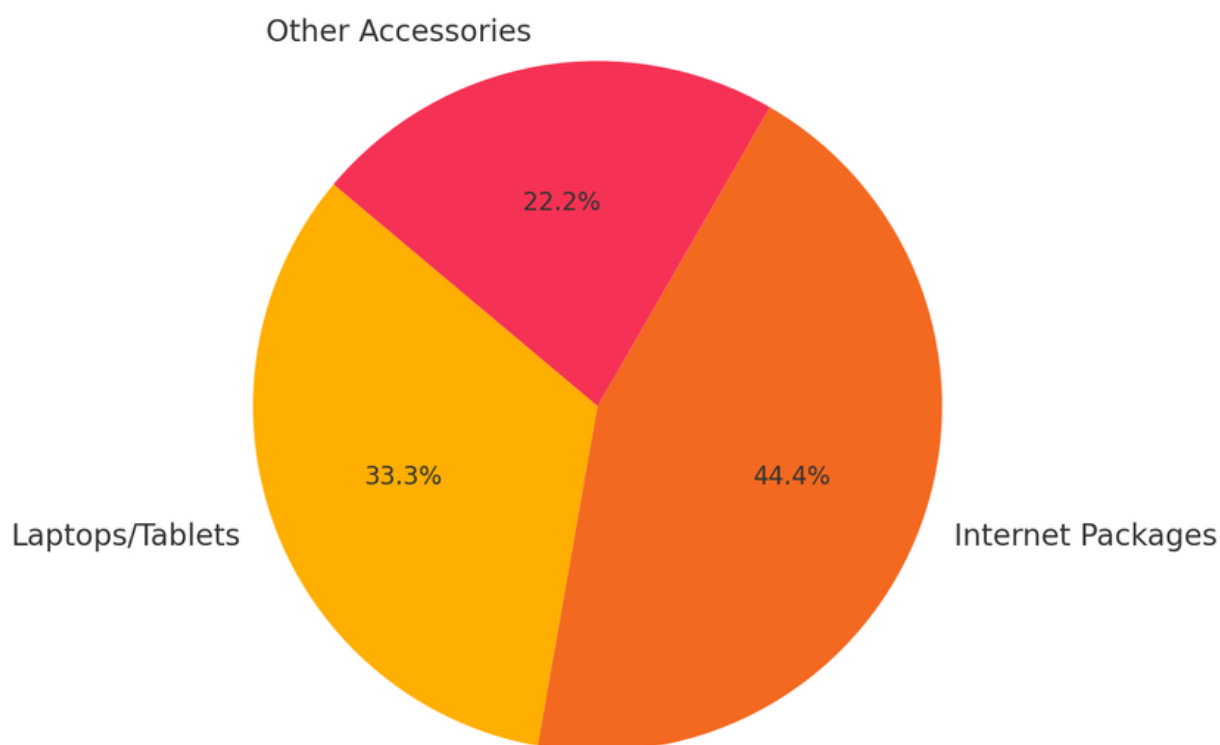
To close the digital divide, NSU would maintain its distribution of laptops, tablets, internet packages and other learning tools to as many students as had no digital access. This was particularly important for students learning remotely and students from low-income families.

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



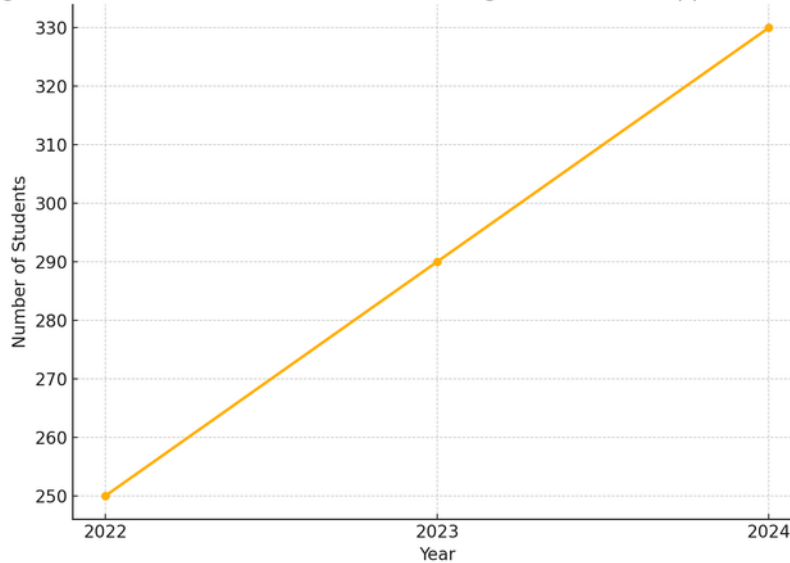
Institutional Scope and Impact

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.

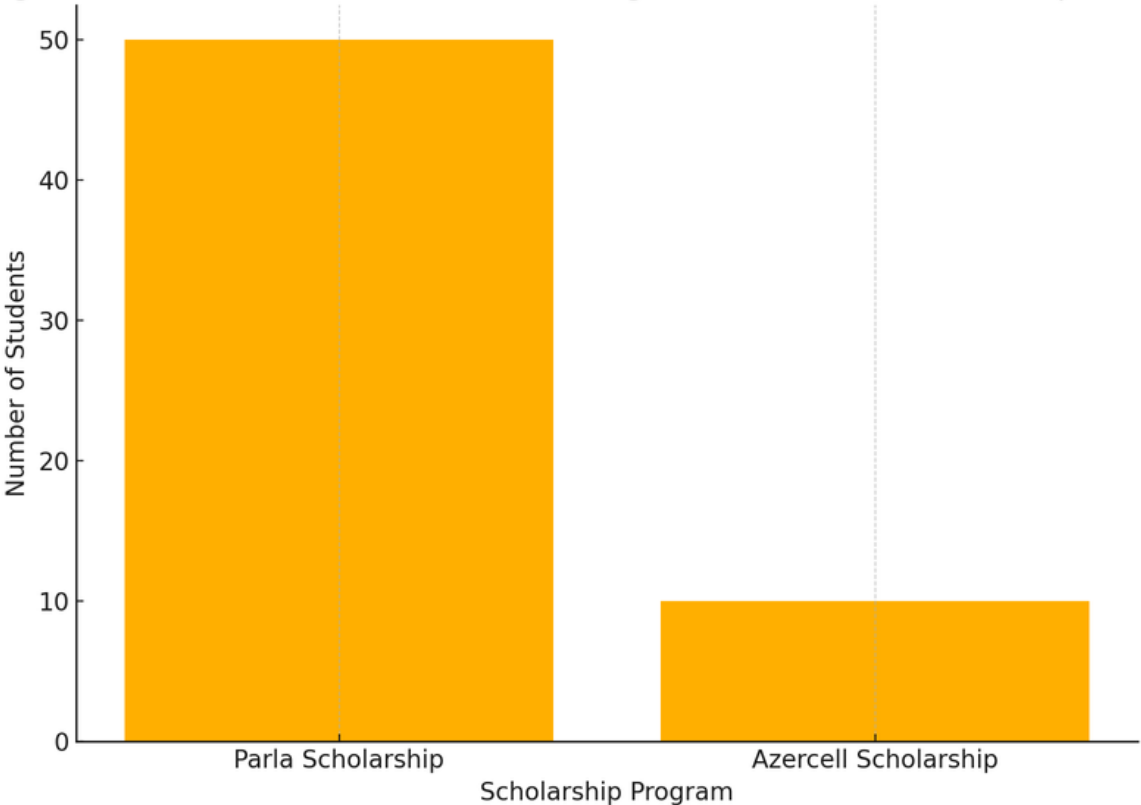
Azercell Student Scholarship 2024

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

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.