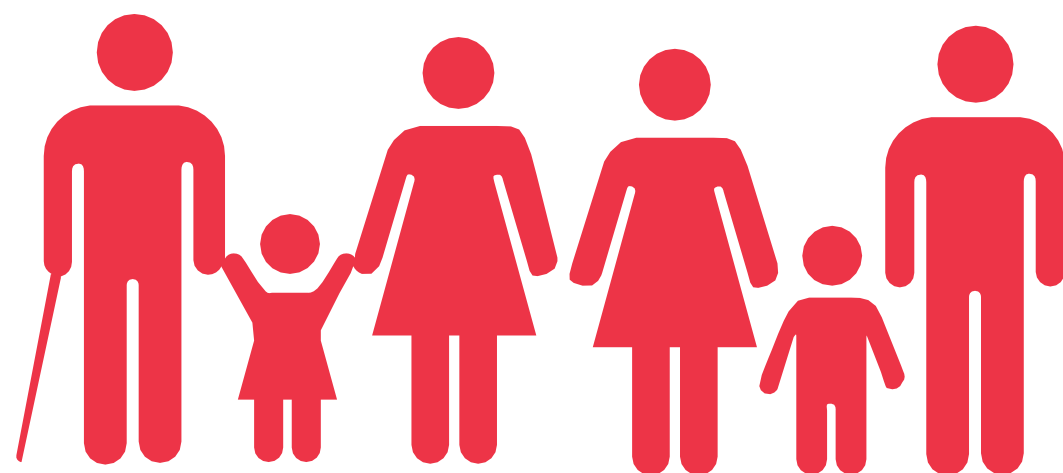


The Sustainability Report

1 NO POVERTY



2024/2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gulf University reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) by implementing a range of impactful initiatives during the academic year 2024–2025. Building upon its long-term strategy to alleviate social and economic hardship, the university has combined community outreach, student volunteerism, and research-driven innovation to support vulnerable groups and strengthen local resilience. Through its Community Engagement and Continuing Education Centre (CECEC) and the Sustainability and Development Makers Center (SDMC), Gulf University has executed multiple flagship programs, including the Iftar Saem Meal Distribution,

Clothing Swap & Donation Drive with Kiswa Bahrain, Elderly Home Visits, and Charity Drives for Palestinian Families. The university has also advanced digital inclusion by donating refurbished computers through its Old Computers New Life Cycling project and promoted sustainable livelihoods via the Smart Irrigation System Project, which achieved measurable savings in water and energy use.

Collectively, these efforts provided direct assistance to hundreds of beneficiaries while promoting inclusive education, environmental stewardship, and social solidarity across Bahrain. Gulf University's contribution directly supports SDG targets 1.1 through 1.A—eradicating extreme poverty, expanding access to technology and resources, and mobilizing community partnerships. By embedding sustainability into teaching, research, and civic action, Gulf University continues to serve as a model for higher-education institutions working to end poverty in all its forms and to build a more equitable future for the Kingdom of Bahrain and beyond.

Key Highlights (2021 – 2025)

- Community engagement related to SDG 1 (No Poverty)
- Gulf University engagement related to SDG 1 (by Dr. Omar)
- Planning, implementation, monitoring and ICT-based poverty programs
- Background
- Iftar Saem initiative
- Beach clean-up event
- Elderly home visit
- Charitable event for Palestine
- Association for the Care of the Holy Qur'an

Key Highlights (2021 – 2025) for SDG 1 (No Poverty)



Key Highlights (2021 – 2025)

- **Food Security & Humanitarian Aid:** Annual *Iftar Saem* campaigns delivered more than 900 hot meals to individuals in need across Bahrain.
- **Donation & Clothing Support:** The *Clothing Swap & Donation Drive* with **Kiswa Bahrain** redistributed 200 + garments to families and students.
- **Digital Inclusion:** *Old Computers – New Life Cycling* initiative donated 50 refurbished computers to reduce digital poverty.
- **Community Engagement:** Charity Drives, Elderly Home Visits, and volunteer activities organized by students and staff fostered solidarity and social care.
- **Innovation & Sustainability:** *Smart Irrigation System Project* by the College of Engineering achieved ~30 % water savings and gained 33rd place globally in a Hackathon.

Key Highlights for current year 2024/2025

Clothing Donation Campaign

Collected and redistributed clothing to families in need, in partnership with Kiswa Bahrain.



“Gold for Good” Tournament for Staff Children

Organized a sports event with gift distribution, promoting inclusion and joy among children from diverse backgrounds.



Volunteers Club Activities

- Community Clean-Up Campaigns: Improved public spaces while engaging volunteers.
- Field Visits to Shelters & Elderly Centers: Offered companionship and care to marginalized groups.
- Service Awareness Fair: Educated the public on the power of volunteering to reduce poverty and uplift communities.

SDG 1 Relevance: These initiatives foster dignity, reduce material deprivation, and promote active citizenship.

Distribution of Iftar Meals during Ramadan

Maintained tradition of meal distribution to ensure no one is left behind during Ramadan.

SDG 1 Relevance: Reinforces food access and community solidarity.



2. Community Engagement Related to SDG 1 (No Poverty)

▪ Gulf University Launches Clothing Swap & Donation Drive in Collaboration with Kiswa Bahrain

Pillar: Donation and Community Support

Linked SDGs:

- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 1 – No Poverty
- SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

As part of Sustainability Week 2024, Gulf University, in collaboration with Kiswa Bahrain, organized a Clothing Swap & Donation Drive on October 21, 2024.

The initiative aimed to:

- Promote sustainable consumption by encouraging the reuse and exchange of clothing
- Support individuals and families in need by collecting and redistributing gently used garments
- Raise awareness among students and staff about the environmental and social impact of textile waste

The donation drive took place on campus and witnessed active participation from students, faculty, and administrative staff, who contributed generously to the cause. All collected items were sorted and prepared for donation in coordination with Kiswa Bahrain, a local organization committed to clothing redistribution and social welfare.

This initiative reflects Gulf University's strong commitment to:

- Fostering a culture of giving and sustainability
- Empowering students to contribute to social responsibility goals
- Creating meaningful partnerships with community-based organizations

This campaign is part of a broader commitment by Gulf University to integrate social impact and environmental awareness into campus life and community engagement strategies.



IFTAR SAMIM – MEAL DISTRIBUTION DURING RAMADAN

Linked SDGs:

- SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
- SDG 1 – No Poverty

Objective: OB16.IN02 – Encourage active student and faculty participation in community issues

As part of its charitable initiatives during the holy month of Ramadan, Gulf University, through the Community Engagement and Continuing Education Center, launched the "Iftar Samim" campaign, distributing 400 hot meals to individuals in need.

The meals were handed out just before Iftar time, primarily at traffic light intersections and in low-income residential and camp areas, ensuring that fasting individuals—especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds—could break their fast on time.

This initiative:

- Directly supports SDG 2 – Zero Hunger by addressing immediate nutritional needs in the community.
- Contributes to SDG 1 – No Poverty by providing essential food relief to people facing financial hardship, thus reducing the daily burden of food expenses.

The campaign reflects the university's strong commitment to social solidarity, community care, and active civic responsibility by involving both students and faculty in meaningful outreach during the holy month.



International Children's Day – Gift Distribution Initiative

Gulf University distributed gifts to children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to promote inclusion and joy.

Relevance to SDG 1: Supports emotional and social well-being of children in poverty, fostering community care.



Donation of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Sensors

Medical devices were donated to individuals with diabetes who may not afford such equipment.

Relevance to SDG 1: Reduces health-related financial burdens for low-income patients, improving quality of life.

Support for the Friendship Society for the Blind

Gulf University provided donations and organized activities to support visually impaired individuals.

Relevance to SDG 1: Promotes inclusion and economic support for people with disabilities, who often face higher poverty risks.

Resource Access – Facilities for Community Use

University halls and media studios were made available to schools and NGOs for events and training.

Relevance to SDG 1: Enhances access to educational and social infrastructure for underserved groups.

Open Prisons and Alternative Penalty Workshops

Training sessions were delivered to inmates and staff to support rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Relevance to SDG 1: Empowers marginalized individuals with skills for employment and reduces recidivism-related poverty.

- Iftar Seam Campaign: Distributing meals to those in need during Ramadan
- Elderly Home Visit: Combating social exclusion among senior citizens
- Free Training Sessions: Empowering individuals with skills for employment
- Alfalah School Consultations: Enhancing access to media education
- Open Prisons MoU: Supporting rehabilitation and job readiness for inmates



Gulf University Engagement Related to SDG 1 (No Poverty)

OVERVIEW

Over the past three academic years, Gulf University (GU) has actively contributed to SDG 1: No Poverty through a combination of social events, direct actions, community engagement, and systemic innovation. The university’s initiatives include on-campus and off-campus activities, food distribution, clothing donations, technology access, and research-driven agricultural solutions. Together, these efforts have helped different beneficiaries and gained effective recognition for sustainability efforts towards SDG 1.

TABLE 1. TIMELINE OF SDG 1 ACTIVITIES (2022–2025)

| Academic Year | Activity | Lead Unit | Beneficiaries / Outputs | Notes |
|---------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 2022–2023 | “Old Computers New Life Cycling” – Donation of 50 Refurbished old Computers | Community Engagement Centre | Different received refurbished computers | Addressed digital poverty |
| 2022–2024 | Iftar Saem – Free Ramadan Meals | Community Engagement Centre | ~300 meals annually (~900 total) | Annual recurring initiative |
| 2023 | SDMC “No Poverty Initiative” Charity Drive | Sustainability & Development Makers Center | Beneficiaries supported with food & goods | Listed on SDMC website |
| 2024 | Smart Irrigation System Project | College of Engineering (EEE Dept.) | Reduced irrigation costs by ~30% in pilot farming | 33rd globally in Hackathon |
| 2024–2025 | Sustainability Week: Clothing Swap & Donation Drive (Kiswa Bahrain) | Community Engagement Centre + Staff | 200+ clothing items redistributed | Linked to Sustainability Week 2025 |

TABLE 2. IMPACT STATISTICS

| Category | Metric | Value / Estimate | Source / Reference |
|------------------------|--|--|---|
| Food Security | Free meals distributed (Iftar Saem) | ~900 meals (2022–2024) | GU Community Engagement Centre reports |
| Digital Inclusion | Computers donated (“New Life Cycling”) | 50 units | GU SDG 1 activity report |
| Direct Aid | People supported (Charity Drive 2023) | 120 beneficiaries | SDMC Website |
| Clothing Support | Items collected (Clothing Swap 2025) | 200+ items | GU Sustainability Week 2024 Day 2 |
| Agriculture Innovation | Irrigation cost reduction (Smart Irrigation) | ~30% water savings, ~20 BHD/month savings per greenhouse | GU Press Release / Hackathon records |
| Global Recognition | Smart Irrigation Hackathon ranking | 33rd place globally | World Engineering Day Hackathon results |

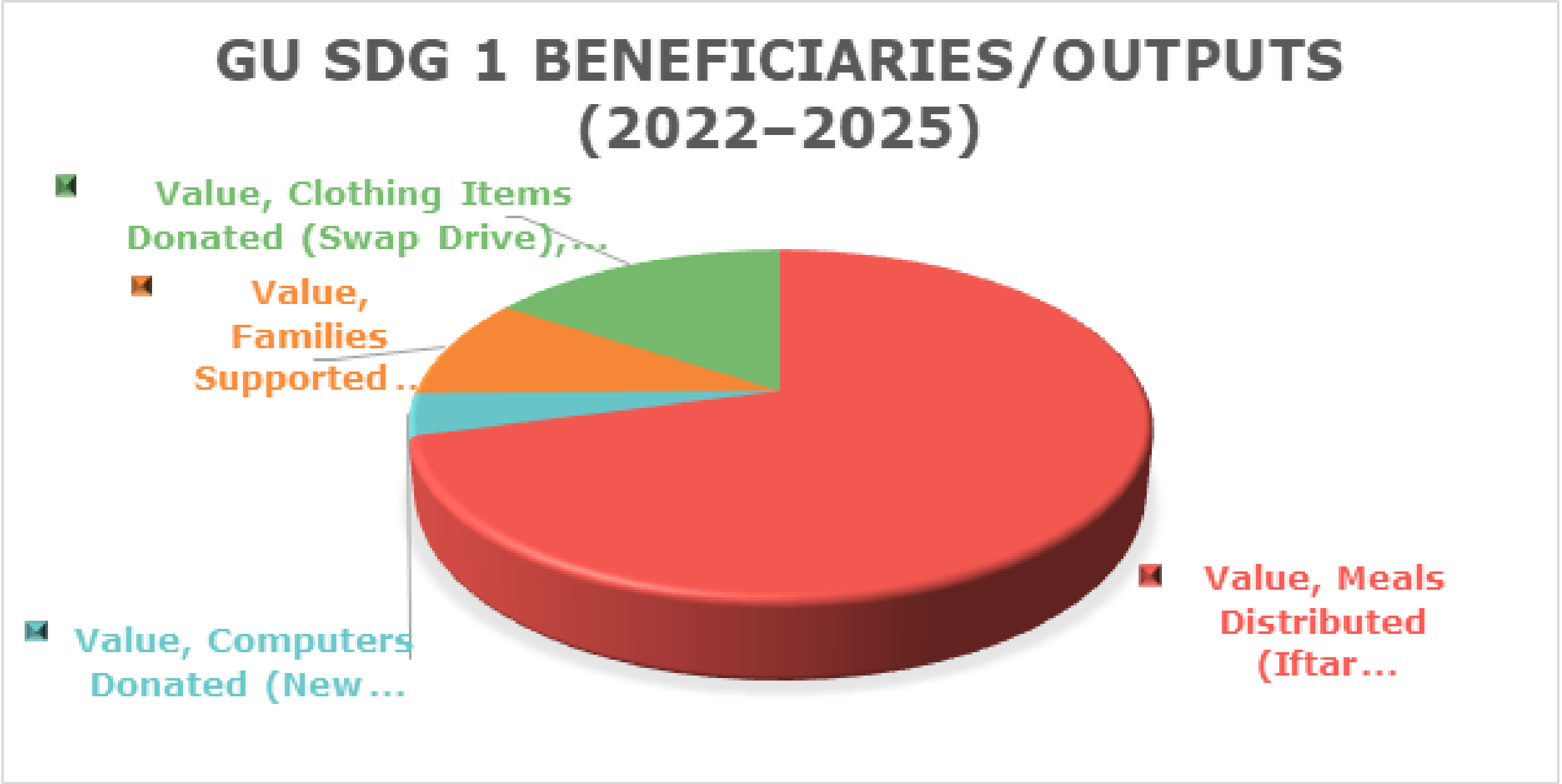


TABLE 3. ALIGNMENT WITH SDG 1 TARGETS

| UN SDG 1 Target | Gulf University Activity | Contribution Type |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1.1: Eradicate extreme poverty | Iftar Saem meals, Clothing donations | Direct relief to vulnerable groups |
| 1.2: Reduce poverty through access to resources | “New Life Cycling” computer donation | Education & digital empowerment |
| 1.4: Equal rights to economic resources, technology | Smart Irrigation Project | Affordable access to agricultural tech |
| 1.5: Build resilience of poor and reduce vulnerability | Smart Irrigation + Charity Drives | Resilience in farming & community aid |
| 1.A: Mobilization of resources for poverty reduction | SDMC-led charity drives | Community partnerships & resources |

Planning, implementation, monitoring, and/or evaluation of all programs related to No Poverty through the utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT):

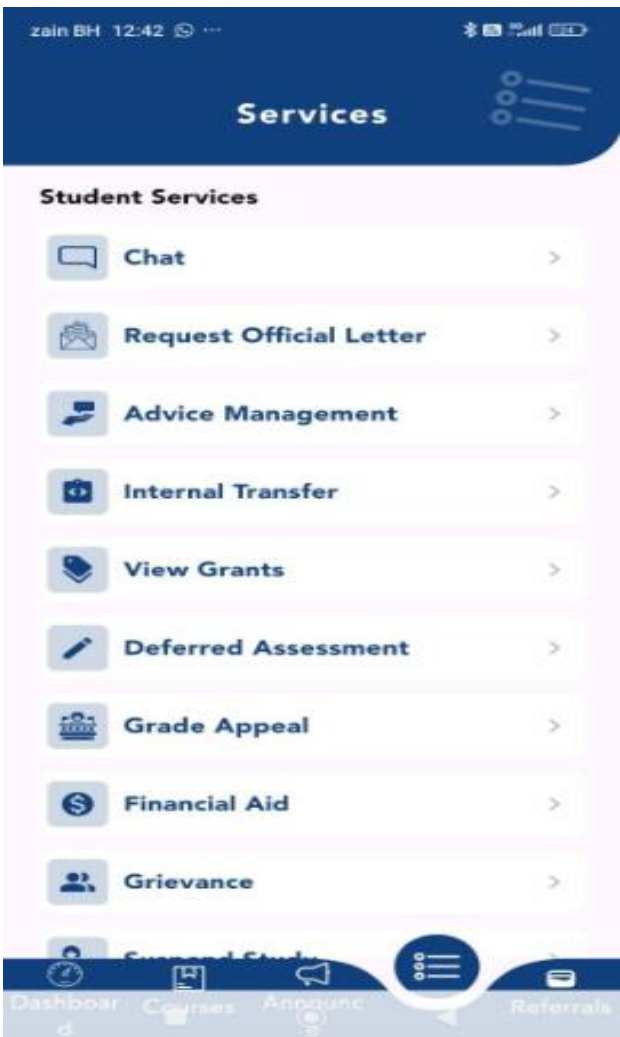
Gulf University supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) by leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance educational access and equity. One of its key initiatives includes offering scholarships of up to 50% to deserving students, helping reduce the financial burden of higher education. Through its integrated digital platforms, the university ensures that financial support services are accessible, transparent, and efficient, thereby empowering students from low-income backgrounds to pursue their academic goals without interruption. Below is list of

1. Scholarships up to 50%:

Offering scholarships of up to 50% to deserving students, helping reduce the financial burden of higher education studies.

2. Digital Financial Inclusion:

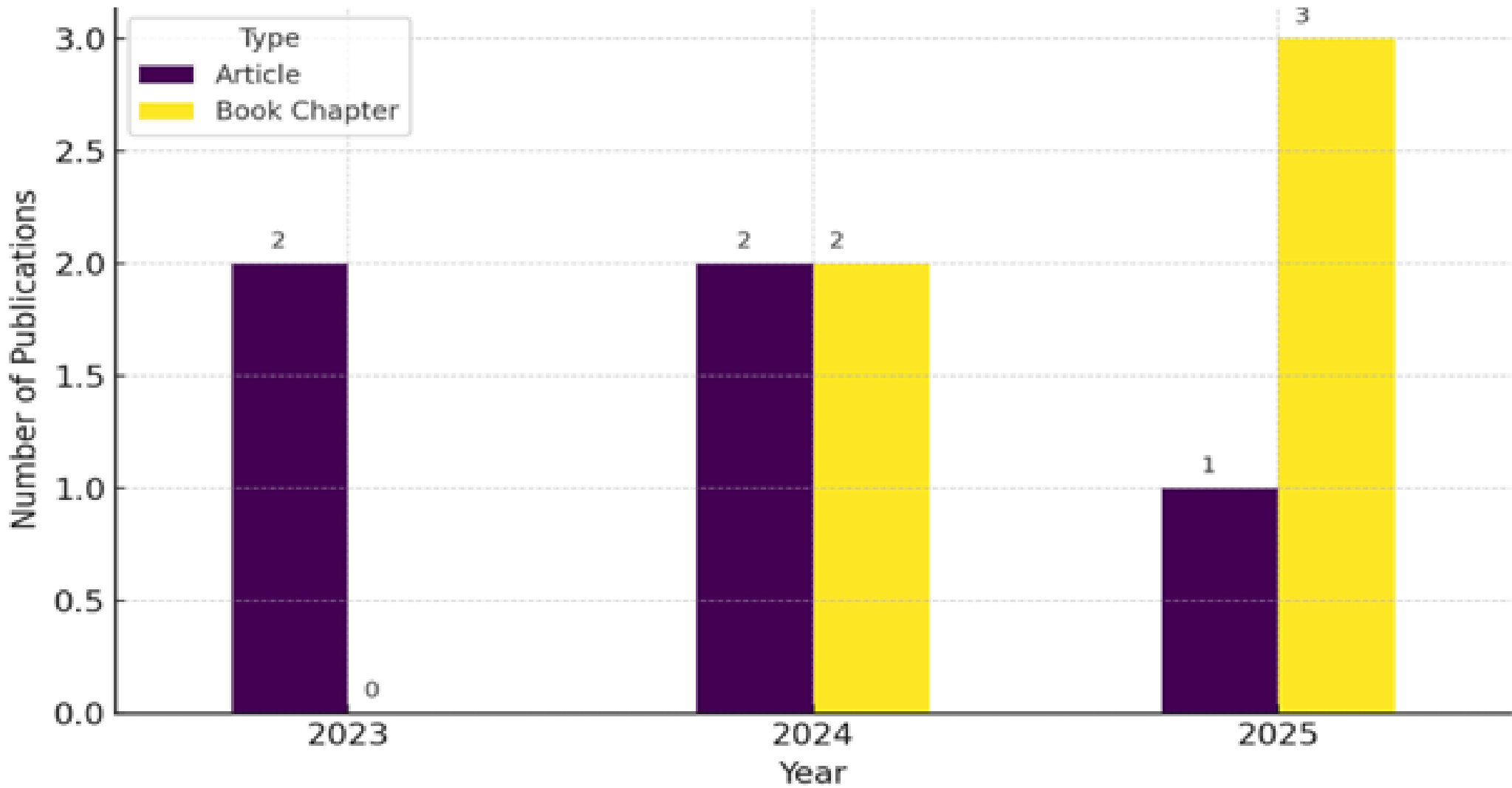
Students can manage their tuition payments conveniently via the university’s student portal and mobile application. These platforms allow for flexible installment plans and a variety of payment methods, reducing the financial pressure on students and their families.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

The Gulf University provided printing paper and files to the Association for the Care of the Holy Qur'an on 07/03/2024. In addition, The Community Engagement Centre at GU supplied furniture to assist a man in need, as part of its ongoing initiatives.

SDG 1 Publications by Type & Year



SDG 1 Articles in 2024-2025 (July)

| Authors Name | Title | Journal Name | Type | Year |
|--|---|---|--------------|------|
| Shaari, M.S., Al Absey, M.S.M., Majekodunmi, T.B., Ridzuan, A.R., Jaheer Mukthar, K.P. | The non-linear impacts of poverty, economic growth and unemployment on child abuse | Discover Social Science and Health | Article | 2025 |
| Bala, H., Sani, A.A., Al-Absy, M.S.M., Nusrathunnisa, u., Benbelgacem, S. | Gauging the Act of Female Board and Audit Committee Attributes on Creative Accounting Practice: The Moderating Effect of Board Age Diversity | Studies in Systems Decision and Control | Book Chapter | 2025 |
| Ateeq, A.A. | Emerging Economies and Digital Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges | Studies in Systems Decision and Control | Book Chapter | 2025 |
| Alzoraiki, M. | Greening Our Future: A Comprehensive Analysis of Sustainable Practices and Their Role in Promoting Environmental Quality and Human Well-Being | Studies in Systems Decision and Control | Book Chapter | 2025 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------|------|
| Khurshid, N., Butt, N.A., Fiaz, A., Tabash, M.I., Al-Absy, M.S.M. | Do Climate Change Matter for Agricultural Production in an era of Globalization? Empirical Insights from Pakistan | International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy | Article | 2024 |
| Abdullahi, A., Bala, H., Bala, H., Al-Absy, M.S.M., Sani, A.A. | Competition Law and Social Welfare Sustainability Goals | Studies in Systems Decision and Control | Book Chapter | 2024 |
| Siswanti, I., Riyadh, H.A., Cahaya, Y.F., Putra, Y.M., Beshr, B.A.H. | Unveiling the dynamics of the business sustainability model: a holistic analysis of financial and digital transformation | Cogent Business and Management | Article | 2024 |
| A/p, B., Najiha Binti Bahari, N.U., Dashvine A/p Gopalakrishnan, G., Jaafar, H.B., Al-Absy, M.S.M. | Practice of Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plans: Evidence from Malaysian Companies | Studies in Systems Decision and Control | Book Chapter | 2024 |

CONCLUSION

Through its diverse initiatives, Gulf University has demonstrated measurable and multi-dimensional contributions to SDG 1: No Poverty. Via the Sustainability Week Event, “Iftar Saem” action, clothing Multiple individuals and beneficiaries have benefited from direct aid activities such as food distribution, clothing swap day on-campus, donations, and computer access, etc, while systemic innovation projects like the Smart Irrigation System address long-term poverty drivers. This dual approach underlines GU’s commitment to combining community service with research-driven innovation via several designed events, initiatives and activities.

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