



الجامعة العربية الأمريكية
ARAB AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Palestine



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2021-2023



Welcoming Message

I am pleased to present our annual Sustainability Report, a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainable practices, environmental responsibility, and societal well-being. In these pages, you will find a comprehensive overview of our initiatives, progress, and aspirations in sustainability.



Prof. Ali Zedan Abu Zuhri
University President

As we navigate an era defined by unprecedented global challenges, the importance of sustainability has never been more pronounced. At Arab American University, we believe that education is not just a means to transform lives; it is a catalyst for positive change in our world. Our commitment to sustainability is integral to our mission, reflecting our dedication to fostering a better future for all.

This report chronicles our efforts to integrate sustainability into every aspect of our university community. From innovative research endeavors and curriculum enhancements to energy conservation initiatives and community engagement projects, our multifaceted approach underscores our belief that sustainable practices should permeate all spheres of our existence.

To our esteemed faculty, dedicated staff, enthusiastic students, and valued partners, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your passion, creativity, and commitment have been instrumental in our collective achievements. We have made significant strides, but we recognize that our journey is ongoing. Your continued dedication will be pivotal as we explore new horizons and confront emerging challenges.

To our broader community, including our alumni, partners, and stakeholders, I invite you to delve into this report and witness the impact of your support and partnership. Your support fuels our initiatives and strengthens our resolve to create a sustainable and equitable future.

We share this report with the world in the spirit of transparency and collaboration. It is a testament to our shared values and determination to be responsible stewards of our environment and society. I encourage you to engage with its contents, ask questions, and join us in our commitment to sustainability.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, let us continue to inspire positive change, foster innovation, and build a sustainable future for generations to come.



Arab American University, Palestine

Arab American University (AAUP) is the first private Palestinian university, founded in the year 2000, in collaboration with California State University (CSU) in Stanislaus and Utah State University (USU) in Logan. The University started in one campus located in Jenin City in the northern area of the West Bank. In 2020, the university established a new campus in Ramallah City.

AAUP serves the educational needs of over 13,500 students, 65% of whom are from Palestine, 30% from the Palestinian homeland, and 5% from other nationalities. The university provides a dynamic learning atmosphere that inspires innovation and focuses primarily on every student's success.

AAUP is committed to providing high-quality education to both local and international students, with a vision to become a leader in higher education in Palestine. The university has made impressive progress in developing state-of-the-art educational facilities and laboratories, creating a dynamic learning environment. AAUP offers a unique and diverse education system with a wide range of academic programs that are in high demand.

The necessity-motivated programs aim to equip graduates with the skills, qualifications, and

knowledge required to develop independent thinking and entrepreneurship capabilities, contributing to sustainable national development. To achieve this, AAUP attracts outstanding professionals, scholars, and researchers from both Palestine and abroad, which enriches and diversifies the sources of education and facilitates the transfer of the latest scientific and technological achievements.

AAUP takes pride in being a leading academic institution that actively participates in local, regional, and international academic forums. Additionally, the university holds memberships in prestigious organizations such as the Association of Arab Universities, the Federation of Islamic Universities, and the Association of Private Universities. The university is an active member of the UNIMED, the Mediterranean Universities Union.

Furthermore, the University aims to provide a satisfying learning experience, complemented by extracurricular activities. AAUP accepts challenges and seizes opportunities to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the national, regional, and global economies of the twenty-first century.



Vision

The Arab American University aspires to be known for graduating students who far exceed expectations locally and globally, adhere to the highest ethical standards, and have a real impact on society through research and innovation.

Mission

- **Deliver Globally Recognized Academic Programs:** Provide internationally acclaimed academic programs and attract esteemed faculty dedicated to teaching and research excellence.
- **Foster Collaborative Innovation:** Cultivate a vibrant environment fostering creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, encouraging free exchange of ideas and nurturing groundbreaking research.
- **Forge Global Academic Alliances:** Establish robust partnerships with top-tier international universities, facilitating cross-cultural learning and enriching academic diversity.
- **Promote Ethical Values:** Imbue students with a strong ethical foundation, guiding their behavior and decision-making, fostering integrity and responsibility.
- **Champion Community Service:** Inspire faculty, staff, and students to actively engage in community service, promoting social responsibility and creating a positive impact beyond the university walls.

AAUP Goals



Academic Excellence

Committed to excellence, we uphold high academic quality standards in teaching, research, and student development. With exceptional faculty and innovative programs, we foster a vibrant learning environment, shaping graduates for leadership in the global arena.



Scientific Research

Encourage scientific research among faculty and students by facilitating external funding through incentives like financial support and workload reduction. Expand graduate programs and foster collaborations with national and international institutions to enhance research opportunities, knowledge exchange, and academic growth.



Sustainability

The university is dedicated to sustainability, integrating eco-friendly practices, renewable energy initiatives, and green building standards. Through these efforts, it reduces its carbon footprint, advocates for conservation, and cultivates an environmentally responsible campus, setting a vital example for students and the broader community.



The Community

To enhance community engagement, we offer ongoing education, collaborate with industries to identify mutually beneficial projects, and address community concerns highlighted by local representatives. Through these efforts, we strengthen our bond with the community, promoting shared progress and understanding.



United Nations SDGs

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a strategic framework for global action, guiding nations, businesses, and communities toward a more just and sustainable world. These 17 goals address key challenges such as poverty, education, and climate change, forming a universal commitment to transformative change. In this report, the SDGs provide the foundation, shaping our initiatives and driving progress within our institution.

Embracing the spirit of collaboration, the SDGs serve as a catalyst for global partnerships, emphasizing collective efforts to tackle shared challenges. These goals, spanning social equity and environmental preservation, empower societies to innovate and implement inclusive policies. Our report celebrates these synergies, highlighting our initiatives aligned with the SDGs and showcasing the impact of collaborative action.

The SDGs represent a worldwide call for comprehensive transformation, urging nations and individuals to integrate sustainability into all aspects of life. Covering diverse aspects of well-being and environmental stewardship, these goals encourage innovative solutions and informed decision-making. In this report, we respond to this call, presenting our initiatives as tangible contributions to the global movement for sustainable development.

At the Arab American University, we recognize our responsibility in the transition to a sustainable future with an alignment of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are committed to ensuring that our teaching, research, community service, or university operations will advance us for a better future.

1 NO POVERTY



SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

AAUP plays a vital role in combating poverty through various initiatives. One such effort involves nurturing a culture of voluntary work among its students and organizing numerous activities aimed at assisting marginalized social groups.

Additionally, AAUP emphasizes community service as part of its graduation requirements, mandating that each student completes 100 hours of community service.

Furthermore, AAUP fights poverty by awarding multiple scholarships annually to students from diverse backgrounds, with a particular focus on those coming from disadvantaged social environments. These scholarships empower students, enabling them to realize their potential and access better income opportunities.

2 ZERO HUNGER



\$1,370,401
Total Scholarships



1782
Beneficiary Students



282,000
Community Service
Hours in 2023



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Arab American University excels in illuminating and enhancing student life within its campus. The university campus is brimming with interactive opportunities for students to meet new friends and discover new talents, enriching their academic journey. The Student Affairs Deanship stands as a splendid resource, ensuring students achieve a distinguished university experience.

Concerning health, the university houses a medical clinic for students and staff, equipped with appropriate facilities and competent staff. This clinic offers free medical care services for the university community.

Additionally, the university is running several academic programs that teach and graduate talented and skilled doctors and healthcare workers to the Palestinian community.

Moreover, the university extends numerous medical services to its students and the local community, including:

- AAUP Dental Center
- Occupational Therapy Center
- Medical Laboratories
- Physical Therapy Center
- Center for Children with Special Needs Rehabilitation
- Speech, Language, and Hearing Disorders Center
- Orthotics and Assistive Devices Center



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

AAUP's policy on Quality education reflects AAUP's dedication to continuous improvement, excellence, and academic and operational excellence. By implementing robust quality management practices, AAUP strives to ensure the delivery of exceptional education, research, and support services.

Accordingly, the educational system at Arab American University achieves its goals by providing high-quality education, developing knowledge and skills, nurturing research capabilities, meeting the needs of students and the community by offering employment opportunities, and instilling values. This is ensured through maintaining the academic proficiency of the faculty, providing appropriate educational resources, distinguished curriculum, advanced and updated study programs, creating a suitable and motivating learning environment, evolving teaching and assessment strategies, and evaluating academic performance through continuous student assessments, examinations, assignments, student participation in lectures, and faculty evaluations. Additionally, the university provides exceptional training opportunities for students prior to their graduation.

Furthermore, the Arab American University adheres to the best international standards and practices in academic quality. The university complies with globally recognized accreditation standards, such as ABET accreditation for Computer Engineering, ADEE accreditation for the Dentistry College, and NLN CNEA accreditation for the Bachelor of Nursing program.

Moreover, the university rigorously applies quality standards both academically and administratively. It supervises the quality assurance of processes and procedures in various university departments and colleges according to ISO 9001:2015 certification standards in the field of quality management. This is to ensure excellence in learning, teaching, scientific research, and community service, and to create a balanced and healthy educational environment that fosters excellence, creativity, and competitiveness, aiming to achieve global standards within the available resources.



20%
of courses contribute
to UN SDGs

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The university, through its policies and practices against all kinds of discrimination, works towards achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, both students and staff. The role of the Arab American University in achieving equality is evident in the following aspects:



60%
of enrolled students
are females

- The university does not use gender-based admission methods. Accordingly, the percentage of female students enrolled in higher education during the academic year 2022/2023 is (60%) of the total enrolled students.



39%
of employees are
females

- The university provides employment opportunities for females in all its departments and centers.

- The university allocates tasks and responsibilities to employees based on competence and skills, regardless of gender.

- Participation and contribution in organizing internal or external workshops and seminars, ensuring the participation of both genders, whether from the faculty, administration, or students.

- The university has female faculty members appointed in councils such as the Board of Trustees and the University Council. Additionally, some female employees hold senior positions within the university.



Dr. Lobna Harazni
Dean, Faculty of
Nursing



Dr. Saba Ismail
Dean, Faculty of
Sciences



Dr. Nouar Qutob
Dean, Faculty of
Graduate Studies



Dr. Lana Shehadeh
Director, International
Relations



Dr. Hanadi Dwikat
Dean, Faculty of
Modern Media

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Arab American University adopts several policies to ensure efficient water management and conservation. The University community is educated about the importance of responsible water usage and its conservation. This is achieved through implementing technical measures to enhance water usage efficiency. For example, smart irrigation techniques are used in green spaces and gardens to conserve water.

On Jenin's campus, the university has a rainwater tank with a capacity of 2000 m³ for the football field, gym, and swimming pool. There are 8 underground tanks distributed across the buildings, totaling 1450 cubic meters. The combined annual rainfall water amounts to 3450 cubic meters, approximately one-third of what is needed for irrigation of crops and gardens. In the Ramallah campus, rainwater is collected from building roofs into a

2300 m³ collection tank due to natural flow. It is then pumped into a 1300 m³ tank at a higher location and distributed to buildings for flushing. This indicates that the university has a rainwater utilization system.

The Arab American University offers a master's program in sustainable and renewable energy. This program aims to graduate individuals capable of working as environmental consultants. Environmental consultants typically work on a contractual basis with clients from both private and public sectors. They address issues such as water pollution, air quality, and soil contamination. Environmental consultants possess scientific knowledge and technical expertise required to conduct field and desk research, environmental assessments, and provide consultancy services to companies on a range of matters.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

According to the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy, the university implements renewable energy solutions, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable transportation alternatives.

Based on that:



70%

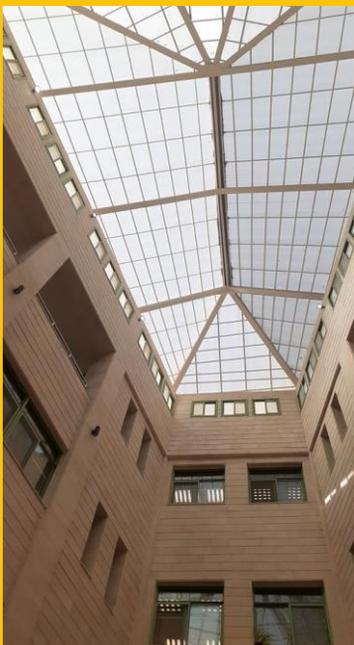
of the university buildings are smart



75%

of the devices used in the university are energy-efficient

- Solar energy sources are utilized in the university. Currently, there are 3 solar power stations in the university, generating electrical energy from solar power and supplying the buildings connected to generators located near these solar stations. These stations have capacities of 70 kilowatts, 136 kilowatts, and 48 kilowatts, totaling 254 kilowatts. Additionally, there are ongoing projects for additional stations expected to reach a capacity of approximately 700 kilowatts.
- All university buildings incorporate green building elements such as natural ventilation, daylight illumination, and solar energy for buildings.
- Environmental, climate, renewable energy, and sustainable development-related courses are added to the curriculum as free courses, including courses on energy sources and their applications, human and environment, and development management.
- There are specialized programs in Electrical Engineering and Renewable Energy, a master's program in Sustainable Energy and Renewable Energy, and a specialization in Environmental Technology.





SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The AAUP's policy on Fostering Creativity, Innovation, and Leadership emphasizes the university's commitment to providing a supportive environment that inspires and empowers individuals to think critically, explore new ideas, and drive positive change. By encouraging creativity, promoting innovation, and developing leadership skills, AAUP aims to cultivate a vibrant and forward-thinking university community.

In addition, AAUP opens vast doors for its graduates to decent work opportunities, via the up-to-date skills and knowledge they acquire during their studies. It also helps redistribute the collective wealth of the society through scholarships, which would in turn help those in need to widen their scope of job opportunities through higher education, in a world with a constant hunger for skilled workers.

In addition to that, AAUP's growing campuses in rural areas help to attract more businesses to the areas around these campuses, thus providing more job opportunities for the local communities.





SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Arab American University is dedicated to fostering excellence, innovation, and practical skills among its students and the local community. Through initiatives like the Hassib Sabbagh Information Technology Center of Excellence and the Nursing Technology Simulation Center, the university actively supports innovation, creativity, and quality education. Its commitment to bridging the gap between academia and the job market, empowering students with practical skills and encouraging their participation in global competitions, reflects its role as a catalyst for positive change and progress in the region.



Hassib Sabbagh Information Technology Center of Excellence, focusing on bridging the gap between graduates' qualifications and market demands. It accelerates technology adoption in local communities, trains them in information technology, and encourages innovation through various programs. The university actively participates in global competitions, like the HULT PRIZE, offering substantial support to students, emphasizing their pivotal role in driving change and innovation. Moreover, the university prioritizes creative students and offers continual guidance, recognizing their potential as the foundation for societal transformation.



The Nursing Technology Simulation Center, a pioneering facility in Palestine since 2015. This center serves as a comprehensive resource, emphasizing simulation-based nursing education. It offers students realistic clinical experiences in a safe environment, enhancing their critical thinking, decision-making, and practical skills. The center focuses on excellence in practical nursing applications and conducts research to improve patient care outcomes. The university aims to elevate students' understanding and practice of clinical skills, ensuring the delivery of high-quality and safe patient care.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

AAUP plays a crucial role in achieving this goal through various initiatives and actions:

- The university provides equal opportunities for admission and education to all students, regardless of nationality, religion, race, or disability status.
- Students from middle and low-income backgrounds are empowered through financial aid and scholarships. For the undergraduate programs offered in the academic year 2022/2023, scholarships amounted to approximately \$1,370,401 for 1782 students.
- Additionally, installment options are available for student fees through the Student Affairs Dean's office.
- Equal opportunities for student exchange and international travel are provided for both male and female students.
- The university's infrastructure is designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities, ensuring ease of movement between faculties and floors through features such as ramps and elevators. Special parking spaces and bathrooms are also provided for people with disabilities.
- The university attracts Palestinian students living in the 1948 occupied areas and offers them equal opportunities, including fees, scholarships, accommodation, and academic quality.
- The university has strong relationships with 100+ local and international universities and academic institutions. The university has participated in 10+ internationally funded projects, including Erasmus Plus and Horizon EU-funded projects. Additionally, the university is an active member of the Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED) and participates in all related activities.





SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



AAUP sets a model for a sustainable community through its expansive green areas on its campuses. These areas are designed to promote walking, ensuring that the farthest distance between any two buildings is no more than a 10-minute walk – equivalent to the break time between successive lectures. Well-built sidewalks connect different parts of the campuses, meandering through refreshing green landscapes, encouraging hiking, and fostering a connection with nature.



Furthermore, AAUP has entered into an agreement with a contractor to provide public transportation services using large buses, facilitating commuting between the city of Jenin and the campus.



In addition, AAUP has generously donated part of its campus area to establish a police center serving the campus and its surroundings. This donation adds to a previous contribution of land where a mosque has been built.

The university adopts a wastewater treatment plant (station) that solves the issue of 13000 beneficiaries, this was adopted due to the lack of wastewater stations in the area, and this also leads to the suffering of the residents of the area surrounding the university and the agricultural lands from environmental and health damage due to the disposal of untreated wastewater in the open agricultural areas.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

AAUP Waste Management Policy

AAUP is committed to responsible waste management practices that prioritize environmental sustainability, health, and safety. This policy outlines AAUP's dedication to minimizing waste generation, promoting recycling and reuse, ensuring proper disposal, and complying with all relevant regulations. By adhering to this policy, AAUP aims to reduce its environmental impact, protect human health, and contribute to a more sustainable future.

There is a careful separation of food waste and plastic waste in the university. Moreover, the University provides several paper shreds to separate paper. In addition to that, the university has several practices to reduce paper use. Regarding medical waste, the University collects medical waste that comes mostly from the College of Dentistry and the labs in a special container. Moreover, organic and nonorganic waste are disposed after they are collected through burial.

BSc program in Environmental Management

This program equips students with the necessary skills to manage, identify, and respond to waste-related issues and reduce them. By focusing on sustainability and through advanced pathways to identify waste on local, national, and global levels, this program provides students with practical solutions and essential policies to integrate environmentally related roles in managerial, scientific, and engineering fields.





SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

AAUP Environmental Sustainability Policy:

AAUP recognizes its responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for current and future generations. This Environmental Sustainability Policy outlines the university's commitment to promoting sustainable practices, minimizing our environmental impact, and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship. By integrating sustainability into our operations, curriculum, and campus life, AAUP strives to lead by example and inspire positive change.

The Center of Excellence in Climate Change and Environmental Technology (CECCET):

The CECCET at the Arab American University in Palestine, established in 2018, serves as a dedicated scientific center for studying climate change and its effects in Palestine. It has a significant impact on climate change issues and challenges, providing solutions and strategic consultations to decision-makers and policymakers in Palestine regarding climate change and its impacts. The Center for Climate Change and Environmental Technology Excellence serves as the foundation for numerous scientific analyses and data integration. Consequently, the center provides opportunities for creativity, innovation, and communication, building partnership relationships to address climate challenges using the latest available environmental technology techniques.



5%

of the university electricity is solar in 2022 and 18% is targeted by 2024



4 Programs

In the fields of renewable energy and environmental sciences

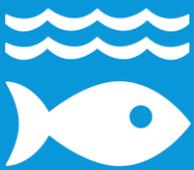
15 LIFE ON LAND



SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



AAUP is committed to saving and conserving different forms of biological life. AAUP hosts a green house and a plant reproduction farm to continuously provide its campus open areas and offices with outdoor and indoor plants. It also collaborates with local agricultural centers to help preserve the local ecosystems.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



AAUP Policy on Inclusive Dialogue and Promotion of Democratic Values Policy

AAUP values open and inclusive dialogue as a means to foster understanding, respect, and the exchange of diverse perspectives. The University is committed to promoting democratic values, such as freedom of speech, critical thinking, and acceptance of others, within the university community. This policy outlines our dedication to creating a safe and supportive environment that encourages meaningful conversations, constructive debate, and the cultivation of democratic principles. Through dialogue and the acceptance of diverse viewpoints, we strive to promote a culture of inclusivity, collaboration, and intellectual growth.



The Conflict Studies Research Center (CSRC)

The Conflict Studies Research Center (CSRC) at the Arab American University in Palestine is the first center in the region to focus on academic research in the field of Policy & Conflict Resolution. It also operates as a Think Tank, generating regular policy papers and offering policy advice to Palestinian political decision-makers. The center serves as a hub in the region for researchers and specialized centers in the field of conflict resolution from around the world.



Master's and Ph.D. programs in Conflict Resolution:

The Arab American University also offers academic programs for conflict resolution (Master's and Ph.D. programs in Conflict Resolution) that integrate theories, methodologies, and practical skills from various academic fields, including political science, political sociology, and international law, alongside extensive studies in development. These programs enhance a rational understanding of different international conflicts and analyze them by mapping peacebuilding initiatives, providing real proposals for reconciliation processes, best practices, and lessons learned. The program's literature covers a wide range of issues such as post-colonial peace models, transitional justice, human rights, memory studies, and identity studies.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SDG17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The Arab American University believes that the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved through a strong commitment to partnership and cooperation at the local, regional, and international levels. Therefore, the university has established partnerships at the local, regional, and international levels, aiming to:



- Develop relationships between the university and governmental and private entities at the local level.
- Provide services to both the public and private sectors in the local community by implementing practical applications for university students in various specialties offered by the university. This involves identifying the local community's needs in various fields such as healthcare, legal matters, sports, finance, environmental issues, etc.
- Transfer academic and scientific knowledge from the university's academics to the community.
- Offer academic and professional programs that meet the needs of the Palestinian job market.
- Serve the community through students' volunteer activities and assist students in developing a sense of belonging to the community.
- Develop mutually beneficial professional partnerships between the university and various local institutions to contribute to community development.
- Keep up with technological advancements to serve and develop the community.
- Encourage students to participate in community activities both within and outside the university and encourage them to contribute to the Palestinian community.
- Establish voluntary programs to help students develop a sense of belonging to the community.

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