SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
Equator University of Science and Technology
Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2027

17.2.1: Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy

Statement:

The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) has actively participated in several national, regional, and international events in collaboration with government bodies, NGOs, and development organizations. These engagements reflect the university's commitment to strengthening partnerships that contribute to the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Research

The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) contributed to SDG policy advancement through evidence-based research, publishing **25** collaborative studies with international universities in 2025. These partnerships generated scientific insights supporting sustainability policies, aligning with national and regional SDG priorities.

SDGs Aligned Research Collaborations at EQUSaT University 2025

The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) research projects demonstrate how collaboration with international research institutions, government organizations, non-profit organizations, and funding partners can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such collaborations support knowledge sharing and research addressing national, regional and global challenges. The following are research projects published in 2025, highlighting their associated funding organizations and research collaborations.

Global, Regional, and National Burden of Chronic Kidney Disease in Adults, 1990–2023

This research project was conducted through the international Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023 collaboration and supported by the Gates Foundation (philanthropic, non-profit foundation), Wellcome (charitable foundation), National Kidney Foundation (non-profit health organization), and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) (US government research institute). The study estimated that 788 million adults worldwide were living with chronic kidney disease in 2023, highlighting its substantial global health burden.

Evidence:

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01853-7/fulltext

Global, Regional, and National Burden of Headache Disorders, 1990–2023

This research was undertaken through the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023 collaboration, with funding from the Gates Foundation (philanthropic, non-profit foundation). The study estimated that 2.9 billion people experienced headache disorders in 2023, with headache-related disability more than twice as high among females as males.

Evidence:

https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1474-4422%2825%2900402-8

Global Age-Sex-Specific All-Cause Mortality and Life Expectancy Estimates, 1950–2023

This research project formed part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023 collaboration and received support from the Gates Foundation (philanthropic, non-profit foundation), the UK Department of Health and Social Care (government department), the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (public-sector government institute), and the New Zealand Ministry of Health (government ministry). The study estimated 60.1 million deaths worldwide in 2023 and assessed mortality and life expectancy across countries and subnational locations.

Evidence:

https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2825%2901330-3

Asthma and Atopic Dermatitis in Asia, 1990–2021: The Global Burden of Disease Study 2021

This research was conducted through the Global Burden of Disease Study collaboration, with support from the Gates Foundation (philanthropic, non-profit foundation), the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (government research-funding agency), Queensland Department of Health (government department), South Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT (government ministry), and the Institute for Information & Communications Technology Planning & Evaluation (government-affiliated research and funding agency). Additional support included a Yonsei Fellowship funded by an individual donor. The study estimated 106 million asthma cases and 68.1 million atopic dermatitis cases in Asia in 2021.

Evidence:

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cea.70024

Events, Activities & Projects 2025

Following are the relevant events, activities, and projects from 2025:

Nyumba Mpya Modular Bamboo Orphanage – Eco-friendly Community Project

The Equator University of Science and Technology launched the the Nyumba Mpya – Modular Bamboo Orphanage Project, an initiative aimed at providing sustainable care for vulnerable children while promoting eco-friendly architecture.

The event, held brought together partners from Uganda, Poland, the United Kingdom, and Pakistan who collaborated to make the vision a reality.

EQUSaT's allocation of University's land for the orphanage reflects the commitment to giving back to the community and investing in the growth of young people.

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/equsat-launches-nyumba-mpya-modular-bamboo-orphanage-project

76th Vice Chancellors' Forum

The Vice Chancellor of Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT), alongside the Head of the Quality Assurance Department, participated in the 76th Vice Chancellors' Forum that took place at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara City.

The forum brings together vice chancellors, top university administrators, and higher education stakeholders from across the country to deliberate on key issues affecting the sector, share best practices, and explore collaborative solutions. Such engagements are critical in aligning universities with global academic standards, strengthening quality assurance mechanisms, and fostering innovation in teaching, research, and community engagement.

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/equsat-vc-qa-attend-76th-vice-chancellors-forum

VODAN Conference

The University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) participated in the international Virus Outbreak Data Network (VODAN) Conference in Leiden. VODAN is a powerful initiative that underscores the continent's commitment to a more equitable digital future.

Speaking at a recent international forum, Professor Muhamad Mpezamihigo, the Vice Chancellor of Equator University of Science and Technology, amplified the vision and urgency behind VODAN.

In a digital world often dominated by power imbalances, VODAN offers a refreshing model—one where data empowers rather than exploits, and where Africa doesn't just consume technology but helps shape its ethical foundations.

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/our-vc-prof-mouhamad-mpezamihigo-represents-equsat-at-the-vodan-conference-in-leiden

EQUSaT Partners with Greater Masaka DHOs to Empower Health Workers

The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT)hosted District Health Officers (DHOs) from across the Greater Masaka Region at its Kasijjagirwa campus in Masaka City.

The strategic meeting focused on strengthening the capacity of health workers in the region through regular professional training, collaborative research initiatives, and increased access to higher education. A key highlight was the discussion on how health workers can conveniently and affordably enroll in EQUSaT's Bachelor of Science in Public Health program.

Vice Chancellor, EQUSaT emphasized the university's commitment to supporting the region's health sector by providing academic programs tailored to meet real-world health challenges. He noted that

flexible learning schedules and accessible payment options would make it easier for working professionals to further their studies without disrupting their service to the community.

Evidence:

https://www.equsat.ac.ug/news/equsat-partners-with-greater-masaka-dhos-to-empower-health-workers

EQUSaT Strengthens Ties with Sembabule District Health Officers

The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) visited health officers in Sembabule District, aimed at fostering relations and promoting collaboration between the University and the district's health sector.

During the visit, the team engaged with district health officials to discuss potential areas of cooperation, including community health programs, research collaborations, and knowledge sharing initiatives.

The visit reflects EQUSaT's commitment to building strong partnerships with local government entities to enhance health services and support the University's mission of community engagement and sustainable development**.**

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/equsat-strengthens-ties-with-sembabule-district-health-officers-1

Masaka Hospital Board Visits Equator University, Pledges Continued Collaboration

The Masaka Regional Referral Hospital Board visited to Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) in Masaka.

The delegation toured various sections of the campus, including the dental department, laboratories, and innovation hubs, and commended the university for maintaining high service standards and promoting practical learning among students.

During the visit, Dr. Elima James, the Hospital Director, expressed admiration for the research and innovation projects developed by EQUSaT's finalist students. He encouraged the university to broaden its innovation programs to include more interdisciplinary collaboration and link them directly with the hospital's research and health initiatives.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, EQUSaT appreciated the hospital board for their continued partnership and support toward the university's mission. He reaffirmed EQUSaT's commitment to strengthening the ties between the two institutions to enhance training, research, and community health service delivery.

The visit further cemented the growing relationship between Masaka Regional Referral Hospital and EQUSaT, setting a foundation for joint efforts in advancing health education and innovation in the region.

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/masaka-hospital-board-visits-equator-university-pledges-continued-

Continued Partnership with Build Your Smile Dental Foundation Uganda

Last year, The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) formalized its partnership with Build Your Smile Dental Foundation Uganda through a Memorandum of Understanding to promote oral health in the Greater Masaka region. Building on this agreement, EQUSaT continued its collaboration with the foundation through dental seminars that brought students and professionals together to explore developments in oral healthcare, alongside community dental initiatives. These activities demonstrate continued university–NGO collaboration to promote oral health awareness, strengthen dental education, and improve access to oral healthcare in local communities, contributing to Good Health and Well-being and Partnerships for the Goals.

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/equsats-bold-steps-towards-a-sustainable-future-1

FAWE Uganda Capacity-Building Workshop on Extended Orientation Model

The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Uganda partnered with the Equator University of Science and Technology to implement the Extended Orientation Model under the Higher Education Access Program. The capacity-building workshop focused on strengthening student support systems for learners transitioning from secondary school to university. The initiative introduced modules covering academic preparedness, personal development, mental health, financial literacy, mentorship, and campus safety.

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/fawe-uganda-engages-equsat-administration-in-workshop-on-extended-orientation-model-for-higher-education-access-program-1

EQUSaT Hosts HHRD in Life-Changing Humanitarian Drive

The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) hosted the CEO of Helping Hands for Relief and Development (HHRD), in a humanitarian effort aimed at improving healthcare access for the disabled and visually impaired in Masaka.

The initiative, held at the EQUSaT in Masaka, saw the donation of wheelchairs to individuals with mobility challenges and facilitated critical optical surgeries at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital.

Speaking at the event, EQUSaT's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, expressed gratitude for the collaboration, emphasizing the university's commitment to community health and social responsibility. He also thanked HHRD for collaborating with the University and providing help to the people of Masaka.

The event emphasized the growing role of universities in community service, reinforcing EQUSaT's position as a leading institution not just in science and technology, but also in humanitarian initiatives. Both EQUSaT and HHRD pledged to continue working together to expand access to essential medical support in the region

Evidence:

https://equsat.ac.ug/news/equsat-hosts-hhrd-ceo-in-life-changing-humanitarian-drive