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

17.2.3 International collaboration data gathering for SDG

Statement:
The Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT) actively participates in international collaborations aimed at enhancing data gathering, sharing, and monitoring mechanisms to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

Research

The Equator University of Science and Technology published 25 collaborative studies with international universities in 2025, reflecting international collaboration on gathering and measuring data for the SDGs.

Some examples of collaborative research projects from 2025 are given below:

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