

Sustainability Report 2025



Progress Report on
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Reporting Period: 2025

EQUATOR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (EQUaT)

Masaka City, Uganda | www.equsat.ac.ug | pro@equsat.ac.ug

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INTRODUCTION

Vice Chancellor's Message

Across the world, universities are being asked a harder question than ever before: not what you teach, but what difference you make. At EQUaT, that question does not unsettle us, it drives us.

This second edition of our Sustainability Report is not simply a record of activities but it is an evidence of a living institution, one that has harvested rainwater to secure its campus, opened its dental clinic to the people of Masaka, sent blood donors to save lives in surrounding communities, and built academic bridges with institutions and governments far beyond our borders. These are not gestures. They are proofs that the SDGs, when taken seriously, reshape a university from the inside out.

None of this belongs to leadership alone. Every student who joined a sustainability club, every lecturer who wove SDGs into their curricula, every staff member who chose a cleaner, smarter way to work, each of them is a co-author of this report. EQUaT's greatest resource has never been its infrastructure; it is its people.

As you read through these pages, my invitation to you is this; hold us accountable to every word. Our ambition is to be the sustainability benchmark for universities in

The Great Lakes Region and a respected voice on the global stage. We are not there yet. But with the momentum documented here, and with the generation of changemakers we are proudly educating, we are well on our way.

“When a university truly commits to the SDGs, it stops being a place of learning and becomes an engine of transformation.”



Prof. Mouhamed Mpezamihigo
Vice Chancellor, EQUaT

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This publication constitutes EQUaT's annual Sustainability Report, prepared by the Office of Sustainability and SDG Initiatives in accordance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It documents the university's contributions, progress, and ongoing commitments across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the year 2025.

The report is intended for a broad audience, including students, staff, community partners, government bodies, international collaborators, and global sustainability ranking institutions. It draws on institutional data, programme records, community engagement outcomes, and verified national and global statistics sourced from bodies including the World Health Organization, World Bank, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, International Labour Organization, and UN SDG Progress Report 2025.

EQUaT publishes this report annually as part of its commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. It serves both as a record of achievement and an honest assessment of where further work is needed.

All data and programme descriptions reflect activities conducted within the stated reporting period unless otherwise indicated. Where global or regional statistics are cited, they are used to contextualise EQUaT's work within the broader development landscape of Uganda and East Africa.

For enquiries related to this report, please contact: Office of the SDG Officer, Equator University of Science and Technology, Masaka City, Uganda. Email: pro@equsat.ac.ug As you read through these pages, my invitation to you is this: hold us accountable to every word. Our ambition is to be the sustainability benchmark for universities in the Great Lakes Region and a respected voice on the global stage. We are not there yet. But with the momentum documented here, and with the generation of changemakers we are proudly educating, we are well on our way.

EQU SAT'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

When Equator University of Science and Technology opened its doors in Masaka in 2020, it carried with it an unusual kind of ambition, not merely to educate, but to model the kind of institution Uganda, and the wider region, urgently needs.

That ambition is sustainability: woven not as an afterthought into the university's programmes, but as a founding thread of its identity.

Guided by its vision of **“Aspiring to be the leading university of excellence in Science and Technology in Uganda and beyond,”** EQU SaT has, in just a few years, positioned itself as one of Uganda's most forward-thinking higher education institutions. The university's sustainability journey is a deliberate, structured, and measurable commitment, one that grows more urgent with each passing year as the consequences of climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality deepen across East Africa and the world.

By 2030, EQU SaT aims to be ranked among the top universities nationally, regionally, and globally on sustainability metrics. That goal sits at the intersection of institutional pride and moral responsibility. Achieving it requires more than policy statements. It demands consistent action, honest measurement, and the willingness to be held accountable, by students, communities, ranking bodies, and the planet itself.

To that end, EQU SaT publishes annual sustainability reports to track and improve its performance across global frameworks. These reports are working instruments tools for identifying where the university is falling short and doubling down on where it is making progress.

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND SDGS INITIATIVES

When the Office of Sustainability and SDG Initiatives was established at EQUaT, its mandate was clear: to ensure that the university's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals moves beyond aspiration and into daily, measurable action. That work happens in classrooms and laboratories, in community engagements and policy discussions, in the decisions made about energy, waste, procurement, and the kinds of research we choose to priorities.

This year, our office has coordinated a range of training workshops and seminars covering some of the most pressing challenges of our time, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Circular Economy Principles, Responsible Consumption, and Environmental Ethics. These are not simply academic subjects. They are frameworks for living and working differently, and we take seriously our responsibility to equip EQUaT students, staff, and the broader Masaka community with the literacy to apply them.

Sustainability, in my experience, is not a destination. It is a practice, one that demands discipline, curiosity, and, above all, honesty about where we stand.

Extending our outreach beyond the campus boundary is a deliberate choice. Sustainability is not an elite concern. The communities surrounding our university, farmers, traders, young people, local leaders, are often those most directly affected by environmental and social disruption, and they deserve access to knowledge and tools that can change their circumstances. We are committed to building that bridge.

There is still much to do. Global sustainability rankings are competitive, and the bar is rising. But I am encouraged by what I see at EQUaT: the genuine engagement of students who understand what is at stake, faculty members integrating sustainability into their teaching, and leadership that treats this work as central, not peripheral, to the university's mission.

We are a young institution. That is not a weakness. It means we are building our culture now, at a moment when we can make sustainability foundational rather than retrofitted. That, I believe, is our greatest opportunity.



**Martha Nalukenge SDGs
Officer, EQUaT**

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH TEACHING AND LEARNING

EQUUSAT: A GREEN AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE CAMPUS



Equator University of Science and Technology is committed to building a future rooted in sustainability, innovation, and environmental responsibility. As a forward-thinking institution, the university integrates sustainable practices into its operations, academic programmes, and community engagement.

The foundation of the university's sustainability agenda is responsible resource management. The campus promotes efficient energy use, water conservation, and waste reduction through initiatives such as recycling programmes and proper waste segregation. These efforts not only minimize environmental impact but also instill a culture of responsibility among students and staff.

Equator University also emphasizes sustainability in education. Through science, technology, and research-driven programmes, students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to develop solutions to real-world environmental challenges, shaping environmentally conscious leaders for the future.

In recognition of these efforts, the university was ranked 1st in Uganda and East Africa, 29th in Africa, and 776th globally in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (2024). This milestone reflects the institution's growing impact and commitment to sustainability, and we are grateful to all stakeholders for driving this journey forward.

By fostering green innovation, responsible consumption, and environmental stewardship, Equator University of Science and Technology continues to position itself as a model green campus in Uganda and beyond.

Sustainable and Environment-Conserving Buildings – Nyumba Mpya (Modular Bamboo Orphanage Project)

Equator University of Science and Technology continues to demonstrate leadership in sustainable campus development through the Nyumba Mpya Modular Bamboo Orphanage Project, an initiative that integrates environmental stewardship with community impact.

Launched at the university's Masaka campus, the project incorporates solar energy systems to provide clean power for daily operations, alongside organic waste management practices that support composting and sustainable food production. Surrounding green spaces, including fruit trees and vegetable gardens, contribute to biodiversity and air quality while serving as living laboratories for environmental education.



3. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Strengthening Medical Education Through Collaboration

EQUSaT's partnership with the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Health is exemplified by the EQUSaT Dental Clinic at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, a facility equipped with 11 state-of-the-art dental chairs and staffed by national and international professionals. The clinic serves as the primary dental referral centre for the Greater

Masaka region's nine districts, delivering a full spectrum of oral health services from preventive care to surgical interventions, while simultaneously serving as a clinical training facility for Bachelor of Dental Surgery students.



Academic linkages with institutions in Kenya and Pakistan further enrich research output and knowledge exchange, strengthening EQUSaT's position as an internationally connected institution.

Empowering Uganda's Youth

Partnerships with Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) have powered Youth Empowerment Programmes reaching hundreds of young people across the region. These programmes address barriers to education and economic opportunity in alignment with SDGs 4, 8, and 10.



4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Giving Life – Blood Donation Drive

EQUaT organised a blood donation drive to support life-saving health services in the region, with active participation from students, staff, and



guild leadership. The initiative reflects the university's commitment to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and demonstrates that community health responsibility is woven into campus culture.



Workshops and Mentorship Initiatives

EQUaT's community outreach extends into primary and secondary schools, mentorship programmes for young people, and direct services to Masaka City residents. These initiatives plant the seeds of aspiration among younger learners and reinforce the university's identity as a catalyst for the region's sustainable development.

EQUSaT also participated in the Inter-University Qur'anic Competition and Islamic Quiz at Makerere University, where the EQUSaT Muslim Students' Association (EMUSA) joined over 300 students from health sciences institutions across Uganda. Educational workshops on topics including Islamic ethics and medicine in the Quran ran alongside the competition, reflecting the globally minded character EQUSaT strives to build.



EUMSA attended the inter-university Qur'anic competition & Islamic quiz at makerere university.

Kudos to mumsa for such an inspiring and well-deserved event



5. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Beat Plastic Pollution

EQUSaT has taken a deliberate institutional stance against single-use plastics on campus, in alignment with the global #BeatPlasticPollution campaign and Uganda's national ban on polythene bags. The university actively promotes the elimination of unnecessary plastic use across its canteen, administrative offices, and student spaces, encouraging reusable alternatives and responsible waste sorting.

Environmental awareness sessions facilitated by the Office of Sustainability and SDG Initiatives regularly address the consequences of plastic pollution on Uganda's freshwater systems, soil health, and public health, particularly given Masaka's proximity to Lake Victoria's watershed. Students are not only educated on the science of plastic degradation but are engaged as active agents of change within their communities.



This work directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 14 (Life below Water).

Waste Collection & Recycling

EQUSaT has made waste management a defining pillar of its environmental agenda. Through regular training sessions, staff and students learn how to properly collect, sort, and reuse materials, ensuring that waste is handled with care and purpose.

To embed these practices into everyday campus life, the university has established designated collection points and placed waste receptacles on every floor, including in laboratories and practical rooms. These visible measures keep the campus clean and cultivate a culture of accountability and sustainability. Plastic waste is collected from the campus quarterly is recycled in an environmentally responsible manner.



6. RESILIENT WATERS, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WHY EQU SAT'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS MATTER

Water sustains ecosystems, drives development, and protects human health. Yet in Uganda, access to safe water remains a pressing issue. Of a population of approximately 47 million, nearly 38 million (81%) lack reliable access to clean water. This crisis has fueled public concern and, in some areas, civil unrest as seen in Kyenjojo District, where severe shortages reported in July 2025 sparked public outcry. Similar struggles have been recorded in Kampala, Luwero, and other regions.

EQU SaT has responded with practical solutions: leak-proof sanitary fixtures, routine maintenance checks, and rainwater harvesting systems have been introduced to conserve every drop. Water reuse mechanisms further strengthen the university's role as a model of sustainable resource management.

During times of scarcity, EQU SaT extends its reach beyond the campus by providing free water access to students, faculty, staff, and nearby residents, ensuring that learning continues uninterrupted while supporting community well-being. By sharing resources in critical moments, EQU SaT reinforces its identity as not only an academic institution but a responsible partner in sustainability and social resilience.

Rainwater Harvesting System

The EQU SaT Rainwater Harvesting System is a closed-loop water conservation solution integrated directly into the university's building design. Rainwater is captured from the rooftop of the EQU SaT multi-storey building and channeled through a dedicated network of wall-mounted pipes into a 100,000-litre underground storage tank. Once collected, the water is pumped upward into elevated treatment tanks, where it undergoes purification before being distributed through standard tap points serving every floor of the building, supplying laboratories, lecture rooms, washrooms, and administrative offices with a consistent, treated water supply.

Crucially, EQU SaT's water commitment extends beyond the campus boundary. A dedicated external tap point has been installed to allow free access for community members in the surrounding area, ensuring that local residents particularly during periods of municipal water scarcity can access clean water at no cost. This initiative directly supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and reflects EQU SaT's

broader philosophy that a university's sustainability footprint must extend into the communities it serves.

The system also reduces the university's dependence on the national water grid, lowers operational costs, and models a replicable, low-technology solution that rural institutions and communities across Uganda can adopt.

7. THE ROLE OF STUDENT CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS IN ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability at EQUaT is not confined to policy documents or administrative offices, it lives in the daily actions of its students. Recognising that lasting change is driven by people, not programmes alone, EQUaT has cultivated a vibrant ecosystem of student clubs and associations that serve as on-the-ground engines of SDG implementation across campus and community.

Coordinated jointly by Office of Sustainability and SDG Initiatives and the Office of the Guild President, each student association operates with a clear mandate: every activity planned and executed by a club must be intentionally aligned with one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This framework ensures that student energy and creativity are channelled into initiatives that generate real, measurable social impact. Among the most active bodies are:

- EQUaT Medical Students' Association (EUMSA): leads health promotion drives including blood donation campaigns and medical awareness seminars in support of SDG 3.
- EQUaT Muslim Students' Association (EMUSA) and EQUaT Christian Students' Association (ECSA): conduct food and clothing distribution drives, community charity initiatives, and interfaith solidarity programmes aligned with SDGs 1, 2, and 10.
- The Indite Club: promotes literacy, creative expression, and critical thinking in support of SDG 4.
- ICT Innovators Hub: drives digital skills development, research-based hackathons, and technology innovation projects in line with SDGs 8 and 9.

Collectively, these associations organise awareness campaigns, campus clean-up exercises, community outreach programmes, and social impact events that bring EQUaT's sustainability commitments to life at the grassroots level. With only 35%

of global SDG targets currently on track and five years remaining to the 2030 deadline, the role of youth-led action in accelerating progress has never been more critical. EQUaT's student clubs are not simply extracurricular groups, they are active contributors to Uganda's sustainable development agenda, and a testament to the university's conviction that the next generation of changemakers is already at work.

8. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) – PROGRESS UPDATES

EQUaT acknowledges that SDG 7 (Clean Energy) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) are areas where progress is nascent or in early implementation. The university is committed to deepening evidence-based reporting for these goals in future editions.

SDG	Goal	EQUaT Status	Key Actions / Highlights
1	No Poverty	Active	Community charity drives, skills training, poverty-focused seminars
2	Zero Hunger	Active	Staff land allocation for crop cultivation; community food donation drives
3	Good Health & Well-Being	Active — Strong	Dental clinic (11 chairs, serving 9 districts); free dental camp (~100 patients); blood donation drive; health awareness seminars
4	Quality Education	Active — Strong	30% tuition waiver; accessible campus infrastructure; ramps and disability inclusion in the student guild; community school outreach
5	Gender Equality	Active	Gender-balanced student guild and academic appointments; zero-tolerance harassment policy
6	Clean Water & Sanitation	Active — Strong	100,000-litre rainwater harvesting system; free community water access; hygiene education

7	Affordable & Clean Energy	In Progress	Solar energy adoption plans underway; integration as part of the green campus strategy
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	Active	Entrepreneurship and digital skills embedded in curricula; industry internships; fair employment practices for staff
9	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	Active	State-of-the-art laboratories; ICT Innovation Hub; digitally equipped facilities; research integration
10	Reduced Inequalities	Active — Strong	30% tuition waiver; students from 21+ nationalities; ramps and disability inclusion; community outreach bridging the urban–rural gap
11	Sustainable Cities & Communities	Active	Multi-storey sustainable campus design; green spaces; permeable pavers; urban planning integrated into curricula
12	Responsible Consumption & Production	Active	Campus-wide waste segregation; plastic waste collected for recycling; sustainability integrated into curricula
13	Climate Action	Active	Rainwater harvesting; climate education embedded in programmes; student waste management and green infrastructure projects
14	Life Below Water	Active	Water conservation initiatives; environmental science curricula; community awareness on aquatic ecosystems
15	Life on Land	Active	Green campus landscaping; tree planting; staff cultivation plots; biodiversity conservation on campus
16	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Active	Students' Guild; transparent governance; ethics policies; diverse student

			representation; civic leadership development
17	Partnerships for the Goals	Active	Ministry of Health partnership (dental clinic); HHRD youth empowerment partnership; academic collaborations in Kenya and Pakistan; partnership with Masaka City Authority

8b. Key Metrics Summary

The table below consolidates the key quantitative indicators reported across EQUaT's SDG activities during the 2025.

Metric	Figure	Related SDG(s)	Notes
Rainwater storage capacity	100,000 litres	SDG 6, 13	Rooftop rainwater capture with purification system
Free dental camp patients served	~100 community members	SDG 3	Conducted in partnership with Build Your Smile Foundation
Dental clinic coverage	9 districts	SDG 3	Serving the Greater Masaka region with 11 dental chairs
Student nationalities represented	21+	SDG 10, 4	Reflects commitment to inclusive and diverse education
Tuition waiver (flagship programmes)	30%	SDG 4, 10	Reduces financial barriers to higher education

UI GreenMetric Ranking (2024)	1st in Uganda & East Africa; 29th in Africa; 776th globally	All SDGs	Annual sustainability performance ranking
Community health seminars conducted	Multiple sessions	SDG 3	Topics include cancer, mental health, and lifestyle diseases
Youth empowerment reach (HHRD)	Hundreds of young people	SDG 4, 8	Delivered through partnership with HHRD

8c. Individual SDG Narratives

SDG 1: No Poverty



Uganda's poverty challenge remains pressing, with updated data painting a more urgent picture than reported last year. The Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2019/20 places the national poverty rate at 20.3%, however, using a revised poverty line, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) now estimates this figure at approximately 30%, a significant upward revision not reflected in our previous report.

On the multidimensional front, the OPHI Global MPI Country Briefing (October 2024) presents a notably sharper picture: 57.2% of Uganda's population is now classified as multidimensional poor, with a further 23.6% vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, together exceeding 80% of the population. The rural burden is particularly acute, with 65.0% of rural residents living in multidimensional poverty, against 27.6% in urban areas.

These figures reinforce that poverty in Uganda extends far beyond income, encompassing deprivation in health, education, and living standards. In response, EQUaT has strengthened its SDG 1 commitments this reporting period, expanding community-based charity drives, skills training, and poverty-focused seminars with a sharper orientation toward measurable, structural impact.



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

The global hunger landscape has seen a modest improvement since last year's report, yet the situation, particularly for Africa, remains deeply alarming. According to SOFI 2025 (State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World), approximately 673 million people

experienced hunger in 2024, a decline of 15 million from 2023. However, more than 20% of Africa's population, or 307 million people, faced hunger in 2024, with the number unable to afford a healthy diet surpassing one billion. By 2030, 512 million people are projected to be chronically undernourished, with nearly 60% living in Africa.

Although EQUaT is situated in Uganda's relatively food-secure South-western Corridor, the institution continues to deepen its contribution to SDG 2. EQUaT has sustained its staff land allocation programme for crop cultivation and expanded community food donation drives, while increasingly integrating food security awareness into its academic and outreach programming.

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SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being



The global health burden continues to intensify. WHO's World Health Statistics 2025 reveals that global life expectancy fell by 1.8 years between 2019 and 2021, the largest decline in recent history, reversing a decade of gains. Non-communicable diseases now account for more than half of all deaths in populations under 70, while Sub-Saharan

Africa continues to bear a compounded burden of both infectious and non-communicable diseases.

Uganda reflects this dual challenge, with persistent gaps in healthcare access, disease prevention, and maternal and child health.

EQUaT has made tangible contributions to SDG 3 during this reporting period through the following initiatives:

- **EQUaT Dental Clinic:** Operating under Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, the clinic serves as the primary dental referral centre for the Greater Masaka region's nine districts. Equipped with 11 dental chairs and staffed with national and international professionals, it delivers a full spectrum of oral health services while simultaneously serving as a clinical training facility for Bachelor of Dental Surgery students, directly advancing both SDG 3 and SDG 4.
- **Free Dental Camp:** In partnership with Build Your Smile Dental Foundation Uganda and dental professionals from Pakistan and Uganda, EQUaT hosted a free dental camp serving approximately 100 community members, many of whom received dental care for the first time. Services included check-ups, extractions, cleaning, and oral health education.
- **Blood Donation Drive:** EQUaT organised a blood donation drive to support life-saving health services in the region, with active participation from students, staff, and guild leadership.
- **Health Awareness Seminars:** The University conducted community health seminars addressing pressing issues including cancer prevention, mental health, and lifestyle-related diseases, equipping the public with knowledge for proactive health management.

Through these initiatives, EQUaT continues to position itself as a community health anchor in the Greater Masaka region, bridging the gap between academic training and accessible, people-centred healthcare.

SDG 4: Quality Education



As of 2023, 272 million children and youth remain out of school globally — a figure that has barely shifted since the SDGs were adopted in 2015. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 39% of the global out-of-school population, with Uganda mirroring these challenges through high dropout rates, inadequate infrastructure in rural areas, and persistent barriers to higher education access.

EQUSaT responds to this reality through modern, inclusively designed learning environments — theatre-style lecture rooms, well-equipped laboratories, and a fully stocked library.

Community outreach programmes introduce primary and secondary school learners to university life, planting seeds of aspiration. Plans are underway to introduce dedicated Sustainability Science courses across all undergraduate programmes



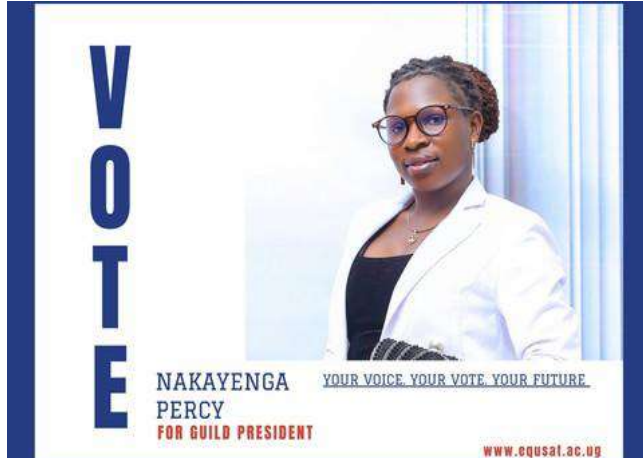
SDG 5: Gender Equality



EQUaT's Current Guild president Her Excellence Nakayenga Percy

The UN Women Gender Snapshot 2025 warns that without accelerated action, 351 million women and girls will still live in extreme poverty by 2030, while an unprecedented backlash on women's rights and shrinking civic space are threatening hard-won gains. In Uganda, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and underrepresentation in leadership continue to limit women's advancement.

EQUaT actively upholds gender equality through deliberate, gender-balanced representation in guild leadership, academic appointments, and administrative roles. The university enforces a zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination, maintaining a safe and inclusive campus environment. These commitments reflect EQUaT's recognition that gender equality is not peripheral, it is foundational to sustainable development.



“Back in the days, in Uganda a woman's space was in the kitchen but now we grab our own seats to the table of discussion making and discission making”



WE CALL FOR EQUITY OVER EQUALITY

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



A 2025 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme report reveals that 2.1 billion people, one in four globally, still lack access to safely managed drinking water, while 3.4 billion lack safely managed sanitation. Unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene still drive at least 1.4 million preventable deaths each year. Uganda's water challenges are acute, with prolonged dry seasons and poor sanitation infrastructure affecting millions, particularly in semi-arid and rural regions.

EQUaT has invested in a 100,000-litre rainwater harvesting system, channelling rooftop rainwater through treatment tanks for campus-wide use. During periods of water scarcity, the university extends free water access to students, faculty, staff, and surrounding



community members. Strict sanitation standards are enforced across all facilities, and hygiene awareness is integrated into student orientation and outreach programmes, modelling sustainable water stewardship for the wider community.

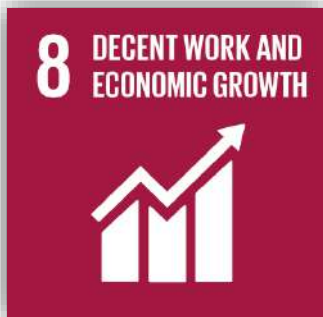
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



The latest IEA data shows that 730 million people worldwide still lacked access to electricity in 2024, with Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for eight out of ten people globally without power. More than one billion people in the region also remain without access to clean cooking solutions. Uganda reflects this challenge, with rural households continuing to depend heavily on firewood and charcoal, contributing to deforestation and associated health risks. EQUaT recognises clean energy as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

The university is actively advancing plans to adopt solar energy solutions to supplement its electricity supply, ensuring reliable power for laboratories, lecture rooms, and administrative offices while reducing dependency on the national grid. This transition forms part of EQUaT's broader green campus strategy and long-term sustainability roadmap.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth



The ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook 2025 reports that while the global unemployment rate held steady at 5% in 2024, youth unemployment remained persistently high at 12.6%, with low-income

countries facing the greatest difficulties in creating decent jobs. Uganda's labour market mirrors this trend, with the majority of its workforce engaged in informal, low-income employment and graduates struggling to secure meaningful work.

EQUSaT directly addresses this challenge by embedding practical, entrepreneurial, and digital skills across all academic programmes. Through industry partnerships, internships, and community-based projects, students gain hands-on experience that enhances their employability. The university also nurtures a culture of innovation through student-led initiatives and startups.

Internally, EQUSaT upholds fair employment practices, providing transparent contracts and professional development pathways for staff, embodying the very standards it champions.



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

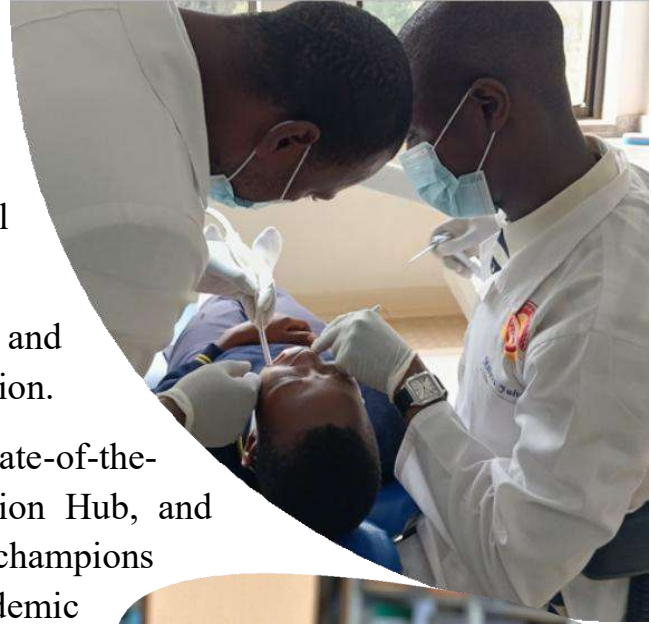


The UN SDG Progress Report 2025 identifies digital transformation as one of six critical transitions needed to unlock cascading benefits across all Goals, yet Sub-Saharan Africa continues to lag in research investment, digital infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems.

Uganda faces persistent gaps in laboratory capacity and technology adoption that slow economic transformation.

EQUSaT is closing this gap through investment in state-of-the-art laboratories, a technology-driven ICT Innovation Hub, and digitally equipped lecture facilities. The university champions applied research and creativity across its academic programmes, integrating digital skills and entrepreneurship into curricula.

These infrastructure and innovation investments position EQUSaT as a regional model for how higher education institutions can anchor industrial and technological development.



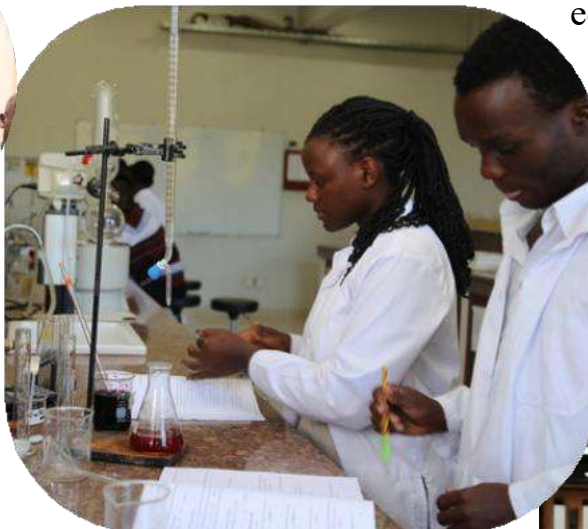
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities



The UN SDG Report 2025 highlights that women, people with disabilities, and marginalised communities continue to face systemic disadvantages, with escalating inequalities and soaring debt-servicing costs holding back progress. In Uganda, rural populations, refugees, and youth from low-income backgrounds face the most severe barriers to education and economic opportunity. EQUaT confronts inequality at multiple levels.

Its 30% tuition waiver programme opens access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Persons with disabilities are included in guild structures and staff roles. Accessible infrastructure, including ramps and adapted facilities, ensures physical inclusion. Community outreach programmes extend knowledge and services to rural populations, bridging the urban-rural divide.

EQUaT's multicultural student body of over 21 nationalities further reflect its commitment to inclusive, equitable education.



SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



The UN SDG Report 2025 identifies climate instability and rising inequalities among the greatest obstacles to building sustainable communities, while rapid urbanisation in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to outpace infrastructure development. Masaka City, where EQUaT is located, is among Uganda's growing urban centres facing these pressures.



EQUaT's campus exemplifies sustainable urban design: a multi-storey, stone-built structure that maximises vertical space, integrates natural lighting and ventilation, and incorporates green spaces for biodiversity and air quality.

Permeable pavers and rainwater absorption features enhance groundwater recharge and reduce surface runoff. Through academic programming, students are equipped with knowledge of urban planning and environmental conservation, preparing them to shape sustainable communities.



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



The UN SDG Report 2025 warns that 48% of SDG targets are showing insufficient progress, with goals tied to climate and responsible consumption among the most concerning reversals. Uganda's rapid population growth and over-reliance on non-biodegradable materials compound the challenge.

EQUaT promotes responsible consumption through campus-wide waste segregation and recycling initiatives, with designated collection points on every floor. Plastic waste is collected for recycling from the campus. Regular sanitation drives and community sensitisation programmes encourage reduced plastic use and eco-friendly practices.

Sustainability principles are integrated into teaching and research, ensuring students

internalise responsible consumption not just as policy, but as professional ethic.



plastic waste is being collected for recycling from the campus

“Plastic waste being collected on campus”



SDG 13: Climate Action



The year 2024 was the hottest year on record, surpassing the 1.5°C warming threshold and bringing increasingly extreme weather events to Sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda has experienced unpredictable rainfall, prolonged droughts, and flooding, threatening food security, water availability, and livelihoods, particularly in Karamoja and Northern Uganda.

EQUSaT responds through practical climate action on campus. Its rainwater harvesting system conserves water resources and builds resilience against drought. Climate education, environmental research, and sustainability awareness are embedded across academic and community programmes. Student projects on waste management, green infrastructure, and



SDG 14: Life Below Water



Freshwater bodies in Uganda, including Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and the Nile, face mounting threats from pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable fishing practices, endangering biodiversity and the communities that depend on these ecosystems. The UN SDG Report 2025 flags climate and biodiversity action as one of six priority transitions requiring urgent global coordination.



Plastic waste in our water ways

Through landlocked, EQUaT integrates water conservation and environmental science into its academic programmes and research initiatives, encouraging students to engage with aquatic ecosystem management challenges. The university's responsible water management practices, including harvesting, treatment, and reuse, model the kind of stewardship needed to protect Uganda's vital freshwater systems.

*“Plastic waste at lambu landinding site-
Evidence of plastic waste in our water ways”*



Lambu landing site



SDG 15: Life on Land



The UN SDG Report 2025 confirms that women, marginalised communities, and biodiversity-dependent populations are bearing the greatest costs of environmental regression, with Uganda's Albertine Rift among the continent's most ecologically sensitive and threatened zones.

EQUaT responds through deliberate green campus management, incorporating planted green spaces, tree planting initiatives, and sustainable landscaping that provide students with direct, hands-on exposure to ecosystem stewardship. Staff-allocated cultivation plots on university land contribute to biodiversity on campus while promoting food self-sufficiency. These initiatives position EQUaT as a living laboratory for land conservation.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



The UN SDG Progress Report 2025

underscores that sustained multilateral engagement and strong

institutions are essential to keeping the SDGs within reach. Yet corruption, limited access to justice, and weak civic participation remain pressing concerns in Uganda and across the region.

EQUSaT upholds institutional integrity through transparent governance, a clearly enforced code of conduct, and ethics policies that govern all staff and student conduct. Civic responsibility and leadership development are embedded in student life, with diverse voices represented in guild structures and policy forums. By modelling accountable, participatory governance, EQUSaT contributes to the culture of strong institutions that Uganda's sustainable development requires.



*“Don’t be
a
bystander
”*

Lady Justice

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



With only 35% of SDG targets on track globally and five years to the 2030 deadline, the UN SDG Report 2025 makes clear that no institution and no country, can achieve the Goals alone. Uganda requires strengthened collaboration between academia, government, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate progress.

EQUSaT has embraced partnerships as a strategic pillar of its mission. Its collaboration with the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Health underpins the EQUSaT Dental Clinic at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital. Partnerships with Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) have powered Youth Empowerment Programmes reaching hundreds of young people. Academic linkages with institutions in Kenya and Pakistan enrich research and knowledge exchange. Through these alliances, EQUSaT multiplies its impact, demonstrating that purposeful partnerships between education, health, civil society, and government are among the most powerful tools available in the race to 2030.



9. Way Forward

Publishing this report is not the finish line. It is a checkpoint, a moment to look clearly at what has been done, what remains undone, and what must be done better.

In the years ahead, EQUaT will deepen the integration of the SDGs into its academic programmes not as an add-on, but as a living framework through which students in health sciences, technology, and business learn to understand and respond to the world. The goal is graduates who are not merely qualified, but consequential.

Community engagement will grow in reach and seriousness. The work already underway in Masaka City on plastic pollution, climate literacy, environmental conservation, and responsible consumption, will be scaled and sustained. The communities surrounding this campus are partners in EQUaT's mission, not an audience for it.

On campus, the university's environmental commitments will move from policy into permanent practice. Water harvesting and waste reduction are priorities being built into the institution's infrastructure and culture in equal measure.

Inclusion will remain central. Scholarship access, gender-sensitive programming, and support for students with disabilities are not peripheral concerns, they are indicators of whether EQUaT's growth is reaching those who need it most.

Partnerships with government, civil society, industry, and international academic institutions will be pursued with greater intentionality. Collaboration is not a formality at EQUaT. It is how the university extends its impact beyond what it could achieve alone.

And throughout all of it, the university will measure, report, and remain accountable to its students, its community, and the global sustainability standards against which it has chosen to be judged. The ambition to be ranked among the leading universities in Uganda, Africa, and the world in sustainability by 2030 is a commitment that shapes decisions made today. EQUaT is building toward that future, deliberately, honestly, and without delay.

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Concept and Coordination

Office of Sustainability and SDG Initiatives,
EQUaT Martha Nalukenge — SDGs Officer, EQUaT

Research Team

The following individuals contributed data collection, analysis, and field research in support of this report:

- Dr. Swabra Yahya Umutoni — Quality Assurance Officer
- Mr. Igga Ibrahim — Head of Department, Public Health

Author

Martha Nalukenge — Public Relations & SDGs Officer, EQUaT

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

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Address

We are located at Kigamba -Kasijjagirwa Road, Masaka City P.O.BOX 37633
Kampala Uganda

Emails

pro@equsat.ac.ug

info@equsat.ac.ug

EQUATOR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



EQUUSaT also recognizes the communities of Masaka City and its surrounding areas, whose needs inspire our mission and whose trust motivates our continued commitment to excellence and service.