



# **DHOFAR UNIVERSITY**

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

### **Progress Report**

#### **2021 - 2022**

## **FOREWARD**

It gives me great pleasure to present this “Progress Report” of Dhofar University (DU) on “Sustainable Development Goals” of the United Nations for the academic year 2021-22 to its stakeholders.

The Sustainable Development Goals were first adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

All 191 UN Member Countries, including Oman, have agreed to try to achieve these goals by the year 2030. DU endorses the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman towards achieving these SDGs and strives to make contribution towards that.

One of the objectives set by DU in its Strategic Plan for 2021-31 is: “Adopt United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the betterment of community.” For attaining this objective, there are a number of actions laid down in the supporting Operational Plan. Each action clearly specifies the person responsible for its implementation and the evidence to be provided. All actions have well-defined KPIs and specific targets to be achieved by June 2026

This report summarizes various facts and figures about the progress DU has made towards various SDGs during the year 2021-22.

We strongly hope and want to carry forward the good work achieved in this year and also to excel in the next academic year.

Prof. Amer Ali Rawas  
Vice Chancellor  
Dhofar University, Salalah  
30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

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## 1) INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

## 2) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are integrated - they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>



DU acknowledges that it is the beginning, and at present it may not be covering all the SDGs. In view of this, it has been decided to identify the “Focus Areas” where DU will concentrate in the initial years. Subsequently, over a period of time, every effort shall be made to cover all the SDG, at least the parts concerning the University.

### 3) ACHIEVEMENTS

- a) DU developed and implemented “SDG Policy” in Fall 2021-22. The policy lays down the procedure and guidelines for achieving the SDGs in the next five years.
- b) The QAD created awareness among faculty and staff about the Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations and the SDG Policy of DU.
- c) ***It has been decided that DU shall focus on the selected seven goals also called “Focus SDGs” during the first three years of Strategic Plan (2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24).*** A senior member of the staff has been assigned the responsibility for each of these 7 SDGs as shown in the following table.
- d) ***It is also decided that the remaining ten goals shall be taken up in the following two years of the Strategic Plan (2024-25 and 2025-26).*** As such, a senior member of the staff has been assigned the responsibility for each of these 10 SDGs also as shown in the following table. These designated people are required to explore the areas within these SDGs which may be concerning the University and where it can make some contribution.

No.	Goal	Responsibility
1	No poverty	Prof. Amer Rawas (VC)
2	Zero hunger	Prof. Amer Rawas (VC)
3	Good health and well-being	Ms. Fatima Al Baraami (Director of Student Hostel Services)
4	Quality education	Dr. Syed Jamil (DVC)
5	Gender equality	Dr. Tareq Hosry (Dean DARSA)
6	Clean water and sanitation	Dr. Md. Saiful Islam (CE)
7	Affordable and clean energy	Dr. Sohaib Tahir (CE)
8	Decent work and economic growth	Dr. Mawih Kareem (Acting Dean CCBA)
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	Prof. Muhammad Asif Gondal (Director DR)
10	Reduced inequalities	Dr. Khalid AL Mashikhi (Dean CAAS)

11	Sustainable cities and communities	Mr. Omar AL Shahri (Director of CSCEC)
12	Responsible consumption and production	Dr. Yasser Arab (CE)
13	Climate action	Dr. Mahad Shamas (CE)
14	Life below water	Dr. Mazhar UL-Islam (CE)
15	Life on land	Dr. Manaf Zghaibeh (CE)
16	Peace, justice, and strong institutions	Dr. Ahmed Elzein (Acting Dean CL)
17	Partnerships for the goals	Dr. Sanjay Ramteke (QA Consultant)

Note: The rows highlighted in green are the Focus SDGs.

- e) The persons responsible for each of the seven Focus SDGs have started incorporating the requirements of these SDGs in various DU activities in coordination with the concerned authorities at DU.
- f) DU has also started collaborating with peer HEIs, government organisations, private sector and NGOs in promoting and achieving these SDGs.
- g) DU encourages and provides incentives to its faculty, staff and students for publications on SDGs. The following table shows the aggregate number of publications of DU faculty, staff and students in the selected Focus Areas for the last five years.

No.	Goal	No. of Publications
1	No poverty	-
4	Quality education	5
5	Gender equality	5
8	Decent work and economic growth	47
10	Reduced inequalities	11
16	Peace, justice, and strong institutions	16

## 4) PROGRESS TOWARDS SEVEN FOCUS SDGs

### Goal 1 - No Poverty

- a) Around 60% of the students at DU are either sponsored by the MoHERI or some other financing agency and are receiving financial aid to attend higher education.
- b) For self-financing students, who are in financial difficulty, there is a provision for deferred payment of tuition fees, which is dealt with by the Director of the Department of Financial Affairs (DFA). The percentage of self-financing students who availed this facility during the year is around 62%.
- c) DU has introduced a scheme to encourage outstanding students, especially from lower income group. Under this scheme, 50% concession in tuition fees is given to twelve students at the University every semester, which is based on their academic performance in the previous semester.
- d) DU Periodically review the amount of financial aid and scholarships provided to the students to ensure equitable distribution of funds to students in needs across the university colleges and FP. This is well communicated to students in advance.
- e) As per “Students Employment and Training Policy”, DU provides financial support for students, especially from lower income group, through part-time employment at the University, which is managed by the Department of Student Affairs (DSA). Students in the third year or above are eligible for this.
- f) ***DU provides “Free Accommodation” for its girl students on the University campus.*** This is part of the “University’s Social Responsibility” and also for meant for encouraging the girl students in the region to go in for higher education. There is a provision for accommodating around 1000 students in the “Female Student Residency”.

### Goal 4 - Quality Education

- a) DU has a “Department of Education” in the College of Arts and Applied Sciences. The department offers a number of academic programs at Diploma, Bachelor and Masters level in the field of education. All these programs are designed in such a way that the graduates of these programs are qualified to teach at primary school level. The following table shows the number of graduates in the field of education in the last three years.

Degree	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Diploma	0	0	0
Bachelor	3	4	8
Master	46	39	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>53</b>

b) DU has a “Community Service and Continuing Education Center” (CSCEC), which provides access to the educational resources of the University and the expertise of DU faculty to the community of the Dhofar Region at large. The activities of CSCEC mainly include:

- 1) educational and training programs to meet the needs of local community with active participation of private and public sector
- 2) certificate programs and customized training programs designed to meet the needs of individuals and organizations.
- 3) short-term courses for public and private sector employees.
- 4) holding educational events at the university that are open to general public.

The following table shows the activities of CSCEC in the last three years.

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Activity	3	13	21

c) The Department of Admission and Registration (DAR) at DU is involved in promoting DU and its programs among prospective students. For that purpose, it maintains contact with high schools in the region and provides information about higher education in coordination with the College Deans, FP Director and Director of the Department of Public Relations and Information (DPRI). The department also participates in national and international educational exhibitions for promoting DU and its programs in collaboration with DPRI.

d) DU is the only University providing higher education up to Master’s level in the Governorate of Dhofar. Many students enrolling at DU are first generation students in higher education. In view of this, DU has a social obligation towards the local community. As such, DU:

- 1) creates awareness in the community about the importance of higher education in building the nation,
- 2) delivers high quality academic programs, which provide its students with ready employment and
- 3) strives to ensure that majority of its students are provided financial support through MoHERI or some other financing agency.

e) One of the objective set by DU in its SP for 2021-31 is, **“Develop DU into a leading university for higher education of students with disabilities in Oman.”** As such, DU has established a “Students with Disabilities Support Service Unit” to cater to the needs of Student with Disability (SWD). Through this unit DU:

- 1) promotes a culture of inclusiveness for SWD among DU community,
- 2) equips faculty and staff with appropriate skills to cater to the needs of SWD,



- 3) builds a pool of student volunteers for supporting SWD,
  - 4) provide adequate and appropriate facilities to meet the needs of SWD,
  - 5) establishes fruitful partnerships with public and private sector organisations to support SWD,
  - 6) widens the involvement of SWDSSU in the local community.
- f) DU provides adequate and culturally appropriate accommodation for its female students on the University campus. There is a provision for accommodating around 1000 students in the “Female Student Residency”. ***DU does not charge any fees from its students for accommodation facilities.*** This is part of the “University’s Social Responsibility” and also for encouraging the girls in the region to go in for higher education.

### **Goal 5 - Gender Equality**

- a) As mentioned earlier under Goal-4, many students at DU are first generation students in higher education. This proportion is much higher for girl students. DU strives to promote gender equality, while encouraging the female students, especially the first generation students, to pursue higher education.

As such DU provides free accommodation to all female students on the University campus. The following table shows the number of students availing this facility in the last three years.

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of female students in Ladies Hostel	533	540	755

- g) As per the “Proposed Labour Laws of Oman”, which is endorsed and adopted by DU, there is provision of “Maternity Leave” for 98 days and also “Paternity Leave” for 7 days.

### **Goal 8 - Decent Work on Economic Growth**

- a) DU has revised the “Salary Structure” for its staff, benchmarking it with other peer HEIs in Oman. This has helped DU in attracting and recruiting an adequate number of qualified and experienced staff. DU also provides “Annual Increment” in salary to its existing staff, both Omani and expats, which helps it in motivating and retaining the deserving staff.
- b) DU has a “Recognised Labour Union” in which most of the staff, including women and expats are members. This ensures that the employees have freedom of association and labour rights are protected.
- c) DU follows a “Policy of Non-discrimination” while recruiting and promoting the staff. There is no discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, race,

colour, religion, economic or social status, nationality etc., provided they are otherwise qualified.

This non-discrimination policy is followed for “Pay Scale Equality” also and it is ensured that there are “No Gender Pay Gaps”.

- d) DU ensures that the staff members are provided with adequate opportunities to raise their grievances. Accordingly, DU has a “Staff Grievance Policy” (SGP) which gives details about: (1) types of grievances, (2) grievance-handling procedure, (3) appeal procedure and (4) necessary guidelines. The policy is made available to staff through e-mail, the DU website and DU Policy Manual.

DU also builds confidence among faculty and staff and ensures them that SGP is fair, impartial and equitable. It is also ensured that there is consistency, fairness, equity, transparency and promptness in dealing with staff grievances. The ultimate aim is to ensure that they work in a healthy work environment and contribute toward development of the University.

- e) “Student Work Placement” (SWP) is a formal requirement for most of the undergraduate programs at DU. It is a supervised and assessed work carried out by the students, with the approval of the College, in a business, industrial, social or other organisation.

DU perceives SWP as a valuable experience for students, which enhances their employment opportunities. It is known by different names in different programs, such as practicum internship, field internship, practical training or simply internship.

The following table shows the number of students taking SWP in last three years.

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total Number of Students (Head Count)	4319	4378	4373
Number of Students taking SWP	587	973	802
Proportion of students taking SWP	13.6%	22.2%	18.3%

- f) Almost all employees of DU, both academic and non-academic are on secure contracts. Only newly recruited staff is on probation for 3 months, after that, if their work is satisfactory, they are given a secure contract.

The following table shows the number employees on secure contract in last three years as compared to the total employees.

Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
No. of employees on secure contract	362	368	358
Total employees at DU	417	418	415
PC of employees on secure contract	86.8%	88.0%	86.3%

## Goal 10 - Reduce Inequalities

- a) As mentioned earlier under Goal 4, DU is the only University providing higher education up to Master's level in the Governorate of Dhofar. Many students enrolling at DU are first generation students in higher education. In view of this, DU has a social obligation towards the local community and is committed towards that.

As such, (1) DU creates awareness in the community about the importance of higher education in building the nation, (2) delivers high quality academic programs, which provide its students with ready employment and (3) strives to ensure that majority of its students are provided financial support through MoHERI or other financing agency.

- b) There is a significant number of students with disabilities studying at DU. As such, one of the objective set by DU in its SP for 2021-31 is, ***“Develop DU into a leading university for higher education of students with disabilities in Oman.”***

DU has also established a “Students with Disabilities Support Service Unit” to cater to the needs of student with disability and there is a “Student with Disability Policy” to guide the activities of this unit. Through this unit DU:

- 1) promotes a culture of inclusiveness for SWD among DU community,
  - 2) equips faculty and staff with appropriate skills to cater to the needs of SWD,
  - 3) builds a pool of student volunteers for supporting SWD,
  - 4) provide adequate and appropriate facilities to meet the needs of SWD,
  - 5) establishes fruitful partnerships with public and private sector organisations to support SWD,
  - 6) widens the involvement of SWDSSU in the local community.
- c) DU has taken utmost care in designing its physical facilities to ensure that people with special needs are taken care of and they face no problems in moving from one place to another within the campus.

All DU buildings have ramps and handicap washrooms apart from separate well earmarked parking spaces. Also, all classrooms and labs are wheel-chair compliant for easy movement of such students.

- g) DU follows a “Policy of Non-discrimination” while admitting the new students. There is no discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, colour, religion, economic or social status, nationality etc., provided they are otherwise qualified for admission.

The students are also protected from harassment.

## **Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

- a) The “University Council” (UC) is the highest decision-making body of the University. As per DU Bylaws, it is composed of the Vice-Chancellor (VC) as chairperson and the Deputy VC, Asst. to the VC, Deans, Director of the Foundation Program and Director of the Quality Assurance (QA) as members.

One faculty member from each of the four Colleges, nominated by the VC for a renewable period of three years and based on the suggestions of the College Deans, is also a member of the UC.

In addition, the President of the Student Advisory Council and the Directors of the Non-academic Departments concerned are also invited to the UC while any matter concerning them is being discussed.

- b) As per MoHERI guidelines, DU has a “Student Advisory Council”, consisting of seventeen representatives drawn from various colleges. The SAC is reconstituted with newly-elected members every year in September.

Dean DARSA ensures that all colleges are represented in SAC as per MoHERI guidelines and there are no vacant positions. DU encourages female students to be members of SAC and provides conducive environment for their involvement in SAC. DU also involves representative of Masters Programs students in SAC as invitee to take up their issues.

The SAC is used as a means of collecting feedback from students as well as informing them about the action taken regarding their feedback. DU holds regular meetings between the SAC and senior management of DU at least once every semester to discuss student satisfaction and their grievances. Student representatives in SAC are invited in various College (Department) committee meetings, wherever appropriate.

- c) DU has a “University Advisory Board”, which includes representatives from industry, employers and community. The board normally meets once every year and provides a forum for interaction with industry and employers for their involvement in the planning process for the development of the University.

In line with University Advisory Board, DU has established “College Advisory Boards” in all its Colleges, which also include representatives from industry, employers and community. The boards normally meet twice every year and provides a forum for interaction with industry and employers for their involvement in the planning process, especially during program review and development of new academic programs.

- d) DU is registered as “Dhofar University Company (SAOC)” with the Ministry of Commerce and Industries in Oman. Accordingly, its financial books are audited by an External Auditor every year. These audited reports are published by DU.

The external auditors for 2021-22 were “Deloitte Company”, which is independent of the institution, its senior staff and members of the governing body.

DU also has an “Internal Audit Unit” that reports to the Board of Directors (BoD) and the VC. Their main role is to examine the internal procedures and control measures to ensure that all legal requirements, the University Bylaws and other rules and regulations are observed.

BoD also meets quarterly and monitors the actual expenses with the budgeted figures and approve quarterly unaudited financial statements.

### **Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals**

- a) As mentioned earlier in Section 3-(e), DU has started collaborating with peer HEIs, government organisations, private sector and NGOs in promoting and achieving SDGs.

DU staff also participates in the conferences, seminars and workshops on SDGs so as to broaden their knowledge and help DU in implementing good practices of other organisations in achieving SGGs.

- b) As mentioned earlier in Section 3-(b), QAD created awareness among faculty and staff about United Nations SDGs and SDG Policy of DU.

The Director of the Student Affairs and Dean DARSA conducted such awareness programs for students every semester.

CSCEC also conducted numerous programs for local community to create awareness among them about SDGs.

- c) Furthermore, for creating awareness among students about SDGs, DU has started incorporating the SDG that could possibly be related to that particular course in the course syllabus distributed to the students.
- d) DU has specific “University (College) Requirement” courses and “College Elective” courses on sustainability. The students are encouraged to enroll in this course.

## **5) PROGRESS TOWARDS OTHER TEN SDGs**

### **Goal 2 - Zero Hunger**

- a) SDG-2 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU has started measuring the amount of food waste generated from food served within the university and keeps a record of that.
- c) DU provides sustainable food choices for all on the campus, including vegetarian and vegan food.
- d) DU also provide healthy and affordable food choices for all on the campus.

### **Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being**

- a) SDG-3 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU organises outreach programmes and projects in the local community to promote and improve health and well-being including hygiene, nutrition, exercise, and other health and well-being related topics.
- c) DU organises various events, such as blood donation camps, health awareness programs, tree-planting etc. for the benefit of the community. DU also encourages the involvement of its students, faculty and staff in community services.
- d) DU provides its students with access to mental health support through the “Counseling Center”. The Counselling Centre has both male and female counsellors to deal with male and female separately.
- e) Smoking is strictly prohibited within the University campus. Posters showing prohibition and also the consequences of smoking are placed in prominent places at the University. As per DU Bylaws Section 72-2-1 smoking inside the University Buildings is considered as non-academic violation.

### **Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation**

- a) SDG-6 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.

- b) As such, DU has started measuring the total volume of water used in the university.
- c) DU provides free drinking water for students, staff and visitors
- d) DU has “Energy and Water Conservation Policy”. The policy provides a framework for conservation of energy and water so as to reduce their consumption and gain control over their financial cost to the University.

### **Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy**

- a) SDG-7 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU ensures that all renovations of the existing buildings or construction of new buildings follow energy efficiency standards
- c) As mentioned earlier, DU has “Energy and Water Conservation Policy”. The policy provides a framework for conservation of energy and water so as to reduce their consumption and gain control over their financial cost to the University.
- d) Technical Affairs Department at DU is proactive and ensure that periodic inspection and preventive maintenance of facilities is carried out.
- e) Energy conservation and water conservation is a moral responsibility of all staff, students and workers at DU. As such, any wastage of energy or water is brought to the notice of concerned authorities and is attended by them immediately. Details of emergency contact person are posted at all prominent places in DU premises.
- f) Technical Affairs Department is exploring the possibilities of using solar energy. Also, priority is given to the use of natural light, wherever possible.

### **Goal 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

- a) SDG-9 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU has a well-defined “Consultancy Policy” to regulate the consultancy activities of its faculty and staff.
- c) DU provides an environment conducive for consultancy activities and encourages its faculty and staff to provide consultancy services for Industry, Employers and Govt. Organisations (IEGO) through ‘EJAAD’.



- d) DU works in close cooperation with industry and business houses, in both private and public sectors, to know their expectations and demands of consultancy services.
- e) DU also markets the expertise of its faculty to attract consultancy projects.

### **Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities**

- a) SDG-11 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU library is open to the members of community in general (by special arrangement). It is open on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from 7.30 am to 8:00 p.m., which ensures that the stakeholders have maximum access to learning resources.
- c) DU has a well-defined “Transportation Policy”. As per this policy, students are advised to use public vehicles which involves mass transportation so as to reduce vehicular traffic inside the campus.

DU also strongly advises the students using private motor vehicles to have maximum car-pooling arrangements so as to reduce the congestion of vehicles in the campus.

- d) DU provides adequate and culturally appropriate accommodation for its female students on the University campus. There is a provision for accommodating around 1000 students in the “Female Student Residency”. DU does not charge any fees from its students for accommodation facilities. This is part of the “University’s Social Responsibility” and also for encouraging the girls in the region to go in for higher education.
- e) DU also arranges accommodation for students with disabilities and provides them the transportation facility.

### **Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production**

- a) SDG-12 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU has a well-defined “Biosafety Policy”. This policy applies to all staff members, students and researchers engaged in approved research projects on University premises involving the use of bio-hazardous materials or generation of bio-hazardous waste.



- c) As per this policy, DU ensures that all research activities involving bio-hazardous materials are well-managed and controlled by providing comprehensible procedures and guidelines for approval of such research projects and for safe handling, storage, use and disposal of bio-hazardous material.

### **Goal 13 - Climate Action**

- a) SDG-13 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) DU provides awareness programs and organises campaigns for local community through CSCEC on climate change risks, its impacts, mitigation techniques, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- c) All renovations of the existing buildings or construction of new buildings follow energy efficiency standards.
- d) DU is mostly using the energy generated through Fossil Fuel, as such the focus is on reducing the energy consumption.
- e) Energy and water conservation is moral responsibility of all stakeholders. Any wastage of energy or water is brought to the notice of concerned authorities and attended immediately.
- f) DU is exploring the possibilities of using solar energy and priority is given to the use of natural light, wherever possible.

### **Goal 14 - Life Below Water**

- a) SDG-14 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.
- b) As such, DU has made a small beginning. It has developed and implemented an action plan to reduce plastic waste on the campus.

### **Goal 15 - Life Above Water**

- a) SDG-15 is one of the ten SDGs where DU is making only marginal contribution at present. Nevertheless, a senior member of the staff has already been assigned the responsibility for this SDG. (Refer Section-3). He is required to explore the areas within this SDG which may be concerning DU and where it can make some contribution.

- b) As mentioned earlier under Goal 14, DU has developed and implemented an action plan to reduce plastic waste on the campus.
- c) As mentioned earlier under Goal 12, DU has a “Biosafety Policy”. This policy applies to all staff members, students and researchers engaged in approved research projects on University premises involving the use of bio-hazardous materials or generation of bio-hazardous waste.
- d) As per this policy, DU ensures that all research activities involving bio-hazardous materials are well-managed and controlled by providing comprehensible procedures and guidelines for approval of such research projects and for safe handling, storage, use and disposal of bio-hazardous material.

## **6) FUTURE PLANS**

- a) Every year, DU plans to widen the coverage of SDG and ensure that by the end of first half of the current Strategic Plan (2021-26) the University has made reasonably good progress on all SDGs.
- b) DU has plans to increase the capacity of “Female Student Residency” so as to accommodate maximum number of female students.
- c) DU plans to increase the proportion of female in academic staff and also in administrative positions.
- d) DU proposes to organise outreach programmes and projects in the local community to promote and improve health and well-being.
- e) Greater emphasis to be given on reducing water wastage and electricity wastage through rigorous implementation of Energy and Water Conservation Policy.

# DHOFAR UNIVERSITY

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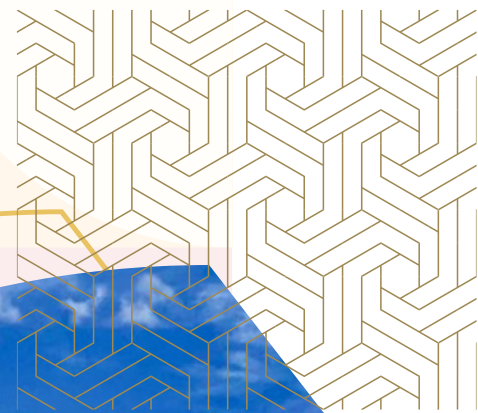
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Salalah,

Sultanate of Oman

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## THE GLOBAL GOALS