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Message from the Vice Chancellor

I am pleased to present the First Annual Sustainability Report of Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT). This milestone reflects our commitment to fostering sustainability as an integral part of our institutional culture and strategic direction.

At EQUaT, we recognize that sustainability is no longer a choice but a necessity for shaping a sustainable future. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have taken deliberate steps to integrate these global objectives into our academic, operational, and community engagement frameworks. Our approach emphasizes holistic development: balancing economic growth, social well-being, and environmental stewardship.

Throughout 2024, EQUaT has worked diligently to align its policies and practices with sustainability principles. From embedding SDG concepts within academic programs to adopting resource conservation strategies, we are committed to nurturing a generation of professionals who understand and champion sustainable development. Our focus has been on, responsible water and waste management, energy efficiency measures, biodiversity conservation, and the promotion of a smoke-free and environmentally friendly campus.

Our students, faculty, and staff have been instrumental in driving these efforts. Through student societies, research projects, and partnerships with local and international stakeholders, EQUaT continues to contribute to addressing pressing challenges such as climate change, health and well-being, quality education, and poverty alleviation. We are equally proud of our collaborations with government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector in advancing solutions that benefit not only our campus but also the wider community.

As we embark on this journey, our vision is clear: to position EQUaT as a leader in sustainability and innovation within the region, with a positive global impact. This report is a testament to our progress and a reminder of the responsibility we share in building a better world for future generations.



Prof. Muhamad Mpezamihigo
Vice Chancellor
Equator University of Science and
Technology (EQUaT)

About this Report

Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT) proudly presents its First Annual Sustainability Report, a comprehensive document prepared by the Office of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ambassador.

This report highlights our commitment to advancing sustainability within the university and beyond, extending our impact to the wider community. It reflects our consistent efforts throughout 2024 to embed sustainable practices and principles across all aspects of campus life.

Inspired by global best practices and institutions, EQUaT has dedicated itself to promoting sustainability as a core institutional value. This report offers an in-depth account of our initiatives and strategies aimed at supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a universal framework of 17 objectives addressing pressing global challenges, including environmental conservation, poverty eradication, and inclusive prosperity for all.

EQUaT recognizes the importance of sustainability and is adopting holistic approaches that integrate into every facet of academic and operational activities. The report highlights our progress in critical areas such as delivering quality education, combating climate change, fostering strategic partnerships, and prioritizing health, safety, and environmental stewardship. It further outlines our commitment to responsible water and waste management as well as promoting equality and inclusion.

To provide clarity and insight, the report is structured into sections that detail our sustainability achievements on campus, external collaborations, the contributions of student-led initiatives, alignment with the SDGs, and our vision for the future. Each section captures our journey toward aligning institutional practices with the global sustainability agenda, reaffirming our role in shaping a sustainable world.

We believe this report is an essential communication tool; demonstrating our dedication to sustainability to a wide audience, including students, faculty, government officials, policymakers, relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.



About EQUaT

Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT) is a private, not-for-profit higher education institution established in 2020 and accredited by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in 2021.

EQUaT offers a diverse range of academic programs, professional training, education, and skills development, providing a unique learning and working environment in Uganda, across the East African region, and beyond. The University hosts a vibrant student community of over 300 learners representing more than 21 nationalities, supported by an alumni network of 100 graduates. It currently operates with 2 faculties, over 20 departments, and more than 10 academic programs.

The University has established strong partnerships with leading institutions in Uganda, Kenya, and Pakistan and maintains collaborations with universities across East Africa and internationally. Its academic strength is further enriched by a multicultural faculty team drawn from more than five countries.

EQUaT continues to invest in cutting-edge technology and strategic development projects, including an Innovation Hub, a Surveillance Hub, and several other initiatives designed to enhance academic excellence and innovation.

Our commitment to delivering quality higher education is anchored on teaching, learning, research, innovation, partnerships, and community engagement, all aligned with advancing the national science and technology agenda. EQUaT prioritizes Science, Technology, and Innovation as drivers of its strategic direction, while also embracing multidisciplinary approaches in education, research, and development. This forward-thinking approach informs the upcoming expansion into humanities, social sciences, liberal arts, and related fields.



EQUaT's Commitment to Sustainability`

Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT) has made significant strides in promoting sustainability since its establishment in 2020. Guided by its vision “Aspiring to be the leading university of excellence in Science and Technology in Uganda and beyond,” EQUaT has positioned itself among Uganda’s most progressive institutions, championing excellence through a range of sustainability-driven initiatives.

In line with these efforts, our ambition is clear: to be ranked among top universities nationally, regionally and globally in sustainability by 2035. To realize this goal, we remain steadfast in implementing impactful sustainability projects, strengthening our environmental and social responsibility programs, and producing annual sustainability reports to monitor and improve our performance in global rankings.

The Office of The SDGs Ambassador EQUaT

Additionally, EQUaT has established an Office of Sustainability and SDG Initiatives to coordinate and monitor all sustainability-related programs, including training workshops, seminars, and community outreach projects. These training sessions will cover critical topics such as Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Circular Economy Principles, Responsible Consumption, and Environmental Ethics. Plans are also in place to extend these sessions to the wider community to build sustainability literacy beyond campus.



Ms. Nakkazi Natasha
EQUaT SDGs Ambassador

Advancing Sustainability Through Teaching and Learning at EQUaT

The era of human-driven change has brought unprecedented impacts on Earth's systems, resulting in biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, climate change, and resource depletion. To respond to these global challenges, it is essential for educational institutions to embed sustainability science into their teaching and learning frameworks. At Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT), we are committed to producing graduates equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to tackle issues such as global warming, natural resource depletion, and public health concerns.

EQUaT has over the time integrated sustainability principles across its academic programs to ensure that students understand the interconnections between social, economic, and environmental systems. Our Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Business Science offer a range of programs and courses that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include modules embedded in programs such as; Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor



EQUaT Students making use of the university

of Information Technology, all with components that highlight Green Technologies, Climate Change Adaptation, Digital Sustainability, and more. Plans are underway to introduce dedicated courses on Sustainability Science and SDG Implementation across all undergraduate programs to foster cross-disciplinary understanding and action.

To bridge theory and practice, EQUaT emphasizes experiential learning through internships, industrial attachments, and community engagement projects. Every undergraduate program is designed to incorporate internships that give students hands-on experience in applying sustainability concepts within real-world settings. Students also undertake final-year projects addressing key sustainability challenges such as waste management, renewable energy adoption, water resource conservation, and innovative health solutions. To enhance practical learning, EQUaT organizes industrial and field visits each semester, enabling students to explore real-life sustainability practices in industries and communities. Our well-facilitated laboratories, dental health facilities, innovation hubs, and digital learning platforms provide a strong foundation for developing research and innovation that addresses pressing environmental and health-related issues.

Through these efforts, EQUaT is steadily advancing its vision of becoming a leader in sustainability education in Uganda and the East African region, empowering graduates to create solutions that foster a sustainable future for all.

Clinical and Teaching Services in the EQUaT Dental Clinic

The Equator University of Science and Technology Dental Clinic (EQUaT Dental Clinic) was established as a strategic partnership between the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health, and Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT). Operating under the umbrella of Masaka Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH), the clinic serves as the central hub for all dental cases referred to MRRH from the Greater Masaka region, which is made up of 9 districts.

With 11 Dental chairs, national and international professional dental experts, state-of-the-art dental equipment and modern facilities, the EQUaT Dental Clinic provides comprehensive oral healthcare services ranging from preventive care and restorative dentistry to advanced surgical interventions. It caters to the general public, EQUaT students, and staff, ensuring affordable and high-quality dental care for the entire community.

The clinic plays a dual role: delivering excellent patient care and serving as a teaching and training center for students pursuing the Bachelor of Dental Surgery program. This integration of service delivery and education contributes significantly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by improving access to oral healthcare and reducing the burden of dental diseases in the region and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by ensuring that students attain hands on training.

Additionally, the EQUaT Dental Clinic supports sustainability in healthcare by training future oral health professionals, promoting community dental health awareness, and ensuring cost-effective service delivery. It exemplifies public-private partnership in healthcare, providing an essential platform for innovation, research, and professional excellence while fostering long-term improvements in Uganda's oral health sector.



EQUaT Students during a practical session in dentistry



EQUSaT Students during a practical session in dentistry



EQUSaT Students during a practical session in dentistry

Some of the services offered

- Dental Examinations & Diagnosis
- Dental X-rays & Imaging
- Teeth Cleaning (Scaling & Polishing)
- Tooth Extraction (Simple & Surgical)
- Fillings for Cavities (Amalgam & Composite)
- Preventive & Oral Health Services
- Oral Health Education & Counseling
- Restorative & Prosthetic Dentistry
- Root Canal Treatment (Endodontics)
- Crowns & Bridges Dentures (Complete & Partial)
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (Minor Procedures)
- Treatment of Gum Diseases (Periodontology)
- Orthodontic Assessment & Braces (Basic Services)
- Teaching & Community Services
- Clinical Training for Dental Students
- Community Dental Outreach Programs



EQUSaT Students during a practical session in dentistry

Education and Academics

Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT) is committed to upholding, fostering, and promoting quality education in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4): Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Through its Faculty of Business Science (FOBS), Faculty of Health Sciences (FOHS), and Centre for Continuing Professional Development (CCPD), EQUaT provides diverse programs that equip students with practical knowledge, digital skills, and professional competencies needed for the 21st-century job market.

Flagship programs such as the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), and Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) demonstrate our commitment to developing skilled professionals in health, business, and technology. To further enhance access and affordability, EQUaT offers a 30% tuition waiver on these courses, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder the pursuit of quality education.

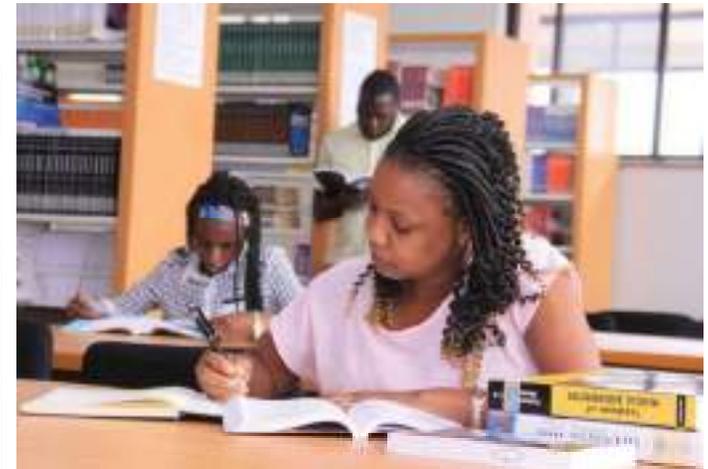
This approach underscores our mission to nurture transformative leaders and innovators who will drive sustainable development and global competitiveness. Below are the programs offered at EQUaT;

Faculty of Business Science (FOBS) The Faculty of Business Science offers courses leading to the following awards: -

- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT)
- Diploma in Business Administration
- Diploma in Information Technology
- National Certificate in Business Administration
- National Certificate in Information Technology

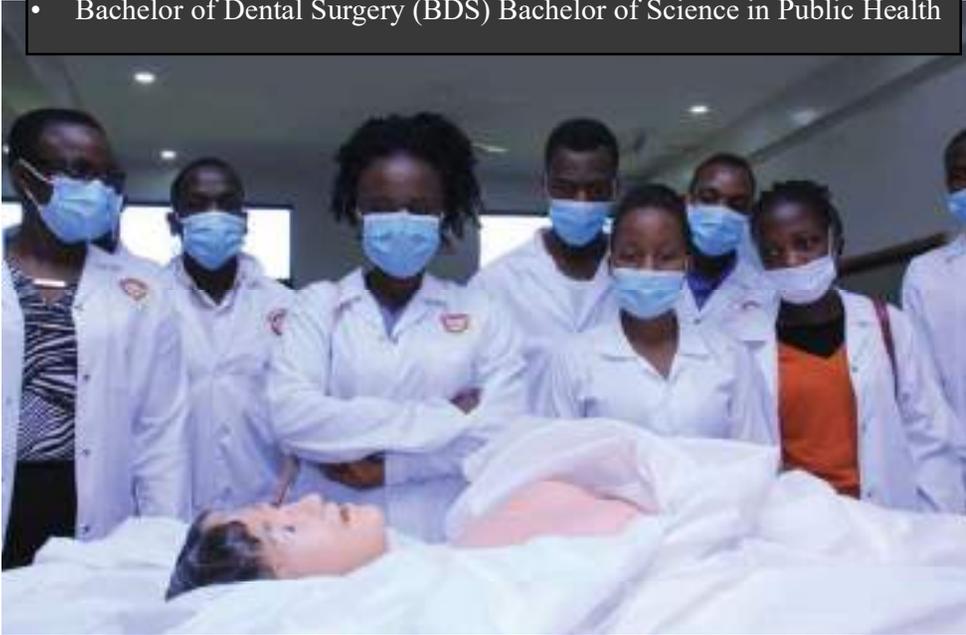


EQUaT Students pursuing BIT in practical session



Faculty of Health Sciences (FOHS)

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) Bachelor of Science in Public Health



EQUaT Students pose for a photo after lecture in Nursing skills in the university skills laboratory



EQUaT Students doing revision in the university library

- Certificate Programmes Higher Education Access Certificate Program – Science (HEACP-S)
 - Higher Education Access Certificate Program – Humanities (HEACP-H)
- Besides offering tuition waivers and offering quality education, EQUaT

actively engages in education outreach initiatives that inspire and empower the younger generation. The university has organized guided campus tours for primary and secondary school students, introducing them to university life, academic systems, and the opportunities that higher education provides. These experiences are designed to motivate learners to remain focused on their studies and nurture dreams of becoming future leaders.

Community Outreach Program and Mentorship Initiatives

EQUaT has implemented a variety of community outreach initiatives focused on advancing sustainability and improving community well-being. These initiatives include free dental camps to promote oral health, blood donation drives to support lifesaving efforts, and medical screenings aimed at early detection and prevention of diseases. Additionally, EQUaT has championed education and literacy programs, digital skills training to prepare communities for the modern job market, and waste management campaigns to encourage environmental conservation.

The university has also undertaken community empowerment and social development projects, alongside charity and humanitarian interventions, reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development.

Health Promotion Initiatives

Free Dental Camp

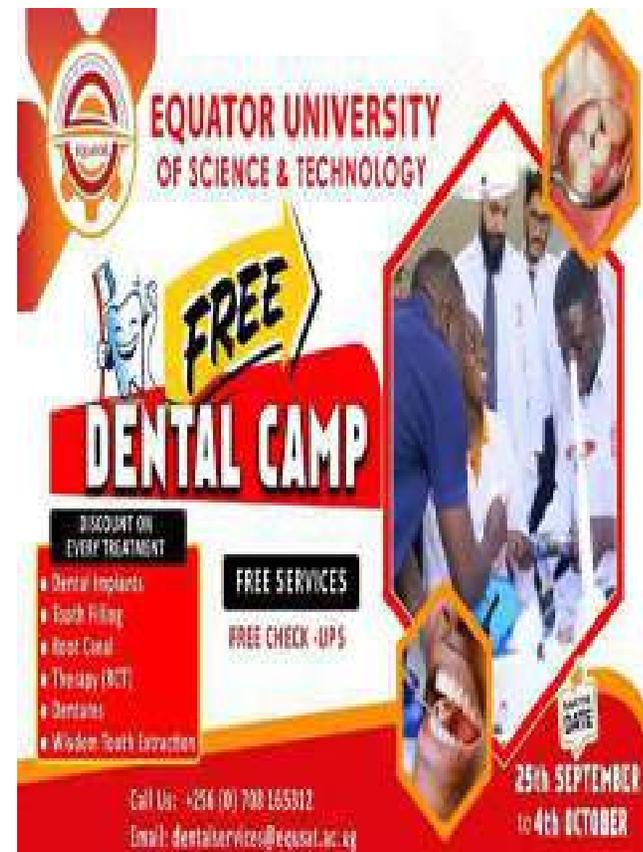
EQUaT implemented several initiatives to promote health in the Greater Masaka Region, including free dental camps, blood donation drives, medical screenings, and more. These activities were aimed at enhancing the community's overall well-being, raise awareness about common health issues, and provide guidance on prevention, treatment, and management strategies.

Free Dental Camp
Blood Donation Drive

Dental experts from Pakistan and Uganda joined efforts to provide free dental services to the Greater Masaka community, advancingSDG3–GoodHealthandWell-Being.

Spearheaded by Dr. Bader Saeed from Punjab Dental Professionals, Lahore, the camp offered check-ups, extractions, cleaning, and oral health education. About 100 people benefited from the outreach, many receiving dental care for the first time.

The initiative significantly improved oral health awareness and access to services in the region.



Blood Donation Drive



EUMSA President, Mr Halima Patrick donates blood during the blood donation drive

In partnership with the Red Cross and Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, EQUSt organised a blood donation drive for students, staff, and the surrounding community. The initiative, spearheaded by the EQUSt Medical Students Association under the leadership of Halima Patrick was aimed at supporting the Uganda Blood Bank and advancing SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being. The drive encouraged voluntary blood donation, strengthened community health awareness, and demonstrated EQUSt's commitment to saving lives through collaboration and service.

Youth Empowerment Program



Youth Empowerment Program

Youth-centered initiatives were organized to equip young people with essential knowledge and skills on various topics, including financial literacy, self-management, leadership development, preparation for the future job market, general health and mental well-being, personal branding, digital skills, and more.

As part of these efforts, two major Youth Empowerment Programs were conducted: the first on June 13, 2025, and the second on September 12, 2025. During these programs, participants received training in financial literacy, social connectivity, and mental health, all aimed at preparing them for future challenges. They also developed competencies in critical thinking, problem-solving, personal branding, and innovation.

The impact of these programs was significant. Students and staff established financial-based SACCOS, formed social groups to enhance interaction, and initiated a staff-led project to acquire the EQUSt Estate in Bajja, Kalungi District.

Other several educational initiatives, including conferences and seminars, were organized at EQUSt and actively attended by both students and staff. These programs focused on imparting knowledge and skills that promote effective leadership, strong work ethics, and adherence to high professional standards.

Several other education initiatives such as conferences and seminars were both organized at EQUSt and also attended by our students and staff in order to educate them on different topics that promoted good leadership, good work ethics and standards. There were not limited to only those that were organized by EQUSt but also those that other institutions had organized.

Student Support Initiatives

EQUaT supported various student-led initiatives designed to promote social connectivity, address mental health challenges, and foster a sense of community. Some of these activities included student dinners, sports events, competitions, outings, and social gatherings, all aimed at enhancing student well-being and creating a vibrant campus life.

First Annual EQUaT Dinner

As part of fostering community engagement and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), students at EQUaT organized a collective dinner to celebrate their stay at the university. The event, officiated by the then Guild President, Ahmed Baryamujura, aimed to promote SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and SDG 4: Quality Education by encouraging positive living and personal development.

The dinner featured a variety of foods and drinks, fashion showcases, and a vibrant dance session that reflected cultural diversity (SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities). Additionally, a talk session was held to guide students on:

Building harmonious relationships with peers (SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Effective time management for academic success and campus life (SDG 4: Quality Education). Stress management techniques to maintain mental well-being (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being). Balancing academic and personal responsibilities for holistic growth (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth).

EQUaT Mbarara Day Out

To foster SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, The Indite Club of EQUaT organized a student outing, exploring various destinations across Uganda. The activity was designed to promote unity, mental wellness, and social bonding among students outside their usual academic routines.

Happening on 13th July, 2024, students engaged in different activities including a friendly football match with Biharwe Football Club, a renowned team competing in the Big League, the second tier of Uganda's national football structure after the Uganda Premier League. This experience fostered teamwork, physical fitness, and cultural exchange.

The outing also featured horse riding, swimming, board games, and several interactive activities that allowed students to relax, refresh, and create lasting friendships. By encouraging social interaction and physical activity, this initiative contributed to a balanced and healthy student lifestyle.

EQUaT Students pose for a photo session during the Mbarara Day Out



I-Talk

EQUaT Students attend the I-Talk Session



benefited from expert sessions led by the University Counsellor, Vice Chancellor, Dean of Students, and several other experts. These sessions addressed strategies for managing mental health, planning career paths, and building personal resilience.

To promote SDG 3 (mental well-being) and SDG 10 (social inclusion), the seminar also incorporated fun, engaging activities such as Truth or Dare, Board Games, Chair Dancing, Bottle Flipping, and a campfire experience, fostering social interaction and stress relief among students.

As part of its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EQUaT Guild Government organized the I-Talk Seminar, a youth-centered initiative designed to promote SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

The seminar was focused on critical areas such as mental health awareness, career guidance, and personal development, equipping students with knowledge and skills for holistic growth. The event was officially opened by the Guild Vice President, HE. Hafiswa Ndagire Mbuga, alongside the University Vice Chancellor.

With over 100 students in attendance, participants

Medical Quiz



EQUaT Students answering questions during the Quiz session

In alignment with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), in partnership with the EQUaT Medical Students Association (EUMSA), organized an exciting Medical Knowledge Competition.

The event was officiated by the then Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Mulwany Francis, alongside EUMSA President, Halima Patrick. It attracted enthusiastic participation from medical students, fostering academic excellence and teamwork beyond the traditional classroom setting.

The competition provided students with an interactive learning experience while reinforcing their medical knowledge and problem-solving skills. Group E, consisting of John Mary Vianny and Amoding Mercy, emerged as the winners of the quiz.

This initiative was designed to give students a refreshing break from their daily academic routine while promoting intellectual growth, peer learning, and a spirit of healthy competition.

Students Equator Line Tour

In line with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, EQUaT students embarked on an educational trip to the Equator Line, the landmark that inspired the university's name. The visit provided a blend of geographical learning, scientific experimentation, and cultural enrichment, giving students a practical understanding of key geographical concepts.

During the tour, which happened on 21st July 2024, students received detailed explanations about Uganda's geography, the significance of the Equator, and its impact on daily life. They participated in hands-on experiments, including: The Coriolis Effect Water Drain Experiment, which demonstrated how the Earth's rotation influences water flow in different hemispheres. The Balance Object Experiment, showcasing gravitational equilibrium at the Equator.

EQUaT Students pose for a photo at the Equator Line signage



EQUaT Football match HAMSA



EQUaT Football team poses for a photo with Habib Medical Students Association team in Kibuli, Kampala

In support of SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, EQUaT students engaged in a friendly football match with the Habib Medical Students Association (HAMSA) in Kampala.

The event was aimed at promoting physical wellness, strengthening inter-university relations, and creating avenues for future collaborations between EQUaT and the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU). Beyond sportsmanship, the match provided an excellent networking platform, enabling EQUaT students to connect with peers from IUIU and share ideas for professional growth and collaboration.

As a result of these interactions, EQUaT successfully lobbied to host the Federation of Ugandan Medical Students Association (FUMSA) General Assembly the following year, marking a significant achievement in 'advancing the university's presence in the national medical students' network.

Charity and Humanitarian interventions

EQUaT actively participated in several charity and humanitarian initiatives within the Masaka community, distributing food, clothing, and household items to support vulnerable groups. These efforts were aimed at alleviating poverty, combating hunger, and ensuring that needy families have access to basic essential needs, thereby promoting social welfare and community well-being.

Mr and Miss EQUaT 24/25 Charity Drive

In line with SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, the reigning Mr & Miss EQUaT 2024, Awopetu David and Haneefah Ali, spearheaded a community outreach initiative organized on 7th September 2024, to support vulnerable households in Kigamba village, the home of EQUaT's main campus. Through the generosity of students and well-wishers, they collected food items, clothing, and household items, which were distributed to families in need. In appreciation of the initiative, residents of Kigamba organized a friendly football match, which further strengthened the bond between the community and the university. This collaboration continues to build mutual respect and unity, showcasing the impact of student-led initiatives in achieving sustainable development goals.



EQUaT Students together with the Dean of Students, Mr Kisebe Yusuf (Middle-Back) flag off to the Mr & Miss EQUaT Charity Drive

Eid -Al-adha Food Supply Event

EQUSaT Student cut beef into small pieces to supply to students, staff & the neighbouring community



EQUSaT actively participated in several charity and humanitarian initiatives within the Masaka community, distributing food, clothing, and household items to support vulnerable groups. These efforts were aimed at alleviating poverty, combating hunger, and ensuring that needy families have access to basic essential needs, thereby promoting social welfare and community well-being.

Partnerships and Collaborations

EQUSaT has been able to collaborate on several collaborations and partnerships with several entities including the government of Uganda, ministries, Non governmental organisations, educational institutions and more. These have been possible in order to work together, for common goals to promote the agenda of the SDGs. Some of the collaborations were;

EQUSaT has established multiple collaborations and partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Government of Uganda, various ministries, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and other strategic entities. These partnerships have been instrumental in fostering joint efforts toward achieving common goals aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Collaboration with Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)

EQUSaT, in collaboration with HHRD, promoted youth-led initiatives focusing on financial literacy, future preparedness, innovation and research, health and well-being, and social development. As part of this partnership, two major youth-led events were organized at EQUSaT: the First and Second Youth Empowerment Programs, providing platforms for young people to engage, learn, and lead transformative initiatives.



EQUSaT VC, Prof. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo (ext. Right) presents over 14 nationalities at the Youth Empowerment Program

EQUaT, A Sustainable Campus

Since its inception, EQUaT has positioned itself as a leading pillar of sustainability in the Greater Masaka region, with a strong commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The university's facilities, staffing, operations, management practices, and overall conduct are all strategically aligned with sustainability principles. Below are some of the key reasons that demonstrate this commitment.



EQUaT Building Built in stones as a sustainable and eco-friendly material

Sustainable and Environment Conserving Buildings

As global population growth continues to make land increasingly scarce, the construction industry faces the challenge of building sustainably. Horizontal infrastructure consumes vast amounts of space, limiting sustainability, while vertical structures conserve land and optimize space utilization.

EQUaT's buildings embody sustainability principles, with the main structure rising four levels above the ground floor to maximize space efficiency. The design prioritizes natural lighting and ventilation to reduce energy consumption, while water-saving systems help minimize wastage. Durable, locally sourced materials were used during construction to lower the carbon footprint and support eco-friendly practices.

The campus also features green spaces that promote biodiversity and improve air quality, contributing to better health and well-being. Additionally, the building incorporates a rainwater harvesting system, with roof panels channeling rainwater into a 100,000-litre storage tank. This water is treated and reused during periods of scarcity.

Furthermore, the campus includes water absorption features such as plantations and permeable pavers, which enhance groundwater recharge and reduce surface runoff. These integrated efforts reflect EQUaT's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Health, Safety and Environment

At EQUaT, we have always placed the well-being of our community at the heart of everything we do. Our commitment has always been; to maintain a secure, healthy, and sustainable campus where every individual feels safe, valued, and supported.

From implementing modern safety measures and providing accessible healthcare services to championing eco-friendly initiatives, we strive to create an environment that nurtures learning, innovation, and personal growth.

EQUaT adheres to nationally and internationally recognized safety standards in line with guidelines set by regulatory authorities. In Uganda, safety standards are primarily governed by the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act, No. 9 of 2006, and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).

The OSH Act regulates workplace safety by mandating compliance with safety regulations, workplace registration, and the provision of critical safety information to employees. Meanwhile, UNBS is responsible for developing and promoting both compulsory and voluntary standards aimed at safeguarding health, safety, and consumer protection. By aligning with these frameworks, EQUaT ensures a safe, compliant, and sustainable campus environment.

EQUaT also adheres to the Occupational Safety Management System Standard ISO 45001, which provides a framework for managing workplace risks, promoting employee well-being, and ensuring compliance with global best practices, including International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. This commitment positions EQUaT as a globally aligned institution that prioritizes safety, health, and environmental responsibility.

Through the joint efforts of the Human Resource Office and the Quality Assurance Office, the university continuously monitors and enforces these standards, ensuring they are upheld at all times across all departments and operations.



A fire extinguisher on one of the levels on EQUaT Building

Waste Management

EQUaT's waste management system is a key sustainability initiative that demonstrates the university's commitment to environmental protection. Regular training sessions on waste collection, management, and reuse have been conducted to educate staff and students on proper waste handling practices.

To support these efforts, the university has established designated waste collection points and placed dustbins on every floor of the building, as well as in all laboratories and practical rooms. These measures not only promote cleanliness but also contribute to reducing environmental impact and fostering a culture of sustainability within the campus community.



EQUaT's Commitment to Water Management and Conservation

Water is essential for sustainable development, supporting socioeconomic progress, preserving ecosystems, and sustaining human life. It also plays a crucial role in reducing disease prevalence and promoting health, well-being, and productivity.

In Uganda, access to safe water remains a major challenge. Out of a population of 47 million, an estimated 38 million people (81%) lack access to safe water (water.org). This scarcity has not only affected health and livelihoods but has also become a source of conflict in different parts of the country.

For example, on Monday, 7th July 2025, the Daily Monitor reported a story highlighting severe water shortages in Kyenjojo District, which sparked public outrage. Similar water-related crises have been witnessed in other regions, including Kampala, Luwero, and several other districts, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable water management solutions.

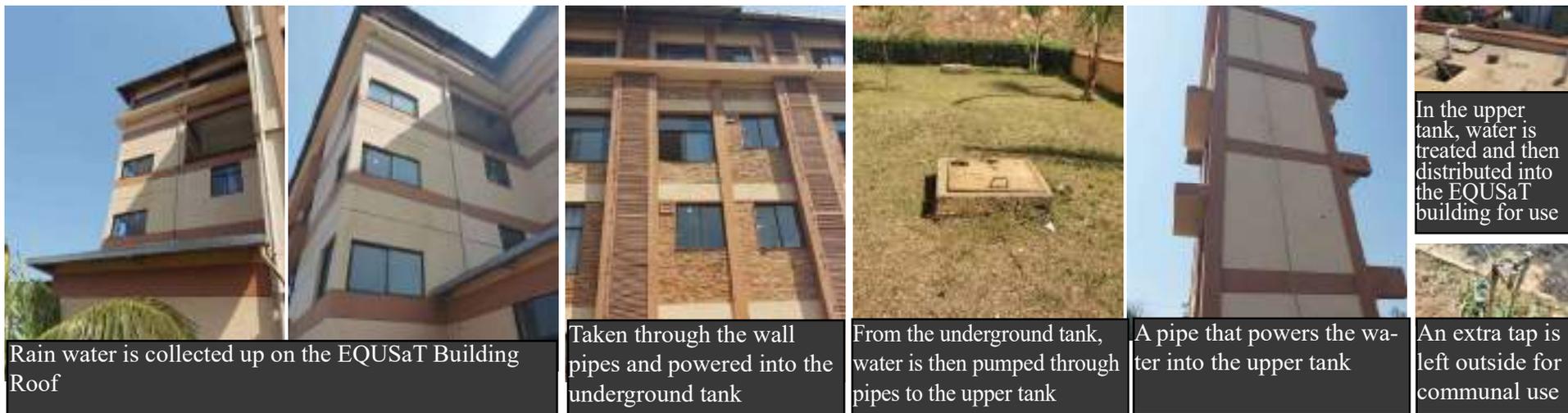
To fight against water shortage EQUaT has implemented several initiatives to prioritize water conservation across its campus. These efforts include the installation of efficient, leak-proof sanitary fixtures and regular maintenance checks to prevent water wastage. Additionally, the university has integrated rainwater harvesting systems and water reuse mechanisms to ensure sustainable water management and contribute to environmental protection.

During periods of water scarcity, EQUaT plays a vital role in supporting the community by providing free water to students, staff, and local residents. This initiative not only ensures continuity of learning and operations on campus but also contributes to the well-being of the surrounding community. By extending this essential resource during critical times, EQUaT reinforces its commitment to sustainability, social responsibility, and community support.

During times of water scarcity, EQUaT provides free water to students, staff and the community thereby contributing to the community's well being.

How The EQUaT Water Harvesting Project Works

Rainwater is collected from the roof of the EQUaT building and transported through a network of pipes into a 100,000-litre storage tank. From there, the water is pumped into treatment tanks before being distributed through regular taps that supply the entire building. Additional points allow access for the surrounding community, ensuring both the campus and local residents benefit from a reliable and sustainable water source.



The Role of University Clubs and Associations

Beyond the classroom, EQUaT promotes sustainability through active student engagement. Our student associations and clubs, such as the EQUaT Medical Students' Association, EQUaT Muslim Students' Association, EQUaT Christians Students' Association, The Indite Club and ICT Innovators Hub, regularly organize awareness campaigns, health and charity drives, clean-up exercises, entertainment activities, and research-based hackathons to encourage innovative thinking and community action. Below are some of the most active clubs and societies. The above clubs and associations have been coordinated by the Office of the SDGs Ambassador and the Office of the Guild **President** to foster a shared understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals. Every activity organized by the respective clubs is consistently aligned with specific SDGs, as highlighted above.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 1: NO POVERTY



In 2019, the World Bank reported that Uganda's national poverty rate stood at 20%, while its multidimensional poverty headcount rate was 64%. Similarly, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHDI) indicated that Uganda's multidimensional poverty rate was 27% in 2022 (Multidimensional Poverty Index Report 2022 – Uganda).

These statistics highlight the urgent need to combat poverty in all its forms, addressing not only financial deprivation but also broader social and structural dimensions.

In response, Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT) is actively committed to supporting the community and contributing to poverty eradication. The university has organized charity drives, trainings, seminars, and conferences to educate the public on poverty-related challenges and strategies for overcoming them. Through these initiatives, EQUaT continues to play a vital role in fostering sustainable development and improving the well-being of communities.



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER



According to the World Health Organization article “Global Hunger Declines, but Rises in Africa and Western Asia: UN Report”, an estimated 2.33 billion people worldwide experienced moderate or severe food insecurity and malnutrition in 2023. The report further revealed that 307 million people in Africa faced food insecurity, with projections indicating that by 2030, 512 million people will be chronically undernourished - 60% of whom will be from Africa.

These alarming statistics resonate deeply in Uganda, particularly in the Karamoja region, which has suffered severe food insecurity for three consecutive years. Such realities highlight the urgent need for strong and immediate interventions to reverse this trend before 2030.

Although EQUaT is located in the relatively food-secure Southwestern Corridor of Uganda, the institution is committed to contributing to the fight against hunger. The university has allocated portions of its vacant land to staff members for crop cultivation, primarily for domestic use. Additionally, EQUaT has organized several community outreach initiatives, including food donation drives, to support vulnerable households.



SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



The World Health Organization's World Health Statistics 2024 report, show that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular illnesses, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes account for nearly 74% of global deaths annually. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to face a double burden of disease, grappling with high rates of infectious diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis, alongside a rising tide of NCDs. Uganda reflects this global reality, with inadequate access to quality healthcare, limited resources for disease prevention, and persistent challenges in maternal and child health.

These health concerns are particularly pronounced in rural and hard-to-reach areas of the country, where preventable deaths remain high due to lack of timely intervention. Addressing them requires urgent investments in preventive healthcare, awareness campaigns, and collaborative research to build resilient health systems.

EQUaT has taken proactive steps to contribute to Good Health and Well-being and has established a fully equipped dental section that not only trains health professionals but also offers affordable services to the surrounding community. The university has also hosted dental health camps in partnership with Build Your Smile Dental Foundation Uganda, extending free screenings, treatment, and oral health education to hundreds of people.

Beyond oral health, EQUaT organizes regular health awareness seminars, focusing on pressing issues such as cancer prevention, mental health, and lifestyle-related diseases. Through student-led initiatives and partnerships with local health offices, the university actively champions community well-being, positioning itself as a hub for both academic excellence and social impact in the pursuit of SDG 3.



SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION



According to UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report 2024, more than 250 million children and youth worldwide remain out of school, and nearly 70% of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries are unable to read and understand a simple text. In Sub-Saharan Africa, persistent challenges such as limited infrastructure, high dropout rates, and unequal access to learning resources hinder progress toward inclusive and equitable education. Uganda mirrors these concerns, particularly in rural regions where poverty, early marriages, and insufficient school facilities continue to derail the attainment of quality education.

These statistics highlight the urgency of strengthening educational systems, promoting inclusive learning opportunities, and investing in teacher development. EQUaT is firmly committed to promoting SDG 3 and has done numerous projects and initiatives for this. The university has established modern theatre-like lecture rooms, well-structured laboratories, and a fully stocked library to enhance the learning experience. Beyond infrastructure, EQUaT integrates digital and visual communication skills into its programs, equipping learners with competencies needed for the 21st-century job market.

In line with inclusivity, EQUaT has ensured ramps for students with physical disabilities and representation of persons with disabilities within its guild leadership and staff. Furthermore, the university runs community outreach programs that introduce secondary and primary school learners to higher education facilities, inspiring them to pursue further studies.



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY



According to UN Women's Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024, women and girls worldwide continue to face structural inequalities that limit their participation in education, employment, and leadership. Globally, nearly 1 in 3 women experience gender-based violence, while women hold only 28% of managerial positions. In Sub-Saharan Africa, cultural barriers, limited access to education, and early marriages further compound gender disparities. In Uganda, these challenges continue to be faced by females. Many girls are dropping out of school due to poverty, child marriage, or teenage pregnancy, and women underrepresented in leadership roles across various sectors.

EQUSaT has been committed to advancing gender equality by ensuring gender-balanced representation in its guild leadership, administrative and academic staff appointments, reflecting a deliberate effort to empower women and girls. EQUSaT has also been enforcing a zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination, creating a safe and inclusive learning environment for all.



SDG 6:

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



The World continues to grapple with limited clean water, sanitation and hygiene with 2.2 billion people lacking safely managed sanitation facilities according to the United Nations' Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2024 report.

Despite the challenge being global, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most affected region, with millions depending on unsafe water sources and facing frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases. In Uganda, challenges such as prolonged dry seasons, unreliable rainfall, and poor sanitation infrastructure exacerbate the water crisis, particularly in semi-arid regions like Karamoja and parts of Northern Uganda.

These challenges call for urgency in ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all through sustainable water management systems, sanitation infrastructure, and behavioral change campaigns.

EQUaT recognizes this urgency and has made several initiatives to ensure there is safe water and good sanitation at the university premises and in the surrounding community. The university has invested in a rainwater harvesting project, ensuring a reliable supply of water even during dry spells. This project not only addresses internal needs but also serves as a model for the surrounding communities facing similar water challenges.

In addition, EQUaT enforces strict sanitation policies, maintaining clean and safe facilities for both students and staff, while integrating hygiene awareness into its student orientation and community outreach programs. Through collaborative research and practical demonstrations, the university continues to promote sustainable water use and environmental conservation.



SDG 7.

AFFORDABLE AND ENERGY CLEAN



The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2024 stresses that nearly 675 million people globally still lack access to electricity, with Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for more than 80% of this population. Furthermore, almost 2.1 billion people rely on polluting fuels for cooking, leading to severe health risks and environmental degradation.

In Uganda, while some urban areas such as Kampala, Mbarara, Mbale, Gulu and others have relatively better access to electricity, many rural households continue to depend on firewood and charcoal, contributing to deforestation and climate change.

This calls for measures to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all by investing in renewable energy sources, expanding infrastructure, and promoting clean energy technologies.

EQUaT recognizes the critical role of clean energy in sustainable development and is devising deliberate efforts to align with this goal. In its future plans, it is considering adopting 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.



SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

In 2023, global unemployment stood at 5.1% according to the International Labour Organization's World Employment and Social Outlook 2024. This showed that nearly 190 million people do not have jobs.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the challenge is compounded by a rapidly growing youth population, limited job opportunities, and a high prevalence of informal employment. Uganda is also a reflection of this trend, with the majority of its labor force engaged in low-income informal work, while young graduates often struggle to secure decent employment.

To respond to this trend, EQUaT is integrating practical and entrepreneurial skills into its academic programs. Throughout several courses in programs in all programs students are equipped with market-relevant skills that enhance their employability and prepare them for self-employment in the digital economy.

The university also prioritizes partnerships with industries, businesses, and health organizations, enabling students to gain hands-on experience through internships and community-based projects. Additionally, EQUaT fosters a culture of innovation by encouraging student-led initiatives and startups that contribute to local economic development.

Internally, the institution upholds good employment practices, providing fair contracts and growth opportunities for its staff



SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



According to the United Nations' SDG Progress Report 2024, global investment in infrastructure and innovation remains uneven, with least developed countries lagging behind in industrial growth and technological advancement.

Sub-Saharan Africa faces persistent challenges such as inadequate transport networks, limited access to digital technologies, and low investment in research and development. In Uganda, despite improvements in road infrastructure and mobile connectivity, gaps remain in modern laboratories, manufacturing capacity, and innovation ecosystems; factors that slow economic transformation and job creation.

EQUaT has invested in state-of-the-art laboratories, a fully equipped dental section, and technology-driven lecture rooms, providing students with modern learning environments that encourage practical skills and research. Beyond infrastructure, EQUaT champions innovation and creativity by integrating digital skills, entrepreneurship, and applied sciences into its academic programs. It has put up the Innovation Hub to facilitate all research and innovation driven projects.



SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES



According to the United Nations' SDG Progress Report 2024, inequalities within and among countries remain a major challenge, with marginalized groups, particularly women, youth, refugees, and persons with disabilities, continuing to face barriers to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Sub-Saharan Africa experiences some of the world's widest income and social disparities, while in Uganda, inequalities are most visible in rural areas where poverty, limited infrastructure, and restricted access to social services persist.

EQUaT has embraced inclusivity as a guiding principle in both its academic and social mission. The university has implemented 30% tuition waiver to some programs and these have been open for all groups of people and majorly to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring that financial limitations do not hinder access to higher education. EQUaT also upholds equal representation policies, with persons with disabilities and women included in guild leadership and staff appointments.

Additionally, EQUaT ensures accessibility through ramps and supportive facilities for students with physical disabilities, while its student and staff associations actively advocate for equality and social justice. Beyond the campus, EQUaT engages in community outreach initiatives that empower rural populations with knowledge, skills, and services; bridging gaps between urban and rural communities.



SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



The UN-Habitat's World Cities Report 2024 indicates that more than 55% of the global population now lives in urban areas, a figure projected to rise to 68% by 2050. While cities drive economic growth and innovation, they also face challenges such as inadequate housing, congestion, pollution, and poor waste management.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, rapid urbanization without proportional infrastructure development has led to the growth of informal settlements and increased vulnerability to climate-related risks. Uganda mirrors this reality, with urban centers struggling to provide sustainable housing, clean water, and effective waste disposal systems.

EQUSaT is located in Masaka City, one of the busy urban centers in Uganda. To contribute to this goal, the university's campus features modern, eco-friendly lecture rooms and laboratories designed to maximize space utilization while promoting environmental sustainability. It also integrates green spaces and clean energy practices into its infrastructure, modeling sustainable urban planning within a growing city.

Beyond its physical environment, the university has championed waste management and sanitation practices, ensuring a clean and safe learning community. Through research and academic programs, EQUSaT equips students with knowledge on urban planning, sustainable development, and environmental conservation, preparing them to tackle the urbanization challenges facing Uganda.



SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



According to the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Resources Outlook 2024, the world's material footprint has more than tripled since 1970, with unsustainable consumption and production patterns driving climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

Globally, nearly 931 million tons of food are wasted each year, while developing countries continue to grapple with limited recycling systems and poor waste management. In Uganda, over-reliance on non-biodegradable materials, coupled with rapid population growth, has worsened environmental degradation and waste disposal challenges.

EQUaT has taken steps to contribute to this global agenda by promoting waste segregation and recycling initiatives on campus, encouraging students and staff to adopt eco-friendly practices.

The institution also integrates environmental awareness and sustainability principles into its teaching, research, and community outreach. For example, EQUaT regularly organizes sanitation drives and community sensitization programs aimed at reducing plastic waste and promoting responsible consumption.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION



The United Nations' Climate Change Report 2024, global temperatures have risen by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, intensifying extreme weather events, including floods, droughts, and storms.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains particularly vulnerable due to its dependence on rain-fed agriculture, limited adaptive capacity, and weak infrastructure. In Uganda, climate change has resulted in unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry seasons, and flooding, which negatively affect food security, water availability, and livelihoods, particularly in regions such as Karamoja and Northern Uganda.

EQUaT has taken proactive steps to align with this goal. It has implemented a rainwater harvesting system, helping to conserve water resources and reduce vulnerability to drought.

In addition, the university integrates climate education, research, and awareness programs into its academic and community initiatives. Students are engaged in projects that address environmental challenges, such as waste management, equipping them with practical skills to mitigate climate impacts.



SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER



According to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, oceans, lakes, and rivers are under increasing threat from pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction. Globally, nearly 80% of marine pollution comes from land-based sources, while unsustainable fishing practices have led to the depletion of fish stocks, affecting livelihoods and food security. In Uganda, freshwater bodies such as Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and the Nile River face challenges including water pollution, invasive species, and overfishing, threatening biodiversity and the communities that depend on these resources.

These challenges highlight the urgency of SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and freshwater resources for sustainable development, through integrated water resource management, conservation efforts, and sustainable practices.

Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUaT), located in the Southwestern Corridor of Uganda, is committed to fostering sustainable use and protection of aquatic ecosystems. The university integrates water conservation and environmental science principles into its academic programs and research initiatives, encouraging students to engage with local water resource management challenges.



SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND



According to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss continue to threaten ecosystems worldwide. Globally, forests cover less than 31% of the land area, and over 1 million species are at risk of extinction due to human activity.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, land degradation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and illegal logging contribute to soil erosion and loss of biodiversity. Uganda faces similar challenges, with deforestation and unsustainable land use affecting forests, wildlife habitats, and community livelihoods, particularly in the Albertine Rift and other ecologically sensitive areas.

EQUSaT has incorporated green spaces, tree planting initiatives, and sustainable landscaping on campus, providing students with hands-on opportunities to engage with ecosystem management.



SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



According to the United Nations' SDG Progress Report 2024, nearly 1.5 billion people globally live in countries affected by violence, conflict, or weak governance, while corruption, lack of transparency, and limited access to justice continue to undermine social cohesion and economic development.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, these challenges are compounded by political instability, weak institutional frameworks, and limited civic engagement. In Uganda, while progress has been made in strengthening governance, issues such as corruption, limited access to justice, and uneven participation in decision-making processes remain concerns.

EQUaT has implemented transparent administrative processes, codes of conduct, and ethics policies, ensuring that staff and students operate within clear and fair frameworks. EQUaT also emphasizes civic responsibility and leadership development among students, promoting values of inclusivity, dialogue, and conflict resolution.

In addition, the university encourages student and staff participation in governance structures, including representation in guild leadership, committees, and policy development forums, ensuring that diverse voices contribute to decision-making.



SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



According to the United Nations' SDG Progress Report 2024, global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals relies heavily on partnerships, collaboration, and resource mobilization. Despite significant advancements, many countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, still face challenges in financing, technical capacity, and effective coordination to achieve the SDGs.

Uganda, while making strides in several areas, requires strengthened collaborations between government, academia, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate sustainable development.

EQUaT has embraced partnerships as a core strategy for advancing its institutional and societal impact. The university collaborates with local and international organizations, government agencies, and non-profits, creating platforms for research, training, and community development. Through initiatives such as joint health outreach programs, environmental projects, and youth empowerment forums, EQUaT leverages partnerships to expand its reach and effectiveness.

In addition, the university participates in academic and professional networks, enabling knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative research that addresses local and global development challenges.



WAY FORWARD

As EQUaT continues to advance its mission of academic excellence and community impact, the institution remains committed to deepening its engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and responding to emerging societal challenges. The following strategic directions outline the university's way forward:

Strengthening Academic Programs and Research

EQUaT will continue to enhance the quality, relevance, and inclusivity of its academic offerings by integrating SDG-focused curricula, promoting interdisciplinary research, and fostering innovation. Priority will be given to areas such as digital skills, health sciences, environmental sustainability, and social entrepreneurship, ensuring graduates are equipped to address local and global challenges.

Expanding Community Engagement

The university will scale up outreach initiatives that empower communities, including health campaigns, educational programs, environmental conservation projects, and sustainable agriculture initiatives. By deepening partnerships with local authorities, NGOs, and community groups, EQUaT aims to amplify its impact on societal well-being.

Promoting Sustainability and Green Practices

EQUaT is committed to modeling environmental stewardship through sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy adoption (solar energy), water harvesting, and waste management initiatives. Future projects will focus on reducing the university's carbon footprint, conserving biodiversity, and fostering a campus culture of sustainability.

Fostering Inclusion and Equity

The university will continue to champion equality, inclusivity, and diversity across all aspects of campus life. Efforts will include scholarship programs for disadvantaged students, support for students with disabilities, gender-sensitive policies, and inclusive governance structures to ensure all voices are represented.

Enhancing Partnerships and Collaboration

Strengthening local, national, and international partnerships remains a priority. EQUaT will leverage collaborations with academic institutions, industry, government, and civil society to enhance research, resource mobilization, and knowledge sharing, driving progress toward the SDGs.

Investing in Digital Transformation

Recognizing the critical role of technology in education and development, EQUaT will continue to expand its digital infrastructure, enhance online learning platforms, and provide students and staff with the digital competencies required for the 21st century.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Measurement

To ensure continuous improvement, EQUaT will strengthen its monitoring and evaluation systems, tracking progress against institutional and SDG-related targets. Data-driven decision-making will guide resource allocation, program design, and community interventions.

Through these strategic directions, EQUaT aims to consolidate its position as a leading institution in Uganda, fostering academic excellence, social responsibility, and sustainable development. By aligning institutional growth with the global SDG agenda, the university ensures that its contributions create meaningful and lasting impact for students, communities, and society at large.



<http://www.equsat.ac.ug>