



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



PROGRESS RPORT 2024

The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir



1. INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Founded in 1980, the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) is a leading public sector institution with four campuses: Main Campus Muzaffarabad, King Abdullah Campus, Jhelum Valley Campus, and Neelum Campus.

1.1. King Abdullah Campus

The King Abdullah Campus of the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) is a state-of-the-art academic facility located approximately 21 kilometres from Muzaffarabad along the Muzaffarabad-Islamabad Highway in Chattar Kalas. Funded through a generous Saudi grant of about US\$90 million provided by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), the campus was established after the 2005 earthquake to support educational recovery and long-term development in the region. Officially inaugurated on 4 August 2023, the campus spans more than 1,000 acres and hosts modern academic blocks, a central library, a mosque, an auditorium, science and technology laboratories, hostels, sports facilities, and dedicated transport services. It currently accommodates thousands of students across a wide range of departments including sciences, information technology, social sciences, and humanities. With its modern infrastructure, growing academic programs, and significant female participation particularly in science disciplines, the King Abdullah Campus stands as a symbol of strong Pakistan–Saudi relations and serves as a major centre of higher education, research, and sustainable development in Azad Kashmir.



King Abdullah Campus UAJK

1.2 Main Campus Muzaffarabad

The Main Campus of the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK), located in Muzaffarabad. The Neelum River, which flows through Muzaffarabad city, naturally divides the Main Campus into two distinct parts: the City Campus and the Chehla Campus. The City Campus is situated in the bustling heart of the city near the main commercial hub, while the Chehla Campus rests peacefully on the eastern bank of the river.

The main Campus serves as the central hub of the university's academic, administrative, and research activities. Positioned in the heart of the capital city, it houses the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, major administrative offices, and several key academic departments. The campus offers a diverse range of programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and professional fields, supported by well-equipped classrooms, computer labs, libraries, and research facilities. As the oldest and most established part of UAJK, the Main Campus plays a vital role in facilitating quality higher education, fostering research culture, and supporting university wide academic coordination. Its accessible location within Muzaffarabad makes it a focal point for students from across the region, contributing significantly to the intellectual and cultural development of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.



City Campus UAJK



Chehla Campus UAJK

1.3 Neelum Campus

The Neelum Campus was established in July 2013 to offer higher education opportunities to the residents of Neelum Valley. The goal is to integrate the local population into the national and global academic mainstream by fostering global citizenship and cultural harmony through quality education. The campus particularly serves students from the valley, aiming to develop their academic and research abilities in science, technology, and humanities.

The vision for the campus includes transforming Neelum Valley into an academic hub complementing its reputation as a tourist destination and reviving the scholarly legacy of the ancient Buddhist University of Sharda (dating back to 5000 B.C). The campus features a well-equipped building with a computer lab, library, conference hall, hostel facilities for out-of-town students, and recreational spaces including a playground and an indoor games hall.

It is expected that the Neelum Campus of UAJK will play a key role in the socio-economic development of the region.



Neelum Campus UAJK

1.4 Jhelum Valley Campus

The Jhelum Valley Campus of UAJK was established on 1 August 2015 in Hattian Bala, in the Jhelum Valley region. It was founded to bring higher education opportunities closer to the youth of the Jhelum Valley, especially addressing the limited access to universities in remote areas. Currently, JVC offers three undergraduate degree programs: BS English, BS Education (B.Ed Hons), and BS Computer Science. By offering these programs locally, the campus helps empower students (particularly female students, in line with regional norms) to pursue higher education without the burden of relocating far from home.



Jhelum Valley Campus UAJK

UAJK offers diverse programs under the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Science, Engineering, and Health & Medical Sciences.

It strives to deliver quality education, innovative research, and values-driven mentorship that serve society and the changing world. The university is accredited by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and operates under the mission:

Committed to quality education, research, and values-driven mentorship through innovations to serve society and the changing world.

1.2 KEY FACTS

The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has:

- 4 Campuses
- 12,713 acres of land across, including residential urban site
- 70% green space, including over 3000 trees
- 13000 on campus students
- 35 % distance learners
- 90 affiliated colleges
- 71% undergraduate students
- 19955 total students

2. Ranking

In the year 2024, the Times Higher Education ranked UAJK first in the region and 35th nationwide for its strong infrastructure, top-notch education, and highly skilled faculty, marking another accomplishment.

3. THE SDG GOALS AT UNIVERSITY OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through multi-sectoral collaboration, innovative research, and community centered initiatives. While the university actively contributes to all SDGs through its teaching, research, and operational activities, its most significant impact is reflected in five priority goals. This report highlights UAJK's key achievements and strategic partnerships aligned with **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)**, **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)** during the 2024 reporting period.

UAJK has strengthened its impact through active engagement with government agencies, NGOs, and international partners. The university's community health initiatives, gender equity frameworks, climate resilience actions, and educational outreach programs collectively promote sustainable and inclusive development across Azad Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING



3.1. SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) is committed to advancing **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**, recognizing that a healthy community is the foundation of sustainable growth and academic excellence. UAJK promotes both physical and mental wellness among students, faculty, and staff through a range of initiatives, including health awareness campaigns, free medical camps, and seminars on mental health, fitness programs, and sports activities. These efforts aim to cultivate a supportive campus environment where individuals can thrive physically, emotionally, and socially, reflecting UAJK's dedication to creating a healthier and more resilient society in line with the United Nations' SDG framework.

3.1.1 OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

3.1.1.1 UAJK Leads the Way in Community Service with Free Medical Camp

On August 14, 2024, The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir organized a free medical camp at Niazpura / Saran Pirchinasi, commemorating Pakistan's Independence Day with a meaningful contribution to community welfare. This initiative embodies our university's commitment to serving the community, complementing our educational and research mission.

The camp provided essential medical relief to 250 beneficiaries, including women, men, and children. This significant achievement was made possible through the generous support of our faculty members, Led by Dr. Bashir Ur Rehman Kant, Dean of the Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences, the dedicated team of healthcare professionals.



3.1.1.2 BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SEMINAR 14 OCTOBER 2024

The **Department of Physiotherapy UAJK** organized a **Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar** to emphasize the critical importance of early detection, prevention, and timely treatment of breast cancer. The session aimed to equip students, faculty, and community members with essential knowledge about risk factors, screening practices, and the need for prompt medical consultation. A detailed presentation was delivered covering breast cancer symptoms, warning signs, stages of development, and available treatment options, including medical and rehabilitative care. The seminar reinforced the message that **awareness, education, and early diagnosis can significantly improve survival outcomes**, while also fostering a compassionate and supportive environment for patients, survivors, and their families.



UAJK ORGANIZES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SEMINAR 14 OCTOBER 2024

3.1.1.3 CPR AND BLEEDING CONTROL WORKSHOP

In collaboration with the Allied Health Sciences Society, UAJK, and the Pakistan Life Saver Program, a CPR and Bleeding Control workshop was conducted for first-semester students of the Department of Allied Health Sciences on February 17, 2024. A total of 45 students participated in this important training session.

Moving forward, with the continued support of the Pakistan Life Saver Program, comprehensive CPR and bleeding control training will be extended not only to students of Allied Health Sciences but to all students across the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK). This initiative aims to equip students with essential life-saving skills, enabling them to play a vital role in protecting and supporting their communities.





Allied Health Sciences Society UAJK & Pakistan Life Saver Program organized CPR and Bleeding Control workshop

3.1.1.4 *UAJK Pledges to Combat Thalassemia in AJK!*

On World Thalassemia Day, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) reaffirmed its commitment to raising awareness and combating this hereditary disease. The Faculty of Health Sciences, in collaboration with Jihad for Zero Thalassemia, proudly organized an awareness walk that brought together faculty members, students, and community leaders. This collective effort highlighted the importance of education, prevention, and community engagement in the fight against thalassemia. Through such initiatives, UAJK continues to demonstrate its determination to safeguard lives and promote a healthier future for society.





World Thalassemia Day at UAJK

3.1.1.5 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

The **Department of Psychology** proudly observed **World Autism Awareness Day**. The event underscored the importance of compassion, awareness, and the collective responsibility to build a supportive environment where individuals with autism can thrive. Students showcased informative posters addressing myths versus facts about autism, helping dispel misconceptions and fostering accurate awareness within the university community. Interactive activities were organized *with children on the spectrum* to encourage empathy, enhance social understanding, and promote meaningful interaction in an inclusive and respectful setting.

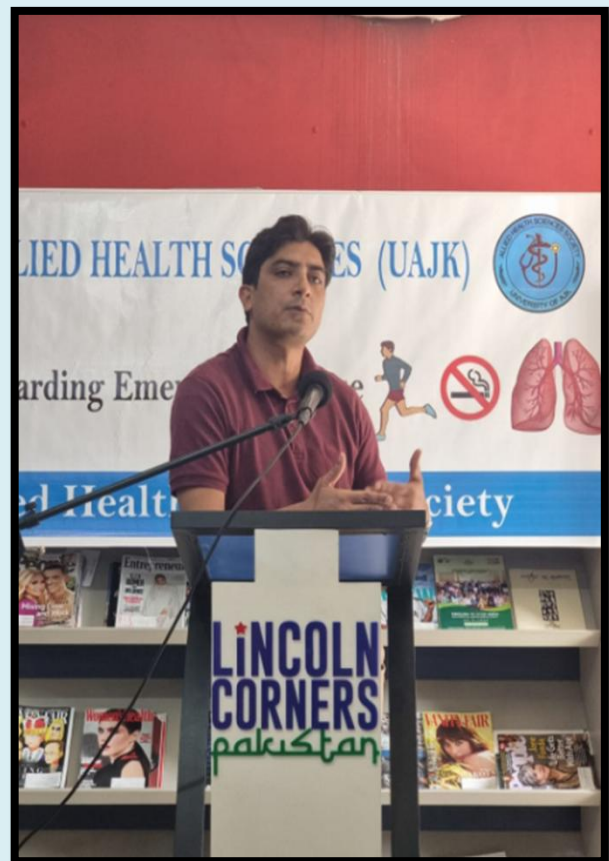
The observance highlighted the university's dedication to advocating for neurodiversity and ensuring that every individual is valued and supported.



UAJK Observed World Autism Awareness Day

3.1.1.6 World Lung Day

The Allied Health Society UAJK proudly organized a World Lung Day awareness event at the City Campus, focusing on the importance of lung health and the prevention of respiratory illnesses. The program emphasized how healthy lifestyle choices such as avoiding smoking, improving air quality, and engaging in regular physical activity play a vital role in maintaining strong and healthy lungs. A comprehensive lecture was delivered by Dr. Sohail Raja on common lung diseases, including Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Lung Cancer, and Tuberculosis. The session highlighted symptoms, risk factors, early detection methods, and available treatment options. This initiative aimed to enhance awareness among students, faculty, and the broader community about the importance of lung health. It reinforced the message that informed choices and preventive measures are essential for building a healthier, more resilient future.



UAJK Organized World Lung Day

3.1.1.7 WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY DAY 2024

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir continues to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being through innovative educational and community initiatives. On World Physical Therapy Day, students of the DPT celebrated the transformative power of physical therapy in promoting healthier lifestyles and preventing disease. Outdoor activities such as sports, hiking, and environmental physiotherapy were emphasized as effective strategies for managing and preventing conditions like low back pain. The event highlighted the role of nature therapy. By engaging in a field trip to Mushkpuri Top, Murree, students experienced firsthand how physical activity in natural environments fosters healing, resilience, and overall well-being.

Through these efforts, UAJK demonstrates its commitment to holistic health promotion, encouraging active lifestyles, preventive care, and community engagement.



UAJK Celebrates World Physiotherapy Day 2024

3.1.1.8 *Mastering Patient Handling: UAJK's Collaborative Seminar!*

The Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), in collaboration with the Psychology Department of SKBZ CMH Muzaffarabad, organized a highly informative session titled “Mastering Patient Handling Techniques.” The session featured Col. Dr. Mubashir Shah as the keynote speaker, who shared valuable insights on effective and safe patient management practices.

The event was further honored by the presence of Dr. Bashir ur Rehman Kanth, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, whose participation added great significance to the occasion. In recognition of their invaluable contributions, shields were presented to the distinguished speaker and the dedicated organizers. This initiative reflects UAJK’s commitment to advancing professional training, interdisciplinary collaboration, and excellence in healthcare education.



Mastering Patient Handling: A Seminar by UAJK's

3.1.1.10 **UAJK's Initiative:** Promoting Health and Wellbeing through Games

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has made remarkable efforts to advance **Sustainable Development Goal 3 : Good Health and Well-being** by integrating **sports and recreational activities** into campus life. The Health Expo by the Allied Health Society UAJK featured a series of games and interactive activities designed to engage students and participants in a fun, healthy, and educational way. Through organizing **interdepartmental sports festivals, health-themed games, and physical fitness challenges**, the university promotes an active lifestyle and raises awareness about the importance of physical and mental health. These initiatives not only encourage students to maintain physical fitness but also foster teamwork, discipline, and stress management all vital components of holistic well-being. UAJK's focus on sports as a medium for health education reflects its commitment to building a healthier, more vibrant academic community aligned with the SDG 3 agenda.



Health Expo by the Allied Health Society UAJK

3.2 Collaborations for Health Outcomes

3.2.1 Partnership with Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has established a strong partnership with Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) to address pressing community health and sanitation challenges. Through this collaboration, UAJK has successfully implemented water-bore and sanitation projects aimed at improving access to safe and clean drinking water in underserved areas. These initiatives not only reduce the risk of waterborne diseases but also contribute to the overall well-being and health security of local communities. The partnership reflects UAJK's commitment to promoting sustainable health solutions and achieving **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)**.

3.2.2 Collaboration with Jihad for Zero Thalassemia Foundation and Health Information Network

UAJK collaborates with the Jihad for Zero Thalassemia Foundation and the Health Information Network to raise awareness about genetic disorders and preventable diseases among students and the wider community. Through seminars, blood screening camps, and educational sessions, the university actively promotes early diagnosis, awareness, and prevention strategies for thalassemia and other hereditary conditions. These joint efforts empower students and citizens with vital health knowledge, fostering a culture of disease prevention and responsible health management that aligns with the goals of SDG 3.

3.2.3 Joint Initiatives with Environmental Physiotherapy Association (Norway)

UAJK's collaboration with the **Environmental Physiotherapy Association (EPA), Norway**, focuses on integrating **planetary health education and interdisciplinary research** into academic and community practices. This partnership explores the connections between **environmental sustainability, physical health, and rehabilitation sciences**, promoting a holistic understanding of health that extends beyond individual well-being to the well-being of the planet. Joint workshops, research exchanges, and awareness programs aim to prepare future professionals to address global health challenges through environmentally conscious practices, aligning with both **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)** and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



4. SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) is deeply committed to advancing **Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education**, recognizing education as a transformative force for individual empowerment and societal progress. UAJK strives to provide inclusive, equitable, and high-quality learning opportunities through updated academic programs, innovative teaching methods, student centered support services, and strong community-engagement initiatives. By promoting academic excellence, expanding access to higher education, enhancing digital learning resources, and fostering research and professional development, the university ensures that students are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and values needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. Through these efforts, UAJK contributes meaningfully to building a more educated, capable, and resilient society in line with the global SDG 4 agenda.

4.1 Key Educational Initiatives:

4.1.1 Documentary Screening Showcase

The Department of Mass Communication at UAJK organized a Documentary Screening Showcase, featuring the creative and research-driven work of graduating students. The documentaries explored diverse and socially significant themes, demonstrating the department's strong commitment to delivering high-quality, practice-based media education.

This initiative directly supports **SDG 4: Quality Education** by providing hands-on learning through real-world media production projects, encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and research skills among students, and strengthening industry-relevant competencies essential for professional success. The showcase not only celebrated student achievement but also reaffirmed UAJK's dedication to offering inclusive, high-quality, and skill-oriented educational opportunities.



Documentary Screening Showcase by Department of Mass Communication UAJK

4.2 Community Outreach:

4.2.1 UAJ&K Geological Field Training Camp 2024,

UAJ&K Geological Field Training Camp 2024, representing students and faculty from various universities across Pakistan, following an intensive Rock Mass Characterization Exercise was conducted along the scenic Peerchanasi Road in Muzaffarabad. This hands-on training camp provided participants with valuable practical experience in geological surveying, rock formation analysis, and field data interpretation essential skills for aspiring geoscientists. The collaborative event not only enhanced technical competence but also encouraged academic networking and inter-university cooperation. By promoting experiential learning and field-based research, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir continues to strengthen its contribution to SDG 4:

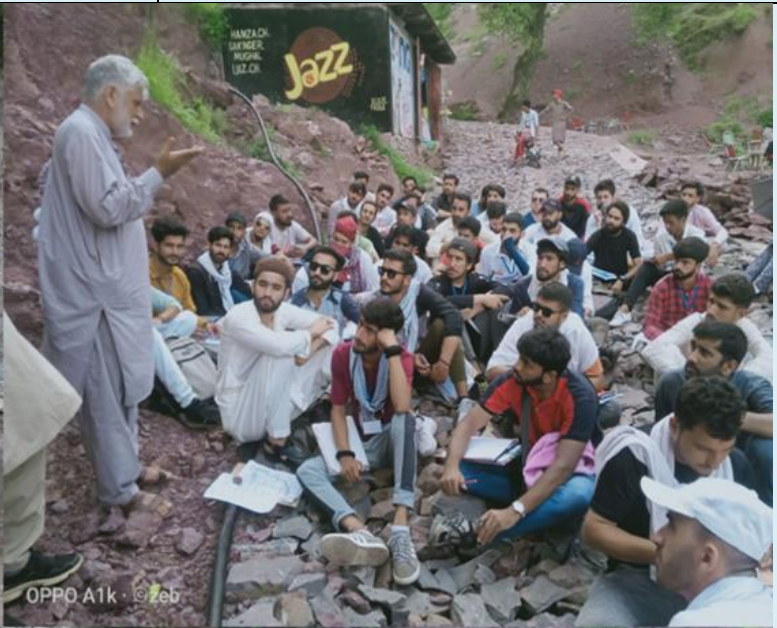
Quality Education, ensuring that students gain applied knowledge aligned with global standards in earth sciences.



Group Photo of the participants of the UAJ&K Geological Field Training Camp 2024 from various Universities of Pakistan after an extensive Rock Mass Characterization Exercise along Peerchanasi Road, Muzaffarabad

4.2.2 Geological Field Work of Salt Range, Kohat, and Peshawar, Pakistan

The **Department of Earth Sciences** at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir organized a comprehensive **geological fieldwork excursion** for the **B.S. Applied Geology (3rd semester)** students during the reporting period. The fieldwork, conducted under the supervision of **Dr. Jahanzeb Khan** and **Mr. Aamir Shahzad**, provided students with hands-on exposure to the diverse geological formations of the **Salt Range, Kohat, and Peshawar** regions of Pakistan. Through systematic observation, mapping, and data collection, students studied sedimentary sequences, structural features, and stratigraphic units that are fundamental to understanding Pakistan's geological framework. This practical experience enhanced their field-based analytical and interpretive skills, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world geological applications. The activity reflects UAJK's strong commitment to experiential learning and quality education, emphasizing skill development through applied research and field training.



Geological Field Work of Salt Range, Kohat, and Peshawar, Pakistan

4.2.3 Field Visit of BS Botany Students to Neelum Valley

Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (GoAJK) have embarked on a groundbreaking collaboration aimed at promoting evidence-based research and offering crucial insights for policymakers. This collaboration was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under the terms of the MoU, both P&D and UAJK will jointly host Policy Papers and Seminar Series focusing on mutually agreed-upon themes concerning socioeconomic challenges and opportunities in the region. The primary goal is to formulate research-based solutions to address policy challenges encountered by stakeholders and disseminate the findings through dialogue sessions (seminars), print and electronic media, and other appropriate channels. UAJK will provide need-based research support to P&D on specific topics and issues faced by Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, P&D will establish a framework to facilitate government of AJK employees in pursuing Executive M.Phil., Ph.D., and other higher degree programs in relevant subjects at UAJK, offering evening or weekend classes with minimal enrolment requirements. The MoU underscores mutual support between the institutions for initiatives related to capacity building for government and UAJK employees, with provision for additional related activities subject to mutual agreement.

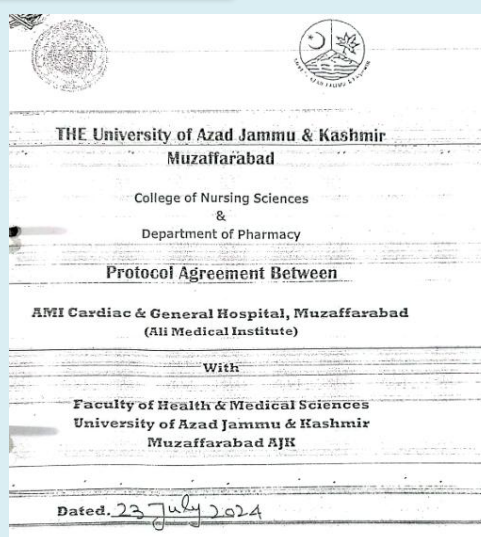




Field Visit of BS Botany Students to Neelum Valley

4.2.4 UAJK Advances Quality Education through Clinical Training

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) has partnered with AMI Cardiac & General Hospital, Muzaffarabad, through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This collaboration provides UAJK students with practical clinical training, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and hands-on healthcare experience. By equipping students with essential skills and professional competencies, this initiative not only enhances the quality of medical education but also contributes to strengthening local healthcare services, promoting health equity, and preparing a skilled workforce to address the region's health challenges.



MoU signing ceremony B/W UAJK and AMI Cardiac & General Hosnital Muzaffarabad

5 GENDER EQUALITY



5. SDG 4 GENDER EQUALITY

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) is committed to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality by fostering an inclusive academic environment where women and men have equal opportunities to learn, lead, and thrive. Through targeted initiatives, UAJK promotes women's participation in higher education, research, and leadership roles, ensuring that gender equity is embedded across all institutional policies and practices. Programs encouraging female enrolment in science, technology, health, and policy disciplines, alongside mentorship and capacity-building workshops, empower women to break barriers and contribute meaningfully to society. The university also emphasizes safe and supportive campus spaces, awareness campaigns, and community outreach to challenge stereotypes and promote respect and dignity for all.

5.1 Gender-Based Data Analysis

The gender disaggregated data from the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) reflects the institution's continued progress toward achieving gender equity and inclusive participation across academic and administrative domains. In 2024, the university recorded a total student population of 14,268, demonstrating a balanced intake with 1,350 women starting degree programs and 151 first-generation female students, highlighting widening access for underrepresented groups.

At the faculty level, female representation among senior academic staff (Professors and Associate Professors) stood at 31% (270 out of 869 positions), indicating ongoing efforts to strengthen women's leadership in higher education. This distribution aligns with the university's *Gender Equality Policy (2024)* and the institutional framework supporting mentorship, professional development, and equitable hiring practices.

Graduation data shows that female students constituted a significant proportion of overall graduates, with 7,534 female graduates compared to 9,800 total graduates in 2024. By discipline, women achieved higher participation in Arts and Social Sciences (55%) and

notable representation in STEM (45%) and Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (60%), demonstrating progress in traditionally underrepresented fields.

These indicators collectively reveal that UAJK's gender inclusion strategies including targeted academic support, equitable recruitment, and mentoring schemes are effectively improving women's participation in both academic and leadership roles.

5.2 Key Policies and Frameworks:

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has implemented a robust set of policies and frameworks to promote **gender equality, inclusion, and institutional equity**.

Can be visited at: <https://sdg.ajku.edu.pk/policies.php>

5.2.1 Gender Equality Policy

The Gender Equality Policy (2020, reviewed 2024) reflects UAJK's commitment to fostering an academic environment where all genders have equal opportunities to learn, lead, and participate. The policy ensures that no student, faculty member, or administrative staff is disadvantaged on the basis of gender. It sets standards for gender-balanced representation across academic committees, leadership roles, and student bodies. The policy also mandates regular gender-sensitivity training, awareness campaigns, and monitoring mechanisms to track progress toward equitable participation. Through this framework, UAJK aims to eliminate gender-based stereotypes and empower women and marginalized gender groups within its academic and administrative structures.

5.2.2 Policy for Women in Admission

The Policy for Women in Admission guarantees that female applicants receive fair, transparent, and merit based access to all academic programs offered by the university. This policy discourages any form of discrimination during the admission process and encourages increased female enrollment, particularly in fields where women have historically been underrepresented, such as STEM disciplines. It promotes equal educational opportunities through outreach programs, counseling sessions, and supportive academic environments that encourage women to excel. By ensuring a level playing field, UAJK reaffirms its mission to promote women's empowerment through education.

5.2.3 Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy

UAJK's Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy (2020, reviewed 2024) forms the backbone of its inclusive approach. This policy safeguards every individual's right to equal access to education and employment, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or disability. It explicitly prohibits discriminatory behaviour, bias in academic evaluation, and unfair treatment in recruitment or promotion. The policy requires departments to incorporate inclusive practices and adapt academic methodologies where needed to support diverse learners. It also provides guidelines for addressing grievances and conducting impartial investigations of discrimination-related complaints. Through this comprehensive framework, UAJK promotes an academic culture grounded in fairness, respect, and social equity.

5.2.4 Accessibility Policies

UAJK's Accessibility Policies focus on the full inclusion of women, transgender persons, and individuals with disabilities in all academic, social, and institutional activities. These policies ensure that campus facilities, learning materials, and academic platforms are accessible to everyone. Measures include providing assistive technologies, ensuring barrier-free infrastructure, and accommodating diverse learning needs. Additionally, the policies emphasize safe and supportive participation for transgender persons in both curricular and extracurricular activities. By prioritizing accessibility, UAJK strengthens its commitment to creating an environment where every individual can contribute without physical, social, or institutional constraints.

5.2.5 Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policy

The Anti-Harassment and Anti Discrimination Policy is one of the strongest safeguards for dignity and safety at UAJK. It outlines clear procedures for preventing, reporting, and addressing harassment in any form whether verbal, physical, psychological, or digital. The policy ensures that all complaints are handled confidentially and impartially through dedicated inquiry committees trained to deal with sensitive cases. Regular awareness seminars, mandatory training programs, and campus-wide campaigns reinforce a culture of respect and zero tolerance for harassment or discriminatory behaviour. Together with the

university's Equity Policy, it guarantees that women and marginalized groups can pursue their academic and professional goals in a secure and respectful environment.

5.2.6 Non-Discrimination Policy for Transgender Persons

Recognizing the challenges faced by transgender individuals in accessing education, UAJK has established a dedicated Non-Discrimination Policy for Transgender Persons. This policy ensures that transgender students, faculty, and staff are fully supported and respected across all university platforms. It mandates equal treatment in admissions, classroom participation, housing, and employment. The policy also promotes awareness programs to increase understanding and acceptance within the university community. By formalizing institutional support, UAJK strives to create a safe, inclusive, and empowering atmosphere for transgender persons, enabling them to pursue their academic and professional ambitions without fear of bias or exclusion.

5.2.7 Maternity and Paternity Leave Policy

The Maternity and Paternity Leave Policy reflects UAJK's commitment to promoting family welfare and supporting the work-life balance of its students, faculty, and staff. The policy provides paid and/or approved leave for childbirth, adoption, and parental responsibilities, ensuring that caregivers both mothers and fathers are not academically or professionally disadvantaged. For women, maternity leave offers essential time for recovery and newborn care, while paternity leave encourages shared caregiving and challenges traditional gender roles. The policy also ensures academic adjustments or alternative assessment arrangements for students during their leave. By implementing this policy, UAJK strengthens its dedication to fostering a compassionate, family friendly, and gender equitable institutional environment.

5.3 Women Empowerment Programs:

5.3.1 Establishment of Day Care Centre: Advancing SDG 5 by supporting working mothers and female faculty

The establishment of a Day Care Centre at the Chehla Bandi Campus reflects the University's commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusivity. By providing safe and accessible childcare facilities, the initiative directly supports working mothers and female faculty,

enabling them to balance professional responsibilities with family care. This measure reduces barriers to women's participation in academia and institutional governance, fostering an environment where female staff can thrive without compromising their caregiving roles.



Inauguration of Day Care Centre

5.3.2 Inclusive Scholarship Programs Advancing Quality Education and Gender Equality (SDG 4 & SDG 5)

The University's diverse scholarship schemes including Islamic Relief, USAID, Need-Based Scholarships, Ehsaas, Karwan-i-Ilm, and PEEF, demonstrate a strong commitment to inclusive access to higher education. By supporting both male and female students across undergraduate and postgraduate levels, these programs reduce financial barriers and promote equal opportunities for academic success.

Special emphasis is placed on female participation, as seen in initiatives like USAID and PEEF, which prioritize women's empowerment through education. This directly contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by ensuring equitable learning opportunities, and to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by addressing gender disparities in higher education. Collectively, these scholarships strengthen social mobility, foster talent development, and advance the University's role in building a more just and inclusive society.

Table: Inclusive Scholarship Programs Advancing Quality Education and Gender Equality (SDG 4 & SDG 5)

Sr	Name of Scheme	Total No. of students	Male	Female	Amount
1	Islamic Relief	27	13	14	4,759,711
2	USAID	22	0	22	1,546,006
3	Need Based Scholarship Pogram	150	54	96	9,999,985
4	Ehsaas Program	320	167	153	45,444,938
5	Karwan I Ilm	08	5	3	355,348
6	PEEF(Punjab Educational Endowment Fund)	34(MS/M Phil)	15	19	6,300,000
		16(BS)	7	9	1,386,000
	Pakistan Educational (PEEF)	14	4	10	2,060,800

ACTION



6. SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has established itself as a regional leader in advancing climate education, adaptation planning, and carbon-neutral initiatives. Through innovative teaching, research, and community engagement, UAJK equips students and stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to address pressing environmental challenges. The university's commitment to sustainability is reflected in its proactive efforts to integrate climate resilience into academic programs, promote renewable energy solutions, and foster eco-friendly practices across campus operations.

6.1 Key Climate Initiatives:

6.1.1 Clean and Green Tree Plantation Drive 2024

In February 2024, the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJ&K) launched the Clean and Green Tree Plantation Drive 2024 at the Chehla Campus, Muzaffarabad. The campaign set an ambitious goal of planting 500 trees within two months, engaging faculty, staff, and students in collective environmental action. This initiative reflects UAJK's dedication to fostering environmental stewardship and sustainability within the university community.

By encouraging active participation in afforestation efforts, the campaign contributes directly to SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 15: Life on Land, promoting cleaner air, improved campus aesthetics, and enhanced biodiversity. The tree plantation drive not only instilled a sense of ecological responsibility among participants but also highlighted UAJK's ongoing commitment to combating climate change through practical, community-driven initiatives.



Clean and Green Tree Plantation Drive By Engineering Department UAIK

6.1.2 Plantation Drive at King Abdullah Campus (March 2024)

In March 2024, the Department of Botany at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAIK) organized a large-scale plantation drive at the new King Abdullah Campus, in collaboration with the AIK Forest Department. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and students of BS, M.Phil., and PhD programs, all working together to promote environmental sustainability through afforestation.

Aligned with SDG 13: Climate Action, the plantation drive aimed to enhance biodiversity, strengthen ecosystem restoration, and contribute to carbon sequestration within the university's expanding campus. This hands-on activity not only provided students with practical exposure to sustainable environmental practices but also reinforced UAIK's commitment to combating climate change through education, research, and community engagement. The initiative stands as a model of green campus development, integrating environmental responsibility with academic growth and institutional sustainability.

PLANTATION DRIVE 2024



Plantation Drive at King Abdullah Campus (March 2024)

6.1.3 Celebration of International Forest Day at King Abdullah Campus

On 21 March 2024, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJ&K) celebrated International Forest Day with a tree plantation ceremony at the King Abdullah Campus, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari. The event brought together faculty, staff, and students in a collective effort to promote afforestation and environmental stewardship.

Aligned with SDG 13 Climate Action, the celebration emphasized the critical role of forests in mitigating climate change, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining ecosystem health. Through this initiative, UAJK raised awareness about sustainable forestry practices and climate-resilient development, reinforcing the university's institutional commitment to sustainability and the long-term restoration of natural landscapes.



INTERNATIONAL FOREST DAY 2024

6.1.4 Cluster Conference on “Engaging Youth Leaders for Indigenous and Sustainable Climate Action”

On 3 May 2024, the Department of Botany, UAJ&K, in collaboration with the Teacher's Resource Centre under the US Consulate-funded CANDLE project, organized a one-day cluster conference titled “Engaging Youth Leaders for Indigenous and Sustainable Climate Action.” The event brought together youth, scholars, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for addressing local climate challenges through community-driven initiatives and indigenous knowledge integration.

Aligned with SDG 13: Climate Action, the event provided a platform for interactive workshops, panel discussions, and community engagement sessions, fostering collaboration between

academic institutions, local communities, and policymakers. By highlighting innovative solutions for climate adaptation and encouraging youth-led initiatives, UAJK reinforced its commitment to sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and capacity building for the next generation of climate-conscious leaders.



6.1.5 Seminar on Climate Change and Youth’s Role in Tackling its Impacts

The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) State Branch, hosted a seminar titled “Climate Change and the Role of Youth in Addressing Its Impacts” at the UAJK Jhelum Valley Campus, Hattian. The event aimed to underscore the urgent need for youth-led climate action and to foster community resilience in AJK. Over 200 students from various university faculties actively participated in the seminar, reflecting a strong commitment to addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

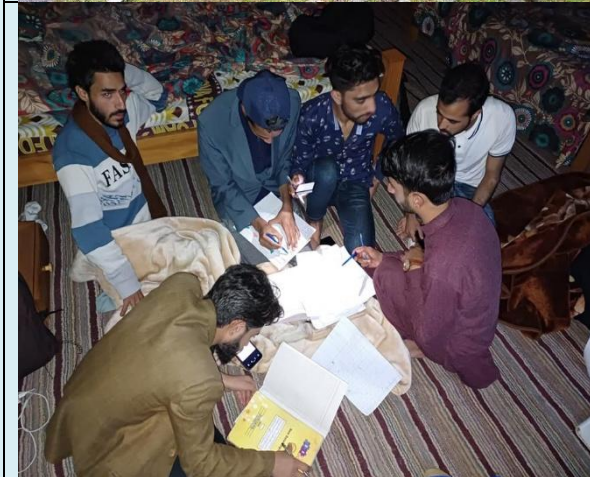




UAJK Organized a Seminar on Climate Change and Youth's Role in Tackling its Impacts

6.1.6 Field-Based Learning for Climate Action

In support of Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action), the Department of Botany at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir organized a field visit for BS Botany (6th semester) students to Neelum Valley from 6–10 June 2024. Under the supervision of Dr. Hamayun Shaheen and Dr. Raja Waqar Ahmed Khan, students conducted forest sampling, botanical specimen collection, and socioeconomic surveys to explore the interrelationship between plant diversity, forest ecosystems, and local communities. The activity provided experiential learning on biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and the ecological importance of mountain forests in mitigating climate change impacts. Through this hands-on engagement, students gained a deeper appreciation of sustainable ecosystem management and the critical role of science based action in building climate resilience in the fragile landscapes of Azad Kashmir.



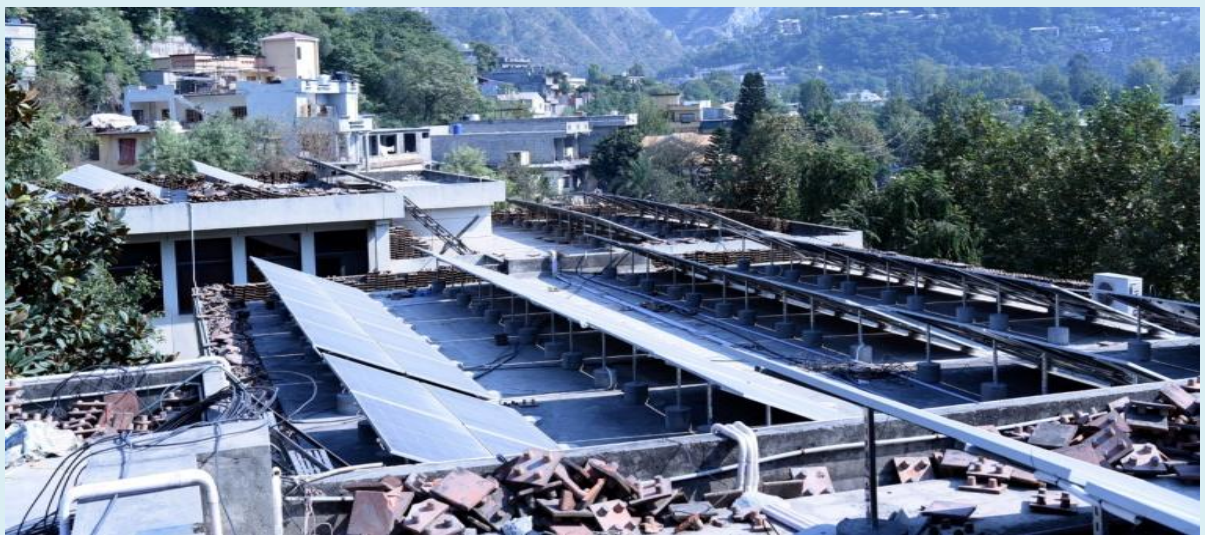


Field Visit of BS Botany Students to Neelum Valley (6–10 June 2024)

6.1.7 Installation of Solar Panels at UAJ&K

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJ&K) has undertaken a significant step towards sustainable energy and environmental responsibility by installing solar panels at the Chehla Campus. This initiative aims to harness renewable solar energy to reduce the campus's reliance on conventional electricity sources, lower carbon emissions, and promote energy efficiency across university operations.

The solar installation reflects UAJK's commitment to integrating green technologies into campus infrastructure. By adopting sustainable energy solutions, the university not only reduces its ecological footprint but also provides a practical learning platform for students and faculty to engage with renewable energy technologies and sustainable campus development practices.



Installation of Solar Panels at UAJ&K

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



7. SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has actively forged strategic collaborations with national and international organizations, including HHRD, Girl Guides Association, Department of Planning and Development Government of AJK and Jihad for Zero Thalassemia Foundation. These partnerships aim to enhance educational opportunities, advance health initiatives, and promote community development by combining expertise, resources, and innovative solutions. Through such collaborative efforts, UAJK strengthens institutional capacities, fosters knowledge exchange, and contributes to achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating the critical role of partnerships in driving sustainable and inclusive development."

7.1 Engagement in Policy Development

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir plays an active and continuing role in shaping regional sustainable development policies through its collaboration with the Planning and Development Department, Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The university provides expert input in identifying development challenges, advising on SDG-aligned strategies, and contributing to evidence-based planning processes. Faculty specialists and the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) work jointly with government and regional NGOs to model sustainable interventions, evaluate outcomes, and support adaptive policy management. This ongoing partnership ensures that research from the university directly informs public policy and regional SDG implementation across Azad Jammu & Kashmir.



MoU Signing Ceremony between UAJK and Department of Planning and Development Government of AJK

7.2 Cross Sectoral Dialogue

UAJK demonstrates leadership in multi-stakeholder SDG dialogue through conferences and seminars and partnerships bridging academia, government, and civil society. The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) organized a seminar on “Climate Change and Youth’s Role in Tackling its Impacts” to strengthen partnerships and collective responsibility in addressing global challenges. The event emphasized the importance of collaborative learning, cross-sector engagement, and youth participation in building resilient communities. By bringing together students, faculty, policymakers, and civil society representatives, the seminar fostered dialogue on climate adaptation strategies and highlighted the power of partnerships in advancing sustainable solutions.

This initiative reflects UAJK’s commitment to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, demonstrating that meaningful progress on climate action requires cooperation across institutions, disciplines, and generations. Through such collaborative platforms, UAJK continues to empower youth as agents of change while reinforcing the value of shared responsibility in achieving sustainability.



7.3 Cluster Conference on “Engaging Youth Leaders for Indigenous and Sustainable Climate Action”

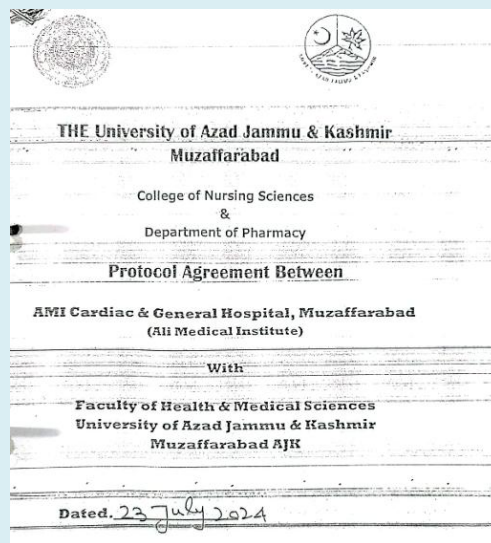
The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) actively advances SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by fostering collaboration between academia, government, civil society, and local communities. Through seminars, conferences, and joint initiatives, UAJK creates platforms where diverse stakeholders can share knowledge, co-develop solutions, and strengthen collective capacity to address pressing challenges such as climate change, public health, and inclusive education. By emphasizing cooperation, resource-sharing, and interdisciplinary dialogue, the university demonstrates that sustainable development is only achievable through strong partnerships and shared responsibility. These efforts reinforce UAJK’s role as a regional hub for building networks that drive meaningful impact both locally and globally.



CLUSTER CONFERENCE ON “ENGAGING YOUTH LEADERS FOR INDIGENOUS AND SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE ACTION”

7.4 Collaborations with Organizations and NGOs

UAJK partners with Local and international NGOs such as HHRD, Girl Guides Association, and Jihad for Zero Thalassemia Foundation, engaging students in volunteering, research, and resource development programs aligned with SDGs 3, 4, 5, 13, and 17. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) has partnered with AMI Cardiac & General Hospital, Muzaffarabad, through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This collaboration provides UAJK students with practical clinical training, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and hands-on healthcare experience. By equipping students with essential skills and professional competencies, this initiative not only enhances the quality of medical education but also contributes to strengthening local healthcare services, promoting health equity, and preparing a skilled workforce to address the region's health challenges.



MoU between UAJK and AMI Cardiac & General Hospital Muzaffarabad



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN



NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY, THAME, UZBEKISTAN
AND
UNIVERSITY OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR, MUZAFFARABAD,
PAKISTAN

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), entered into by **National Research University, THAME, Uzbekistan** and **University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Pakistan** and hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" aims to foster cooperation in the fields of science, technology, research, and innovation, rooted in mutual benefit and equality.

Taking into account the desire to develop and maintain mutually friendly relations and cooperation in the field of science, technology, research and innovation, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit;

Recognizing the need to further strengthen and develop friendly relations and exchange of experience between the Parties;

The Parties hereby agree to the following:

Article 1: Objective

The Parties commit to promoting and deepening cooperation in science, research, technology, and innovation to mutual benefit.

Article 2: Forms of Cooperation

Cooperation under this MOU includes, but is not limited to:

MoU between UAJK and National Research University, THAME, Uzbekistan

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
FOR COLLABORATION ON
“BIOSURVEILLANCE AND THE STUDY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES &
BENEFICIAL BIOAGENTS”
BETWEEN
BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTRE (BRC), DEFENCE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY ORGANIZATION
AND
THE UNIVERISTY OF AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR, MUZAFFARABAD

Signed on: 23 December 2024



DIRECTOR
UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY, MUZAFFARABAD

MoU between UAJK and Biological Research Centre , Defence Science, and Technology Organization



Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made on 24th July 2024 by and between:

Helping Hands for Relief and Development (HHRD), an organization, established under the laws of Pakistan and having its registered office at Umar market G-10/4 Islamabad, Pakistan (hereinafter referred to as "HHRD") Party "A" of the one part.

The Helping Hands for Relief and Development (HHRD), having its water filtration plant _MOU_ (Hereinafter referred Azad Jammu & Kashmir University, Muzaffarabad to Party "B" of the second part.

WHEREAS HHRD operates in Pakistan and manages the programs in Pakistan has approached HHRD in pursuance of a proposal (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") to install Water Filtration Plant to provide Safe and clean water to the recipients in the catchment area in the defined locality.

AND WHEREAS for the purposes of the Project and its effective implementation thereof, HHRD has agreed to install the filtration plant as required by

AND WHEREAS, for the purposes mentioned above the parties agreed to enter this MOU upon the terms and conditions stated below.

NOW THEREFORE the parties agree to enter this MOU on the following terms and conditions:

A. Scope of Work:

Responsibilities of Party A

1. Construction of room, water collection point with new bore and water pump.
2. Install the Water Filtration Plant in its entirety of functions.
3. After Installation of plant, train the nominated operator by the Party B to operate the water filtration plant effectively and efficiently.
4. Party A will monitor the site to ensure that the plant is fully functional and providing clean water to the people.
5. Party A will provide technical advice when and needed to the operator.
6. 24 nos. of cartridge filter 5 micron for water filtration plant only provided by party A but timely changing of filter is fully responsibility of party B.
7. Party A will provide maintenance serves for a year after installation of Water filtration plant but if any problem arises due to irresponsibility of plant operator or party B, then party A will not be responsible for it.

MoU between UAJK and Helping Hands for Relief and Development



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into on 26th August-2024 (hereinafter the 'MOU') by and between:

Pakistan Girl Guides Association, a Body Corporate that is protected and incorporated by Ordinance No. XLIV of 1960 by Government of Pakistan, having its registered office located at [Plot No. 12, Street No. 7, Sector H-9/4, Islamabad]. Pakistan Girl Guides Association (PGGA) started in 1947 in Pakistan & emerged on the World map in 1948 when it became full member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). It is a National Movement of empowered girls and young women working as the agents of change to build a better world. PGGA through its seven chapters is operative throughout Pakistan. Pakistan Girl Guides Association (hereinafter referred to as "PGGA or Party 1" which expression shall mean and include where ever the context so allows its representatives and permitted assigns).

And

University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad is a leading academic institution located in Muzaffarabad. The university has a long standing tradition of academic excellence and a strong commitment to research and innovation with highly educated and experienced faculty. UAJK university is dedicating to creating a vibrant and inclusive learning environment. UAJK university is located Muzaffarabad and is acting through its Principal, (hereinafter referred to as "UAJK university or Party 2" which expression shall mean and include where ever the context so allows its representatives and permitted assigns)"

(Both jointly referred to as the 'Parties' and individually the 'Party')

WHEREAS:

The purpose of this MoU is to establish collaborative partnership between PGGA and AJK university. Both parties will support each other in the activities agreed mutually. The specific functions that may be undertaken under this MoU include but are not limited to the following:

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties have entered into this MoU for the purpose of setting forth their understanding and agreement with respect to the exercise of rights that each Party has in the operation and management of the PGGA's Project Stay Safe.



The effective date of this MOU is the day, month and year first above written.

For
AJK University

For
Pakistan Girl Guides Association


Name | Designation | Signature
Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi
Vice Chancellor
University of Azad Jammu and
Kashmir, Muzaffarabad

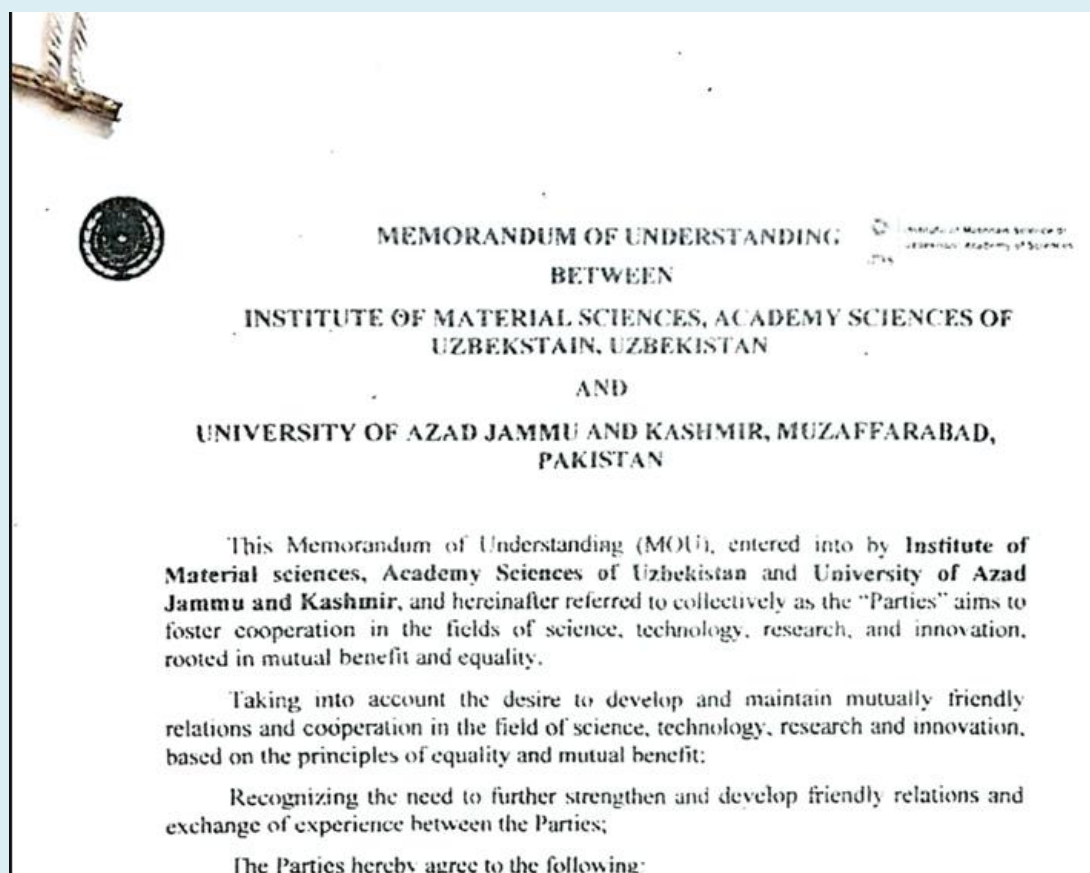

Name | Designation | Signature
Mrs. Maria Masud Sohni
National Commissioner

Focal Persons

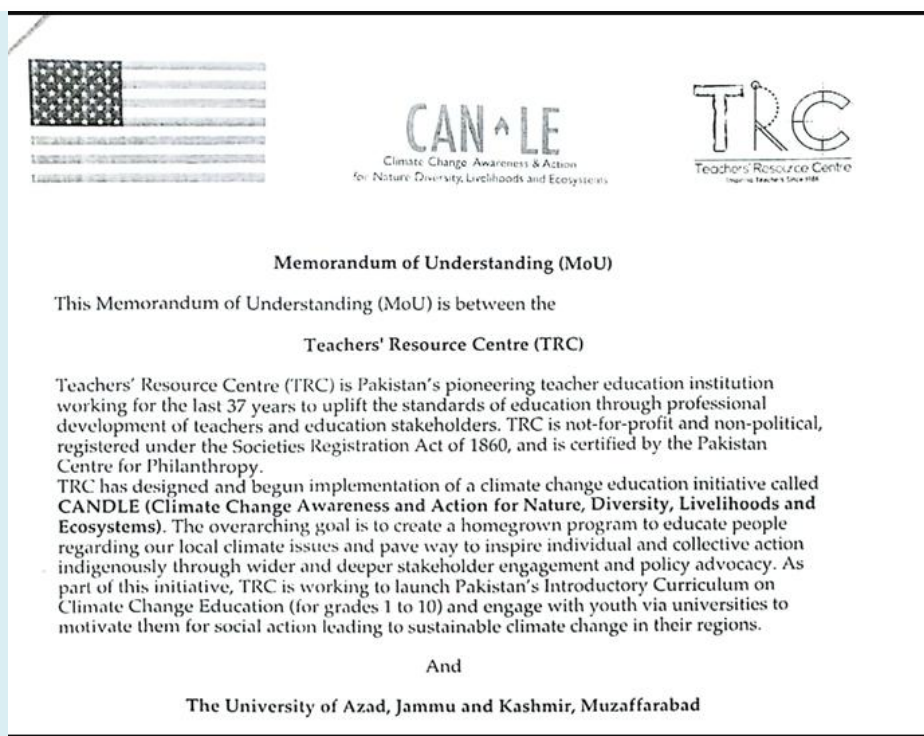

Name | Designation | Signature
Dr. Abdul Rauf Janjua
Director ORIC
University of Azad Jammu and
Kashmir, Muzaffarabad


Name | Designation | Signature
Mrs. Sharmna Kazhif
National Secretary
PGGA

MoU between UAJK and Girl Guides Association



MoU between UAJK and Institute of Material Sciences Academy Sciences of Uzbekistan



MoU between UAJK and Teachers Recourse Centre Pakistan

Summary

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir continues to advance its mission of sustainable development by aligning institutional policies, academic initiatives, and community engagement efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The progress documented in this report demonstrates the university's commitment to providing inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education while fostering innovation, gender equality, environmental responsibility, and strong institutional partnerships. Through strategic investments in infrastructure, research capacity, policy development, and student centered programs, UAJK has strengthened its role as a leading institution working toward regional and global sustainability.