



# SUSTAINABILITY 2023-2024

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COMMUNICATION ON  
ENGAGEMENT (COE)





# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## SDG COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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The University of Balamand is highly committed to the SDGs which led to university's President Dr. Elias Warrak to be appointed as a United Nations Global Compact council. This membership is affiliated to the largest initiative in the world driving change at a scale; and it leads to engaging with the UN Global Compact's business leaders' community and access to networking opportunities within high level national and international events.

## RESEARCH TOWARDS SDG17

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The university's publications in 2023-24 significantly contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) by fostering partnerships and collaborations across various disciplines. These publications address diverse issues such as food safety, financial stress, genetic literacy, mental health, environmental sustainability, and healthcare, often through open-access platforms that enhance knowledge sharing. By engaging in interdisciplinary research and publishing in international journals, the university promotes global cooperation and knowledge exchange, essential components of SDG 17, which aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

1. Hassan, H.F., Dimassi, H.I., Fadous, A., Hassan, H., & Serhan, M. (2024). **Unveiling food safety knowledge and practices among pet owners in Lebanon**. Scientific Reports. Open access.
2. Nasr, R., Rahman, A.A., Haddad, C., Salameh, P.R., & Alami, N.H. (2024). **The impact of financial stress on student wellbeing in Lebanese higher education**. BMC Public Health. Open access.
3. Karam, P.E., Hamad, L., ElSherif, M., Curi, D.A., & Yazbek, S.N. (2024). **Genetic literacy among primary care physicians in a resource-constrained setting**. BMC Medical Education. Open access.
4. Jaafar, K., Nabhan, E., Daoud, R., & Nasser, Z. (2024). **Prevalence of anxiety and depression among Lebanese women using oral contraceptives: a cross-sectional study**. BMC Women's Health. Open access.
5. Sleiman, E., Ferrier, E., Michel, L., & Gerges, N.N. (2024). **In-Plane Shear Strengthening of Masonry Wallettes Using Ultra-High Performance Concrete Precast Plates**. International Journal of Civil Engineering.

6. Mansour, M., Harajli, H.A., Zakhem, H.E., & Manneh, R. (2024). **Cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment of a photovoltaic–diesel hybrid system: the case of an industrial facility.** Environment, Development and Sustainability.
7. Nahle, A.A., Hamdar, H., Awada, R., Jalloul, S.I., & Ismail, N.H. (2024). **Assessing quality of life and depression in non-metastatic breast cancer patients following surgical treatment: A cross-sectional study in Lebanon.** Medicine (United States). Open access.
8. Aad, R., El Balaa, R., Tanios, C., & Nemer, N.M. (2024). **Landscape Indicators—An Inventive Approach for the Sustainability of Landscapes.** Sustainability (Switzerland). Open access.
9. Nakad, M., Gardelle, L., & Abboud, R.J. (2024). **A Systematic Review of the Different Methods Assessing Sustainability Integration in Engineering Curricula.** Sustainability (Switzerland). Open access.
10. Fayssal, N., Al Tawil, L., Danageuzian, H.R., Dargham, S.A., & Romanos, J. (2024). **Navigating the water-energy nexus amidst the Lebanese economic crisis.** Aqua Water Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Society. Open access.
11. Moussa, J., Nassour, E., Jisr, T.E., El Chaar, M.H., & Tokajian, S.T. (2024). **Characterization of blaNDM-19-producing IncX3 plasmid isolated from carbapenem-resistant Escherichia coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae.** Heliyon. Open access.
12. Jahami, A., Zeaiter, N., & Cheaib, M. (2024). **Reviewing the potential: a comprehensive review of natural fibers (NFs) in structural concrete and their multifaceted influences.** Innovative Infrastructure Solutions.
13. Raymond, A. (2024). **Regarding Mao's Alleged Speech about the Dalai Lama on 15 November 1956.** China Quarterly.
14. Czepiel, D., McCormack, C.A., Da Silva, A.T.C., Hoek, H.W., & van der Ven, E.M.A. (2024). **Inequality on the frontline: A multi-country study on gender differences in mental health among healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Global Mental Health. Open access.
15. Khabbaz, L., & Kuran, O. (2024). **EMPOWERING RURAL LEBANESE FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS: A RESOURCE-BASED PERSPECTIVE.** Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship.
16. Khatib, M., Hleihel, J., Arairow, W., Skienhe, H., & Mortada, H. (2024). **Evaluating of the environmental risks of natural water sources in the Alkalaa municipal community area - South Lebanon.** Water Supply. Open access.
17. Skaf, Y., Eid, C., Thrassou, A., El Nemar, S., & Rebeiz, K.S. (2024). **Technology and service quality: achieving insurance industry customer satisfaction and loyalty under crisis conditions.** EuroMed Journal of Business.
18. Shantha Kumari, K.G., Jaheer Mukthar, K.P., & El Rahhani, G.N. (2024). **Green Finance in India: Driving Sustainable Development and Economic Growth.** In Studies in Systems, Decision and Control.
19. Kuran, O., & Khabbaz, L. (2024). **Stakeholder dynamics in rural Lebanese women's entrepreneurship.** Journal of Enterprising Communities.
20. Saad, R., Huijjer, H.A.S., Noureddine, S.N., Fares, S.A., & Abboud, M.R. (2024). **Parents providing palliative care for children with cancer.** ecancermedicalscience. Open access.

21. Hassan, H.F., Dimassi, H.I., Fadous, A., Hassan, H., & Serhan, M. (2024). **Unveiling food safety knowledge and practices among pet owners in Lebanon.** Scientific Reports. Open access.
22. Nasr, R., Rahman, A.A., Haddad, C., Salameh, P.R., & Alami, N.H. (2024). **The impact of financial stress on student wellbeing in Lebanese higher education.** BMC Public Health. Open access.
23. Karam, P.E., Hamad, L., ElSherif, M., Curi, D.A., & Yazbek, S.N. (2024). **Genetic literacy among primary care physicians in a resource-constrained setting.** BMC Medical Education. Open access.
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25. Sleiman, E., Ferrier, E., Michel, L., & Gerges, N.N. (2024). **In-Plane Shear Strengthening of Masonry Wallettes Using Ultra-High Performance Concrete Precast Plates.** International Journal of Civil Engineering.
26. Mansour, M., Harajli, H.A., Zakhem, H.E., & Manneh, R. (2024). **Cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment of a photovoltaic–diesel hybrid system: the case of an industrial facility.** Environment, Development and Sustainability.
27. Nahle, A.A., Hamdar, H., Awada, R., Jalloul, S.I., & Ismail, N.H. (2024). **Assessing quality of life and depression in non-metastatic breast cancer patients following surgical treatment: A cross-sectional study in Lebanon.** Medicine (United States). Open access.
28. Aad, R., El Balaa, R., Tanios, C., & Nemer, N.M. (2024). **Landscape Indicators—An Inventive Approach for the Sustainability of Landscapes.** Sustainability (Switzerland). Open access.
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33. Raymond, A. (2024). **Regarding Mao's Alleged Speech about the Dalai Lama on 15 November 1956.** China Quarterly.
34. Czepiel, D., McCormack, C.A., Da Silva, A.T.C., Hoek, H.W., & van der Ven, E.M.A. (2024). **Inequality on the frontline: A multi-country study on gender differences in mental health among healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Global Mental Health. Open access.
35. Khabbaz, L., & Kuran, O. (2024). **EMPOWERING RURAL LEBANESE FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS: A RESOURCE-BASED PERSPECTIVE.** Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship.



36. Khatib, M., Hleihel, J., Arairo, W., Skienhe, H., & Mortada, H. (2024). **Evaluating of the environmental risks of natural water sources in the Alkalaa municipal community area - South Lebanon.** Water Supply. Open access.
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44. Das, A., & Khatib, M. (2024). **Assessing Surface Water Vulnerability Zones in Mahanadi River Basin, Odisha, India: An Integrated Approach Using GIS and MCDM.** In Environmental Science and Engineering.
45. Tabbah, R., Francis, J., Skouri, H.N., Khoury, M.Y., & Abi-Saleh, B.S. (2024). **Ejection fraction improvement in left ventricular-only pacing vs. BiVentricular pacing in patients with heart failure.** Heart, Vessels and Transplantation. Open access.
46. Doumat, G., Choudhury, S., Idriss, A., Doumat, N., & Sacca, L. (2024). **Assessing Physical, Mental, and Social Factors Associated with Refugee Children Food Insecurity, Food Relief Barriers, and Lessons Learned in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region: A Scoping Review.** Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition.
47. Nehme, A., Moussa, S., Fekih-Romdhane, F., Obeid, S., & Haddad, G. (2024). **Expressive suppression moderates the relationship between PTSD from COVID-19 and somatization and validation of the Arabic version of Patient Health Questionnaire-15 (PHQ-15).** PLoS ONE. Open access.
48. Swaidan, A., Azakir, B., Neugart, S., Osaili, T.M., & El-Darra, N. (2024). **Evaluation of the Phenolic Composition and Biological Activities of Six Aqueous Date (Phoenix dactylifera L.) Seed Extracts Originating from Different Countries: A Comparative Analysis.** Foods. Open access.

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50. Khoury, D., Millet, M., Weissenberger, T., Delhomme, O., & Jabali, Y. (2024). **Chemical composition of fogwater collected at four sites in North- and Mount-Lebanon during 2021.** *Atmospheric Pollution Research*. Open access.
51. Khatib, M., & Mahmoud, B. (2024). **Economic Vessel to Clean the Polluted Water by Solid Waste in Waterway.** In *Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering*.
52. Serhan, C., Nader, R., & Gereige, W. (2023). **Modeling the effect of continuity and change as paradoxical forces in the inter-generational transition process of family businesses.** *Journal of Family Business Strategy*.
53. Jabbour, R.M., Hallit, S.R., Saliby, R., Baydoun, A.E.K., & Nakhoul, N.F. (2023). **Is COVID-19 incriminated in new onset type 2 diabetes mellitus in Lebanese adults?** *BMC Research Notes*. Open access.
54. Younes, R.G., Salloum, S.L., & Antoun, M. (2023). **The effects of language and home factors on Lebanese students' mathematics performance in TIMSS.** *Large-Scale Assessments in Education*. Open access.
55. Stein, D.J., Kazdin, A.E., Munthali, R.J., Williams, D.R., & Wojtyniak, B.J. (2023). **Determinants of effective treatment coverage for posttraumatic stress disorder: findings from the World Mental Health Surveys.** *BMC Psychiatry*. Open access.
56. Moussa, S., Achkouty, I., Malaeb, D.N., Obeid, S., & Hallit, S.R. (2023). **Personality traits and perceived cognitive function in Lebanese healthcare professionals.** *BMC Psychology*. Open access.
57. Kovess-Masfety, V., Frounfelker, R.L., Keyes, K.M., Kaur, N., & Rousseau, C. (2023). **Education as a protective factor for mental health risks among youth living in highly dangerous regions in Afghanistan.** *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*. Open access.
58. Hatoum, A.A., & Barraj, F. (2023). **Investigating the changes in travel behaviour during an economic crisis in a developing country: A case study of the Greater Beirut Area, Lebanon.** *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Open access.
59. Tappata, M., Farah, M., Anugwom, C.M., Seid, A.S., & Debes, J.D. (2023). **Clinical, Gender, Socioeconomic Characteristics and Outcomes of Individuals Receiving Hepatitis B Treatment in Ethiopia: 18-Month Follow-Up.** *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*.
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62. Saad, R., Abu Saad Huijjer, H., Noureddine, S.N., Fares, S.A., & Abboud, M.R. (2023). **Unfolding parental knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs toward palliative care for children with cancer.** *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*.

63. Serhan, M., Yakan, M., & Serhan, C. (2023). **Sports nutrition knowledge translates to enhanced athletic performance: a cross-sectional study among Lebanese university athletes.** Nutrition and Food Science.
64. Black, C.J., McEwen, F.S., Smeeth, D., Karam, E.G., & Pluess, M. (2023). **Effects of War Exposure on Pubertal Development in Refugee Children.** Developmental Psychology. Open access.
65. Khatib, M., Daoud, M., Arairo, W., Saba, M., & Mortada, H. (2023). **Evaluation of Water Quality in the South of Lebanon: Case Study.** Water, Air, and Soil Pollution.
66. Antoun, M., & Plunkett, M. (2023). **A Roadmap for Change: Charting the Course of Gifted Educational Provision in Lebanon.** International Journal of Educational Reform.
67. Axinn, W.G., Bruffaerts, R., Kessler, T.L., Williams, D.R., & Kessler, R.C. (2023). **Findings from the World Mental Health Surveys of Civil Violence Exposure and Its Association with Subsequent Onset and Persistence of Mental Disorders.** JAMA Network Open. Open access.
68. Mohty, D., Nasr, S.R., Ragy, H.I., Alayary, I., & Ghoubar, M. (2023). **Cardiac amyloidosis: A survey of current awareness, diagnostic modalities, treatment practices, and clinical challenges among cardiologists in selected Middle Eastern countries.** Clinical Cardiology. Open access.
69. Kasbaji, M., Mennani, M., Grimi, N., Zakhem, H.E., & Moubarik, A. (2023). **Adsorption of cationic and anionic dyes onto coffee grounds cellulose/sodium alginate double-network hydrogel beads: Isotherm analysis and recyclability performance.** International Journal of Biological Macromolecules.
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74. Shehayeb, S., Shaaban, E., & Shayya, J.K. (2023). **Factors Promoting Student Agency and Community Engagement: Case of a Lebanese Public High School.** In Proceedings of International Conference on Research in Education and Science.
75. Lahoud, C., Brouche, M.E., Lahoud, C., & Hmadi, M. (2023). **Thermo-Economic Comparison of Solar Thermal Cooling and Solar Photovoltaic Cooling Systems for a Typical Residential Building - Lebanese Case Study.** In 2023 IEEE 4th International Multidisciplinary Conference on Engineering Technology, IMCET 2023.
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77. Mitri, G.H., Bechara, J., Stephan, J.M., McKenna, M., & Choueiter, D. (2023). **Geoinformation applications for monitoring protected areas in Lebanon.** In Proceedings of SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering.
78. Kazzni, H., Daba, J., & Semaan, N.M. (2023). **A novel combination scheme of the modified TOPSIS and ITARA in housing assistance and building Assessments.** Revista Ingenieria de Construcccion. Open access.
79. Arairo, W., Khatib, M., Saba, M., Kassem, H., & Absi, J. (2023). **Characterization of Groundwater Contamination in the North Lebanese Aquifer.** In Environmental Science and Engineering.
80. Nakad, M., Kövesi, K., Gardelle, L., & Abboud, R.J. (2023). **Engineering Students' Perceptions Towards Promoting Sustainability.** In IEEE Global Engineering Education Conference, EDUCON.
81. Rachidi, M., Hatem, G., Hatem, M., Rachidi, S.M., & Awada, S.M. (2023). **Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the consumption patterns of psychotropic drugs and predictors of limited access to medication.** Journal of Medicine Access. Open access.
82. Dagher, W.J., Kayrouz, A., Nasrallah, P., Nemer, L., & Shahoud, R. (2023). **The Impact of COVID-19 and the October 17th Revolution on Employees' Performances: Case of Lebanese Banks.** In Accounting, Finance, Sustainability, Governance and Fraud.
83. Yacoub, L.B., & Harb, A.H. (2023). **A strategic assessment and evaluation of the major factors behind the high failure rate of many restaurants in the city of Beirut-Lebanon.** International Journal of Services and Operations Management. Open access.
84. Aoun Bacha, Z., Bitar, N.M.A., El-Karak, F., Tfayli, A.H., & Zeineddine, S. (2023). **Lung cancer screening in Lebanon: Joint statement from the Lebanese Pulmonary Society and the Lebanese Society of Medical Oncology.** World Academy of Sciences Journal. Open access.
85. Antoun, M., Younes, R.G., & Salloum, S.L. (2023). **Investigating the status of highly able students through the lens of the Lebanese national policy and the mathematics and science centralized curricula and textbooks.** European Journal of Science and Mathematics Education. Open access.
86. Abu-Alfa, A.K., Atallah, P.J., Azar, S.T., Medlej, R.C., & Mohamad, M.A. (2023). **Recommendations for Early and Comprehensive Management of Type 2 Diabetes and Its Related Cardio-Renal Complications.** Diabetes Therapy. Open access.
87. Miller, K.E., Chen, A., Koppenol-Gonzalez, G.V., Jawad, L., & Jordans, M.J.D. (2023). **Supporting parenting among Syrian refugees in Lebanon: a randomized controlled trial of the caregiver support intervention.** Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines. Open access.
88. Popham, C.M., McEwen, F.S., Karam, E.G., Moghames, P., & Pluess, M. (2023). **Predictors of psychological risk and resilience among Syrian refugee children.** Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines. Open access.
89. El Hayek, S.A., Kassir, G., Cherro, M., Zrou, C., & Khoury, B.A. (2023). **Mental Health of LGBTQ Individuals Who are Arab or of an Arab Descent: A Systematic Review.** Journal of Homosexuality.
90. Al-Sakkaf, A., Mohammed Abdelkader, E., Elshaboury, N., Bagchi, A., & Zayed, T.M. (2023). **An Integrated Multi-criteria Decision Making Model for Evaluating Sustainability Rating Systems.** In Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering.



# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS

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## MOU WITH LA ROCHELLE UNIVERSITY

The University of Balamand (UOB) and the University of La Rochelle (ULR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 29, 2023, to enhance academic collaboration. This agreement, the first between ULR and a Lebanese university, aims to foster multidisciplinary teaching and research. The signing took place during a visit organized by the Erasmus+ Project SWaTH, with key representatives from both universities in attendance.



## MOU WITH UNIVERSITY OF LLEIDA

In a landmark event fostering international academic partnerships, the University of Balamand and the University of Lleida (UdL) in Spain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) within the EU co-funded SWaTH project in February 2024. This collaboration builds on the existing PhD Co-Direction between their engineering faculties.



## UREKA EDUCATION GROUP

In collaboration with the Ureka Education Group, UOB aims to enhance employability skills and overall success for students and faculty. This partnership will establish a Ureka UK Global Innovation Hub on campus, to offer online degrees and certificates, and create international engagement opportunities through programs, seminars, conferences, events, internships, and various student initiatives.

## UOB AND GREEK COMMUNITY

The University, led by President Dr. Elias Warak, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Communauté Hellénique de Bienfaisance de Beyrouth, represented by President Mr. Banayoti Androti. The signing ceremony, held in the presence of the Greek Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E. Ms. Catherine Fountoulaki, along with representatives from both parties, aims to bolster academic collaboration between the two institutions. This agreement includes providing Greek students with discounts on their studies at UOB, and lays the groundwork for future joint activities in cultural, educational, and athletic domains.



## PRESERVING LEBANESE CINEMA

The University of Balamand and the Metropolis Cinema Association have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish mechanisms for archiving two films by Mirna Mounayer, a former student at ALBA. This collaboration aims to make these films available for on-site, non-commercial purposes, ensuring the preservation and appreciation of the work of Lebanese directors. By safeguarding these films, the parties contribute to the cultural heritage and cinematic history of Lebanon, providing valuable resources for future generations.

## INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL EXPO 2023

The University actively participated in the International Horticultural Expo 2023 in Qatar, promoting sustainable development and innovation. UOB Alumni, under the Lebanese Embassy in Qatar, organized an exhibition showcasing Lebanese olive products. The university's contributions to the Lebanese Pavilion featured projects from the Faculty of Engineering, including the "Green Roofs" initiative supervised by Dr. Makram Bachawati and Mrs. Mantoura Nakad, and three smart agriculture projects presented by the Issam M. Fares Faculty of Technology under Dr. Rodrigue Balaa's supervision. Over three days, UOB delivered presentations on sustainability and engineering, renewable energy, and smart agriculture applications, aligning with Expo Qatar 2023's vision of promoting sustainable innovations and combating desertification.



## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

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### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. RECEIVES \$71,000 FROM UC SAN DIEGO VIA NIH FUNDING

The FHS Public Health Department has received \$71,000 USD from the University of California San Diego through funding from the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) to participate in the first-of-its-kind graduate level fellowship in Climate Change Research and Action.

The Principal Investigator on this grant Dr. Myriam Mrad, Chairperson of the Public Health Department, will lead in the training of 15 Lebanese decision makers from ministries and organizations through hands on training on research methods, applications, and skills to address climate change related health outcomes. This will include climate change relevant preparedness and disaster management.

The project is led by Dr. Wael Al-Delaimy professor at the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at University of California San Diego, which will offer the fellowship certification to trainees in Lebanon. The training will feature world experts and Lebanese instructors who will jointly provide training both in-person and virtually.

This grant symbolizes hope and progress amid adversity. As Lebanon navigates these tumultuous times, every proactive effort to strengthen our country's capacity and the University of Balamand's commitment to a more climate resilient future is more than welcome.

## **INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARDS**

The University of Balamand (UOB) hosts several international advisory boards across various faculties, including:

Faculty of Business and Management (FOBM): The International Board of Advisors (IBA) is composed of distinguished professionals and academics from around the world. The board provides strategic guidance and global perspectives to enhance the faculty's academic and research excellence. Members of the IBA bring a wealth of experience from various fields, including business, academia, and industry, helping to shape the faculty's mission, vision, and strategic goals.

The board also plays a crucial role in fostering international collaborations and ensuring that the faculty's programs remain competitive and aligned with global standards

. <https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FOBM/About/Pages/IBA.aspx>

Faculty of Medicine (FOM): The Dean's International Advisory Board consists of prominent medical doctors practicing in the USA. This board provides strategic guidance and support to advance the faculty's mission in education, research, and healthcare services. The board members offer counsel on various issues, including shaping the FOM's mission and vision, prioritizing goals, and advocating for FOM programs. They also work to secure support for the faculty, advise on strategic issues, and foster research relationships.

The board meets quarterly or as needed, with members serving two-year terms, which can be renewed

Faculty of Health Sciences: The International Advisory Board (IAB) advises on academic developments, strategic growth, and international collaborations to enhance education and research. The board includes members from leading global institutions, contributing to the faculty's internationalization and strategic planning efforts.

<https://www.balamand.edu.lb/faculties/FHS/About/Pages/IntAdvisoryBoard.aspx>

Faculty of Engineering: The advisory board for the Faculty of Engineering collaborates with international industry leaders to innovate and enhance engineering programs and research. Each department— Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Engineering—has its own advisory board.



## COLLABORATIONS WITH NGOS

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### MMKN UNITED EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

UOB signed an agreement with MMKN United Education Support Program (UESP) NGO cooperation . Following this agreement, MMKN NGO Education team presented MMKN's mission and impactful initiatives to the students. The goal was to recruit passionate volunteers who are ready to make a difference in the education sector in Lebanon through tutoring, mentoring, and supporting students. MMKN's Education Program focuses on: Reinforcement classes for public school students, Scholarship opportunities for underprivileged youth and Motivating students to stay in school and pursue their dreams.



### UOB PARTNERS WITH PROABLED

The University of Balamand (UOB) has embarked on a significant collaboration with ProAble, focusing on enhancing the inclusion program for universities. ProAble is a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting inclusive employment and educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities and those from underprivileged backgrounds.

## UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION FOR SDGS

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### DR MYRIAM MRAD, PANELIST IN LEBANON NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY FOR ONE YEAR REVIEW MEETING

On January 30, 2024, The Ministry of Public Health held a national meeting to evaluate the one-year progress of the National Health Strategy: Vision 2030. The strategy aims to address the challenges and acute crises affecting the healthcare sector, build the capacities of the sector, and bring about a qualitative shift in the management of service delivery. The meeting included a detailed presentation on the most significant achievements, covering 88 strategic objectives across multiple focus areas, such as participatory governance, medication management, primary healthcare, human resources capacity building, and digital health technologies.



## INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS

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The Institute of the Environment at the University of Balamand has been actively involved in various international and regional initiatives, showcasing its commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction. Key representatives from the institute have participated in significant forums, workshops, and conferences, contributing their expertise and fostering global collaborations.



Event	Date	Representative	Focus	Country
Regional Conservation Forum (RCF)	September 9-11, 2023	Dr. Manal Nader	Biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, UOB Climate Action Plan	Brought together over 350 conservation leaders and experts
Global Fire Management Hub Workshop	May 28-30,2024	Dr. George Mitri	Strengthening the Near East Fire Network, contributions to the Global Fire Hub	Technical workshop with international participation
World Fire Congress	May 6-8,2024	Dr. George Mitri	Disaster Risk Reduction Programs, global fire service leadership network	Panelist in a session presented by the World Bank
Conference on Lebanon's Blue Economy	N/A	Dr. Manal Nader	Sustainable use and conservation of ocean and coastal resources	Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the UN Environment Programme

Committee	Member/ Focal point	Institution	Date Of Nomination
IUCN	Manal Nader	IUCN	27-06-2024
MAB National Committee in Lebanon*	Manal Nader	CNRS	18-01-2023





## UOB CELEBRATES ITS THIRD CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

For the third consecutive year, the University of Balamand (UOB) hosted the "UOB Christmas Village" from December 19 to 22, 2023, at its Koura campus. The festive event began with the lighting of the Christmas tree, attended by UOB President Dr. Elias Warrak and Rev. Archmandrite George Yaacoub. The campus was adorned with vibrant decorations, many of which were made from recycled materials.

Over the three days, more than 5000 visitors enjoyed a variety of entertainment programs and daily activities designed for all ages. The Christmas market featured over 40 small businesses owned by UOB alumni, offering crafts, handmade items, foods, and more. UOB student clubs also organized various activities, some of which raised funds for charitable organizations. The event included musical performances and daily screenings of Christmas movies.



## SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND LITERACY

As part of its commitment to the SDGs, the University of Balamand raises awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals among its faculty members, staff, students, and community members through various initiatives, including workshops, training sessions, informational sessions, and projects. The University also assessed the knowledge of the informed stakeholders through designed surveys starting by the Faculty of Engineering as a pilot to the whole university.

### SDG BrainLab

For the third year in a row, the university participated in the SDG Brain Lab, a program launched by the United Nations Global Compact Network Lebanon (UN GCNL). It is designed to empower Lebanese youth, aged 18 to 24, in advancing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN's 2030 Agenda on a national scale. A total of 500 students from 11 Lebanese universities, including the University of Balamand, took part in a 7-month program divided into three main hubs: Training Hub, Brain Hub, and Data Hub. After showcasing commitment, engagement, leadership, interest in sustainability, and willingness for change, UOB participants stood out due to their outstanding work ethics and were appointed as SDG Ambassadors for the next academic year 2024 - 2025 to represent change in their universities and their immediate environment. The ambassadors were appointed during the closing ceremony.



## UOB'S COMMITMENT TO SDG17 THROUGH STUDENT, FACULTY AND STAFF TRAINING

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### SDG DAY

As per the directives of Dr. Elias Warrak, UOB President and council member at UN Global Compact Network Lebanon, the University of Balamand hosted an informative session on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on July 12, 2024 at the UOB main campus. This session, exclusively tailored for UOB members, underscored the university's commitment to sustainability and provided valuable insights into the global goals and the best practices for their implementation.

Mrs. Deenah Fakhoury, the Executive Director at UN Global Compact Network Lebanon (UNGC), led the 2-hour interactive session that deepened the participants' understanding



of the SDGs and equipped them with practical knowledge to contribute to sustainability initiatives within the institution and beyond.

In her presentation, Mrs. Fakhoury highlighted the importance of the SDGs and discussed how each person could act as a change-maker in their immediate communities.

The comprehensive session offered attendees a clear understanding of the global goals, emphasizing the role of individual contributions in achieving them. The event, which was organized in collaboration with the UOB Career Services Center, marked a significant step in promoting the SDGs within the UOB community, aligning with the university's vision of fostering a sustainable future.



## UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND HOSTS FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

The University of Balamand recently conducted a comprehensive Financial Literacy training through its Financial Literacy Center. The training sessions were graced by the presence of Dr. Gretta Saab and Dr. Hala Khayr, who provided invaluable insights and guidance. The program was divided into two cohorts: the first cohort catered to Business Connections Students, equipping them with essential financial management skills for their future careers. The second cohort was designed for the FOBM staff, ensuring they are well-versed in financial literacy to enhance their professional and personal financial decision-making. This initiative underscores the university's commitment to fostering financial literacy and empowering its community with the knowledge and skills necessary for financial success. During the spring semester, the session will be hosted for the UOB community over three days.



## GREEN SKILLS FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

The Faculty of Business and Management and the Career Services Center held a half-day program titled "Green Skills for a Green Economy: An Introduction to Environmental Sustainability," in collaboration with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and Deloitte. This event provided students with insights into the importance of green skills, the variety of green jobs available across industries, and the necessary knowledge to succeed in a green economy. The program emphasized the growing demand for sustainability-focused roles and highlighted that green skills are relevant across multiple sectors, making graduates more attractive to employers as businesses transition to sustainable models.



## GREEN TALENT FORUM

The partnership between the Career Services Center at the and the employability platform Localized highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving sustainable development through education, training, and employment opportunities. Localized is a platform designed to help users find and apply for entry-level, internship, and trainee roles across various industries and locations. It also offers opportunities to join events, communities, and follow experts to enhance career interests and goals. One notable event hosted on the platform is the Green Talent Forum 2024, which aims to connect participants with top sustainability companies and experts, providing valuable insights and opportunities to secure jobs or internships in the sustainability sector.



## ADDITIONAL MOUS

### 2022

Institution Name	Country
صندوق تعاضد القضاة Judges	Lebanon
GIZ	Lebanon
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées Bretagne (ENSTA Bretagne)	France
Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts Marseille	Marseille, France

### 2023

Institution Name	Country
Lebanon Green Building Council LGBC مجلس لبنان للأبنية الخضراء	Lebanon
Digital Transformation and Governance Network DTGN شبكة التحوّل والحوكمة الرقمية - في لبنان	Lebanon
Izdihar	Lebanon
Hopital du Sacré Coeur	Lebanon
New England College of Optometry (NECO)	Boston, USA
Université de Limoges (UL)	France
UNDP	Lebanon
الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية - في بيروت Communauté Hellénique de Bienfaisance de Beyrouth	Lebanon
Bellevue Medical Center	Lebanon
Hopital Des Soeurs Du Rosaire (HSR) مستشفى راهبات الوردية	Lebanon
Université de Poitiers	France
DAI Global LLC Water Sanitation and Conservation - USAID	Lebanon

دار العجزة الإسلامية	Lebanon
مستشفى الصليب	Lebanon
Health Outreach to the Middle East (H.O.M.E.) and HOME Elpis Clinic (HOME Clinic)	Lebanon
Le Grand Lycee Franco-Libanais (GLFL)	Lebanon
Elie Gebrael Abou Jaoude Social Center (EAJ)	Lebanon
Hopital Maritime مستشفى سيده ماري تيم	Lebanon
Bellevue Medical Center	Lebanon
United Arab Emirates University (UAEU)	Al-Ain UAE
ProAbled	Lebanon
United Nations Global Compact	Lebanon
Seeding Labs	Boston - USA
Tripoli Bar Association نقابة المحامين في طرابلس	Lebanon
BRAND FOR LESS (BFLGROUP)	Lebanon
THE MAHMOUD ABBAS FUND	Lebanon
Lebanese Dental Association - Tripoli نقابة أطباء الأسنان في لبنان - طرابلس	Lebanon
Ministry of Energy and Water- Directorate General of Oil وزارة الطاقة والمياه المديرية العامة للنفط منشآت النفط	Lebanon
Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau) Lebanese Water Actor Platform (LEWAP)	Paris
The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	India
Metropolis Cinema Association	Lebanon
L'Ambassade de France au Liban – Ministere de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères	Lebanon
Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture	France
Association Liban Avenir Meilleur (ALAM)	Geneva Switzerland



D.G Jones and Partners (member of the American Project Management Institute in the region "PMI")	Lebanon
Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon	Lyon, France
Ecole Supérieure Estienne des Arts et Industries Graphiques	Paris, France
Le Grand lycée franco-libanais	Lebanon
Institut Français du Proche-Orient (ifpo)	Lebanon

## 2024

### Institution Name Country

Ureka Education Group	UK
MEFOSA-MENA Food Safety Associates S.A.R. L	Lebanon
Matelac	Lebanon
Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB)	Lebanon
Dekwaneh Municipality	Lebanon
Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Mécanique et d'Aérotechnique (ISAE/ENSMA)	France
Arab Council for the Social Sciences	Lebanon
UNIVERSITÉ GRENOBLE ALPES (UGA)	France
Saint Therese Medical Center (STMC)	Lebanon
Teach for Lebanon (TFL)	Lebanon
Université de Limoges Ensil-Ensci Ecole d'ingénieurs de Limoges	France
University of California San Diego	USA
Order of Pharmacists of Lebanon نقابة الصيادلة في لبنان	Lebanon
Saint George Hospital University Medical Center (SGHUMC)	Lebanon
مستشفى سيدة زغرتا الجامعي	Lebanon

Lebanese American University	Lebanon
DAI Global LLC Water Sanitation and Conservation - USAID	Lebanon
Arc-en-ciel (AEC)	Lebanon
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)	Based in Nairobi, Kenya & has regional office for Arab States in Cairo and Head of Country Program in Beirut