



Universidad de Manila

UDM SUSTAINABILITY 2025 REPORT



PREFACE



This **Sustainability Report** of the Universidad de Manila (UDM) for the period **2024–2025** reflects the institution’s ongoing commitment to advancing the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) through transformative education, evidence-based research, inclusive public service, and cross-sectoral collaboration. In a time marked by intensifying climate emergencies, socio-economic disparities, and persistent global challenges, UDM recognizes the essential role of academic institutions in contributing to sustainable and equitable development, particularly in highly urbanized contexts such as the City of Manila.

The report is structured according to the 17 SDGs and aligned with the evaluation framework of the **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings**, providing a strategic overview of how UDM **integrates sustainability into its teaching-learning processes, operational systems, and community outreach**. Each chapter documents initiatives undertaken by the university and the City Government of Manila from January 2024 onwards, **ensuring data relevance and temporal coherence** with institutional and global sustainability indicators.

This document was developed through a participatory approach that involved faculty members, administrative personnel, students, and external partners. Data collection was grounded on publicly available information from the university’s official website, institutional records, government databases, and reputable media sources. It includes qualitative descriptions of programs and policies, as well as observable outcomes at the academic, community, and city-wide levels.

As an **urban local university** with a mandate to serve the people of Manila, UDM **embraces the interdependence between education and sustainable development**. This report is not only a compliance document but also **a public expression of the university’s commitment** to transparency, institutional accountability, and ecological and social responsibility. It is intended for stakeholders including academic partners, policy makers, civil society actors, and the broader public who share in the **vision of a just, resilient, and sustainable future**.

We invite the readers of this report to engage with the narratives presented herein not merely as records of accomplishment, but as living testimonies of an academic institution’s solidarity with local and global movements for sustainability. May this report inform, inspire, and contribute to collective action toward the realization of the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

The Impact Ranking Committee
Universidad De Manila



Message from the President



In an era marked by increasing climate volatility, socio-economic disruption, and widening global inequalities, the role of higher education institutions has never been more critical. As the President of the Universidad de Manila (UDM), I am honored to present our 2025 Sustainability Report, a testament to our institution's collective resolve to contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This report reflects our sustained efforts during the period 2024–2025 to integrate sustainable development into every facet of university life—from instruction, research, and community engagement, to governance and infrastructure. Our programs demonstrate that even in the context of a public university within a highly urbanized city, we can forge innovative, inclusive, and data-driven responses to the challenges of poverty, hunger, education, climate action, and equitable growth.

Guided by the strategic direction of the City Government of Manila and aligned with the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking framework, this report consolidates the outcomes of UDM's numerous academic, administrative, and outreach initiatives. It highlights how our university not only educates, but also empowers, mobilizes, and sustains.

I commend the faculty, staff, and students who continue to uphold the values of social responsibility and environmental stewardship. I also extend gratitude to our partners in the City Government, civil society, and the private sector for joining us in pursuing localized solutions with global impact. Together, we affirm that sustainability is not a peripheral concern, but a fundamental responsibility of the university sector.

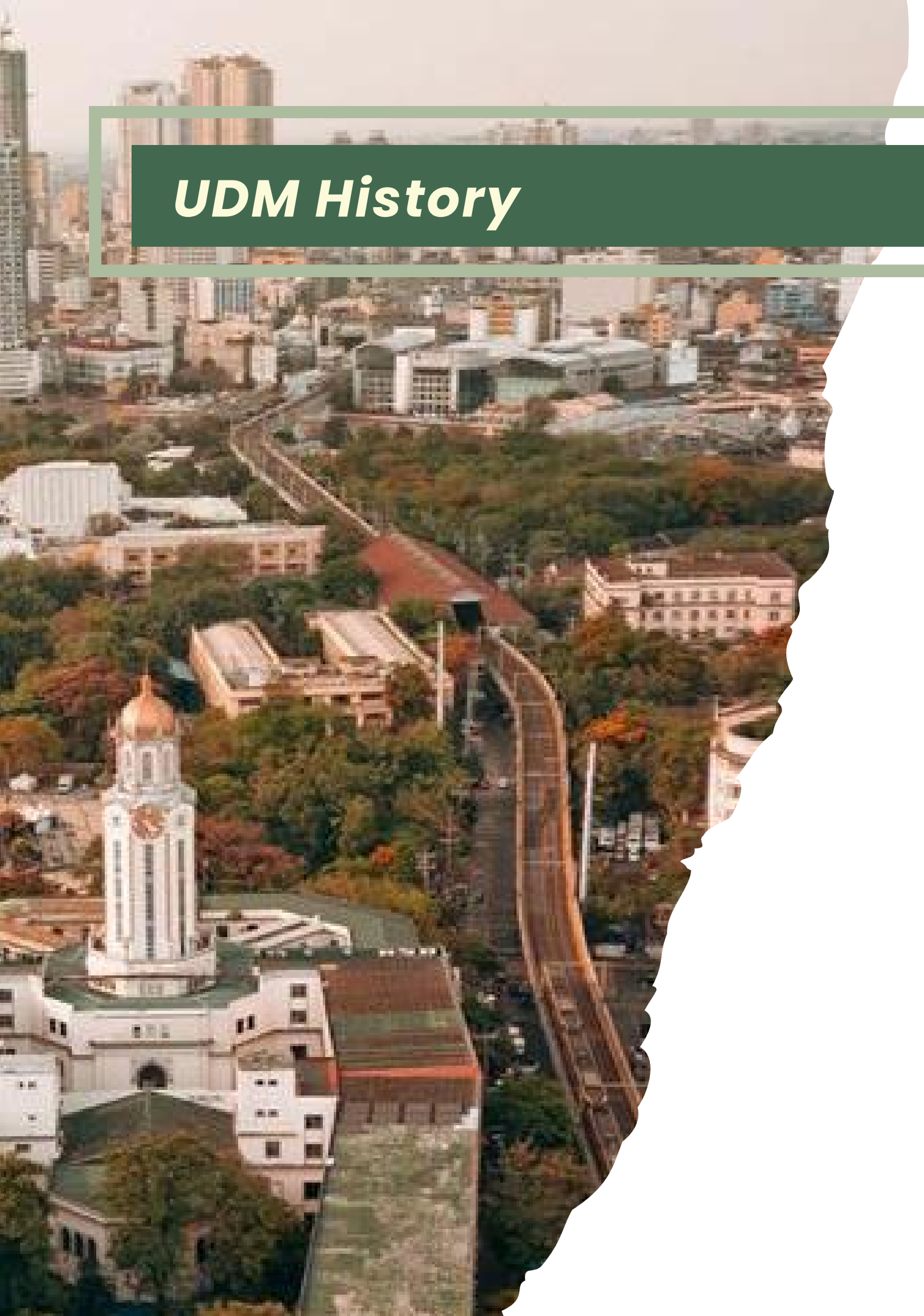
As we turn the pages of this report, let us be reminded that the university is not merely a place for the transmission of knowledge, but a living institution capable of shaping just, resilient, and regenerative futures. May this document inspire continued collaboration and bolder action toward Agenda 2030 and beyond.

Dr. Ma. Felma Carlos-Tria

President

Universidad De Manila





UDM History

On April 17, 1995, the City Ordinance 7885 was enacted establishing the Dalubhasaan ng Lungsod Ng Maynila known as the City College of Manila (CCM) headed by Hon. Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, the father and founder of CCM with the support of Hon. Vice Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr., and the City Council with Hon. Nestor C. Ponce Jr., Hon. Humberto Basco and Hon. Bernardito C. Ang as Principal Sponsors.

On April 26 of the same year, City Ordinance No. 7885 was passed into law and became operational with the main objective of providing quality education to the less privileged but intellectually deserving graduates from the Public Schools of Manila.

On June 6, 2006, the Manila City Council, at its regular session enacted City Ordinance No. 8120 elevating the Dalubhasaan ng Maynila or the City College of Manila (CCM) into a university and renaming it Universidad De Manila (UDM) to attune it with its present campus site at 24,000 square meters Mehan Gardens at Arroceros (now Cecilia Munoz-Palma) cor. Hospital Street (Antonio Villegas) Streets, Ermita, Manila. The new University was inaugurated by Hon. Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr., and Hon. Juan Miguel T. Cuna on June 19, 2006.

On June 28, 2006, of the same year, City Ordinance No. 8120 was approved by his Hon. Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr., and as such shall continue to operate in accordance with law and within the powers and limitations specified and organized as a corporation under the same name.

In 2015, the University's College Programs were recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in compliance with the CMO 30, S. 2006 - Policies and Standards in Operating Colleges and Universities.



UDM History

In January 2020 UDM institutionalized the Learning Management System (LMS) that formed the basis of a remote blended learning platform or enriched virtual classroom. In February 2020, the Moodle App was adopted as a learning platform to provide students, faculty members, and administrators to create a new kind of learning environment where students and teachers need not to each other daily. It was operational during the pandemic.

Prior to the Enhanced Community Quarantine on March 16, 2020, UDM conducted training regarding Moodle and video tutorials via the Workplace App and as a source of communication among faculty and administration. During the entire duration of the quarantine period, the learning and teaching link between the students and faculty members of UDM were ongoing and students were able to comply with the different academic requirements satisfactorily. Since the start of the lockdown, there has been no disruption in the teaching and learning process in UDM.

On April 27, 2020, City Ordinance No. 8635 was enacted to amend the provisions of Ordinance No. 7885 as amended by Ordinance No. 8120, entitled "An Ordinance Amending Specific Provisions of Ordinance No. 7885, otherwise known as "An ordinance authorizing the City Government of Manila to operate the Dalubhasaan ng Maynila (City College of Manila) and for such other purpose", enacted on April 17, 1995". This Ordinance treated UDM as an independent and institutional department of the City of Manila.

From tertiary courses, the University has expanded with other program offerings -the Institute of Graduate and Professional Studies (IGPS), the College of Law (CoL), the Center for Micro-credentialing and Industry Training (CMIT), and the Senior High School (SHS).



Universidad de Manila

Vision, Mission & Core Values



Vision

A leading Higher Education Institution that prepares visionary and ethical leaders who shall create a positive impact to society.



Mission

Universidad de Manila is committed to provide equal opportunities by developing the learners' knowledge, skills, and values, through quality education and dynamic technology-driven systems, in a diverse yet inclusive environment for learning, research, and community engagement.



Core Values

E - Ethics and Integrity
Q - Quality and Excellence
U - Unity and Collaborations
A - Achievement and Passion
L - Leadership and Innovation





Universidad de Manila

Vision, Mission & Core Values



Institutional Goals

- S – Systems, Academic Support, services Improvement
- C – Center for Micro-credentialing and Industry Training Promotion
- A – Academic Excellence
- L – Leveling up Linkages and Community Extension
- E – Engagement in Research



Strategic Directions

- Q – Quality Systems and Performance
- S – Stakeholders Satisfaction
- S – Sustainability and Accountability



Quality Policy

Universidad de Manila is committed to implement quality assurance standards and procedures, to improve the University's performance at all levels.



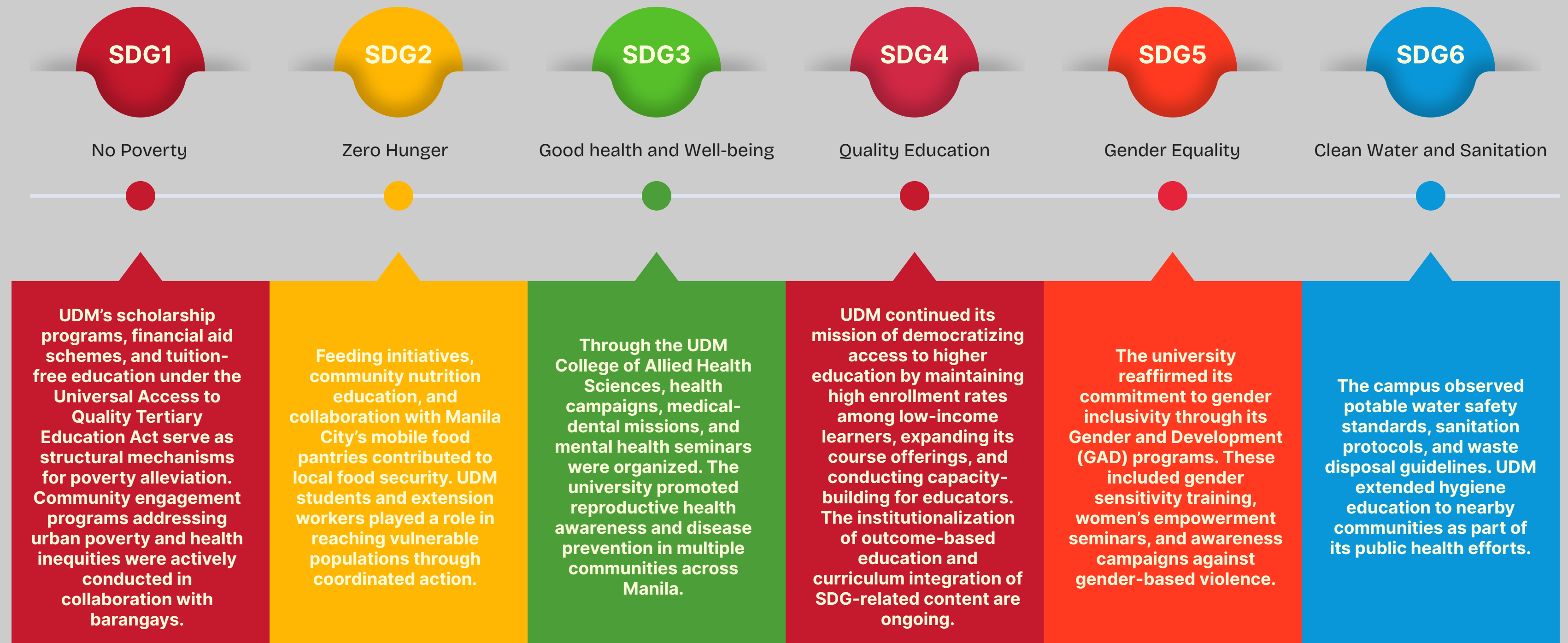
Executive Summary



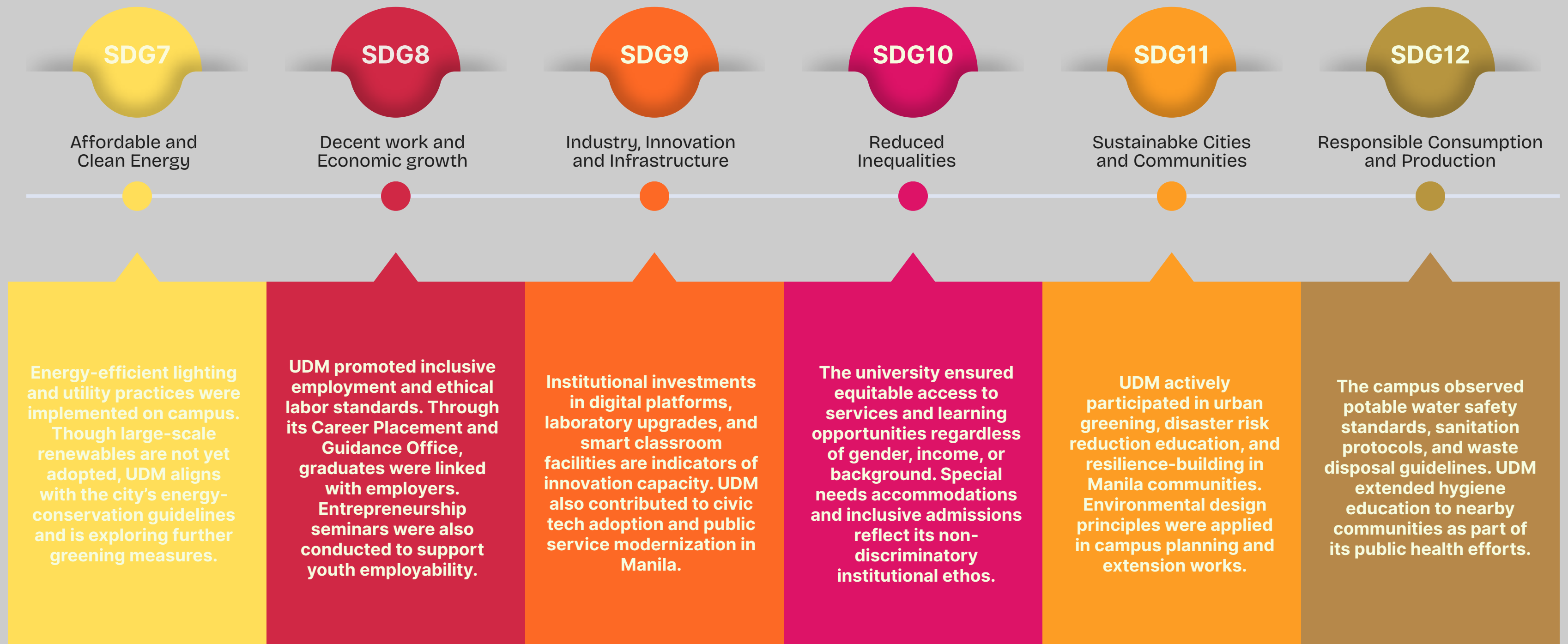
This **Sustainability Report** presents a comprehensive account of the **efforts, initiatives, and measurable outcomes** of Universidad de Manila (UDM) in advancing the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from January 2024 to the present**. Anchored in the global vision for equitable, resilient, and sustainable societies, UDM positions itself as an **urban public higher education** institution that contributes meaningfully to the SDGs through **education, research, operations, community engagement, and strategic partnerships**—particularly within the **socio-economic and ecological landscape of the City of Manila**.

The report is aligned with the structure and metrics of the **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings**, showcasing UDM's performance and contribution across the 17 SDGs. It incorporates verifiable **institutional data, activities, and programs implemented** during the 2024–2025 academic and fiscal years, using information drawn from the university's official website, online news archives, and public disclosures by the City Government of Manila.

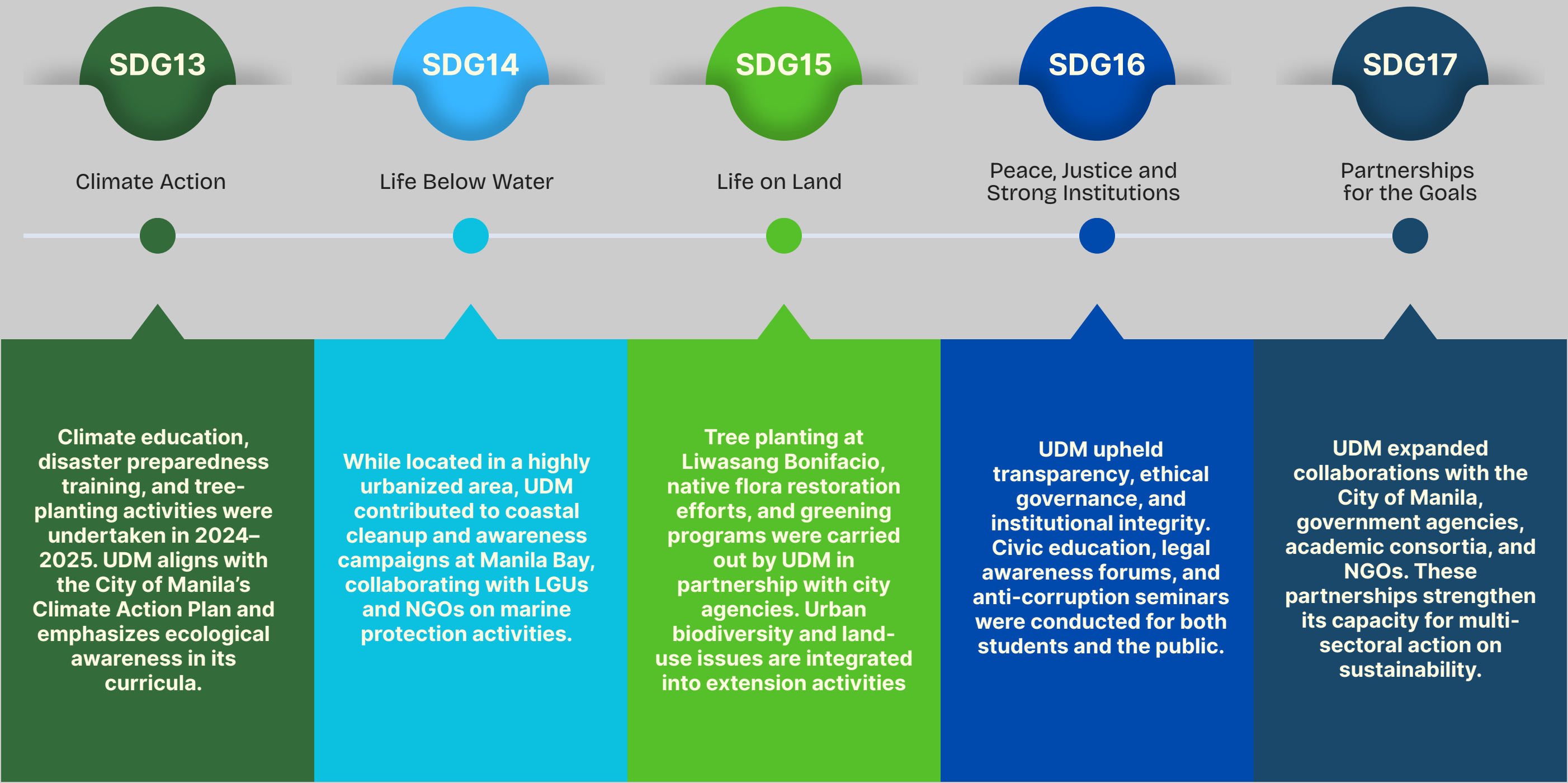
Key Highlights per SDG include:



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This report affirms that UDM’s core functions—teaching, research, and public service—are strategically aligned with sustainable development imperatives. It also identifies current limitations, including the need for more granular data monitoring, longitudinal impact tracking, and expansion of decarbonization efforts. Moving forward, UDM will intensify its sustainability integration through cross-sector collaboration, transparent evaluation frameworks, and a whole-of-university approach to the SDGs.





UNIVERSIDAD DE MANILA **COMMITMENT** to Sustainable Development Goals





UDM Sustainability Report

"UDM reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda by embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across its institutional priorities, from academic instruction and research to community service and governance."

Universidad De Manila (UDM) reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the United Nations 2030 Agenda by embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across its institutional priorities, from academic instruction and research to community service and governance. As a public university located in the heart of the capital city, UDM recognizes its critical role in contributing to inclusive, sustainable, and evidence-based development. This commitment is not aspirational—it is operational, measurable, and rooted in justice, equity, and resilience.

Through its 2025 Sustainability Report, UDM presents a comprehensive account of its milestones and strategic directions in advancing the SDGs during the current reporting cycle (2024-2025). The report serves as both a mirror and a roadmap—reflecting our active contributions to social transformation and guiding future interventions through transparent, data-informed decision-making. In collaboration with the City Government of Manila, local communities, industry partners, and international academic networks, UDM actively localizes the global SDG agenda to meet the needs of vulnerable and underrepresented sectors.

UDM STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS PER SDG



SDG 1 – No Poverty: UDM addresses intergenerational poverty through targeted student support systems, particularly tuition subsidies, merit- and needs-based scholarships, and linkage with the Manila City Government’s Libreng Kolehiyo initiative. In parallel, the University mobilizes faculty and students for outreach programs focused on livelihood capacity-building and social protection advocacy in low-income barangays.



SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: The University champions food equity by facilitating research on community nutrition, organizing health and feeding programs in partnership with barangay health centers, and implementing awareness campaigns on sustainable food practices. UDM supports initiatives that integrate nutrition with local agricultural education and disaster-responsive food security efforts.



SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being: A holistic approach to wellness guides UDM’s programs, encompassing mental health services, reproductive health education, on-campus health clinics, and emergency medical support for indigent students. The university also extends health education drives and disease prevention campaigns to neighboring communities, aligned with SDG-aligned urban health goals.



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UDM'S STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS PER SDG:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4 – Quality Education: As the City of Manila's flagship public university, UDM upholds an inclusive, accessible, and socially-responsive education system. Its curriculum is continuously improved through outcome-based education reforms, lifelong learning opportunities, and the expansion of digital learning tools—bridging access gaps and promoting educational continuity.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



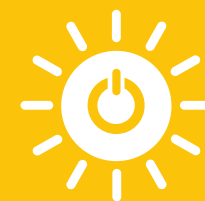
SDG 5 – Gender Equality: UDM enforces gender-responsive policies within academic and administrative domains. Gender and Development (GAD) programs are institutionalized across colleges, accompanied by gender sensitivity trainings, support services for women and LGBTQ+ students, and active participation in national and local equality campaigns.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation: In coordination with the City of Manila's urban sanitation efforts, UDM maintains water quality standards across its facilities and promotes WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) education in partner communities. Research on urban water management, drainage systems, and climate-resilient sanitation is integrated in faculty-led projects.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy: UDM's sustainability roadmap includes energy efficiency retrofits in campus buildings, piloting of renewable energy technologies, and institutional energy-saving policies. Environmental engineering courses and capstone research projects further engage students in solutions promoting decarbonized urban development.



UDM Strategic Contributions per SDG:

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



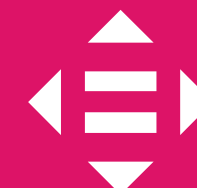
SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: UDM contributes to labor market readiness by strengthening its career development and job placement office, embedding entrepreneurship modules, and maintaining linkages with industry consortia for internships and skills training. Faculty extension work also supports MSME development in Manila.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: The University invests in innovation hubs, technology-enhanced learning spaces, and research incubation. Collaborative projects focus on smart urban development, public service digitalization, and civic technologies, thereby positioning UDM as a center of urban innovation and applied research.

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: UDM institutionalizes inclusive practices through its anti-discrimination policies, accessibility measures for persons with disabilities, and support systems for working students and those from marginalized backgrounds. It actively monitors equity indicators to ensure student retention and progression across socio-economic strata.

UDM Strategic Contributions per SDG:

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities:

UDM engages in urban studies, disaster preparedness training, and ecological solid waste management projects aligned with the City of Manila's sustainability blueprint. Through civic engagement and urban resilience education, students and faculty support the creation of livable, inclusive communities.

11

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production:

Campus-wide initiatives promote resource conservation, waste segregation, and procurement of sustainable supplies. Environmental student organizations and faculty researchers lead sustainability audits and pilot zero-waste strategies to operationalize responsible consumption in university systems.

12

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13 – Climate Action:

UDM implements green campus initiatives such as urban greening, energy audits, and climate literacy drives. Faculty-led research informs local climate adaptation policies, while students participate in local and international climate mobilizations that amplify calls for environmental justice.

13

SDG 14 – Life Below Water:

Although a land-based institution, UDM contributes to marine awareness through educational campaigns on plastic pollution, partnerships with coastal LGUs and NGOs on Manila Bay rehabilitation, and interdisciplinary research on water quality and aquatic biodiversity conservation.

14

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



UDM Strategic Contributions per SDG:

15



SDG 15 – Life on Land: UDM promotes biodiversity awareness and land stewardship through tree planting drives, ecological awareness modules, and faculty-led research on urban green spaces, environmental degradation, and species monitoring in coordination with Manila's parks and environmental offices.

16



SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: UDM upholds democratic participation, human rights education, and ethical leadership through transparent governance, institutional integrity mechanisms, and civic education embedded in its General Education curriculum. Its legal aid extension programs further support access to justice.

17



SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: The University nurtures multi-sectoral alliances, research consortia, and transdisciplinary collaborations that mobilize resources and knowledge toward SDG targets. These include formal partnerships with government units, academic networks, civil society organizations, and international development platforms.





Priority Goal and Targets 1

"UDM positions the eradication of poverty as one of its foremost institutional priorities, aligning directly with the national and city-wide development agenda for inclusive growth."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) positions the eradication of poverty as one of its foremost institutional priorities, aligning directly with the national and city-wide development agenda for inclusive growth. The University recognizes that sustained access to education, student welfare, and post-graduate employability are central to breaking persistent cycles of socio-economic disadvantage. UDM's efforts under SDG 1 are organized around three strategic strands: (1) access to quality education for vulnerable groups, (2) student welfare and economic resilience, and (3) community-engaged partnerships that extend the benefits of education to broader social contexts.



Access to Education for Vulnerable Groups

In academic year 2024-2025, UDM sustained its Social Amelioration Program (SAP), a financial-support mechanism designed to assist low-income students in continuing their tertiary education. From 11-14 December 2024, SAP funds were distributed to 10,375 undergraduate students, each receiving a monthly allowance of ₱ 1,000. This institutional program mitigates economic strain and affirms the principle that no student should be denied access to education due to poverty.

Beyond SAP, UDM also administers a diverse portfolio of government and foundation-based scholarships through the University Registrar. A total of 594 student-beneficiaries received aid from both public and private sector sources in AY 2024-2025. These include:

- CHED Tulong Dunong Program, which supports 3 students with ₱7,500-₱10,000 per semester
- DOST-SEI Scholarship, granting one student an ₱8,000 monthly stipend and ₱40,000 in tuition and book support
- DSWD Programs, including:
 - Tara Basa Tutoring Program, benefiting 254 students (172 tutors, 82 youth development workers)
 - AICS Cash Assistance, supporting 265 students with ₱4,000 per semester



Access to Education for Vulnerable Groups

Private sector and philanthropic engagement are equally vital to UDM's scholarship framework:

- Charity First Foundation, assisting 20 students with daily transportation, meal allowances, and graduation support
- Bless the Children Foundation, Inc., extending medical and educational aid to 42 students
- Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, supporting 18 students with monthly stipends and tailored learning materials

These scholarship programs reinforce UDM's inclusive education model and directly respond to SDG 1 Target 1.3, which calls for "nationally appropriate social protection systems" for the poor and vulnerable.

Graduation data further illustrate this model's efficacy. On 8 August 2024, UDM celebrated 242 education graduates, reinforcing public sector employment in the city's basic education system. In the same year, the University recognized 773 first-generation graduates—students who were the first in their families to complete higher education—breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty and exclusion.

- The Community Engagement Mentorship Program, launched on 3 July 2024 by the College of Business Administration, links senior students and alumni with underclassmen and barangay youth. It offers peer academic support, entrepreneurial mentoring, and financial literacy sessions—showcasing UDM's model of education as a community development catalyst.





Student Welfare and Economic Resilience

Beyond scholarships, UDM fosters a culture of welfare-centered education. On 21 July 2025, the Supreme Student Government (SSG) organized a Student-Led Community Kitchen that provided meals and psychosocial support for financially vulnerable students. This initiative reflected the values of solidarity, student agency, and mutual aid during times of crisis.

In March 2025, the Career and Placement Office coordinated a Graduating Students' Transition and Career Orientation Program, serving 2,860 students. Through workshops on employability, job search strategies, and entrepreneurship, the University linked education to economic resilience and upward mobility. These efforts complement regular access to emergency aid, mental health counseling, and academic advising services.



Partnerships, Community Extension, and Local Government Interface

UDM's anti-poverty initiatives operate within the broader governance context of City Ordinance No. 8568, which institutionalizes financial assistance for Manila-based tertiary learners. UDM implements this ordinance through coordinated mechanisms with the City Government of Manila, ensuring that all institutional supports are aligned with city-wide goals of social equity and inclusion.

At the national level, these efforts resonate with trends reported by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) in March 2024, which recorded a drop in self-rated poverty from 45 percent to 42 percent. While modest, this decline reflects the cumulative impact of institutional and policy-based interventions—of which UDM is a contributing stakeholder.





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Key indicators that demonstrate UDM's impact on poverty alleviation through education include:

- 10,375 students receiving monthly SAP financial support
- 594 low-income students supported by scholarships from government agencies and foundations
- 773 first-generation graduates representing intergenerational uplift
- 242 education graduates transitioning into public service employment
- 1 new mentorship program institutionalized for academic and economic empowerment
- 2,860 graduating students trained in career readiness and livelihood competencies

These indicators confirm that UDM not only facilitates educational access but actively enhances students' long-term socio-economic prospects through comprehensive welfare systems and community engagement.



Future Directions and Policy Alignment

UDM acknowledges that sustained poverty reduction requires robust systems of monitoring, intervention, and evidence-based policy reform. To enhance its contribution to SDG 1, the University will:

1. Establish a graduate tracer system to track employment, income levels, and social mobility—especially for scholarship and SAP beneficiaries
2. Scale mentorship programs across academic units, linking students, alumni, and barangay stakeholders
3. Integrate livelihood and entrepreneurial education into general curricula, reinforcing self-reliance and income generation capacity
4. Co-develop livelihood projects and enterprise incubators with the City Government, targeting low-income families and youth
5. Publish annual SDG 1 dashboards linking scholarship data, graduate outcomes, and household income mobility as indicators of institutional impact

Through a multidimensional strategy of scholarship provision, welfare programs, graduate readiness interventions, and community extension, Universidad de Manila manifests its sustained commitment to SDG 1: No Poverty. By ensuring that no student is left behind, and by anchoring education as a pathway to economic and social resilience, UDM asserts its role as a development partner of the City of Manila. The University's expanding partnerships, data-driven planning, and community-focused governance position it as a leading urban academic institution in advancing inclusive and transformative development.





Priority Goal and Targets 2

"Universidad de Manila advances its sustainability thrust by promoting food security and nutritional welfare through student support, community partnerships, and institutional programs aligned with SDG 2: Zero Hunger."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that food security and nutritional welfare are integral to the well-being of its students and the broader community. As part of its 2024-2025 sustainability thrust, UDM has actively framed its contributions to SDG 2: Zero Hunger across three programmatic domains: (1) Student Welfare and Campus Food Security Relief, (2) Community Outreach and Sustainable Nutrition Partnerships, and (3) Institutional Research, Teaching, and Policy Alignment for Food Systems Strengthening.



Student Welfare and Campus Food Security

In a significant demonstration of student-led solidarity, UDM launched a meal-sharing initiative titled “Together Against Hunger: A Meal, A Moment of Care” on 29 November 2024, held in Barangay 790, Sta. Ana, Manila. This initiative, spearheaded by the Nursing Student Council (NSC) in collaboration with the Gender and Development (GAD) Office, College of Health Sciences Student Council, and Physical Therapy Student Council, served nutritious meals to underserved residents, promoting both nutritional welfare and community empathy.

The program was a visible testament to how UDM integrates humanitarian values into co-curricular student activities. These events marked the transition from internal food assistance models to externally engaged hunger mitigation outreach.



Institutional Research, Teaching, and Policy Alignment

UDM's SDG 2 commitment statement explicitly prioritizes "nutrition education" and "research on sustainable food systems." These are gradually being embedded within its health sciences and social development curriculum. The institution recognizes that food insecurity is not only a welfare concern, but a systemic issue rooted in agricultural sustainability, access, and nutritional awareness.

The integration of hunger-alleviation topics in classroom instruction (e.g., community health modules, barangay-based outreach practicums) positions students as informed stakeholders in the country's wider struggle against hunger and malnutrition. While teaching integration is ongoing, it is evident that UDM's academic strategy supports the wider frameworks of UN FAO, SDG Watch Philippines, and city-level urban food systems planning.



University Research Center Hosts Seminar-Workshop for UDM Community – Universidad de Manila



UDM Strengthens Digital Teaching Competency Through AI Tools Training for CCJ and CHS Faculty



Tzu Chi signs MOA with UDM to support underprivileged students





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

From December 2024 onwards, UDM recorded the following indicators under its SDG 2 engagement:

- 5 community-wide food distribution and nutrition outreach (Barangay 790 – Nov 2024)
- 7 formal MOA signed with the adopted barangay community for sustainable nutrition education and outreach (Dec 2024)
- Cross-college collaboration involving multiple student organizations and administrative offices focused on food welfare
- Public institutional commitment to food systems research and sustainable nutrition integrated in teaching

These milestones are qualitative in nature, and further quantitative reporting (e.g., meals served, frequency of activities, pantry assistance beneficiaries) is encouraged for future submissions to THE Impact Rankings.



Future Directions and Strategic Alignment

Looking ahead, UDM aims to strengthen its SDG 2 contributions by:

- Establishing longitudinal data systems to track the impact of hunger alleviation programs on student retention and community health outcomes.
- Scaling its community partnerships beyond a single barangay to cover a network of high-vulnerability zones in Manila.
- Introducing modules on urban gardening, sustainable food production, and hunger ethics into health sciences, education, and community development curricula.
- Co-developing food security planning frameworks with the City of Manila to align UDM's research and outreach with broader urban food system strategies.

Universidad de Manila's SDG 2 interventions during 2024-2025 reflect a commitment to not just alleviating hunger but fostering long-term, community-integrated nutritional resilience. Through impactful student-led outreach, institutional agreements, curricular integration, and alignment with local and national policy frameworks, UDM demonstrates a multi-pronged strategy that fulfills the metrics of teaching, research, engagement, and stewardship defined by the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.





Priority Goal and Targets 3

"Universidad de Manila upholds its commitment to SDG 3 by advancing health and well-being through campus wellness initiatives, community health collaborations, and institutional research and policy engagement."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) affirms its commitment to SDG 3 by positioning health and well-being at the heart of its educational mission. In a high-density urban setting such as Manila, marked by vulnerabilities to communicable and non-communicable diseases, access to preventive health services, mental health care, and reliable health education remains essential. UDM operationalizes its SDG 3 efforts under three core domains: (1) student and campus well-being programs; (2) community extension, outreach and public health collaboration; and (3) institutional research, teaching, and policy interface for health system development.



Student and Campus Well-being Programs

In October 2024, UDM expanded its “No Smoking Policy” to cover electronic cigarettes and vaping devices, designating the university as a 100% smoke-free and vape-free campus. This preventative measure reflects UDM’s prioritization of student, staff, and faculty health and aligns with national efforts under the Department of Health’s Healthy Settings program.

In May 2024, UDM conducted a combined STD and HIV education and testing campaign, targeting both its internal population and surrounding communities. Such efforts signal the university’s commitment to reducing stigma and increasing access to reproductive health information and services.

Mental health was given prominent institutional attention in June 2024 through the launch of a comprehensive mental health program. This initiative introduced on-campus counselling, stress management workshops, and awareness seminars, supporting both students and academic staff. Additionally, the College of Health Sciences (CHS) continued to integrate mental wellness themes into student life activities.

These internal health efforts are reinforced by the engagement of CHS faculty and students in wellness campaigns, such as Project TUGON—a Bayanihan-based initiative focused on psychosocial support during disasters—and diabetes screening and nutrition seminars conducted within the university and nearby barangays.





Community Extension, Outreach, and Public Health Collaboration

UDM consistently connects its health education to community action. On 19 April 2024, the College of Health Sciences, in partnership with Barangay 790 Health Center in Sta. Ana, Manila, launched a Community Health Program that included medical consultations, nutrition education, and dental services. This marks a shift from episodic outreach to more institutionalized forms of local public health engagement.

In November 2024, the university held World AIDS Day activities, which included information drives and anonymous HIV screenings for residents and students. These efforts contribute to de-stigmatizing HIV and expanding access to testing, particularly for at-risk groups.

The university also celebrated a Clinical Graduation in February 2024, with 184 new health professionals—nurses, physical therapists, and other allied medical workers—joining the health workforce. This number represents approximately 9.13% of UDM's total 2024-2025 graduates, reflecting the university's contribution to local health human resource development.





Research, Teaching, and Policy Interface for Public Health

UDM demonstrates increasing alignment between its curricular, research, and policy engagement efforts on health. Notable among these is the “Mind Matters” research project, launched in February 2024 by the Research Center. This mixed-methods study investigates the state of mental health services available to healthcare workers in Manila and aims to inform both practice and policy recommendations.

Academic programs in the CHS embed SDG 3 themes across coursework, from modules on preventive care and communicable disease control to practicums in local health facilities. Students also participate in training aligned with national health observances such as the National Tuberculosis Awareness Month, with several extension activities focused on TB education in communities.

These activities are further reinforced by UDM’s efforts to promote sports and physical activity as public health measures. The university’s shared use of its sports facilities by community groups (especially youth) has been formalized, reflecting its understanding of public health through a holistic lens of lifestyle, behavior, and physical well-being.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

- 184 students graduated in health professions, representing 9.13% of total UDM graduates.
- Smoke-free campus policy adopted in October 2024.
- STD & HIV awareness and testing campaign conducted in May 2024.
- Mental health program launched in June 2024, offering counselling, seminars, and wellness support.
- Community health outreach conducted in Barangay 790 in April 2024.
- Collaborations initiated with local and national health institutions, with activities linked to TB, diabetes, nutrition, and sexual health.
- Outreach activities targeted vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including those in informal settlements and disaster-affected areas



Future Directions and Strategic Alignment

- UDM recognizes the need to deepen the scale and monitoring of its health and wellness programs. Planned strategies include:
- Institutionalizing a Health Monitoring and Evaluation System to track participation, outcomes, and feedback from internal and community beneficiaries.
- Expanding health extension programs to additional Manila barangays, leveraging interdisciplinary health teams (medicine, nursing, public health, psychology).
- Strengthening data systems for tracking graduate outcomes in health professions (e.g., placement, licensure exam performance, rural service).
- Enhancing partnerships with the Manila Health Department and national government agencies to co-develop curricula, simulation programs, and joint research projects on urban health.

UDM's contribution to SDG 3 is evident in its campus-level health policies, dynamic student-led outreach, sustained barangay collaboration, and alignment with national health priorities. The institution plays a growing role in urban public health promotion, leveraging its health sciences expertise and educational platform. To further enhance its societal impact, UDM is poised to expand its monitoring infrastructure, diversify partnerships, and integrate health more deeply into the civic mission of the university.

This integrated, multi-stakeholder approach ensures that UDM's vision of "inclusive, responsive and health-secure education" contributes measurably to Good Health and Well-being in Manila and beyond.



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17th

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2024

Quality Assurance
of Philippine
Education:
New Issues and Trajectories

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4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Priority Goal and Targets 4

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 4 by championing inclusive, equitable, and quality education through accessible learning pathways, lifelong education initiatives, and continuous alignment of teaching and research with global standards."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) considers inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education as central to its institutional mission. In the context of Metro Manila's complex urban realities—marked by socio-economic disparities, evolving labor demands, and access gaps—UDM's commitment to SDG 4 is framed across three principal domains: (1) strengthening macro-access and program quality for traditional and non-traditional learners; (2) promoting lifelong learning and community-extended education; and (3) embedding teaching, research, and systems improvement aligned with national and global education quality standards.

Access, Program Quality, and Student Success

In 2024–2025, UDM achieved a significant milestone by securing 100% Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) across all its degree programs, as certified by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). This signals that every program meets the minimum regulatory quality standards of the Philippine higher education system as of 11 April 2025, reflecting institutional alignment with SDG 4.3.1 on access to quality education.

Based on internal metrics, UDM reported 1,981 graduates in the 2024 cycle, including 419 with professional teaching qualifications—corresponding to 21% of all graduates. This marks a clear contribution to the city’s teaching workforce and supports Indicator 4.2.1 on early childhood and teaching sector development. Notably, 242 of these education graduates were from the Early Childhood Education track and were conferred on their degrees on 7 August 2024, emphasizing UDM’s commitment to preparing professionals in foundational education sectors.

Furthermore, program accreditation by Association of Local Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (ALCUCOA) has confirmed Level 2 status for the BSEd English program and Level 1 status for other education majors, demonstrating progressive internal quality assurance and alignment with global expectations





Lifelong Learning and Community Extended Education

UDM proactively expands access beyond conventional student cohorts by institutionalizing lifelong learning frameworks. In September 2024, the university launched the Associate in Barangay Governance (ABG) program, designed specifically for elected officials and barangay personnel in the City of Manila. More than 30 barangay officials completed the initial cycle, reflecting SDG 4's commitment to inclusive and context-specific educational pathways for public servants.

In parallel, the university's involvement in the Manila Academic and Public Library Educational Consortium allows free access to online academic resources, campus facilities, and library infrastructure for learners engaged in non-degree or certification programs. These services directly align with Indicator 4.3.1 and advance UDM's agenda on open learning, micro-credentials, and continuing education for community-based learners.



Teaching, Research, Systems Improvement, and Partnership

UDM's "Quality Policy" explicitly asserts a vision of delivering "sustainable, responsive, and relevant education," not only for students but for the broader public sector. The FY 2024 budget and staffing plan—publicly released in November 2023—indicates targeted investments in faculty development, instructional infrastructure, and digital systems, showing the institution's transparency and commitment to systems-level improvement.

Teaching and learning are complemented by data-informed research on educational outcomes, institutional audits for accreditation, and participation in international rankings and development networks, including WURI and THE Impact Rankings. The strategic use of performance indicators—such as graduate output by qualification and sector deployment—enables the institution to benchmark and iterate on its educational delivery models.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)



- 1,981 graduates, with 419 (21%) holding teaching qualifications
- 100% COPC compliance across all academic programs as of April 2025
- Graduation of 242 students in Early Childhood Education in August 2024
- ABG program launched, with over 30 barangay officials graduating in September 2024
- Public library and digital access infrastructure sustained through Manila Academic and Public Library Consortium

While the above metrics mark substantive achievements, UDM continues to build its data systems for capturing graduation rates disaggregated by gender and socio-economic background, micro-credential completions, and student learning outcome indicators.





Future Directions and Strategic Alignment

To advance its commitment to SDG 4, UDM outlines several next-phase strategies:

- Develop comprehensive tracking systems for student progression, employment, and academic success, especially among vulnerable groups.
- Scale up micro-credentials and modular training programs, particularly in technology, governance, and education sectors.
- Invest in faculty training on pedagogical innovation, assessment literacy, and inclusive teaching.
- Institutionalize partnerships with K-12 schools, LGUs, civil society organizations, and private sector stakeholders for more dynamic and responsive curriculum articulation.
- Expand participation in international benchmarking and leverage outcomes for local education reform and advocacy.

Through its accreditation milestones, teaching workforce development, institutional innovations in lifelong learning, and commitment to systemic improvement, Universidad de Manila plays a significant role in localizing SDG 4: Quality Education. The university's trajectory is defined by a clear convergence of access expansion, instructional quality, evidence-based governance, and cross-sectoral partnership. With increased transparency in outcomes and strengthened monitoring systems, UDM is well-positioned to sustain and scale its contributions to education equity and excellence in Metro Manila and beyond.





Priority Goal and Targets 5

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 5 by embedding gender equality and empowerment across its governance, education, and community engagement systems."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes gender equality and the empowerment of all genders as a central pillar of its institutional and civic mission. In alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 framework, the University ensures that gender equity principles are embedded in its governance systems, human resource structures, teaching and research functions, and community engagement initiatives. The institution's commitment to SDG 5 is expressed across three interconnected domains: (1) institutional policies and governance for gender parity and non-discrimination; (2) student access, representation, and progression; and (3) teaching, research, and community engagement promoting gender awareness and empowerment.

Institutional Policies, Governance, and Non-Discrimination

UDM made tangible advances in 2024 – 2025 toward ensuring structural equality and protection from discrimination. In early 2024, the University implemented the National Budget Circular No. 594 salary standardization framework as part of its Pay Equity and Decent Work Initiative, aligning compensation across gender lines. On 6 June 2024, UDM released an official statement affirming this action as a key component of its gender equality strategy—ensuring equitable remuneration for all employees regardless of gender or employment category.

Complementing this, UDM strengthened its Whistleblower and Non-Discrimination Policy announced on 28 October 2024, extending protection to employees and students who report sexual harassment, workplace bullying, or gender-based discrimination. This reinforces a climate of institutional safety and accountability, consistent with SDG 5.1 – 5.2 on eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and ensuring equal opportunities.

Leadership representation also demonstrates UDM’s internal equity: as of October 2024, 78 women held senior academic and administrative positions, representing approximately 43 percent of leadership roles. This figure signifies progress toward gender-balanced governance and underscores the institution’s capacity to model equitable decision-making within higher education.



MAYOR ISKO MORENO SIGNS MANILA CITY GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE

NEWS ALERT

Manila City Mayor Francisco ‘Isko Moreno’ Domagoso on Tuesday, November 10 signed Ordinance No. 8681 which provides the capital city’s Gender and Development (GAD) Code.

Student Access, Representation, and Progression

Gender equity at UDM extends to the student body through admissions, retention, and progression mechanisms that ensure proportional representation and inclusion. The University's Gender and Development (GAD) Committee tracks female enrolment, graduation rates, and field-of-study distributions as part of its institutional monitoring system. On 20 October 2024, UDM reaffirmed that gender-disaggregated academic data form the baseline for policy adjustments on scholarships, curriculum design, and student support.

Although gender parity in higher education has been achieved nationally, UDM continues to address disparities in non-traditional fields. As of the most recent verified record (late 2024 referencing 2022 graduates), female students comprised 1,605 of 2,587 total graduates, equivalent to 62 percent of the cohort. This demonstrates strong female participation but also signals the need for balanced representation in STEM-related programs.

In August 2024, UDM formalized a childcare support partnership with the Barangay 659-A Day Care Center, providing accessible childcare options for women faculty, staff, and students. This measure reduces systemic barriers that often force women to choose between academic participation and caregiving responsibilities—directly supporting retention and progression outcomes for women and single parents.



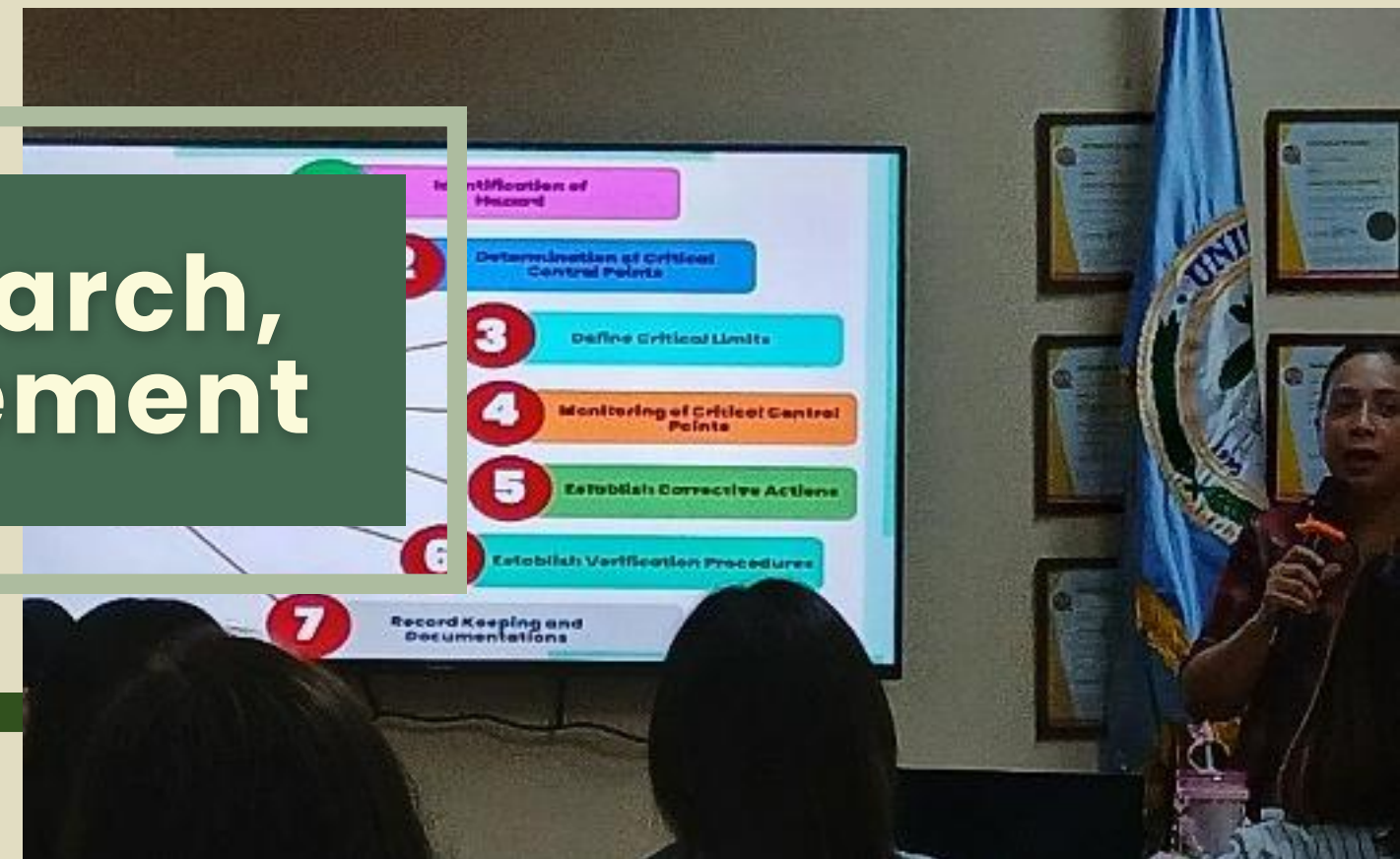
Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Community Engagement

UDM's Gender and Development Office spearheads educational, professional, and advocacy programs that advance gender inclusivity. On 6 November 2024, the University conducted a Technical Writing Training program emphasizing women's professional development and equal opportunity in workplace communication—explicitly recognized under UDM's SDG 5 initiatives. Earlier, on 22 February 2024, UDM organized an empowerment seminar for first-generation female students, showcasing leadership pathways and entry into traditionally male-dominated fields such as science, governance, and technical education.

Gender awareness is also mainstreamed through the academic curriculum and co-curricular programs. Courses on human rights, social justice, and inclusive pedagogy embed gender equality principles across disciplines.

Research outputs from the Institute of Graduate and Professional Studies include topics on women's participation in public service, gender dynamics in local governance, and economic mobility for female-headed households. These reflect SDG 5.5 and SDG 5.c, emphasizing institutional support for women's leadership and empowerment in both academic and civic spaces.

Externally, UDM collaborates with the City Government of Manila's GAD Office and barangay-level gender focal points to deliver seminars and community programs on gender sensitivity, anti-violence advocacy, and workplace equality. This multi-level engagement reinforces UDM's contribution to the city's Gender and Development Agenda and integrates the university into Manila's ecosystem of gender-responsive governance.





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

- Seventy-eight (78) women held senior academic and administrative positions as of October 2024, accounting for approximately forty-three percent (43 %) of all leadership roles within the University.
- UDM enforced salary standardization and pay equity policies in June 2024, in accordance with National Budget Circular No. 594, ensuring fair and gender-neutral compensation structures.
- The University adopted an updated Whistleblower and Non-Discrimination Policy on 28 October 2024, strengthening institutional mechanisms for addressing gender-based harassment and workplace inequality.
- A childcare partnership with Barangay 659-A Day Care Center was established in August 2024 to assist women faculty, staff, and students balancing academic or professional duties with caregiving responsibilities.
- From February to November 2024, UDM organized targeted programs such as the First-Generation Women Empowerment Seminar (February 2024) and the Technical Writing Training for Women Professionals (November 2024), aimed at building capacity and leadership confidence among women employees and students.
- Female graduates constituted approximately sixty-two percent (62 %) of total graduates (1,605 out of 2,587), indicating sustained gender parity in higher education participation, though continued monitoring in STEM and governance programs remains necessary.



While UDM demonstrates significant progress in mainstreaming gender equality, the institution aims to expand its quantitative monitoring and outreach scope in the coming years. Future directions include:

- Developing a comprehensive Gender Data Dashboard that consolidates metrics on student enrolment, graduation, employment, and field-specific representation disaggregated by gender.
- Increasing women's participation in STEM and technology-driven programs through scholarships and targeted mentorship initiatives.
- Expanding childcare and parental-support mechanisms to enhance staff and student retention.
- Conducting longitudinal research on female graduate employment and wage parity to assess long-term equality outcomes.
- Strengthening collaboration with LGUs and NGOs on gender-based violence prevention, reproductive rights, and women's leadership development.

Through deliberate institutional reform, leadership representation, and policy action, Universidad de Manila continues to advance gender equality in both structure and spirit. The implementation of pay-equity measures, anti-discrimination protections, female leadership representation, and childcare support collectively embody the university's integration of SDG 5 into its daily operations. Coupled with gender-sensitive pedagogy, empowerment of first-generation women, and community partnerships, these initiatives contribute directly to the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking dimensions of teaching, research, engagement, and stewardship.

UDM's trajectory affirms a model of inclusive higher education where gender equity is not an adjunct policy but a lived institutional practice—shaping a more equitable academic and civic environment in the City of Manila



Future Directions





Priority Goal and Targets 6

"Universidad de Manila upholds SDG 6 by promoting clean water access, sanitation, and resilience through infrastructure, community outreach, and academic collaboration."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) affirms that access to clean water and sanitation is integral to student health, institutional functionality, and the broader urban community's well-being. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 6, the university adopts a multi-pronged approach that spans (1) infrastructure provision and campus-level access, (2) community outreach and sanitation education, and (3) academic engagement through teaching, research, and partnerships supporting water system resilience.

Access and Infrastructure: Campus Clean Water and Sanitation

In April and June 2024, UDM launched a twin-phase infrastructure initiative to enhance drinking water access on campus. Under the banner “Refreshing Sustainability,” the university installed multiple water dispensers and drinking fountains at strategic points across academic and administrative buildings. These facilities provide clean, potable water free of charge to students, faculty, and staff, reducing the need for bottled water and promoting sustainable consumption practices. The initiative is directly responsive to Target 6.1 (universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water) and Target 6.2 (adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all).

This infrastructure program is designed not only to address hydration and health but also to reduce plastic waste. The units are regularly maintained by the university’s General Services Office in collaboration with partner contractors, ensuring water safety through routine microbial testing and compliance with national sanitation standards.



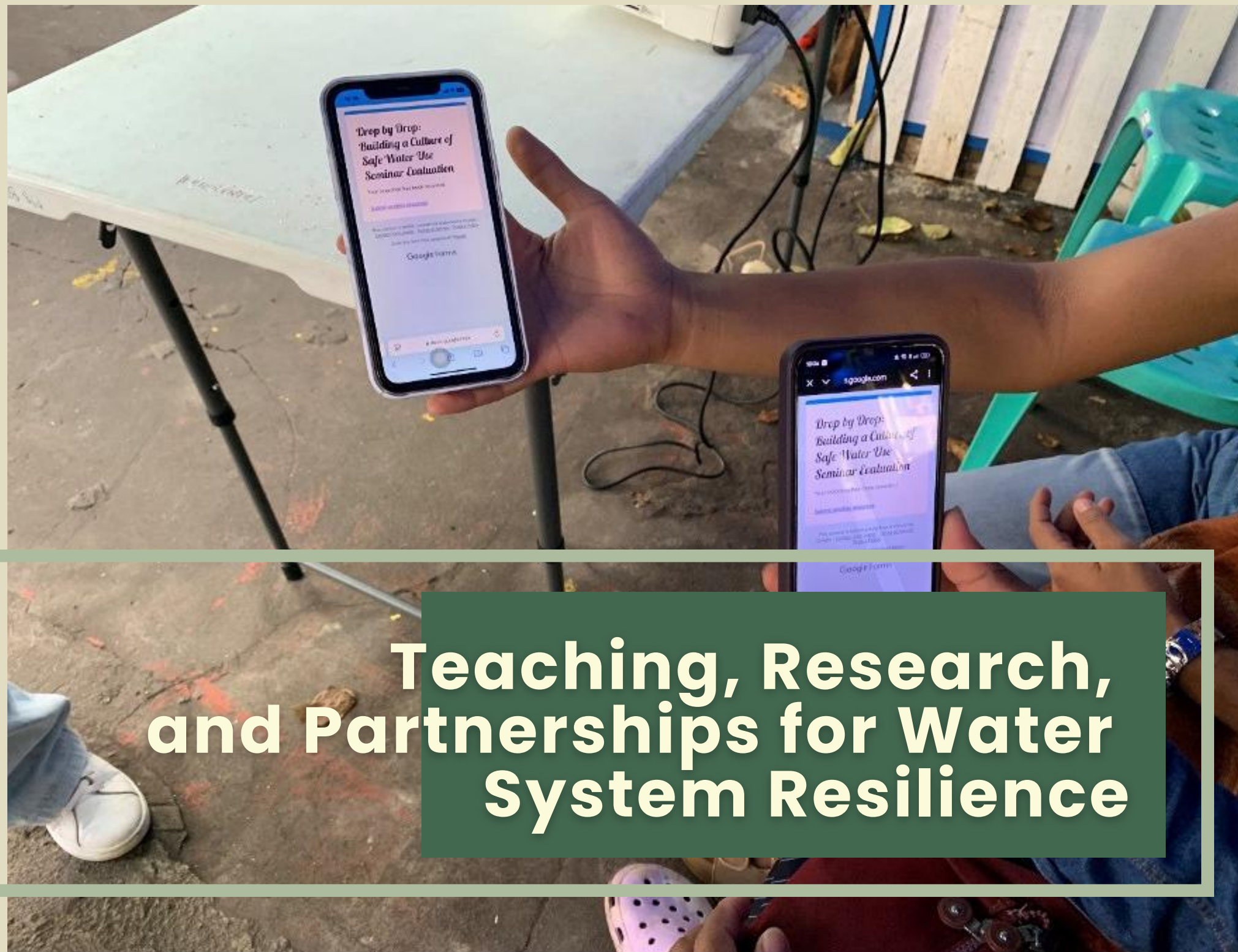
Community Extension and Educational Outreach on Water and Sanitation

UDM extends its impact beyond its gates through sustained community outreach focused on hygiene and public health. On 12 December 2024, the College of Education launched a multi-sectoral program titled “Community Education for Sustainable Health and Sanitation”, conducted in collaboration with Barangay Health Workers and parent volunteers in nearby communities. The program featured modules on household sanitation, proper waste disposal, vector control, and water-borne disease prevention. It also included training on safe water handling and the use of basic disinfection techniques in household settings.

Subsequently, on 20 October 2025, UDM conducted the community seminar “Drop by Drop: Building a Culture of Safe Water Use” in Barangay 659-A, Ermita, Manila. The seminar engaged students and faculty with community members in dialogic learning sessions on water conservation, safe water storage, and climate-resilient water practices, in support of Target 6.b (support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management).

These engagements exemplify the university’s orientation toward citizen engagement, participatory health education, and local resilience building. They directly support the “Community Education and Extension” criteria in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking methodology





Teaching, Research, and Partnerships for Water System Resilience

Though research outputs specific to SDG 6 are currently in development, UDM demonstrates a strategic pivot toward integrating clean water and sanitation themes into its academic and research agenda. Several capstone projects and field studies in the College of Science and the College of Education have begun examining correlations between hydration and academic performance, school-based WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) compliance, and youth awareness of urban sanitation challenges.

At the macro level, UDM's collaboration with city agencies and service utilities—such as Manila Water Foundation—ensures synergy between its campus water strategies and the broader water governance ecosystem in Metro Manila. These alignments affirm UDM's stewardship of place and contribute to research-practice-policy coherence in sanitation resilience and public health outcomes.





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

- Installation of campus-wide drinking water dispensers and fountains (April and June 2024).
- Launch of the “Refreshing Sustainability” infrastructure campaign promoting zero-cost access to safe drinking water.
- Conduct of the “Drop by Drop” seminar on safe water use and sanitation in a Manila barangay (October 2025).
- Implementation of the “Community Education for Sustainable Health and Sanitation” extension program (December 2024), benefiting multiple families across underserved communities.
- Ongoing behavioral shift among students toward increased dispenser usage and reduced bottled water consumption.

To bolster accountability and evidence-based reporting, UDM is exploring the implementation of an internal water access monitoring system, alongside a community outreach tracking mechanism. These tools are intended to capture usage patterns, coverage, and impact outcomes on both campus and community beneficiaries



A photograph of several young children gathered around a public water tap. One child in the foreground is holding a large, clear plastic bottle under the running water. Other children are visible in the background, some looking at the camera. The scene is outdoors, likely in a community water distribution point.

Future Directions

Looking ahead, UDM aims to consolidate and scale its water and sanitation initiatives through the following strategies:

- Expansion of clean water infrastructure to satellite campuses and off-campus student hubs.
- Development of a Water Usage and Sanitation Behavior Campaign targeting students, community partners, and campus staff.
- Strengthening partnerships with local government units (LGUs), water districts, and NGOs to implement wastewater management and sanitation infrastructure in urban poor communities.
- Integration of SDG 6 themes into general education courses, thesis topics, and action research led by undergraduate and graduate students.
- Generation of measurable outcome data such as percentage of student users, reduction in bottled water procurement, and barangay-level sanitation indicators.

In parallel, UDM remains attuned to Manila's water development agenda, including the city's expansion of potable water sources and improvements in wastewater treatment. The university is well positioned to act as a local anchor institution—bridging scientific inquiry, educational practice, and public service for water security and sanitation equity.

Through sustained efforts in water infrastructure, education, community collaboration, and emergent research, UDM contributes meaningfully to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. Its integrative model not only meets institutional needs but also uplifts broader societal conditions in one of Asia's most water-vulnerable cities. The university's actions strongly align with the five core dimensions of the THE Impact Rankings—societal impact, teaching, research, stewardship, and student engagement—solidifying its role as an agent of sustainability in urban education.

Priority Goal and Targets 7

"Universidad de Manila supports SDG 7 by advancing sustainable and modern energy through campus infrastructure, community education, and research partnerships."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that access to sustainable, reliable, and modern energy is essential for institutional resilience, educational continuity, and environmental stewardship. In support of SDG 7, the university frames its clean energy agenda across three interlinked domains: (1) deployment of campus infrastructure and renewable energy systems; (2) community outreach and sustainability education on energy; and (3) research, curriculum development, and partnerships to promote long-term clean energy transitions.

**7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**



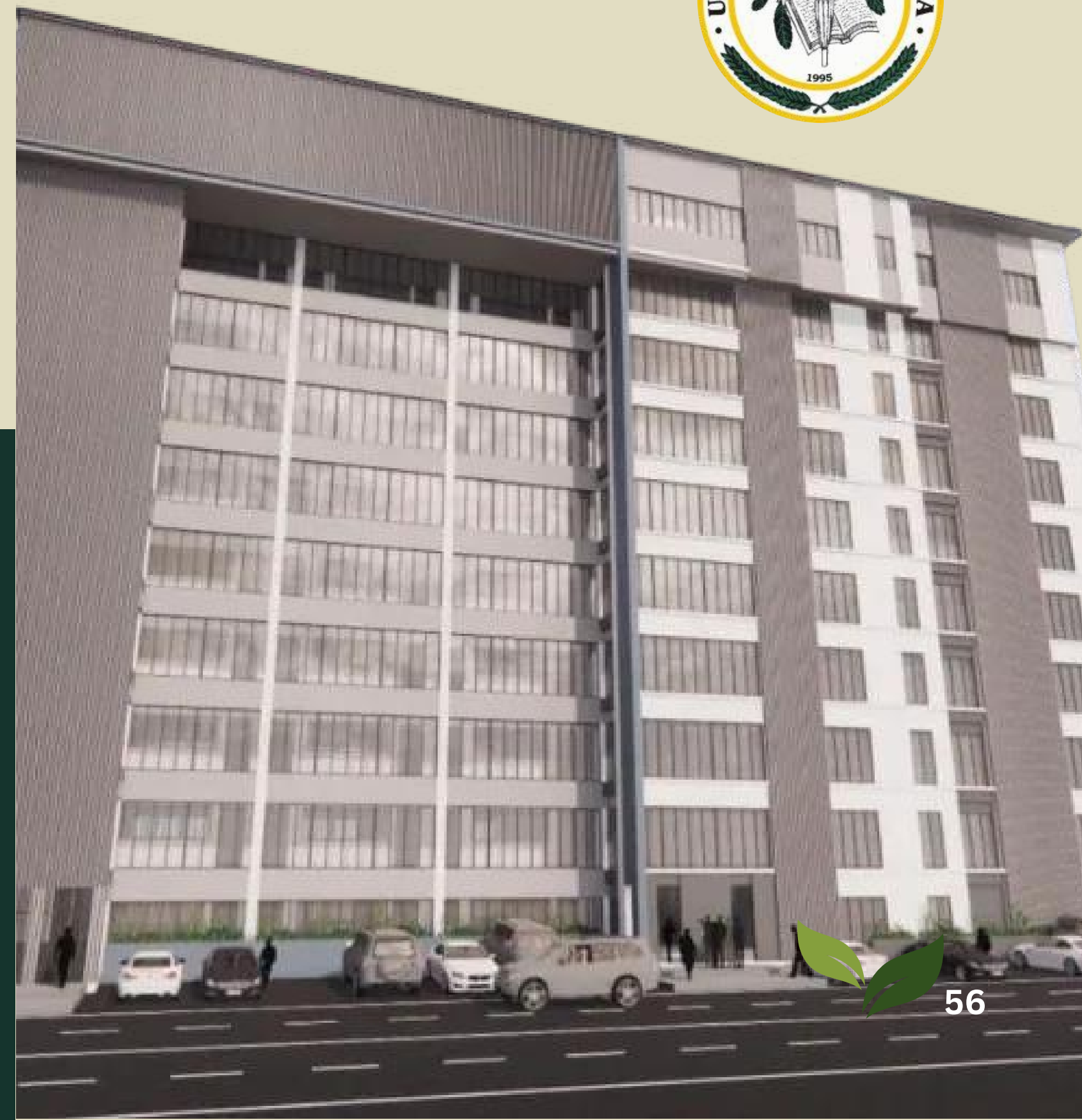
Campus Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Deployment

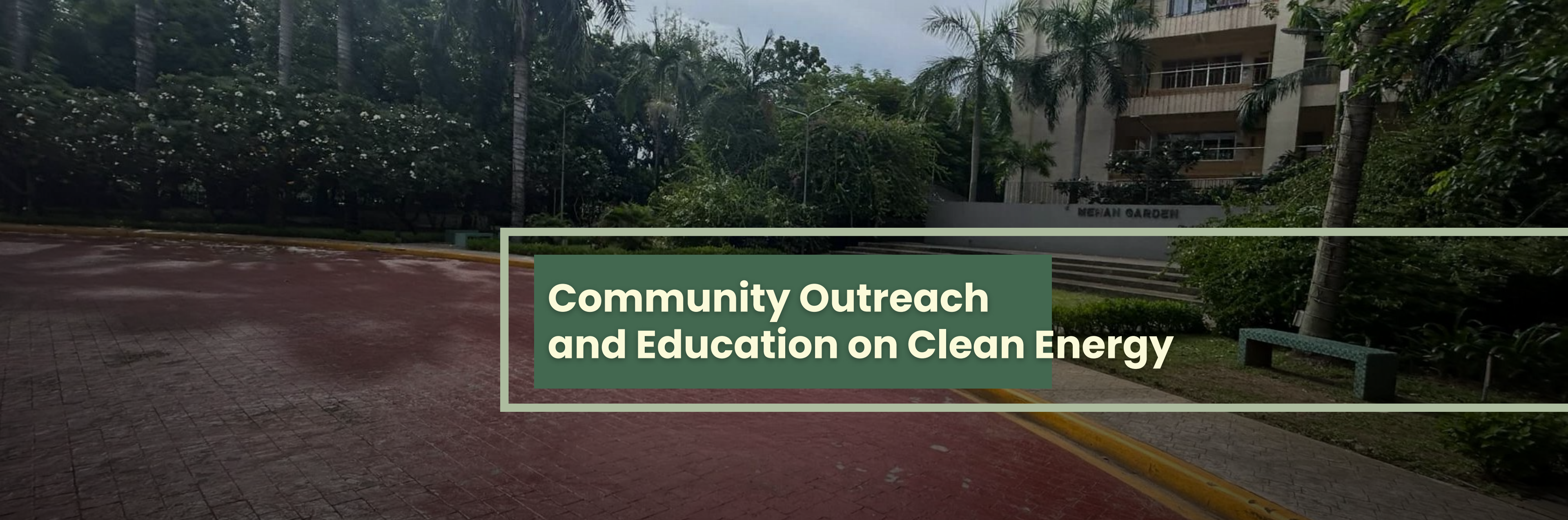


As part of its commitment to energy sustainability, UDM has taken measurable steps toward the installation of clean and energy-efficient systems on campus. On 9 September 2024, the university launched a campus-wide program to install solar-powered garden lamps, under the campaign titled “Universidad de Manila Shines Brighter with Eco-Friendly Solar Garden Lights.” The solar lighting units were deployed throughout open spaces and pathways in the university, providing both aesthetic and functional improvements to nighttime safety and visibility.

This initiative directly contributes to Target 7.2 of SDG 7 (substantially increasing the share of renewable energy in the global mix) and Target 7.3 (doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency). Although the quantitative performance metrics of the solar lighting system—such as installed capacity in kilowatts, energy cost savings, or greenhouse gas emissions avoided—are not yet publicly disclosed, the system’s installation constitutes an important demonstration of institutional willingness to decarbonize campus infrastructure.

Beyond the lighting system, the university also outlines in its sustainability narrative a long-term orientation toward energy-resilient infrastructure, reflecting the need to balance affordability, efficiency, and carbon mitigation. The solar initiative is considered a foundational phase of a broader clean energy transformation roadmap for the university.





Community Outreach and Education on Clean Energy

In the area of public engagement, UDM has framed clean energy as a key pillar of its environmental education and extension mission. Through its official sustainability portal, the university states its intent to equip students, faculty, and community partners with knowledge and tools to participate in energy transition pathways. Although specific outreach events on renewable energy such as workshops or public forums were not documented in detail for 2024–2025, the solar lighting infrastructure itself functions as a live demonstration platform for environmental consciousness and low-carbon solutions.

The visibility of solar units on campus grounds serves as a daily reminder to students and staff of the feasibility and benefits of renewable energy, thereby fulfilling the “citizen/student engagement” and “teaching on the challenge” components of the THE Impact Ranking. It is through such infrastructural exemplars that UDM shapes awareness and behavioral change toward energy sustainability.

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What are the benefits of the

**Teaching, Research,
and Partnerships for Clean
Energy Systems**



Supports the
Philippines'
**renewable
energy targets**

UDM's curricular commitments and urban partnerships provide the foundation for future integration of clean energy in academic programs. The university's sustainability portal includes energy access and transition within its SDG-aligned instructional vision. Selected courses under the College of Science, Engineering, and Education are gradually integrating topics related to energy systems, renewable technologies, and climate adaptation.

From a contextual standpoint, UDM is situated within the rapidly evolving energy ecosystem of Manila. In Q4 of 2024, Manila Water, a key utility in the East Zone, reported the installation of solar PV units in several water treatment facilities, while city-level waste-to-energy projects are also gaining traction. UDM's campus initiatives signal alignment with these urban energy developments and support the university's evolving role as a "steward of place."

Nationally, the Department of Energy (DOE) has announced expanded Green Energy Auction Programs (GEAP) and incentives for solar, wind, and waste-to-energy projects—providing further opportunities for academic-industry linkage. These dynamics present a fertile landscape for UDM to contribute via student research, policy simulation, and local energy data analysis, especially in underserved or off-grid barangays of Manila.



Future Directions

UDM recognizes that transitioning to affordable and clean energy requires systemic planning, strategic investment, and community inclusion. Priorities for the next phase of SDG 7 implementation include:

- Scaling solar PV deployment beyond garden lighting, possibly through rooftop installations on academic and administrative buildings.
- Institutionalization of energy data collection, including monthly monitoring of solar output, reduction in grid-based electricity use, and financial savings.
- Curriculum enrichment through dedicated modules on renewable energy economics, energy justice, and green technology within general education and STEM fields.
- Formation of industry-academe-LGU partnerships to co-develop clean energy microgrids, research laboratories, or internship programs related to energy policy and sustainable engineering.
- Student-led clean energy research projects, supported through capstone grants, environmental design competitions, or interdisciplinary sustainability courses.

Moreover, as Manila grapples with energy security, demand surges, and equity concerns in marginalized zones, UDM can contribute through evidence-based urban energy mapping, community energy diagnostics, and micro-implementation pilots.

Through the deployment of solar lighting infrastructure, articulation of clean energy goals in public-facing platforms, and alignment with Metro Manila's energy planning efforts, UDM is making measurable contributions to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. While small in current scale, these actions reflect a strong foundation and an institutional culture increasingly oriented toward low-carbon, equitable, and energy-efficient futures.

To elevate its performance in THE Impact Rankings, UDM is poised to amplify clean energy efforts across infrastructure, education, and policy engagement—turning ambition into impact and demonstration into systemic transformation.





Priority Goal and Targets 8

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 8 by fostering inclusive economic growth, decent work, and workforce development through employment practices, student engagement, and institutional partnerships."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) affirms that the advancement of inclusive economic growth and the assurance of dignified employment are central to its public mandate as an urban higher education institution. UDM structures its contributions to SDG 8 across three strategic pillars: (1) internal employment practices and governance for staff and faculty; (2) student employability and economic engagement; and (3) research, teaching, and institutional partnerships promoting workforce development, entrepreneurship, and economic inclusion.

**8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



Employment Practices and Institutional Governance

In 2024, UDM adopted the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policy, underscoring a formal institutional commitment to fairness, non-discrimination, and workplace inclusion. Alongside this, the University strengthened policies against employment exploitation, reinforcing rights protection for contractual and permanent staff alike. These efforts not only comply with national labor regulations but align with SDG 8 Targets 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work) and 8.8 (labor rights and safe working environments).

Moreover, the 2024 report titled "UDM Leading the Way in Sustainable Economic Growth through Strategic Expenditure" documents that UDM redirected internal expenditures toward critical priority areas—faculty salaries, learning infrastructure, student services, and research initiatives—thereby stimulating decent internal employment while contributing to local economic activity. This holistic approach demonstrates how UDM integrates decent work into institutional governance, reflecting the “societal impact” and “stewardship of place” dimensions of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.



DOLE NEWS
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

DOLE–NCR holds labor education to UDM students, exceeds target of 18K students in Manila

Student Economic Engagement and Career Readiness

UDM's Center for Microcredentialing and Industry Training (CMIT), established in 2024, has become a cornerstone of the university's strategy for bridging education and employment. In August 2024, the CMIT launched eighteen microcredential programs, each designed in collaboration with industry partners and labor market analysts to ensure skill alignment and improve graduate employability. The programs focus on high-demand sectors including digital marketing, logistics, hospitality, software support, and entrepreneurship.

On 22 October 2025, UDM reported a student work placement rate of 78.97%, a key outcome indicator that reflects the efficacy of its work-integrated learning and internship partnerships. The "Bridging Classrooms and Careers" report emphasizes expansion in industry linkage initiatives, particularly through on-the-job training, mentorship, and career counseling.

These developments speak directly to SDG Target 8.6 (substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training) and underscore the "student engagement" and "teaching on the challenge" dimensions of THE's framework.



Teaching, Research, and Partnerships for Economic Growth



UDM embeds inclusive economic development across its curricular, co-curricular, and research programs. While publicly visible research outputs specific to employment economics remain limited, the university has initiated several co-curricular projects with economic value, such as the SHE++ Masterclass in October 2025—focused on digital skills training for women in technology and innovation. This masterclass, alongside similar events, directly advances women’s economic participation and aligns with both SDG 5 and SDG 8. On the sustainability portal, UDM articulates a broader commitment to “fostering active contribution to sustainable development through skill-based education and social partnership.” This is evident in strategic initiatives that prioritize employment-readiness, startup incubation, and digital literacy training. These educational strategies are grounded in the realities of the Metro Manila labor market and connect to urban development trajectories, economic inclusion policies, and startup ecosystem linkages.

The institutional orientation towards entrepreneurship, job creation, and local economic contribution serves as a key indicator of UDM’s integrated model of academic-economic impact.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Key accomplishments during the review period include:

- Implementation of Equal Employment Opportunity and anti-exploitation workplace policies (June 2024).
- Public report on strategic expenditure alignment to inclusive economic growth (September 2024).
- Achievement of a 78.97% student work placement rate (October 2025).
- Launch of 18 new microcredential programs through CMIT (August 2024).
- Conduct of SHE++ Masterclass on digital employment pathways for women (October 2025).



Future Directions

To deepen its contribution to decent work and economic growth, UDM has outlined several priorities:

- Expand and institutionalize tracking systems for graduate employment and wage levels.
- Scale microcredentialing to align with fast-evolving industry trends (e.g., AI, data literacy, gig economy skills).
- Develop startup incubators and social enterprise labs embedded within colleges.
- Formalize partnerships with key industry players, national labor agencies, and LGUs to create pipelines for employment and entrepreneurship.
- Enhance faculty research on employment trends, urban economic development, and inclusive finance.
- Regularize contractual employment across administrative units to model decent work in institutional operations.

In the broader Manila context, where youth unemployment and underemployment remain concerns, UDM's ability to provide future-ready graduates and ethical workplace governance situates the university as a critical actor in sustainable development.

Through a comprehensive agenda that includes employment reforms, industry-aligned training, and student work placement systems, Universidad de Manila has demonstrated concrete progress toward SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. These efforts, firmly grounded in the local economic context of Manila and supported by internal policy alignment, reflect the multi-dimensional requirements of the THE Impact Rankings framework. With ongoing emphasis on data transparency, research productivity, and workforce innovation, UDM stands positioned to broaden its impact on employment equity, youth job readiness, and sustainable local economic development.





Priority Goal and Targets 9

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 9 through innovation, infrastructure development, and sustainable industrial partnerships."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that building resilient infrastructure, fostering inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and nurturing innovation are critical to the advancement of urban education and socio-economic progress. Within the rapidly evolving landscape of Manila, UDM aligns its programs with Sustainable Development Goal 9 through three interlinked domains: (1) strengthening institutional infrastructure and innovation capacity; (2) empowering student and community innovation through partnerships and entrepreneurship; and (3) contributing to regional and national development through teaching, research, and systems engagement supporting industrial growth and innovation ecosystems.



Institutional Infrastructure and Innovation Capacity

In the 2024-2025 period, UDM undertook significant investment in its internal academic infrastructure to support innovation-driven instruction. Most notably, on 15 December 2024, UDM inaugurated a state-of-the-art skills laboratory for health sciences and allied disciplines. Publicly described as a “milestone in Health Sciences education,” the laboratory offers advanced simulation-based learning environments. This facility enhances experiential instruction for students while providing faculty access to cutting-edge pedagogical tools and research infrastructure. The project was explicitly tagged under SDG 9, signaling institutional intent to position infrastructure as an enabler of innovation and educational excellence.

This initiative exemplifies the “steering infrastructure” function—embedding high-quality, resilient, and context-sensitive infrastructure into institutional development planning. UDM’s SDG 9 webpage reinforces this orientation, stating that the university supports “sustainable industrial growth and infrastructure development through research, innovation, and collaboration with industries.”

These efforts underscore UDM’s alignment with SDG Targets 9.1 (develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure) and 9.5 (enhance scientific research and upgrade technological capabilities of industrial sectors), reflecting institutional readiness to serve as an innovation node within the metropolitan learning environment.

Student and Community Innovation, Partnerships, and Entrepreneurship

UDM supports student-led innovation and community partnerships through both institutional programming and external collaborations. On 20 October 2025, UDM hosted the SHE++ Masterclass, a gender-inclusive digital skills workshop focused on empowering women in the technology sector. This program, aligned with both SDG 8 and SDG 9, cultivated future-ready innovators and technopreneurs through mentorship, skill-building, and exposure to entrepreneurial pathways in science and technology.

The SHE++ initiative reflects the “citizen/student engagement” dimension of SDG 9—placing students in active roles as innovation agents. In parallel, UDM has expanded international and national partnerships to support its innovation agenda. On 29 November 2024, the university entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a global academic partner focused on innovation and academic excellence. While the specific name of the partner is partially obscured in existing records, the institutional framing positions the MoU as a strategic act under SDG 9, aimed at facilitating transnational knowledge sharing and co-development of innovation platforms.

Such engagements demonstrate UDM’s investment in nurturing human capital and entrepreneurship, particularly in digital, industrial, and health-related sectors—contributing to inclusive innovation ecosystems and reflecting the “teaching on the challenge” element of the THE Impact Rankings.



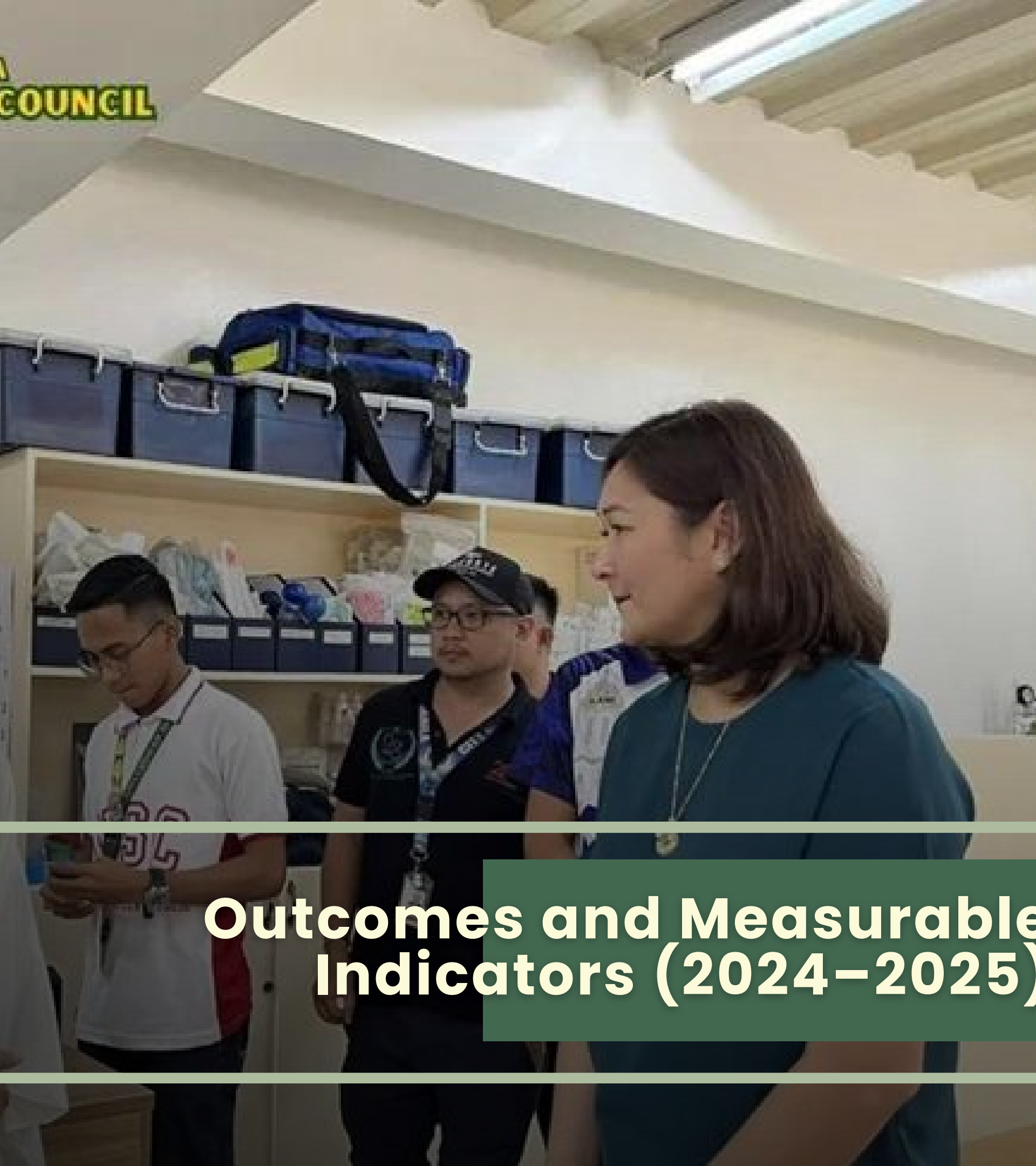
Teaching, Research, and Regional Systems Engagement

UDM situates its teaching and research within broader infrastructure and industrial development systems, acknowledging the interdependence between academic institutions and regional innovation capacities. The university's sustainability portal articulates a clear ambition: "to cultivate a culture of innovation and reinforce the city and university's dedication to long-term progress." This mission, while not yet fully quantified in terms of research outputs or patents, is reflected in select strategic programs and public statements.

In the national context, the Philippines continues to face structural deficits in infrastructure quality, ranking 61st out of 67 countries in a 2024 comparative global infrastructure report. These deficits underscore the critical role of institutions like UDM in equipping learners with the skills to confront infrastructural challenges, especially within highly urbanized, densely populated environments such as Metro Manila.

UDM's engagement in the health skills laboratory, entrepreneurship-linked masterclasses, and institutional partnerships demonstrates a foundation for contributing to industrial upgrading, infrastructure education, and urban systems resilience. These initiatives align with the "research on the challenge" and "regional stewardship" dimensions of THE's SDG 9 framework.





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Observable accomplishments in the reporting period include:

- Commissioning of the new Health Sciences Skills Laboratory (December 2024), representing significant investment in educational infrastructure under SDG 9.
- Hosting of the SHE++ Masterclass (October 2025), empowering women in technology and student technopreneurship.
- Establishment of international partnerships for innovation and academic excellence (MoU signed, November 2024).



Future Directions

To advance its impact under SDG 9, UDM has identified the following strategic directions:

- Operationalize the full potential of the new skills laboratory, expanding access across academic units and integrating its use into research and community extension programs.
- Develop a university-wide innovation hub or incubator, facilitating student start-ups, faculty-industry collaboration, and inter-institutional research exchanges.
- Strengthen data systems to capture innovation outputs, infrastructure usage, and industrial partnership outcomes.
- Deepen engagement with LGUs and national agencies on infrastructure development, including urban transport, digital connectivity, and health systems.
- Incorporate innovation literacy and applied engineering into general education and program-specific curricula to build future-ready graduates.

Given the regional infrastructure bottlenecks and the pressing need for urban innovation, UDM's institutional capacity for education, research, and demonstration projects positions it as a key contributor to the innovation ecosystem of Manila.

Through investments in cutting-edge instructional infrastructure, inclusive innovation programming, and local-to-global academic partnerships, Universidad de Manila demonstrates active alignment with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Its efforts address the five core performance dimensions of the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking framework—societal impact, teaching, research, stewardship, and citizen/student engagement.

To elevate its contribution, UDM is encouraged to scale its infrastructure initiatives, quantify its innovation outputs, and strengthen its public accountability through transparent metrics reporting. In doing so, the university reinforces its role as an urban innovation catalyst and educational anchor for infrastructure transformation in the Philippine context.





Priority Goal and Targets 10

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 10 by promoting equity, inclusion, and opportunities for marginalized communities."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) affirms that reducing inequalities—within its institutional boundaries and across the communities it serves—is central to its identity as a public university embedded in the socio-political fabric of Manila. Its response to Sustainable Development Goal 10 is structured across three interconnected domains: (1) institutional policies and governance mechanisms promoting equity; (2) inclusive access, representation, and sustained support for historically marginalised groups; and (3) teaching, research, outreach, and partnerships aimed at dismantling structural barriers to social, educational, and economic participation.



Institutional Policies, Governance, and Equity Culture

UDM embeds the reduction of inequalities within its institutional quality assurance and policy frameworks. In the 2024 Sustainability Report, the university publicly declared a mandate to “fight against inequality,” explicitly aligning its internal operations and community engagements with SDG 10. This commitment is also evident in its sustained partnership with the City Government of Manila, which supports UDM in implementing programs that promote social inclusion, equitable access to higher education, and institutional support for vulnerable sectors.

Governance-wise, UDM implemented new policy reforms in 2024 that operationalize fairness in employment practices, support first-generation learners, and remove barriers to participation for underrepresented populations. A landmark achievement occurred on 7 August 2024, when UDM conferred degrees on 773 first-generation graduates, signifying its role in advancing intergenerational social mobility and education equity. This outcome is emblematic of the institution’s responsiveness to real-world inequality and its alignment with the “stewardship of place” and “societal impact” pillars of the THE Impact Ranking framework.



Inclusive Access, Representation, and Support for Underrepresented Groups

Beyond policy articulation, UDM's programmatic efforts demonstrate a sustained commitment to enabling access for learners facing systemic barriers. The milestone of graduating over 770 first-generation students is more than symbolic—it reflects a strategic initiative to widen participation among individuals who historically lacked higher education access. This is supported by UDM's quality policy, which affirms the university's duty to "provide equal opportunities by developing learners' knowledge, skills, and values through quality education and dynamic technology-driven systems in a diverse yet inclusive environment."

These institutional values are translated into actionable support for students from low-income households, marginalized sectors, and potentially students with disabilities or other intersectional disadvantages. Although publicly disaggregated metrics remain limited, these actions align with SDG Target 10.2, which calls for the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of status or background.



Teaching, Outreach, and Partnerships Addressing Structural Inequalities

UDM's impact on inequality also extends through its curricular engagements, outreach programs, and local partnerships. Though 2024-2025 data on the number of outreach programs, financial aid beneficiaries, or community extension participants is not yet fully detailed, governance documents and public statements indicate that the university works with barangay-level stakeholders, the City of Manila, and civil society organizations to support inclusive educational pathways.

Among these are bridging programs for marginalized students, mentorship opportunities, and community extension activities focused on literacy, technology access, and life skills. These interventions are aligned with the "teaching on the challenge," "research on the challenge," and "citizen/student engagement" aspects of the THE SDG 10 framework. Furthermore, the university's public communication commits to maintaining transparent governance and inclusive student services, reinforcing its reputation as a socially responsive academic institution.





The following are key outcomes demonstrating UDM's measurable contributions to SDG 10:

- The 2024 Sustainability Report names anti-inequality efforts as a university-wide priority.
- Celebration of 773 first-generation college graduates in August 2024—demonstrating quantifiable access advancement.
- Institutional policy reforms promoting equitable employment, inclusive admissions, and anti-discrimination.

Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Future Directions

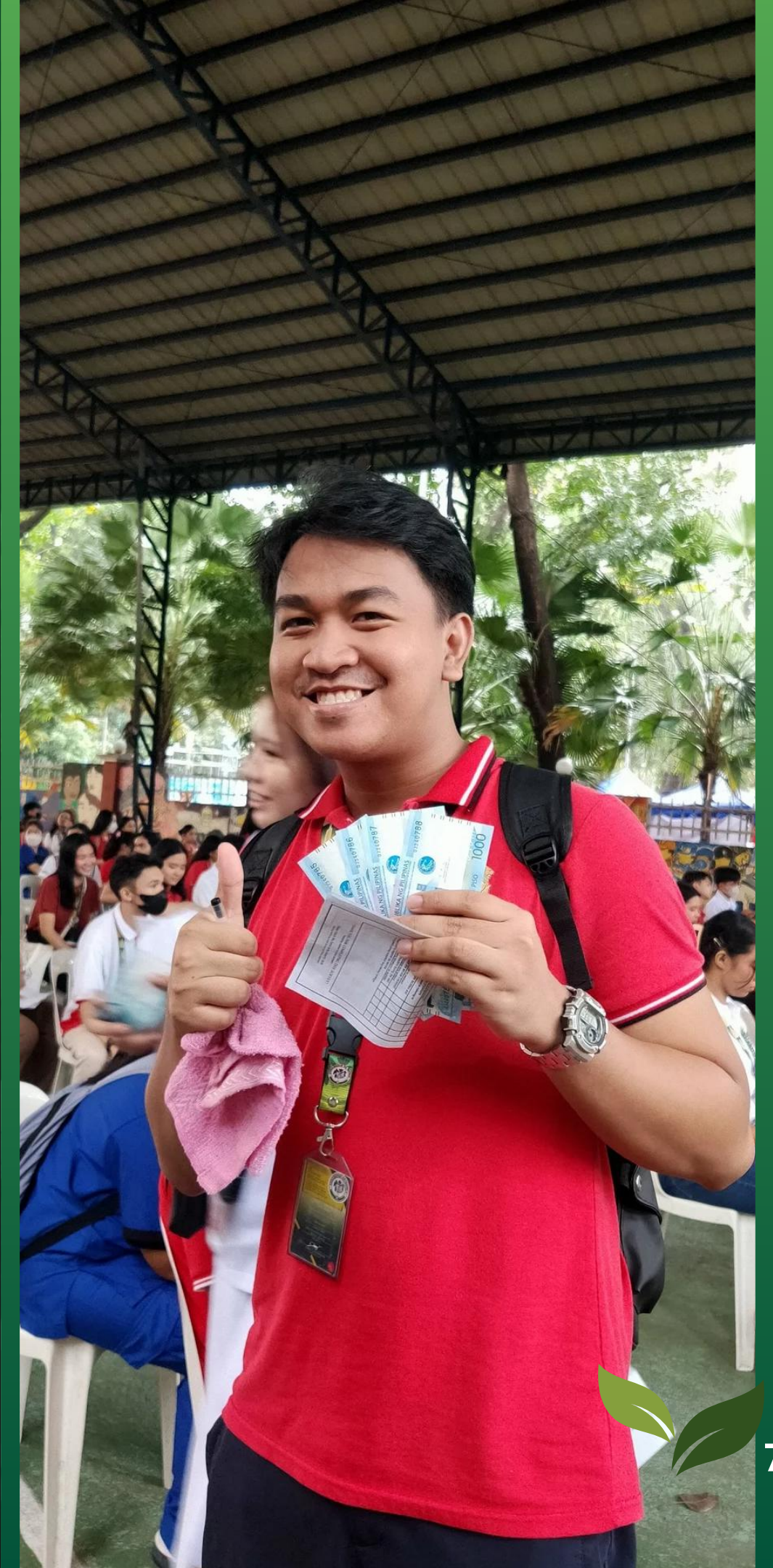
UDM recognizes that reducing inequality is inherently multifaceted and requires ongoing strategic investment. Moving forward, institutional priorities include:

- Establishing a disaggregated data system tracking students and employees by gender, income, disability, and other social indicators.
- Publishing regular outcome data on admissions, progression, completion, and employment across underrepresented populations.
- Expanding academic and non-academic support services—such as financial aid, mental health counselling, disability services, and mentoring—for marginalised learners.
- Enhancing physical infrastructure accessibility, particularly for persons with disabilities (e.g., elevators, signage, assistive technologies).
- Deepening ties with local government, NGOs, and inclusive employment partners to build pipelines for post-graduation opportunities among disadvantaged populations.

In the broader urban context of Manila, characterized by socio-economic disparity, digital exclusion, and structural urban poverty, UDM's role as a public university dedicated to social transformation remains critical.

Through its equity-oriented policies, targeted milestones such as the graduation of first-generation students, and its institutional narrative of inclusion and opportunity, Universidad de Manila contributes substantively to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. The university's actions address the core evaluative lenses of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking framework—namely, societal impact, teaching, research, stewardship, and engagement.

To amplify its contribution, UDM must deepen its data transparency, expand inclusive infrastructure, and scale its partnerships with actors that serve marginalized communities. Nevertheless, its current trajectory affirms its identity as a locally rooted, socially committed academic institution working to dismantle structural barriers and foster transformative access to higher education.



Priority Goal and Targets 11

"Universidad de Manila upholds SDG 11 by promoting urban resilience, sustainability, and inclusive community development through education and engagement."

Universidad de Manila (UDM), situated in the heart of one of Southeast Asia's most complex urban environments, affirms that building inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities is not only a global imperative but a local obligation. UDM's commitment to SDG 11 is deeply embedded in its institutional mandate as a public university serving the people of Manila. Its strategic approach is articulated across three interlinked domains: (1) campus and local community infrastructure and engagement for urban resilience; (2) student and community participation in sustainable city initiatives; and (3) teaching, research, and partnerships that foster urban sustainability, equitable service delivery, and community well-being.





Campus and Local Community Infrastructure for Urban Resilience

In December 2024, UDM formalized its community engagement through the adoption of Barangay 790, Zone 86, Sta. Ana, Manila, in a public marker unveiling ceremony. This formal adoption establishes a structured partnership between the university and a densely populated urban barangay, symbolizing a long-term commitment to community-based urban renewal, participatory planning, and resilience-building. Such initiatives are directly aligned with SDG 11 Targets 11.3 (inclusive and sustainable urbanization) and 11.1 (access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services).

Further advancing its community infrastructure agenda, UDM's College of Education launched the "Community Education for Sustainable Health and Sanitation" program on 12 December 2024 under the broader Healthy Habitat platform. The initiative encompasses environmental health education, sanitation awareness, vector control, and responsible domestic animal care—all vital in mitigating urban health risks in high-density neighborhoods. This program demonstrates UDM's applied commitment to improving urban livability and delivering essential services in informal or underserved areas.



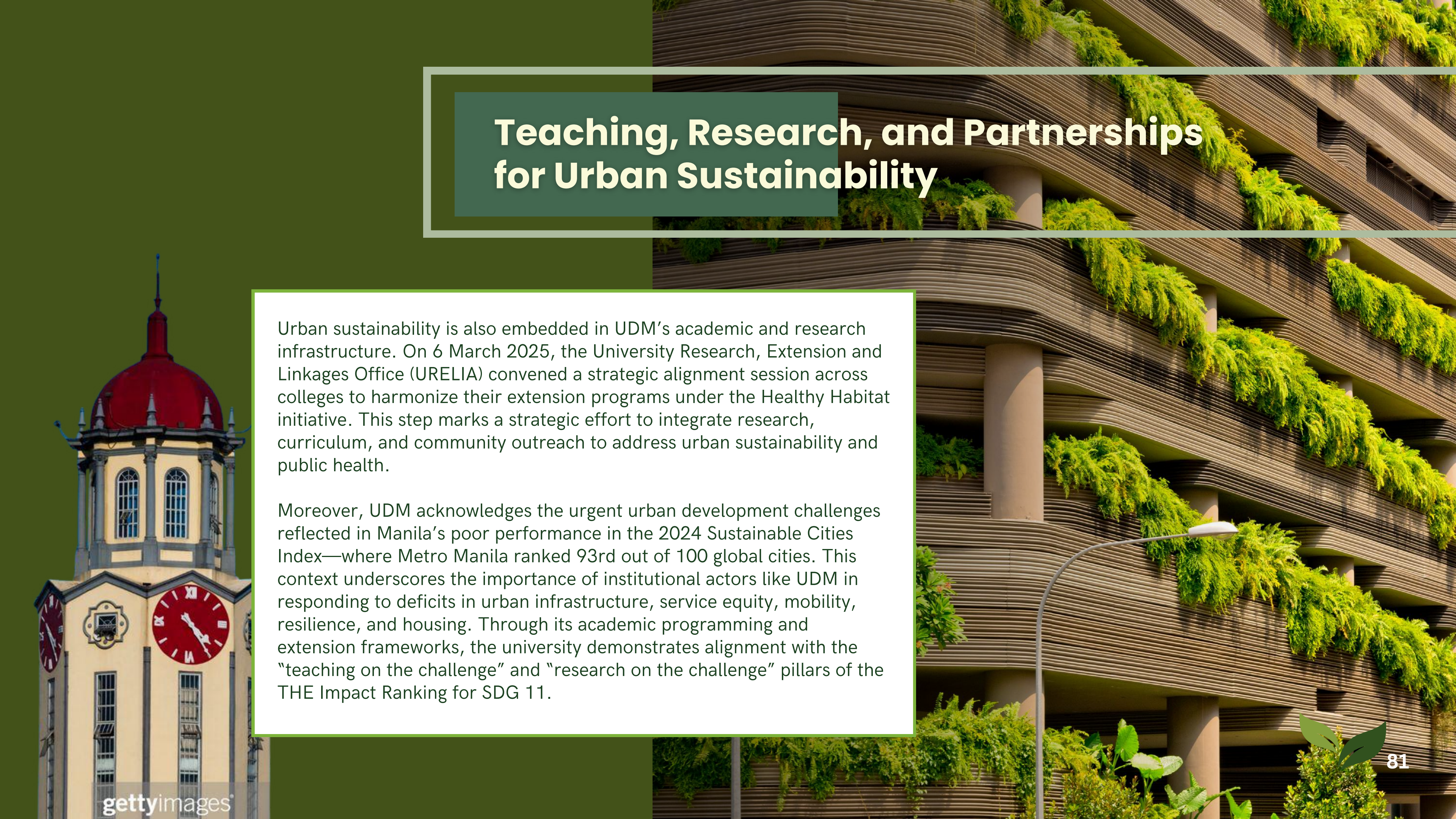


Student and Community Participation in Sustainable Urban Initiatives

UDM has institutionalized student and resident engagement through public events that embody the principle of participatory urban sustainability. On 19 September 2025, the university spearheaded the “Green for Manila: Tree Planting Activity 2025” at Liwasang Bonifacio, a historic urban square. This activity promoted urban greening, biodiversity restoration, climate resilience, and civic pride—reinforcing the role of citizens in reclaiming and sustaining urban commons.

In parallel, on 20 September 2025, UDM joined the 40th International Coastal Clean-Up at Baseco Beach, a highly vulnerable coastal community facing issues of marine pollution, informal settlement congestion, and disaster exposure. Through this initiative, UDM underscored its role in protecting urban ecological zones and promoting environmental stewardship among students and local residents. These activities exemplify the “citizen/student engagement” metric under the THE framework and directly link to SDG Targets 11.5 (reducing urban disaster risks) and 11.6 (reducing environmental impact of cities).



The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, there is a tall, yellow clock tower with a red dome and a large red clock face. On the right, there is a modern building with a green wall made of horizontal wooden slats, with lush green plants growing from the slats. The title is centered in a dark green box with white text.

Teaching, Research, and Partnerships for Urban Sustainability

Urban sustainability is also embedded in UDM's academic and research infrastructure. On 6 March 2025, the University Research, Extension and Linkages Office (URELIA) convened a strategic alignment session across colleges to harmonize their extension programs under the Healthy Habitat initiative. This step marks a strategic effort to integrate research, curriculum, and community outreach to address urban sustainability and public health.

Moreover, UDM acknowledges the urgent urban development challenges reflected in Manila's poor performance in the 2024 Sustainable Cities Index—where Metro Manila ranked 93rd out of 100 global cities. This context underscores the importance of institutional actors like UDM in responding to deficits in urban infrastructure, service equity, mobility, resilience, and housing. Through its academic programming and extension frameworks, the university demonstrates alignment with the "teaching on the challenge" and "research on the challenge" pillars of the THE Impact Ranking for SDG 11.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

The following are key outcomes and activities undertaken by UDM in this timeframe:

- Formal barangay adoption of Barangay 790, Sta. Ana (December 2024), establishing a sustained community-university partnership.
- Launch of the “Community Education for Sustainable Health & Sanitation” program (December 2024), contributing to urban health and sanitation resilience.
- “Green for Manila” Tree Planting event (September 2025), engaging students and community in urban reforestation.
- Participation in the 40th International Coastal Clean-Up at Baseco Beach (September 2025), promoting coastal and marine environmental health.
- Inter-college alignment meeting on extension and sustainability programming under URELIA (March 2025).



Future Directions

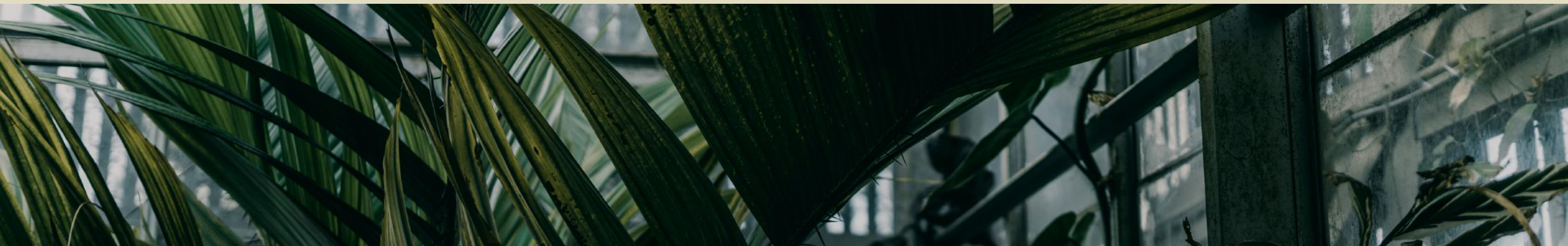
UDM recognizes that transforming urban spaces and addressing Metro Manila's complex development challenges require multi-sectoral collaboration, knowledge integration, and long-term community investment. Moving forward, the university intends to:

- Scale its barangay adoption model to other communities in Manila, potentially establishing a cluster of university-affiliated urban sustainability hubs.
- Embed urban planning, disaster risk reduction, and inclusive infrastructure modules in its academic curricula, especially in teacher education and public policy programs.
- Enhance student-led research on affordable housing, informal settlements, mobility systems, and environmental health.
- Develop monitoring systems to assess urban livability outcomes in its partner communities.
- Deepen partnerships with the City Government of Manila, barangay councils, and civil society organizations engaged in slum upgrading, housing rights, and public health.

The institution is also encouraged to explore integration with climate-resilient infrastructure projects, such as early warning systems, rainwater harvesting, waste segregation, and safe walkable spaces in coordination with city development plans.

Through its structured neighborhood adoption initiatives, sustainability education programs, participatory greening and clean-up drives, and alignment of research with urban sustainability goals, Universidad de Manila is making a tangible and place-based contribution to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The university's strategy exemplifies the five evaluative dimensions of the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking: societal impact, stewardship, research, teaching, and student engagement. While future efforts must prioritize outcome tracking and multi-stakeholder scalability, UDM's existing work positions it as a key urban anchor institution—cultivating sustainable development at the intersection of education, community empowerment, and city systems resilience.





Priority Goal and Targets 12

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 12 by promoting sustainable consumption, resource efficiency, and responsible production through institutional practice, education, and community engagement."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) acknowledges that fostering sustainable consumption and production is critical not only for internal operational sustainability but also for shaping the broader environmental practices of the City of Manila. UDM's alignment with SDG 12 is framed across three strategic domains: (1) institutional infrastructure and behavioral change for sustainable resource and waste management; (2) community outreach and circular economy initiatives; and (3) academic instruction, research, and partnerships promoting resource efficiency and systems change.

Campus-Level Resource and Waste Management and Behavioral Change

UDM initiated a campus-wide behavioral shift toward reduced plastic dependency with the launch of the “Tumbler Revolution – Bring Your Own Tumbler” campaign in September 2024. This initiative aimed to reduce single-use plastics within university premises by promoting the use of personal tumblers and supporting this practice through the installation of water refill stations and dispensers across the campus. It directly addresses SDG Target 12.5: substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

Complementing this behavioral initiative, UDM’s sustainability portal reiterates a guiding principle of “doing more and better with less,” indicating a systemic intent to reduce institutional resource use and environmental footprint. Although the 2024–2025 reporting cycle lacks detailed quantitative outcomes, such as plastic waste volume reduction or user adoption rates, the program marks a milestone in embedding sustainability habits across the student and staff population.



Community Outreach and Circular Economy Extension Programs

UDM extends its commitment beyond the campus by engaging directly in local circular economy and waste minimization activities. Notably, on 20 September 2025, the university participated in the 40th International Coastal Clean-Up at Baseco Beach, Manila. This high-impact community activity facilitated the collection of marine litter and built awareness among students and residents about waste cycles and marine environmental sustainability.

Beyond participation in public campaigns, UDM has also been identified as a partner in broader city-level circular economy initiatives, in collaboration with the City Government of Manila, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and international partners. As detailed in the 2024 UDM Sustainability Report, these initiatives include infrastructure installations such as plastic melters and glass pulverisers—technologies that support materials recovery and recycling at the local level. These efforts reflect UDM's evolving role in supporting a city-wide transition to circular systems and directly align with SDG Targets 12.4 (sound management of chemicals and wastes) and 12.8 (ensuring information and awareness for sustainable lifestyles).



Teaching, Research, and Partnerships on Sustainable Consumption Systems

Within its curricular and research architecture, UDM promotes knowledge generation and capacity building on sustainable consumption. The university's official sustainability channels highlight a goal to equip students, faculty, and community partners with competencies in circular economy, waste minimization, and sustainable practices. This is reinforced by the integration of sustainability concepts in extension programs and community-based initiatives.

Although detailed academic outputs (such as the number of student theses on waste systems or published sustainability research) were not fully disclosed for the 2024-2025 reporting period, UDM's statements and actions affirm its contribution to the "teaching on the challenge" and "research on the challenge" indicators used in THE's SDG 12 evaluation.

Importantly, UDM operates within a city context that is increasingly embracing circular economic principles. The City of Manila's partnerships with UNDP and the Government of Japan on resource recovery and waste reduction provide fertile ground for UDM's anchoring role in public education, technology adoption, and citizen mobilization.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Key observable outcomes during this period include:

- Launch of the “Tumbler Revolution” reusable container campaign (September 2024), promoting behavioral change and reducing plastic waste.
- Institutional participation in the 40th International Coastal Clean-Up (20 September 2025), contributing to marine waste reduction and community environmental engagement.
- Publication of the 2024 UDM Sustainability Report citing joint initiatives with the City of Manila on plastic and glass waste recovery using circular technologies.

These data points will allow UDM to demonstrate measurable progress and to position its contributions more effectively in global sustainability reporting frameworks.

Future Directions

Future Direction

To solidify its leadership in responsible consumption and production, UDM plans to:

- Expand waste management infrastructure on campus, including composting systems, e-waste collection points, and designated recycling stations.
- Integrate resource efficiency and circular economy modules into academic curricula, especially in teacher education, science, and public policy courses.
- Track and publish consumption-related indicators, including behavioural change analytics and waste reduction figures.
- Strengthen partnerships with municipal waste management agencies and circular economy technology providers.
- Support student-led innovations and research projects on upcycling, sustainable packaging, lifecycle assessment, and environmental justice.

As Metro Manila continues to face complex waste management and consumption challenges, UDM positions itself as an academic and civic partner in shifting systems from linear to circular, and from extractive to regenerative.

Through its internal sustainability campaigns, active participation in national clean-up efforts, and collaborations with city and global actors on circular economy infrastructure, Universidad de Manila contributes meaningfully to SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

These efforts reflect alignment with the five performance pillars of the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking: societal impact, stewardship, teaching, research, and student engagement. While significant gains have been made in institutional behavior change and civic partnerships, the next critical phase will involve evidence-based reporting, curricular mainstreaming, and innovation in consumption systems—areas in which UDM is poised to make sustained impact in the years ahead.



e-waste collection



resource efficiency



circular economy

WASTE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF)



Priority Goal and Targets 13

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 13 by promoting climate resilience, action, and education through sustainable infrastructure, community engagement, and research collaboration."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change is a critical responsibility, particularly within the vulnerable urban environment of Manila. With climate risks ranging from flooding and sea-level rise to intensifying heat and environmental degradation, UDM has positioned its commitment to SDG 13 across three primary spheres of intervention: (1) campus-level climate-resilient infrastructure and operations; (2) student and community engagement in climate action initiatives; and (3) education, research, and partnerships fostering climate knowledge and capacity.



Campus Infrastructure and Operations for Climate Mitigation and Resilience

UDM integrates climate mitigation into its institutional operations through environmental stewardship activities that enhance ecological function within the city fabric. One such action is its participation in “Green for Manila: Tree Planting Activity 2025”, held on 19 September 2025 at Liwasang Bonifacio, Ermita, where UDM students and community volunteers planted 50 trees along a central median strip. This directly contributes to urban carbon sequestration, helps counteract urban heat island effects, and bolsters city-wide resilience—addressing SDG Targets 13.1 (resilience strengthening) and 13.2 (integration of climate measures into policies and planning).

Moreover, UDM partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in “The Project O₂: A Tree Growing Initiative”, launched on 26 April 2025 at the university lobby and gardens. This programme encouraged a culture of environmental awareness and personal responsibility among students and staff by initiating tree planting on university grounds. These actions reflect UDM’s commitment to transforming its physical environment into a site for climate demonstration, contributing to place-based sustainability.



Student and Community Engagement in Climate Action Initiatives

UDM ensures that students are not merely observers but active participants in climate action. On 20 September 2025, the university mobilized its administrators, faculty, staff, and National Service Training Program (NSTP) students to participate in the 40th International Coastal Clean Up at Baseco Beach, under the campaign "Clean Seas Against Climate Crisis." This activity strengthened the intersection between climate mitigation, marine waste reduction, and coastal community resilience.

Complementing direct action is the university's commitment to leadership formation for climate resilience. On 6 September 2025, UDM convened a seminar titled "Building Capable Leaders for a Sustainable Future", integrating climate action themes into student leadership development. These efforts affirm UDM's alignment with the "citizen/student engagement" and "stewardship" criteria of the THE framework and build human capital for long-term climate response.

Teaching, Research, and Partnerships for Climate Capacity Building

The university embeds climate awareness within its curriculum, research agenda, and institutional collaborations. UDM's sustainability communication channels consistently affirm its intent to "equip students, faculty, and community partners with the knowledge and skills to contribute actively to sustainable development and climate action."

Although quantitative data on specific outputs—such as climate-focused research publications, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory systems, or detailed adaptation frameworks—were not yet publicly disclosed for 2024-2025, the university's integration with national agencies such as DENR, and its localized approach to environmental education, demonstrate its research and teaching contributions to SDG 13.

In the wider context of Metro Manila's climate vulnerability—particularly in flood-prone and informal settlement areas—UDM's role as an educational anchor and civic partner is increasingly vital. Its combination of grassroots mobilization, public partnerships, and campus transformation underscores its potential to influence both urban resilience policy and climate-conscious behaviors.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Key activities implemented during the reporting period include:

- Tree planting at Liwasang Bonifacio (19 September 2025), with 50 native trees planted to mitigate urban heat and increase canopy coverage.
- Coastal clean-up mobilization at Baseco Beach (20 September 2025), aligning climate mitigation with marine health and community engagement.
- Launch of “The Project O₂” in partnership with DENR (26 April 2025), promoting tree growing within campus grounds.
- Student leadership seminar integrating climate themes (6 September 2025), expanding the awareness and capacity of the next generation of urban environmental leaders.





Future Directions

UDM recognizes that achieving substantial climate impact requires systems-level thinking and long-term investment. In the next phases, the university plans to:

- Expand tree planting initiatives across satellite campuses and within barangay partnerships
- Integrate climate science and resilience modules into general education and professional degree curricula
- Strengthen its data architecture to capture emissions profiles, adaptation efforts, and program outcomes
- Encourage faculty and student research on topics such as urban heat mitigation, green infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, and climate justice
- Partner with utilities and local government climate units for joint education campaigns and pilot adaptation projects
- Develop annual climate action reports and dashboards to enhance transparency, continuity, and global benchmarking

As the Philippines experiences intensifying climate hazards, UDM's proactive stance—anchored in education, outreach, operations and policy engagement—will prove essential in building Manila's adaptive and resilient future.

Through its tree growing campaigns, community clean-ups, leadership seminars, and sustainability-focused partnerships, Universidad de Manila actively contributes to SDG 13: Climate Action. These actions exemplify the university's alignment with the core dimensions of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings—particularly in teaching, research, community engagement, stewardship, and evidence of impact.

As UDM strengthens its climate data systems, deepens inter-agency collaborations, and empowers its student body, it is poised to become a key institutional actor in advancing climate resilience, mitigation, and education across the urban landscape of Metro Manila.

Priority Goal and Targets 14

"Universidad de Manila supports SDG 14 by advancing marine conservation, community participation, and research for coastal sustainability and resilience."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) affirms that the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources is a strategic ecological and civic responsibility. Given Manila's direct proximity to Manila Bay and its vulnerable foreshore communities, UDM's approach to SDG 14 operates within three interlinked domains: (1) campus and community outreach for marine ecosystem protection; (2) student and local community participation in marine conservation actions; and (3) teaching, research, and partnerships contributing to marine sustainability and resilience.



Campus and Community Outreach for Marine Ecosystem Protection



UDM has actively supported outreach efforts that extend institutional presence to coastal areas suffering from high levels of marine debris and ecological stress. On 20 September 2025, the university participated in the 40th International Coastal Clean Up at Baseco Beach, Brgy. 649, Port Area, Manila—a highly visible action explicitly reported under SDG 14. This event served multiple purposes: marine litter removal, citizen awareness, and direct stewardship of a vulnerable shoreline.

The university's 2024 Sustainability Report also references Manila's inclusion in the Plastic Smart Cities Initiative, targeting a 30% reduction in plastic pollution by 2024 and the goal of zero plastic waste leakage by 2030. UDM's participation in such city-led efforts—such as the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project—demonstrates an extended institutional role in urban-coastal ecosystem care, beyond isolated beach cleanups.

These activities reflect the “stewardship of place” dimension in THE Impact Rankings, where the university employs its geographic and civic location to extend environmental care into adjacent natural systems.



Student and Local Community Engagement in Marine Conservation



UDM's emphasis on civic learning and student-led environmental action is clearly demonstrated in the Baseco Beach Coastal Clean Up, which mobilised students, faculty, administrative personnel, and members of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) under the theme "Clean Seas Against Climate Crisis." Through this activity, students did not only participate in environmental protection—they served as coastal stewards and public advocates for marine health.

In parallel, the university's documentation of local volunteer groups—notably the "Mandaragat Team" featured in a UDM website article dated 30 January 2024—illustrates the university's ongoing support for daily coastal maintenance and marine awareness. These small but sustained interventions support Target 14.1 (reduction of marine pollution) and build a culture of responsibility for fragile marine interfaces.

This aligns with the citizen/student engagement and societal impact indicators under THE Impact Rankings, and strengthens public ownership of Manila's coastal ecological future.



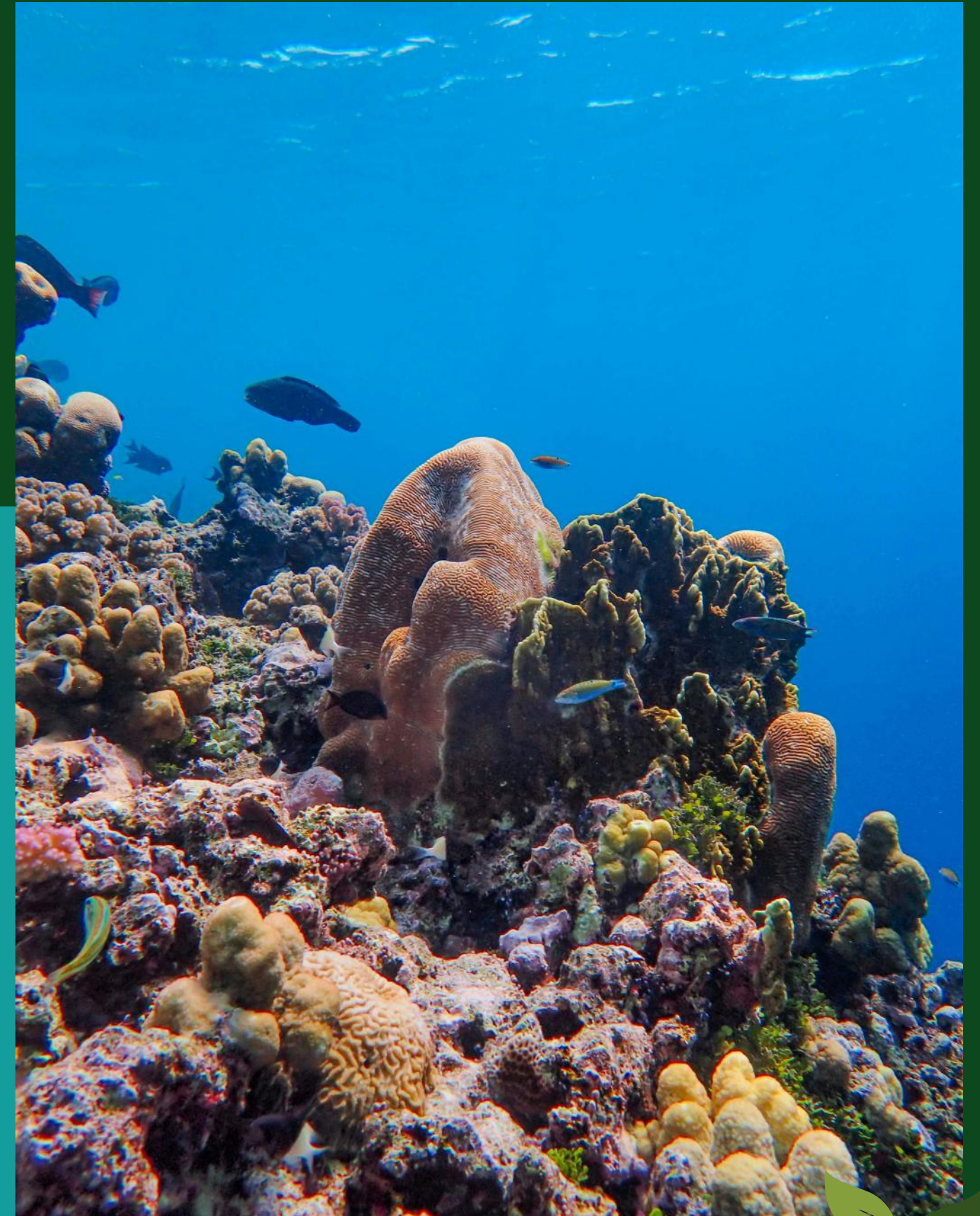
Teaching, Research, and Partnerships for Marine Resource Sustainability

UDM integrates marine ecosystem concerns into its curriculum and public education. The SDG 14 section on its website outlines academic research and environmental science teaching as core drivers of marine advocacy. Key outreach programmes include:

- “Green Space: Transforming Commercial Waste into Healthy Soil and Suds” – highlighting upcycling strategies that indirectly benefit marine ecosystems by reducing urban waste streams.
- “Lampin Club: Sustainable Diapering for a Healthier Ocean” – advancing household-level behaviour change to reduce plastic-laden marine pollutants.

These activities constitute the “teaching on the challenge” and “research on the challenge” dimensions, embedding marine literacy and sustainability into UDM’s academic mission.

UDM’s synergy with institutional actors such as Manila Water Foundation, which reaffirmed its coastal protection pledge during the 2024 International Coastal Clean Up, further amplifies the university’s influence across urban environmental policy and multisector collaboration. Such alignment strengthens the university’s standing as a contributor to coastal resilience systems at both local and city-regional scales.



Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Key tangible outcomes observed for SDG 14 include:

- Participation in the 40th International Coastal Clean Up (20 September 2025) at Baseco Beach, with UDM community mobilisation.
- Sustainability Report 2024 references to UDM–City of Manila collaboration on Plastic Smart Cities and marine pollution control.
- Publication of the “Mandaragat Team” article (30 January 2024), documenting daily coastal environmental maintenance efforts involving UDM volunteers.
- Inclusion of marine protection in curricular extension through student-facing programs like “Lampin Club” and “Green Space.”





Future Directions

UDM envisions a multisectoral, data-informed, and community-anchored approach to marine ecosystem protection in the coming years. Strategic priorities include:

- Regular participation in coastal clean-up and marine conservation campaigns, in collaboration with LGUs, fisherfolk associations, and coastal NGOs
- Development of interdisciplinary marine research initiatives, particularly on plastic waste reduction, microplastics, mangrove restoration, and marine biodiversity
- Integration of marine conservation modules into general education and professional programmes (e.g., environmental law, marine biology, sustainability studies)
- Establishment of baseline metrics and monitoring systems for marine ecosystem impacts
- Active participation in city-level policy dialogues and coastal planning initiatives, especially those related to the Manila Bay Rehabilitation and zero-waste targets

Given Manila's pressing challenges—including plastic leakage, reclamation pressures, informal settlements, and pollution events such as the 2024 oil spill—UDM's leadership in the field of marine sustainability is timely and institutionally strategic.

Through coastal clean-up events, curriculum-integrated environmental awareness, collaborative partnerships, and public engagement in coastal maintenance, Universidad de Manila meaningfully contributes to SDG 14: Life Below Water. The university's activities align with THE Impact Ranking dimensions—societal impact, teaching, research, stewardship and student engagement—and position UDM as a rising stakeholder in the protection and sustainable use of Manila's urban-marine ecosystems.

With enhanced metrics, stronger research networks, and sustained civic partnerships, UDM is well placed to deepen its impact on marine biodiversity preservation, pollution reduction, and the resilience of coastal communities in the National Capital Region.



Priority Goal and Targets 15

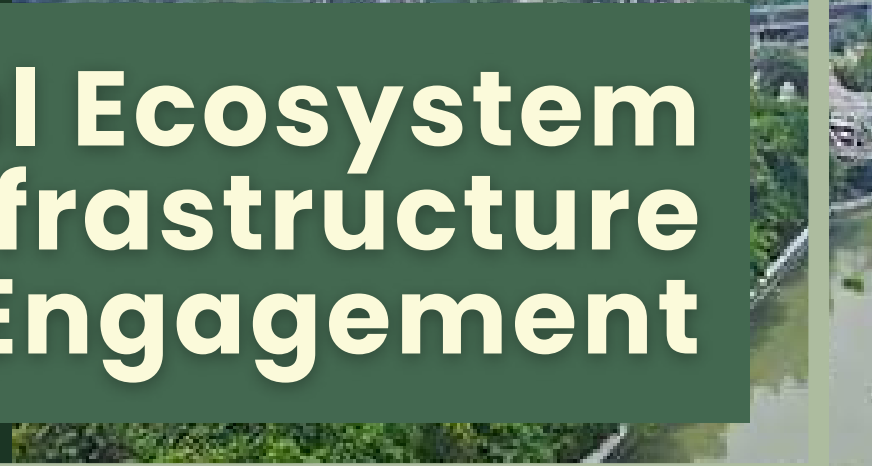
"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 15 by promoting terrestrial ecosystem conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable land stewardship through education and community engagement."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems represent a critical institutional mandate—particularly in the context of Metro Manila, where green spaces are fragmented, biodiversity is under pressure, and urban development accelerates ecological decline. UDM's commitment to SDG 15 is articulated through three interrelated domains: (1) infrastructure and community engagement for terrestrial ecosystem enhancement; (2) student and public participation in land-based environmental action; and (3) teaching, research, and inter-institutional partnerships supporting sustainable life on land.





Campus and Local Ecosystem Enhancement Infrastructure and Engagement



UDM has taken measurable steps during the 2024–2025 period to improve urban green spaces and terrestrial ecosystems through targeted interventions. On 19 September 2025, the university conducted the “Green for Manila: Tree Planting Activity 2025” at Liwasang Bonifacio, one of the city’s historically significant public parks. This activity was implemented under the thematic scope of SDG 15, with additional relevance to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), as documented in institutional communications.

Furthermore, UDM’s sustainability portal expresses the university’s strategic alignment with Target 15.1 (conservation/restoration of terrestrial ecosystems) and Target 15.9 (integration of ecosystem values into urban planning). Although specific data (e.g., number of trees planted or hectares restored) are not yet disclosed, the event demonstrates UDM’s practical efforts to embed green infrastructure development into the urban ecological matrix of Manila.

These actions reflect the university’s growing role in urban environmental stewardship, providing tangible interfaces where academic institutions support municipal resilience, land regeneration, and biodiversity integration.





Campus and Local Ecosystem Enhancement Infrastructure and Engagement

UDM's commitment to student and civic participation is visible through its land-based environmental initiatives. The September 2025 tree planting event exemplifies the "student/citizen engagement" axis of the THE Impact Ranking, wherein students and volunteers co-create public green spaces and contribute to long-term ecosystem recovery. This model of participation strengthens the university's connection to the broader community and cultivates ecological responsibility among its learners.

In addition, UDM's extension program titled "Community Education for Sustainable Health and Sanitation", conducted in December 2024 in Barangay 790, Sta. Ana, integrates green space restoration with public health education. Although primarily focused on sanitation and vector control, the inclusion of urban land use awareness, ecological landscaping, and environmental hygiene reflects a cross-sectoral engagement strategy. These initiatives extend SDG 15's reach into urban neighborhoods through applied environmental learning.





Teaching, Research, and Partnerships for Land Sustainability

As part of its curricular and research mandate, UDM includes sustainable land use, ecological restoration, and biodiversity topics in both instruction and institutional dialogue. According to its sustainability web portal, the university is developing integrated approaches to ecosystem education—embedding ecological themes into general education, science, health, and community development modules.

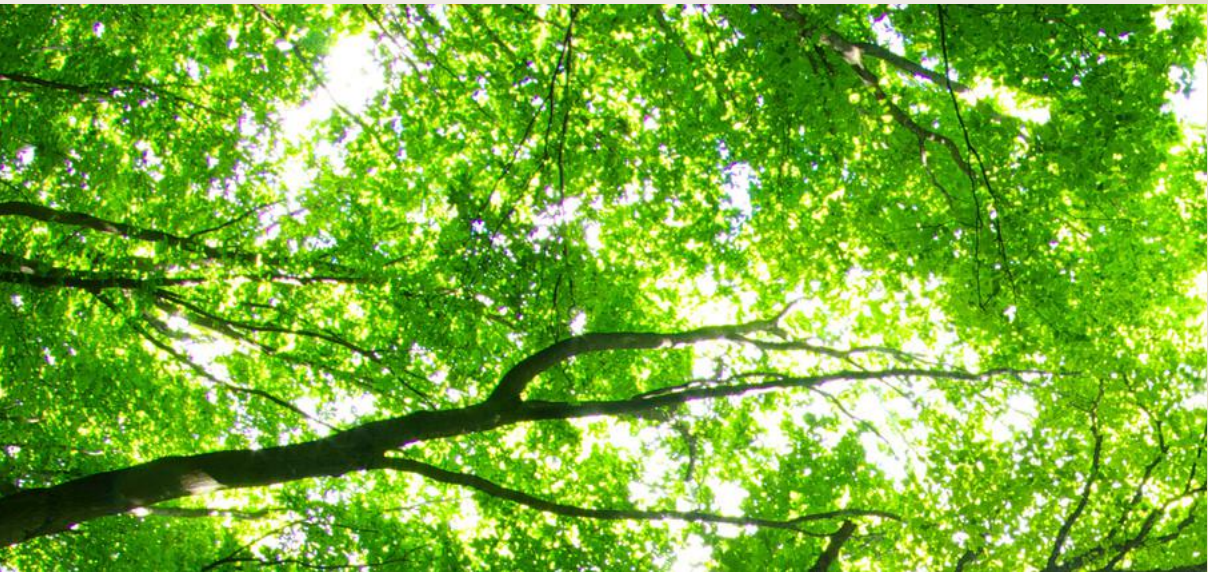
While data on research publications, extension outputs, or biodiversity indices are still emerging, UDM's position is consistent with the “teaching on the challenge” and “research on the challenge” components under SDG 15. The intention to increase biodiversity literacy and promote ecosystem stewardship through applied coursework, fieldwork, and interdisciplinary partnerships is strongly evident.

Externally, the City Government of Manila maintains programs such as “Adopt-a-Park”, urban reforestation, and park greening, with which UDM aligns its own greening efforts. The university’s active participation in these local government-led programs demonstrates its capacity to function as a civic anchor institution contributing to urban ecological health and land resilience.





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)



Key institutional activities under SDG 15 include:

- Conduct of the “Green for Manila: Tree Planting Activity 2025” at Liwasang Bonifacio on 19 September 2025, directly involving students and civic volunteers.
- Integration of land and green space education in community outreach (e.g., December 2024 extension programme in Sta. Ana, Manila).
- Institutional declaration through UDM’s sustainability portal of a long-term commitment to land-based conservation and ecological restoration goals.

Future Directions

In response, UDM will pursue the following priorities in 2025 and beyond:

- Expand campus and community tree planting and habitat restoration projects in collaboration with local barangays and city parks
- Design and deploy an ecosystem monitoring system, including tracking of tree survival, biodiversity indices, and urban greening benchmarks
- Enhance curricular offerings in environmental sustainability, ecological planning, and climate-resilient cities
- Institutionalize biodiversity-friendly practices across operations (e.g., native species use, organic landscaping, composting)
- Publish annual progress reports that include SDG 15 metrics and reflect student participation, public engagement, and policy advocacy impact

Through these measures, UDM aspires to serve as a model for how urban universities can restore ecological function, improve land stewardship, and support healthy terrestrial ecosystems in congested cities.

Through its strategic participation in tree planting activities, community extension programs promoting green space literacy, and ongoing alignment with city-wide land restoration goals, Universidad de Manila is advancing the objectives of SDG 15: Life on Land. These contributions align with the essential pillars of the THE Impact Rankings—specifically societal impact, stewardship, student engagement, teaching, and research.

As urban sustainability becomes a defining challenge of the 21st century, UDM's leadership in land-based ecological action underscores its institutional value to the city and to the region. With more rigorous monitoring, cross-sector partnerships, and curriculum integration, the university is positioned to scale up its efforts in promoting biodiversity, urban reforestation, and sustainable life on land.

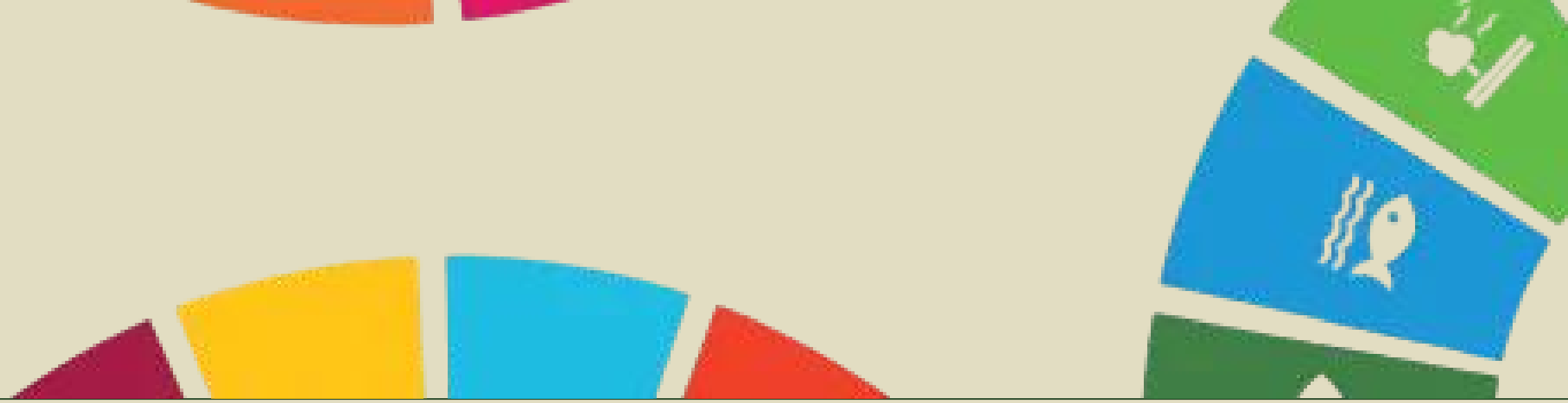
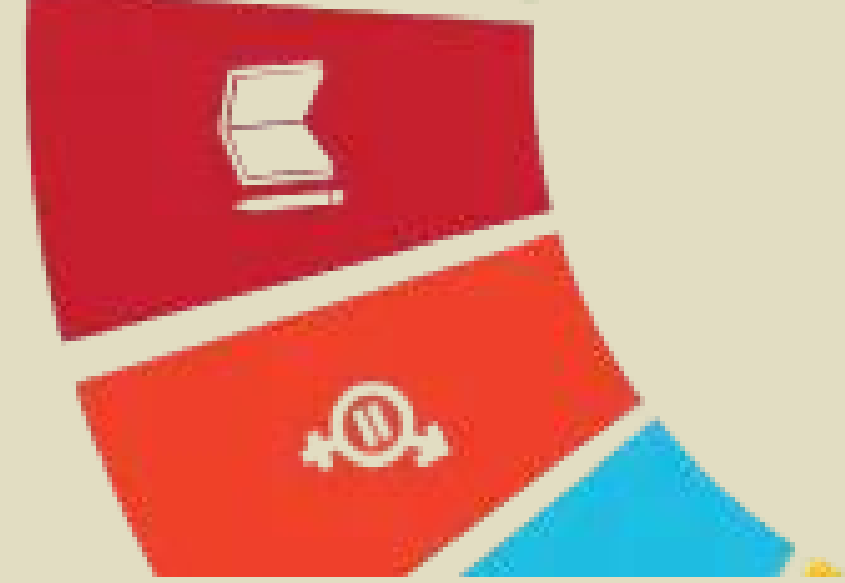




Priority Goal and Targets 16

"Universidad de Manila upholds SDG 16 by promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions through good governance, civic engagement, and academic collaboration."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that fostering peaceful societies, promoting access to justice for all, and building accountable and inclusive institutions are foundational to sustainable development. The university's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) is realized through three interdependent domains: (1) institutional governance, transparency, and accountability; (2) community and student engagement in justice, leadership, and decision-making; and (3) academic programs, research, and partnerships that advance strong public institutions and civic participation.



Institutional Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

UDM maintains a strong orientation toward ethical, transparent, and inclusive institutional governance. In March 2024, the university released Inter-Office Memorandum No. 20, Series of 2024, requiring all employees to submit their Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) in compliance with the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (R.A. 6713). This directive directly supports SDG 16's targets on transparent and accountable institutions.

In September 2024, UDM formally launched its University Governance Policy, reinforcing the powers and participatory functions of the Board of Regents, while ensuring stakeholder involvement in planning and institutional decision-making. Concurrently, a separate Academic Freedom Policy was released, reaffirming the right of faculty and students to pursue independent research, creative work, and critical expression, reflecting the university's alignment with principles of academic integrity and inclusivity.

These policies not only affirm compliance with national laws but also mirror global standards of ethical institutional management. They underscore the university's alignment with the "stewardship of place" and "real-world impact" dimensions of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings framework.

Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

UDM actively cultivates student voice and civic participation across campus and community activities. The Accreditation and Reaccreditation of Student Organizations provides structured recognition to student-led bodies and ensures their representation in institutional dialogue. This process strengthens student accountability, aligns with THE's "student engagement" metric, and empowers students to contribute to governance.

On 6 September 2025, the university held the Leadership and Capacity Building Seminar for students, equipping them with foundational skills in institutional governance, peacebuilding, and public leadership. Further, a seminar on mental well-being and safe spaces conducted in September 2025 addressed student rights and conflict-sensitive environments—extending SDG 16 beyond policy to affect daily student life.

Notably, UDM students and faculty participated in the international conference "Oneness in Diversity - 2024", engaging in dialogue on inter-ethnic cooperation and peaceful societies. This underscores the university's commitment to embedding peace, justice, and inclusive governance into its academic and cultural environment.

In the domain of labor and institutional rights, UDM affirms the rights of employees through institutional mechanisms such as the UDM Faculty Association, whose establishment and operational recognition are in line with SDG 16's call for inclusive and participatory institutions. [See: "Strengthening Workers' Rights: UDM Faculty Association" article.]

Institutional Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

A photograph of a group of people in a modern building. In the foreground, a woman with brown hair is smiling, wearing a dark cap with 'ROK' on it. Behind her, another woman in a yellow patterned shirt and a 'ROK' cap is visible. To the right, a man in a suit and glasses is partially visible. The background shows a large, well-lit interior space with columns and a sign that says 'to t'.

Teaching, Research, and Partnerships that Strengthen Institutions

UDM integrates governance, justice, and public service into its academic offerings and research agenda. Most notably, the Associate in Barangay Governance (ABG) program—launched in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)—prepares grassroots leaders for public service roles in barangays, the country’s primary local government units. This program represents a flagship academic contribution to SDG 16, developing practical competencies in law, governance, community mobilization, and democratic processes.

Moreover, the university’s initiatives include hosting neutral policy forums on issues such as territorial dispute resolution and local justice systems—thus contributing to the “research on the challenge” dimension of SDG 16.

UDM’s institutional communications consistently reflect this orientation. Its public-facing materials—ranging from governance statements to conference participation announcements—reinforce its function as a civic-minded academic actor in the heart of Manila.





Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)

Key actions during the reporting period include:

- Issuance and implementation of the SALN policy for all university personnel (March 2024).
- Launch of the University Governance and Academic Freedom Policies (September 2024).
- Recognition of the UDM Faculty Association and union rights (e.g., representation in grievance and development processes).
- Conduct of the Leadership and Capacity Building Seminar (September 2025).
- Participation in "Oneness in Diversity - 2024" international dialogue.
- Launch and implementation of the Associate in Barangay Governance (ABG) academic program.
- Accreditation of student organizations and recognition of student unions as governance stakeholders.

While these actions are well-documented through articles and policy releases, UDM still faces the challenge of limited publicly accessible quantitative data. Specific metrics—such as grievance resolution statistics, student voting participation rates, policy implementation audits, and community justice engagement outcomes—would greatly enhance evidence for SDG 16 reporting.





Future Directions

The university recognizes that the shift from policy formulation to demonstrable institutional culture and justice outcomes is both complex and urgent. UDM therefore prioritizes:

- Developing dashboards and publishing data on institutional accountability, policy enforcement, and inclusive practices.
- Expanding civic engagement in institutional governance by formalizing roles for students, faculty, and local community leaders in advisory structures.
- Scaling academic programs and trainings for grassroots and local government governance actors.
- Establishing peace and justice research clusters within the College of Criminology and relevant departments to support evidence-based policy.
- Collaborating with Manila City Government, DILG, and NGOs to monitor governance quality and co-develop public service innovations.

Through its governance reforms, capacity-building initiatives, student and faculty engagement, and dedicated academic programs on local governance and justice systems, UDM is advancing SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The institution's efforts correspond to the five pillars of the THE Impact Ranking—societal impact, teaching, research, stewardship, and student/citizen engagement. Future efforts will focus on expanding evidence collection, building robust partnerships, and sustaining institutional culture grounded in peace, integrity, and public trust.



Priority Goal and Targets 17

"Universidad de Manila advances SDG 17 by fostering inclusive partnerships through collaboration, education, and research for sustainable development."

Universidad de Manila (UDM) recognizes that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires strong, inclusive, and sustained partnerships at local, national, and international levels. UDM's commitment to SDG 17 is operationalized through three principal domains: (1) institutional partnership infrastructure (international, national, local); (2) student, community and stakeholder engagement through collaborative action; and (3) teaching, research and institutional systems that embed multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



A group of seven people, four men and three women, are standing in a row in front of a large, blue, three-dimensional 'UDM' sign. They are outdoors, with green foliage in the background. The group is diverse in age and attire, with some wearing traditional Indonesian batik. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The sign is made of large, blocky letters.

Institutional Partnership Infrastructure (International, National, Local)

UDM has taken concrete steps during 2024-2025 to build and strengthen partnerships aligned with the global SDG agenda:

In December 2024, UDM formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Academic Consortium of Indonesia (AIC) to forge a global alliance for academic excellence and innovation. This strategic partnership directly aligns with SDG 17 Target 17.8 on fostering international cooperation and knowledge exchange.

In August 2025, UDM expanded partnerships with Korean universities, such as Kookmin University, centering on peace education and global citizenship—a theme that bridges SDG 4, 16 and 17 through cross-border educational collaboration.

In January 2025, UDM collaborated with the Tzu Chi Foundation, providing 22 scholarships to indigent students—a concrete example of private sector support facilitating educational access and promoting social equity. This initiative corresponds with Targets 17.16 and 17.17 on mobilizing and enhancing partnerships for sustainable development.

Furthermore, UDM's participation in international consortiums and capacity-building workshops—such as the TVET Digital Transformation Workshop (Beijing, August 2025)—demonstrates its ongoing commitment to building institutional capabilities and enhancing its global footprint through strategic educational alliances.





Student, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Through Collaborative Action

UDM actively engages multiple stakeholders—including students, faculty, barangay leaders, and civil society organizations—through localized and participatory development efforts.

On 20 October 2025, UDM hosted a community-based seminar in Barangay 659-A, Ermita, Manila, titled “UDM Empowers Communities Through Water Education: Drop by Drop Initiative.” Organized jointly with barangay officials, local residents, faculty, and students, this activity reflects grassroots-level partnership mobilization—core to SDG 17’s inclusive approach.

Similarly, on 6 September 2025, UDM held a Leadership and Capacity Building Seminar under the theme “Building Capable Leaders for a Sustainable Future”, which brought together student leaders, educators, and community stakeholders. The seminar cultivated multi-level collaboration and leadership formation grounded in sustainability principles.

These partnerships reflect UDM’s alignment with the “citizen/student engagement” and “stewardship of place” dimensions of the THE Impact Rankings, whereby the university catalyzes local capacity for action and change.



Teaching, Research & Institutional Systems Embedding Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships



UDM integrates partnership-driven development into its curriculum and research architecture. According to its SDG 17 public statements, UDM is “committed to building partnerships that enhance sustainable development efforts. Through collaborations with local and international institutions, we work to strengthen knowledge sharing, resource allocation, and joint action.”

This vision is actualized through the university’s participation in:

- The Asian Graduate Studies Summit (A-GRASS 2024), where UDM faculty and graduate students engaged in collaborative research, policy discussion, and regional networking.
- The TVET Digital Transformation Workshop (August 2025, Beijing), which advanced institutional knowledge sharing in support of sustainable rural development.
- Student and faculty-led outreach, such as partnerships with ANG NARS Party List and the College of Health Sciences, which convened forums on healthcare access and nurses’ rights (SDG 3, SDG 8, and SDG 17 intersect).

Moreover, student organizations play a critical role in these engagements. Notable examples include:

- CHS Student Council facilitating community health education,
- SHE++ Masterclass empowering women in tech,
- Cross-sectoral forums on climate action and sexual health awareness,
- International engagements that promote best practice sharing on SDG implementation.

These initiatives correspond to SDG 17 Targets 17.2 (mobilize resources), 17.9 (enhance capacity), and 17.16–17.17 (multi-stakeholder collaboration).





The following outcomes were documented and confirmed through UDM's internal records and published articles:

- December 2024: MOU with the Academic Consortium of Indonesia for global academic alliance.
- January 2025: Tzu Chi Foundation provided 22 scholarships to financially disadvantaged UDM students.
- April 2024: UDM participation in the A-GRASS 2024 summit showcasing faculty-student collaborative research.
- August 2025: Representation at the TVET Digital Transformation Workshop in Beijing.
- October 2025: Barangay-based seminar "Drop by Drop" on water and sustainability education.
- August–September 2025: SDG-focused student-led community campaigns, e.g., health awareness, climate action, and leadership forums, documented across university portals.

Outcomes and Measurable Indicators (2024–2025)





UDM recognises that high-quality partnerships require long-term alignment, transparency, and outcomes-based tracking. The following action points will strengthen SDG 17 impact:

- Develop a centralised partnership database to log MOUs, partner types, duration, thematic focus, and beneficiaries.
- Systematically measure and report on outcome indicators: joint projects, community reach, research outputs, funding secured, and student engagement.
- Promote thematic alignment in partner selection (e.g., SDG 6 for water, SDG 13 for climate action, SDG 8 for economic growth).
- Increase engagement in south-south and triangular cooperation frameworks, especially across Southeast Asian and Global South institutions.
- Strengthen inter-agency coordination with the City Government of Manila, NGOs, and business sectors to co-develop urban resilience projects.

Through its expansion of global and local partnerships, strategic MOUs, scholarship collaborations, and multi-level engagement in community empowerment and academic consortia, UDM is demonstrably contributing to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Its efforts align with all five core dimensions of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings—societal impact, teaching, research, stewardship, and student engagement. While strategic directions are robust, further enhancement in data tracking, outcome evaluation, and cross-sector cooperation will elevate UDM's role as a hub for inclusive and transformative partnerships in Metro Manila and beyond.



Acknowledgement

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UDM Hymn
Music and Lyrics
By: Sharon Quintero (2016)

Mula sa Dilim nagkaroon ng Liwanag
Ang aking Pangarap
Yakap ng Dunong mo at Kalinga
Kinabukasan ko'y Makakamit ko na

Universidad de Manila
Ikaw ang Nagbigay Pag-asa
sa tulad naming salat
Tinupad mo ang mga Pangarap

Alma Mater naming Mahal
Natatangi ang iyong Kadakilaan
Biyaya ka ng maykapal
Ina't Amang aming gabay
Tungo sa Kaunlaran

Universidad de Manila
Sa Iyo'y Lubos ang Pasasalamat
Saan man mapunta, Ngalan mo'y Nakaukit
Di malilimutan kailanman

