SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

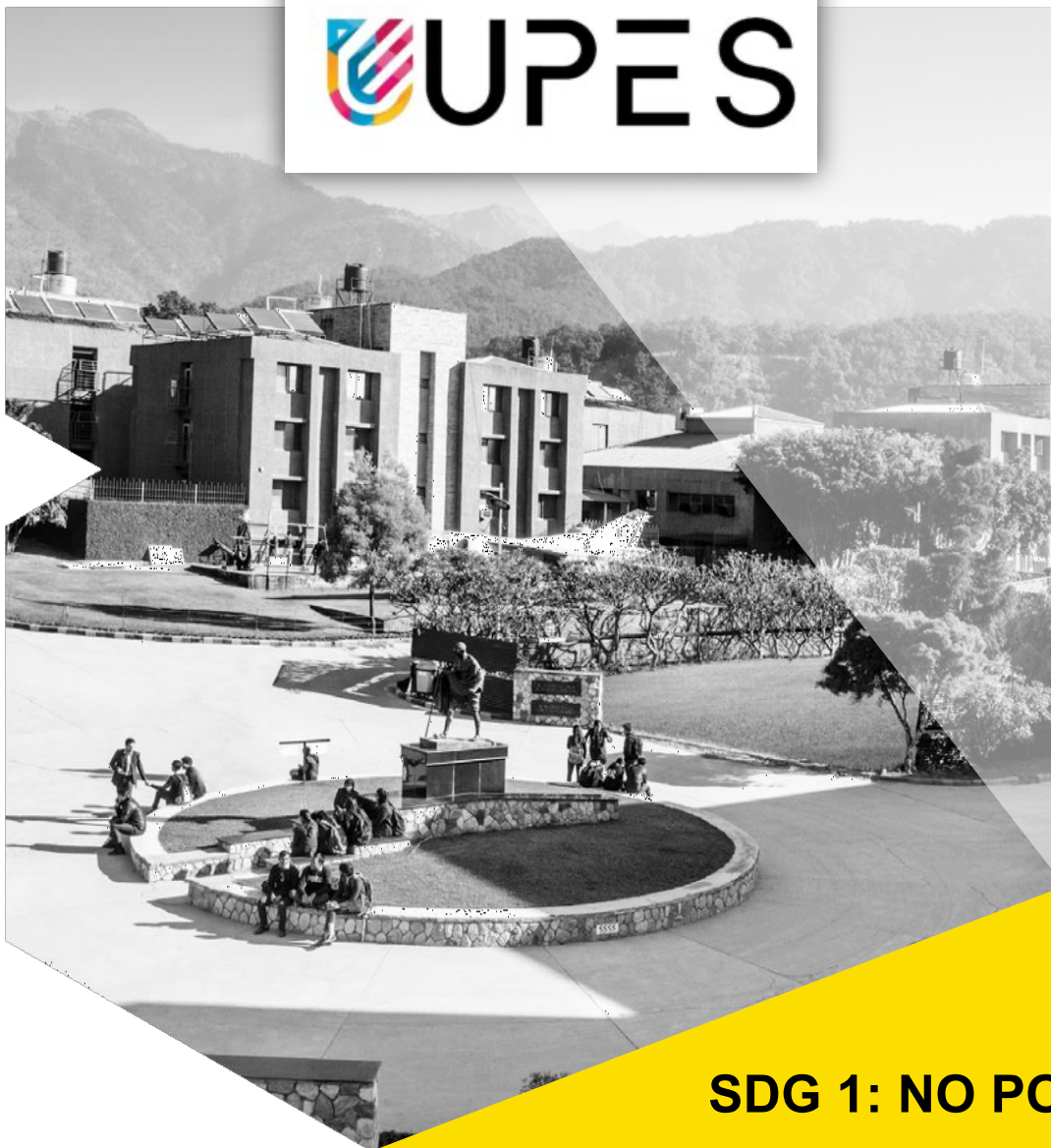**UPES**

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

2025

Table of Contents

1.4.4 Does your university as a body participate in policy making at local, regional, national and/or global level to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions?

UPES University's Role in Policy-Making to End Poverty

Local Level Participation

UPES contributes to poverty alleviation at the local community level by aligning with government initiatives and running impactful outreach programs. Key examples include:

Community Awareness and Support Drives

The university organizes local campaigns in sync with national anti-poverty efforts. For instance, UPES participates in nutrition and health awareness programs and celebrates *DaanUtsav* (the "Joy of Giving" week), during which its students and staff donated large quantities of clothes, books, toys, and other essentials that were distributed to underprivileged families in nearby slums [1]. These acts of generosity directly support the poor in the surrounding community and foster a culture of empathy.

Education and Skills at the Grassroots

UPES addresses poverty's root causes by improving local education and skills. It has established *LearnShala* learning centers in four government primary schools (e.g. in Kandoli, Misraspatti, Donga, Phulsani) to enhance infrastructure and make learning engaging for children [2]. In parallel, the university launched the *DigitalDhaam* program to teach computer and internet skills to teachers, middle-schoolers, homemakers, and others in nearby villages [3]. By boosting basic education quality and digital literacy, UPES is empowering community members with tools for better opportunities, thereby helping break the cycle of poverty at the local level.

Local Partnerships for Livelihoods

UPES collaborates with local NGOs and civil society to uplift marginalized groups. Notably, the UPES Social Internship team worked with Dehradun-based NGOs to host a community fair exhibiting products made by orphaned children, marginalized women, and small artisans [1]. This two-day "Diwali Mela" provided a platform for underprivileged groups to market their handicrafts and goods, generating income for them while sensitizing students and faculty. Such initiatives demonstrate UPES's role in implementing local poverty-reduction programs in partnership with the community.

Regional (State) Level Participation

At the state/regional level, UPES engages with the Government of Uttarakhand and various organizations to shape and execute policies aimed at reducing poverty. Examples of this engagement include:

Developing Model Communities

In partnership with the Uttarakhand state government, UPES is helping develop a *"model smart village"* in the state as a proof-of-concept for sustainable rural development [4]. This project focuses on improving healthcare, education, energy access, and livelihoods in a selected village (such as Koti in Dehradun district), and its outcomes will serve as a roadmap to uplift other remote communities across the region [4]. By piloting integrated development at the village level, UPES is directly contributing to regional policy objectives of rural poverty alleviation and could influence government strategy for scaling up such models.

Nutrition and Health Initiative

UPES has signed multiple Memoranda of Understanding with non-governmental organizations to improve the nutritional status and well-being of rural communities in Uttarakhand [1]. One significant outcome is the establishment of Uttarakhand's first Technical Support Unit (TSU) for Large-Scale Food Fortification, hosted at UPES and funded by the United Nations World Food Program in collaboration with the state government [5]. This TSU focuses on fortifying staple foods (like rice) with essential nutrients, plugging critical gaps in diet quality among the poor. By housing and staffing this unit, UPES plays an advisory and implementation role in a state-wide nutrition policy initiative, directly targeting hidden hunger and poverty-related malnutrition.

Regional Expert Networks

Through its own initiatives, UPES convenes experts and resources to address poverty in the Himalayan region. For example, *Project UK* (the India Sustainable Development & Research Collaboration) was launched to build a network of experts finding sustainable solutions for remote hill communities. This project began by modernizing small water mills to increase rural incomes, directly tackling issues of remote community poverty in Uttarakhand's mountain villages [6]. By driving such collaborative projects, the university influences regional development policies and demonstrates scalable interventions for poverty reduction tailored to local contexts.

National Level Participation

UPES extends its influence to the national level by contributing to government-led poverty alleviation programs and policy discussions. The university leverages its academic expertise and resources to support India's anti-poverty schemes in practice and policy.

Key contributions include:

Implementing National Recovery Programs

UPES was selected as an implementer and knowledge partner for India's **Community Resilience Resource Centers (CRRC)** program – an initiative by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with UNDP, to aid socio-economic recovery post COVID-19scribd.com. In this role, UPES faculty led pilot projects to build community resilience and livelihood opportunities in vulnerable areas. Notably, at the United Nations STI Forum 2023, a UPES professor highlighted the success of these CRRCs in supporting post-pandemic recovery, sharing the stage with India's DST Secretary and the UNDP Resident Representative [1]. By driving research-informed interventions and sharing insights at high-level forums, UPES directly informs national policy-makers on effective strategies to reduce poverty and build economic resilience.

Aligning with National Schemes

The university actively aligns its community development efforts with national poverty-reduction and skill-development schemes. For example, under the **Skill India Mission** (a Government of India initiative to enhance employability), UPES provided vocational training and upskilling programs to inmates of the Dehradun District Jail [7]. This program equipped incarcerated individuals – a typically marginalized and impoverished group – with job skills to improve their livelihood options upon release [7]. By implementing such government initiatives on the ground, UPES helps translate national anti-poverty policies into tangible outcomes. Moreover, the university frequently hosts and participates in national seminars, fairs, and research projects on sustainable development, ensuring that its academic output supports and influences the broader policy agenda on poverty alleviation.

Global Level Participation

At the global level, UPES demonstrates a strong commitment to the international policy discourse on ending poverty and achieves impact through cross-border partnerships. The university's engagement on a global scale is reflected in:

Participation in International Forums

UPES actively contributes to UN-led conversations on sustainable development and poverty reduction. It participated as an official knowledge partner in the 8th United Nations *Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation* (STI Forum 2023), where it helped showcase innovative

approaches to post-COVID community recovery [1]. A UPES faculty member presented the university's work on Community Resilience Resource Centers at this global forum, underlining how science and technology can accelerate poverty alleviation and resilience-building [1]. Through such engagements, UPES brings local solutions to a global stage and influences international policy dialogues aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Global Partnerships for Poverty Solutions

The university collaborates with international agencies to implement poverty-reduction programs. A notable partnership is with the **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** – UPES hosts the WFP-supported Technical Support Unit for food fortification in India (as mentioned above), linking global expertise and funding to local action against malnutrition [5]. Additionally, UPES faculty have contributed to global knowledge exchanges, such as serving as technical delegates at international conferences (e.g. the Global Micronutrient Forum 2023) to represent regional challenges and solutions in nutrition and poverty alleviation [5]. These collaborations indicate UPES's role as both a beneficiary and a contributor in global efforts to end poverty in all its forms.

Engaging the Youth in Global Policy Discourse

UPES also fosters understanding of global poverty issues among young people by hosting international student events. For example, the university's annual **UPES International Model United Nations (MUN)** conference brings together students from various countries to debate and propose solutions for issues of international importance, including challenges related to the SDGs and poverty eradication [1]. By simulating global policy-making in a campus setting, UPES cultivates future leaders who are informed and passionate about addressing poverty worldwide. This emphasis on globally aware education complements the university's direct policy engagements.

In summary, **UPES University, as an institution, actively participates in policy-making and program implementation across local, regional, national, and global levels to end poverty in all its dimensions.** Through community initiatives and local partnerships, state-level projects with government and NGOs, contributions to national schemes and forums, and involvement in international collaborations and dialogues, UPES demonstrates a holistic commitment to the cause of poverty eradication. These multifaceted efforts not only address immediate needs but also help shape broader policies and foster partnerships, thereby amplifying the university's impact on reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development [1]. Each level of engagement – from villages in Uttarakhand to United Nations platforms – shows UPES "walking the talk" in its mission to build a more equitable world, in alignment with the SDG 1 goal of *No Poverty*.

References

[1] UPES, "UPES Policy," [Online]. Available: https://www.scribd.com/document/703555550/UPES-POLICY#:~:text=Spreading%20the%20joy%20of%20giving,with%20DaanUtsav. [Accessed 09 2025].

[2] UPES, "Nurturing future leaders through learning,centres at schools," [Online]. Available: https://www.scribd.com/document/703555550/UPES-POLICY#:~:text=Nurturing%20future%20leaders%20through%20learning,centres%20at%20schools. [Accessed 09 2025].

[3] UPES, "Improving digital literacy through DigitalDhaam," [Online]. Available: https://www.scribd.com/document/703555550/UPES-POLICY#:~:text=Improving%20digital%20literacy%20through%20DigitalDhaam. [Accessed 09 2025].

[4] EIISDG 2019, "Expected regional outcomes. 2nd International Conference Workshop on Energy Innovation Initiatives for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals," [Online]. Available: https://www.hcikl.gov.in/pdf/Cover_EIISDG_2019.pdf#:~:text=Expected%20regional%20outcomes%3A%20UPES%2C%20in,in%20the%20state%20of%20Uttarakhand. [Accessed 09 2025].

[5] IILM University, "Dr. Divya Rawat," [Online]. Available: https://iilm.edu.in/dr-divya-rawat#:~:text=principal%20investigator%2C%20Dr,WFP. [Accessed 09 2025].

[6] UPES, "SDG 1: No poverty," [Online]. Available: https://www.upes.ac.in/assets/pdf/SDG17/17.3/SDG17.pdf#:~:text=Project%20UK%20,the%20hill%20communities%20in%20Uttarakhand. [Accessed 09 2025].

[7] UPES, "SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth," [Online]. Available: https://www.upes.ac.in/assets/pdf/SDG17/17.3/SDG17.pdf#:~:text=Through%20Skill%20India%20Mission%2C%20UPES,and%20creates%20opportunities%20for%20Indian. [Accessed 09 2025].