



The Role of Academic Institutions in Accelerating the Achievement of the SDGS and VISION 2030

Proposed Academia Network
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Overview of UNESCO's role in monitoring SDG indicators



**UNESCO
CUSTODIAN
AGENCY – 6
indicators**



1 indicator



1 indicator



1 indicator



1 indicator



2 indicators

**UNESCO - IOC
CUSTODIAN
AGENCY – 2
indicators**



2 indicators

**UNESCO - UIS
CUSTODIAN
AGENCY – 14
indicators**



11 indicators



2 indicators



1 indicator

Overview of UNESCO's work on SDG data and monitoring



- Data and Statistical Capacity Building
- Technical support to 2025 and 2030 benchmarking
- Follow up Transforming Education Summit
- Policy advocacy and research (SDG4 policy mapping)



Why Higher Education in Agenda 2030- SDG Academia Network ?

9 Goals mention the functions of higher education specifically in the text



1 x Agriculture
Research



1 x Research



1 x Education



1 x Education
1 x Research



1 x Education



1 x Research
1 x Science



9 x Education
1 x Higher
Education
1 x University



4 x Research



2 x Science



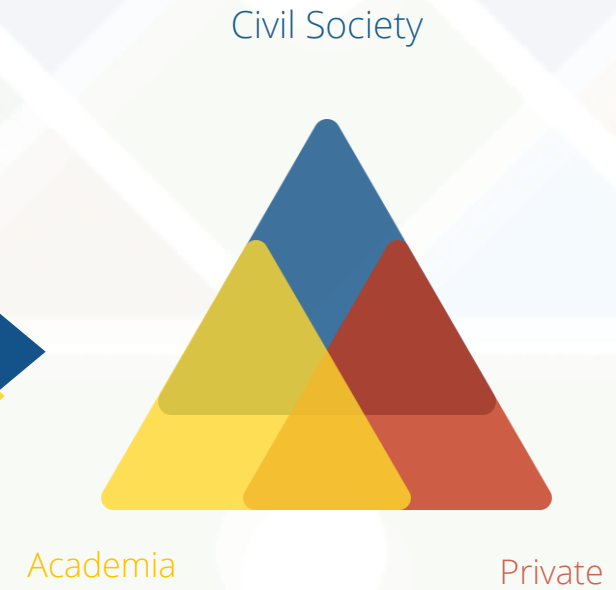
The Role of Saudi Academic Institutions in Accelerating the Achievement of the SDGS and VISION 2030

Proposed Academia Network



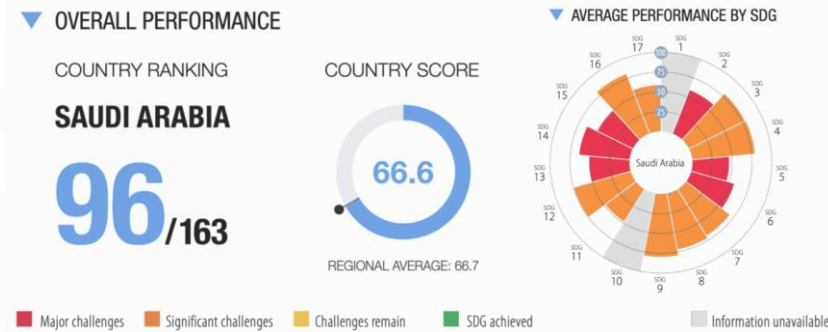


Enablers of effective Partnership



Background

IMPROVE THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNTRY SDG RANKING



IMPROVE THE OVERALL RANKING OF SAUDI UNIVERSITIES INTERNATIONALLY

- To have three Saudi universities among the top 200 worldwide by 2030

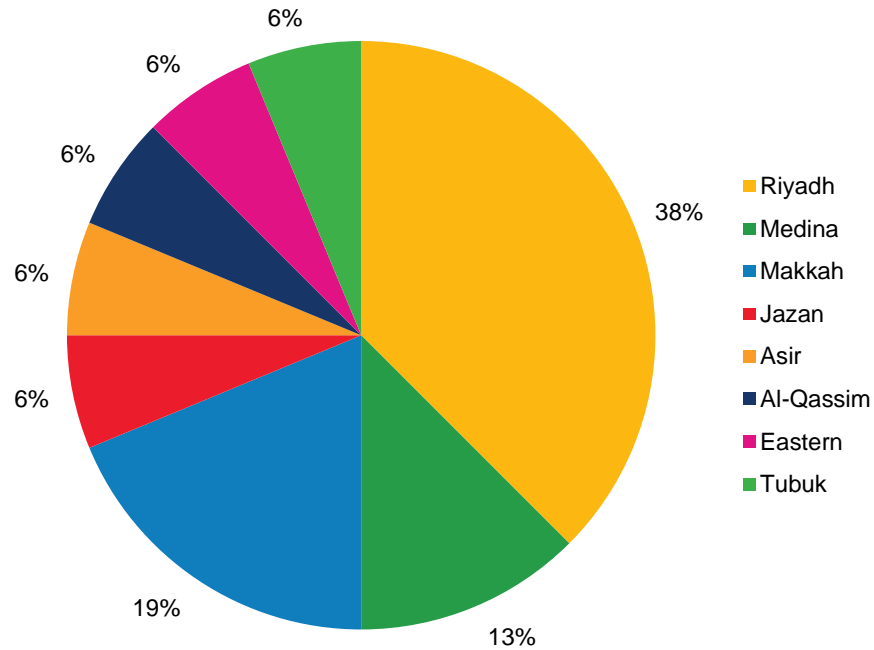


Survey Participants

Geographic Distribution of Participating Saudi Universities by Province



16 Responses



Objectives of the Proposed Academia For SDGs Network

Based on the survey, and the resulting paper “The Role of Saudi Universities in Advancing the SDGs and Saudi Vision 2030” developed by the RC Office team, the proposed objectives of an Academia for SDGs Network were as follows;

1. Create a platform that Government, academia, civil society, private sector and the UN, could use to identify gaps in quantitative and qualitative knowledge on progress on sustainable development in the Kingdom,
2. Through this platform, encourage more Saudi Universities, think tanks, research entities and researchers to undertake research on Saudi topics, and eventually globally relevant topics.

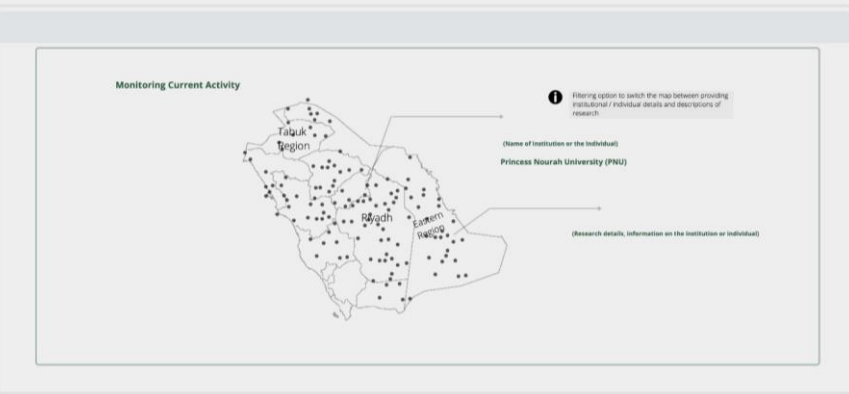
1. UNESCO Doha Regional Office-Secretariat



Proposals for the Network

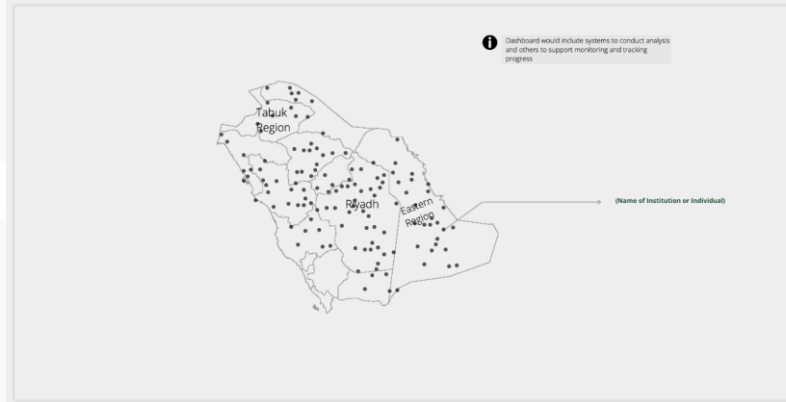
1. National Dashboard to Prompt Action for Research on the SDGs

1 The National Dashboard displays the KSA's current research activities relevant to the SDGs



Monitoring Current Research Activities

2 The Government Dashboard for Monitoring and Tracking



Government Monitoring and Tracking

3 Network for Researchers to Collaborate and Partner



Network for Researchers to Collaborate and Partner



Proposals for the Network

2. Academic Network for SDGs

The Academic Network for SDGs would utilize major streams of academia to build strong and infrastructural foundation to adhere to the fulfillment of national needs and generate effective and efficient data for the advancement of the SDGs. These major academic streams would be conveyed through four instruments:

INSTRUMENT ONE



Innovation Committee

It would focus on bringing together scholars, academics, and researchers to build infrastructure that would support more effective paths towards achieving the SDGs

INSTRUMENT TWO



Research committee

It would bring together scholars, academics, UN professionals, and researchers to explore political, economic, social, and environmental challenges to the realization of the SDGs

INSTRUMENT THREE



Financing

To address the lack of funding, the network would include a financing instrument that would function as a financing portal to provide stakeholders with two funding stream options: (1) co-funding programs, such as the Global Compact Network, and (2) Awqaf funds. The Global Compact Network is a network of companies committed to the SDGs, while the Awqaf is a key non-profit institution in Muslim societies that has played a historical role in providing social services and contributing to development

INSTRUMENT FOUR



Initiatives

It would consist of all initiatives — programs, projects, activities, etc. — produced under the Academic Network for SDG Development



Other Proposed Opportunities

1. Annual Global Research Program

The Annual Global Research Program would be a research program for students to initiate and facilitate collaboration with other national and international students on various research projects. The program would promote the integration of expertise, strengthen and support knowledge sharing processes, and promote innovation.

2. University SDG Innovation Hubs

University SDG Innovation Hubs would primarily support universities as they create and promote knowledge, integrate the SDG framework into their coursework, and inspire innovation. In addition, these SDG innovation hubs within universities would align with the given university's governance structures to further enable existing programs and projects and promote new pathways.

3. Partnerships for Greater Impact Program

The Partnerships for Greater Impact Program would bring students from different schools and regions together to participate in solving the challenges facing the Saudi Government, the private sector, and the global sphere regarding the SDGs. The program would enable college and high school students to collaborate with partners from all sectors, providing them with the chance to apply their knowledge to real SDG problems and global conditions.



Other Proposed Opportunities

4. Activate the National Platform of Volunteerism in the KSA for the SDGs

The National Platform for Volunteerism in the KSA would provide the UN with the opportunity to integrate their work and values while promoting the SDGs in local contexts. The program would be established by collaborating with schools and universities to facilitate SDG-related volunteer and partnership opportunities.

5. The SDG National Schools Program

The SDG National Schools program would enhance public education's engagement with and advancement of the SDGs by creating an interactive platform for schools to provide educational material on the SDGs, build incentives, and foster SDG implementation in schools. The platform would help nurture the young Saudi population's creative and critical skills by developing various extracurricular activities, such as dialogues, trips, workshops, and SDG volunteering opportunities.

6. National Benchmarking for the SDGs

The National Benchmarking tool would accelerate the progress of realizing the SDGs by comparing processes and performances of previous SDG scores to establish appropriate intermediate benchmarks. The benchmarking tool would serve as a reference point for the KSA to report its progress in a regular manner.

We developed two suggestions: (1) assign regional research teams to set benchmarks that would accelerate the country's SDG progress and (2) establish a group of specialists responsible for breaking down each SDG into meaningful fields of action and formulating recommendations particular to the KSA.





UIS R&D Data Collection (SDG 9.5)



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Target 9.5

Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

9.5.1: Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

Total intramural expenditure on research and experimental development (R&D) performed in the national territory during a specific reference period expressed as a percentage of national gross domestic product (GDP)

9.5.2: Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

Total number of researchers (in full-time equivalent - FTE) in the national territory during a specific reference period expressed as a proportion of a population of one million

UIS is the Custodian Agency to monitor progress towards the SDG target 9.5

Thank you

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