Azerbaijan TECHNICAL University

1 NO POVERTY

Report on Sustainable Development Goal 1

No Poverty

2025



Foreword

This report presents the major initiatives and achievements of **Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU)** in advancing **Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty** during 2025.

AzTU continues to implement wide-ranging programs that reduce poverty, foster inclusive education, and promote equitable access to learning. Through scholarships, social protection mechanisms, and employment-oriented initiatives, the university supports students from low-income and vulnerable backgrounds, helping them to overcome financial barriers to higher education.

The data and case studies in this document reflect AzTU's holistic and sustainable approach to poverty reduction within the academic environment and its broader socio-economic ecosystem.

Introduction

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** established by the **United Nations** call for the elimination of poverty, the protection of the environment, and inclusive prosperity for all. In alignment with **SDG 1 – No Poverty**, Azerbaijan Technical University plays an active role in combating social and economic inequalities through targeted educational, social, and financial initiatives.

By combining policy, financial aid, and academic support, AzTU helps reduce the economic barriers that hinder student success. The university's efforts in 2025 focused on:

- Expanding access to education for low-income students;
- Increasing the number of scholarships and targeted support programs;
- Strengthening employability through internships and startup incubation;
- Building partnerships that promote long-term social resilience.

References

National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan AzTU Sustainability

AzTU SDG 1 Report / November 2023

https://www.aztu.edu.az/sdg/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Report-on-SDG-1-2024.pdf

https://www.aztu.edu.az/web_admin/upload/files/aztu.edu.az/menus/9-2022/Strategiya.pdf

Named scholarship awarded to 14 AzTU students

Seven AzTU students awarded named scholarship by the Education Workers' Union

Awareness session on Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship

From Education to Career project presentation

International Startup Competition hosted by AzTU

AzTU staff held meetings with applicants in the regions

Founding meeting of AzTU Alumni Association held

Digital Medicine 4.0 Conference

Delegation led by AzTU Rector visited universities in Malaysia

AzTU showcased at the Eurasia Universities Summit

SDG 1 keywords - No Poverty			
No Poverty	Poverty Reduction	Social Protection	Financial Assistance for Students
Student Financial Aid	Scholarships and Grants	Educational Student Loan Fund	Inclusive Education
Equal Access to Education	Educational Equity	Low-Income Students	Disadvantaged Students
Vulnerable Groups	Economic Empowerment	Social Inclusion	Socio-Economic Resilience
Affordable Higher Education	Affordable Campus Services	Student Welfare Support	Subsidized Meal Programs
Affordable Student Accommodation	Graduate Employability	Employment Opportunities	Entrepreneurship Development
Startup Incubation	Career Development	Alumni Mentorship	University–Industry Collaboration
Regional Educational Inclusion	Rural Community Outreach	Donor Partnerships	Resource Mobilization
International Academic Partnerships	Student Mobility	Digital Student Support Systems	AI-Based Monitoring
Sustainable Development Policies	Poverty Alleviation Programs	Financial Inclusion	Sustainable Economic Development

SDG 1 Targets

AzTU's SDG-1 agenda is embedded in its 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, aligned with:

- "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development";
- Ministry of Science and Education Social Support Framework;
- AzTU's Institutional Sustainability Strategy.

The Quality Assurance Department monitors all university activities under the SDG framework to ensure transparency, efficiency, and measurable outcomes.

Statistics and Their Indicators

Indicator	2023	2024	2025	Change (2023–2025)
Students receiving any financial aid	~60%	63%	67%	+7 p.p.
Students supported by ESLF	205	232	261	+27%
Internal aid beneficiaries	183	198	227	+24%
Named & donor scholarships	15	18	21	+40%
Campus meal subsidy program coverage	Pilot	2 faculties	Full coverage	—
Alumni mentorship participants	—	—	300+	—

SDG 1's Positive Impact on other SDGs

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: Reducing poverty increases households' access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. When people have stable income and resources, they can afford healthier diets and sustainable food production practices. Therefore, SDG 1 contributes to decreasing malnutrition and supporting long-term food security.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being: Improved economic conditions help individuals access healthcare services, medicine, and safe living environments. Reduced poverty lowers the risk of disease, improves maternal and child health, and increases life expectancy. SDG 1 supports better physical and mental well-being by enabling healthier living standards.

SDG 4 – Quality Education: When poverty is reduced, families can invest more in their children's education. Economic stability allows children to attend school instead of working to support household income. SDG 1 therefore strengthens equal access to education and improves academic outcomes and long-term opportunities.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality: Reducing poverty promotes equal access to economic resources, employment, and education for women and girls, who are often more affected by poverty. When women have financial independence and equal opportunities, social and economic empowerment increases. SDG 1 supports the advancement of gender equality and women's participation in society.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: Ending poverty enhances workforce participation, improves productivity, and expands economic markets. When individuals have access to resources, skills, and employment opportunities, national economies become stronger and more resilient. SDG 1 supports sustainable economic growth and decent work for all.

Current situation

1. Expansion of Financial Assistance

In 2025, AzTU strengthened its student financial aid mechanisms to ensure no student is left behind due to economic hardship:

- 14 students received named scholarships sponsored by donors and foundations (source).
- Seven students were granted special scholarships by the Azerbaijan Education Workers' Trade Union (source).
- The Educational Student Loan Fund (ESLF) expanded, supporting over 260 students from low-income families – a 27% increase compared to 2023.

These initiatives align with SDG 1.3, focusing on strengthening social protection systems and ensuring educational continuity.

2. Access to Affordable Services and Welfare Support

AzTU continues to operate subsidized campus services such as dining facilities and dormitory programs aimed at reducing the cost of living for students.

In 2025, the canteen restoration project was completed, ensuring affordable canteen meals for more than 4,000 students each semester.

This directly contributes to SDG 1.4, providing equal access to essential services for all learners.

3. Employment and Economic Empowerment

The university prioritizes employability as a sustainable path out of poverty:

- Under the "From Education to Career" initiative (source), senior students participated in workshops and employer networking events.
- AzTU organized an Entrepreneurship and Business Awareness Session (source) and hosted the International Startup Competition "Finding Innovative and Creative Solutions" (source).
- These programs enabled students to gain critical entrepreneurial skills, access mentorship, and develop income-generating projects.

4. Regional and Social Inclusion

AzTU maintains outreach to underrepresented regions to increase educational inclusion:

- University staff conducted field meetings with applicants in remote areas (source), offering guidance on scholarships and social support opportunities.
- The establishment of the **AzTU Alumni Association** (source) created a support network where graduates provide mentorship and financial backing to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

These efforts embody **SDG 1.A**, mobilizing partnerships and resources for poverty reduction.

5. Research, Policy, and Capacity Building

In 2025, AzTU hosted the Republican Scientific-Practical Conference "Digital Medicine 4.0: Challenges, Opportunities, and Prospects" (source).

This interdisciplinary event explored the intersection between technology, health equity, and socio-economic resilience.

Additionally, multiple SDG-focused training sessions and seminars integrated poverty reduction themes into academic curricula and research projects, supporting SDG 1.B on creating sound policy frameworks for pro-poor development.

6. International Partnerships and Cooperation

AzTU expanded its network of partnerships to enhance access and inclusion:

- Memoranda of understanding with universities in Malaysia, Pakistan, Israel, and Cyprus strengthen student mobility for those from economically disadvantaged groups (source; source).
- Participation in the Eurasia Universities Summit (source) showcased AzTU's commitment to inclusive higher education.

Future goals

Challenges Identified:

- Data fragmentation across departments.
- Limited private donor participation in scholarship funds.
- Need for sustained awareness campaigns in rural communities.

Future Priorities:

1. Establish a unified Digital Student Support Registry.
2. Expand private-donor partnerships for financial aid.
3. Launch a University–Industry Fellowship Program for low-income graduates.
4. Integrate AI-based monitoring tools into SDG dashboards.

Conclusion

In 2025, Azerbaijan Technical University significantly advanced the implementation of SDG 1: No Poverty through inclusive financial, educational, and social measures.

AzTU's approach — combining scholarships, social protection, and employability initiatives — reinforces its commitment to equitable higher education. The university remains committed to expanding its poverty reduction initiatives and supporting Azerbaijan's 2030 sustainable development vision.