# SDG 17

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

### THE IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE REPORT

# Indicator 17.2.5

## Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs

**University of Bahrain**

**2024-2025**

# Executive summary

The University of Bahrain (UoB) demonstrates sustained, structured collaboration with national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the development of educational resources, joint research programs, and student volunteering initiatives. Fully aligned with THE Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.5, UoB embeds these partnerships across Islamic finance, engineering, human rights, entrepreneurship, heritage preservation, and public health.

The institutional framework unites UoB with organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UN-Habitat, INJAZ Bahrain, the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, Special Olympics Bahrain, and ISACA Bahrain Chapter to drive community action, curriculum reform, and student-led engagement.

**Key Achievements**

- **Curriculum Integration & Educational Resources:** Partnering with UNDP to launch a groundbreaking academic program embedding SDGs across university courses, alongside hosting international initiatives like the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for ICT in Education.
- **Joint Research Programs:** Collaborating with UN-Habitat on mangrove ecosystem restoration and environmental-socioeconomic assessments in Tubli Bay, as well as advancing technological innovations through the 3rd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH).
- **Student Volunteering & Community Outreach:** Mobilizing hundreds of students for health-screening workshops with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, blood pressure campaigns with the Bahrain Diabetes Society, inclusive sports initiatives with Special Olympics Bahrain, and community support programs with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation.

**Impact Highlights**

- **Comprehensive SDG Curriculum:** Successfully launched joint UOB-UNDP certification pathways, integrating sustainable development goals and human rights principles directly into foundational courses across disciplines.
- **Active Civic Engagement:** Hundreds of student and faculty volunteers deployed across community health campaigns, inclusive sports festivals for people of determination, and humanitarian relief drives.

- **Applied Environmental Research:** Long-term multidisciplinary research partnerships with UN-Habitat evaluating mangrove carbon stocks and ecosystem resilience in Tubli Bay.

Together, these documented initiatives provide comprehensive institutional evidence that the University of Bahrain actively collaborates with NGOs and international bodies through educational resources, joint research, and student volunteering to advance the SDGs, fulfilling all requirements for Indicator 17.2.5.

# Table of Contents

Executive summary ..... 2

1. University of Bahrain Hosts UNESCO King Hamad Prize for Global Collaboration on Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Education ..... 5

2. UOB–UNDP Partnership Embeds SDGs and Human Rights Across the University Curriculum ..... 6

3. Sustained Collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain for Student Employability, Entrepreneurship, and Career Development ..... 7

4. Masterclass with Industry Leader Strengthens Student Capacity Building and Industry Engagement ..... 8

5. Collaboration with Bahrain Red Crescent Society to Build Volunteer Capacity for Community Health Screening ..... 10

6. First Aid and CPR Education in Collaboration with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society ..... 11

7. Collaboration with Bahrain Diabetes Society for Community Hypertension Screening and Prevention ..... 13

8. Student Volunteering and Inclusive Sport Collaboration with Special Olympics Bahrain ..... 15

9. Collaboration with Sport for Life Society to Advance Physical Literacy Education and Community Health ..... 17

10. NGO Collaboration to Support Women's Professional Development in Technology ..... 18

11. Student Volunteering with ISACA Bahrain Chapter to Support Community Food Assistance ..... 20

12. Student Volunteering with ISACA Bahrain and the Royal Humanitarian Foundation to Support Children ..... 21

13. Collaboration with the ISACA Foundation to Support UOB Students in Technology and Cybersecurity ..... 22

14. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange for Sustainable Heritage ..... 23

15. International Collaboration for Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration and Management ..... 24

1. University of Bahrain Hosts UNESCO King Hamad Prize for Global Collaboration on Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Education




In October 2025, the University of Bahrain hosted the 2025 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICT in Education, marking the first time the award ceremony was held outside UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The ceremony was organized by UNESCO and Bahrain's Ministry of Education, positioning UOB as the higher-education host for an international initiative advancing digital education, educational innovation, and sustainable development.

Established in 2005 through Bahrain's partnership with UNESCO, the Prize recognizes innovative projects by individuals, educational and research institutions, NGOs, and other educational organizations. Its objectives are explicitly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 4, promoting educational innovation and best-practice exchange, reducing the digital divide, and expanding educational opportunities for marginalized groups. Over its first 20 years, the Prize recognized 34 innovative projects from 21 countries, establishing an international platform for sharing expertise and effective approaches to ICT-enabled education.

UOB's contribution extended beyond hosting the international ceremony. Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al-Ansari, President of the University of Bahrain, served as a member of the jury evaluating the AI-related projects, contributing UOB's higher-education expertise to the international assessment and recognition of innovative approaches to responsible technology use in education. This institutional expert participation strengthens UOB's role in international knowledge exchange and collaboration around sustainable educational practice.

The 2025 theme, “Preparing Learners and Educators for the Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence,” brought together UNESCO, government, higher education, educational institutions, NGOs, foundations, and international innovators. Four initiatives from Belgium, Brazil, Egypt, and the United Kingdom were recognized, reflecting the Prize's cross-sector and international reach.

Through institutional hosting and expert participation in the international jury, the University of Bahrain contributed directly to a UNESCO-led collaboration involving governmental, educational, and non-governmental stakeholders to identify, recognize, and disseminate innovative practices supporting SDG 4, inclusive digital education, responsible AI, educational access, and knowledge-sharing. This demonstrates UOB's active engagement with external organizations, including NGOs and international education partners, to advance SDG-related educational practice.

**Evidence Source:** https://www.crownprince.bh/en/news/91488/

## 2. UOB–UNDP Partnership Embeds SDGs and Human Rights Across the University Curriculum




In December 2024, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Bahrain launched a structured academic program to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into UOB's curriculum, translating international sustainable development priorities into formal higher education. The initiative introduced SDG-focused content into first-year English courses alongside specialized courses in science and law, with students completing designated courses receiving joint UOB–UNDP certification.

The collaboration complements UOB's broader institutional integration of sustainability and rights-based education. UOB delivers HRLC107 Principles of Human Rights as a university-wide compulsory course for undergraduate students across colleges, embedding human rights principles within the educational experience of the undergraduate student body. Together with the UOB–UNDP SDG curriculum initiative, this creates a structured approach to developing student understanding of human rights, equality, social inclusion, responsible governance, and sustainable development.

UNDP Bahrain emphasized that integrating the SDGs into higher education develops both theoretical understanding and students' practical capacity for sustainability action. Dr. Fuad Mohammed Alansari, President of UOB, similarly emphasized preparing students to develop innovative solutions aligned with the SDGs and respond to challenges including climate change and social inequalities.

Through its continuing collaboration with UNDP and the institutional integration of SDG and human rights education, UOB demonstrates how partnership with an international development organization is translated into sustained curriculum-level action. The initiative strengthens sustainability literacy across disciplines, builds student capacity to address interconnected social and environmental challenges, and embeds knowledge relevant to the implementation of the SDGs within higher education.

**Evidence Source:**

- https://www.undp.org/bahrain/press-releases/undp-and-university-bahrain-launch-groundbreaking-sdgs-academic-program
- https://www.uob.edu.bh/undp-and-uob-launch-groundbreaking-sdgs-academic-program/

## 3. Sustained Collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain for Student Employability, Entrepreneurship, and Career Development

During 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain maintained an ongoing collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain, a nonprofit youth-development organization, to deliver structured educational programs in employability, entrepreneurship, innovation, and career readiness. The partnership combined INJAZ Bahrain's educational programs with UOB learning and private-sector expertise through recurring HeadStart workshops, I Camps, mentoring, and student enterprise initiatives.



The HeadStart program strengthened students' work-readiness skills through practical training in CV and cover-letter preparation, interviews, professional communication, and internship readiness. Industry professionals contributed directly to delivery, including representatives from Bapco Gas and Regal Gulf Training Center. On May 7, 2025, approximately 260 UOB students participated in a HeadStart career-skills workshop led by a Bapco Gas human-resources professional.

Through the INJAZ I Camp, students developed entrepreneurship, teamwork, creative problem-solving, planning, and pitching skills while working on real business challenges. Industry professionals also transferred practical expertise, including an ALBA representative who trained students in pitching, customer communication, marketing, and effective team presentation.

The wider collaboration connected students to INJAZ Bahrain's Company Program, Youth Festival, competitions, hackathons, and innovation activities. In 2025, UOB teams received recognition in the Young Entrepreneurs Competition, including awards for global impact, product development, and financial performance, with the TABOG team developing eco-friendly bricks from recycled plastic and glass.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through sustained collaboration with a nonprofit organization on structured educational programs and student capacity development. It supports SDG 4 through experiential education, SDG 8 through employability and entrepreneurship, SDG 9 through innovation skills, and SDG 12 through sustainability-oriented student enterprise.

**Evidence Source:**

https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-organizes-injaz-i-camp-in-cooperation-with-injaz-bahrain/

## 4. Masterclass with Industry Leader Strengthens Student Capacity Building and Industry Engagement




The University of Bahrain's AIChE Student Chapter hosted Eng. Khalid Ali Salem, an internationally recognized entrepreneur and business leader, for an entrepreneurship and leadership session aimed at strengthening student capacity building through engagement with external stakeholders. The session facilitated industry-academia collaboration, enabling students to benefit from knowledge exchange, professional mentorship, and practical insights into innovation, leadership, corporate governance, and sustainable business development.

By connecting students with an experienced industry leader, the initiative enhanced professional skills development, entrepreneurial competencies, and employability readiness, while promoting experiential learning and lifelong learning. This engagement reflects the University of Bahrain's commitment to fostering stakeholder

partnerships, facilitating knowledge transfer, and providing students with real-world learning opportunities that support sustainable capacity development and future workforce preparedness.

**Evidence News**: https://www.uob.edu.bh/entrepreneurship-session-inspires-future-engineers-at-uob-aiche-chapter/

## 5. Collaboration with Bahrain Red Crescent Society to Build Volunteer Capacity for Community Health Screening



In July 2025, the University of Bahrain collaborated with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) to deliver a specialized health-training workshop for Red Crescent

volunteers at the Society's headquarters. Organized with the BRCS Health Awareness Committee, the program was designed to equip community volunteers with practical health skills for emergency support, health awareness, and future community outreach.

UOB academics delivered intensive hands-on training that taught volunteers how to accurately measure blood pressure and blood glucose, both important primary-care screening skills. Volunteers also developed their health-communication skills, including how to explain results and advise individuals when readings are above or below healthy ranges.

Importantly, the collaboration was designed to build sustainable volunteer capacity beyond the workshop itself. The training prepared BRCS volunteers to participate in future diabetes and hypertension screening and awareness campaigns, enabling trained volunteers to apply their new knowledge with families and the wider community. The partnership therefore extends UOB's preventive-health expertise beyond the campus by strengthening an NGO's volunteer capacity to deliver community health outreach.







The initiative demonstrates a clear university-NGO-volunteer pathway: UOB contributes academic and health expertise; the Bahrain Red Crescent Society mobilizes its volunteer network; volunteers receive practical screening and health-communication training; and those skills are subsequently available for community awareness and screening activities.

This initiative directly advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through collaboration with a non-governmental humanitarian organization on a volunteer capacity-

building program, combining practical training, health education, and preparation for community outreach. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by strengthening community capacity for early detection, diabetes and hypertension awareness, preventive health education, and basic health screening.

**Supporting evidence**

- Bahrain Red Crescent Society: Volunteer Health Capacity Building
- Supporting social media evidence

## 6. First Aid and CPR Education in Collaboration with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society





In November, 2025, the University of Bahrain's Community Service and Continuing Education Center collaborated with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) to deliver the interactive first aid awareness workshop "With Your Hands, You Save a Life." Organized in conjunction with World Restart a Heart Day, the activity brought together university students and BRCS health professionals and volunteers to strengthen practical emergency-response knowledge and life-saving skills.

The workshop formed part of the supplementary learning activities for the "Health, Safety and Nutrition for Children" course for fourth-year Bahrain Teachers College students and also attracted participants from other UOB colleges. This integration of NGO expertise into university education provided students with practical learning beyond the classroom while preparing future educators and other participants to respond more effectively to health emergencies.

Training focused on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), current first aid practices, emergency response, and correcting common health misconceptions, including distinguishing between cardiac arrest and a heart attack. Practical instruction was provided by a multidisciplinary BRCS team comprising certified first aid trainers, nurses, a general practitioner, a former Civil Defence trainer, and youth volunteers.

The collaboration demonstrates a clear NGO-university educational partnership in which the Bahrain Red Crescent Society contributed professional and volunteer expertise to strengthen students' health knowledge and practical emergency-response competencies. By building life-saving skills among students, including future teachers, the initiative creates wider capacity for health awareness and emergency preparedness within schools and the community.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through collaboration with a non-governmental humanitarian organization on health education, volunteer engagement, practical training, and educational capacity building. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by strengthening CPR, first aid, and emergency-response capacity and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by integrating practical, community-based health education into students' learning experience.

**Evidence Source:** **"With Your Hands, You Save a Life" First Aid Workshop with Bahrain Red Crescent Society**

## 7. Collaboration with Bahrain Diabetes Society for Community Hypertension Screening and Prevention

During May and June 2025, the University of Bahrain participated with the Bahrain Diabetes Society in the annual “May Measurement Month” campaign, a community health initiative designed to raise awareness of hypertension and encourage early detection among adults across the Kingdom of Bahrain.






The collaboration extended preventive health activities beyond the University campus through free blood-pressure screening and health education delivered by medical teams and volunteers in shopping malls, public spaces, and health centers. Community members were encouraged to monitor their blood pressure regularly and were provided with information on the health risks associated with uncontrolled hypertension, including heart disease, stroke, and kidney complications.

The initiative demonstrates a practical university-NGO collaboration for community health, combining professional health knowledge, volunteer participation, public screening, and preventive health education. Importantly, the activity translated health awareness into direct community action by providing individuals with access to a basic health measurement that can support early identification of hypertension risk and timely preventive action.

Through participation in a sustained community campaign led by the Bahrain Diabetes Society, UOB contributed its institutional and health expertise to wider efforts to improve public understanding of hypertension and promote preventive healthcare. The initiative therefore links NGO collaboration, community outreach, volunteer engagement, health education, and screening activities around a measurable public-health challenge.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through collaboration with a health-focused non-governmental organization on a community program involving volunteer participation, health education, screening, and preventive outreach. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting early detection of

hypertension, cardiovascular disease prevention, health literacy, and community-based preventive care.



**Evidence Source:** May Measurement Month community screening campaign

## 8. Student Volunteering and Inclusive Sport Collaboration with Special Olympics Bahrain



The University of Bahrain maintains an ongoing inclusive-sport collaboration with Special Olympics Bahrain through the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools initiative, combining student volunteering, inclusive education, community engagement, and sport to promote the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. UOB established a dedicated committee and an approved implementation plan for the 2025–2026 academic year, with regular progress follow-up and reporting to the College of Health and Sport Sciences.

As part of this structured program, the Department of Physical Education collaborated with Special Olympics Bahrain for the International Day of Inclusion on December 1, 2025. UOB opened its campus sports facilities to community participants and delivered a program combining disability awareness, inclusive sport, and volunteering. Athletes with disabilities shared their experiences with students enrolled in Physical Education for People with Special Needs, connecting community participation directly with students' academic learning.



Physical Education students served as volunteers, operating inclusive activity stations, guiding participants, and adapting movement activities to participants' abilities. Activities included target throwing, balance and stepping exercises, adapted movement challenges, and other inclusive games. This enabled students to transform classroom learning into practical community volunteering and inclusive-sport support, while UOB shared its sports hall, court, and equipment with community participants.

Importantly, the collaboration forms part of a regular, planned program rather than a one-off activity. Under the approved Unified Champion Schools plan, four inclusive activities were conducted from October to December 2025: Community Inclusion Day with 108 participants, Unified 3×3 Basketball with 35 participants, the "Will and Leadership" event with 120 participants, and the Unified Basketball League with 54 players. In total, 317 participants took part, including UOB students, players with intellectual disabilities, and community partners. The committee's final report confirms that all activities in the approved plan were implemented.



The partnership also embeds inclusive sport within the University's educational mission. These activities are integrated into ongoing teaching in the B.Sc. Physical Education program, creating a sustained connection between student education, volunteering, disability inclusion, and community engagement.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through a structured collaboration with Special Olympics Bahrain involving student volunteering, an organized annual program, practical education, community engagement, and sustained inclusive activities. It directly supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by reducing barriers to participation in sport for people with intellectual disabilities and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting physical activity, inclusive sport, and community well-being. It also supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by integrating experiential learning and inclusive practice into Physical Education students' academic preparation.

**Supporting evidence**

- **UOB Hosts Sports Festival for People of Determination**
- **Special Olympics Bahrain**

## 9. Collaboration with Sport for Life Society to Advance Physical Literacy Education and Community Health

During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain collaborated with the Bahrain Olympic Committee, Bahrain Olympic Academy, and Canada's Sport for Life Society to host Bahrain's first International Physical Literacy Conference. Sport for Life Society is a Canadian national not-for-profit organization focused on physical literacy, quality sport, education, and active lifestyles, and explicitly aligns its work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.




*Figure 1 Figure 1 Closing ceremony of the conference and launch of the physical literacy book, in the presence of the President of the University of Bahrain*

The collaboration delivered an extensive educational and capacity-building program for physical education students, teachers, coaches, sports federations, clubs, and community participants. International specialists from Sport for Life Society worked alongside UOB and Bahrain Olympic Academy lecturers to share expertise in physical literacy, fundamental movement skills, long-term athlete development, meaningful competition, and lifelong participation in physical activity.

The educational collaboration extended from lectures into practical application. UOB opened its sports hall and equipment to conference participants, where international experts and local lecturers delivered hands-on training in movement preparation, agility and footwork, reaction activities, team relays, strength challenges, and small-sided games. 780 UOB students participated alongside physical education teachers, coaches, national sporting organizations, and members of the wider sporting community.

The partnership also contributed to the dissemination of educational knowledge through the launch of the physical literacy book Sports for Life by the Bahrain Olympic Academy. Together, the conference activities provided a structured mechanism for NGO-university knowledge exchange, educational resource dissemination, professional capacity building, and community-focused physical-literacy education.




*Figure 2 Practical sessions in the University of Bahrain sports hall (team games across the full court, footwork and agility drills, a push-up challenge and a team relay) and international experts leading sessions during the conference*

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through UOB's collaboration with an international not-for-profit organization to support educational activities, capacity building, knowledge transfer, and dissemination of physical-literacy resources. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting lifelong physical activity and disease prevention and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening physical-literacy education and professional learning for students, teachers, and coaches.

**Evidence Sources**

- **Bahrain welcomes 780 students to first Physical Literacy Conference**
- **Bahrain Olympic Committee: Conference conclusion and book launch**
- **Bahrain Olympic Academy: International Physical Literacy Conference Bahrain 2024**
- **Sport for Life**

## 10. NGO Collaboration to Support Women's Professional Development in Technology

On April 29, 2025, the University of Bahrain partnered with AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation and ISACA Bahrain Chapter to support the "Women in Tech" learning event hosted at BIBF. The initiative brought together higher education, a philanthropic foundation, a professional technology organization, and a financial training institution to strengthen women's participation, professional learning, and career development in technology.

The free educational program combined professional learning with real-world experiences of innovation, leadership, resilience, and career development in technology. The program included "The Sky Wasn't the Limit," followed by the panel discussion "Real Stories, Real Impact: Women Who Inspire" and an interactive Q&A session. Participants were also eligible for two Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours through ISACA, strengthening the professional-development dimension of the activity.




The collaboration connected academic communities with professional networks and external expertise, providing participants with access to practical knowledge, role models, and professional learning relevant to technology careers. It demonstrates how UOB works with external nonprofit and professional organizations to deliver educational opportunities supporting professional development and more inclusive participation in technology.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through partnership with external philanthropic and professional organizations on an educational activity designed to strengthen skills, professional knowledge, and career development. It directly contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by supporting women's participation and leadership in technology, SDG 4 (Quality Education) through professional learning and continuing education, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through career development and professional capacity building.

**Evidence Source:**
https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-partnership-with-almabarrah-alkhalifia-foundation-and-isaca-bahrain-chapter-tech-talk-women-in-tech/

## 11. Student Volunteering with ISACA Bahrain Chapter to Support Community Food Assistance




On March, 2025, University of Bahrain students, together with Dr. Mazen Ali, Dean of the College of Information Technology, participated with ISACA Bahrain Chapter in a Ramadan community charity initiative centered on volunteer service and community solidarity. Volunteers distributed iftar meals to members of the wider community, translating institutional and professional collaboration into direct community action.






The initiative provided UOB students with an opportunity to participate in organized community volunteering alongside members of a professional organization. Through meal distribution, participants contributed directly to community food support while developing values of civic responsibility, social solidarity, ethical leadership, and community engagement.

The participation of both UOB students and academic leadership demonstrates institutional engagement beyond individual volunteering. The collaboration connected the University community with ISACA Bahrain Chapter around a shared social objective and encouraged students to apply the values of service and professional responsibility beyond the classroom.

The initiative directly contributes to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) through community food assistance and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by supporting inclusive community solidarity and assistance. It also reinforces SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by connecting higher education and a professional organization through coordinated community action.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through student volunteering, community engagement, professional-organization collaboration, civic participation, and coordinated action addressing community needs.

**Evidence Source:** ISACA Bahrain Chapter Holds Ramadan Iftar Charity Initiative to Spread Kindness and Community Solidarity

## 12. Student Volunteering with ISACA Bahrain and the Royal Humanitarian Foundation to Support Children




On October, 2025, University of Bahrain faculty members and students volunteered alongside ISACA Bahrain Chapter in the *"Children's Movie Day"* community initiative organized in partnership with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF). The activity formed part of ISACA Community Day, an annual global initiative that mobilizes ISACA members and partners for community service.

The initiative supported children under the care of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation through a dedicated community activity that included a morning cinema experience followed by lunch. UOB student and faculty volunteers participated alongside ISACA Bahrain members, contributing directly to the delivery of the activity and strengthening engagement between higher education, professional networks, humanitarian organizations, and the community.

Importantly, the activity reflects more than one-time participation. The evidence documents the frequent involvement of UOB faculty members and students in ISACA Bahrain's national volunteering and outreach activities, demonstrating an ongoing culture of student volunteering, community service, professional responsibility, and civic engagement.

The collaboration provided UOB students with practical opportunities to apply ethical leadership, social responsibility, civic empathy, and community engagement beyond the classroom while supporting children through a humanitarian partnership.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.5 (Collaboration with NGOs for the SDGs) through collaboration with professional and humanitarian organizations involving student volunteering, organized community service, sustained outreach, and direct community engagement. It directly

supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through community well-being and positive social experiences for children and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by supporting children receiving assistance through the Royal Humanitarian Foundation. It also reinforces SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by connecting academia, professional organizations, and humanitarian institutions around shared community objectives.

**Evidence Source:** UOB Volunteers Join ISACA Bahrain's Children's Movie Day in Partnership with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation

## 13. Collaboration with the ISACA Foundation to Support UOB Students in Technology and Cybersecurity

In 2025, the University of Bahrain collaborated with the ISACA Foundation and ISACA Bahrain Chapter on a scholarship initiative that provided 20 scholarships to students from UOB's College of Information Technology. The scholarships supported students pursuing academic and professional development in information technology, cybersecurity, IT audit, risk management, and digital governance.




The initiative combined financial assistance with access to professional and developmental resources available through ISACA's global education programs, expanding educational opportunities for UOB students while strengthening their preparation for careers in high-demand technology and digital fields.

The partnership links university education with an international professional network and supports the development of national digital talent. By targeting College of Information Technology students, the initiative strengthens competencies relevant to cybersecurity, information systems, technology governance, risk management, and IT audit, helping align higher education with emerging workforce requirements in Bahrain's digital economy.

The initiative directly contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through 20 targeted scholarships and professional-development opportunities, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through employability and career preparation, and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through capacity development in cybersecurity and digital technologies. It also supports SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through collaboration between the University, an international foundation, and a professional technology organization.

For SDG 17.2.5, this provides useful supporting evidence of collaboration with an external foundation to expand students' educational and professional-development opportunities. However, I would still prioritize your Special Olympics Bahrain, Bahrain Red Crescent, and ISACA/Royal Humanitarian Foundation volunteering initiatives for 17.2.5 because those more directly satisfy THE's stated collaboration mechanisms.

**Evidence Source**

University of Bahrain, ISACA Foundation and ISACA Bahrain Scholarship Initiative

## 14. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange for Sustainable Heritage



The University of Bahrain organized the 3rd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2025) as an international platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of approaches to sustainable heritage conservation. The conference brought together 153 researchers, with 34 peer-reviewed papers representing 21 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

The conference connected academic research with professional and governmental heritage expertise. The opening program included the Director General of Heritage at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, who shared Bahrain's experience in protecting heritage and adapting it for contemporary use, alongside the UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Urban Regions at NED University, who addressed the contribution of heritage conservation to sustainable cities and communities. The conference also provided hands-on workshops on smart digital tools for heritage applications, supporting practical exchange of expertise.

This international exchange was reinforced through applied research sharing different approaches to heritage preservation. Published conference research included Drone: Sustainable Technologies in Heritage Preservation Projects, addressing technology-supported heritage documentation with particular reference to Bahrain, and From Concrete to Code: Digital Tools for Documenting and Revitalizing Manama’s Modernist Heritage, examining digital documentation, analysis, adaptive reuse, and sustainable urban conservation. The proceedings also included research on AI and co-creation in heritage preservation and digital-twin approaches to heritage and public-space management, further extending the exchange of technology-enabled conservation practices.

Through ICSH 2025, UOB therefore contributed to international collaboration on SDG-related good practice by convening researchers and heritage-sector stakeholders to exchange expertise, research findings, technological approaches, and sustainable conservation practices. The initiative created a recurring institutional mechanism for sharing knowledge and approaches relevant particularly to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The conference has been organized annually by UOB since 2023, strengthening the evidence that this is an established collaborative platform rather than a one-off activity.

**Evidence source:**

- Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-conference-explores-heritage-sustainability-amid-global-digital-developments/
- Conference website: https://icsh.uob.edu.bh/
- Conference Proceeding: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/11547911/proceeding

## 15. International Collaboration for Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration and Management

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the University of Bahrain (UOB) engaged in an ongoing research collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) supporting the restoration and sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem in Tubli Bay. The UOB research project contributes to a broader partnership involving UN-Habitat, Bahrain's Supreme Council for Environment, and HSBC.

UOB contributes multidisciplinary scientific expertise from its Colleges of Engineering and Science to generate applied knowledge for sustainable ecosystem management. The research integrates environmental assessment of the Ras Sanad mangrove ecosystem with a socioeconomic assessment of Tubli Bay. Areas of investigation include vegetation and biomass, carbon stocks, water quality, soil and sediment characteristics, pollutants, community use patterns, visitor preferences, and the economic value of ecosystem services.

A significant element of the collaboration is the application and exchange of scientific approaches and sustainable-management practices with UN-Habitat. The resulting evidence is intended to

contribute to environmental planning, decision-making, and sustainable coastal management in Bahrain, connecting international sustainable-development expertise with UOB's local scientific knowledge and national environmental priorities.

The collaboration also integrates capacity building into the research process. UOB students, including internship students, participate in field research, data collection and analysis, including implementation of the socioeconomic study in collaboration with UN-Habitat.

This ongoing partnership provides strong evidence for SDG 17.2.5 by demonstrating UOB's collaboration with an international United Nations organization to apply and exchange knowledge and research approaches supporting sustainable ecosystem restoration and management. It contributes particularly to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Evidence Resource: https://www.uob.edu.bh/sustainability/uob-and-undp-partnership/