

REPORT OF SDGS 1: NO POVERTY

Strengthening Communities through Education and Economic Empowerment: USK's SDG 1 Journey



UNIVERSITAS SYIAH KUALA
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
2023

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Strengthening Communities through Education and Economic Empowerment: USK's SDG 1 Journey"

Universitas Syiah Kuala (USK) is dedicated to fighting poverty through several impactful programs. It supports low-income students by offering scholarships and financial assistance, ensuring access to education. USK also empowers local communities with skills training and resources to foster economic growth. These initiatives align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, "No Poverty," which seeks to end poverty everywhere.

1. Financial Aid for Low-Income Students

A core aspect of Universitas Syiah Kuala's anti-poverty initiatives is providing financial aid to support students from low-income backgrounds in completing their studies. USK offers a range of scholarships, including Kartu Indonesia Pintar-Kuliah/Bidikmisi (KIP-K), *Afirmasi Pendidikan Tinggi*, *Aceh Carong*, *ADIK Difabel*, *ADIK Papua*, *Astra*, *Karya Salemba Empat (KSE)*, and *OSAKA GAS Japan*, among others. Additionally, USK supports international students from low-income countries through the *Kemitraan Negara Berkembang (KNB) Scholarship*. In 2023, 6,332 undergraduate students, or 22.6% of the total undergraduate population, received KIP-K, with an additional 1,586 students benefiting from other scholarships.

USK also provides a range of additional support services to ensure these students can complete their studies. The *Rumah Amal* USK, a center focused on community service and social welfare in USK, assists with emergency financial needs, subsidized housing, and other essential services, including transportation and food support. These resources are critical in enabling students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to focus on their education and succeed academically without financial stress.

2. Community Empowerment and Economic Support Initiatives

USK's community-focused initiatives are aimed at empowering local residents, especially those in vulnerable economic positions, by promoting sustainable economic practices and creating opportunities for self-sufficiency. One of the most prominent initiatives, run by the *Rumah Amal* (Charity House) USK, includes the *Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Masyarakat Dhuafa* (P2EMD) program. Through this program, *Rumah Amal* provides startup capital, business training, and financial management support to local entrepreneurs and small businesses, especially for underprivileged groups. In 2023, these efforts resulted in disbursements of over IDR 252 million to 87 recipients, enabling the growth of sustainable businesses within the community.

In addition, the *Entrepreneurship Club Rumah Amal (ECRA)* program offers mentorship and training sessions for aspiring entrepreneurs, with a focus on fostering financial literacy and business skills. Through these programs, USK not only helps individuals achieve economic independence but also enhances the local economy by encouraging the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). These initiatives underscore USK's commitment to economic empowerment as a means of addressing poverty at the community level.

33,486

Number of Students

7.918

Number of Students Receiving Financial Aid



3. Infrastructure and Sustainable Development Projects

USK is committed to improving basic infrastructure to alleviate poverty, particularly in rural and underserved communities. A flagship project in this effort is the Micro Hydro Power Plant in Kemukiman Nosar, Central Aceh, developed through USK's professor research program. This initiative provides the community with a reliable, renewable energy source, enabling affordable electricity that enhances productivity, drives economic growth and supports environmental sustainability. Beyond energy, USK also offers training sessions in water management and agricultural practices to further empower local residents.

These sessions help local residents develop valuable skills for managing natural resources effectively. By learning to manage water and improve agriculture, community members gain tools to sustain their livelihoods



independently. Through these initiatives, USK is helping to build a resilient, self-sustaining community that can grow and thrive over the long term.

4. Policy Involvement and Regional Development

In addition to direct financial aid and community programs, USK is actively involved in regional policy development aimed at addressing poverty. Through collaboration with the provincial government of Aceh, USK provides expert consultation and policy recommendations that guide local efforts to alleviate poverty. USK's staff members serve as advisors on committees focused on poverty reduction strategies, contributing valuable insights and research to shape effective policies. This engagement reflects USK's role as an advocate for sustainable development and its commitment to influencing structural changes that benefit the broader community

