



پوهنتون کاردان  
KARDAN UNIVERSITY



# Kardan University

## Sustainability Report 2019-20





**KARDAN UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**





## About Kardan University

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Founded in 2002, Kardan University is the first and leading private university in Afghanistan. Over 4,000 students, 25 percent of whom are women, currently pursue diploma, undergraduate and graduate programs at Kardan University's three campuses in Kabul. With an alumni network of 30,000, Kardan University is a household name in Afghanistan renowned for its academic excellence.

More than 600 of Kardan University graduates have received prestigious graduate scholarships, including Fulbright, Chevening, DAAD and more.

Kardan University has received business program accreditation through the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) and is candidate for accreditation with ACBSP and AACSB. We are also member of CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG), Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and Global Business School Network (GBSN).

In 2012, Kardan University helped lay the foundation of the Association of Private Universities and Institutes of Higher Education in Afghanistan and served as its elected Chair for two consecutive terms. Kardan University's strategic initiatives are articulated in its Vision of Excellence, a five-year strategic plan (2015-2020), promoting excellence in research, faculty development, student growth and public engagement. In September 2018, Kardan University earned Ministry of Higher Education's national accreditation and became the top ranking institution among both public and private universities in Afghanistan.

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## Foreword

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This year, Kardan University's leadership endorsed new strategic plan and actions that significantly deepen our commitment to sustainability across teaching, learning and research, operations, infrastructure, and community. To deliver on these ambitious plans, our focus is on aligning Kardan's research and education mission with sustainability actions.

In addition, our commitment at KU to a vision 2025, we focus on building on the best practices and lessons learned in the delivery of Vision of Excellence and Collaborative Framework, that is highly engaging, inclusive, and efficient in achieving the university's goals and objectives.

Kardan University aims to play a leadership role on global and local sustainability issues. One way we can do this is by looking through the lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

KU is proud of these achievements, but conscious of the urgent need to accelerate action on critical issues like the poverty, economic growth. Our efforts to map Kardan University Sustainability activities to the SDGs like Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 4: Quality Education, Goal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals are an early attempt to identify which goals and targets KU is actively working towards through our four sustainability pillars, and explore areas where we might collaborate with other organizations to advance shared goals.

We hope that this report inspires and accelerates further action toward safeguarding the sustainable future of our communities, and will advance our efforts to lead in sustainability and wellbeing on a local and global scale.

We invite you to join us, and look forward to reporting our progress next year.

**Dr. Nassir Ul Haq Wani**

**Dr. Kaleemullah Khan**

**Prof. Muhammad Shahid Shams**

**Prof. Murtaza Masoud Niazi**



# The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

## Overview

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework includes 17 goals and 169 targets designed to stimulate action in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

Organizations across the world have adopted these goals to evaluate their work and prioritize future actions. In 2019, Kardan University began reviewing our sustainability efforts in relation to the SDGs by assessing the university's commitments as expressed in our Strategic Plan.

This evaluation found strong commitment from Kardan University to advancing Goal 1: No poverty, Goal 4: Quality Education, Goal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals



# SDG 1:

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## NO POVERTY

# NO POVERTY



**“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings.”**

Nelson Mandela, Former South African President

Kardan University has signed MOU's with international and national agencies/bodies like Sustainable Development Solutions network (SDSN), International Sustainable Campus Network, and the Advisory Board on Economic Analysis of the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan.

The sole purpose is to help these agencies in policy making at local, regional, national and/or global level to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

## AFN 86.7 Million

Offered to students in scholarship via financial assistance in 2019-20

### 179

Publications 2011-2020

### 35%

Pool of students received scholarship and financial assistance during 2019-20

### 4%

Publications devoted to the core issue of Poverty





## 1.1 Policy Framing

Kardan University has signed MOU's with international and national agencies/bodies like Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), International Sustainable Campus Network and Advisory Board on Economic Analysis of the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan.

The sole purpose is to help these agencies in policy making at local, regional, national and/or global level to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

## 1.2 Scholarship and Financial Aid (SAFA) Policy

Kardan University has signed MOU's with international and national agencies/bodies like Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), International Sustainable Campus Network and Advisory Board on Economic Analysis of the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan.

The sole purpose is to help these agencies in policy making at local, regional, national and/or global level to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

## 1.3 Research

Kardan University plays a leadership role in Afghanistan that focus on researching, developing, and demonstrating sustainable practices. With nearly 100 faculty members and 120 active research society members investigating sustainability, our goal is to excel across the spectrum of fundamental and applied research.

There are currently 10+ research groups exploring sustainability related issues like Poverty reduction, Economic growth, and Quality Education.

The Department of Research and Development (DRD) is highly committed in fostering those topics which are related to sustainability issues. More than 40 percent of students are working on sustainability related issues during their Master degree thesis.



# SDG 4:

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QUALITY EDUCATION

# QUALITY EDUCATION

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## Quality Education

This goal emphasizes on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Education is a key gateway out of inequalities, especially multi-generational ones. In addition to improving quality of life, access to inclusive education can help equip locals with the tools required to develop innovative solutions to the world's greatest problems.

SDG 4 explores early years and lifelong learning. Education is a precursor to growing an economy sustainably, not just at higher education levels, but importantly in early years and lifelong learning. It is a gateway out of poverty, especially intergenerational poverty.

Education delivered fairly helps to break down inequalities, and provides the key workers needed to support a fair and sustainable world.

## 2.1 THE LEARNING SCHOOLS MODEL

Given the significance of quality education at the primary level, Kardan university initiated Kardan International School (KIS) which is Afghanistan's first and only digital school. The school brings together international best practices in the education sector and combines them with local expertise to respond to the growing demand for quality education in the country.

Kardan International School offers international curriculum, mixed faculty of teachers, and expert school management to nurture student growth.

The main objective behind starting KIS is to redefining primary and secondary education in Afghanistan. Kardan represents the most recognizable brand in the education sector in Afghanistan with over a decade of experience in providing primary, secondary, and post-secondary education services.

With a focus on innovation and renewal, Kardan has been at the forefront of a vigorous drive to enhance the quality of education offered in the country.

## **AFN 4.33 Millions per annum**

**Amount allocated under different financial assistance programs during 2019-20**



## 2.2 EDUCATION FOR ALL

Kardan University is committed to increasing access, retention and achievement for low socioeconomic status students, and has in place a number of programmes such as Financial Assistance (FA), Merit Scholarship (MS), Public Service and Athletic Scholarship (AS), Partners Scholarship (PS), Chancellor Office (CO), Equal Opportunity Scholarship, and Financial Aid for students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group.

In addition to above, Kardan University, in collaboration with USAID, is actively working on giving furtherance to the cause of women empowerment under the Women Scholarship Endowment (WSE) scheme.

The overall goal of the WSE initiative is to assist Afghan women in obtaining undergraduate or graduate education in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields and empowering them to play leading roles in the community and society.

# 35% per annum

**Pool of students receiving scholarship and financial assistance during 2019-20**

## 2.3 PROPORTION OF GRADUATES WITH RELEVANT QUALIFICATION FOR TEACHING

Quality teachers offer quality education, for the last one and half decade Kardan University has been producing quality graduates to server the education sector.

The graduates of Kardan University are making a significant contribution in imparting knowledge to students either in public or private sector schools.

# 33%

**Kardan's Graduates opting for teaching profession annually**



## 2.4 LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED

Kardan University is taking a number of initiatives to ensure lifelong learning opportunities which eventually lead to wellbeing. The four international research journals are available to the University community and general public.

In addition, the University offers access to JSTOR database. The availability of these resources to our students and community helps in fostering the culture of reading and research which is the backbone for bringing uplift in the quality of education.

In the year 2020, the University hosted a total of 86 mega educational events, both online and inside the campus. These events mainly focused on major socio-economic issues such as role of transit trade in economic development, peace journalism, awareness campaign regarding environmental issues, climate, use of coal in central heating, poverty reduction, quality education and peace.

## 2.5 SUCCESS AT UNIVERSITY

The Student Success Center (SSC) at Kardan University is established to help students to fulfil their academic potential while at the University by providing an environment that supports students via tutorials, workshops, study groups and sessions with tutors and mentors.

Furthermore, SSC offers a range of specialized training workshop and services such as developing CVs, interview skills, and proposal writings etc. to assist students and alumni in achieving their career goals.

As a result of these initiatives, SSC has been successful in finding internships and job placement opportunities for our student including both males and females.

All the major educational events are publicly available. Kardan University strictly adheres to the policy of no discrimination among students and public to participate in the events organized by the university.

Further, all our policies at Kardan University aims to build and maintain an educational community carrying a culture of mutual trust, fairness, transparency, respect and justice.

The University implements policies to promote fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, social class, economic class gender, political thoughts and religious beliefs

**36 % of total events**  
stressing on SDGs and socio-economic issues

**43 students**  
(including 65% male and 35% female) Job placement (2019-20)

**126 student**  
(including 75% male and 25% female) availed internship opportunities (2019-20)

## 2.6 NEW DESIGN PROGRAMMES

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Kardan University has launched SDGs Youth Ambassadors Club that provides opportunities for students to gain practical leadership skills through designing, planning, and implementing sustainability projects/activities towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The club activities are designed in a way to advance Kardan University's sustainability agenda with a focus on reducing poverty (SDG 1), promoting quality education (SDG 4), improving Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), and building partnership with all of the 17 SDGs (SDG 17) at the university level and beyond the University.

Kardan University commits to launch a brand-new suite of Design programmes for students who aim to be part of positive change through design that puts sustainability and responsibility at its core.

The programme components are designed in accordance with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Design graduates will have the capacity to impact and lead change in all sectors of industry, government and community.

# 54 members

**SDG's Youth Ambassadors Club**

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## 2.7 STUDY OF SUSTAINABILITY

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Kardan University, in addition to 'sustainable economy' as a major in Economic degree, offers compulsory environment related courses at the undergraduate level to enhance students' awareness concerning environmental issues.

In addition, Kardan students at graduate level are encouraged to undertake research projects that serve to improve sustainable practices within the University or their communities.

As part of University's commitment towards sustainability, the next 5-year strategic plan (2021-25) plan is focused on introduction of additional sustainability related studies.

## 2.8 TEACHING, LEARNING, AND RESEARCH

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As part of quality education, Kardan University is committed to fostering the knowledge, skills and experience of students in order for them to serve as agents of change, community leaders, and responsible global citizens.

Kardan University's ambitious goals are for all students to have access to sustainability learning alongside their chosen degree program; to create diverse learning and co-curricular engagement opportunities for students; and to be global leaders in applied research on sustainable behaviour, infrastructure, and communities.



Realizing the significance of research in the higher education sector and given the fact that research is a means towards ensuring quality education, Kardan University established a 'Research Society (RS)' with a long-term objective to create the culture of research and improve the research capacity in Afghanistan. RS has numerous members (internal and external) serving for the cause of exploring socioeconomic problems (i.e., poverty,

social entrepreneurship, women empowerment to name a few) in Afghanistan and offering research-based solution to the key actors in different socio-economic sectors.

To support research agenda such as capacity building programs, research seminars, conferences and publication, the University offer special grants.

**AFN 5.4**  
**Million/annum**  
Research Grant

**4**

Kardan's Research journals

**179**

Research Publications

**7344**

Maximum number of Views/ cited

The volume of publication is not limited to the national level; faculty members and students are correspondingly publishing their research work in some of the valued journals across the world either independently or in collaboration with faculty members as co-authors from other countries. To date, 37 articles have been published in well reputed journals including some as Scopus indexed.



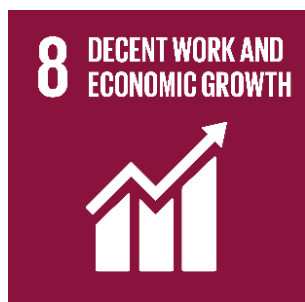
# SDG 8:

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DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

# DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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## 3.1 Decent Work and Economic Growth: Publications

The Research and Development at Kardan University is focused on identifying the real socio-economic challenges facing Afghanistan.

The four international journals, Kardan Journal of Economics and Management Sciences (KJEMS), Kardan Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (KJSSH), Kardan Journal of Engineering and Technology (KJET), and Kardan Journal of Law (KJL) reflects the real societal issues and offers research-based solutions. One of the prime focus of these journals are decent work and economic growth where the total of 24% of published articles target issues related to decent work and economic growth.

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## 3.3 Creating Public Awareness and Engagement about SDGs

Kardan University took unique imitative to create awareness among the faculty, staff, and students regarding SDGs. The entire Kardan team is involved in arranging and attending different sessions and seminars regarding SDGs. In this pandemic situation Kardan University arranged more than 80 public events such as public lectures, conferences, trainings, seminars, workshops and symposiums

**“Decent work is at the heart of the search for dignity for the individual, stability for the family, and peace in the community.”**

Juan Somavia, Former Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

## 3.2 Employment Generated by the University

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Kardan University plays an essential role in creating jobs in a country with the highest unemployability rate accordingly to International Labor Organization (ILO).

The University providing a conducive and congenial environment to all staff and faculty members that results in 90% retention rate. The University offers attractive remuneration to the employees that is above average as compared to a family of four costs of living in Afghanistan

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## 3.4 Employment Practice and Policies

Kardan University supports the principle of equal opportunities in employment as per the Labour Law of Afghanistan and International Labour Organizations (ILO). The University has appropriate policies that discourage discrimination against any employees and students on any basis prohibited by law, including race, color, national origin, religion, language, gender, age or disability; and any other characteristic protected under law, herein called.



### 3.5 Graduate Employability and Business Formation

Kardan University graduate's employability rate is above 88% which leads to enhance the overall quality of life of individuals and their families. Additionally, a great pool of graduates established their businesses that result in creating jobs, and / contributing to the Afghan economy.

We are developing entrepreneurs and supported **300+** business

Our economic impact has grown by **33.73%** in 5 years

Kardan University contributes **107.62** million AFN to the economy

Our **3,422** female students are contributing independently to various organizations

**70** of our **4,026** female students become very influential entrepreneurs who have established their businesses and provided jobs to **570** individuals.

The growth rate of tax payments increased by **101.3 %** from 2014-2019



From 2014-2019, on average Kardan University contributed **0.009 %** to the Afghanistan economy in terms of taxation

Kardan University becomes **1ST** Afghan University to be accredited by the International Assembly of Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) for its Business Management program

We have **20000** alumni across the globe Out of which **4,026** were female students.

The growth rate of tax payments increased by **101.3 %** from 2014-2019

**500+** Students with International scholarships from Fulbright, Chevening, DADD and more

# SDG 17:

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PARTNERSHIPS FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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**Kardan University recognizes that stronger partnerships contribute to sustainable development by mobilizing university resources for sharing, creating and developing knowledge through teaching and research.**

**Kardan value partnerships and work with national and international partners to incorporate sustainability into our teaching, research and operations, and together tackle SDG related issues.**

## 4.1 Kardan Networks and Collaborations

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Kardan University partners with many national, regional and international networks to promote sustainable goals.

Kardan signed partnerships agreements with 29 international universities, membership with 9 international and national organizations like GBSN, International Association of Universities- (IAU), AACSB, APQN, CHEA, ISSN-International Standard Serial Number International Center (ISSN, Paris), EURAS, International Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan and ACBSP and accredited by 2 agencies namely IACBE and MoHE of Afghanistan.

# 40

**Partnerships and collaborations**

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## 4.1 Kardan Academic Partnerships

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Kardan University partners with leading international universities including University of British Columbia, Canada, University of Toronto, Canada, Bahra University, India, University of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, De Montford University, UK, President University, Indonesia, Ural University Russia, Yarsi University, Indonesia, UIN University, India, Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur, Polish University- Opol, Russia, Southern Federal

University, Russia, Don State Technical University Russia, Kuban State University, Russia, Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Uzbekistan, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, Sasin School of Management, Thailand, Taiwan National Normal University, Taiwan, Jamia Milia Islamia, India, Lodz University, Poland, Coventry University, UK, Delhi University, India, University of Malaysia, Malaysia, and AP Goyal Shimla University, India,

# 29

**Academic partnerships**



### 4.3 Partnerships with Local Organizations

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Kardan partners with 17 local organizations including NGOs, public and private. We partner with ICC International Chamber of Commerce to promote and support sustainable enterprises.

We work with some key ministries including ministry of Economy to cooperate and reform policies that are essential for the achievement of SDGs in Afghanistan. Kardan is partner with UNV and UNDP on creating SDGs awareness and contributing towards SDGs in Afghanistan.

We also partner with Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Afghan Holding Group, AWCC, Bakhtar Bank, Bloom Afghanistan, British Council Afghanistan, MTN, Central Bank of Afghanistan, MOBY group and many other for SDGs in Afghanistan.

**17**  
Industry partnerships

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#### 4.6 Partnership for Green Project

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The University have committed Green Mobile Library under the MoU signed with a NGO named as Charmaghaz to support kids access to books and educational resources.

Through this green project a total of 3,783 kids were benefited.

**3,783**  
Kids Benefited

**1,835**  
Girls

**1,948**  
Boys in Kabul

### 4.4 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

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Kardan University is the institutional member of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), which brings together universities, NGOs, research institutes, international organizations and government for sustainable development.

#### 4.5 Kardan Memberships

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Kardan University becomes a member of SDSN and a signatory to principle for responsible management education (PRME).

We are member of International Sustainable Campus Network, sustainable development solution network, global business school network, leadership council Afghanistan. We are also a member of the advisory board on economic analysis of the ministry of economy of Afghanistan.

**5**  
Plus memberships

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#### 4.7 Partnerships for poverty reduction

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Realizing that the COVID-19 pandemic presented socioeconomic challenges to many Afghan families to access food and other basic requirements.

Kardan University donated around eight tons of food materials to 100 families

**100**  
Families sponsored

# About This Report

This report is a summary of the range of activities that the Kardan University undertakes to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Most of these activities can be identified under research, teaching, operations, public engagement and partnerships. We have substantiated the report with metrics (quantitative) and case studies (qualitative).

Publications and related research metrics are reported under each SDG based on an independent and transparent approach – the SDG keywords compiled by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Striving to pick a diverse range of initiatives from across the University, we shortlisted the most qualitative case studies that came through comprehensive consultation with key stakeholders undertaking these activities. The case studies indicate their clear contribution to the respective SDG, their impact and their distinctiveness.

This SDG report lists only a few of the many initiatives undertaken by us. Moving forward, we plan to create a platform to showcase our efforts towards the SDGs in a more comprehensive and detailed manner.



# University Impact Rankings for the SDGs

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were established in 2015. They set a 15-year agenda and call to action for all countries to end poverty, fight inequalities and build peaceful, just and sustainable societies by 2030.

Kardan University is ranked No. globally in the inaugural University Impact Rankings by Times Higher Education (THE) which measure how universities worldwide are performing against the SDGs.

This outstanding result recognises the Kardan University’s commitment to sustainability and making a positive social impact through its research, teaching and knowledge transfer.




Sustainable Development Goal	Our Ranking
Overall ranking for impact	601+
SDG 4: Quality Education	401-600
SDG 5: Gender Equality	301-400
Maximum number of Views/ cited	201-300
SDG 17: Partnership for Goals	401-600





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