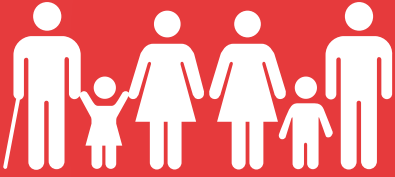


SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-1 NO POVERTY**

**20
21**



SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University
Sustainability Office**

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1 NO POVERTY

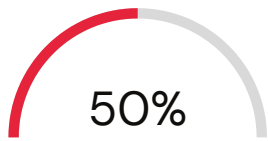


Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015, too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs. As of 2015, about 736 million people still lived on less than US\$1.90 a day; many lack food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid growth in countries such as China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Women are more likely to be poor than men because they have less paid work, education, and own less property. Progress has also been limited in other regions, such as South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which account for 80 percent of those living in extreme poverty. New threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity, mean even more work is needed to bring people out of poverty.

The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what we started, and end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters.

736
MILLION

people still live in extreme poverty



50%
of all people living in poverty are under 18



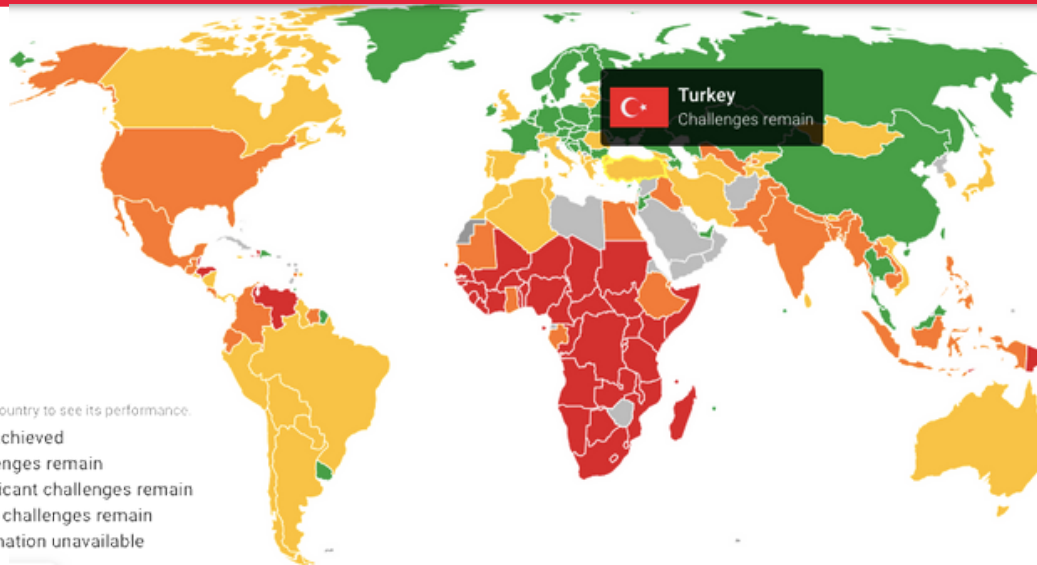
one person in every 10 is extremely poor

23,6
BILLION

direct economic losses caused by natural disasters



80%
of people living on less than \$1.90 are in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa



- Legend
- Click on a country to see its performance.
- SDG achieved
 - Challenges remain
 - Significant challenges remain
 - Major challenges remain
 - Information unavailable

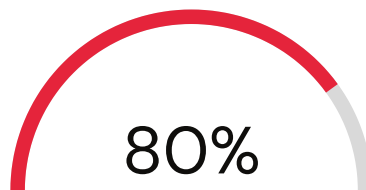
Turkey
Challenges remain

120
STUDENTS

receive a 100% percent food stipend



free psychotherapy service for all students and staff



80%
of lunch costs subsidized for all students

20
STUDENTS

offered part-time work in various departments to earn income



discounts in housing in the university dormitory for our students

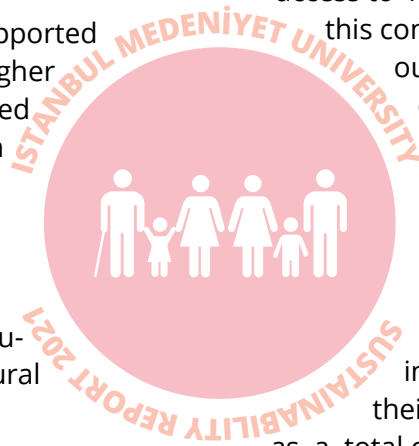


University Anti-poverty Programmes

As per the state laws and regulations that apply the principles of inclusive education, Istanbul Medeniyet University (IMU) as a public higher education institution supports access to higher education for all students from all segments of society, including those from low-income households. In line with these principles, our Turkish students are not required to pay any tuition fees and education is free for all.

Our low-income students can apply for state dormitories at very affordable prices and for government scholarships which provide students from the bottom 20% of our country's household income group with free accommodation plus financial aid throughout their studies. Also, all our students can benefit from free medical care in public health centers and discounted fares in public transport.

Some of our foreign students are supported through a government-funded higher education scholarship program called Türkiye Scholarships. The program provides our foreign students with monthly scholarships, university tuition, health insurance, housing, Turkish language course and plane tickets, while they receive free education and participate in free cultural programs in IMU.



“ **313** STUDENTS from low-income countries studied at our university in 2021 ”

Although students are admitted through the national higher education entrance exam based on the sole criterion of academic success, low-income students admitted in IMU are assisted through food stipends, discounts in housing in the university dormitory, and part-time work opportunities.

To ensure that our students can easily access our food services in an affordable way, all our students are given an 80% discount on the regular lunch prices each year. Therefore, the cost of lunch in 2021 was only 0.299\$ for our students. Also, 120 low-income students received a 100% **food stipend** in 2021.

To address the **accommodation** needs of our students, we have a dormitory that is open to all low-income students in Istanbul and our students are given a 15% discount in our dormitory.

Low-income students are also offered **part-time work** in various departments of the university outside their class hours. Our part-time student-employees are selected based on their household income and in addition to a monthly income, their insurance costs are also covered by our university throughout their work period. In 2021, we supported a total of 20 students as our part-time employees.

In addition to the free medical care provided by the state, we also offer free **psychotherapy and counseling services** to all our students and staff.

Our University provides free food support during exam periods to our students studying for their exams in our university library, giving them easier access to healthy food especially at nighttime. In this context, the Young Vision Student Club of our university distributed warm soup to our students during the midterm exam week in Fall Semester through the event **“Çorbaya Kal Bute Kalma”** (Stay for Soup, not for the Resit Exams) they organized with the sponsorship of Üsküdar Municipality. Particularly our students from low income households were assisted in their food costs during the exam period as a total of 3,500 servings of warm soup were distributed to 700 students daily at the campus entrance at 08.00 AM and in our Ziraat Bank Library at 18.00 PM everyday from 22 to 26 November. Our students studying in our Ziraat Bank Library were also served free tea and coffee throughout the academic year.



Stay for Soup, not for the Resit Exams Event

OPERATIONS

IMU

Our University offers its students financial incentives for their professional improvement. Our Department of Health, Culture, and Sports organize **free training and certification programs** in which our low-income students may also participate and also provide **discount vouchers** for various training programs.

In this context, 200 of our students received free **Microsoft Office Training** in February 2021 and were given certificates, which helped to strengthen the vocational training process for our students.

In March 2021, 30 students were given the opportunity to receive **free foreign language education** from British Time Language Schools and 50 students were given a 40% discount on foreign language courses.

In the "Life Skills Development Workshops" held in March and April, a total of 190 students were given a certificate **training on Robotic Coding** free of charge.

Our "Life Skills Workshops" contained a series of training programs in addition to the certificate programs, in which our students could participate free of charge. Through the courses on **Creative Drama, Thesis Writing for Graduate Students, Job Interviewing and CV Writing Techniques** delivered in March and the **First Aid Training** in June, a total of 520 students from our University were given free training for their professional and personal development.

“**545** STUDENTS given free training/ certificate program support”

Türkiye company delivered free training on how to use the program for our 25 students.

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we see education as a process that is far beyond vocational training. Therefore, we prioritize supporting our students for their **personal development** in addition to their vocational education.

In this context, we supported our Sociology Club's free culture and art trip organized for 40 of our students from different departments to watch the **theater performance** of the book Taurus Monster (Toros Canavarı) written by Aziz Nesin.



Culture and Art Support-Taurus Monster Theater Performance



Culture and Art Support-Kazım Karabekir Pasha Museum

On May 26th, our students visited **Kazım Karabekir Pasha Museum** through an event jointly organized by IMU History Club and Department of Library and Documentation. In this free cultural trip, our students had the opportunity to get to know our city and our cultural and historical heritage from the time of our National Struggle and shed light on the members of the community to see the traces of the National Struggle Period. After the museum museum tour, Kazım Karabekir's daughter Timsal Karabekir gave valuable information about Kazım Karabekir's life and the museum.

Community Anti-poverty Programmes

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we not only lead the society by carrying out activities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the institutional level and but also guide how the SDGs are applied at local, national, and international levels as a community through our collaboration efforts and support solving of problems through our research projects.

As a social responsibility project, our Urban and Regional Planning Department faculty member Assoc.Prof.Dr. Yıldız AKSOY donated the income of her book "Rethinking Urban spaces in the Post-COVID-19 Era" to the SEY Foundation to provide **tablet support** to students in need of distance education during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to our institution leadership efforts, we also see our students as leaders of the future. Therefore, we aim for each and every one our students to become leaders in the society in implementing sustainable development goals through their research and social responsibility projects and thus, we support them in their sustainability efforts.

A team consisting of the students from Department of Mathematics Education carried out the project named **"Mathematics Fits Home"** within the scope of 2020-2021 Spring Semester Community Service Course. The project aimed to ensure equality in education for the children of families with low socio-economic status by providing online math course support to students from low-income families. 32 students from 5th to 8th grade benefited from the learning opportunity offered with the project, which started on March 15, 2021 and ended on May 6, 2021. The project helped the students make up for the mathematics classes they had missed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the students were supported to prepare for the LGS exams.

15 March-06 May 2021

Mathematics Fits Home Project

Psychology Club, one of the student clubs of our university, organized a **charity sale** on 29-30 November 2021 in cooperation with Kutu Kutu Tebessüm Project. In this event, the target audience for aid was determined as refugees living in Adana. Our students held a charity sale and sold their own prepared food Göztepe Campus. The income obtained was given to the refugees living in Adana through the cooperative foundation. In addition, items such as clothes, coats, books, and toys collected as a result of aid were packaged with the contributions of community members and prepared to be distributed. Thanks to this event, a helping hand was extended to refugees in the fight against poverty in Adana, which is a significant contribution to building a sustainable community.

29-30 November 2021

Charity Sale for Refugees

Sociology Club, one of the student clubs of our university, contributed to the preparation of **aid packages for those in need during Ramadan** in cooperation with Mosque Imam of the Beyoğlu Selime Hatun Mosque. on April 7, 2021. In this event, which was held with the participation of club members, the target group to be helped was determined as families in need, the poor, orphan children and the homeless. In this direction, the clothes and belongings collected as a result of the donations to the mosque were packaged with the contributions of the club members and prepared to be distributed. Also the members helped to inflate balloons to be given as presents to the children. The event provided social solidarity, contributing to the development of social welfare, and support was provided in helping the disadvantaged individuals of the society. Thus, the participants better understood the importance of helping others and the event contributed to raising awareness.

7 April 2021

Yardım Etmeye Gidiyoruz!

Ramadan Aid Packages for those in need



Science and Civilization Club and volunteers of Young Civilization IHH held the organization named **“Make the Orphan Laugh! Charity Sale”** at Goztepe South Campus C Block on December 29-30, 2021. Various food products and handmade bags were sold at the charity sale, which was followed with interest by our students. The money collected during the two-day charity sale was transferred to the Orphan Fund of the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which undertakes the regular care of orphans every month and supports them in education, health, food and shelter. Thanks to the event, which was held within the scope of social responsibility, our students contributed to ensure orphan children’s access to the health system, to prevent malnutrition, to meet their needs for education and poverty reduction of them. On the one hand, the event contributed to the development of social solidarity and cooperation awareness with the efforts of the Science and Civilization Club members and the support of our students. On the other hand, with the amount collected at the charity sale, education, health, food, shelter and similar expenses of three orphan children were covered for one year.



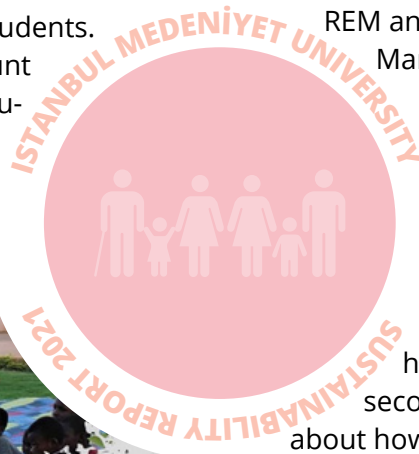
29-30 December 2021

Make the Orphan Laugh! Charity Sale

Learning processes are key in achieving SDGs. Thus, universities play a critical role both by training professionals who will prioritize SDGs in their future practices and by increasing local, national, and global capacity to successfully achieve SDGs. As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are fully aware of our critical role and thus aim to empower and motivate for SDGs not only our students through course contents, co-curricular activities and student club activities, but also the community at large at a much wider scale. Therefore, we organize university-wide life-long learning activities, online courses, certificate programs, seminars, workshops, congresses, symposia, and panels that are open to all segments of society for participation. In 2021, we held a wide range of learning activities to improve access to basic services for all.

IMU Sociology Club held an online talk on **“Poverty: Homelessness during the Pandemic”** with Selime Hatun Mosque Imam Osman GÖKREM and Embrace Life Association Restaurant Manager Cemil GÜLER on February 05-06, 2021. In the first day of the event, GÖKREM talked about the issue of poverty during the pandemic and the importance of helping the homeless. He especially drew attention to the number of homeless people in Istanbul in particular, highlighting our humanitarian duty in this regard. As the second speaker of the event, GÜLER talked about how the idea of a restaurant for homeless people emerged. They gave information about the work done to help families in need and the contributions that people can make to these efforts.

In the second seminar of the “Architectural Studies” seminar series organized by our Department of Architecture, Res.Asst.Nazife SOFU BAĞ discussed **“Delhi and Housing Settlements”** from the perspective of poverty. She gave information about the problems arising from the impact of economic inequality on housing settlements. It was stated that the city’s uncontrolled growth and rapid population growth amplified urban space problems and the problems concerning urban housing areas. Because they were unable to meet the growing demand, they continued to develop informally. As a result, it was stated that many slum areas were formed in the city. The problems caused by a lack of basic services such as clean water resources and sanitary conditions in slums facing extreme poverty were highlighted.



Throughout the year, our academic staff members from our Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences inform the public about health and nutrition issues to improve access to basic services for all. For this purpose, they deliver seminars in various public and private institutions and also share their scientific expert opinions and experiences on how to avoid health risks and overcome health challenges by appearing on national media outlets.

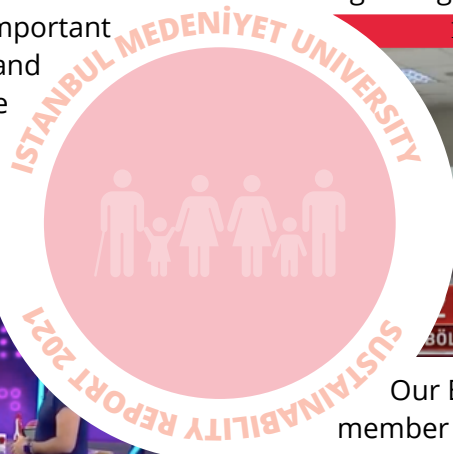
To provide a few examples for the year 2021, Prof.Dr. Belgin ERHAN of IMU Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation spoke about **osteoporosis and muscle health** on the TV show "Doktorum Yanımda" on the national TV channel 360 TV on September 27, 2021. ERHAN mentioned that there are currently more than 200 million osteoporosis patients globally and noted that we now have numerous options both for early diagnosis and prevention and treatment of the condition. She identified the important risk groups for osteoporosis and provided information about the treatment process. She also explained what to do to reduce the disease risk and shared her lifestyle recommendations.



Assoc.Prof.Dr. Hasan Hüseyin KARADELİ of IMU Department of Neurology informed the audience on the **risks of uncontrolled use of protein powder** in an interview published in the national newspaper Sabah on August 24, 2021. In the interview, Prof. Dr. KARADELİ informed that these products can only be used as complementary dietary products for people who are not able to get their protein needs sufficiently from food within the protein-carbohydrate-fat balance and that significant health problems may arise when they are used as a main constituent in one's diet in an uncontrolled manner.

In addition to the invaluable information they shared with the public on specific health challenges, our academic staff members also contributed greatly to improving access to basic healthcare services for all by sharing the results of their academic research and their scientific expert opinions and recommendations on protection from COVID-19 through media outlets during 2021, when the pandemic continued to affect our society.

To cite only a few instances among many, Prof. Dr. Sadrettin PENÇE of IMU Department of Basic Medical Sciences was interviewed about his latest research on the **mutations of the Corona virus** on the national TV channel HaberTürk on March 10, 2021. PENÇE pointed out that genome screening is critical in Turkey as a point of entry and exit for many different regions and informed the audience about the importance of PCR tests for diagnosing the disease.



Mutations of the Coronavirus on TV Show



Our Basic Medical Sciences department member Prof.Dr. Hasan GÜÇLÜ provided an assessment of the **pandemic's effects in Istanbul** on the same TV channel on March 25, 2021. GÜÇLÜ explained the importance of mask use for protection against Covid-19 in Istanbul as one of the most densely-populated metropolises in the world and pointed out to the most common mistakes made when using masks, sharing important information on how to use masks correctly.



Pandemic's Effects in Istanbul Speech on Tv Show



The academic staff members of our university carry out research on eradicating extreme poverty; reducing poverty at least by half; implementing social protection systems; providing equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology, and economic resources; building resilience against environmental, economic, and social disasters; mobilizing resources to implement policies to end poverty; and creating pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks; publish the results of their research to provide a foundation for policy development to achieve SDGs; and share them with other researchers, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public.

To give a few examples from our faculty's research activities on SDG-1 in 2021; Asst.Prof.Dr.Gülbin ERDEM KARAHANOĞLU of the Department of Economics conducted research on poverty in the context of gender equality in the world and Turkey. Referring to the importance of social protection policies in the fight against poverty, KARAHANOĞLU stated that active employment policies, on-the-job training, and improvement of social security coverage, which are among the most effective tools for these policies in the fight against poverty, will provide important opportunities in reducing labor market disparities and ensuring poverty alleviation for women. She found that, especially in the recent period, the problems experienced in the access of poor women to the health system have also deepened social inequality. KARAHANOĞLU published the results of her study in the book chapter titled **"Dünya'da ve Türkiye'de Cinsiyet Temelli Yoksulluk Analizi"** (Gender Based Poverty Analysis in the World and in Turkey) within the book "Kadın ve Yoksulluk" (Women and Poverty).

In her article titled **"Boşanmanın Eşler Açısından Genel Sonuçları Bağlamında Yoksulluk Nafakasına İlişkin Değerlendirme"** (General Consequences of Divorce for Spouses in the Context of Poverty Alimony Assessment), Assoc.Prof.Dr. Safa KOÇOĞLU of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at IMU Faculty of Political Sciences focuses on poverty alimony paid to the needy spouse after divorce as a legal poverty alleviation measure. In her research, she examines the legal consequences of divorce particularly for women in relation to inheritance regime and provides

information about poverty alimony and its legal amount and conditions as applied in Turkish civil law. KOÇOĞLU contributes to the discussions about the payment period of alimony by arguing that the partial changes made in the relevant regulation are insufficient and discussions should rather focus on the reasons for needing alimony. Asst.Prof.Dr. Hakan KALKAVAN of the Department of Economics carried out research to identify the factors for poverty reduction. In his study, he first reviews the classifications of poverty from hunger threat and economic poverty to psychological deprivation and notes that poverty is most common in developing and third-world countries, which also include many Muslim countries. He attributes this to insufficient economic development and underlines the need to develop strong social and economic policies for poverty reduction in these countries with limited resources. KALKAVAN presented the results of his research titled "Müslüman Ülkelerde Yoksulluğun Azaltılmasına Yönelik Kriterlerin Belirlenmesi" (Determination of Criteria for Reducing Poverty in Muslim Countries) at the 2nd International Congress on Economics and Administrative Sciences held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 9-11 June 2021.

Our Urban and Regional Planning Department lecturer Ayşegül CAN,PhD. researched how urban regeneration implementations in Turkey affect displacement of vulnerable urban population. The research focuses on the processes of displacement as a result of the massive urban transformation projects through the analysis of two important laws to analyze displacement in Turkey: Law No.5366 for the historical environment and Law No.6306 for the settlements on hazard prone areas. She examines how both laws affected important urban projects in Turkey, how they facilitated displacement, and how they were challenged in the last two decades. According to research results, it is often similar legal mechanisms –exemptions for certain situations or companies, planning permissions, licences– and similar absences of legal terms –rent regulations, tenant rights, compulsory financial aids– that are facilitating or resulting in the displacement of vulnerable urban population. CAN presented her research results in a paper titled **"The slow violence of displacement: A legal analysis for the urban regeneration and transformation decisions in Turkey"** in the Geographies of Law Symposium held in Italy on 13-14 December 2021.

