

THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



2025/2026

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Overview: SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is arguably the most structurally embedded goal across all three centres — it isn't a discrete programme but the **delivery mechanism** through which nearly every other SDG is achieved at Gulf University. CECEC reports SDG 17 across **all 7 of its 7 pillars** (tied with SDG 4 and SDG 10 for full institutional coverage), reflecting a delivery model built on 9 partner organizations, 14 industry partnerships, and MOUs spanning government ministries (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Ministry of Transportation), healthcare institutions (Bahrain Specialist Hospital ×4, Al Salam Hospital), civil society bodies (Bahrain Special Olympics, Bahrain Strategic Planning Society), and international connections (Bahraini Embassy Moscow, King Saud University). SDM-C shows the same pattern at the sustainability level: Gulf University Sustainability Week (GUSW2025) drew partners spanning ministries, GCC universities, UN agencies (UNIDO, UN-Habitat, IUCN), professional bodies, and private-sector sponsors (stc, Zain, RAM Clinics, Al Bilad), with SDG 17 addressed in 6 of 35 activities (17.1%) and 10.0% of ICSDI 2025 papers. SDM-C's flagship initiatives are each partnership-anchored — the Carbon-free Campus Initiative (Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications), the Daily Tree-Planting Campaign (Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture, stc Bahrain), and a regional twinning partnership with the Sustainability Club of Jubail Industrial College, Saudi Arabia. DTC contributes through its technology-vendor relationships (Microsoft 365 A5/Azure, ZainTECH for cloud security, Vembu for backup) and its exploration of new payment-gateway partners.

Key Highlights for the Current Year 2025–2026

CECEC — Community Engagement and Continuing Education Center

CECEC's own SDG Contribution Chart records this SDG across 15 pillar/event instances in AY 2025–2026.

Pillar 1 – Free Training Workshops

- Training Workshops to the Community

Pillar 2 – Donations & CSR

- ☐ Iftar Saim — 700+ Iftar Meals for Low-Income Workers

Pillar 3 – Resources & Facilities

- ☐ Sign Language Workshop — Bahrain Deaf Society
- ☐ Grandma Cinderella Theatre Play — GU Main Stage

Pillar 4 – Social Engagement

- ☒ Student-Alumni Friendly Match
- ☐ Welcome Back — Faculty & Staff Celebration of Teamwork
- ☐ 2nd President's Cup — Closing Ceremony
- ☐ Annual Ramadan Ghabga & AI Employment Programme Launch
- ☐ Teachers' Day — Interactive Student Gratitude Board
- ☐ Yalla Nemshi — Bahrain Sports Day Walking Event
- ☐ Classic Cars, Sports Cars & Motorcycles Community Showcase
- ☐ Creative Students Camp
- A Community of Care

Pillar 5 – Industry Collaboration

- ☐ Distinguished Honor — Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Key Areas of Discussed Cooperation:

- □ Albilad CSR Award 2025 — Gulf University Participation
- □ Patents Lecture — Ministry of Industry & Commerce
- □ Marai 2025 — Student Ministerial Recognition (also Pillar 4)
- Student Achievement — Building the Future
- A Partnership Rooted in Conviction

Pillar 6 – Community Services

- □□ Gulf University Renews National Allegiance Ceremony
- Initiative 1: Field Visit to Muharraq Social Care Centre
- □ Bahrain National Day — Student-Led Campus Celebration
- □ Bahraini Women’s Day — VP Breakfast for Female Staff
- □ President’s Academic Excellence Ceremony — AY 2024–2025
- □ Financial Awareness Lecture — Mr. Abdulaziz Saif
- Gulf University’s Role — Facilities & Partnership
- Significance for Gulf University and CECEC

Pillar 7 – Languages Hub

- □ Languages Hub Students Visit Bahraini Embassy in Moscow
- □ Paid Training Workshops — Continuing Education Programme

SDM-C — Sustainability and Development Makers Center

- Virtually every SDM-C initiative in AY 2025-2026 is delivered through formal partnerships — SDG 17 is a structural feature of the Center’s operating model.
- GUSW2025: SDG 17 addressed through 6 of 35 activities (17.1%); ICSDI 2025: 10.0% of papers.
- GUSW2025 partners spanned ministries, GCC universities, UN agencies (UNIDO, UN-Habitat, IUCN), professional bodies and private-sector sponsors (stc, Zain, RAM Clinics, Al Bilad).
- Regional twinning partnership with the Sustainability Club of Jubail Industrial College, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Carbon-free Campus Initiative: formal partnership with the Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications.
- Daily Tree-Planting Campaign: partnership with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture and stc Bahrain.
- Sustainability Partnership Programme (Operational Plan, Ongoing): expansion of governmental, industrial and community partnerships.
- SDM-C Achieved & Ongoing Projects Dashboard: SDG 17 explicitly linked across nearly all flagship projects, including UI GreenMetric, GUSW, and the GU SDGs Monitoring Platform.

DTC — Digital Transformation Center

- Technology-partner relationships underpinning DTC’s 2025-2026 delivery: Microsoft (365 A5 for Education, Azure), ZainTECH (cloud security services), Vembu (BDR backup suite), plus exploration of new payment-gateway partners (BENEFIT, PayTabs, Tap Payments, CrediMax, EazyFS, AFS) alongside continuation with SADAD.
- Project 5 platform directly operationalises an inter-centre partnership with SDM-C’s Sustainable Family Initiative.

Partnership and Collaboration Highlights (SDG 17)

Partner	Sector	Type of Collaboration	Highlight
Ministry of Interior (Open Prisons & Alt. Penalties)	Government	Multi-year MOU-backed training	58 workshops in 2025–26 — largest cohort ever; 127 cumulative workshops since 2022–23
Ministry of Works	Government	Multi-year training partnership	22 workshops, 3rd consecutive year
Ministry of Housing & Urban Planning	Government	Multi-year training partnership	16 workshops, expanded scope from prior years
Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Government	New training partnership (2025–26) + SDM-C Tree-Planting Campaign	12 workshops; joint environmental/greening initiative with SDM-C
Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications	Government	Carbon-free Campus Initiative	Sustainable mobility behavioural-change programme
Ministry of Health	Government	"Together from the Beginning" workshop series	3-day pre-marriage/parenthood programme, June 2026
Bahrain Specialist Hospital	Healthcare	4x renewed partnership	World Health Day check-ups, Breast Cancer & Diabetes awareness, Sustainability Week health pavilion
Al Salam Hospital	Healthcare	Health promotion & recognition	World Health Day check-ups; Bahraini National Doctor Day appreciation
GARMCO (Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company)	Industry	Research & training cooperation	Executive visit; student graduation-project presentation; MOU expected
Bahrain Special Olympics	Civil Society	Formal MOU — fully signed	Inclusion programming for GU students with special needs
Bahrain Strategic Planning Society	Civil Society	Draft cooperation agreement (in progress)	Launch of GU podcast studio series
Mulhamoon Youth Authority	Government/Youth	Strategic coordination meeting (pre-MOU)	Groundwork for youth innovation & entrepreneurship partnership
Jubail Industrial College (KSA)	Academic	Regional twinning partnership	Cross-border Sustainability Club collaboration
King Saud University (KSA)	Academic	Paid training client	Advanced Statistical Analysis workshop
Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain	Government	Paid training client	Crises, Disasters & Response Mechanisms workshop
Microsoft, ZainTECH, Vembu	Technology	Infrastructure vendor partnerships (DTC)	Microsoft 365 A5/Azure, cloud security, and backup infrastructure — <i>inferred, not tagged by DTC</i>

Training, Networking, and Capacity-Building Activities (SDG 17)

Activity	Partner(s)	Format	Outcome
Free Community Training Workshops (Pillar 1)	9 partner organizations (5 ministries, 1 civil society, 1 education, 1 private/sports)	124 free/paid workshops, in-person and online	1,291+ beneficiaries reached; 464% cumulative growth since 2022–23
Paid Training Workshops — Continuing Education Programme (Pillar 7)	King Saud University; Shura Council; other external clients	7 specialist paid sessions	Revenue-generating professional development across AI, media, leadership, statistics, crisis management
Patents Lecture	Ministry of Industry & Commerce	Specialist knowledge-transfer lecture	GU students, faculty & professionals trained on IP/patent systems
Mulhamoon Youth Authority Strategic Coordination Meeting	Mulhamoon Youth Authority	Coordination meeting	Explored joint training, entrepreneurship, and applied-learning cooperation
GARMCO Official Visit	GARMCO	Executive dialogue + student research presentation	Student graduation project presented to industry leadership
Bahrain Strategic Planning Society Podcast Launch	Bahrain Strategic Planning Society	New GU podcast studio series	First episode recorded; ongoing expert-conversation series planned
Sustainability Ambassadors Bootcamp 2026	SDM-C, SSU, QAD-C	Student leadership bootcamp	Trains students in interdisciplinary sustainability/innovation collaboration; 40% complete
ICSIDI 2025 Conference	UNIDO, UN-Habitat, IUCN, GCC universities, government & industry	International research conference	Multi-sector knowledge exchange; 10.0% of papers tagged SDG 17

Academic and Non-Academic Agreements Status 2025–26

Partner / Institution	Category	Agreement Type	Status	Notes
Ministry of Interior (Open Prisons & Alt. Penalties)	Non-Academic	MOU	✔Active (multi-year)	Established prior years; 58 workshops in 2025–26
Ministry of Interior (HR Management)	Non-Academic	Partnership (new division)	✔Active	New engagement in 2025–26
Ministry of Works	Non-Academic	Partnership	✔Active (3rd year)	22 workshops
Ministry of Housing & Urban Planning	Non-Academic	Partnership	✔Active	Expanded scope
Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture	Non-Academic	Partnership + SDM-C initiative	✔Active (new 2025–26)	Training + Tree-Planting Campaign
Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications	Non-Academic	Partnership (SDM-C)	✔Active	Carbon-free Campus Initiative

Partner / Institution	Category	Agreement Type	Status	Notes
Ministry of Health	Non-Academic	Partnership (SDM-C/CECEC)	✓ Active	"Together from the Beginning" programme
Ministry of Industry & Commerce	Non-Academic	Knowledge-transfer agreement	✓ Active	Patents Lecture delivered
Nasser Centre for Science & Technology	Non-Academic (Civil Society)	Partnership	✓ Active (new 2025–26)	9 workshops
Tumoooh Sport Management	Non-Academic (Private)	Partnership	✓ Active (new 2025–26)	1 workshop
Bahrain Special Olympics	Non-Academic (Civil Society)	MOU	✓ Fully signed	Inclusion programming for students with special needs
Bahrain Strategic Planning Society	Non-Academic (Civil Society)	Cooperation Agreement	□ Draft — formalization in progress	Podcast series launched ahead of formal signing
GARMCO	Non-Academic (Industry)	MOU	□ Expected — not yet signed	Research/training/community service cooperation discussed
Mulhamoon Youth Authority	Non-Academic (Government/Youth)	Formal partnership framework	□ Expected — coordination meeting held, not yet formalized	Youth innovation & entrepreneurship cooperation
Shura Council	Non-Academic	Client agreement (paid training)	✓ Active	Crisis/disaster management workshop delivered
Al Falah School	Academic	Partnership	✓ Active (ongoing since 2023–24)	1 workshop
King Saud University (KSA)	Academic	Client agreement (paid training)	✓ Active	Advanced Statistical Analysis workshop
Jubail Industrial College (KSA)	Academic	Regional twinning partnership (SDM-C)	✓ Active	Cross-border Sustainability Club collaboration
Microsoft / ZainTECH / Vembu	Non-Academic (Technology)	Vendor/service agreements (DTC)	✓ Active — <i>inferred, not tagged by DTC</i>	Infrastructure, cloud security, and backup services

Summary of Academic and Non-Academic Agreements Status 2025–26

Category	Total Agreements	✓ Active/Signed	□ Draft/In Progress	□ Expected/Informal
Academic	3	3	0	0
Non-Academic — Government	8	8	0	0
Non-Academic — Civil Society	3	1	1 (Bahrain Strategic Planning Society)	1 (Mulhamoon, informal coordination stage)

Category	Total Agreements	✓ Active/Signed	□ Draft/In Progress	□ Expected/Informal
Non-Academic — Industry/Private	2	1 (Tumoooh Sport)	0	1 (GARMCO, MOU expected)
Non-Academic — Technology (DTC, inferred)	3	3	0	0
Total	19	16 (84%)	1 (5%)	2 (11%)

Institutional Framework for Strategic Partnerships

Gulf University sustains its SDG commitments through a deliberately layered institutional framework — one that spans digital infrastructure, formal legal agreements, industry dialogue, international benchmarking, and cross-departmental governance.

SDM-C Partnership Platform: The Sustainability and Development Makers Center serves as Gulf University's central coordinating hub for sustainability collaborations, channeling institutional resources and community goodwill into structured, trackable projects. Its dedicated Sustainability Partnership Programme continues to expand governmental, industrial, and community relationships, while the GU–SDGs Monitor Platform consolidates this activity into a live digital dashboard — linking every partnership-driven initiative directly to its relevant SDGs and providing the evidence base for institutional reporting, ranking submissions, and continuous improvement.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): Gulf University has built a genuine portfolio of formal agreements with local and international partners to advance SDG initiatives — from a fully signed MoU with the Bahrain Special Olympics supporting inclusion (SDG 10), to active government partnerships with the Ministries of Interior, Transportation & Telecommunications, Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture, and Health, to a regional twinning agreement with the Sustainability Club of Jubail Industrial College in Saudi Arabia. Additional cooperation agreements — with GARMCO and the Bahrain Strategic Planning Society — are currently in formalization, reflecting a healthy and growing partnership pipeline rather than a static list.

Industry Advisory Boards: Structured dialogue between academia and industry is facilitated through CECEC's Industry Collaboration pillar, which in 2025–26 delivered its most productive year to date — 14 activities spanning knowledge-transfer lectures (such as the Ministry of Industry & Commerce's Patents Lecture), executive-level research visits (GARMCO), and applied student research presented directly to industry leadership. These engagements ensure that Gulf University's research and innovation agenda remains responsive to the real operational needs of Bahrain's industrial and public sectors.

Participation in Global Rankings and Networks: Gulf University's international engagement is substantiated by measurable results — a cumulative increase of over 850 points in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings between 2023 and 2025, positioning the University as the highest-ranked institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain on this index. This is reinforced by active participation in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Network, with the GU–SDGs Monitor Platform purpose-built to generate the structured evidence these frameworks require.

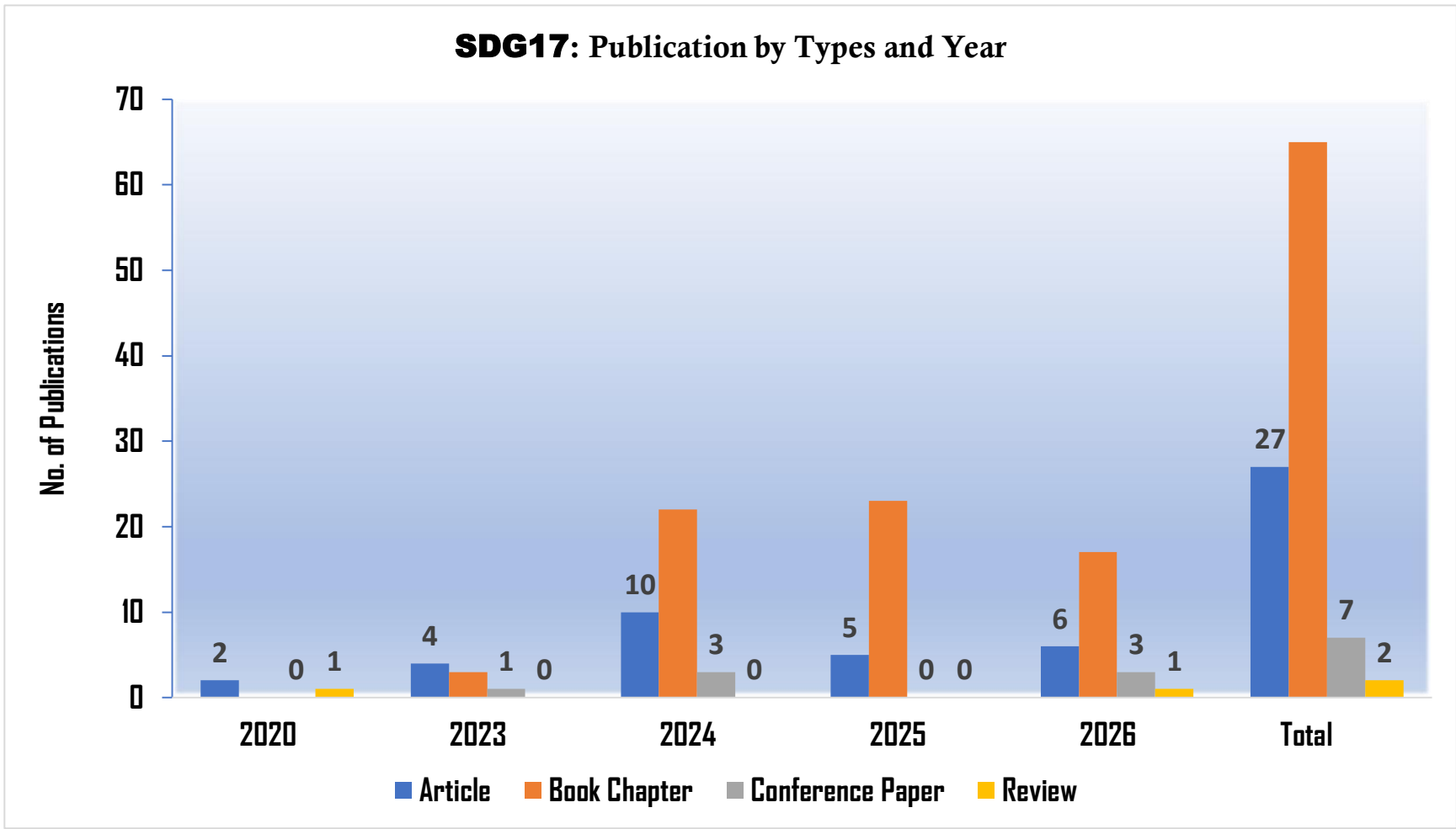
Internal SDG Task Force: Institution-wide sustainability coordination is anchored by SDM-C's university-mandated, cross-college governance structure, under which every College formally appoints a designated representative to the Center — creating a genuine interdisciplinary task force rather than a single-department initiative. This structure, combined with the GU–SDGs Monitor Platform's cross-departmental data integration, enables coordinated institution-wide sustainability reporting and continuous performance monitoring.

Together, these frameworks directly advance **SDG Targets 17.14** (enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development) and **17.17** (encouraging effective public, public-private, and civil-society partnerships) — positioning Gulf University's partnership architecture not as a collection of individual agreements, but as an integrated system for translating collaboration into measurable sustainable development impact.

The activities under this SDG are strategically aligned with multiple other SDGs, promoting:

- Good health (SDG 3)
- Quality education (SDG 4)
- Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8)
- Industry and innovation (SDG 9)
- Reduced inequalities (SDG 10)
- Sustainable cities (SDG 11)
- Peace and justice (SDG 16)
- Strong institutional partnerships (SDG 17)

GU Research & publications related to SDG 17



Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Indicator Description	2025–2026 Result	Status
KPI 1	CECEC pillar coverage of SDG 17	7 of 7 pillars (100%)	✳ Exceeded — full institutional coverage
KPI 2	CECEC partner organizations & industry partnerships	9 partner organizations; 14 industry partnership activities	✳ Exceeded
KPI 3	Activities addressing SDG 17 within GUSW2025	6 of 35 activities (17.1%)	✓ Achieved
KPI 4	ICSIDI 2025 research papers addressing SDG 17	10.0% of accepted papers	✓ Achieved
KPI 5	SDM-C flagship initiatives anchored by formal government partnerships	3 — Carbon-free Campus (Ministry of Transportation), Tree-Planting (Ministry of Municipalities/stc Bahrain), Jubail Industrial College twinning	✓ Achieved
KPI 6	DTC technology-vendor partnerships	3+ — Microsoft, ZainTECH, Vembu (plus payment-gateway exploration) — inferred, not tagged by DTC	✓ Achieved

Summary of Impact and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Program	Objective	Participants	Outcome
CECEC Cross-Pillar Partnership Model	Deliver community engagement through formal government, industry, and civil-society partnerships	9 partner organizations across all 7 pillars	SDG 17 present in 100% of CECEC pillars — the University's most fully institutionalised goal
Pillar 5 Industry & Government Collaboration	Build sustained industry partnerships supporting workforce and innovation goals	GARMCO, BCCI, Ministry of Transportation, Mulhamoon, Bahrain Specialist Hospital	14 partnership activities in 2025–26 — CECEC's most productive collaboration year on record
Carbon-free Campus Initiative (SDM-C, with Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications)	Deliver sustainable mobility through formal government partnership	GU students & staff	Explicitly mapped to SDG 17; joint public-sector delivery model
Daily Tree-Planting Campaign (SDM-C, with Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture, stc Bahrain)	Deliver environmental action through public–private partnership	GU students, staff; Bahrain community	Explicitly mapped to SDG 17; recurring flagship GUSW activity
Jubail Industrial College Sustainability Club Twinning (SDM-C)	Establish regional cross-border sustainability partnership	GU and Jubail Industrial College (KSA) students	Regional twinning partnership supporting knowledge exchange
GUSW2025 & ICSDI 2025 (SDM-C)	Convene multi-sector partners (ministries, UN agencies, GCC universities, private sector) around sustainability	GUSW2025 delegates; ICSDI 2025 researchers	SDG 17 addressed in 6 of 35 GUSW2025 activities (17.1%); 10.0% of ICSDI 2025 papers
Technology-Vendor Partnerships (DTC) (<i>inferred, not tagged by DTC</i>)	Deliver secure, modern digital infrastructure through vendor partnership	GU students, faculty, staff (system users)	Partnerships with Microsoft (365 A5/Azure), ZainTECH (cloud security), Vembu (backup); exploring new payment-gateway partners

Conclusion and Future Directions

SDG 17 is Gulf University's foundational goal — not a separate initiative but the connective tissue running through everything else reviewed across SDG 2 through SDG 14. CECEC's full 7/7 pillar coverage and 14-partnership year, combined with SDM-C's three government-anchored flagship initiatives and a regional Saudi twinning relationship, show a University that treats partnership as its default delivery mode rather than an occasional strategy. The main open item is formalising DTC's technology partnerships as an explicit, confirmed SDG 17 contribution rather than an inferred one.

Future Directions

- Confirm and formally tag DTC's Microsoft, ZainTECH, and Vembu partnerships as explicit SDG 17 contributions, since these are substantial, real vendor relationships currently left unclaimed.
- Convert the Jubail Industrial College twinning from a single regional relationship into a template for 2–3 additional GCC or international sustainability-club partnerships.

- Track partnership *outcomes* (joint publications, MOUs signed, funding secured) rather than partnership *counts* alone, to strengthen the evidentiary depth behind next year's KPI reporting.
- Consolidate the many individual MOUs and partnership relationships (CECEC's 9+ organizations, SDM-C's ministry relationships, DTC's vendors) into a single institution-wide partnership registry.
- Set a combined annual target (e.g., ≥ 14 CECEC industry partnerships sustained + ≥ 1 new DTC-confirmed technology partnership + continued 7/7 pillar coverage) to protect this year's exceptional performance as an institutional standard rather than a peak year.

Compiled from:

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/innovation-entrepreneurship-center/annual-report/IEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Sustainability Development Makers- Center -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/sustainability-and-development-makers-center/SDM-C-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Community Engagement & Continuing Education Center (CECEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/community-engagement-and-continuing-education-center/annual-reports/CECEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Digital Transformation Center (DTC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/digital-transformation-center/annual-report/DTC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

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