

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY POLICY ON PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION TO END POVERTY IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS

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Policy Code: UCU-SDG-2024-06

Effective Date: January 2024

Approved by: Office of the Acting University President

I. RATIONALE

Urdaneta City University (UCU) recognizes education as a powerful tool for social transformation and poverty alleviation. In alignment with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**—specifically **SDG 1: No Poverty**—UCU is committed to actively participating in and implementing programs, research, and policies that address poverty at the **local, regional, national, and global levels**.

The University believes that eliminating poverty requires inclusive education, livelihood opportunities, and community empowerment. By fostering collaboration among academic units, local government agencies, private institutions, and international partners, UCU strengthens its role as an agent of change in ensuring that no individual or community is left behind.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To establish UCU's participation and leadership in **programs and policies** that address poverty in all its forms.

To integrate **poverty alleviation strategies** into the University's teaching, research, and extension functions.

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- To strengthen partnerships and collaborations at local, regional, national, and international levels to promote social and economic inclusion.
- To contribute to the realization of SDG 1: End Poverty in All Its Dimensions Everywhere.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all academic and administrative offices, colleges, and affiliated organizations within Urdaneta City University, including units engaged in research, community development, student affairs, and external partnerships.

IV. POLICY GUIDELINES

A. Integration of Poverty Reduction into Academic and Institutional Programs

- All colleges shall incorporate poverty reduction themes and inclusive development principles into their curricula, research projects, and community extension initiatives.
- Research and innovation efforts shall prioritize projects addressing employment, livelihood, health, and education in marginalized communities.
- UCU shall conduct capacity-building programs to equip students and faculty with the knowledge and skills to engage in poverty-reduction initiatives.

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B. Community Development and Local Engagement

- Through the Center for Community Development and Extension Services (CCDES), UCU shall implement livelihood training, financial literacy, and sustainable enterprise programs for local communities.
- The University shall collaborate with local government units (LGUs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civic groups to address the root causes of poverty through education, employment, and social inclusion.
- UCU shall prioritize outreach efforts in vulnerable and underserved barangays within Pangasinan and neighboring provinces.

C. Regional, National, and Global Collaboration

1. UCU shall actively participate in national and regional networks for poverty alleviation, including government-led programs, educational consortia, and SDG-focused coalitions.
2. The University shall establish partnerships with international organizations and foreign institutions to exchange best practices, research data, and strategies for sustainable poverty reduction.
3. Representation of UCU in national and international forums related to sustainable development and poverty alleviation shall be encouraged and supported.

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D. Institutional Support and Funding

- The University shall allocate funds and resources to support poverty-related research, projects, and extension activities.
- Offices and departments may propose collaborative projects aligned with SDG 1, subject to administrative approval and monitoring.
- The Office of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (OVPA) shall ensure the alignment of academic and operational priorities with the University's anti-poverty agenda.

E. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

1. The CCDES and Planning and Development Office shall monitor the progress of all anti-poverty initiatives and document their social impact.
2. Annual reports shall be prepared to assess outcomes, identify areas for improvement, and communicate UCU's contribution to the SDGs to stakeholders.

V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Office of the Acting University President: Provides strategic direction and ensures institutional commitment.
- Chief Operating Officer (COO): Oversees program implementation and inter-agency coordination.
- Vice Presidents and Deans: Integrate SDG-related initiatives in their respective offices and colleges.

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- **CCDES:** Leads community-based poverty alleviation programs and maintains partnerships with LGUs and NGOs.
- **Research and Development Center:** Supports studies and innovations that address poverty and social inequity.
- **Student Organizations:** Participate in advocacy campaigns and volunteer programs related to poverty reduction.

VI. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this policy or to support institutional poverty-reduction efforts may result in:

- Written warnings or corrective actions for responsible offices;
- Suspension of project funding; or
- Administrative review by the University President's Office.

VII. EFFECTIVITY

This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval and dissemination to all members of the Urdaneta City University community. It shall be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with evolving national and global sustainability goals.

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