



ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

Zubair Road – Basra – Iraq – Opposite Basra Sports City

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1. Introduction

The university seeks to contribute to achieving Iraq's goals related to the commitments of the National Contributions Document and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. By working on the most effective roles related to higher education and scientific research, the university would develop aspects of life in a manner consistent with modern society.

It enhances scientific research and makes fundamental changes that can improve the university campus by developing the infrastructure and creating an environment that encourages students and staff to adopt sustainability and preserve the environment as a community lifestyle.

1.1. Purpose of the Report

STU sustainability report documents its efforts, progress, and challenges in environmental, social, and economic sustainability. It aims to:

1. Demonstrate accountability by tracking goals and achievements.
2. Engage stakeholders like students, staff, and the community.
3. Promote transparency in addressing sustainability challenges.
4. Support decision-making with data for future strategies.
5. Showcase leadership in sustainability, aligning with global standards.

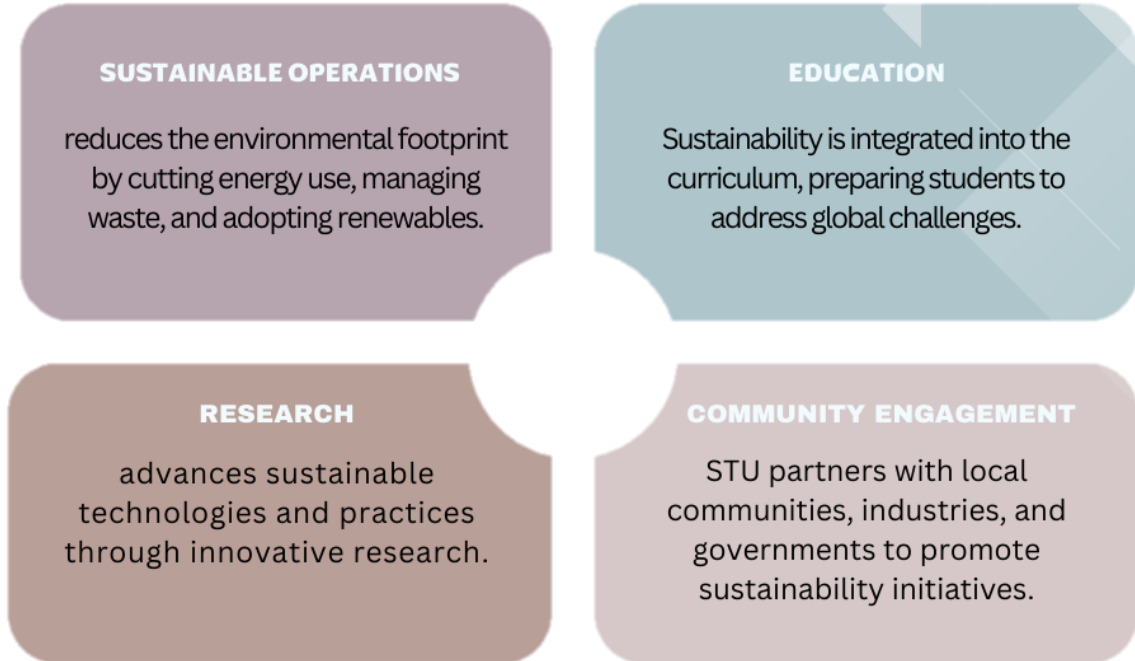
1.2. Importance of Sustainability in Higher Education

Sustainability is crucial for Southern Technical University (STU) because universities shape the future. Key reasons include:



1.3. STU Vision and Commitment to Sustainability

Southern Technical University (STU) aims to lead in sustainable development through education, research, and community engagement. Key aspects include:



2. Sustainability Strategy and Governance at STU

2.1. Sustainability Mission and Objectives

The university's sustainability mission is to create a campus that minimizes environmental impact while fostering social responsibility and economic viability. STU's key sustainability objectives include:

- Reducing carbon emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption.
- Promoting sustainable practices in campus operations, including waste management, water conservation, and transportation.
- Integrating sustainability into the curriculum to educate students on environmental stewardship and sustainable development.
- Encouraging research that focuses on innovative solutions for global sustainability challenges.
- Engaging the local community to drive sustainability efforts both on and off campus.

2.2. Governance Structure for Sustainability

STU has a clear governance structure to achieve its sustainability goals:

1. **Environmental Research and Pollution Unit:** Focuses on pollution research and sustainable practices to guide STU's policies.
2. **Sustainability and Climate Change Unit:** Coordinates climate action, promotes resilience, and integrates climate strategies into STU operations.
3. **Student Sustainability Groups:** Students promote sustainability through events, campaigns, and volunteer programs aligned with STU's goals.

2.3. Stakeholder Engagement

STU's sustainability strategy involves:



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Figure 1: The Activities October 2023 – Aug. 2024

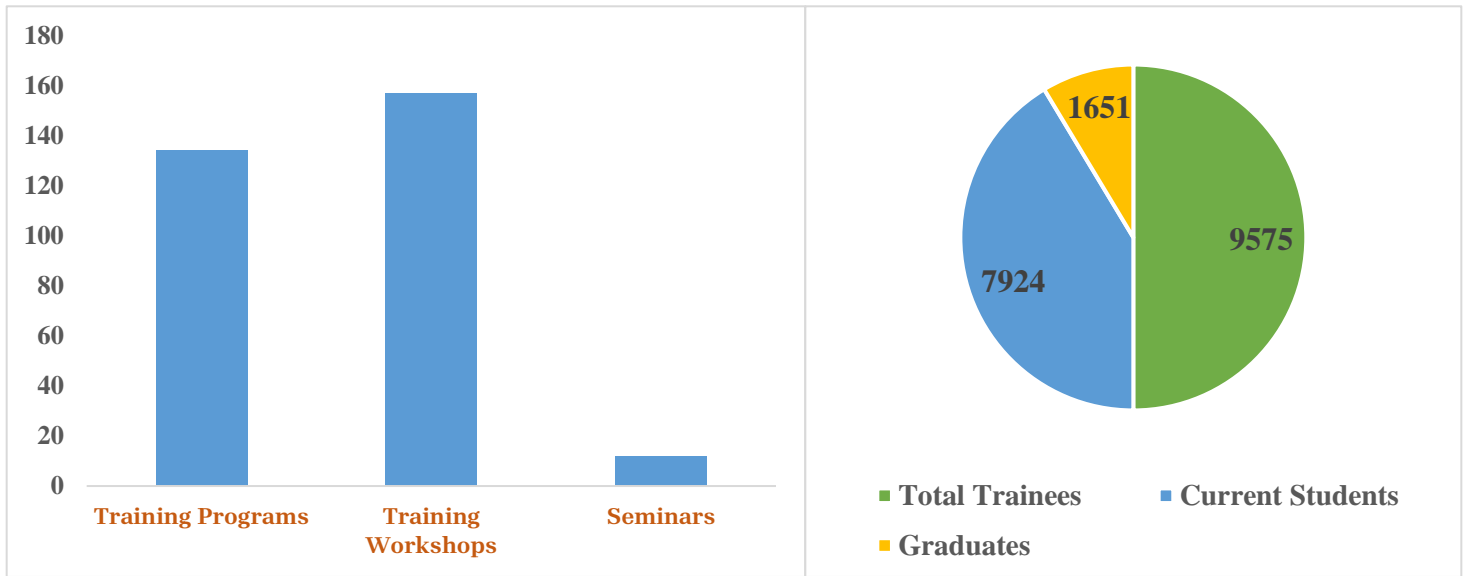
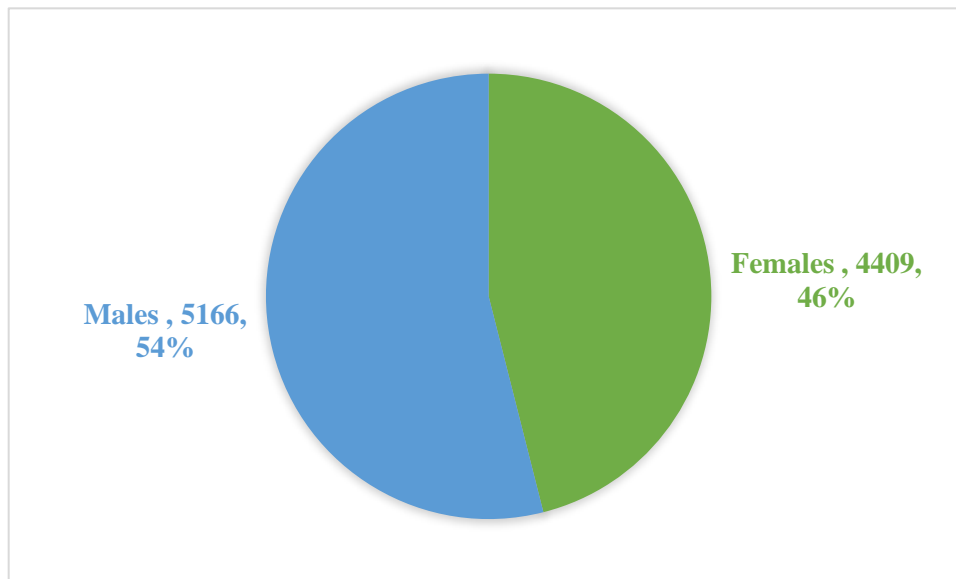
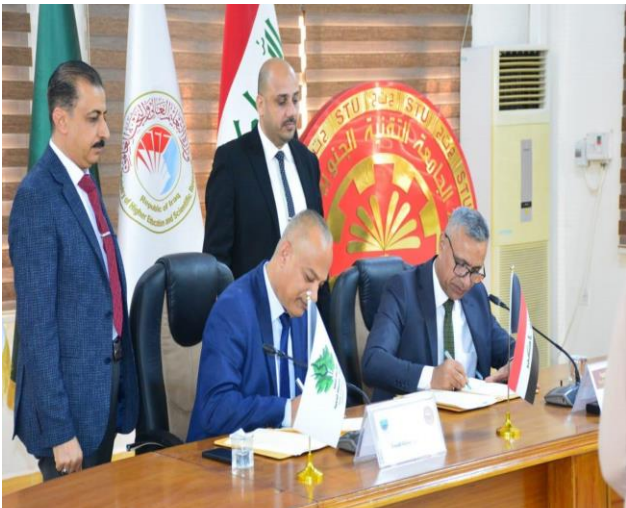


Figure 2: Gender equality in training programs provided by STU





International Engagement and Training

3. Environmental Sustainability

3.1. Energy & Climate Action

3.1.1. Energy consumption

Southern Technical University has already initiated a transition towards using energy-efficient devices, including the adoption of LED lighting and inverter-based cooling systems and fans. These initiatives aim to reduce energy consumption and enhance sustainability in the university's daily operations, reflecting its commitment to adopting environmentally friendly practices that help conserve resources and lower its carbon footprint.



3.1.2. Renewable energy initiatives

The Southern Technical University is a leader in the field of renewable energy, primarily relying on solar energy to generate electricity. Given the region's nature and prevailing climate, solar energy serves as the ideal source to meet the university's needs.

The university aims to increase its renewable energy sources to provide a sustainable campus environment, reinforcing its commitment to protecting the environment and reducing carbon emissions.

These initiatives reflect the university's vision of building a sustainable future for upcoming generations and promoting environmental awareness among students and the community.



3.1.3. Water conservation efforts

Southern Technical University is implementing modern irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, to conserve water when watering plants, enhancing the efficiency of water resource usage. Additionally, the university is moving towards establishing restrooms equipped with energy-efficient devices as part of its current infrastructure project. These initiatives are part of the university's efforts to promote sustainability and reduce energy and water consumption on campus.

3.1.4. Transportation

The university is committed to promoting a sustainable academic environment through an effective transportation policy to reduce carbon emissions and encourage eco-friendly transportation. This policy includes the following:

1. Encouraging Walking:

The university encourages all students and staff to use walking as their primary mode of transportation within the campus. This not only promotes overall health but also contributes to reducing emissions from vehicles.



2. Limited Vehicle Use:

Given the availability of dedicated housing for students and staff within the campus, vehicle use for these groups is restricted. All members are encouraged to adopt alternative transportation methods.

3. Taxi System:

Monthly taxi services are available for groups of staff, and these vehicles do not enter the campus. This system helps minimize vehicle traffic within the campus, reduce carbon emissions, and improve air quality.

4. Promoting Alternative Transportation:

The university supports the use of bicycles and public transport as sustainable transportation options. Bicycle parking facilities and information about available public transport options will be provided.

5. Awareness and Sustainability:

The university promotes environmental awareness through campaigns and educational events focused on the importance of reducing carbon emissions and their impact on the environment.



5. Summary

In recent years, due to the challenges Iraq has faced, including wars and the COVID-19 pandemic, sustainability and environmental concerns were not a priority for decision-makers. However, over the past three years, following Iraq's accession to the Paris Agreement in 2021, there has been growing interest in achieving sustainable development goals and defining the role of educational institutions in supporting these efforts.

The university has recently organized various activities, seminars, and scientific workshops in this field, along with visits to work sites that provide students with practical knowledge, particularly in chemical industries focused on recycling, as well as art exhibitions featuring recycled materials. Additionally, research published by faculty and scientific staff aims to further promote environmental protection and sustainability.



Visit a plastic recycling plant as part of sustainability activities



Waste Recycling Activity



Providing clean and sustainable energy using photovoltaic systems



Organizing an Art Exhibition About Waste Recycling



Cleaning campaign for a natural site (Jabal Sanam)



Planting Week Activity

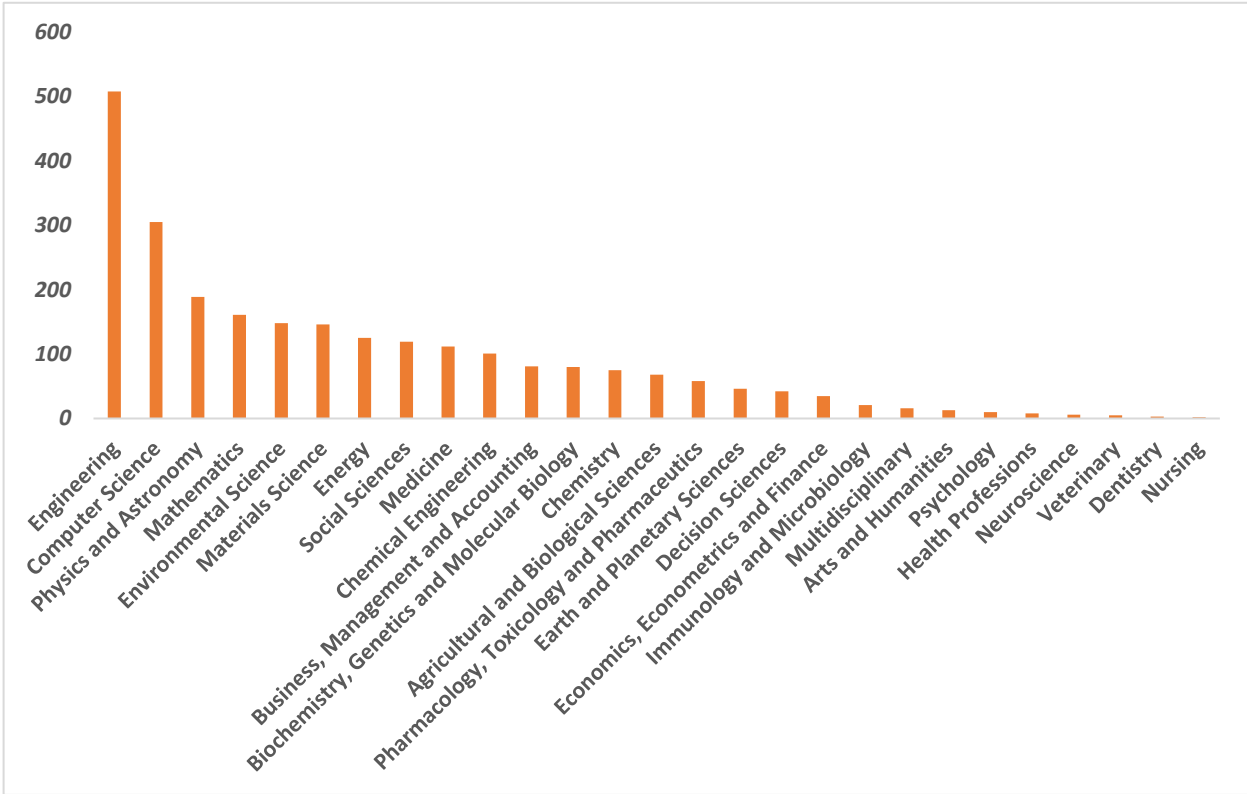
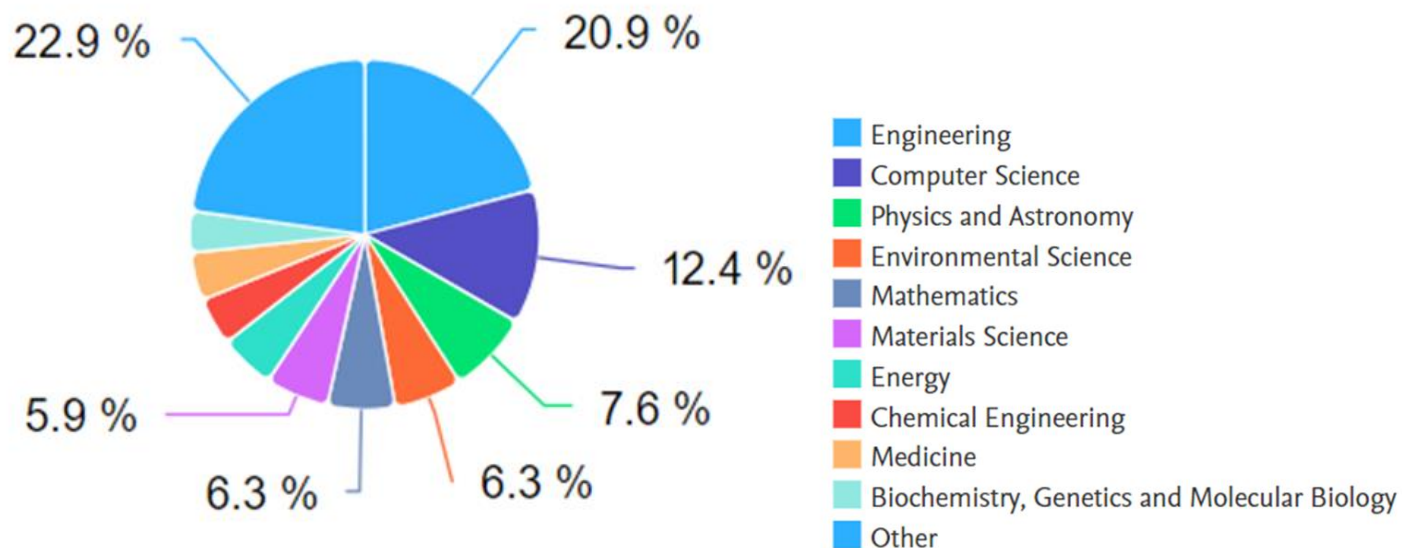


Figure 3: Total number of publications based on subject

Subject trends



SDG contributions

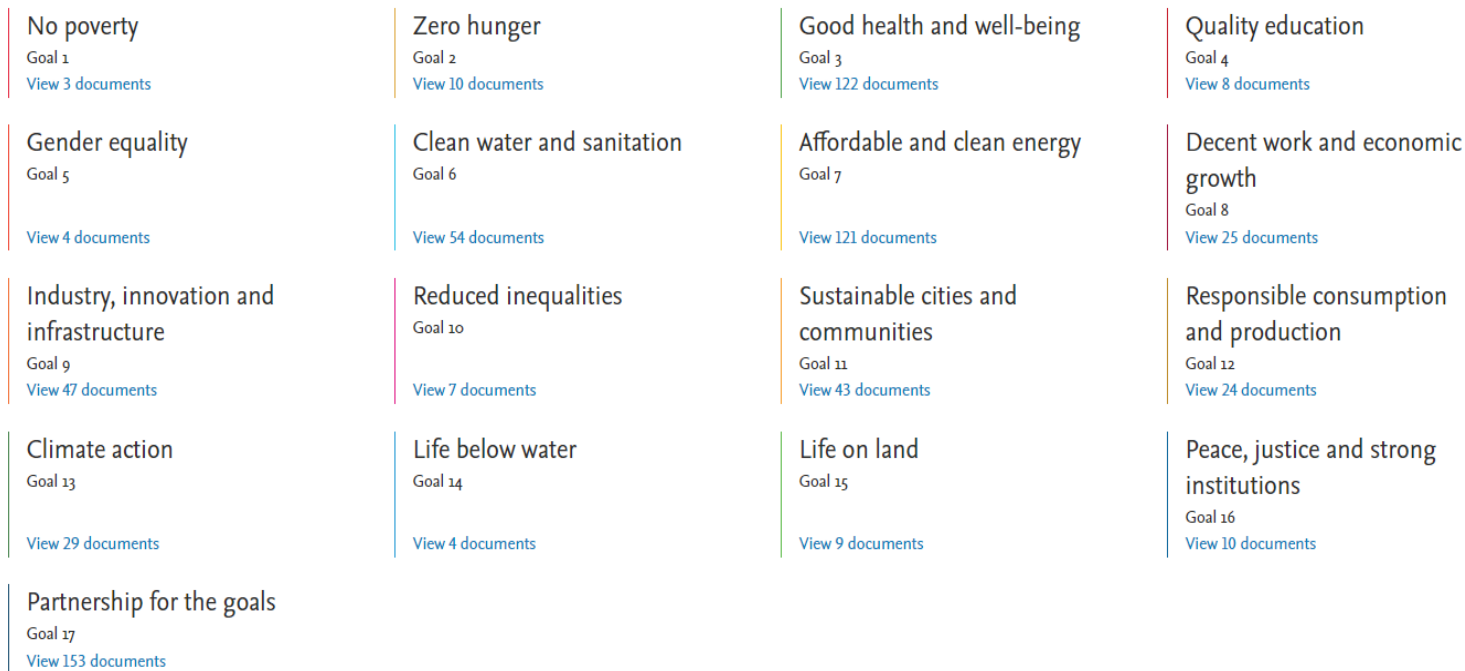
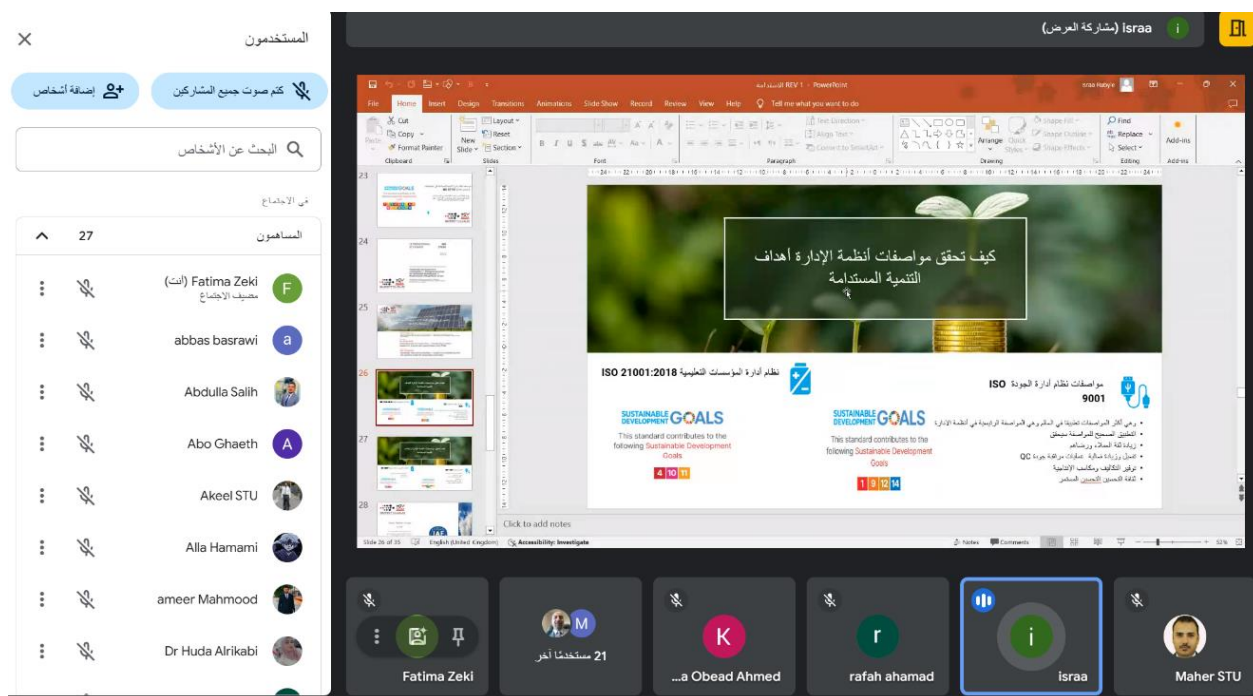


Figure4: SDG Research



In-person workshop (Protect Our Lifeline: keep the water clean and pollution-free)



Online seminars about sustainability