

PROGRESS REPORT FOR SDG 1

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) – No Poverty, is at the core of the mandate of Covenant University to restore the dignity and battered image of the black race. The university is committed to be a world-class university committed to raising a new generation of leaders in all fields of human endeavor. Covenant University, through her custom-built **Entrepreneurship Development Studies (EDS)** curriculum, **Hebron Start-up Lab**, **Community Initiatives and Outreach** programs, **Students Services and Support Programs**, **Industry/Town-Gown Collaborations** and various sustainability programs, has made significant progress in producing graduates who are not only industry ready, most employable and resourceful but also employers of labour. This report highlights key achievements, policies, and future steps that align the university with the global sustainability goals especially towards reducing poverty.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS SDG 1.

1. Research and Community Engagement

Covenant University's faculty undertake research targeted at reducing poverty. Covenant University has continued to engage in research and community engagements with the sole aim of reducing poverty in our community, Nigeria, Africa and the world at large. Covenant University ranked number 4 in Nigeria, 22 in Africa and top 100 globally in the scholarly outputs for SDG 1 for publications between 2019 – 2023 (SCIVAL: <https://www.scival.com/trends/institutions/table?uri=Customer/0/ResearchArea/219255>). This ranking has two faculty of Covenant University – Prof. Evans S. C. Osabuohien and Prof. Oluwatoyin A. Matthew ranked among the top-100 authors globally. The university regularly engage in numerous community impact initiatives to better the live of the locals in our community. Outreach programs are organised to reach the underserve neighboring communities to deliver free medical checkups and other healthcare services, give free food (cooked and raw) and donate free public goods such as pipe-borne water, electricity transformer and other basic amenities that will impact the lifestyles of the residents and improve their total well-being. Empowerment programmes are also organised for small business holders and farmers and seed grants are given to support their businesses.

2. Student Support Services

Covenant University has initiated various student support services and policies that emphasize the general wellbeing of students on campus. This is an *in-loco-parentis* initiative that makes the campus feel like a home away from home for our students. Our students' needs are catered for financially and mentally. Many orientation programs towards living a balanced life on campus are organised for the students regularly.

3. Provision of Financial Aids

Covenant University actively engages some units that have direct access and contact to the students such as the student's affairs unit, chaplaincy and Alumni office to provide needed financial aids to students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group. These financial aids help students to cover payment for their meal plans, books and daily needs on campus.

4. **Scholarships**

Covenant University offers international scholarships, fellowships, or grants to both local and international students. Apart from university-based scholarships, many other organizations, including foundations, trusts, and corporate bodies, give scholarships to international students. Covenant University through the David Oyedepo's Foundation, Alumni Endowment, Chaplaincy Unit and Covenant Applied Informatics and Communication, Africa Centre of Excellence (CApIC-ACE) gives global merit scholarships to outstanding students that fall into the bottom 20% of household income group every academic year.

5. **Entrepreneurship Development Studies (EDS)**

Covenant University has a well-established and adequately equipped Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies which provides students with hands-on experiences on various skills and vocations. Students are also encouraged to develop the business of the skill they have learnt and helped through the university's Hebron Start-up lab to launch their businesses even while on Campus. Covenant University's reputation to make things happen as well as her capacity to cultivate and support talents, skills and entrepreneurs are reflected in the quality of her graduates. Some of the companies founded by our graduates include **Softcom, KoraPay, PiggyVest, ThriveAgric, Level UP**, etc. These were delivered with available resources, support from the University as well as from the external community who helped to give exposure, mentoring, training, opportunities, and support.

6. **Covenant University's Hebron Start-up Lab (HSL)**

Covenant University Start-up Lab help students to incubate their ideas and launch their business while on campus. The students have investment hub and the Covenant University Finance Society where they are educated on sustainable investment and healthy financial habits. Covenant University also has a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Youth Club which serve as a converging point for all social-developmental programmes and associations on campus, just like UNESCO collaborates with many NGOs and smaller expert networks to organize programmes and execute projects. HSL's mission is to cultivate high-growth entrepreneurs, talents, and teams to solve problems through entrepreneurship and innovation.

7. **Industry/Town-Gown Collaborations**

Covenant University collaborates with the industry to facilitate empowerment programs for focused groups in the community. The Town/Gown initiative that brings experts from the industry to rub minds with our students with the intent of preparing them for the future of work is also note-worthy. Some of the activities in the 2024 include Covenant University collaboration with the International Federation of Training and Development Organisation's Committee for Youth and Women Empowerment (IFTDO-CYWE) and TotalEnergies in awarding grants to widows in small scale business in Lagos and Ogun State. Covenant University through Covenant Applied Informatics and Communication, Africa Centre of Excellence (CApIC-ACE) also collaborate with Beulah Solutions and MeCure Diagnostic Centre, Lagos to give free breast and prostate cancer checkup and treatment to indigenes of Ado-Odo Ota in 2024 to mention a few.

ONGOING POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

1. Targets to Admit More Students in the Bottom 20% of Household Income Group

Covenant University is committed to creating an equitable educational environment where financial constraints do not hinder access to quality education. By implementing needs-based admissions, providing targeted financial aid, expanding scholarship opportunities, and engaging in community outreach, Covenant University is actively working to uplift economically disadvantaged students, aligning with SDG 1 and reinforcing its mission to contribute to poverty reduction through education.

2. Excellent Academic Progression for Students in the Bottom 20% of Household Income Group

To ensure that admitted students from low-income households succeed academically and personally, Covenant University offers tailored mentorship and student support services. These programs provide guidance and address students' academic and personal needs, fostering a supportive environment that enhances student retention and success rates. The university provides extensive financial aid support to students from low-income families. Through a collaborative effort among the Student Affairs, Chaplaincy, and Alumni offices, Covenant University assists students with essential campus expenses, such as meal plans, housing, and textbooks. This program ensures that admitted students can focus on their studies without the constant stress of financial insecurity.

3. Concentrated Support Services for Students from Low Income Families

Covenant University offers various scholarships targeting students from the bottom 20% income group. Funded through initiatives like the David Oyedepo Foundation, Alumni Endowment, and Chaplaincy Unit, these scholarships are awarded based on financial need and academic merit. The university's robust scholarship programs allowed over 483 students to receive scholarships in the 2023/2024 academic session, ensuring continued support for low-income students.

4. Intensified Community Anti-Poverty Programmes

The university actively seeks partnerships with foundations, trusts, and corporate sponsors to increase scholarship and aid resources for students in need, reach out to underserved communities around her, and cater for the medical and financial needs of the indigenes and locals in her immediate environment. These partnerships enable the university to expand the financial support available to low-income students and the communities around her ensuring a sustainable pipeline of resources for those admitted from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and also impact her environment. Covenant University conducts outreach and awareness programs within local communities, identifying potential students who may not otherwise consider higher education due to financial challenges. These initiatives, often coordinated with community leaders and Living Faith Church Worldwide, highlight the availability of scholarships and financial aid at Covenant University, encouraging students from underrepresented groups to apply.

5. Annual Sustainability Reporting

The university publishes an annual Sustainability Report to track its progress on poverty reduction and sustainability efforts. This report provides transparency and allows the university community to stay informed of ongoing initiatives.

FUTURE PLANS FOR SDG 1

1. Expansion of SDG 1 Policy Towards Total Poverty Eradication

To advance Covenant University's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) and aim for total poverty eradication, the institution would expand its policies and initiatives through strategic enhancements in intensive and more focused rural outreach, skills development and Community Entrepreneurship Programs. CU will establish regular skills development workshops in rural areas, equipping residents with marketable skills tailored to local industries, such as agriculture, renewable energy, and digital literacy. She plans to build on the existing Hebron Start-Up Lab by creating microenterprise incubation centers in neighboring communities. These centers would support small business owners with training, mentorship, and resources, helping them scale up their ventures and create employment opportunities. CU will also increase her Town-Gown projects that focus on sustainability and poverty alleviation. For example, energy access initiatives, water supply projects, and health and education programs would serve as a bridge between academic research and practical, impactful community solutions. She plans to integrate a financial literacy curriculum for both students and their families, helping them manage finances more effectively, plan for the future, and avoid the debt cycle.

2. Enhanced National and Global Participation in Policy Making to End Poverty

Strategic Alliances with Government and NGOs by forming partnerships with government bodies, NGOs, and international development organizations to scale poverty alleviation initiatives. Such alliances can expand funding sources, influence public policy, and support larger-scale programs for community development. *Research and Policy Advocacy for Local Development* by leveraging faculty expertise to conduct and publish impactful research on poverty reduction strategies specific to the local context. This data would be shared with local government and policy-makers to drive informed decisions that directly address poverty. *Poverty Awareness Campaigns* by conducting awareness campaigns and workshops that educate the community about the impacts of poverty and pathways to economic stability. These events can attract additional resources and support, driving local initiatives and boosting awareness on poverty-related issues and *Policy Research and Recommendations* by establishing a think tank within the university dedicated to researching poverty and proposing policy recommendations. By publishing and presenting findings to policymakers, Covenant University would contribute evidence-based strategies that can influence regional poverty eradication policies.

CONCLUSION

Covenant University's concentrated efforts at integrating SDG 1 into her operations are evident in the expansion of her existing SDG 1 policies to include diverse approaches that strengthen her impact on poverty reduction within Nigeria and beyond. Covenant University combines education, research, community engagement, and industry collaboration, to advance her mission of promoting sustainable development and restoring dignity across the black race.

2019-2022 THE Data

Research metric details for SDG 1: No Poverty

THE Impact Rankings 2024 · Covenant University

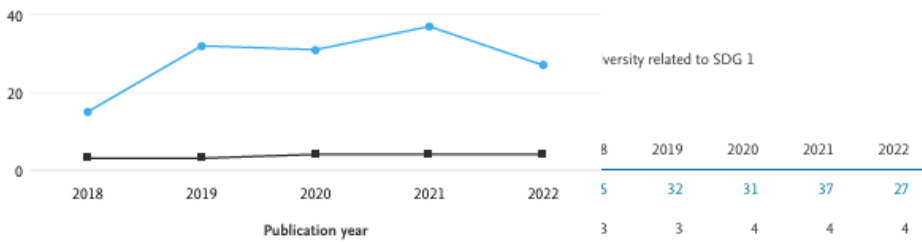
[Metric guidance](#) [Export](#)

201–300
SDG Rank (THE)

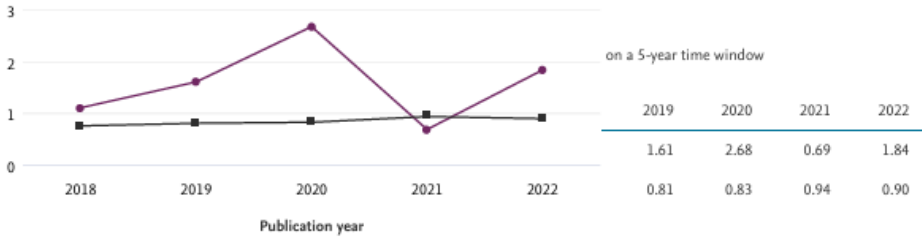
57.0–62.3
SDG Score (THE)

Research metric	Weight (%)	Value	Metric rank percentile
Scholarly Output (THE)	10%	142	97th
Field-Weighted Citation Impact - 5 Year (THE)	10%	1.60	80th
Co-authorship with Low or Lower-middle Income Countries (THE)	7%	0.113	72nd

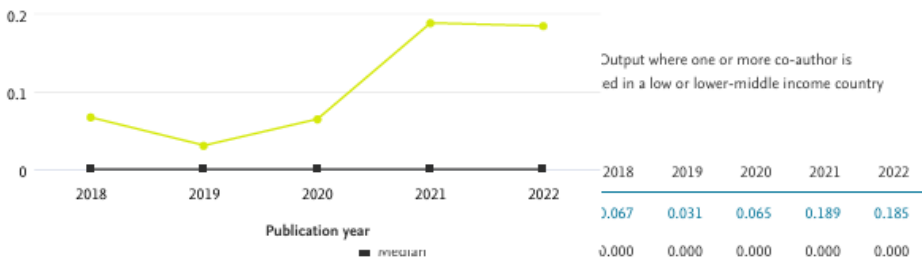
Scholarly Output (THE)



Field-Weighted Citation Impact - 5 Year (THE)



Co-authorship with Low or Lower-middle Income Countries (THE)



2023 in View

Research performance within SDG 1: No Poverty (2023)


Entity: Covenant University · Within: All subject areas (ASJC) · Year range: 2021 to 2023 · Data source: Scopus, up to 30 Oct 2024

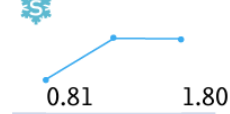
80

Scholarly Output 



1.36

Field-Weighted Citation Impact 



30

International Collaboration 



2,960

Views Count

550

Citation Count 