University of Balamand

SDG	Description of action plan:
SDG 1: No poverty	In light of one of the most devastating explosions in the history of mankind hitting Beirut, the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Balamand put together a team of experts to study the environmental impact on the city and its surroundings. The team is headed by Vice President for Internationalization and Engagement and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Rami Abboud and consists of Dr. Marianne Saba, Dr. Amal Iaaly, Dr. Rima Manneh, and Miss Katia Chedid.
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	The Career Services Center, in collaboration with Global Compact Network Lebanon, organized the annual "Community Fair- Engage to Change" under the theme "SDG 2- Zero Hunger". The fair was initiative to introduce students to volunteering and to interacting with the community in order to advance ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. Following the Covid- 19 pandemic, the University, in collaboration with one of its main supporters, distributed more than 400 food boxes to poor families. Christmas fundraising event for Ajialouna NGO orphans in Tripoli (tickets sale+ gifts collection)
SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing	UOB created a COVID-19 crisis

	management team headed by its president. The management team shares with university members and other members of the community trustworthy updates regarding the virus, in addition to awareness messages. Within this framework the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Balamand, launched "My Safety" application. The application depends on the GIS technology and field survey to collect health information for the residents of the Union of Municipalities of the Dreb Al Awsat and Jurd Al-Qayta 'in Akkar. The ambition of this App is to create a comprehensive database that helps local authorities and emergency committees at a time of disaster. The App will be utilized by volunteer nurses and doctors to build a comprehensive database that enables rapid initial screening of potential COVID-19 cases and the identification of areas and people that might be at high risk. The aim of this work is to contain and try to limit the spread of the epidemic, enhance the capabilities of local authorities, and improve their ability to respond to the crisis. In this framework, engineers with experience in GIS technology. With UNICEF initiation and support and as part of the national effort and the national plan on CORONA preparedness adopted by the Lebanese Government in collaboration with WHO and the Disaster Management Unit at the Prime Minister Office, the

	Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Education, the Co-Academic Programs of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Balamand and the Lebanese Red Cross were commissioned to undertake community mobilization spreading awareness about the virus and promoting precaution and safety behaviors. In addition to the awareness material that was developed and distributed, as at March 13, 2020, the team completed 56 training sessions with a total of 2,600 participants, who are now able to train others. Further sessions will be held to various entities, while sparing no effort to contribute to the national/global effort to limit the spread of the disease and contain the problem. The University has successfully requested, acquired and continues to test Respondus for online exams since the beginning of March. Respondus is now fully integrated with Moodle. Respondus is a leader in automated proctoring solutions that build upon the power of browser lockdown, using a student's webcam and by providing industry-leading video analytics and artificial intelligence to prevent cheating during non-proctored exams. This online proctoring service restricts students from accessing programs and applications, browsing the internet, printing, copying, accessing other websites, and using instant messaging programs until they complete the exam. This guarantee that students can only

	access resources configured and allowed by their instructors. This effort falls within the framework of directives of the University President, Dr. Elias Warrak, who heads the UOB COVID-19 Crisis Management Team that the university has formed to tackle different aspects of the Corona crisis and its repercussions on the university, society and the country. The University of Balamand has launched "HAYATI" a mobile application to help contain the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic in Lebanon. HAYATI collects information from users about any symptoms they experience and helps direct suspected cases for follow-up with specialists. The application also collects necessary information that supports the national efforts to cope with the epidemic and its repercussions. In terms of epidemiological surveillance, HAYATI contributes to identifying high-risk regions. The App will also collect economic data that can help direct donations and aid to the neediest groups. This information is integrated into a dashboard in real-time and used to produce smart maps that help those involved in following up on the situation at the national level and any developments.
SDG 8: Good Jobs and Economic Growth	the Career Services Center (CSC) at the University of Balamand (UOB) is to help students achieve their career goals by offering information and

	advice, scheduling workshops, and providing resources that are customizable, user-friendly, educational and fun, specifically selected and tailored to help them succeed
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	The University is dedicated to prompting students do volunteer work and social internships in collaboration with national institutions (for example SOS Village) The career services center collaborated with Pro-Abled NGO on an inclusion program for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The project consists of giving recommendation so that the University buildings and facilities are accessible for PWDs
SDG 14: Life Below Water	The Marine and Coastal Resources Program at the Institute of Environment implemented the "Artificial Sea Reef 2018" project, with funding from the European Union. This project aims to design and implement an artificial reef, by supporting the marine fishing sector and improving the economic situation of local communities by encouraging ecotourism, recreational fishing and diving. The reef was lowered in the Berbara area - buried 1 km from the shore and at an average depth of 25 m, with the support of the naval forces in the Lebanese army. Its colonization of marine organisms will be continued for a period of at least 6 months on the scientific basis followed

	internationally. In light of one of the most devastating explosions in the history of mankind hitting Beirut, the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Balamand put together a team of experts to study the environmental impact on the city and its surroundings. The team is headed by Vice President for Internationalization and Engagement and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Rami Abboud and consists of: Dr. Marianne Saba, Dr. Amal Iaaly, Dr. Rima Manneh, and Miss Katia Chedid. The team has come together to assess the sea water pollution caused by the massive and without any doubt poisonous explosion. After less than 72 Hours of the explosion, Environmental Engineering Laboratory at the Faculty of Engineering conducted a sea water sampling campaign around the Beirut Port to analyze the sea water quality. An assessment of the major cations and anions in the water as well as the heavy metals will be done to relate the impact of the explosion on the water quality of the sea. Additionally, sediment sampling around the port region (explosion site) in Beirut is carried out to analyze the concentration of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals. Samples from other locations across the shore from Tripoli to Tyre has also been collated. Exact location of water extraction was supported by live GIS location to model the sea water

	pollution caused by the explosion and measure its impact. The findings are hoped to guide national water and sea life resources after this unprecedented contamination. The results will be published as soon as the analysis is completed (https://arcg.is/15yvO). This work compliments another University of Balamand team that is investigating dust and air pollution in the most affected area of the capital.
SDG 15: Life on Land	UOB Recycles Project (recycling containers across the campus to recycle paper, plastic and glass)
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	Partnership with "BLOM Shabeb" CSR division of BLOM Bank in organizing the "6th BLOM shabeb North Career Fair" a job orientation day for high school students in North Lebanon Partnership with "CSR Al Ahli Group" that aims at training youth in becoming social leaders in their communities Partnership with Agence Universitaire Francophone, Notre Dame University and Tripoli Entrepreneurs club to create a database of market needs in North Lebanon in order to increase employability. Partnership with Kadisha towards testing the water ducts from the Grotto (this water is used to produce electricity for north Lebanon), provide safety trainings to Kadisha staff, come up with environmental friendly solutions. Partnership with INDEVCO, Malia Group, Europtima, to increase

	students' employability and bridge the gap between academia and the industry