كليـــة البتـرجي الطبـيـــة
BATTERJEE MEDICAL COLLEGE
BMC

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1 (NO POVERTY)

2025 - 2026 **REPORT**



MEDICAL EDUCATION AND LIFE STYLE

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Batterjee Medical College's **Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals**

No Poverty

BMC Commitment to No Poverty

Executive Summary



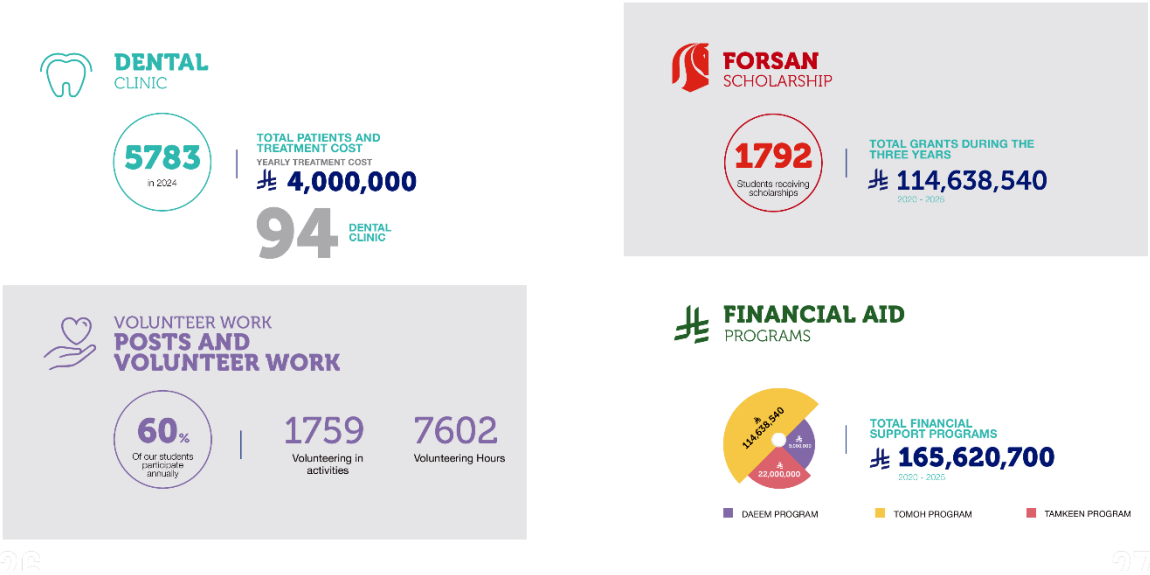
Batterjee Medical College (BMC) approaches poverty as a multi-dimensional condition rather than a single financial threshold. It encompasses restricted access to education, healthcare, and essential resources. A student may be prevented from completing a healthcare degree by tuition, but equally by housing costs, food insecurity, the price of a textbook or the absence of anyone in the family who has navigated higher education before. The College's response is therefore built on two pillars that operate in parallel: “Equitable Access to Higher Education” and “Community-Driven Anti-Poverty Programs”.

This report details BMC’s strategic initiatives, financial aid programs, community outreach, and institutional partnerships designed to eradicate poverty, alleviate financial burdens, and ensure equitable access to quality medical education and healthcare services. Across the 2025 academic year, this commitment was delivered through different college's campuses, through more than 42 student clubs, through the Social Responsibility and Sustainability Unit, and through formal partnerships with government ministries, regional development authorities, financial institutions and civil-society organizations.

Key Achievement:

Approximately **69%** of the BMC FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) **student body** receives scholarship or financial aid support, delivered through a means-tested application that assesses household size, total annual household income, income source and receipt of government assistance, and that offers tuition scholarships, **free housing**, reduced-fee housing and food support as distinct, separately awardable categories. Moreover,

delivery of critical support as **1500+ food baskets** and **600+ clothes,** to poor families. In addition, this year, more than **350,000 volunteer hours** were contributed by BMC's students and staff and **8,500+ patients** were served for free through BMC's dental clinics.

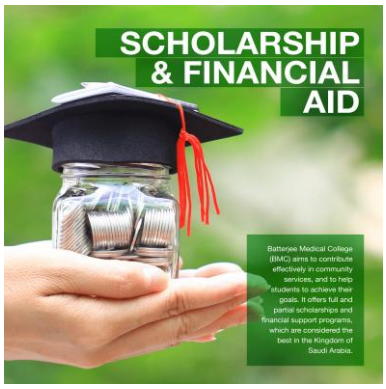


Institutional Framework and Strategic Alignment

Vision and Mission Alignment with SDG 1: BMC has embedded the principles of sustainable development and poverty eradication into its core identity. The mission to educate "socially responsible" healthcare professionals translates into concrete actions addressing SDG 1 through both educational access and community service. Institutional values of Equity, Social Responsibility, Compassion, and Sustainable Impact underpin this work. Strategically, SDG 1 is integrated into the five-year plan via specific enrollment targets for low-income students, performance indicators for community outreach, dedicated budget allocations, and staff evaluation criteria, with reviewing of annual progress.

Integration with Saudi Vision 2030: BMC's initiatives provide direct support for the three pillars of Saudi Vision 2030. Through health awareness campaigns and community events, BMC contributes to a Vibrant Society. By fostering entrepreneurship and workforce development, it fuels a Thriving Economy. And through educational excellence and a culture of volunteerism, it helps build an Ambitious Nation.

1.2 Proportion of Students Receiving Financial Aid Due to Poverty



A fundamental pillar of BMC's strategy against poverty is ensuring that financial restrictions do not obstruct students from pursuing higher education. Education is the most potent catalyst for social mobility and poverty eradication. BMC has revolutionized higher education accessibility by establishing an inclusive student support ecosystem. Recognizing that the high cost of medical education often excludes talented individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, BMC integrated profound financial empowerment and holistic pastoral care into its core mission. During the 2025 academic year, an unprecedented **about 69% of the BMC FTE student body benefited from customized financial aid or scholarships to attend university because of poverty,** representing a massive direct educational investment of over SAR 90,000,000 through many initiatives and comprehensive Scholarship Programs.

1.3 BMC's anti-poverty programs and initiatives

1.3.1 Bottom financial quintile admission target



BMC is dedicated to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the authenticity and dignity of human beings. Moreover, BMC firmly believes that equitable access to high-quality medical and healthcare education is a fundamental mechanism for poverty alleviation. To actively promote social mobility and mitigate financial barriers, BMC has set strategic, measurable target to admit students who fall into the bottom 20% of the household income group in Saudi Arabia. BMC conducts its programs, services, and activities consistent with Saudi Arabia regulations and laws. Accordingly, the "bottom 20% of the household income group" is defined in alignment with national economic data and social security eligibility criteria (e.g., Takaful / Daman).

Aims & Strategic Targets: BMC aims to ensure that at least **(10%)** of the annual newly admitted cohort belongs to the bottom 20% of the household income group in the country.

Implementation Strategies: To achieve the admission target, BMC implements the following initiatives:

- **Targeted Outreach:** Collaborating with national charities and social organizations to identify high-achieving high school graduates from low-income families and encourage them to apply.
- **Financial Barrier Removal:** Waiving initial admission and application fees for applicants presenting proof of low-income status.
- **Integrated Scholarships:** Linking this admission target directly to BMC's financial aid programs (such as the Daa'm or Al-Fursan programs) to ensure continuous financial support throughout their academic journey.



Monitoring and Reporting: The Admissions and Registration Department, in coordination with the Financial Aid Office, will track the socioeconomic background of applicants to ensure this target is met. BMC is committed to protect its students who are facing financial disadvantages and ensure they receive the necessary support to complete their education.

1.3.2 Bottom financial quintile student success

Graduation/completion targets for students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group (or a more tightly defined target) in the country. BMC is dedicated to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the authenticity and dignity of human beings; and encourages everyone to endeavor to reach his/her own potential. Moreover, BMC firmly believes that equitable access to high-quality medical and healthcare education is a fundamental mechanism for poverty alleviation. To actively promote social mobility and mitigate financial barriers, BMC has set strategic, measurable targets not only to admit but also to successfully graduate students who fall into the bottom 20% of the household income group in Saudi Arabia. BMC conducts its programs, services, and activities consistent with Saudi Arabia regulations and laws. Accordingly, the "bottom 20% of the household income group" is defined in alignment with national economic data and social security eligibility criteria (e.g., Takaful / Daman).

Aims & Strategic Targets: To ensure student success, BMC sets strict graduation/completion target for students who fall into the bottom 20% of the household income group in the country. Our target is to achieve a graduation rate of at least **(85%)** for this specific cohort, ensuring their successful transition into the healthcare workforce without being hindered by financial hardships. This target is strictly benchmarked against BMC's historical academic data (2024/2025), which demonstrated that comprehensive financial and pastoral support effectively eliminated financial strain as a cause for dropout, yielding program completion rates ranging from 83.4% to 94.0%. By intertwining financial accessibility with academic monitoring, BMC ensures that students from the lowest financial quintile graduate at rates parallel to the broader student body.

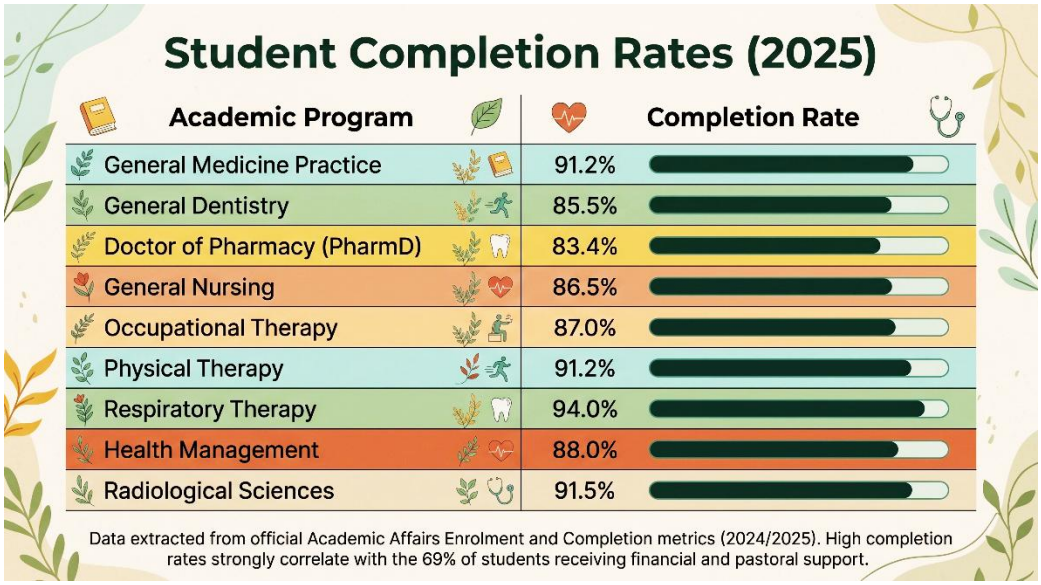
Implementation Strategies: To achieve the graduation/completion target, BMC implements the following initiative:

- **Academic Advising and Retention (Student Success):** Assigning dedicated academic advisors and offering targeted mentorship and

early-warning tutoring systems for students from the bottom financial quintile to prevent dropouts and ensure they meet the graduation targets.

Monitoring and Reporting: The Student Affairs Department will continuously track the socioeconomic background of applicants to ensure academic progression, retention rates, and graduation rates of this specific cohort are monitored annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the completion target. BMC is committed to protect its students who are facing financial disadvantages and ensure they receive the necessary support to complete their education.

Demonstrable Impact: Eliminating the Dropout Gap: The ultimate measure of outstanding student support is academic success. By seamlessly intertwining financial accessibility, comprehensive mental health advocacy, and logistical support, BMC has effectively eliminated financial strain as a cause for student dropout.



1.3.3 Low-income student support

BMC provides comprehensive and targeted support, including food, housing, and transportation, specifically designed for students from low-income families to enable them to complete their university education without financial hardship. These initiatives include:

- **Logistical and Cost-of-Living Relief:** BMC provides heavily **subsidized, high-quality housing/hostels** for regional and international students, with priority and maximum subsidies given to those from low-income backgrounds. Furthermore, BMC partners with

local real estate providers secure reduced-rate external housing. To further alleviate daily living costs, the college offers **free meal programs/vouchers** at campus cafeterias for eligible students.

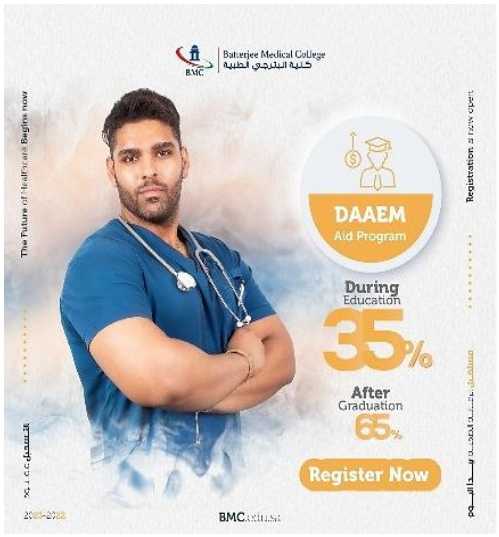
- **Free Transportation Network:** BMC fully covers commuting expenses by offering a comprehensive, **free daily transportation network** linking students directly from their residences to the campus and external training hospitals. This completely removes commuting stress and transportation costs for low-income students.
- **Proactive, Free Mental Health & Pastoral Care:** Understanding that financial strain often leads to high burnout, BMC treats student mental health with the highest urgency. The college provides a formalized network of institutional support, offering **free, confidential psychological counseling and legal/administrative advisory services** to ensure students from disadvantaged backgrounds have the holistic support needed to succeed and graduate.

1.3.4 Bottom Financial Quintile Student Support Programs

To ensure that students from the bottom 20% of the national household income group can successfully complete their studies without financial barriers, BMC has established a highly targeted financial safety net. These specific initiatives include:

- **Da'aem Scholarship (Targeted Relief):** Specifically designed for students falling into the bottom financial quintile, this program alleviates immediate economic hardship by subsidizing 50% of tuition fees upfront. The remaining balance is deferred into interest-free installments payable only after graduation and securing employment, ensuring family financial stability during the study period.





- **Tamkeen Deferred Payment Program:** A vital safety net offering full or partial financial assistance for the critical preparatory year. Targeted at students from the lowest income brackets, Tamkeen enables them to completely defer tuition payments until after graduation, allowing absolute focus on academic success without immediate financial pressure.



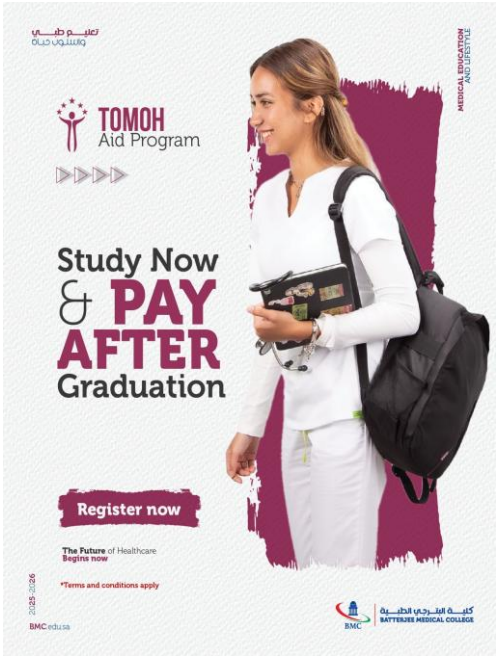
- **Ihsan Scholarship for Vulnerable Demographics:** Recognizing the severe financial vulnerabilities of specific groups within the bottom 20%, BMC provides the "Ihsan Scholarship." This initiative guarantees 100% full tuition fee coverage for orphans registered under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, ensuring uninterrupted access to higher education.

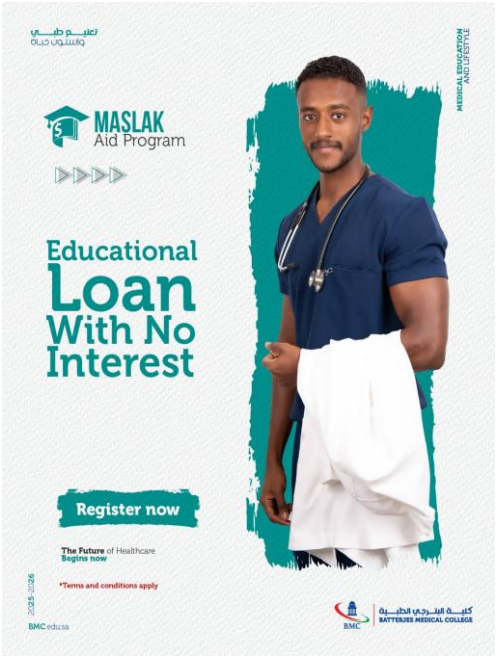


- **Need-Based Academic Pathways (Masar & Tomooh):** While maintaining high academic standards, BMC allocates specific portions of the ***Masar*** **and** ***Tomooh*** **scholarships** purely on a need-basis for students from the bottom 20%. This ensures that absolute financial inability does not prevent high-potential, low-income students from entering highly demanded medical fields.

- **Zero-Interest Educational Financing (Maslak):** For families within the lowest economic quintiles who do not qualify for full grants, BMC partners with Alinma Bank to offer the "Maslak" program. This provides strictly zero-interest financing, allowing low-income families to manage costs safely without falling into debt traps or paying commercial banking fees.







1.3.5 Low or lower-middle income countries student support

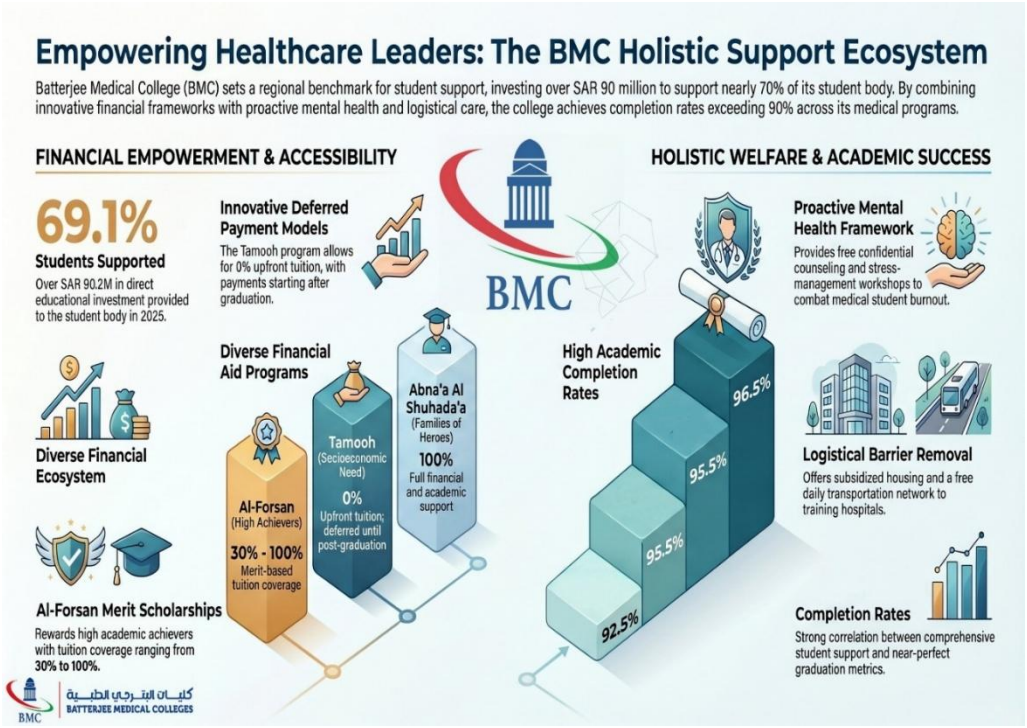
BMC's diverse academic community, including students from 38 different nationalities, reflects its core institutional belief in global inclusiveness and educational equity. Recognizing the critical global need for accessible healthcare education, BMC extends its strict anti-poverty commitments beyond national borders to actively support students originating from **Low and Lower-Middle-Income Countries (LIC & LMIC)**, as defined by the World Bank classifications.

To ensure that exceptional international students from economically disadvantaged nations are not excluded due to financial hardship, BMC operates a comprehensive cross-border support scheme. All domestic financial aid programs are fully accessible to international students. Furthermore, BMC utilizes a rigorous, formalized **Need-Based Financial**

Support Application system to assess household income and provide customized international relief packages. These tailored schemes include:

- **Direct Educational Grants:** Offering full or partial tuition fee waivers (Free Education).
- **Logistical & Living Support:** Providing free or heavily subsidized on-campus housing to eliminate accommodation costs for expatriate students.
- **Food Security:** Distributing meal vouchers and food support to ensure the well-being of international students living away from their families.

By integrating international students into its financial safety net, BMC ensures that future healthcare leaders from developing nations are empowered to succeed and eventually contribute to global health equity.



*These initiatives demonstrate BMC's significant commitment to making higher education accessible to students from low-income backgrounds. With about 69% of the student body receiving financial assistance specifically targeted at overcoming economic barriers, BMC exceeds typical benchmarks for financial aid distribution in higher education. The high proportion of financial aid recipients reflects **BMC's strategic priority** of ensuring that economic circumstances do not determine educational opportunities. The college's comprehensive approach includes needs-based scholarships, grants, and flexible payment options that collectively create an accessible educational environment.*

1.4 Community-Driven Anti-poverty Programs



BMC's commitment to poverty eradication extends beyond educational scholarships. As officially documented in BMC's institutional framework, a core objective is to "increase the national workforce and create jobs in the private sector in order to provide decent opportunities for our youth and women in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and the goals of the National Transformation Program". To operationalize this vision, BMC drives poverty reduction by cultivating a robust ecosystem for local entrepreneurship, providing tools, facilities, and capital for sustainable economic self-sufficiency. This commitment is governed by our institutional policy, which ensures all supported ventures demonstrate both financial viability and a positive social impact on the local community.

1.4.1 Local Start-Up Assistance (Non-Financial Support)

BMC provides comprehensive, free assistance to the local community, alumni, and youth to support the creation of socially and financially sustainable start-ups. This is achieved through structured training, intellectual property support, facility access, and strategic partnerships:

- **Innovation Bootcamp & Startup Workshops series:** A cornerstone of our entrepreneurial support is the cross-campus Innovation Bootcamp. The 2025-2026 cycle engaged 60 teams comprising 104 students across the Jeddah, Dammam, and Aseer campuses. Delivered in collaboration with partners such as the University of Jeddah, King Abdullah Medical City, and Saudi Aramco, the program featured over 20 intensive workshops covering design thinking, business ideation, and digital health trends. The program successfully generated 50 innovative ideas that were advanced to the intellectual property registration pathway with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP).



- **Incubation & Mentorship via SURGE Labs (Masbak):** To transition ideas into viable, scalable startups, BMC established a strategic partnership with SURGE Labs (Masbak), a non-profit specializing in entrepreneurship. This partnership provides startup founders with structured mentorship, business-model development, and feasibility assessments, ensuring their ventures are market-ready and capable of generating long-term social and economic value.
- **Direct Access to University Facilities:** BMC removes prohibitive early-stage overhead costs by granting local innovators access to its premier facilities. The "Lab Access for Innovators" program allows community health-tech startups to utilize BMC's simulation and computer labs to prototype medical devices without financial barriers.
- **Ecosystem Exposure & Field Visits:** BMC actively integrates emerging entrepreneurs into the broader commercial ecosystem. For example, in November 2025, BMC organized a field visit for 48 participants to the Innovation & Technology Commercialization Center at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), providing practical exposure to technology commercialization and applied scientific environments.
- **Incubating Local Ambition (Zaina Café):** A prime example of BMC's community incubation is Zaina Café, a youth-founded Saudi brand developed by a 15-year-old local entrepreneur. Through BMC's strategic planning support and facility provision, the startup is now a highly sustainable brand expanding to multiple branches, creating local jobs, and driving community economic growth.

1.4.2 Local Start-Up Financial Assistance

Access to early-stage capital is the primary barrier for entrepreneurs from underserved communities. BMC directly addresses this by providing structured financial assistance and investment pathways to launch sustainable local businesses:

- **BMC Innovation Grants (Direct Funding):** BMC provides direct seed funding through grants of up to **50,000 SAR** for local, alumni, or student-led ventures that demonstrate both financial viability and strong social impact. A recent beneficiary was a local startup developing a mobile app connecting low-income patients with discounted pharmacy medications.



- **Hackathon Seed Funding:** During our community-wide digital innovation events (such as the early 2025 Hackathon), BMC fast-tracks viable projects in AI, Personalized Medicine, and Blockchain into startup incubation. Winning teams from the local community receive direct seed funding sponsored by BMC and Alinma Bank to launch their enterprises.
- **Partnership-Based Micro-Finance & Subsidies:** Through strategic collaborations with Alinma Bank and the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF-HADAF), BMC facilitates zero-interest micro-loans and wage subsidies for local startups. This significantly reduces early-stage financial risks and fosters job creation in the local community.



- **Investment & Acceleration Pathways (MoUs):** In May 2026, BMC expanded its financial assistance ecosystem by signing a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the *Company for Incubators and Business Accelerators*. This agreement established a formal pathway for BMC-supported entrepreneurs and local startups to access external funding, venture capital investment, and advanced technology transfer support, bridging the gap between initial seed funding and commercial scalability.

1.4.3 Community Anti-Poverty Programs and Access to Basic Services

BMC has transformed its institutional strategy from episodic outreach to a structured, continuous care and community empowerment model. By seamlessly embedding large-scale service delivery into its core educational framework, BMC absorbs regional healthcare costs, provides direct financial relief to vulnerable populations, and actively drives national

health equity. To address the multidimensional challenges of poverty, BMC provides direct, free access to essential healthcare, nutritional security, and financial flexibility for low-income families, orphans, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

- **Free Continuous Healthcare Provision (Basic Health Services)**
  - **Continuous Dental Care Model:** BMC has transitioned its dental clinics to a continuous care delivery model, deploying specialized clinical field teams directly to orphanages, special needs centers, and elderly housing. In 2025 alone, the college provided comprehensive, clinical-grade dental treatment entirely **free of charge to 8,550 economically disadvantaged patients**. Over a five-year trajectory, BMC has served 32,750 patients, delivering an estimated **SAR 4.5 million in free treatments annually**, providing massive financial relief to local families who would otherwise face prohibitive private medical fees.



  - **Targeted Free Health Screenings**: In 2025, BMC expanded its regional coverage by 25%, executing 21 targeted outreach campaigns. Key initiatives included:
    - Breast Cancer Awareness and free proactive screenings (via Medicine, Radiology, and Dentistry programs).
    - Osteoporosis and Vitamin D Deficiency screenings (via the Physical Therapy program).
    - Blood Donation Drives, successfully collecting 111 units in partnership with the King Fahad Armed Forces Hospital.
    - Comprehensive mental health screenings utilizing PHQ-9, GAD-7, and burnout assessment tools.



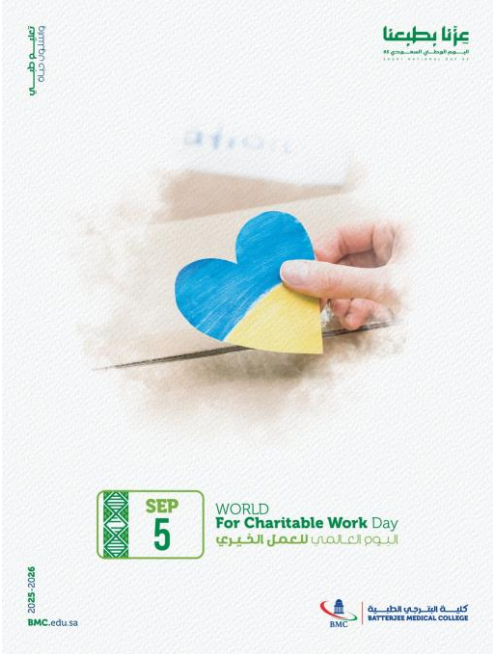
- **Direct Community Relief and Food Security (Basic Nutritional Services):**
  - **Ramadan Boxes & Nutritional Support:** Recognizing the critical link between food security and the UN's 'No Poverty' and 'Zero Hunger' goals, the BMC Volunteering Club actively combats regional food insecurity. This year, BMC assembled and distributed over **1,500 meticulously prepared Ramadan Boxes** containing essential nutritional staples (flour, oil, tea, dates) to families in need across Jeddah.




  - **Comprehensive Food Baskets:** Through strategic partnerships with local non-profits, BMC expanded its relief efforts to distribute an additional **1,300 comprehensive food baskets** during the holy month of Ramadan and Eid holidays. These direct interventions provide vital, immediate nutritional relief and champion sustainable community development.

- **Social Inclusion for Orphans:** BMC hosted a dedicated, comprehensive Eid Al-Fitr celebration for local orphans. The initiative provided toys, a highly supportive environment, and interactive activities designed to foster social inclusion and emotional well-being for vulnerable youths.

- **Enhancing Financial Accessibility**
  - **Flexible Payment Infrastructure:** To alleviate immediate financial burdens on students and community beneficiaries, BMC executed a strategic agreement with Amwal Tech. This partnership automates credit card installment payments, allowing educational and service fees to be distributed over flexible 3-, 6-, or 12-month periods.
  - **Campus Philanthropy:** In partnership with the Karam Charity Association, BMC installed interactive electronic donation screens throughout its facilities, promoting secure community contributions and embedding a culture of social solidarity directly into the campus environment.









1.4.4 Policy Addressing Poverty: Local, Regional, National, and Global Impact

Recognizing that sustainable poverty reduction requires systemic change, BMC actively shapes policies and builds institutional capacity to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities. By closely aligning its operational blueprints with Saudi Vision 2030 and SDG 1, BMC drives strategic initiatives across four distinct geographic tiers, ensuring validators can clearly identify impact at every level.

1. **Local Policy Engagement**

   BMC directly influences municipal policymaking and addresses community-specific poverty challenges through targeted local integration:

   - **Municipal Collaboration:** BMC partners with the Jeddah Municipality on inclusive civic initiatives, such as the "Parade with People of Determination," to drive local policies on social inclusion.
   - **Community Advisory Roles:** BMC faculty serve on local boards and municipal committees, directly shaping policies related to health, education, and social services.
   - **Local Needs Assessments:** The college conducts targeted localized research to supply data-driven insights for local policy decisions regarding poverty-related issues.
   - **Food & Medication Waste Campaign:** A localized community initiative that educates the public on proper medication disposal while actively repurposing unused medications and reducing food waste to directly benefit underprivileged families in the immediate area.

2. **Regional Capacity Building & Policy Influence**

   To elevate regional health equity and economic stability, BMC executes broad capacity-building programs that strengthen the region's social safety net:

   - **Healthcare Professional & Community Training:** BMC trains regional community members as Community Health Workers to conduct basic health monitoring and referrals, expanding the region's primary care capacity.
   - **Caregiver & School Nurse Support:** The college provides specialized capacity-building for regional school healthcare providers and educational sessions for families caring for elderly or disabled relatives, reducing the financial burden of professional care.
   - **Regional Public Health Advocacy:** BMC drives regional preventive health policies through large-scale workshops and awareness campaigns targeting chronic disease management, mental health, breast cancer, and health literacy.

3. **National Partnerships & Policy Advocacy**

   BMC partners with key national ministries and authorities to drive macro-level economic empowerment and healthcare policy across Saudi Arabia:

   - **Government Ministries:** BMC collaborates directly with the **Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD)** to establish support policies for orphans and vulnerable children, and the **Ministry of Health (MOH)** to contribute to national healthcare policy development.

   - **Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF):** Through this strategic partnership, BMC helps shape national workforce readiness policies by qualifying Saudi youth for private-sector employment, actively reducing poverty, especially in rural areas, through youth and women empowerment.

- **Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (MONSHA'AT):** BMC advances national economic policies by fostering the entrepreneurial ecosystem. This partnership provides students and alumni access to innovation programs and funding, creating jobs and driving economic development.
- **Financial Institutions (Alinma Bank):** BMC advocates for accessible financial policies by partnering with Alinma Bank to offer financial guidance and low- or zero-interest loans to start-ups demonstrating high social impact. BMC further institutionalized this policy by dedicating on-campus space for this initiative.
- **Saudi Network for Social Responsibility:** BMC leverages this partnership to influence national projects prioritizing education, social equity, and equal opportunity.
- **National Standards Development:** BMC faculty provide expert consultation to establish national standards in healthcare education and clinical practice.



- **Paradigm Shifters (TEDx):** By sponsoring and managing platforms like TEDx, BMC advocates for national policies supporting entrepreneurial culture and economic independence.

4. **Global Policy Partnerships for Sustainable Capacity**

   BMC actively engages in international agreements to import world-class standards, advance global sustainability goals, and participate in international policy discussions:

   - **Mayo Clinic:** BMC executed a Master Consulting Services Agreement with the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. This partnership imports global best practices in healthcare policy and significantly elevates the college's capacity to deliver world-class facilities to the region.

- **Global Academic & Training Agreements:** BMC has established formal frameworks with Maastricht University (Netherlands) for educational program development, Florida International University (USA) for hospitality and wellness tourism, and SVax for biomanufacturing training. These global pipelines ensure the local workforce can drive sustainable economic growth.
- **edX Global Skills Access:** BMC invested $300,900 in edX learner credits, unlocking premium access to massive open online courses (MOOCs). This policy provides the BMC community with continuous, borderless education and global skills training.

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