

Policy subject: Local Stakeholder Engagement Policy	Policy number: 69/P.D/2024	Date of last revision: 2024/11/15
Implementing body: Administrative Affairs Department	Implementing start date: 2024/11/20	Policy reference: Planning and Development Department

Overview: Palestine Ahliya University (PAU) values the importance of strong relationships with local stakeholders in Bethlehem and the surrounding community. This policy seeks to ensure effective engagement and collaboration with local partners, enabling their active participation in decision-making processes that have a community-wide impact. PAU aims to foster sustainable partnerships that reflect shared goals and contribute to regional development.

Objectives:

- **Enhance Communication:**
Strengthen communication channels to promote positive and sustainable interactions between PAU and local stakeholders.
- **Enable Participation:**
Facilitate stakeholder involvement in university decision-making processes through structured and effective engagement mechanisms.
- **Develop Joint Initiatives:**
Collaborate on programs and initiatives with local stakeholders to address pressing community needs and support sustainable development.
- **Increase Awareness:**
Raise awareness within the local community about PAU's role and contributions to addressing significant regional issues.

Scope:

This policy applies to all PAU departments and units engaging with local stakeholders, including community organizations, local businesses, government entities, and civil society groups. It covers:

1. Identification and classification of local stakeholders relevant to university activities.
2. Establishment of mechanisms for stakeholder participation in decision-making processes.
3. Implementation of joint initiatives and programs that support local community needs and priorities.

Statements:

PAU is committed to engaging with local stakeholders through transparent and effective mechanisms that ensure their voices are heard and incorporated into university decision-making. This collaboration is vital to achieving mutual aspirations and addressing key community challenges.

Procedures:

1. Identify Stakeholders:

- Analyze and identify key local stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, local residents, and businesses.
- Create a comprehensive database with contact information and background details.

2. Set Engagement Criteria:

- Establish criteria for selecting stakeholders based on relevance to university projects.
- Develop an engagement plan considering stakeholders' influence and interests.

3. Design Communication Mechanisms:

- Develop multiple communication channels, such as meetings, newsletters, and open forums.
- Ensure clarity and accessibility of messages directed at stakeholders.

4. Engage Stakeholders:

- Organize workshops and listening sessions to exchange ideas with stakeholders.
- Involve stakeholders in advisory committees for major projects.

5. Monitor Progress:

- Evaluate the impact of stakeholder participation on university initiatives.
- Review engagement mechanisms and improve them based on feedback.

6. Prepare Reports:

- Create periodic reports outlining progress in stakeholder engagement.
- Share reports with university management and relevant stakeholders.

7. **Enhance Partnerships:**

- Develop collaboration agreements with stakeholders for mutual goals.
- Strengthen relationships through sustainable community initiatives.

KPIs:

- Number of local stakeholders actively participating in university decision-making annually.
- Number of joint meetings, workshops, or initiatives conducted with local stakeholders.
- Increase in collaborative programs addressing local community challenges.