



DIRECTAID'S UNIVERSITIES



The lack of higher education in Africa leads to scarcity in highly skilled and educated leaders. This exacerbates issues of illiteracy, poverty, hunger and unemployment that the majority of sub-Saharan African countries suffer from. As such, educated individuals will actively be able to assist their communities in achieving high levels of self-sustenance and independence of external aid. This will ultimately promote a strong and resilient Africa on the global arena.

Aims

DirectAid aims to provide high-quality educational, research, and social services while committing to excellence, integrity, and professionalism in its universities. It wishes to participate in the uplifting of higher education in Africa by establishing and maintaining fully equipped universities, eventually, supporting Africa 2063's and the United Nations' sustainable development goals. More specifically, to assist in building capable institutions and infrastructure to educate citizens, support scientific innovation and research, and ensure inclusive accessible education.

The above are some of the factors that will contribute to the building of a sustainable and diversified African economy. DirectAid seeks to do so by providing scholarships to students, with the goal of nurturing this new generation of highly educated and qualified youth who will be able to rise with their communities and develop them, ultimately achieving the development goals in the continent.

Vision

DirectAid thrives to have its universities become pioneering centers for academic and vocational excellence, with hopes that Africa's agenda of enrolling seven in ten graduates in higher education institutions is achieved.

Objectives

DirectAid seeks to provide, through its universities, high-quality academic and professional programs on all levels, while developing and disseminating contemporary learning techniques and models. Moreover, it aims to enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of learners and nurture them to become great scientists and effective leaders of the future by supporting their scientific research and endeavors which concern their national issues. Finally, DirectAid aspires to transform its universities into specialized centers for training, research, and consultancy in the country in which they operate. Doing so will allow students to express their full potential and actively contribute to a strong and influential Africa.

DirectAid universities

As of today, DirectAid established and maintains Simad University in Somalia, Umma University in Kenya, Sumait University in Zanzibar, and Morogoro University in Tanzania. There is a fifth university currently under construction. Below are some details on the operational universities.



1. Simad University (Somalia)

The initiative to establish Simad University, which was ranked as the top university in Somalia according to the 2021 webometrics ranking, took place on 6 February 1999. More specifically, following a feasibility study conducted stressed upon the great need to start a new institution of higher education in Somalia. This motived thinkers and former lecturers from Kuwait and Somalia to launch the successful project.

Simad University grew even bigger during the years of civil war in Somalia. On 20 January 2011, it became a university, after being an institute for many years offering degrees in accounting and information technology. Today, the university offers 31 programs from its management sciences, computing, applied sciences, social sciences, economics, education, engineering, law, medicine and health sciences faculties. Approximately 6,000 students graduated from the university in the past two decades.



By 2040, Simad University aims to expand and modernize its campus, as Somalia restores its economic and security stability. This would be achieved through a plan to develop new academic programs in several and diverse disciplines that are essential for the economical and peaceful advancement of Somalia. Moreover, it aims to build the largest medical village in East Africa, attain, through research and innovation, five patents in the fields of medicine, agriculture, business, and technology, strengthen its multilingual environment at the university, while providing worldwide-accredited programs. Finally, the university aims to be ranked amongst the top 50 universities in Africa.

2. Umma University (Kenya)

Umma University, established in 2013, has graduated more than 4,000 students from four different faculties and 22 academic programs. The university has officially obtained its accreditation directly from His Excellency, the president of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta.

At the end of the last year, the Veritas International Foundation (VIF) conducted an audit of the university, in accordance with the requirements of the international standard ISO9001-2015. The scope of the audit included operations, services, and activities within the university's Kajiado and Thika campuses. Following its audit, VIF recommended issuing the quality certificate to the university. This certificate will enable the university to adopt the best practices in management to enhance service delivery to its students and employees' satisfaction.

3. Sumait University (Zanzibar)

Sumait university, which was established in 1993, has graduated more than 4,470 students from four different faculties and 26 academic programs. Zanzibar, where the university is based, was once a Trade center in East Africa that provided a market for international commodities through its commercial port. It was a place where trade flourished and positively affected the local community, creating employment opportunities and providing various services.

In recent years, the government made tremendous efforts to support the economy by introducing many diversification measures. But alas, those efforts suffered from a lack of qualified human capital to push them forward. Hence, the need to establish an educational center that provided the people with the necessary knowledge and training in commerce and business and other disciplines was a must. The establishment of Sumait University was the fruition of the thought and vision of its

founder, Dr. Abdul Rahman Hammoud Al-Sumait, to be a cornerstone in nurturing qualified leaders who will keep pace with the economic measures introduced by national authorities and promote people-driven development.

As such, the university's strategic plan was designed to overcome the challenges it faced and push forward by improving the capacity of educational infrastructure, including acquiring additional lands for future expansion needs and implementing technological access for all activities. In addition, providing quality and equitable education, increasing student registration to 3,000, improving the learning and teaching environments, research publishing, and consulting activities, establishing training programs in medicine, engineering, information systems, management, business, and other essential disciplines, all whilst increasing cooperation with the private and public sectors.



In terms of sustainability, Sumait University initiated and established fundraising programs and endowment plans to support the university's activities in the future. Moreover, the university put in place a performance audit, monitoring, and evaluation system for all activities held at the university. Such actions promote good governance and sustainability that could be promoted in other fields and institutions.

4. Morogoro University (Tanzania)

Morogoro University, established in 2004, has graduated more than 8,253 students from four different faculties and 24 academic programs. While the university mainly targets the Muslim population, it aims to bridge the gap between the non-Muslim and Muslim population. Promoting unity and peace remain the university's cornerstone and one of its main visions.

Albeit not established by DirectAid, it acknowledged the university's importance in playing an important role to improve the future of Tanzanians. As such, a 50-year university acquisition agreement was signed by DirectAid. The agreement stipulates direct assistance to develop and improve the performance of the university at all levels. As a result, the university was restructured and further developed. In just two years, it was able to attract more than 4,400 students, reaching its maximum capacity.

Morogoro University is committed to excellence and continuous improvement in the implementation of its activities. It thrives to promote a respectful and united society while ensuring it embraces responsibility and accountability towards them. For instance, the university seeks full disclosure of all relevant information for students and stakeholders in a transparent manner. The university believes that such actions will promote and support innovation, creativity, the exchange of ideas, and freedom of expression.

DirectAid universities' students in numbers

As of today, 47,984 students are enrolled in the universities, 22,723 students have graduated from them, and 16,640 students presently receive scholarships.