



الجامعة السعودية الإلكترونية
SAUDI ELECTRONIC UNIVERSITY
1432-2011



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2020- 2021





PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Saudi Electronic University (SEU) is a kingdom-wide, public university with 13 branches and over 30,000 learners enrolled. Established in 2011, the university's mission is to lead the utilization of technology in education in order to contribute to national development.

SEU has vowed to increase the number of enrolled students by 150% and to extend its reach, with plans to operate 20 branches around the world and expand its Arabic e-learning program to 10 million global users over the next five years.

SEU's new strategy is inspired by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and his primary goal for Saudi Arabia to be an exemplary and leading nation in all aspects. It is also inspired by the determination of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz to fulfil citizens' dreams, hopes, and ambitions, by providing opportunities for all through education and training.

Education was one of the most efficient sectors in responding to Vision 2030's targets. Efforts have been under way to leverage innovation and technology to modernise the sector and fulfil the vision's commitment to provide citizens with equal access to education, diversify the economy and equip young students for the jobs of the future. Education modernisation efforts have included establishing online teaching as a key component in education in accordance with international standards to ensure optimal learning, rather than temporarily shifting to remote learning in response to a crisis.

In the context of an exciting future, SEU is capturing local and regional opportunities, and providing nation-wide access to quality education that will contribute to social, cultural, and economic growth.

In this report we outline some of the many activities in our University that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs such as research, teaching, engagement/outreach and operations which are happening within our University that are setting us on a path to a more sustainable future for all.

Prof. Lilac AL Safadi,
President of Saudi Electronic University





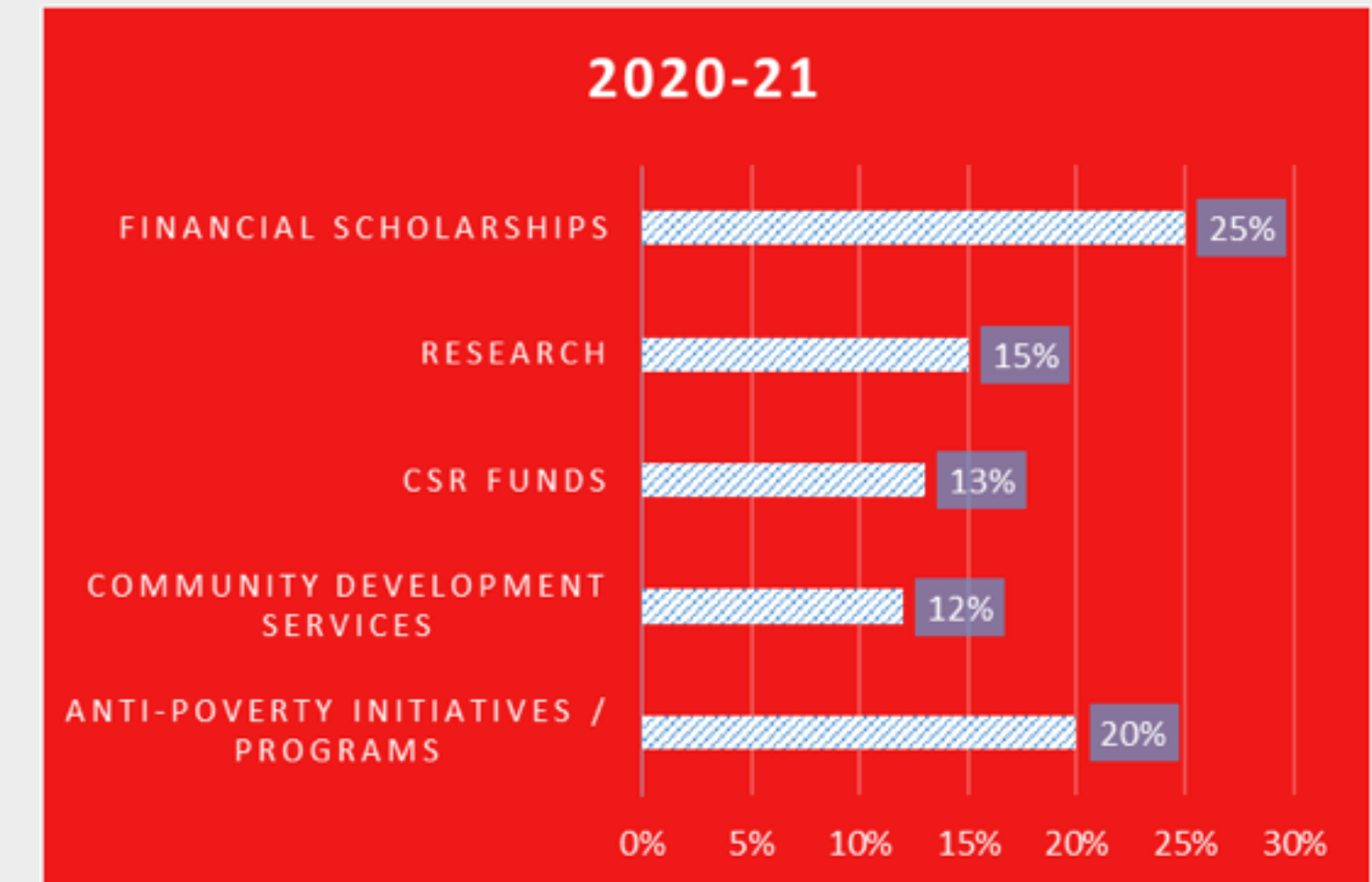
NO POVERTY

Saudi Electronic University (SEU) has started its anti-poverty efforts since its beginning in 2011; these efforts have targeted the people inside the camp (students and employees as well as the local community). During the past two years, many efforts have been done; these efforts can be divided into three streams as follows:

Supporting programs: various divisions in Saudi Electronic University (SEU) such as Loans and Assistance Division and Career Guidance and Alumni Office and well Financial Affairs Unit. have provided some of the programs. These programs have been modified and expanded by instructions to cover more slices of stakeholders.

Workshops, Events and Conferences aimed to deal with Poverty: Saudi Electronic University (SEU) launched many activities that aimed to identify the real reasons behind poverty phenomena in Saudi Arabia.

Research and Educational Courses: have targeted the poverty phenomena by pursuing to identify the indicators affecting the poverty level. These efforts are translated by many initiatives to equip the individuals of the local community to face challenges by training targeting young people from the local community, which would qualify them for the labor market.





ZERO HUNGER

Access to nutritious and healthy food for everyone in a sustainable manner. This is one of the most overarching goals of the 2030 Agenda, with direct implications on the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It is also a crucial factor in poverty eradication.

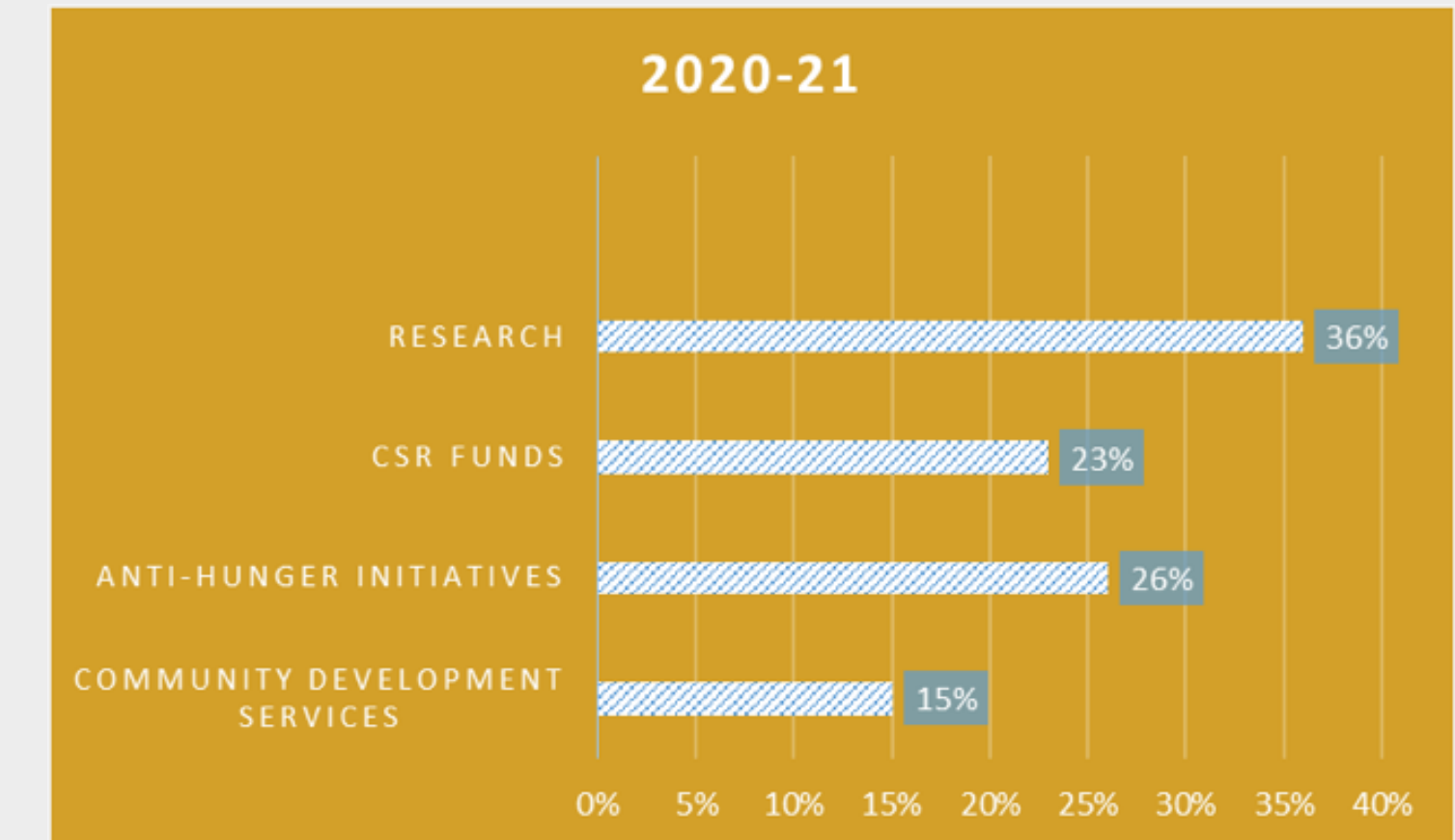
There is an urgent need for major transformations in food systems and behaviors to ensure food security, and to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Technological innovation is a prerequisite for the transition to sustainable food systems. But technology alone cannot achieve the required transformation, which will require the strategic use of economic incentives, new forms of governance, and changes in existing values and behaviors.

Applying Sustainable Food Systems:

- To increase the proportion of all on-campus food and beverage that a reproduced locally.
- To ensure that all food and beverage used conform with sustainability requirements.
- To deliver new programs, services, and events to strengthen communication to campus users on the health and environmental impacts of everyday food choices.

Department of Supply and Nutrition:

- Providing meals for students, faculty members and administrators, as well as for conferences and parties that are held at the university.
- Providing restaurants and cafeterias within the university with the necessary materials to manufacture food an drinks in accordance with health conditions and the sustainable development goals.



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



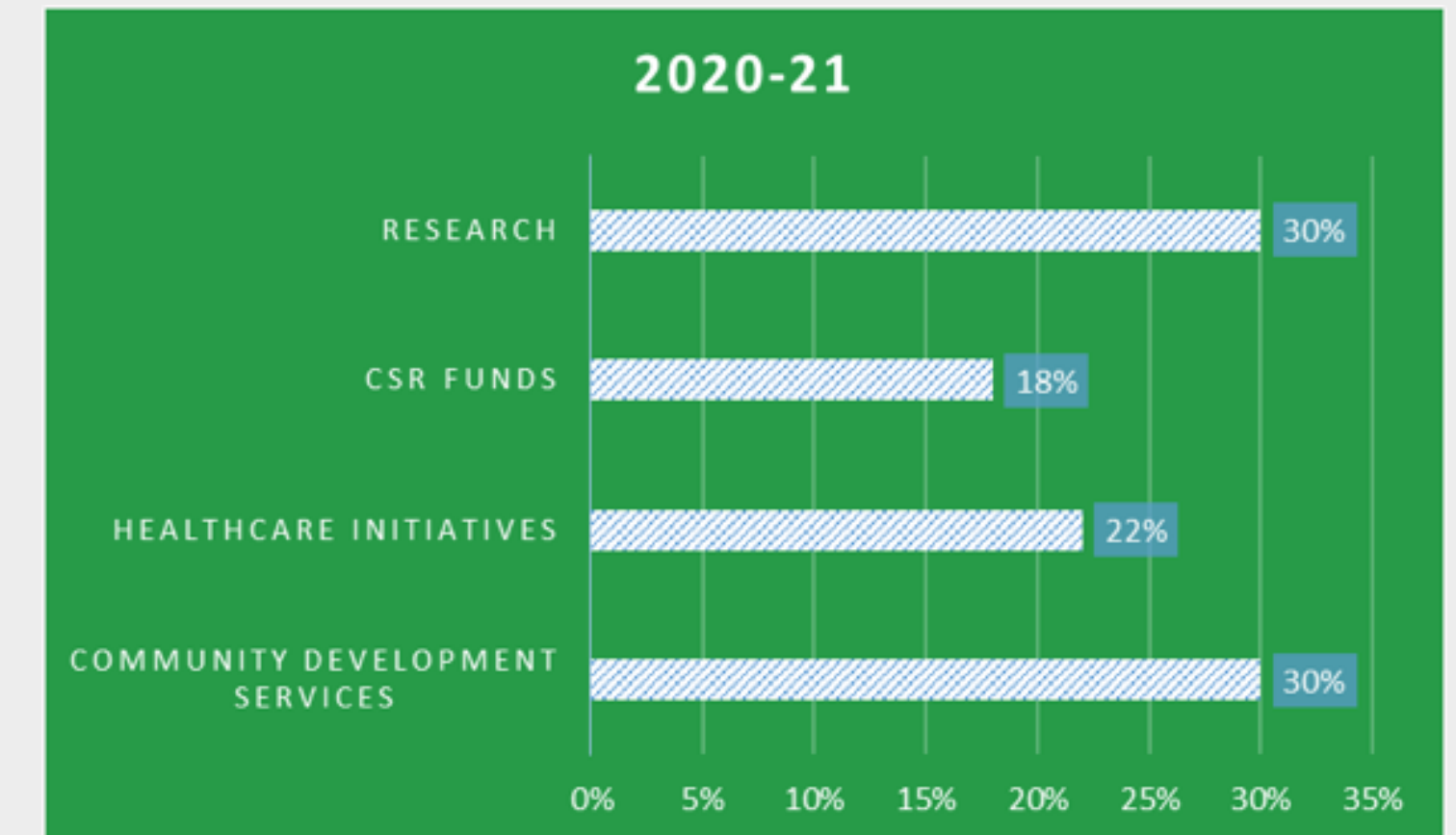
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development.

Good health is essential to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the two. It takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanization, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases. Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities. Emerging global health priorities not explicitly included in the SDGs, including antimicrobial resistance, also demand action.

Mental Health:

The University offers free mental health support to both students and staff. Long-term support through its Student Disability Services. For students with urgent mental health issues there is access to counsellors and psychologists at University Health and Counselling. All staff have access to a free counselling service and the University runs staff seminars on Mental Health and Wellbeing at work.





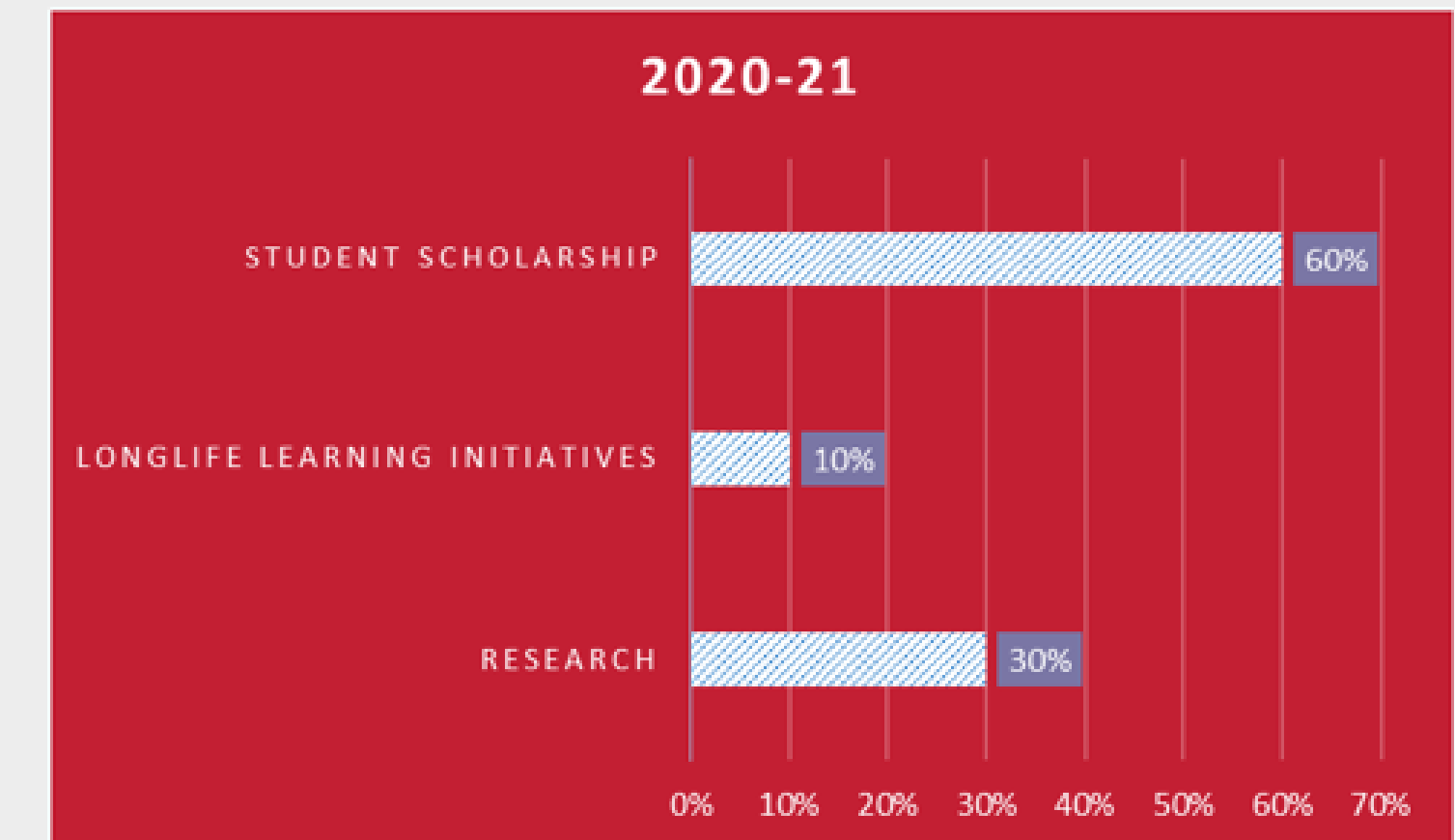
QUALITY EDUCATION

Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.

In the context of an exciting future, SEU is capturing local and regional opportunities, and providing nation-wide access to quality education that will contribute to social, cultural, and economic growth.

SEU’s new strategy sets it to be part of Saudi’s transformation journey, supporting the achievements of 7 primary and 37 secondary objectives of Vision 2030. SEU’s strategic vision is built around five themes: Learners’ Empowerment, E-learning Leadership, Digital Innovation Commercialization, Community Development, and Financial Sustainability. These five strategic goals are derived from the university’s unique competitive advantages, and the kingdom’s Vision 2030.

Committed to serving as a pioneer in the future of learning, SEU is responding to fundamental changes in the world by capturing new opportunities created by local and global trends relating to economics, demographics, culture, technology, regulations, job markets.



5 GENDER
EQUALITY

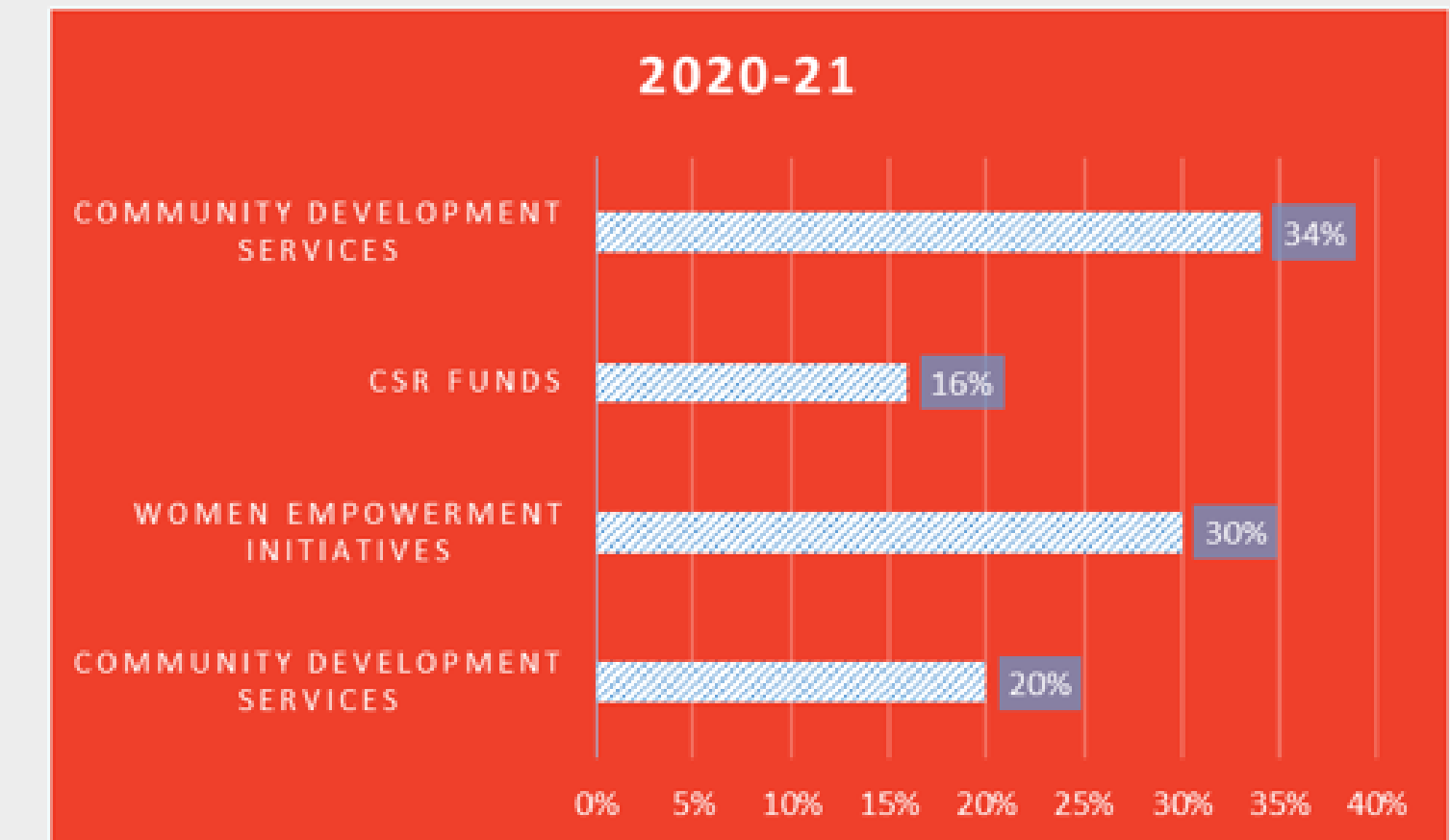


GENDER EQUALITY

"Vision 2030 stipulates that "Saudi women are an important element of the Kingdom's strength, and we will continue to develop their talents, invest their energies and enable them to have the right opportunities to build their future and contribute to the development of our society and economy by providing factors that help empower them, political will, economic potential, and community awareness of the importance of women's role in development." .The 2012 decision allowing women to work in the retail sector changed the lives of millions of women who had finally been able to work.

It's proven that empowering females helps economic growth and development. SEU has made gender equality central to its work and we've seen remarkable progress in the past years. There are more females in leading positions now compared to previous years.

The appointment of Dr. Lilac AlSafadi as president of the Electronic University — the first woman president of a Saudi university that includes both male and female students is an amble example of the women empowerment in the country.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

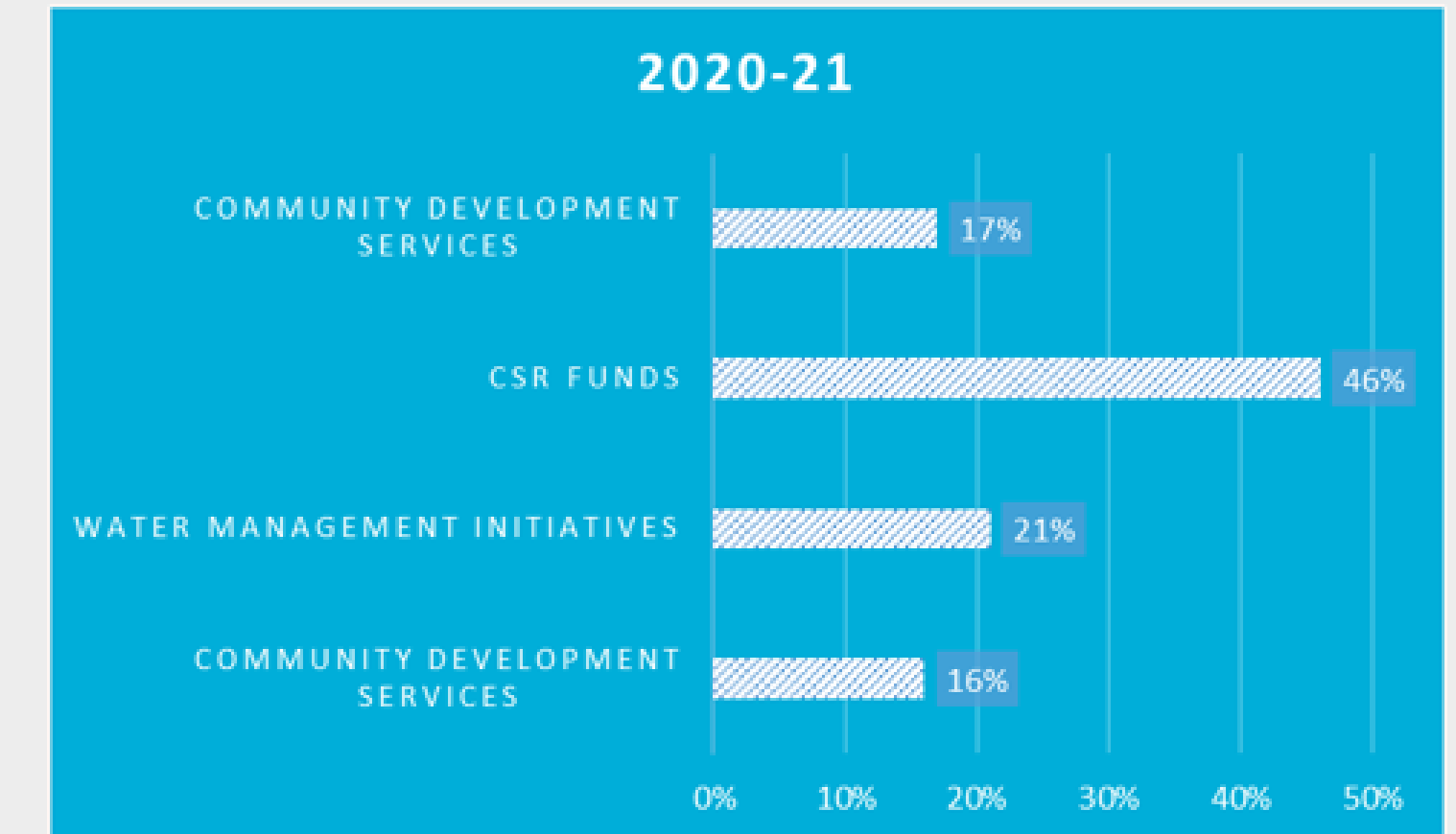


CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent. More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential.

SEU works towards substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

The university on campus provides direct drinking water as well as sanitation and personal hygiene.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



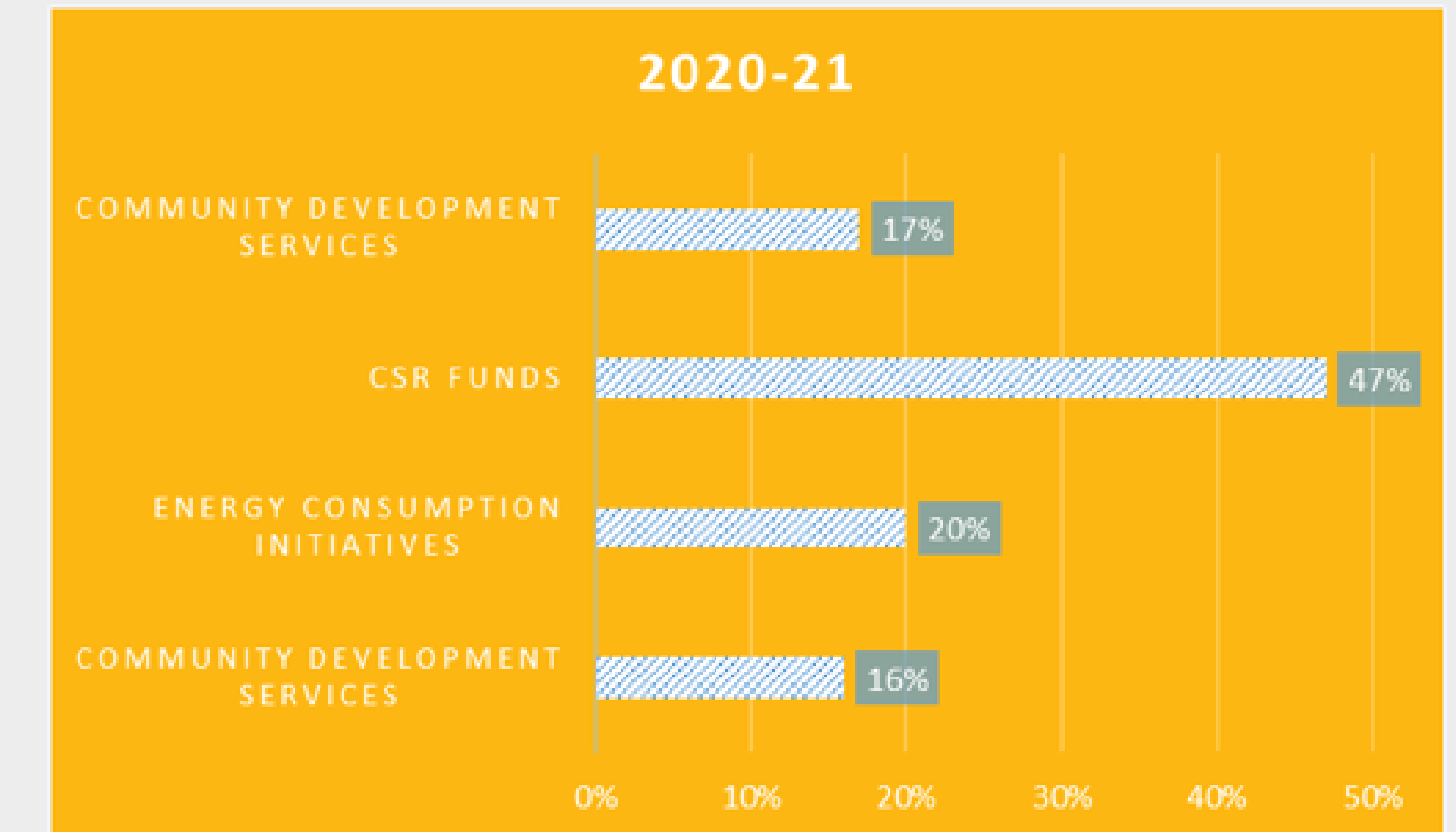
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

SEU expands its infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services in the campus, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

SEU is seeking to use clean energy resources to meet the full demand for energy. Furthermore, the University has turned to lighting equipment that increases the efficiency of electricity use. In addition, it is involved in reducing heat emissions that contribute to reducing global warming.

In 2017, the University began considering strategies to adapt to climate change, in the areas of air, water, waste and public health. It is in the process of signing several agreements to use these strategies in the best appropriate way.

The university teaches a number of courses on renewable energy and has conducted some research on renewable energy.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

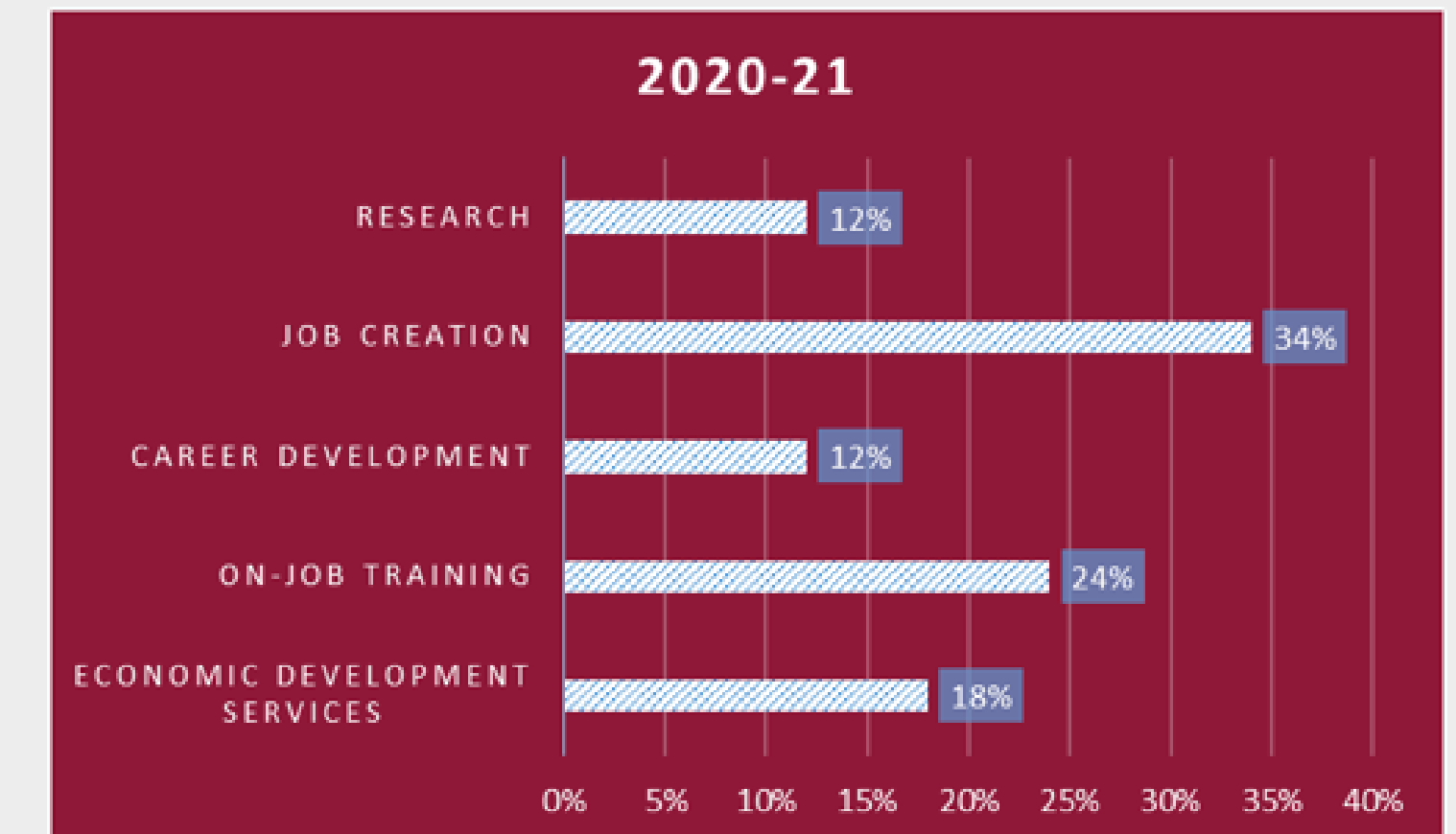


DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Another driving force behind SEU’s strategy is rapid development of the country’s e-learning ecosystem underpinned by increased demand, with e-learning in MENA experiencing an estimated CAGR of 10.5% since 2018. Further important local factors include the current skills gaps in technology and health, and the future of jobs, including those and risk and those most in demand as the kingdom’s economy continues to change and grow.

At the national level, SEU’s five year strategy will create 2,000 new jobs and will result in 21,000 highly qualified workers entering the Saudi labor market. It will also lead to the upskilling and reskilling of 700,000 members of the workforce through SEU short courses. In terms of economic impact, SEU’s strategy is expected to contribute SAR 9 billion (\$2.4 billion) to Saudi Arabia’s GDP and generate SAR 4 billion (\$1.07 billion) in non-oil government revenue.

Adding to its ambitious vision, SEU also aims to build an efficient, effective, and financially sustainable institute, by providing staff with a unique value proposition, developing efficient administrative and operational systems, and expanding the university’s revenue streams.



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

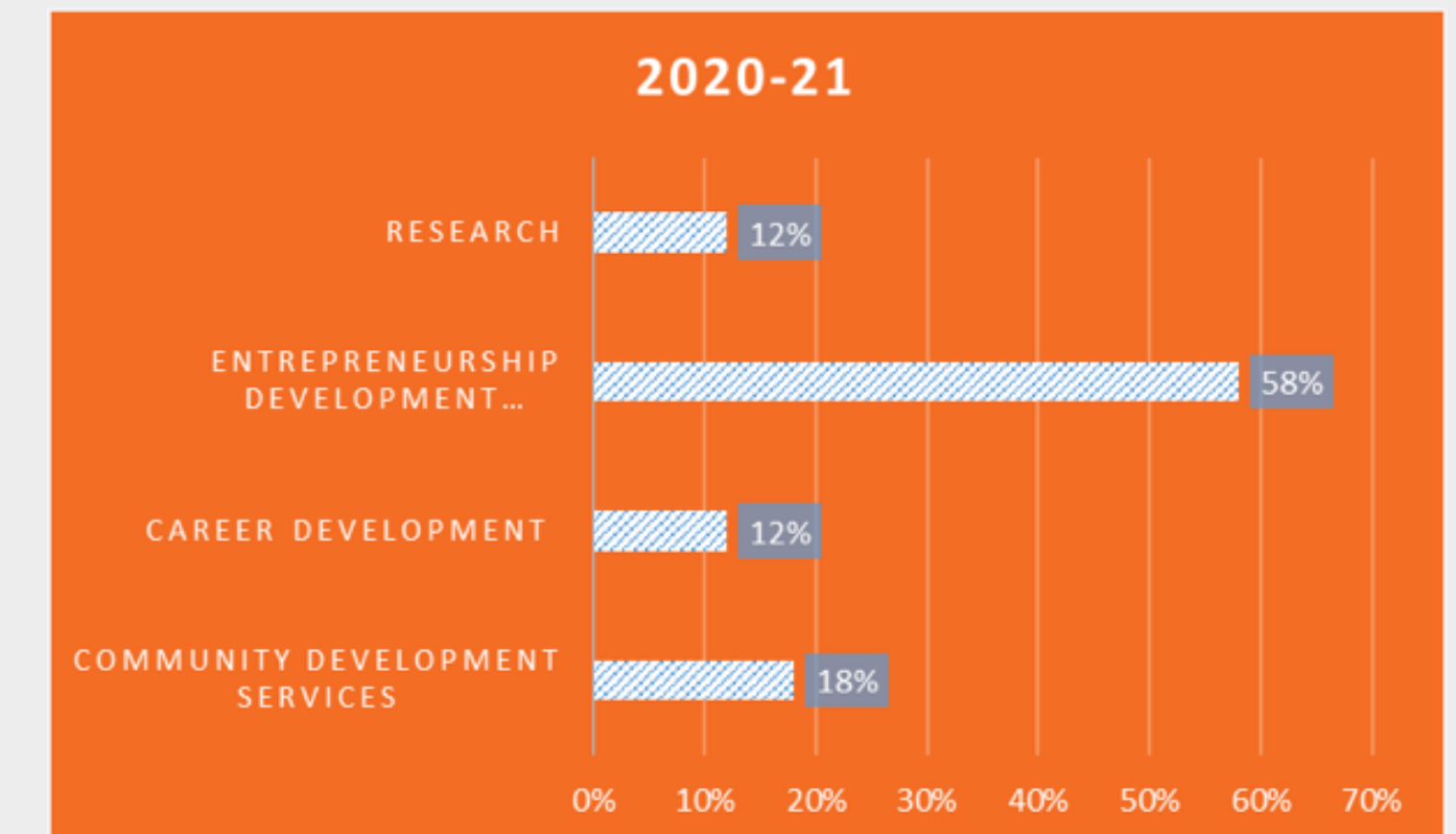


INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

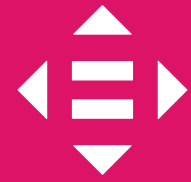
At SEU, digital innovation matters, too. As part of its mission, the university plans to grow “Techpreneurship” through strengthening the entrepreneurial and innovation culture, developing its applied scientific research capabilities with a focus on e-disciplinaries, and strengthening its consultancy services and engagement with communities across Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, SEU has developed a university wide digital transformation strategy designed to enhance its digital capabilities and its adoption of emerging technologies. It has also established experience centers dedicated to innovation in e-learning, and the transfer of technologies and best practices.

SEU’s strategic vision is built around five themes: Learners’ Empowerment, E-learning Leadership, Digital Innovation Commercialization, Community Development, and Financial Sustainability. These five strategic goals are derived from the university’s unique competitive advantages, and the kingdom’s Vision 2030.



10
REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

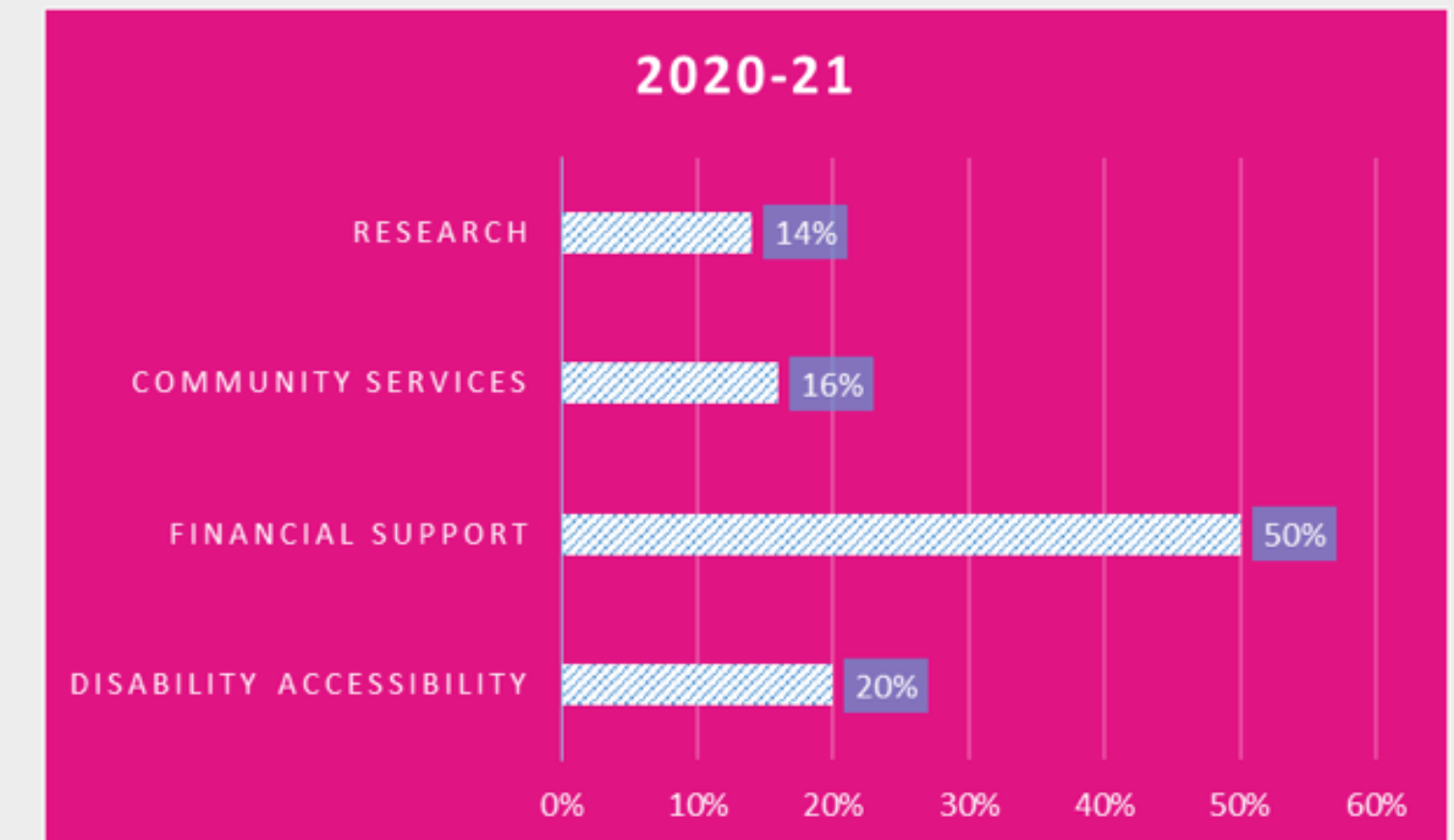


REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Vision 2030 spurred Saudi Arabia to modernise all governmental services and encouraged countrywide cooperation among government institutions. Education is prioritised in the framework to ensure that the population has the knowledge and skills required in the future economy. This means providing a solid and quality educational base to all segments of society.

Education was one of the most efficient sectors in responding to Vision 2030's targets. Efforts have been under way to leverage innovation and technology to modernise the sector and fulfil the vision's commitment to provide citizens with equal access to education, diversify the economy and equip young students for the jobs of the future.

Online learning has the potential to increase access to higher education among students who need flexibility, such as candidates with family obligations, those in remote areas, individuals with business responsibilities that do not fit around traditional university schedules, and students with physical disabilities that require personalised services. These people stand to benefit significantly from e-learning.



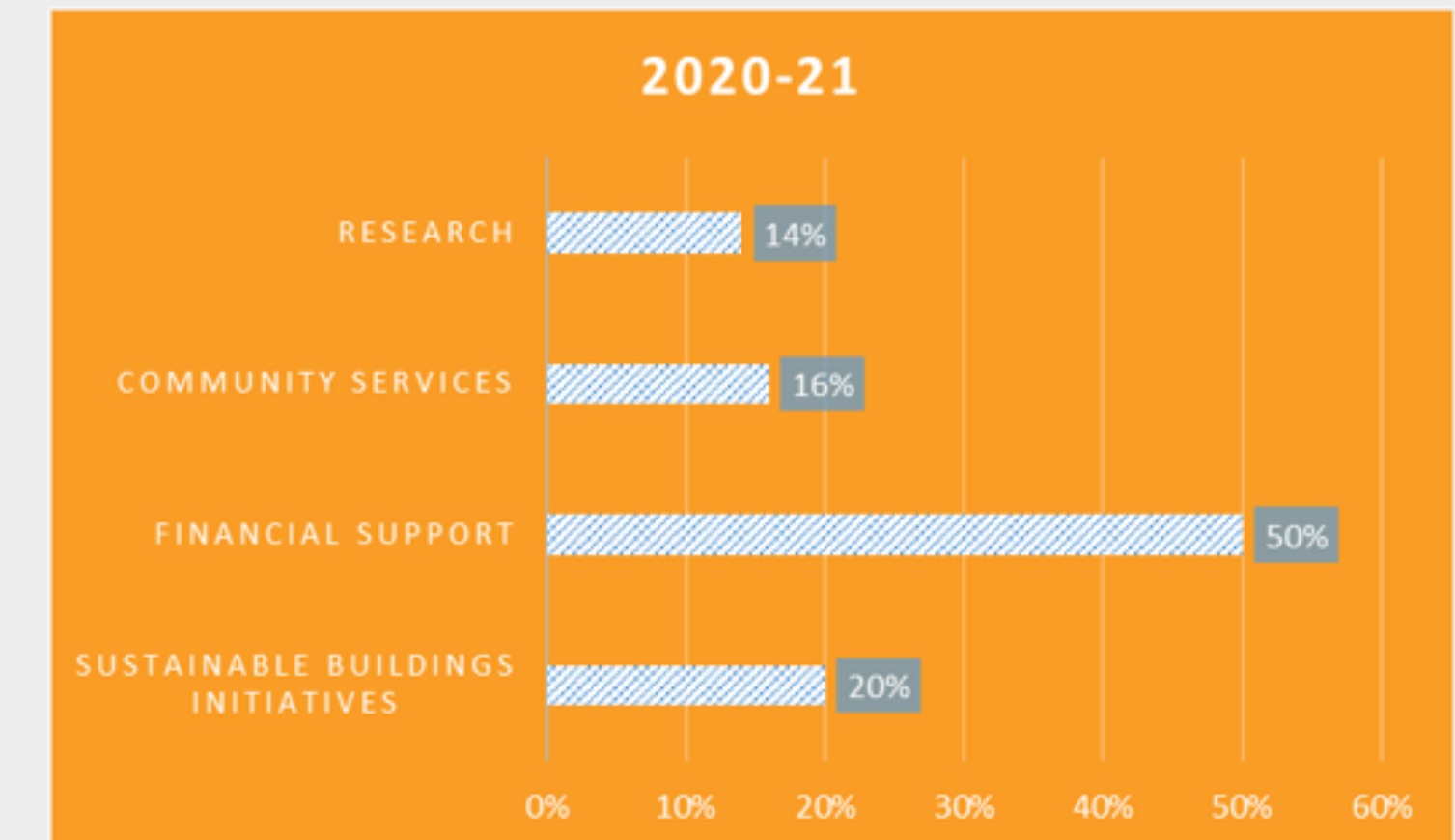


SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces. Making cities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.

SEU’s operating model has provided the university with high efficiency and effectiveness advantages, resulting in 70%-plus gains in operational efficiency and a 10% improvement in the utilization of physical spaces compared to traditional universities. Looking ahead, SEU’s strategy focuses on moving from operational efficiency to financial sustainability by 2025, with a plan that will save the university SAR 633 million (\$169 million) in operational costs.

The world seems to have realized that quality and affordable education are not associated with buildings but with the digital infrastructure that supports scalability, efficiency and resilience and reliable.



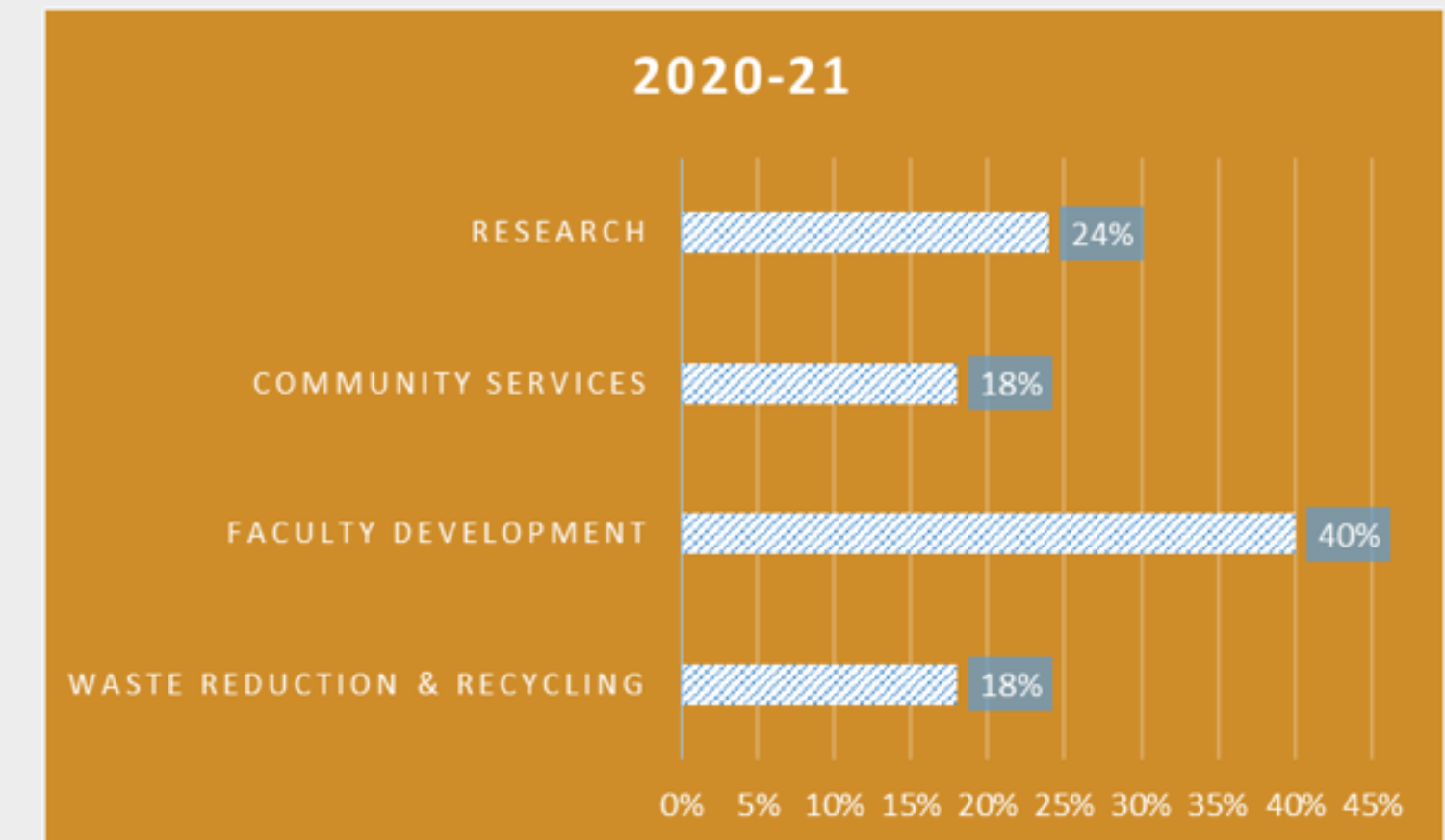


RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources.

The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.

A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.



13

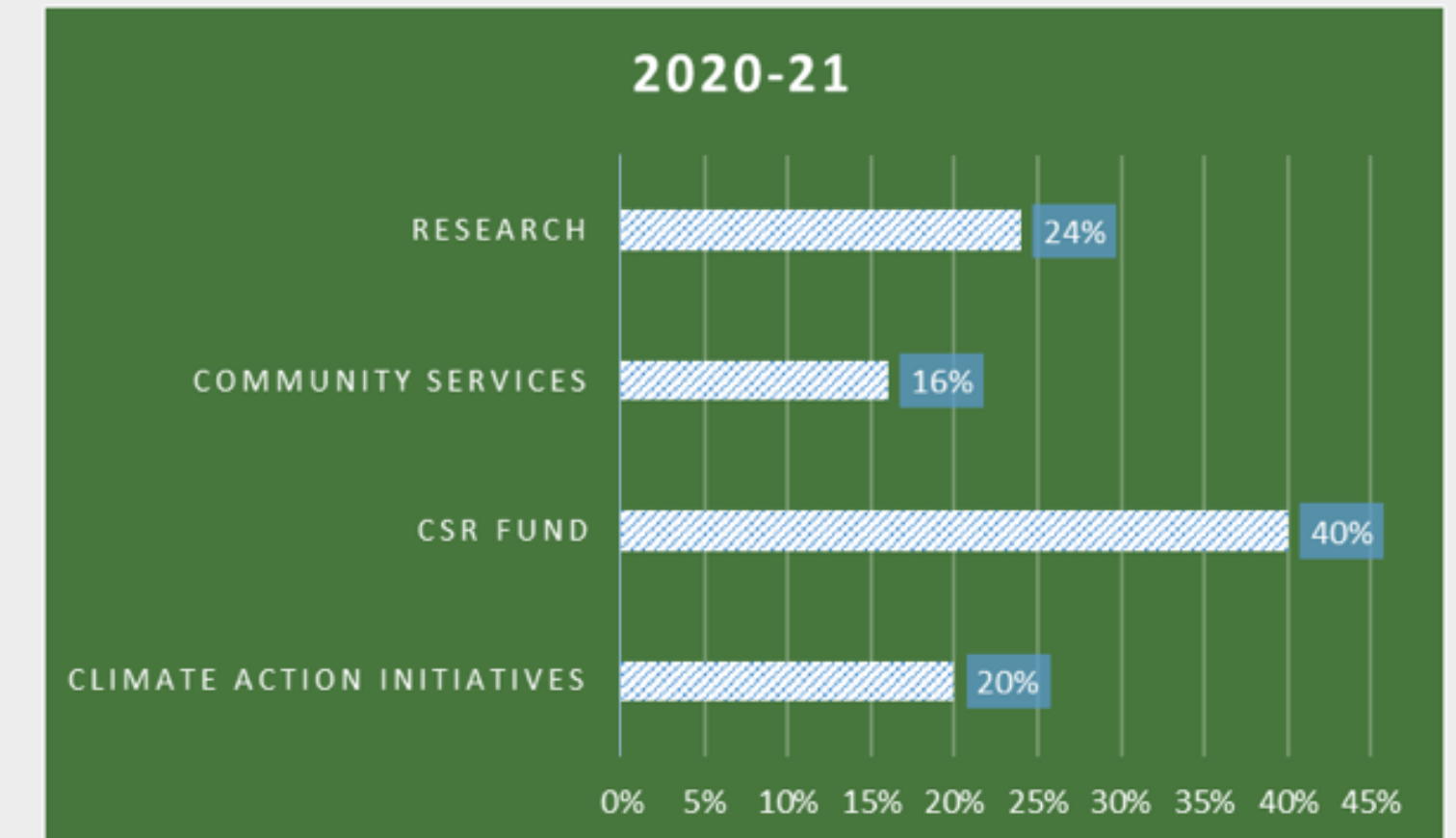
CLIMATE
ACTION



CLIMATE ACTION

Vision 2030 is a sustainable vision for the future of Saudi Arabia with sustainability at the heart of everything the Kingdom does, from policy development, investment, planning and infrastructure. By creatively and responsibly addressing the energy and climate challenges of today, Vision 2030 inspires others around the world to share in building a sustainable tomorrow.

With Saudi Arabia's impressive natural potential for solar and wind power and through strategic investments in sustainable technologies, signature projects have been launched to diversify energy resources and optimize the Kingdom's energy mix. By 2030, the contribution of renewable energy to the overall energy mix will reach up to 50%. Renewable energy projects are one of the key drivers towards achieving sustainability that will contribute to avoiding emissions and the displacement of high-value fuel in electricity generation.



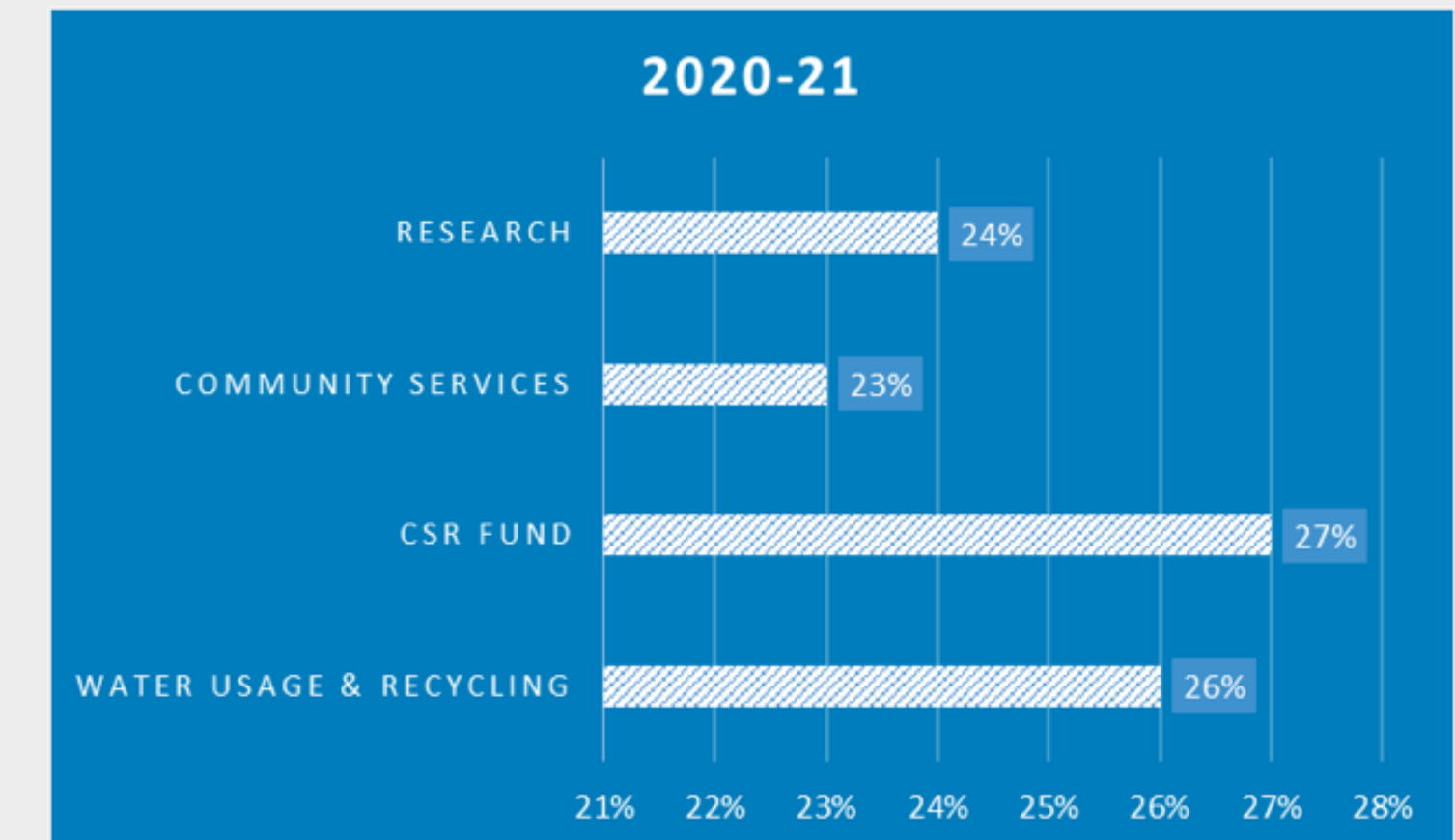


LIFE BELOW WATER

Vision 2030 is protecting and enhancing the Kingdom’s natural environment by taking a holistic view of precious ecosystems. Saudi Arabia is home to many special habitats and nature reserves. 15 sanctuaries have already been created to protect critically endangered species and promote biodiversity managed by the National Center for Wildlife.

The Kingdom’s Red Sea coast is home to some of the most resilient coral reefs on the planet. In partnership with The Red Sea Development Company is laying the foundation for a sustainable tourism destination and leading the way in conserving and maintaining its pristine marine biodiversity.

By protecting marine life and expanding key natural habitats through initiatives like marine spatial planning and turtle tagging, the company aims to deliver a 30% net conservation benefit by 2040 and a zero-carbon footprint by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

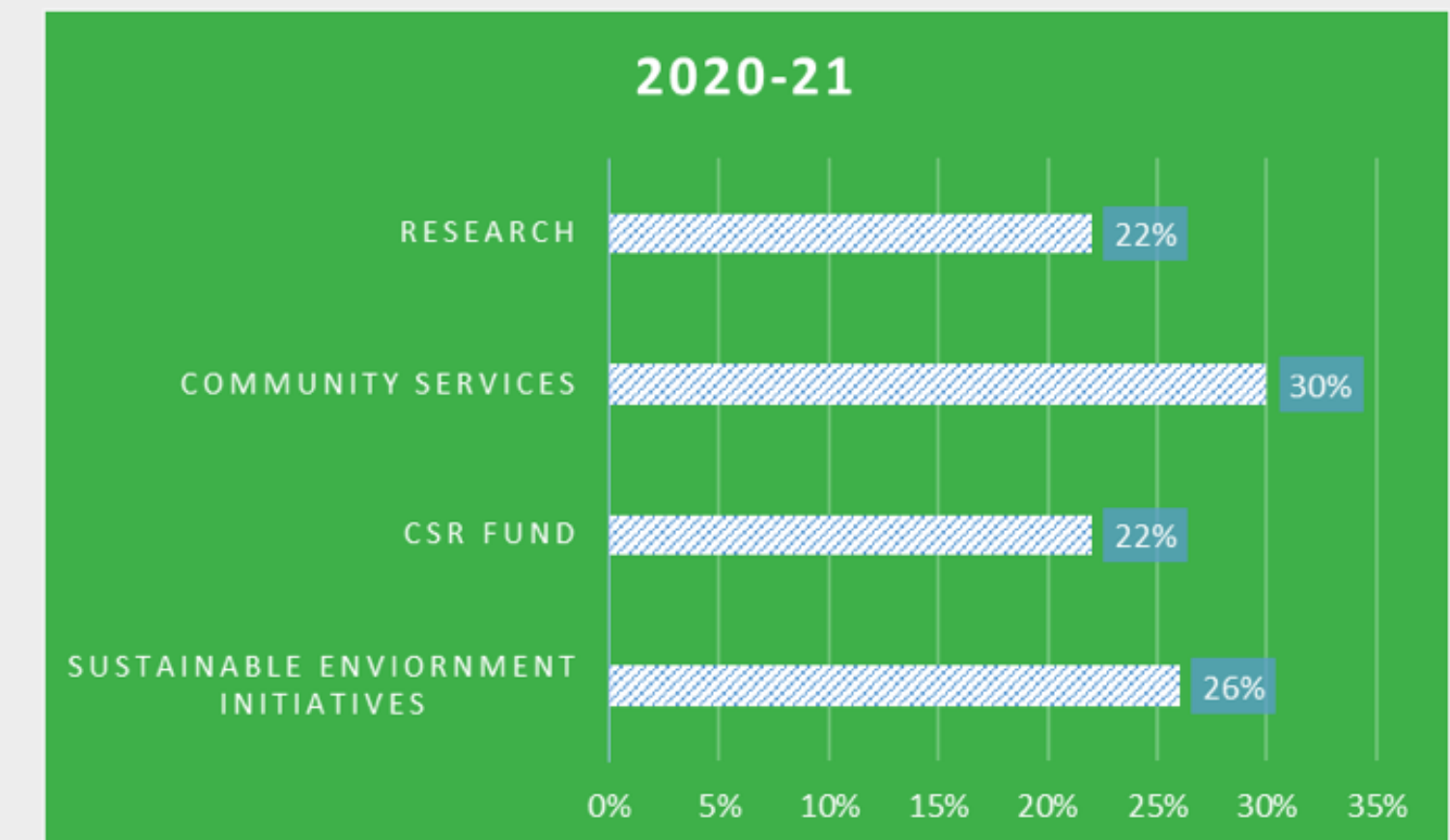




LIFE AND LAND

Vision 2030 is protecting and enhancing the Kingdom’s natural environment by taking a holistic view of precious ecosystems. It is also fostering sustainable agriculture practices across the Kingdom that will help to provide citizens and residents with safe, high-quality local food, whilst maintaining water balance and supporting the restoration of biodiversity. Sustainable approaches are helping prevent soil erosion and tackle desertification by protecting native flora that is used by wildlife for food and shelter.

Saudi Arabia is home to many special habitats and nature reserves. 15 sanctuaries have already been created to protect critically endangered species and promote biodiversity managed by the National Center for Wildlife. The safeguarding of unique wildlife and habitats under Vision 2030 ensures that future generations enjoy the rich natural diversity of the nation.



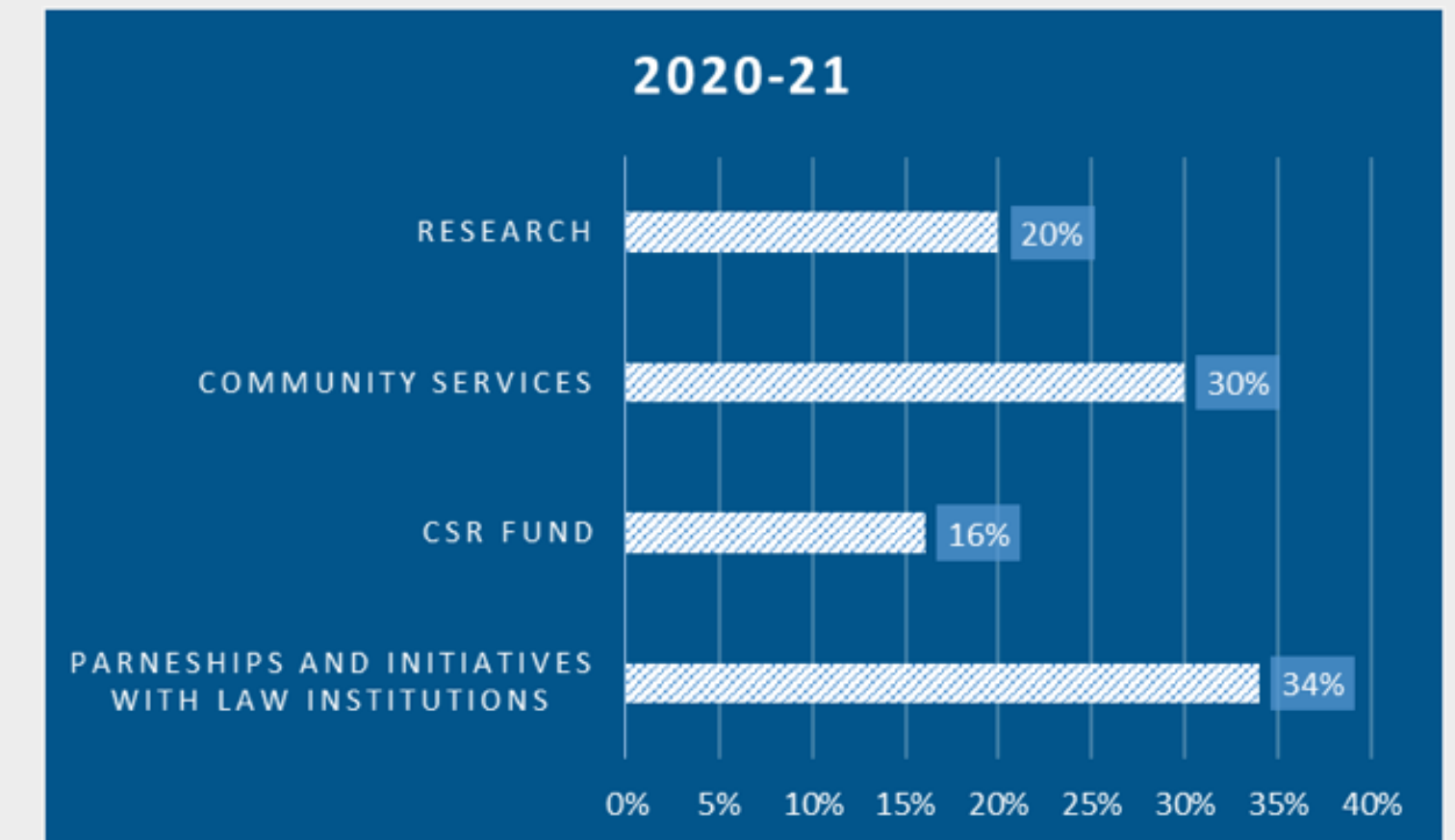
16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SEU's strategic vision is built around five themes: Learners' Empowerment, E-learning Leadership, Digital Innovation Commercialization, Community Development, and Financial Sustainability. These five strategic goals are derived from the university's unique competitive advantages, and the kingdom's Vision 2030. In particular, SEU aims to provide outstanding education that empowers learners to achieve their academic and professional aspirations.

To achieve this, the university is striving to deliver market-oriented and interdisciplinary programs, improve the academic environment, develop teaching and learning methods, and develop programs, curricula, and teaching evaluation systems. It is also focusing on improving student services and the overall student experience, attracting and retaining outstanding faculty members, and expanding learning opportunities to all segments of society.



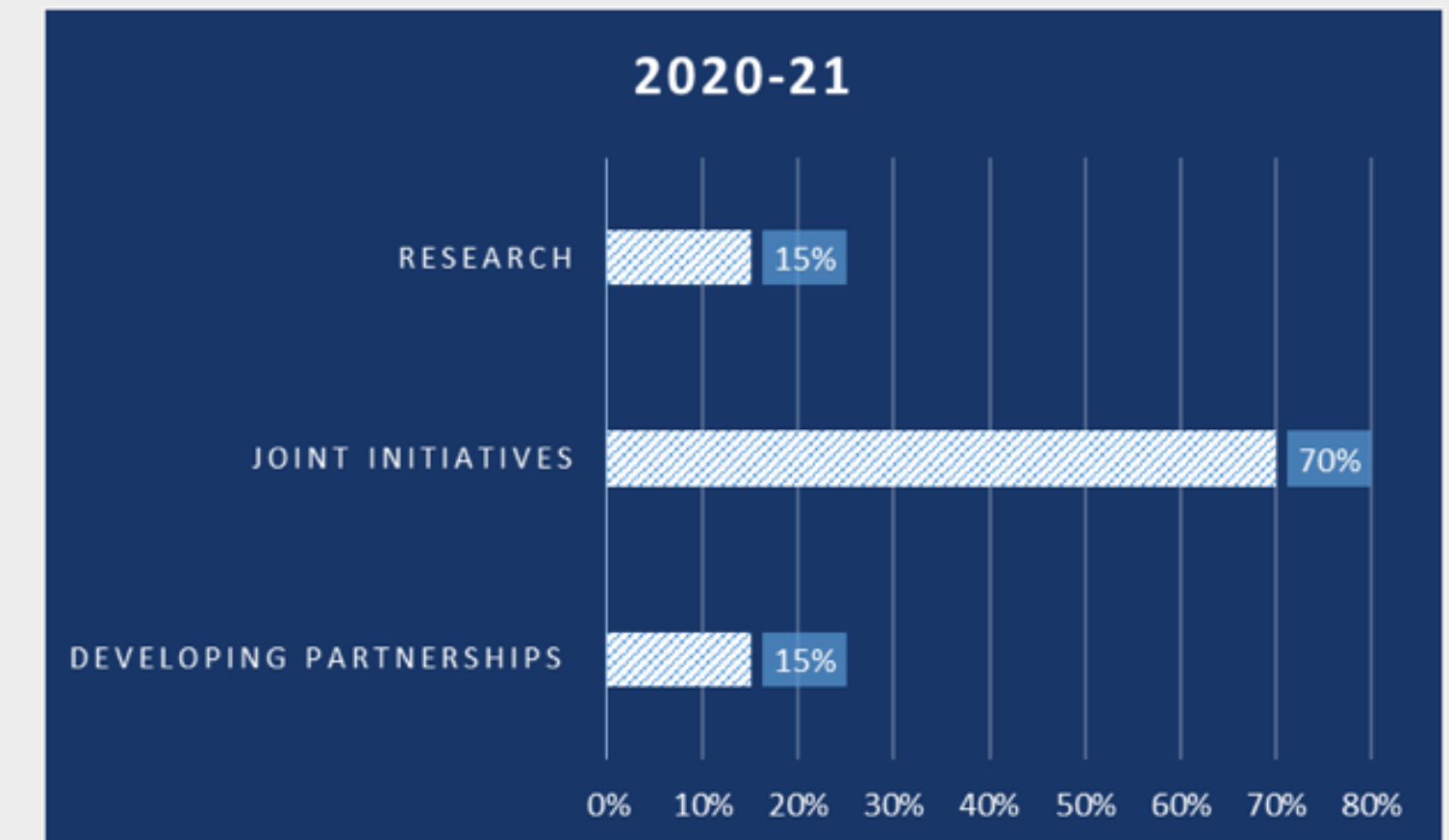
17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

At the core of SEU's strategy, is the belief that technology will be the greatest disruptor of higher education over the next five years, with a plethora of digital tools rising to overcome the limitations of the physical classroom and offer a more personalized learning experience. The leadership at SEU also believes that universities will become increasingly global and collaborative, sharing courses, teaching, and expertise. In the context of an exciting future, SEU is capturing local and regional opportunities, and providing nation-wide access to quality education that will contribute to social, cultural, and economic growth.

The university has succeeded in establishing strategic partnerships with many international institutions which made SEU an important quality education provider in the Kingdom. Therefore, to invest this success and in line with the Kingdom's vision 2030 in supporting local educational institutions to keep pace with the global changes and trends towards.





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Published by:
Decision Support Department

The Decision Support Unit was established to understand the current state of KPIs, Data Structures, and Reporting related to all of the University's initiatives and projects. It is a supportive central organizational unit concerned with standardizing data Management. It is linked systematically to Vice President of Planning, Development and Quality. It aims to identify opportunities for improvement and inform design requirements and standards, in accordance with the best approved practices and achieving the desired goals in line with the University's strategic plan and the Kingdom's vision 2030.

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