

# UN SDG BOOK CLUB AFRICAN CHAPTER

## FAQ

### [Frequently Asked Questions]

#### **What is the UN SDG Book Club?**

The SDG Book Club aims to use books as a tool to encourage children ages 6-12 to interact with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a curated reading list of books from around the world related to each of the 17 SDGs in all six official UN languages—Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

#### **What is the UN SDG Book Club African Chapter?**

The African Chapter of the UN SDG Book Club operates in 4 main languages: Kiswahili, French, English and Arabic. In addition an honorary book in an indigenous African language will be included in the lists of books picked by the jury in the 4 main languages of the Chapter.

#### **How do you choose books for the reading list?**

A selection committee works together to make the final selection for each of the 17 SDGs, in all 4 main languages of the African Chapter: Kiswahili, French, English and Arabic. The selection committee consists of members from African Publishers Network (**APNET**), Association for the Development of Education in Africa (**ADEA**), Borders Literature for all Nations (**Borders**), Pan-African Booksellers Association (**PABA**), Pan-African Writers Association (**PAWA**) and African Library & Information Associations & Institutions (**AfLIA**)

#### **What sorts of books will be considered for this reading list?**

Fiction, non-fiction, and other genres that our panel thinks will help educate children about SDGs will be considered.

#### **What is the target age for the reading list?**

The reading list is meant for children ages 6-12+. However, we encourage parents, educators, and everyone who is interested to read the selected books and help children understand the importance of the SDGs.

#### **How often is the reading list updated?**

The inaugural reading list for SDG 1: *No Poverty* will be published first on World Book Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. Every two **months** for 34 months the reading list will be updated.

### **Can I sign-up for email updates?**

Yes. Subscribe on our website homepage to get a monthly email on news and updates. Your privacy is important to us so we would never share your information with third parties or spam your inbox.

### **Do you sell books here?**

No. We do not intend to sell or promote the sale of the books featured in the reading list. If you choose to, you can buy the books online, wherever books are sold, or get a copy at your local bookstore or library.

**Amongst the African Chapter Organizers are The Pan-African Booksellers Association (PABA) and African Library and information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) whose channels will make the books available to the readers.**

### **How do I participate in the conversation via social media?**

You can post your thoughts and images on social media using the hashtag **#SDGBookClub** and **#UNSDGBookClubAfricanChapter** Please tag/follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

### **Is there a book club meeting near me which I can join?**

Yes, there are book club meetings taking place all over Africa. Check back for a link to the list! (Coming soon)

### **How can I host my own book club meeting and add it to the list of events?**

People can host book club meetings around Africa and the African Diaspora and share their photos via **#SDGBookClub** and **#UNSDGBookClubAfricanChapter** If you would like to organize a public book club meeting, we recommend contacting your local book store, library or school and set it up with them. Please share the planned event on social media using **#SDGBookClub** and **#UNSDGBookClubAfricanChapter** and we will add it to the list of events.

### **I have some thoughts. How do I send feedback?**

You can post feedback on our [Facebook](#) page:

<https://www.facebook.com/unsdgbookclubafricanchapter>

Or write an email to:

[anna.kharuchas@unic.org](mailto:anna.kharuchas@unic.org)

[mouton@un.org](mailto:mouton@un.org)

[waleokediran@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:waleokediran@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Can I make recommendations for the reading list?**

We sincerely appreciate your interest. However, we are not currently accepting recommendations.

### **What other actions can I take to promote the SDGs?**

There are actions that you can take beyond just reading the books.

- A. Help your kids to create a poster with a photo or drawing and interesting facts about their favourite character(s) of the book.

- B. Design a reading scavenger hunt for kids using drawings and pictures instead of questions and help them search for things mentioned in the book.
- C. Help your kids write a letter to the local government representative and tell them what you learned in the book and ask them what action(s) they are taking toward a specific Goal. Local Government can partner with a participating bookshop to ensure poor community schools get a bundle of free stickered African Chapter books once a year.
- D. Organize a parent-child facilitated book discussion for younger kids. Invite your child's friends and their parents to discuss a book from the reading list at your local library or children's book store.
- E. Spread the word on social media, using the hashtag **#SDGBookClub** and **#UNSDGBookClubAfricanChapter** We'd love to feature your pictures/videos on our social media.
- F. Encourage children who are able and willing to write 50 - 200 word reviews of books they have read and to write short articles or stories of their own on the themes of the SDG under discussion. Children, remember to give your name, age, title of piece, category of the piece (review, article, short story, poem etc) and the word count.

We will publish the most engaging of these blogposts in the African Chapter website blog.

Send your blog posts to the organizers at: [unsdgbookclubafricanchapter@gmail.com](mailto:unsdgbookclubafricanchapter@gmail.com)

- G. If participating schools wish to be more ambitious, you can stage plays, musicals, art exhibitions around themes related to the SDGs.

Think up fun, creative ideas of your own to address the issues around one or more SDGs

## **ORGANIZERS**

### **African Publishers Network (APNET)**

The African Publishers Network, established in 1992 and hosted by the Ghana Publishers Association (GPA), brings together national publishers associations and publishing communities from 42 African countries. Seeking to strengthen indigenous publishing throughout Africa, its activities cover all geographic and linguistic zones of the continent (English, French, Portuguese and Arabic). APNET's main objectives are to promote trade through intra-African links and to the international world through book fair exhibitions, to share information amongst its members and capacity building in order to meet Africa's need for quality books, relevant to African social, political, economic and cultural realities.

APNET is tasked with promoting the aims and objectives of the African Chapter of the UN SDG Book Club within the pan –African community of publishers.

## **African Library and information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA)**

AfLIA is an independent international not-for-profit organization based in Ghana, West Africa, which pursues the interests of library and information associations, library and information services, librarians and information workers and the communities they serve in Africa. AfLIA empowers the library and information community to actively promote the African development agenda through dynamic services that transform livelihoods.

AfLIA keeps a mailing list of volunteer libraries willing to work to ensure African Children read and understand all about the SDGs. AfLIA will coordinate activities of participating libraries as centrally as possible and provide a reporting pathway so that it can know about the activities of participating libraries. These reports will help the UN track the success of the UN SDG Book Club African Chapter

## **Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)**

The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) is the voice of education in Africa and a key network of Education Ministries. It plays a significant role in the education space as a convener, knowledge creator and forum for policy dialogue, working through its Inter-Country Quality Nodes (ICQNs) and the Task Force on Education Management and Policy Support. ADEA contributes to the empowerment of African countries to develop quality education and training systems that respond to the countries' emergent needs and drive social and economic transformation sustainably. ADEA connects the African Chapter of the UN SDG Book Club with schools across Africa through the Ministries of Education.

## **Pan African Writers' Association (PAWA)**

Founded in 1989, the Pan-African Writers Association (PAWA) is a Ghana-based cultural institution and umbrella body of writers associations across the African continent and the Diaspora. Its aim is to strengthen the cultural and economic bonds between the people of Africa against the background of the continent's acknowledged diverse but rich cultural, political and economic heritage.

PAWA writers ensure a steady supply to the African Chapter of high quality children's books with strong SDG themes. PAWA writers importantly, volunteer translation services to the African Chapter.

## **Pan African Booksellers Association (PABA)**

The Pan-African Booksellers Association (PABA) is a non-profit organization composed of national booksellers associations from across Africa. PABA offers training programs aimed at association-building, advocacy and bookselling.

PABA booksellers will stock the reading lists of the African Chapter and are encouraged to organize and/or promote related child-centered activities eg reading clubs, meet the author, meet the illustrator events and parent-child readings etc.

## **Borders Literature for all Nations (Borders)**

Borders, a voluntary project, is an African book industry journal and publicity platform offering online and live services. In addition to book reviews and book trade interviews, a main project of Borders is the Borders SDG Book Club which hosts book-chats with authors of children's books, with illustrators and with school-children. The Borders SDG Book Club supports the overall mission of Borders Literature for all Nations: the promotion of the reading culture in Nigeria and Africa and the promotion of the reading of African books worldwide. Books featured on the reading list of the UN SDG Book Club African Chapter will be prioritized for promotion by the Borders SDG Book Club.

## **United Nations Information Center Windhoek Namibia**

Unic Namibia is the founding technical partner of the African chapter of the UN SDG Book Club and builds and hosts the dedicated website. By lending expertise to support the decision making of the trustees of the UN SDG Book Club African Chapter: [PABA, PAWA, BORDERS, AfLIA, ADEA, APNET], UNIC provides continuity and coordination of the website affairs and brings the UN's voice to the table.