

LMUN IDEA FAIR 2025 (6TH EDITION)

TOPIC GUIDE



LMUN IDEA FAIR

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ADVANCING SDG 4: EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD THROUGH COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS



Education stands as a foundational pillar for societal progress, serving as a powerful instrument in the fight against poverty, the promotion of equality, and the empowerment of future generations. It has been called the bedrock of civilization and serves as one of the major cornerstones of every society that seeks to advance. However, for millions of children and youth globally, and particularly in rural and low-income communities such as those found across Nigeria, access to quality education remains a distant dream. Crumbling classrooms, chronic teacher shortages, restrictive cultural barriers, and the escalating cost of living collectively contribute to alarmingly high dropout rates and poor learning outcomes – undermining the promise of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4): to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



The global educational landscape reveals a stark reality: according to UNESCO, over 244 million children worldwide are out of school, with a significant proportion residing in fragile and resource-constrained environments. In many regions, children undertake arduous journeys, walking for hours to reach dilapidated school buildings that often lack basic necessities such as chairs, toilets, textbooks, or even trained teachers. In Nigeria, over 10 million children are out of school, with regions like Kano and Zamfara facing similar infrastructural deficiencies. Girls, in particular, encounter unique and often insurmountable obstacles; cultural and safety-related concerns—especially around menstruation and the threat of child marriage—frequently force them to abandon their education, mirroring global trends that UNESCO highlights as a leading cause of gender-based educational exclusion. Elsewhere, families under economic strain pull children into street trading or subsistence farming, trading long-term learning for immediate survival.



When educational systems falter, the ripple effect extends throughout entire communities, stifling social mobility and hindering development. Basic life-skills—literacy, numeracy, and increasingly, digital awareness—go untaught, leaving young people ill-equipped to navigate a rapidly changing world. Civic engagement wanes as learners lack confidence to speak up, while local economies stagnate when graduates with only rudimentary skills enter the workforce. To reverse these detrimental trends, we must embrace community-centered solutions that leverage local materials, human capital, and grassroots cooperation to fill educational gaps and ensure that children not only enroll in school but also remain engaged and learn effectively.

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Delegates are therefore expected to suggest practical and creative solutions that address SDG 4, taking into account the following essential issues:

- The lack of school infrastructure and trained teachers in underserved communities.
- Financial and cultural factors causing children to drop out of school early.
- Barriers to girls' education, including menstruation, child marriage, and safety concerns.
- The need for accessible, low-tech learning options in places with no internet or electricity.
- Community involvement as a powerful tool for sustaining education projects.



Examples of Practical, Grassroots-Level Ideas:

- “Talking Wall”: Educational Murals with Audio-QR Codes: Transform blank walls in markets, schools, or town centers into vibrant educational murals illustrating alphabets, moral stories, or hygiene practices. Each mural can be equipped with simple QR codes or solar-powered audio stations that play preloaded audio lessons when scanned with basic phones or accessed via mounted speakers or FM transmitters at set times, turning any wall into an interactive, open-air classroom accessible to everyone.
- Community Teacher Volunteer Program: Partner with retired teachers, literate youth, or local artisans who can offer basic lessons in reading, writing, numeracy, and vocational skills—even without formal credentials. This involves training a cadre of mentors in trauma-sensitive pedagogy and basic digital literacy.



- Local Study Circles: Encourage peer-to-peer group learning in small clusters within villages or neighborhoods, especially during farming off-seasons. These pods can meet in homes or under shaded trees, using handwritten lesson plans and story-based teaching, facilitated by Community Teacher Volunteers.
- Reusable Note Boards: Use old wooden slates or cardboard covered with plastic as reusable writing surfaces for children who can't afford exercise books. Provide community chalk and marker refills, fostering the local production of teaching aids.
- Menstrual Health Corners / "Dignity Stations": Set up simple, discreet "dignity stations" in community centers or schools where girls can get sanitary pads and rest, helping reduce absenteeism linked to periods. This includes providing "My Period, My Class" toolkits.

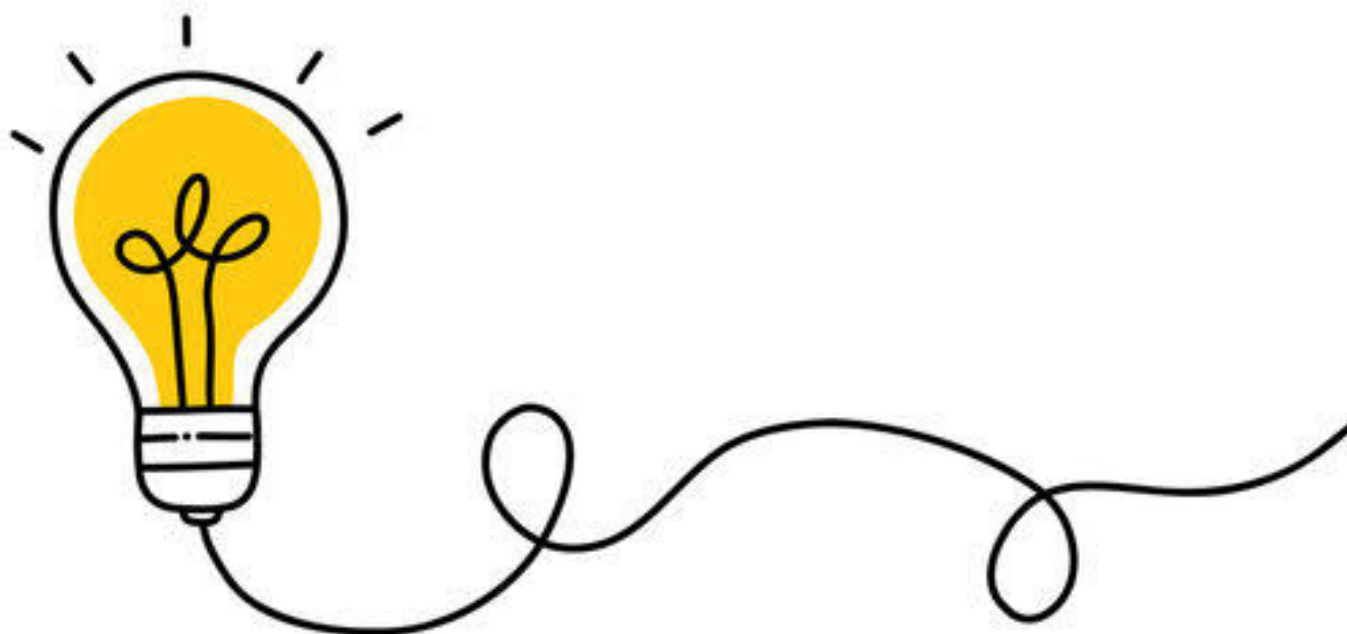
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- “My Period, My Class” Toolkit: A pocket-sized menstrual hygiene kit with reusable pads, emergency panties, and a discreet educational booklet on menstruation, body changes, and confidence. It also includes a simple tracking calendar and comes in fun colors and patterns to reduce stigma. Combined with peer-led sessions on body literacy, these kits help keep girls in class.
- Scholarship Pots from Community Savings Groups: Encourage local cooperatives or women’s savings groups to pool small funds monthly to sponsor school supplies, fees, or even provide stipends for Community Teacher Volunteers for one or two children in need.
- Traditional Knowledge Clubs: Create space for older members of the community to pass down agricultural, cultural, and ethical lessons to young learners, tying education to local identity and relevance.



This topic calls on delegates to think like community builders. What realistic, resource-conscious, and scalable solutions can improve access to quality education for the most vulnerable learners? Delegates are expected to present ideas that are rooted in the realities of rural and low-income communities. From informal learning spaces to culturally sensitive outreach, this is your opportunity to reimagine education as a collective responsibility.



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROMOTING SDG 6: LOCALIZED ACTION FOR CLEAN WATER ACCESS



Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right and one of the most critical components of public health and human dignity. However, for many people around the world, especially in low-income and marginalized communities, this right remains out of reach. Climate change has further exacerbated this crisis, triggering droughts, floods, and the contamination of water sources, all of which complicate access to clean, safe, and reliable water supplies. According to a recent World Bank report, over 400 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to basic, safe drinking water. In Nigeria alone, many rural and urban slum communities rely on unprotected streams, polluted rivers, or overpriced sachet water for daily survival. As the effects of climate change intensify, rainfall patterns become more unpredictable, freshwater sources are increasingly compromised, and public infrastructure is overwhelmed by floods and rising population pressure.



The challenges of water access are compounded by the fact that sanitation infrastructure in many areas is either non-existent or severely inadequate. Open defecation, poor waste management, and limited hygiene awareness contribute to the spread of preventable waterborne diseases. In flood-prone areas, the risks increase significantly as floodwaters mix with waste, chemical runoff, and human excreta, turning entire neighborhoods into breeding grounds for disease. These realities jeopardize not only SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) but also hinder the achievement of other critical goals. For instance, SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) is impacted by diseases resulting from contaminated water. SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) is threatened when droughts reduce agricultural output and food insecurity rises. Even SDG 13 (Climate Action) is undermined when outdated water infrastructure fails to adapt to climate challenges, increasing emissions and reducing resilience.



Despite these challenges, there are practical and impactful ways that young people can contribute to solving these problems. Delegates at the LMUN Idea Fair are encouraged to take a community-based approach in crafting pet projects that are feasible, locally relevant, and sustainable. Below are specific areas delegates can focus on:

1. Access to Clean Water in Low-Income Communities


- In low-income areas, the barriers to water access are not only physical but economic. Many residents cannot afford treated water or depend on informal water vendors whose sources are often questionable. Delegates may explore initiatives such as:
- Establishing or rehabilitating community boreholes and ensuring proper maintenance mechanisms.
- Installing solar-powered water purification units in schools or public centers.
- Introducing rainwater harvesting systems with simple filtration units for household use.
- Creating local water delivery solutions using bicycles or pushcarts.

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2. Addressing Water Pollution in Flood-Prone Areas

Flooding is one of the most visible effects of climate change and poses a serious threat to water quality. Delegates may focus on projects that reduce contamination during and after flood events, such as:

- Promoting low-cost filtration tools like ceramic filters or LifeStraws in vulnerable households.
 - Training community members on safe water treatment methods (e.g., boiling, chlorination, etc).
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3. Promoting Hygiene and Sanitation for Public Health

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are closely interconnected. Delegates can develop projects that emphasize hygiene promotion in settings like schools, markets, and IDP camps, including:

- Constructing affordable compost toilets or eco-friendly latrines.
 - Running handwashing education campaigns, especially for children.
 - Distributing hygiene kits (soap, menstrual hygiene materials, water containers) to flood-affected or underserved populations.
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Guidelines for Delegates Developing Projects

As you think through your pet project idea, consider these questions:

- Who is your target population and what are their most pressing water or sanitation needs?
 - What simple and available resources can be leveraged locally?
 - How can your idea be sustained after initial implementation?
 - Is there an opportunity to partner with schools, youth groups, NGOs, or local councils?
 - Does your project reflect the local context and climate-related challenges?
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Delegates are therefore expected to suggest effective solutions to address this SDG, taking into account the following essential issues:

- The greater vulnerability of lower-income and marginalized groups to water shortages and sanitation-related health concerns.
- Climate-related water constraints which erode agricultural earnings and food security.
- Water pollution resulting from flooding in urban and rural communities.
- The need for affordable, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient water solutions.

Conclusion

Climate change is not a distant issue — its effects are already being felt in our neighborhoods, streets, schools, and homes. As delegates of the LMUN Idea Fair, you are being called to be problem solvers in your local contexts. Your mission is to find realistic, replicable solutions that contribute to SDG 6 and climate resilience.

Whether you choose to rehabilitate a water source, promote household filtration, build sanitation facilities, or educate a community on hygiene practices — your idea matters. Think impact. Be practical. Be innovative.

Clean water is possible — one solution at a time.

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities & Communities

GREEN THREADS: CIRCULAR FASHION FOR NIGERIAN CITIES



The fashion industry's lack of sustainable practices has wide-reaching and deeply troubling effects—not only on garment workers but also on urban communities and the environment. From toxic chemical exposure and strained waste systems to exploitative labor conditions and ecosystem damage, the impacts are severe. Numerous local reports of unregulated workshop accidents exposed how unsafe practices in makeshift garment workshops can destroy lives and destabilize entire communities. This underscores the urgent need to reimagine urban fashion systems for the well-being of both people and the planet.



This crisis is worsened by the close connection between fast fashion and poor infrastructure, which together create a cycle that traps many city communities in poverty and pollution. Without proper systems for recycling or workplace safety, dangerous working conditions and overconsumption persist. In under-resourced neighborhoods, eco-friendly production facilities are rare, and many informal workshops operate without regard for building codes or environmental regulations. With limited options, people are often forced to purchase cheap, short-lived clothing, which contributes to mounting textile waste and clogged waterways. These conditions make it difficult for workers to find secure employment and prevent communities from moving toward long-term stability, weakening a city's ability to recover from environmental and social challenges.



At the heart of these issues are the people most directly affected. Factory workers and nearby residents face serious health risks from exposure to untreated dyes and chemical runoff, often resulting in respiratory illnesses and waterborne diseases. In informal, unregulated workshops, workers—especially young women—are frequently intimidated and unable to advocate for safer working conditions or fair pay. Many are trapped in unstable, low-wage jobs that offer little chance for advancement, reinforcing cycles of poverty. Without legal protections, they remain vulnerable to wage theft, forced overtime, and unsafe environments. Women, who make up the majority of the garment workforce, suffer disproportionately due to limited opportunities, poor working conditions, and systemic discrimination.




Taken together, these health risks, labor abuses, and economic hardships make it clear that surface-level solutions are not enough. To truly reform the system and build healthier, more resilient cities, we need a sustainability-focused approach. This means not only creating circular-economy frameworks but also improving the safety and capacity of local garment workshops. It involves closing regulatory gaps exposed by past tragedies and equipping designers, tailors, and waste-collectors with the skills and tools to create durable, eco-friendly clothing. Through investment in upcycling hubs, stronger building-code enforcement, and widespread training in repair and recycling, we can begin to dismantle the current cycle of waste and exploitation—paving the way for inclusive and resilient urban economies for generations to come.

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities & Communities


GREEN THREADS: CIRCULAR FASHION FOR NIGERIAN CITIES



In today's fashion industry, small-scale tailors, designers, and upcycling entrepreneurs need more than just traditional sewing skills to thrive. Two crucial abilities—circular-design thinking and supply-chain literacy—are becoming essential for breaking away from wasteful and unsafe fashion practices. Circular-design thinking means creating clothes with their reuse, repair, or recycling in mind, while supply-chain literacy involves understanding where materials come from, how they are made, and their environmental impact. These skills help fashion makers not only design better, longer-lasting clothing but also build fairer partnerships and gain the trust of environmentally conscious customers. As the industry shifts toward sustainability, those who embrace these tools are better positioned to succeed and support resilient urban fashion systems.



Urban fashion makers in under-resourced areas often do not have access to training in circular-design thinking or supply-chain literacy, making it harder for them to compete in the growing sustainable fashion market. But when we take a step back, it becomes clear that promoting a circular fashion system in cities does more than just change how we dress—it helps reshape entire economies and protect the environment. By making repair, upcycling, and resale a core part of urban fashion production, we move closer to achieving SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Every item that's fixed or reused instead of thrown away helps ease pressure on landfills and waterways, cutting down on chemical runoff and microplastic pollution. In this way, city-led circular fashion efforts not only reduce waste but also set an example for other industries on how to use resources wisely.



At the same time, supporting local upcycling centers, mobile repair services, and the creative reuse of empty urban spaces contributes directly to SDG 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure. These small-scale green manufacturing spaces act as testing grounds for new ideas—from eco-friendly dyeing techniques to clothing designs that can be taken apart and reused each season. As these businesses grow, they help build strong, adaptable infrastructure that can survive economic challenges and support inclusive growth. When we formalize these efforts and provide the tools needed to run sustainable cooperatives, we also move toward SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth. Tailors, artisans, and young designers gain access to meaningful, better-paying jobs and develop the confidence and knowledge to secure fair contracts and expand their businesses.

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities & Communities

GREEN THREADS: CIRCULAR FASHION FOR NIGERIAN CITIES



Finally, as circular-fashion networks grow, they also support SDG 13: Climate Action. By cutting down on fast-fashion imports and reducing emissions from textile production, cities can significantly lower their carbon footprints. When local governments introduce bold initiatives—like green building permits and public-private investments in zero-waste facilities—they don't just meet climate goals; they surpass them. This leads to cleaner air, healthier neighborhoods, and a more secure future for everyone. When we connect responsible production, innovative infrastructure, fair economic growth, and climate resilience, it becomes clear that achieving SDG 11—sustainable cities and communities—is closely tied to the success of the entire 2030 Agenda.



On this note, delegates should proffer practical solutions to addressing SDG 11 through sustainable fashion, bearing in mind the following issues:

1. How to close gaps in regulations and make sure city workshops are regularly checked for safety.
2. Ways to catch and stop false “green” or “eco-friendly” claims in the fashion industry.
3. How to give tailors and designers the skills and tools they need for upcycling, repairing clothes, and zero-waste methods.
4. Solutions for better design training and clear, honest supply chains so that eco-friendly garments can be made reliably.

