

Teach For Zimbabwe incorporating climate education in summer institute

Snapshot

Teach For Zimbabwe (TFZ) creates a national climate education impact that is rooted in the capacity of each fellow and contextualized within the respective community. As a pioneer for sourcing climate education expertise from program participants, TFZ's approach started to be replicated in other countries.

Context

Zimbabwe faces a learning crisis in terms of access, equity of access, quality, and relevancy. The country inherited a colonial dual education system and children from rural communities are disadvantaged compared to their peers from urban areas who have access to better schools. Moreover, despite a National Climate Change Learning Strategy, climate change is not part of school curricula. The vast majority of teachers don't have the knowledge, confidence or context-specific education materials to teach about climate change in their classroom.

Two years into the placement, TFZ has placed 70+ fellows in the two marginalized rural areas Chiredzi, and Mutoko. Chiredzi has a history of conservation and is home to Gonarezhou national park and Malilangwe Conservancy. Climate change has negatively impacted the Chiredzi population, for example, through droughts that cause water and food shortages and violent storms that destroy crucial infrastructure and homes.

Choice

TFZ attracted a diverse set of leaders to provide equitable and holistic education in the most marginalized communities to help children navigate the world that they live in. Through bottom-up leadership, fellows drove a proof of concept for climate education and moved it from individual to collective. For example, one fellow started a climate education club at his school and 12 others replicated this approach at their schools. To the global climate education community. Following a train-the-trainer approach, current fellows have designed a climate education module for teachers, delivered as part of the TFZ training institute for the 60 new incoming TFZ fellows, to give all the fellows the knowledge and confidence to apply climate change education to their context and teaching. This approach of fellow (or alumni) led design and delivery of climate education training was shared within Teach For All's global climate education community and is replicated in other network countries, including Kenya, Germany, Austria, Lebanon and Uganda.

Collective leadership

The climate education initiative grew collective leadership on two levels. First, rooted in a deep understanding of context and the daily experiences of learners, participants drove the movement, pushing bottom-up until the organization adopted the strategy as part of their training program. Second, climate education itself unleashes learners' agency inside and outside the classroom.



Community impact

What started at a local level grew into a collective movement. Facilitated by Teach For All's global climate education community, TFZ's approach is recognized by a global community, with other countries such as Kenya and Lebanon learning from and replicating the approach. At a community level, learners come up with solutions that directly impact their communities. One example includes a student-led initiative in Chiredzi that educated shopkeepers about ways for waste reduction (especially plastics).

Further resources

- [Learners in the Fight Against Climate Change initiative](#)
- [Student agency and climate solutions](#)
- [Climate education and leadership](#)
- [Collective responsibility for climate education in a climate-changed world](#)