

## ACTIVITY 7

# EDUCATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE





## PART 1

# CREATE AN EXPLORER'S DIARY



## PART 2: MEET UNICEF YOUTH CLIMATE ADVOCATES



Climate ambassador Thompson Manda from Zambia. © Unicef/Maseko

### YOUTH ADVOCATE PROFILE #1 — THOMPSON FROM ZAMBIA

Eighteen-year-old Thompson Manda is a climate ambassador in the southern Africa country of Zambia.

As a climate ambassadors, young people like Thompson learn about their environment and effects of climate change. They also learn about how to work with their community and government leaders to call on them to take climate change seriously.

Climate ambassadors like Thompson work on many creative and innovative projects. They know their voices as young people matter and they use them to help spread awareness about climate change, as well as to create innovative climate solutions.

**“As a result of being a climate ambassador I want to study Civil Engineering so that I can find eco-friendly solutions and ways of adapting to the effects of climate change,”** says Thompson.



## YOUTH ADVOCATE PROFILE #2 — DANTE FROM CHILE



Source: YouTube/UNICEF Chile

Dante Vergara is an 11-year-old boy from the South American country of Chile. He has always loved nature since he was very young. In 2014 Dante decided to share this love for nature by starting a YouTube channel called Bichologia (bug-ology) following the motto, “In order to care for nature we must know and learn about it”. Dante’s YouTube channel features his findings from hikes in the Andes Mountains and national parks of Chile and has grown to have millions of viewers.

Dante uses his channel not only to share his love for nature, but also to raise awareness among other children about the importance of protecting biodiversity and the direct threat that climate change poses to their habitats.

# CLIMATE

In addition to his own YouTube channel, Dante also uses his voice to ensure many other children have access to education about the environment by sharing his conservation messages in news outlets and through other educational environments.

One very important place that Dante got to share his message was at a global summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York – joining children and young people from all over the world to demand action to protect and promote child rights, including the right to education, so no child is left behind.



Dante, 11, addresses a global summit at United Nations Headquarters in New York. © Unicef/McIlwaine



## YOUTH ADVOCATE PROFILE #3 — SIBA, ZA'ATARI REFUGEE CAMP



Siba, 18, on her way from the Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan to share innovative solutions to climate change. © Unicef/Herwig

Eighteen-year-old Siba is one of the more than 20,000 children and youth living in the Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. While the children here are primarily refugees as a result of the conflict in Syria, rather than climate migration, they know what it is like to live in very difficult circumstances. They are taking action to create solutions through a social innovation lab programme.

In 2018, Siba and more than 100 young people from the camp came together to participate in a startup event. These young people came to learn new skills in order to help create a better future.



Siba, 18 years, talks to Abrar, 25 years, in Teenah, the social enterprise employing Syrian and Jordanian women hosted in the Fab Lab. © Unicef/Herwig

The young people take lessons in topics like robotics, creative visioning, fashion design and artificial intelligence, then come together to identify problems that they face in their community and design and create prototypes of inventions or programmes that address the problems.

Some of the innovations created to date include solar-powered phone chargers, water distilleries, reading lamps made from recycled materials, a gas-powered oven and a medicine cooler made of recycled materials.

Not only is education a right for children, it is one of the most valuable tools that children have to gain the tools they need to fight climate change for the long term and build a better future.



## **PART 3**

# **VIDEO AND DISCUSSION**



To prompt thinking around the connection between  
the coronavirus pandemic and the climate crisis.

Watch online [here](#)