

Worksheet D

Human Stories of Climate Change in Bangladesh

Land erosion

This is Hasina Begum from Char Atra, an island community, harvesting chillies from her vegetable garden. People living here have had huge problems from their land being lost due to *erosion* (breaking away) as the river floods. There were very bad floods in 2007. This makes growing crops harder.

She says:

"Eight months ago I was living where the river is now. Since I got married I have moved to a new home six times because of the river erosion. This is happening more frequently as before we used to stay for three or four years in one place but during the last five years we have been forced to move every year. Six years ago we owned some land but this became a river and now we are landless. I hope we will be safe this year but we can't predict where the river erosion will happen after the flood."



Weather disasters also cause loss of life, housing loss and outbreaks of diseases such as diarrhoea. In the year 2000 diseases such as diarrhoea killed 20 percent of children under the age of 5.

Food

Crops being destroyed by floods and drought can cause hunger. The floods cover big parts of the land.

Here Mohammad Iyar Ali, aged 55, from Rampur, says:

"I have just over half a hectare of land for cultivation. My eight-member family depends on the crops we grow in the land twice a year. Most of the paddy in the field has suffered from a lack of rainfall. I don't know how the family will survive the spiral (*increase*) of food prices. During such floods children do not go to school. Persistent (*all the time*) floods threaten our survival. Life is becoming tougher day by day".



Afazuddin Akhand, aged 70, from Mymemsingh also says:

"The winters have become unpredictable in the last five years as they do not provide the chill and shiver like before which is the main ingredient for winter vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage... (also) unpredictable fog destroys those crops".

Loss of crops means that food costs more money and must be *imported* (when you buy from other countries). Many people cannot afford to buy the food.