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“We must teach the children in our community about **environmental education** and climate change so that we can have a conscious generation in the future.”

MEET THE CHANGEMAKERS

#8 *This is part of an infographic series profiling key role players who are working with the INACCT Resilience project in supporting resilience building.*

How have you been affected by flooding?

The last time it rained heavily in our neighbourhood, some people were so badly affected by the floods that they were forced to move from their homes to their relatives' homes for a period of time. From a professional perspective, I hope to receive more training in climate change and community management, and to have more partners to support our local committees, so that our activities in the community have more visibility. What motivates me to act, in principle, is the close love I have for my community. I hope to contribute to my community's development through better sanitation conditions, providing environmental education to the community, improved access to roads and one day becoming part of a sustainable community.

Key actions and impact

Our local committee has been running an awareness campaign in the community to not build on top of drainage ditches, and to not throw garbage in drainage ditches because it contributes significantly to clogging them. We have also raised awareness around not building in risky areas. However, many communities are unaware and still do not take climate change seriously. They only believe it when they suffer from a climate-related phenomenon themselves, and few people have paid attention to our recommendations.

Challenges and lessons learned

One of the obstacles we face is convincing stubborn people to move from high-risk areas to a safe place when a climate event occurs, and convincing the community to take good environmental actions. The lessons I have learned are that we must teach the children in our community about environmental education and climate change so that we can have a conscious generation in the future.

Call to action

My advice is that people should change their mindset about the negative impact we have had on the environment. People need to know that most of the climate change events that have happened in recent years are the result of the bad things we have done to the environment. We should invest more in environmental education in our communities, and in good practices in general.

This text was translated from Portuguese.