

Climate hero

My name is Marahaj Chandra.

I am the headteacher of Karchua Bori Primary School in Assam.

The people in this area know how to live in floods. We are like amphibians!

But in 2000, 2004 and 2007 we have had terrible floods and many people lost their lives. We were surrounded by deep waters. Disease came and many suffered with fever.

In 2004 we lost everything. Desks, benches and books were washed away. The children had to sit on sacks.

The floods destroy things that take a long time to build. But I continue to teach. The children learn about flooding and how to survive in the waters. We don't need books for that.

We learn about climate change. We have heard that the glaciers are cooling down in the mountains and the water is coming here. The fast mountain rivers are angry. They are bringing all of this dead silt (mud) to us. It kills our crops.

We made flood maps to look at where the floods were worst and how we could prepare for next time. We decided to plant trees between our school and the Brahmaputra River. These will stop the force of the water and protect our school building.

We also learn how to cope in the middle of a disaster situation. We teach the younger children how to swim and not to go to the flood waters without an adult.



We also learn how to make canoes from banana plants, bamboo and tarpaulin or how to make life jackets from bottles and jerry cans. We learn how to get above the water level on to a raised platform. If the water keeps rising we know that we must run or swim to the shelters.

The children go to their homes and tell their families what they learn in school. This is great because they are educating a whole community!