



THE CLIMATE & SOCIETY GAME

People's different vulnerabilities to climate change and their different abilities to be change-makers

The scenario

Barrio Inundado is a low-income neighbourhood in a coastal city of South America. It suffers increasingly from both coastal and inland flooding. Climate change has brought sea level rise and more frequent storm surges (high waves) that inundate settlements, businesses and infrastructure.

Climate change has also brought heavier rainfall. This makes the river running through the city burst its banks, washing dirty water and waste into the streets.

Flooding has forced people to evacuate several times. Something must be done to make the residents' lives more bearable!

That's where you come in.

Put yourself in character to have a conversation about what makes you vulnerable to climate and what makes you able to contribute to solutions.



Round One

The consultation process

The Climate Change Officer of the City Government wants to consult with residents of Barrio Inundado about how flooding affects their lives.

She also wants to gather ideas for reducing people's exposure and vulnerability.

Hardly anyone came to the first town meeting! So in round one, she knocks on people's doors to find out their opinions.



Round Two

The adaptation and resilience plans

It's one year later and the Climate Change Officer has finished her climate vulnerability and risk assessment. She has drawn up plans for making Barrio Inundado more climate-resilient. The proposals include:

- Set up a volunteer network that can be mobilised to install sand bags when the river banks threaten to burst.
- Set up a network of volunteers to check on and help vulnerable local residents (e.g. in poor health) if they need support to evacuate or protect their properties.
- Improve liaison with the local university on climate and hydrological projections for the city in the coming years, to better anticipate river flood risks.
- Use the information to update city zoning plans and hire more city planning officers to enforce and update building codes.
- Install a breakwater combined with 'green infrastructure' (restored mangroves) at the waterfront, to reduce coastal flooding.

In round two, all the residents gather to hear the plans. They respond, according to each person's concerns and abilities.

