You are a 13 year old girl. You go to school, and when you get back, you help out your mother with household chores. You walk a long distance each day to fetch water. Your mother sells small food items by the house gate so that she can get income to cover your personal expenses. Your mother often uses the money to buy sanitary products for herself and for you. Your father left for the Internal Displaced Persons camp, taking your mother’s saving with him, when the drought set in – leaving your household finances in a perilous state.
An Environmental Management Officer comes knocking. She asks:

**Why didn’t you come to the neighbourhood meeting about the drought?**
You explain that children are not normally included. You were so busy going to gather water – how to find the time?

**How has the drought affected you and what would improve your situation?** It is even a longer wait at the borehole to collect water and you worry that the little water will be contaminated and you will get ill. Also, the drought is pushing up the price of food, and you are already skipping meals. You and your mother have no savings – if food gets any more expensive, how will you cope?

This time, you manage to attend the neighbourhood meeting.

There are various ideas of new projects and programmes to help boost productivity of both crop cultivation and livestock rearing by using weather and climate information in smarter ways and adopting improved, appropriate technologies to save water and boost soil nutrition. It sounds interesting to you. You were thinking of seeking a future elsewhere, but these improvements could convince you to stay here. But you are so stretched already with your household chores and your wish to keep up studies, you can only get involved in a new activity if it’s guaranteed to be worthwhile. And you are too young for a loan, you will try to support your mother if she is able.

*Discuss with the group.*