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

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The small town of Kul-Bayne in northeastern Ethiopia is suffering from drought, which has impacts on crops and livestock health, and so on people's wellbeing and livelihoods. Already it seems the land and water are straining to support the people and animals – there just don't seem to be enough resources to go around. The government is warning of increasing stresses due to climate change in the future. How can people's lives be more secure and resilient?

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.

The consultation process

The town's Environmental Management Officer tried to hold a meeting to consult with residents of Kul-Bayne about how drought and resource scarcity affects their lives and to gather ideas for reducing their exposure and vulnerability. But hardly anyone came to the meeting! So now she is knocking on people's doors to find out their opinions.



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The adaptation and resilience plans

It's one year later and the Environmental Management Officer has finished her climate vulnerability and risk assessment. She has drawn up plans for making Kul-Bayne more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The proposals include:

- Improve liaison with universities, vocational centres and meteorological agencies on climate and hydrology projections for the region, to better anticipate drought risks and heatwaves.
- Make a proposal to partner with community radio stations for more effective roll-out of weather forecasts.
- Use the information to access support from national government, from NGOs and from international programmes for locally appropriate technologies to save water and use water more efficiently.
- Organise for a savings and loan scheme with more participation by women
- Organise some kitchen gardens using bio-fertiliser and water saving technologies to boost vegetable production.
 - Organise disaster risk reduction (DRR) support networks in the town, so that people who are more able can check on the welfare of those who are most vulnerable to heat stress especially during extreme heatwave events and to ensure that the elderly, disabled and people living alone receive the warning information about heatwaves.

