You have retired under a social security scheme for agricultural workers. Now 62 years old, you are widowed and live alone. Although it is unusual for women of your age to move from the village to the city, you made the decision to move into the marginal urban neighbourhood of Barrio Inundado because so many of your relatives are here – they work in the city. At least, your relatives are more likely to visit you now, from time to time.

You have health problems and walk with a cane.
Please elaborate your answers as you get into character! Share your character’s thoughts and feelings with the group.

The Climate Change Officer comes to visit. She asks:

Why didn’t you come to the neighbourhood meeting about the flooding? You explain that you are not very mobile, so it takes a big effort for you to participate.

How has the neighbourhood flooding affected you and what would improve your situation? The floods are very stressful – furniture and food supplies get ruined; freshwater supplies are cut off.

It takes very long for your family members to reach you.

You have the time, interest and ability to coordinate plans with your neighbours to figure out how to help each other in the future.

It is very difficult to be heard in these meetings, though; it seems that people are prejudiced against an older peasant woman …

This time, you attend the neighbourhood meeting.

There is an idea for an organised network of volunteers that would support residents who need practical help during future floods.

This sounds very interesting – you could contribute, to the best of your abilities, and could also benefit from other people’s support. Perhaps the next flood won’t be a ‘disaster’ … .

Discuss with the group.