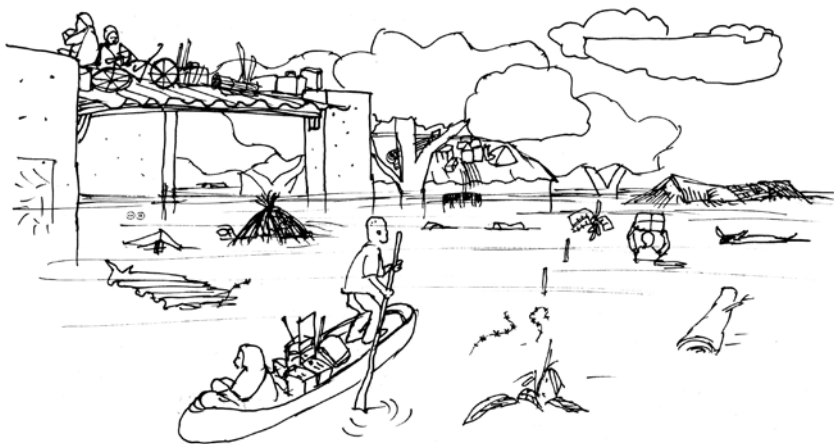


SOMETIMES MAN LIVES NEAR THE RIVER BUT
SOMETIMES THE RIVER FLOODS THE MAN'S HOUSE



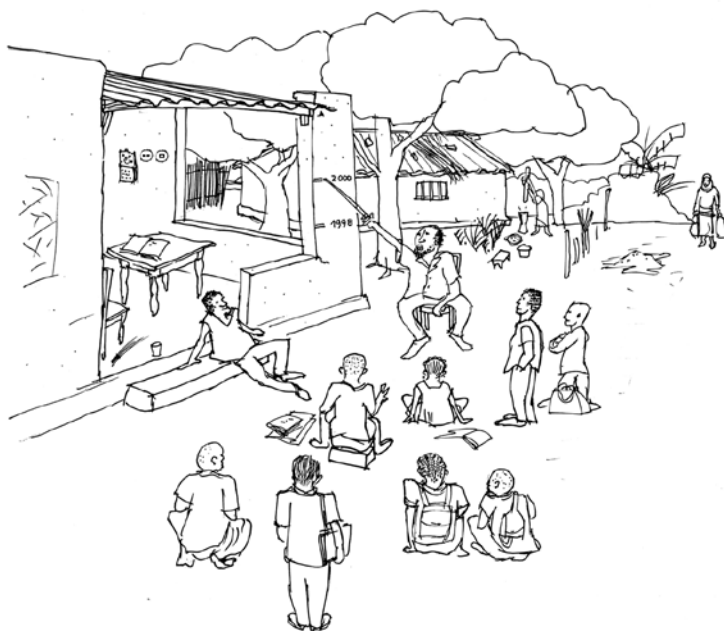
LEARNING HOW TO LIVE WITH FLOODS

1. **FLOOD MARKS**
Floods are a natural phenomenon,



they will always happen.

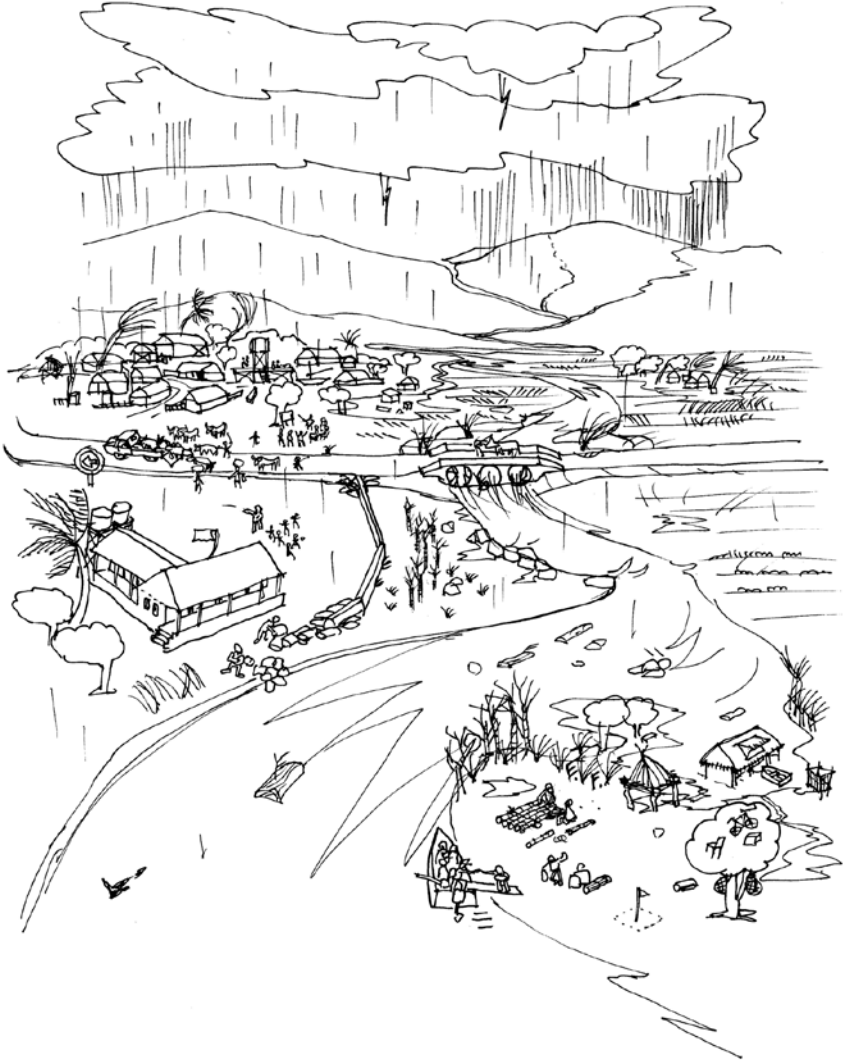
Flood marks help keep the memory of past floods alive.



Keeping the memory of the past alive is a way of being prepared to live with floods.

The electric power points were placed above the marks of earlier floods. A house with a weak structure has disappeared.

2. THE WARNING
Be alert to the warning signs!



Being alert to the warning signs is a way of preparing for floods.

It rains heavily on the mountains. The colour of the river is changing. It carries foam and debris. The level of the river is rising. Low areas are starting to flood.

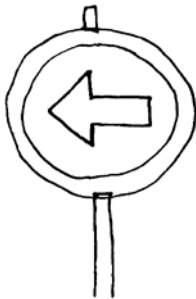
The cattle are being evacuated to higher ground. The community gathers together with its leaders. Some buildings are reinforced and in the centre of the district a water point and elevated water tank have been built.

In the school, concrete flood proof barriers have been built and rainwater collection tanks installed. The red flag indicates a state of alert. The teacher shows the pupils the escape route.

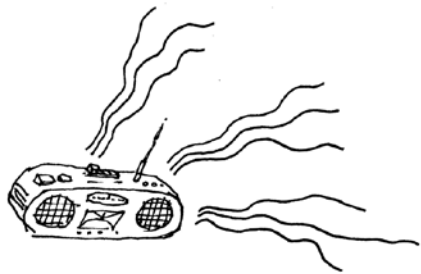
There are people who live in a low-lying area; they prepare themselves to live with the flood. This is done by reinforcing the structure of the house, storing seeds in an elevated barn, building a raft in bamboo and keeping their belongings in safe places.



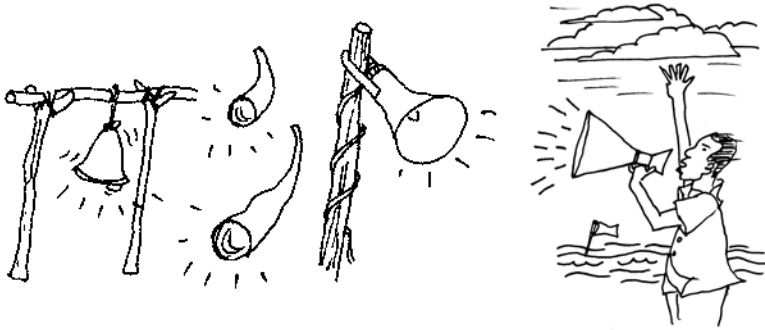
The community gathers information regarding the imminence of the floods and plans the emergency actions with its leaders.



A sign showing the escape route.



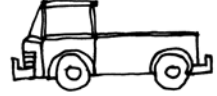
Listen to the radio, TV and other sources.



Disseminate information to the people and in particular to isolated communities.



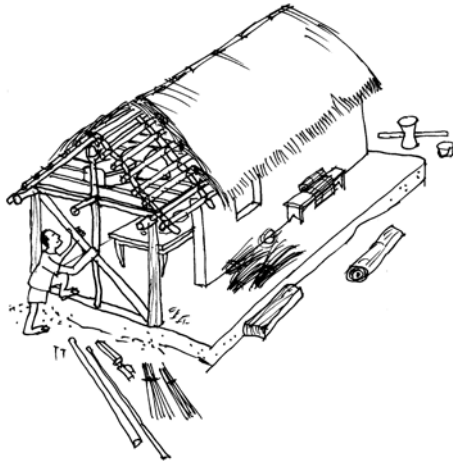
Evacuate the elderly, women, children and the sick first.



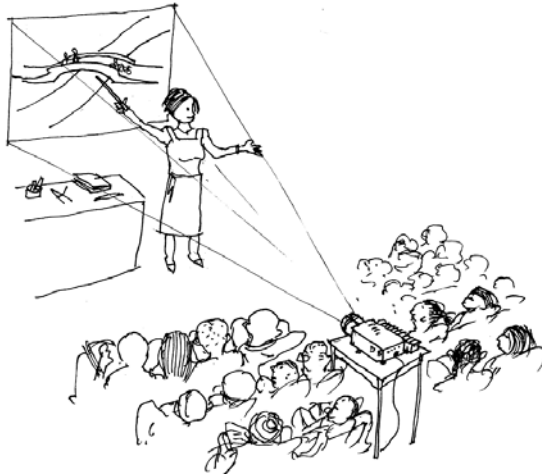
Be aware of suitable transport in the community.



Protect belongings.



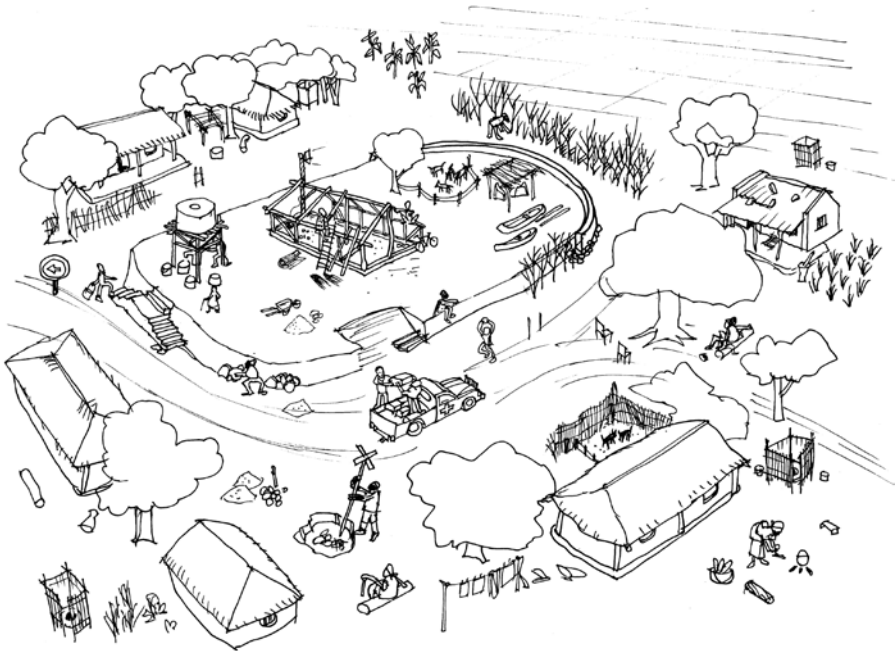
Reinforce houses.



The teacher shows the pupils a drawing of a bridge that allows the river to be crossed.

3. PREVENTION

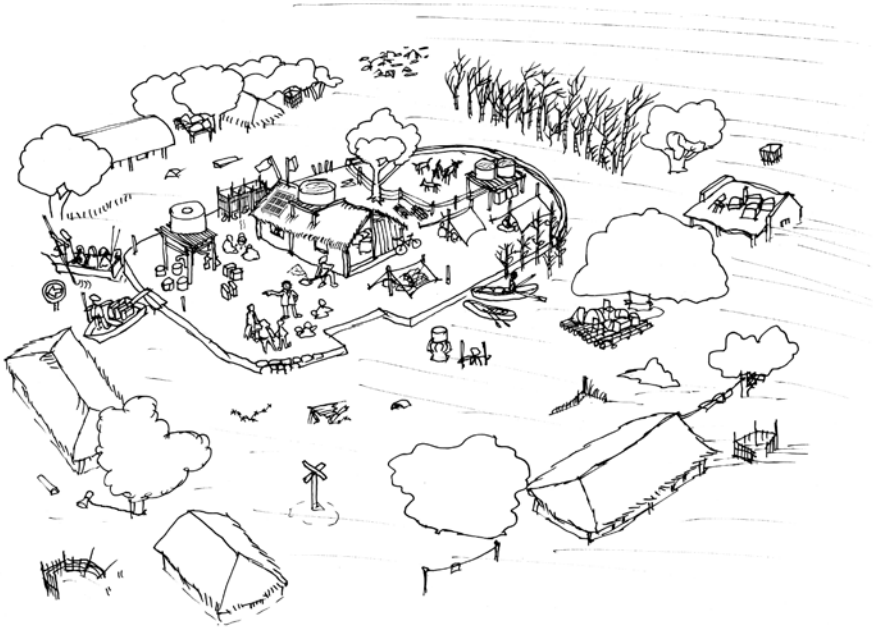
Building a platform is a good preventative measure against floods.



The platform is used as a market ground during normal times and a temporary refuge in the case of a flood. The edge of the platform is reinforced with concrete to prevent it from being destroyed by the force of the water. Some animals and boats available to the community are kept on the platform. A rubbish pit is being marked.

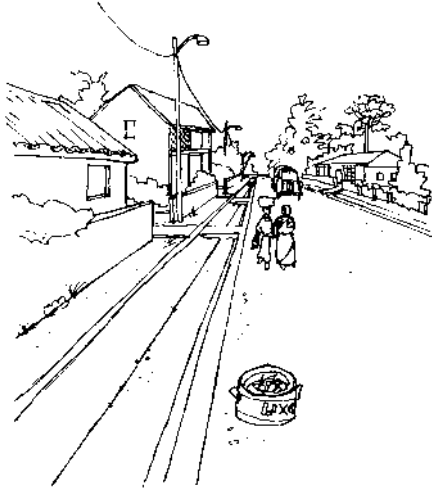
When the platform is being used as a safe haven.

The most important goods such as medicines, disinfectants, antiseptics, food and seeds are well protected. The following items are also stored: rope, dried goods, water containers, plastic rolls, fuel, kitchen utensils and mosquito nets. Emergency latrines and rainwater collection tanks have been installed. The radio is working with the help of solar power and the cattle are being taken care of until evacuation is possible.



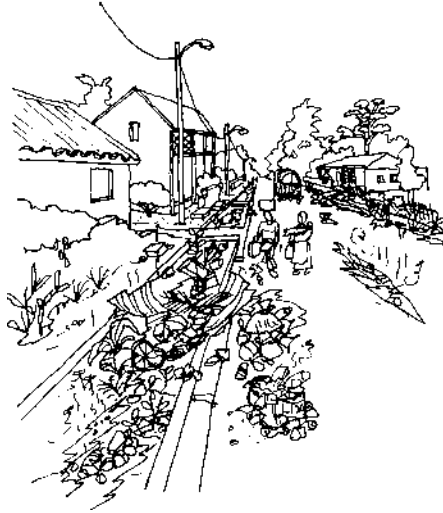
A bamboo raft helps protect some things from the water. A red cloth indicates holes or dangerous objects in the garden. The community discusses the need to build protection so that children will not fall off the platform.

4. It is necessary to keep the drainage channels clean to avoid flooding.



When the drainage channel is clean, the water flows freely.





When the drainage channel is dirty and full of rubbish, the water does not flow and causes flooding.



5. DRINKING WATER

One of the most important things during floods is access to safe drinking water.



During a flood, rainwater can save our life.

Metal roofs can be used to capture rainwater



Elevated handpump

The building is prepared to serve as a safe haven in case of floods. Emergency stairs will be installed; the roof captures rainwater that will be discharged into an accessible tank.



Water for drinking is treated with disinfectants.

Preparing to live with floods means development.

