



## EMERGENCY EXIT SIMULATION GAME

### Materials needed:

- pens and paper.

### How to play

Divide your group into 'families' of three to four people. Give each person a pen and a piece of paper. Each group must follow the teacher's instructions and write/amend their lists accordingly. Each person will make one list of items.

Please note, this game is designed to be adaptable, and you can adapt the scene to the context of what you have been learning about in class.

The following is an example of how you might play the game to reflect evacuation from a flood-hit area of the Philippines (or use the alternative Bangladesh example).

This game can be used alongside the *Big River Rising* multimedia documentary and the 'Typhoon town challenge' simulation game to explore the effects of flooding in the Philippines. To view the *Big River Rising* multimedia documentary, visit [christianaid.org.uk/big-river-rising](http://christianaid.org.uk/big-river-rising). To view the 'Typhoon town challenge' game, visit [christianaid.org.uk/typhoon-town-challenge](http://christianaid.org.uk/typhoon-town-challenge)

### Setting the scene

Your family has always lived in Banaba, an informal settlement (slum) on the edge of a big river in the Metro Manila region of the Philippines. But the river is subject to heavy flooding and your house is not secure.

It is the monsoon season again and heavy rains are expected. Flooding is inevitable. You have noticed that the flooding has seemed worse in recent years. It used to often be possible to predict how much the river would rise, but now it happens too fast to give enough warning. You are fearful for the future.

You could use a map or globe to put the location in context – or why not look it up on Google Earth?

### Alternative scene-setting:

Your family has always lived in Balashighat, a village in the Gailbandha district of northern Bangladesh. Recently the river Tista has begun to erode the land you live on. Three years ago you were forced to abandon your house and build a new shelter further back from the crumbling riverbank.

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### Narration 1

The rain is so heavy that the world is clothed in a grey mist. You and your family peer out of your small home. Your house is made of wood and corrugated iron, and it doesn't feel very secure against the howling winds and beating rains. Your family has been forced to flee your home for the past three years because of the flooding that happens during the monsoon season. This year, the rain seems even worse.

Suddenly, a warning goes out: the woman who monitors the river announces that you must evacuate or risk losing everything – even your life – to the rising water. You have just 10 minutes to prepare for your journey to the evacuation centre. The only thing you know for sure is that when you return, your house will most likely be destroyed. Boats will be coming soon to take you and your neighbours downstream where hopefully there will be a truck that can take you to a safer place.

Your immediate task is for everyone in your group to pack a bag each for the journey. In the bag you can carry up to 20 items. The items must be things you are capable of carrying. You have seven minutes to pack your bag by making a list of the 20 things you each wish to take. Discuss between you which items from your home you want to save: these might be practical items (such as pots and pans, or soap and towels), or personal items (such as school books or photographs).

**Allow groups 7–10 minutes to make their lists.**

### **Narration 2**

Your time is up. The boat has arrived. Nothing more can be added to your bag. You scramble aboard the boat. You are on your way. Take a last look back at the home you are leaving behind. Some people are clinging on to the roofs of their houses, desperate not to leave their precious possessions behind. The captain of the boat explains that the nearest evacuation centre is already full, so you are heading for one further out of town. The boat is speeding up and the howling winds are making the water choppy. One person's bag slips off the overcrowded rescue boat. It is the bag belonging to the oldest member of your family. S/He reaches for it, but you pull her/him back from the swirling water.

#### **Pause**

The bag disappears into the brown river. Find out who the oldest person in your group is. This person has lost everything they own and should cross off everything they have on their list. The rest of you in your group should help by offering things from your bags. The person who has lost everything may accept 10 items from the other members of their group. You have two minutes to amend your lists to take in this new situation.

**Allow two minutes for groups to amend their lists.**

### **Narration 3**

Your time is up. No more offers can be accepted. The boat is going more slowly and a strange noise is coming from the engine. Finally, the engine dies and the boat slowly drifts towards shore. You will have to get out and walk along the slippery river bank to the meeting point for the truck that will take you to the other evacuation centre, far away. Your bag is too heavy. Each person should reduce the weight of their bag by removing the heaviest item. Or, if this item is something you desperately want to keep, you may remove any number of other items to make up approximately the same weight. You have two minutes to make your choice and amend your list.

**Allow two minutes for groups to amend their lists.**

### **Narration 4**

Your time is up. You struggle on. The youngest person in your group falls into a ditch and is injured.

#### **Pause**

Find out who is the youngest person in your group. This person cannot continue without help and can only carry the five lightest items in their bag. The rest of you may

help to carry the contents, but remember that no one may carry more than 20 items. Anything that cannot be carried is left behind. You have three minutes in which to discuss how to cope with the situation and amend your lists accordingly.

**Allow three minutes for groups to amend their lists.**

### **Narration 5**

Your time is up. You continue on and at last you reach the place where many others are queuing up to get on a truck. You meet a family whose home has already collapsed in the floods. They could retrieve nothing; they beg you to spare one item each. Discuss in your group what you will give them and amend your lists accordingly. You have two minutes before the trucks are about to leave.

**Allow two minutes for groups to amend their lists.**

### **Narration 6**

Your time is up. You board the truck, but it is so full that all the baggage has to be placed on the roof. The driver says there is too much baggage to drive the truck. It must be reduced to a total of 30/40 items for each group before the truck will leave [adapt the exact number according to group size and age/ability – 30 might be appropriate if group sizes are three; 40 might be appropriate if group sizes are 4]. Together with your group you must discuss what is to be left behind. You have four minutes to amend your lists to take in this new situation.

**Allow four minutes for groups to amend their lists.**

### **Narration 7**

Your time is up. The truck judders into life. The road is already becoming very water-logged and the driver does not seem to take much care. He almost loses control round a curve and your group's bags fall into a large puddle that has formed in the pot-holed road. Half of your possessions that might be affected by water (such as papers, photos, or electronic equipment) are ruined. You have two minutes to check the contents of your bags and remove half of the things that would be ruined by being soaked in water.

**Allow two minutes for groups to amend their lists.**

### **Narration 8**

Your time is up. At last the truck arrives at the evacuation centre. You leave the truck with whatever luggage you have left. You can see around 200 other

families are also crowding round the entrance – there's no way you'll get in today. You are exhausted and the rain is heavy. You decide to camp under a tree using plastic sheets to keep off some of the rain.

As you look across the flooded landscape, your thoughts turn to home. Will it have been raided by looters? Or swallowed up altogether by the river? Now you have nothing but the bags on your back. A local woman who has been trained in disaster response approaches with a cup of hot soup. She reassures you that she will do everything she can to help your community to work together to rebuild the homes you have lost.

### Debriefing questions:

1. Did anyone pack a photo album? Was that a good thing to pack?  
  
Discuss with the group how this could be a person's sole link to their past and how important (and taken for granted) roots are. It could also be used to help identify family members who might get separated.  
  
You could point out that few people living in informal settlements would actually own a photo album. What other items on the students' lists might have been beyond the means of many people living in poor areas of the Philippines/Bangladesh?
2. Did anyone pack a passport/identification papers? Why/why not? Would it be useful?
3. Did anyone bring medical or first aid supplies? What did they leave behind to fit these into their bag?
4. How did you begin to feel when you kept having things taken away and all you had was what you were carrying?
5. Were people in your group willing to give you items? How willing were you to share? Did your reaction surprise you?
6. Has this game helped you to reflect on how much value we place on possessions – and why?

7. What would your priorities be in a real disaster situation?
8. Has this game changed how you think about the impact of disasters on people?
9. You could explain that scientists believe that climate change is increasing the intensity of some extreme weather events. Ask students what action they can take to help limit climate change.

#### *Explain:*

The Philippines is located on the Pacific 'ring of fire', and people living here face the threat of earthquakes, volcanoes, typhoons and floods. Christian Aid's partners work very hard to prepare for different disasters in the Philippines and to help ensure that communities there are well prepared for future disasters.

In times of disaster, the poorest families are generally the worst affected, because they tend to live in the riskiest areas and their modest homes are the least able to withstand powerful winds, heavy rains and surging floodwaters.

Christian Aid's partners help poor people, in both rural and urban areas, protect and claim their rights to homes, land, services and resources.

The UK government has been supporting Christian Aid for several years to implement programmes that address urban disaster and help people to cope better with disasters affecting urban areas.

Scientists play an important role in development, especially in the areas of disaster planning and mitigation, because they are able to help communities predict and adapt to changing environmental issues.

To watch a film of a real flooding disaster in Banaba, in the Philippines, check out the **Big River Rising** multimedia documentary at [christianaid.org.uk/big-river-rising](http://christianaid.org.uk/big-river-rising)