

The Oxfam Herts Hike 2010 helping communities in Bolivia



- Last weekend over 320 people signed in at Sandridge School and walked the Herts Hike to fundraise for Oxfam.
- All the money raised in this event goes straight to helping farmers in Bolivia deal with climate change.
see www.oxfamstalbans.org





- Bolivia is suffering from climate change. Temperatures are increasing, glaciers are melting, rainfall patterns are changing and there are major floods in the north east.
- During the rainy season large areas of land are flooded for several months and crops are lost.
- When water drains into the Amazon river, it takes nutrients and seeds with it. Soil becomes infertile so it's difficult to grow new crops.



How Oxfam is helping

- Oxfam works with communities to build *camellones*, or ‘camel humps’.
- These are large, raised platforms of land, surrounded by water channels. The poor soil is composted by scooping out water weed and spreading it on the beds.
- Because the land is raised, crops and seeds are protected during floods. Up to three crops can be harvested in the season.
- During droughts, beds can be irrigated with water from the channels
- The *camellones* system was first developed 3,000 years ago.
- Crops grown include yukka (manioc), squash, tomatoes and melon.

Spot the difference.....



Before:

Loss of crops and seeds

People don't have food, and also lose their source of income

Homes are flooded

Soil becomes infertile

Trees are burnt and land is used up for three years. Then farmers move to a new location

After:

People have a better diet, and food supply is guaranteed during floods

Fish can be bred as a source of protein

Water is stored until the dry season

Deforestation is reduced and people live in greater harmony with the environment