

CHOOSING A WORLD FREE FROM FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

AISSATA'S TRUE STORY



Over 200 million girls and women around the world are living with the consequences of **female genital cutting (FGC)**. Millions more are at risk each year.

FGC is the full or partial removal of a girl's external genitals.

More and more, girls are cut under the age of 5.



FGC affects women and girls in at least 45 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and within the global diasporas in the UK, Europe, Australasia and the Americas. [Source: UNICEF]
This includes:



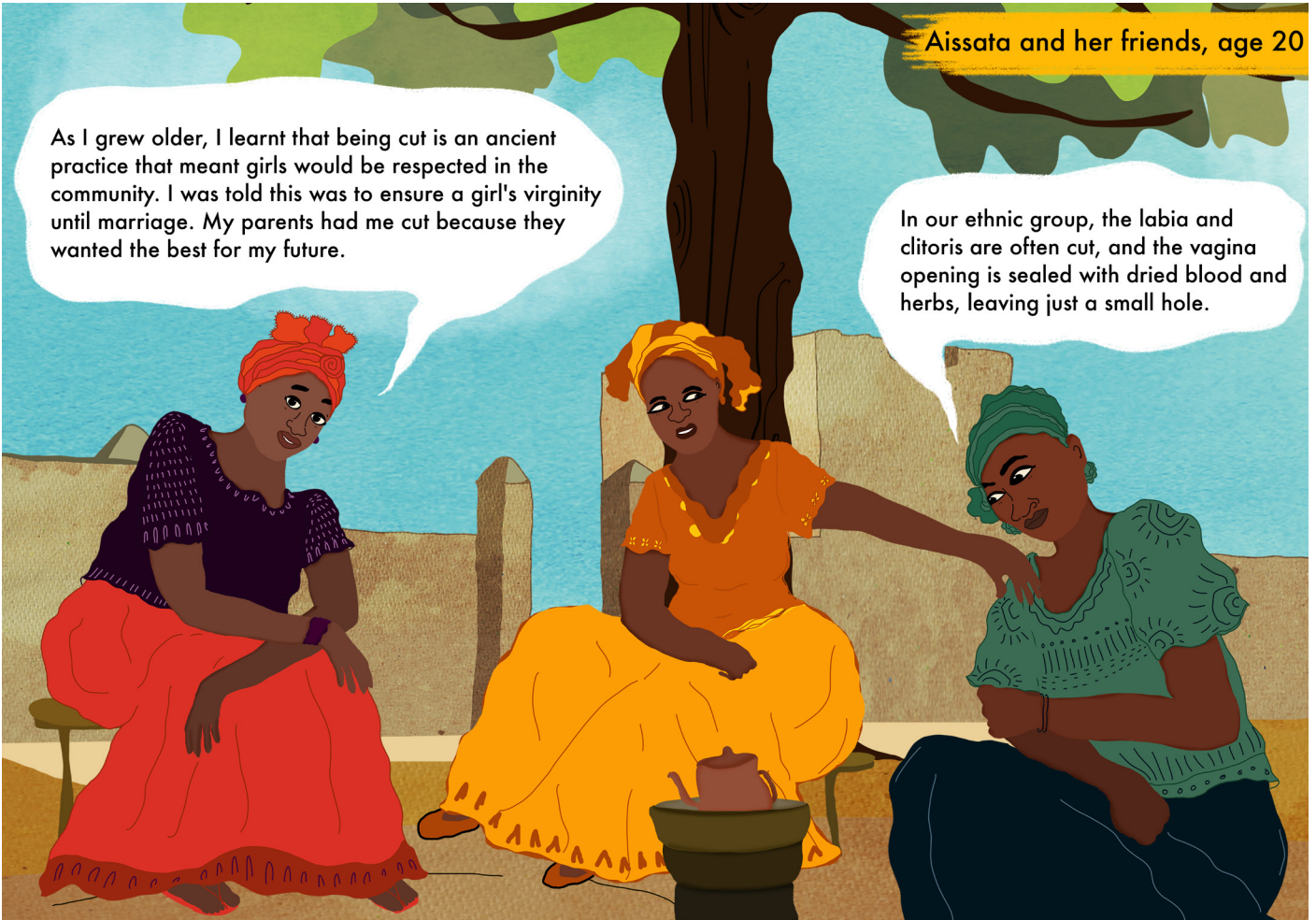




Aissata and her friends, age 20

As I grew older, I learnt that being cut is an ancient practice that meant girls would be respected in the community. I was told this was to ensure a girl's virginity until marriage. My parents had me cut because they wanted the best for my future.

In our ethnic group, the labia and clitoris are often cut, and the vagina opening is sealed with dried blood and herbs, leaving just a small hole.



CUTTING CAN CAUSE LOTS OF PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT LIFE.

Girls around the world undergo different types of cut.

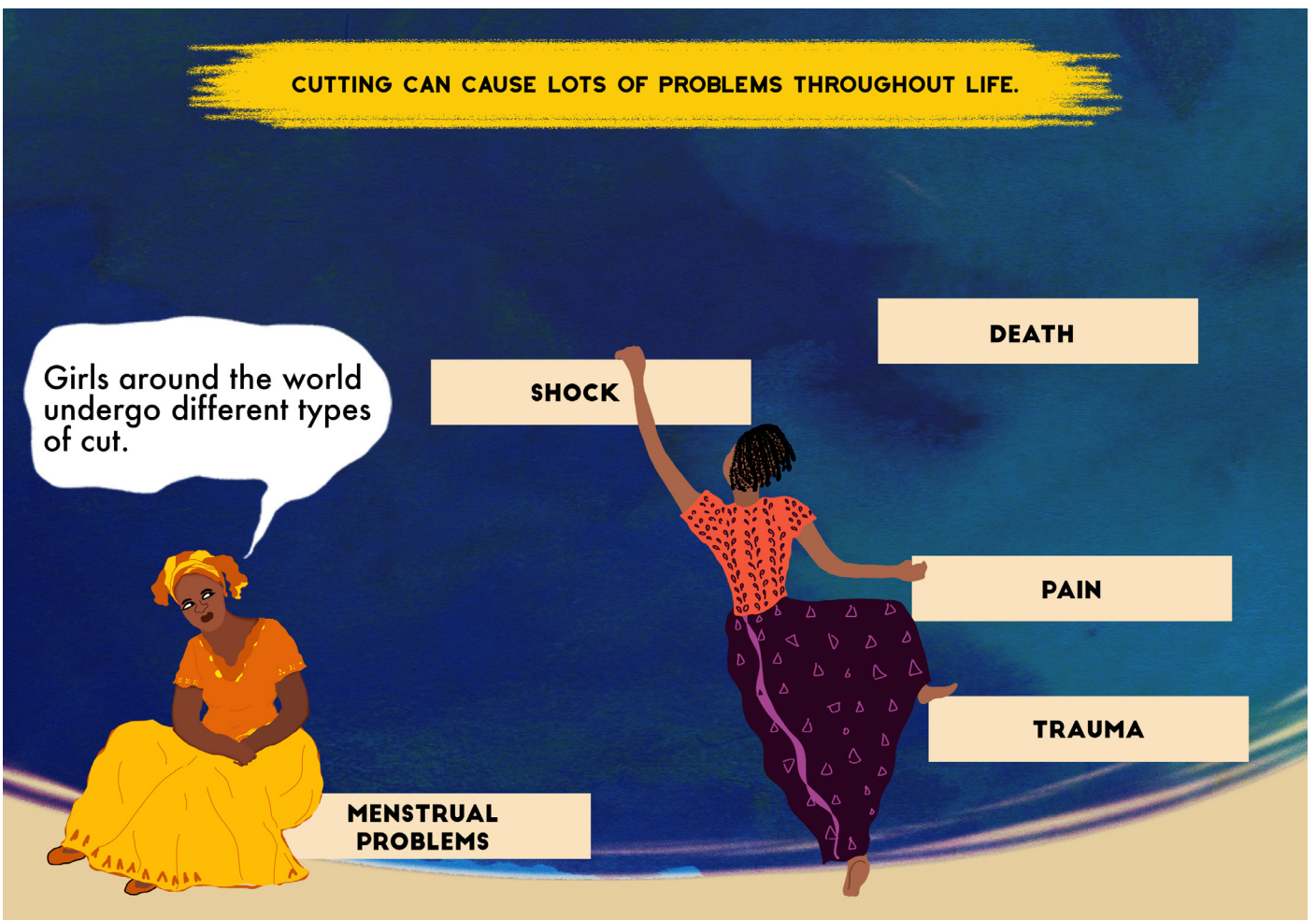
SHOCK

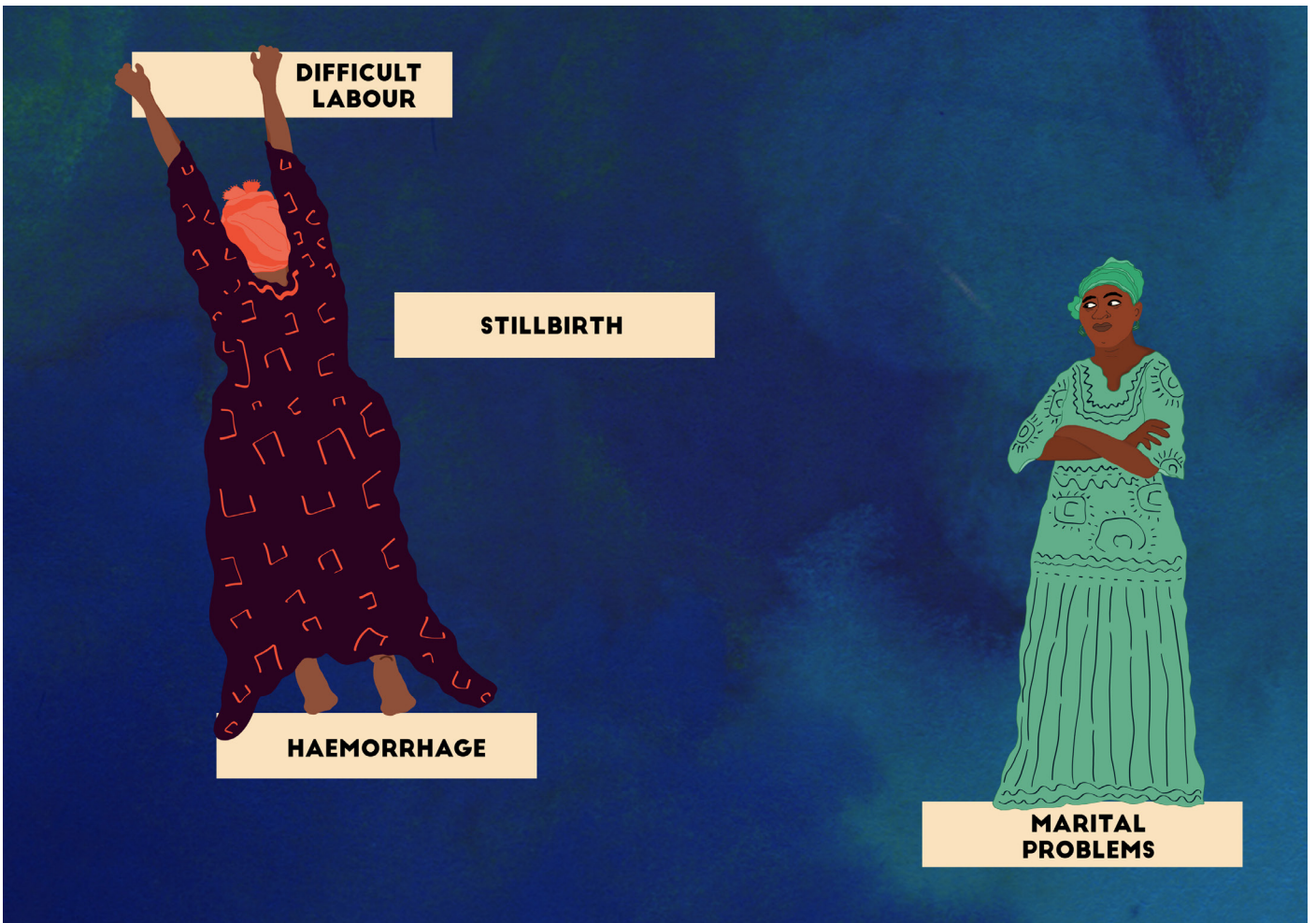
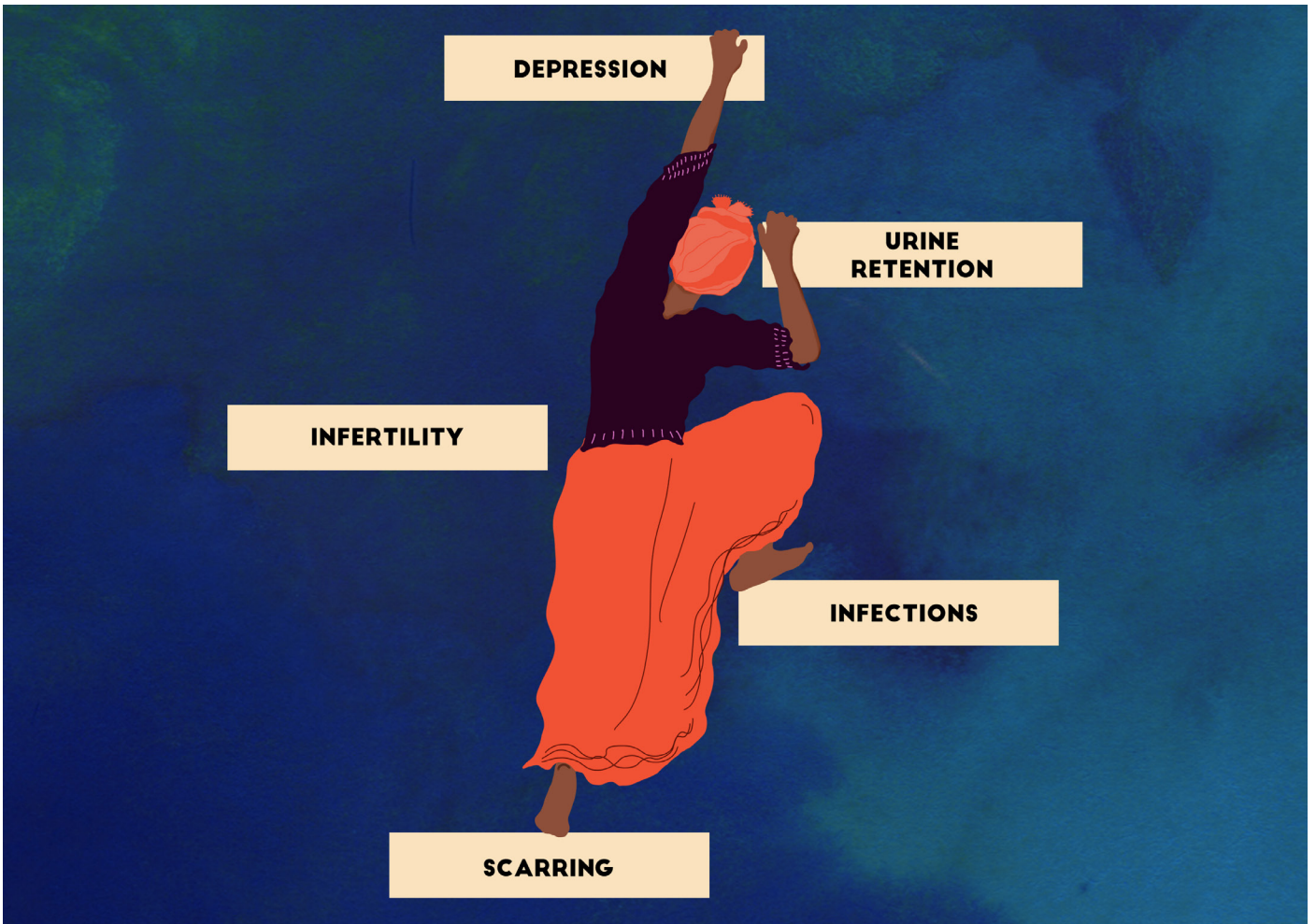
DEATH

PAIN

TRAUMA


MENSTRUAL PROBLEMS












After our education programme, we made a community-wide decision to end FGC together! Now, many more girls are still in school. Like my daughter, they are healthier and happier.



Talking openly helped me realise we practiced FGC because we thought others wanted it to continue. Now, I volunteer with others in the community, traveling to other villages to share why we chose to abandon FGC.



50 VILLAGES JOINED THE THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THAT THEY'VE ABANDONED FGC.





NORTHERN SENEGAL
Credit: Clement Tardiff



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To date, thousands of communities have abandoned FGC worldwide and the movement is growing.
[Source: UNFPA, UNICEF]



ABANDONMENT OF FGC CAN BRING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE BENEFITS FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

We're all proud to say that our daughters and future generations will not be cut.

Together, we can all be part of creating a world free from FGC.



With your help, FGC can end globally within a generation.

Join the movement.



Share. Discuss. Act.
#EndFGC

With thanks to Aissata for sharing her story and to Tostan whose Community Empowerment Programme is featured throughout this comic.

Orchid Project is deeply proud to support Aissata, Tostan and other activists and organisations around the world working to end this practice.

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