

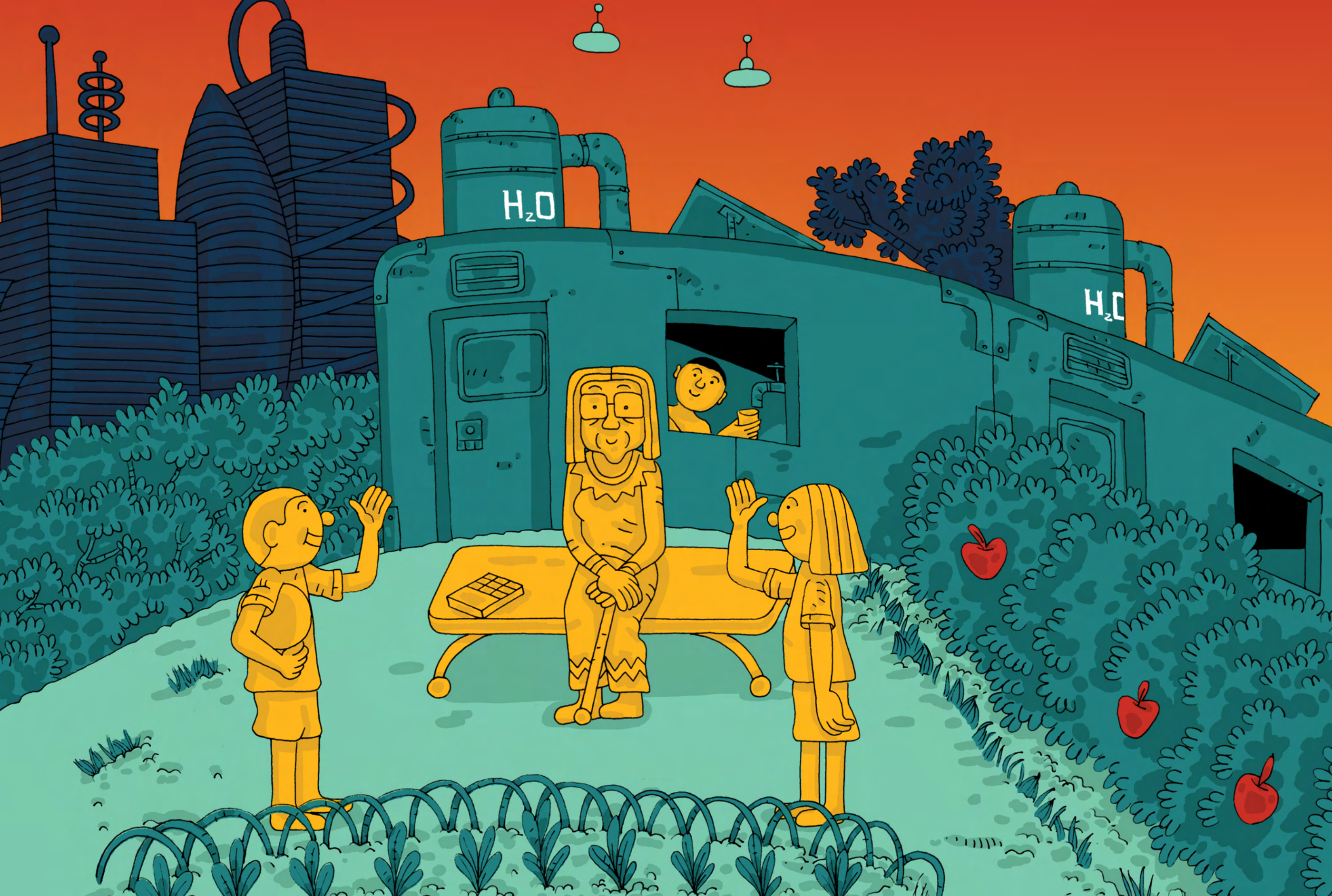
# Refreshing Futures: Clean Water for All





**“How lucky you are my children, to grow up in a world where your birth doesn’t determine your ability to drink the earth’s waters. When I was a child it wasn’t like that.”**

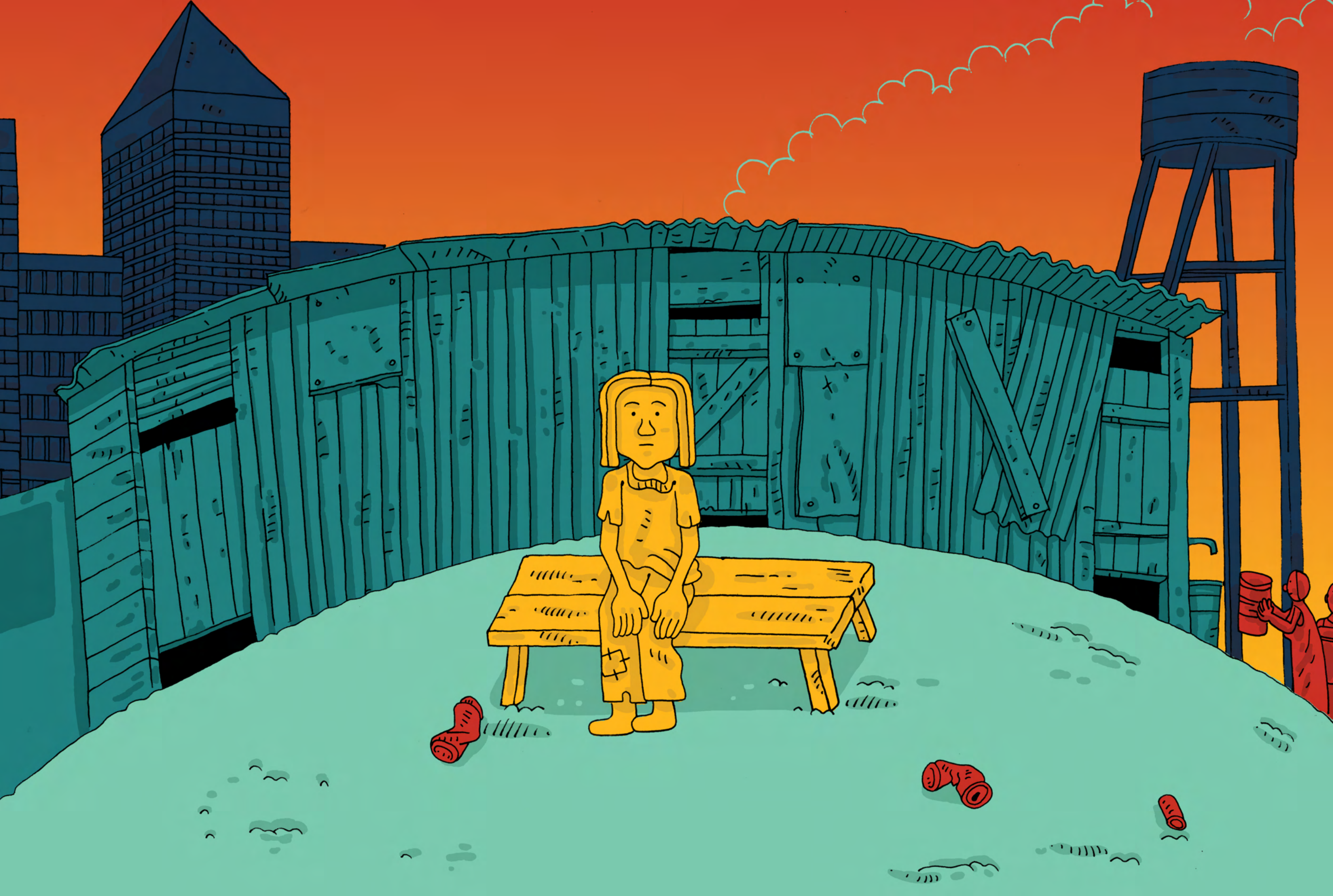






**Back then in the 2020s, Over 2 billion  
of our fellow humans did not have access  
to clean, safe drinking water...**









**But the craziest thing was...**



**...we could have ensured everyone had the  
water they needed to live comfortably.**







**Back then the world was not divided equally. This was a growing problem in the cities, where slums rubbed shoulders with skyscrapers.**





**Those, unlucky enough to be born into the poorer neighbourhoods still managed to get water.**





**But the costs and the risks were so much higher for them than for those turning on their taps.**





**In Bangladesh the poor risked cholera or typhoid from unclean water sources...**





**Whilst in Somaliland they were forced to pay high prices for jars from water vendors.**





**CLEAN WATER**



**And these costs hit women the hardest. Collecting water several times a day, often at risk of sexual harassment, took a toll on women's health**





**Back in those days the fate of our planet hung  
by a thread. This meant very different things  
for people living in different parts of the world.**







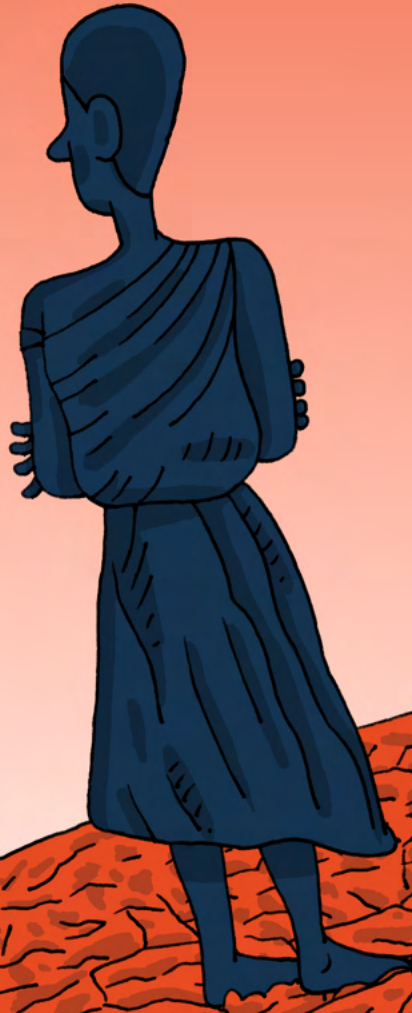
**With catastrophic flooding in Bangladesh**





**while droughts sucked  
the land dry in Zimbabwe.**

**The impact of these events was  
felt the hardest by the poorest.**





**Unequal exploitation of natural resources had contributed to global climatic change, increasing resource stress.**











**But the main causes of water scarcity were  
historical and political inequalities.**





**Such as in Sri Lanka where plantations were set up under British rule in colonial times...**





**And water access was controlled by the estate.**





**Or in Zimbabwe where people were denied secure housing tenure,**

**Contributing to a lack of investment in water infrastructure**





**Those were dark days for humankind.**

**With mismanaged urbanisation  
exacerbating these problems.**







**But slowly, we realised we could work  
together to create a more equal future.**

**By integrating political and practical solutions.**





WATER NOW!

WATER NOW!



H<sub>2</sub>O!

WATER



**Water Management Committees formed to take  
responsibility for access to water services**

**Such as rainwater harvesting tanks in Bangladesh**







**...and spring-fed tanks in Sri Lanka**







**In Zimbabwe community leaders and local authorities created 5-year plans to extend public infrastructure to emerging settlements.**

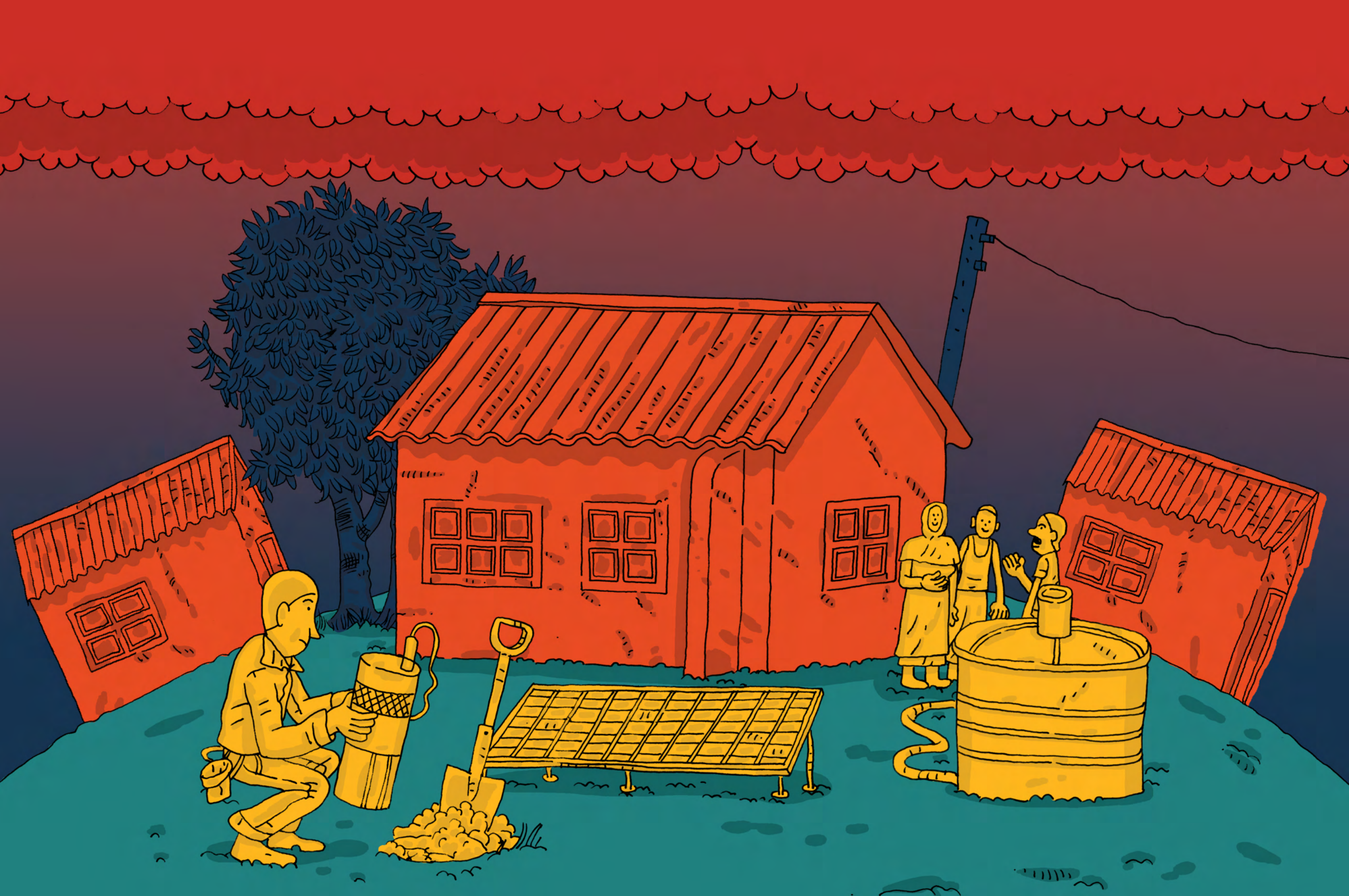






**Security of housing reduced the fear of eviction,  
and increased investment in water infrastructure  
such as deep-water solar pumps.**







**The best thing about these solutions was that they involved  
the very same people who were affected by them.**

**They knew the challenges and what would work.**

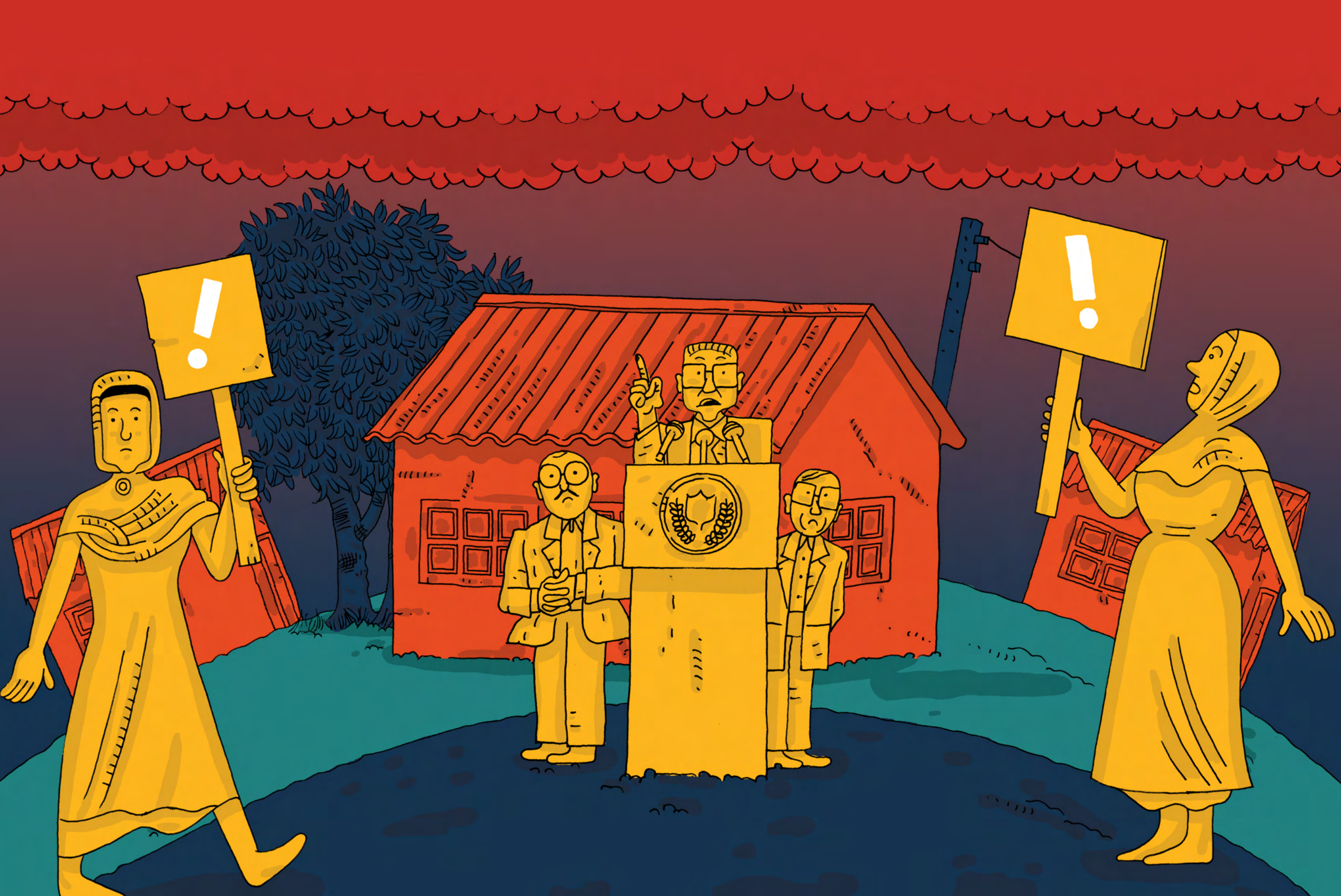






**And could hold governments accountable  
for prioritising the needs of poor people.**







**People all over the world helped too.**







**They demanded that politicians at all levels  
commit to the fair distribution of  
resources - globally and locally**







**Eventually, leaders committed to sustained investment in building and maintaining water infrastructure systems that people could afford and access safely.**







**And because of the actions of those who came before us.**





WATER  
NOW!

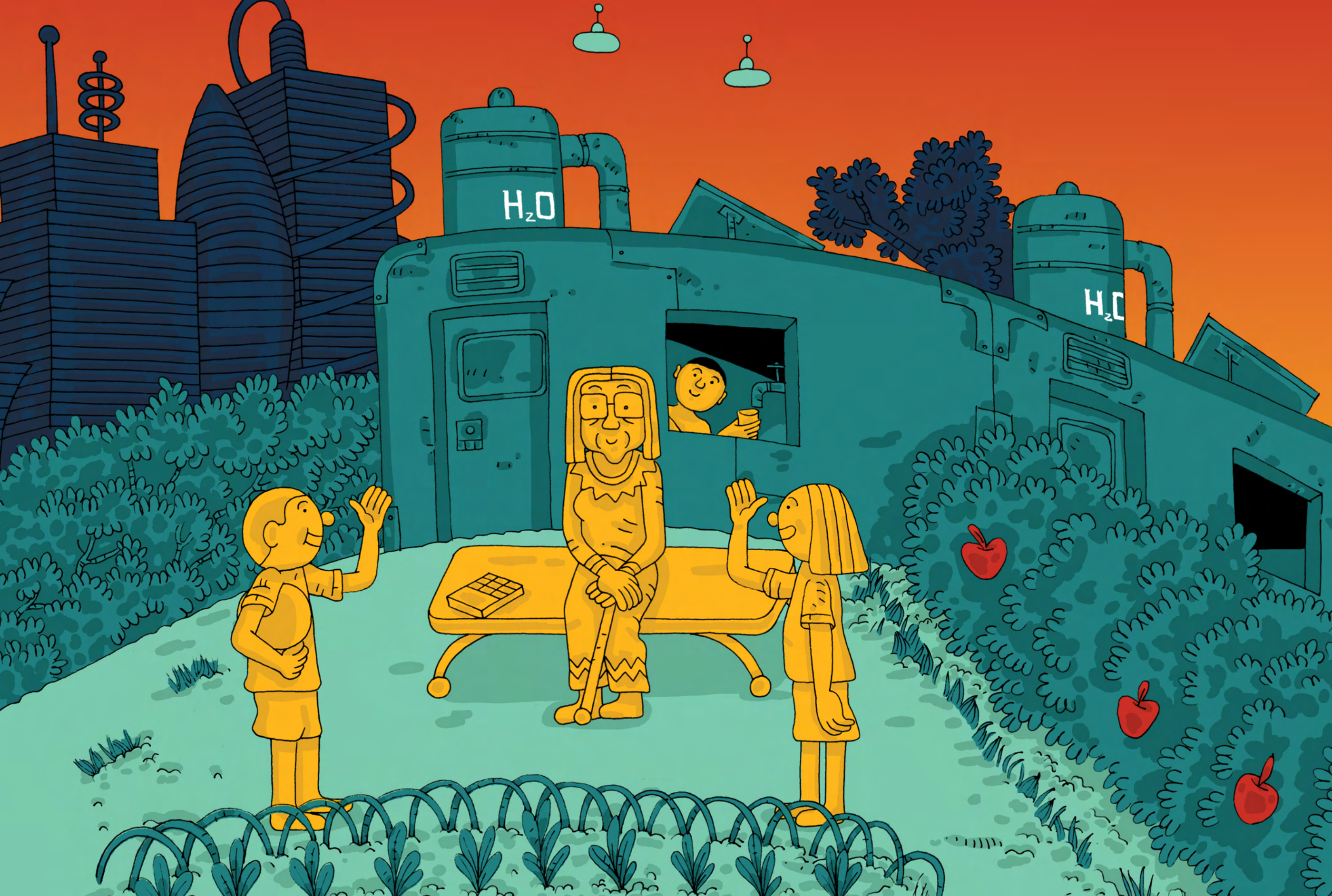
WATER  
NOW



**Today every human being enjoys their right to clean and safe water.**

**Regardless of where they are born.**







**The Inclusive Urban Infrastructure research project explores how urban infrastructure is provided in the Global South and how it can benefit the most marginalised.**

**To find out more visit [inclusiveinfrastructure.org](https://inclusiveinfrastructure.org)**



## **CREDITS**

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