



Peero Giiri Water Forever



BACKGROUND

As the largest refugee hosting country in Africa, Uganda currently hosts more than 1.5 million refugees throughout the country. Since 2017, Uganda has been one of the first countries to pilot the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The CRRF aims to ease pressure on host countries, like Uganda, enhance refugees' self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions, and foster conditions that enable refugees to voluntarily return to their countries of origin in safety and dignity.

Traditionally, water and sanitation services for these refugees were provided for free by humanitarian actors using emergency response approaches. To improve the sustainability services and due to the prolonged stay of refugees, it is planned to fully transition the management of water services provision to the national utilities, such as the Northern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation (NUWS), this transition is coined the Utility Model.

One important aspect when it comes to this transition is that refugees are able to afford the newly introduced tariffs but are also willing to pay for the water services provided by NUWS. This comic is part of NUWS' campaign to sensitize refugee and host communities in Northern Uganda to improve awareness about the transition to NUWS, and to foster a willingness towards the payment of water supply services.

The development of the original story of Peero Giiri (ENG: Water Forever) was supported by the Water Supply and Sanitation for Refugees and Host Communities (WatSSUP) Programme, implemented by GIZ, which is funded by the German Government through the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).





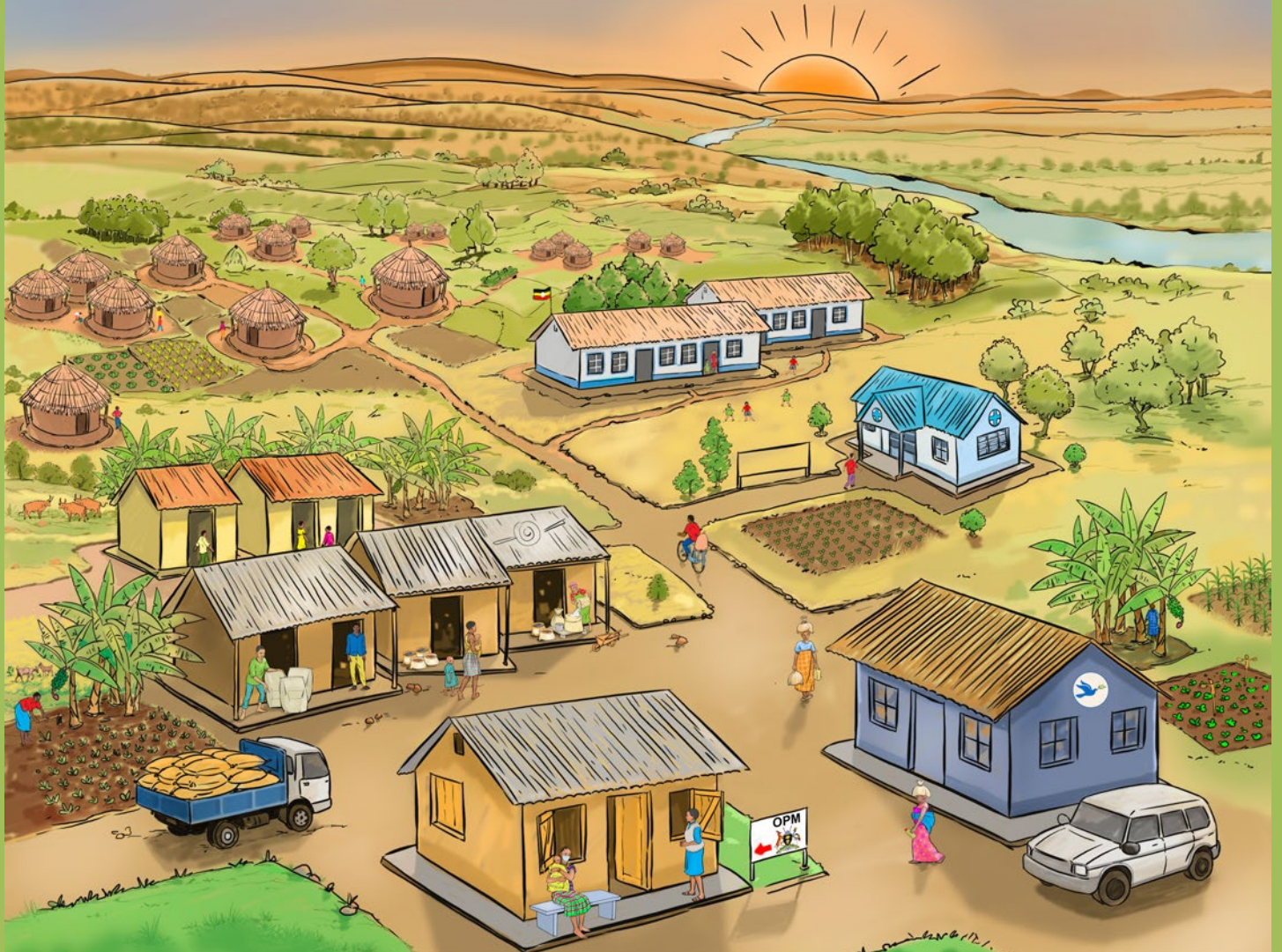
ABOUT THE ARTIST

BIRUNGI ARNOLD has specialized in drawing illustrations and has an amazing eye for detail. He has been drawing communication materials for several NGOs, businesses and the public sector. His illustrations have been used in several behavior change communication materials, children's books, newspapers and magazines across the globe.



**Peero
Giiri
Water
Forever**

Early morning in a village in West Nile, Uganda.





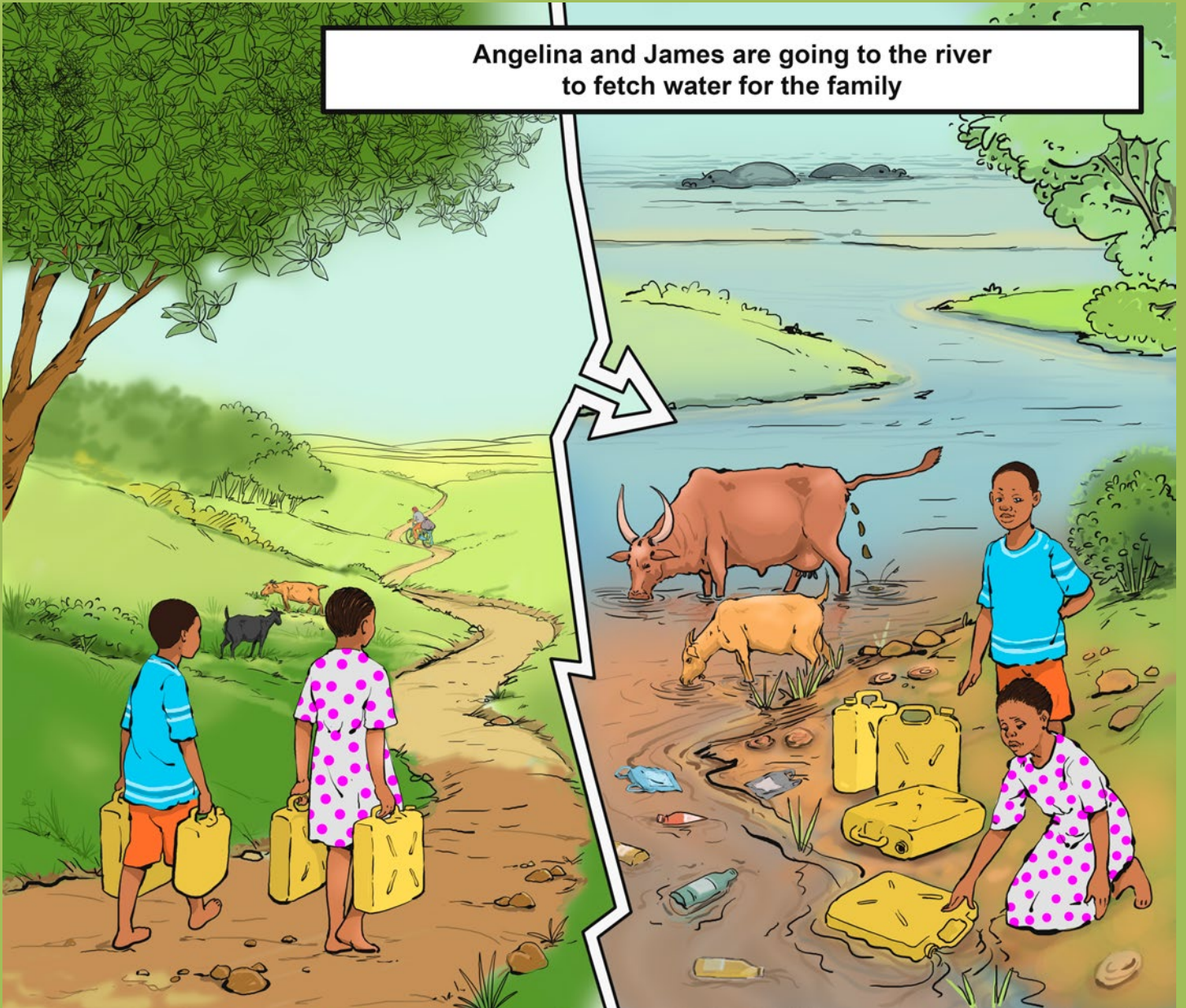
It is my turn now!

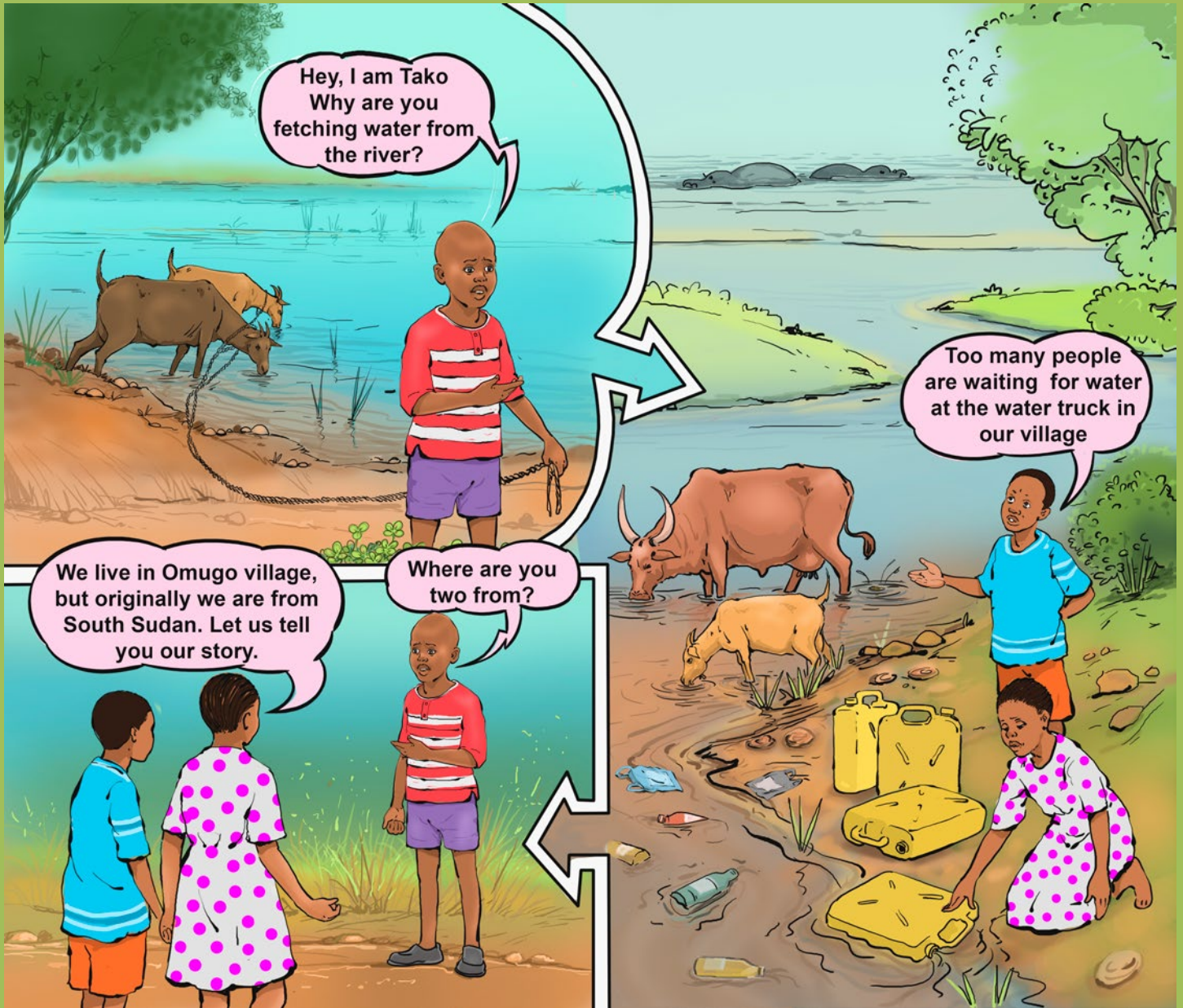
Move! I have been waiting for hours!

Please everybody stay calm!

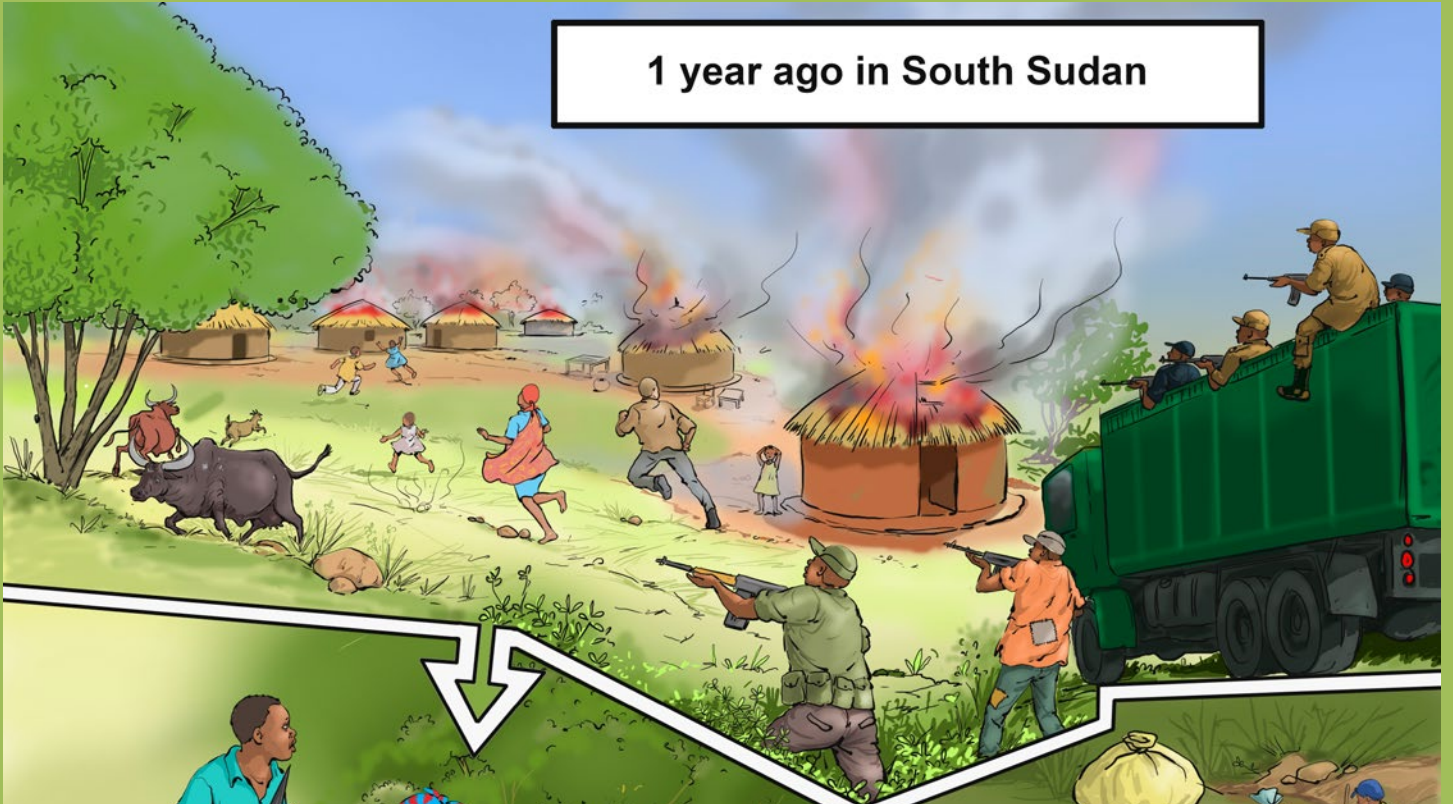
People are fighting here. Come on James, let us go and fetch water from the river

Angelina and James are going to the river to fetch water for the family





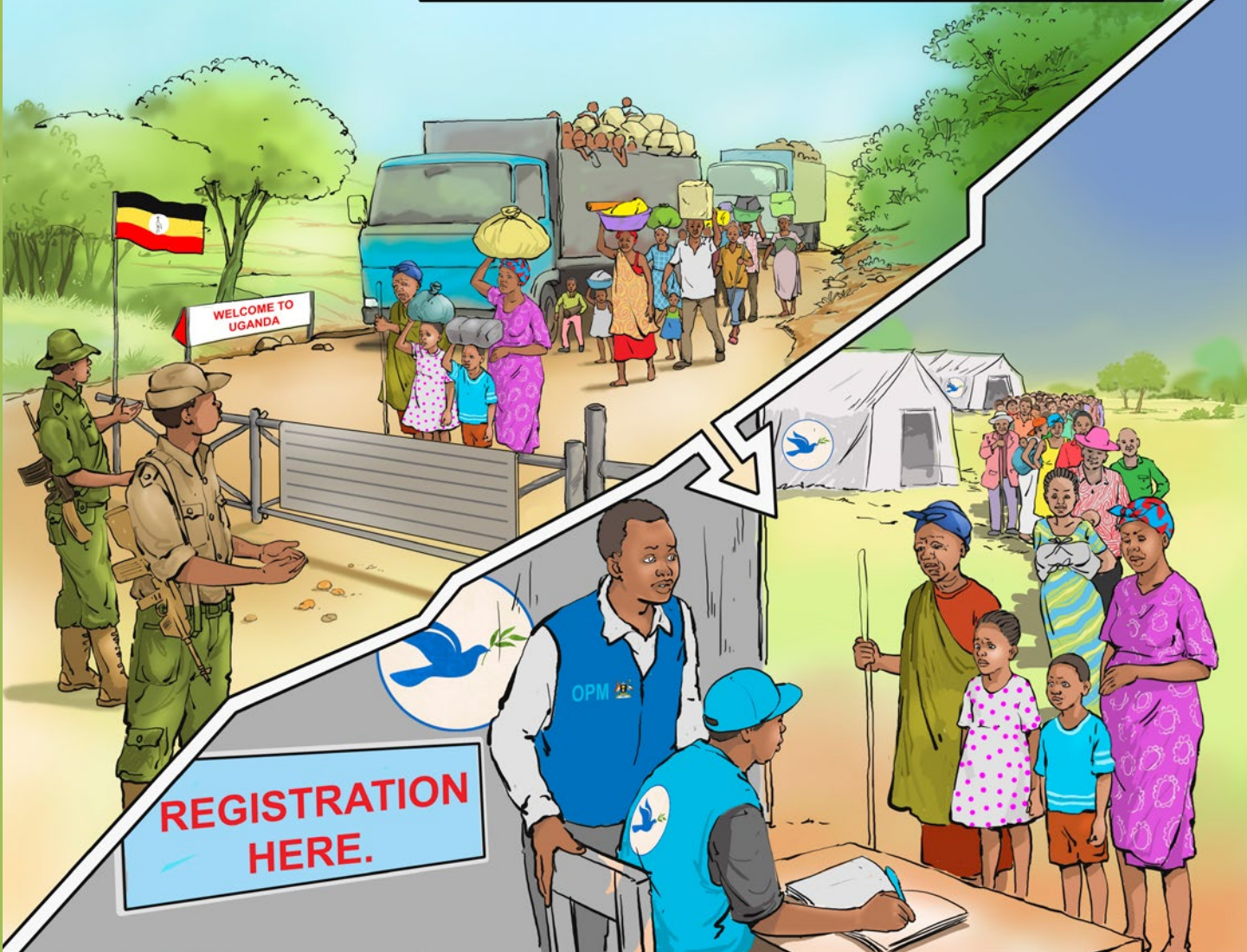
1 year ago in South Sudan



We had to flee from South Sudan with our mother and grandmother last year. There was too much violence and conflict and our father decided that James, Mother, Grandmother and I should go somewhere more safe

Mary!
Take your mother and the children and run. Now!

Arrival and registration in Uganda





We got so much help when we arrived in Uganda. They gave us blankets, solar lanterns, mats, food and water. Then we were put on a bus to the settlement.

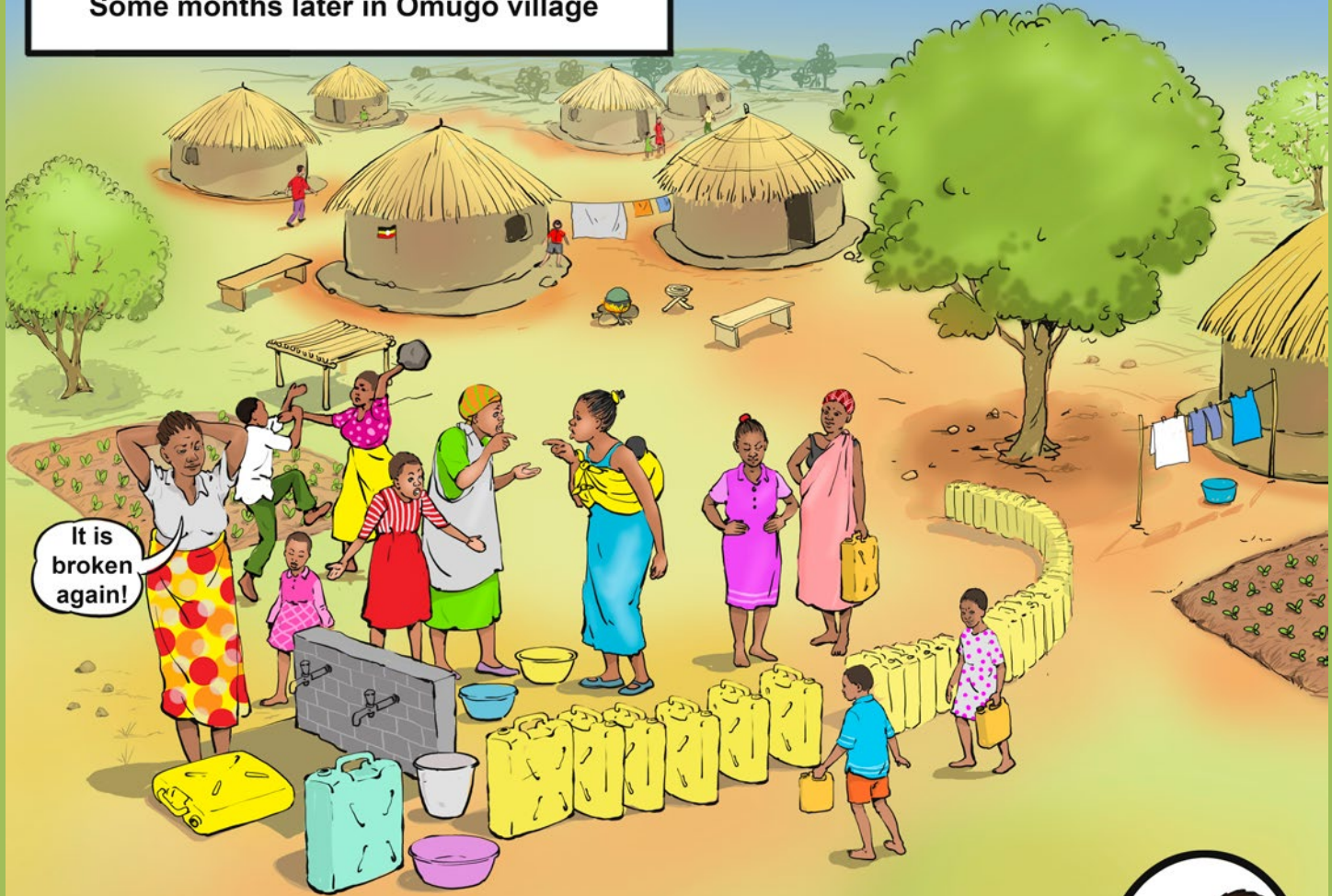


Angelina, James and their mother and grandmother arrive in Omugo village and start to settle in.



Thank you so much for helping us build our new home!

Some months later in Omugo village



It is broken again!

We are so grateful for all the help. But people in our village are fighting a lot over water, especially when the systems are not working. So we find water somewhere else





This has made our mum sick.



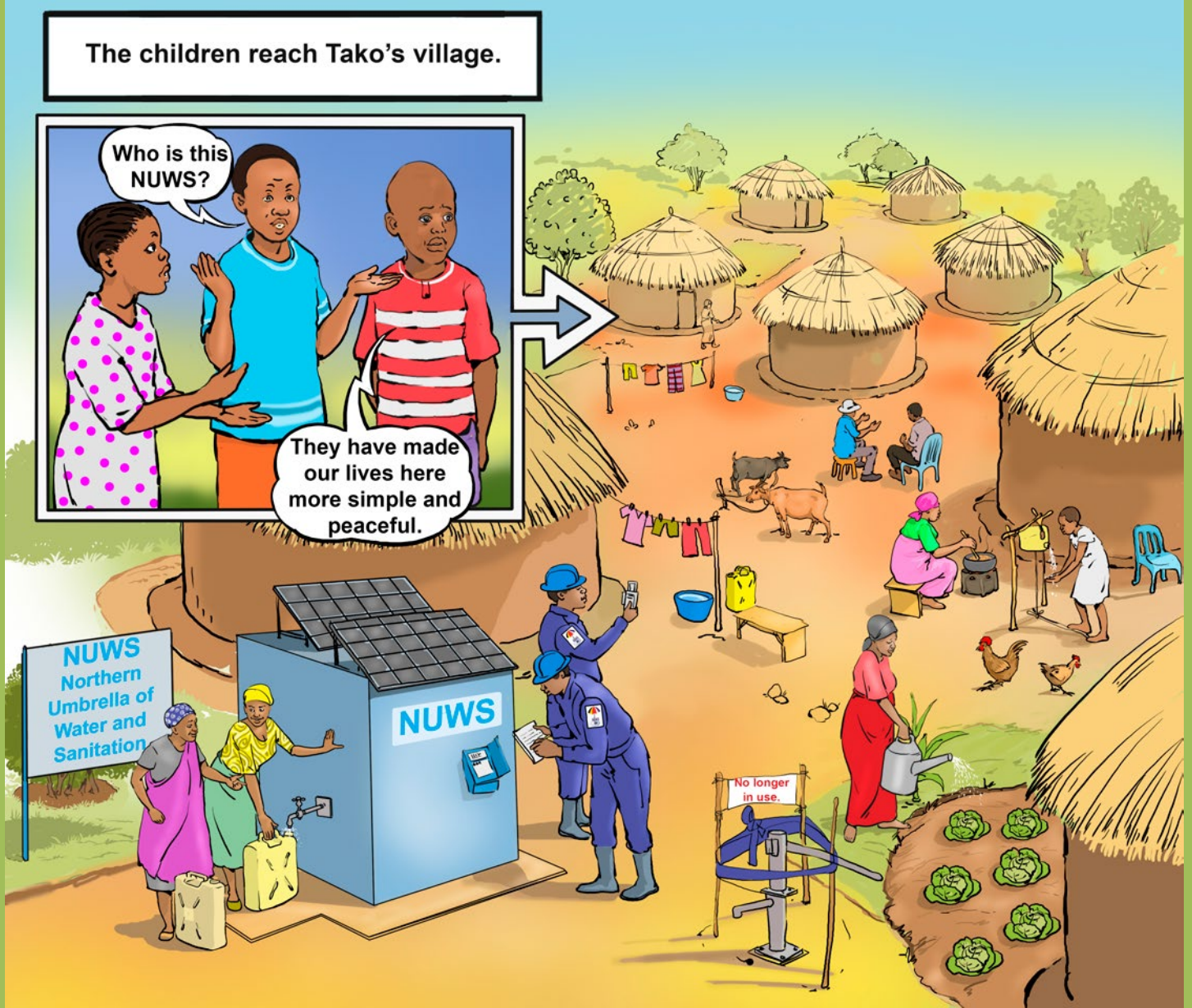
I'm surprised. In my village people always say refugees have it so much better than us Ugandans.

Do you want to come and see my village? I want to show you something

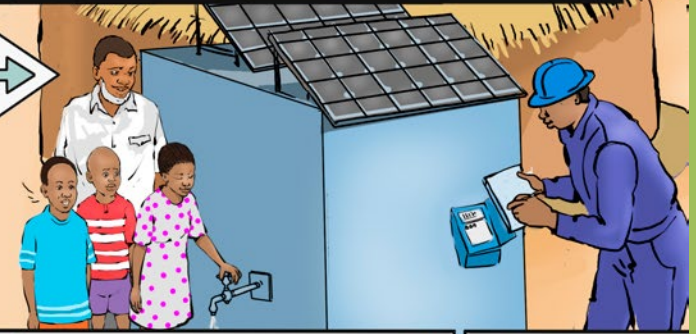
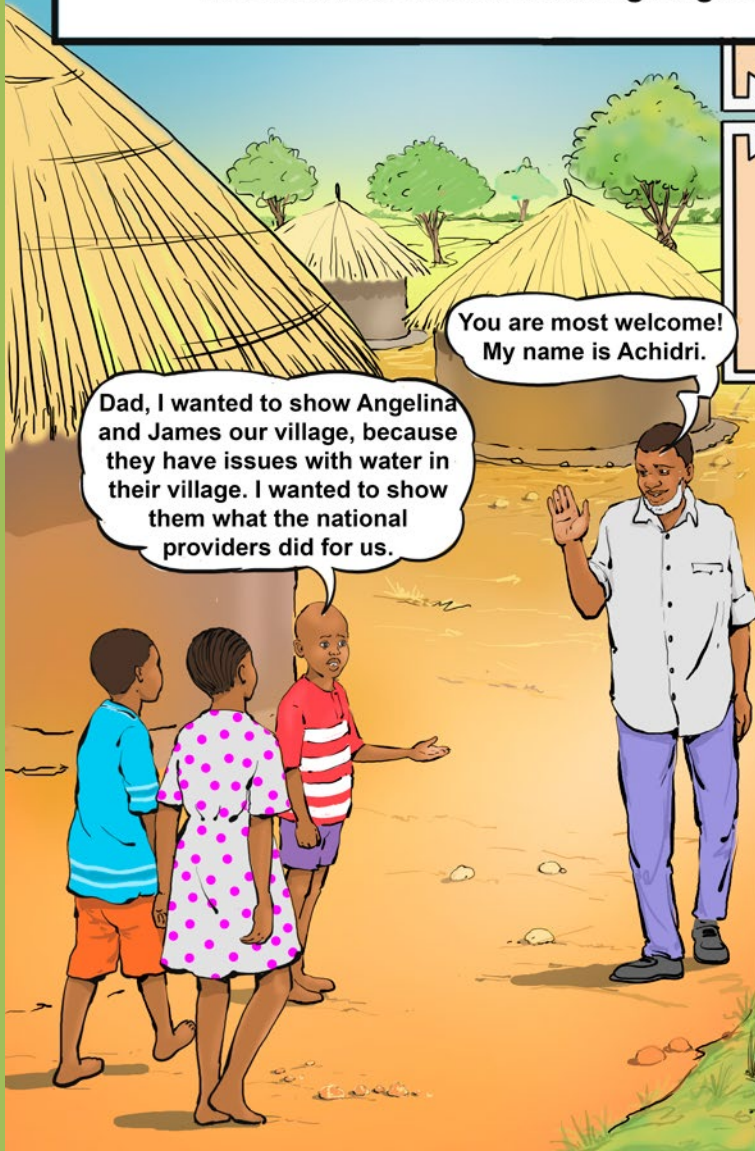
The children reach Tako's village.

Who is this NUWS?

They have made our lives here more simple and peaceful.



Tako and Achidri are showing Angelina and James around their village.





We also used to have issues with water here.

But since the utility took over and we are paying only a bit for water, things became much better. Water is always there and clean

They should do the same in our village!



Why don't you take me there?

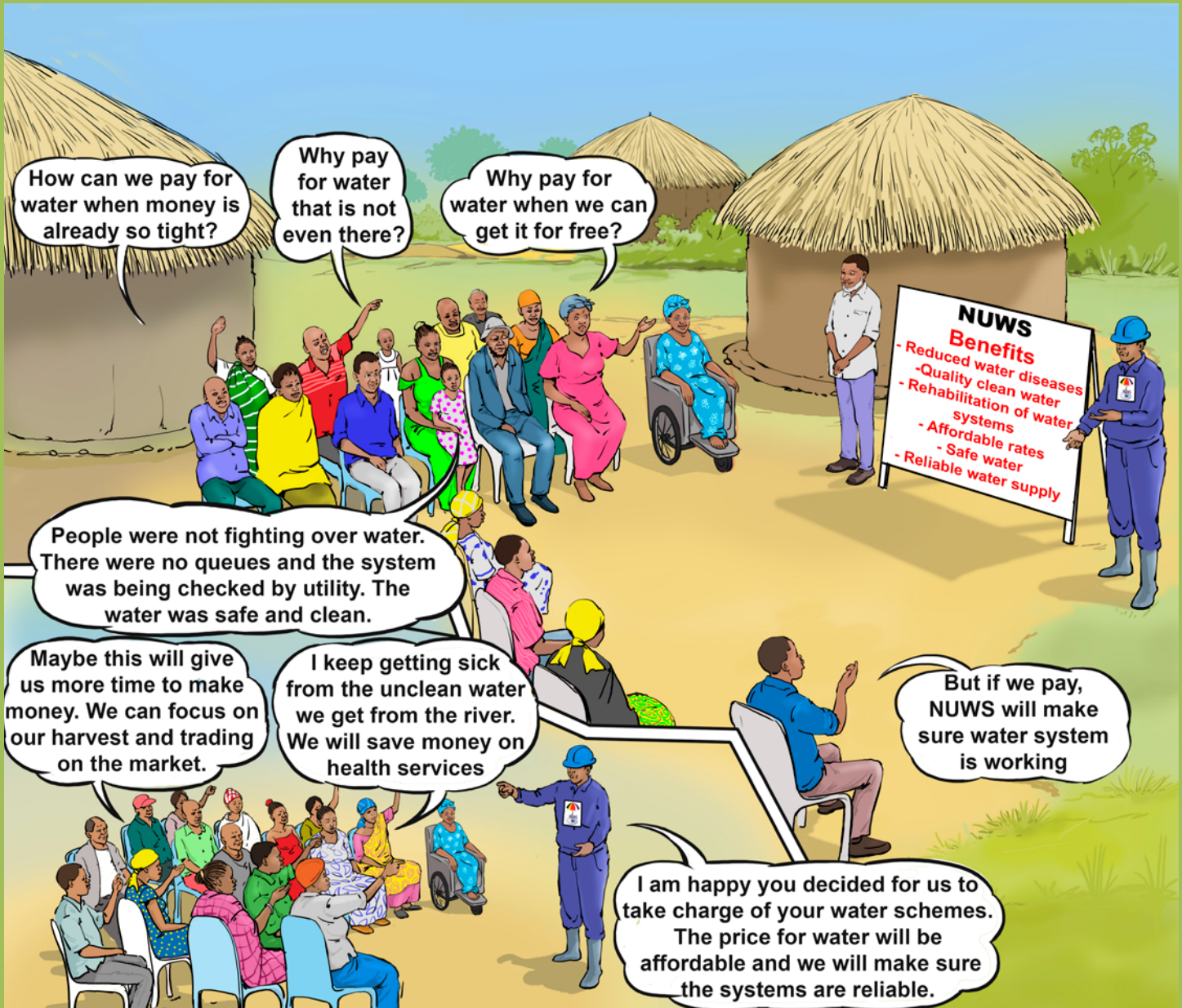
Achidri joins Angelina and James on their way back to their village



Achidri starts to explain to Mary about the changes in his village since NUWS upgraded the water systems and they started to pay tariffs for water. While he talks, more and more villagers gather around Achidri and listen carefully.

... of course paying for water was difficult at first. But it really is affordable and now we have so much time for trading, harvesting and working, which gave us more money over time. We don't have to wait in long lines for water anymore. We have enough clean and safe water to cook, wash clothes....





How can we pay for water when money is already so tight?

Why pay for water that is not even there?

Why pay for water when we can get it for free?

- NUWS Benefits**
- Reduced water diseases
 - Quality clean water
 - Rehabilitation of water systems
 - Affordable rates
 - Safe water
 - Reliable water supply

People were not fighting over water. There were no queues and the system was being checked by utility. The water was safe and clean.

Maybe this will give us more time to make money. We can focus on our harvest and trading on the market.

I keep getting sick from the unclean water we get from the river. We will save money on health services

But if we pay, NUWS will make sure water system is working

I am happy you decided for us to take charge of your water schemes. The price for water will be affordable and we will make sure the systems are reliable.

One year later in their village



IMPRINT

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Water Supply and Sanitation for Refugee Settlements
and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (WatSSUP)
Plot 128, Luthuli Avenue, Bugolobi
P.O. Box 10346, Kampala, Uganda

Text: GIZ WatSSUP

Illustrations: Birungi Arnold

Design: Christine Lüdke, buero luedke, Germany

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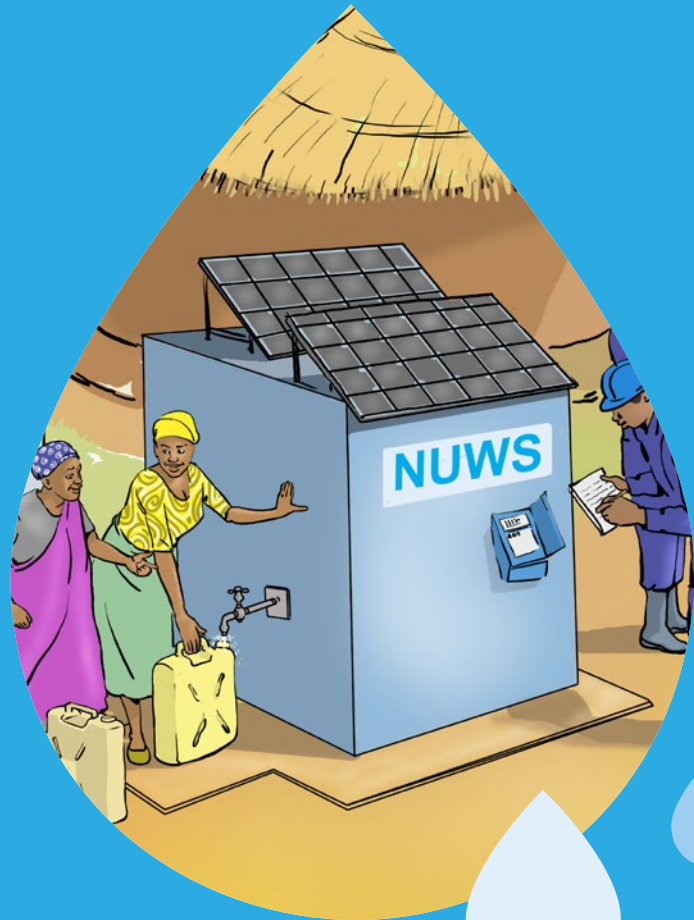
The GIZ WatSSUP programme implements measures to improve
water supply and sanitation services in selected refugee settlements
and host communities in Northern Uganda in line with national
and international refugee and sector strategies.

For more Information please contact:
Ottilie Mooshofer, Ottilie.Mooshofer@giz.de

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