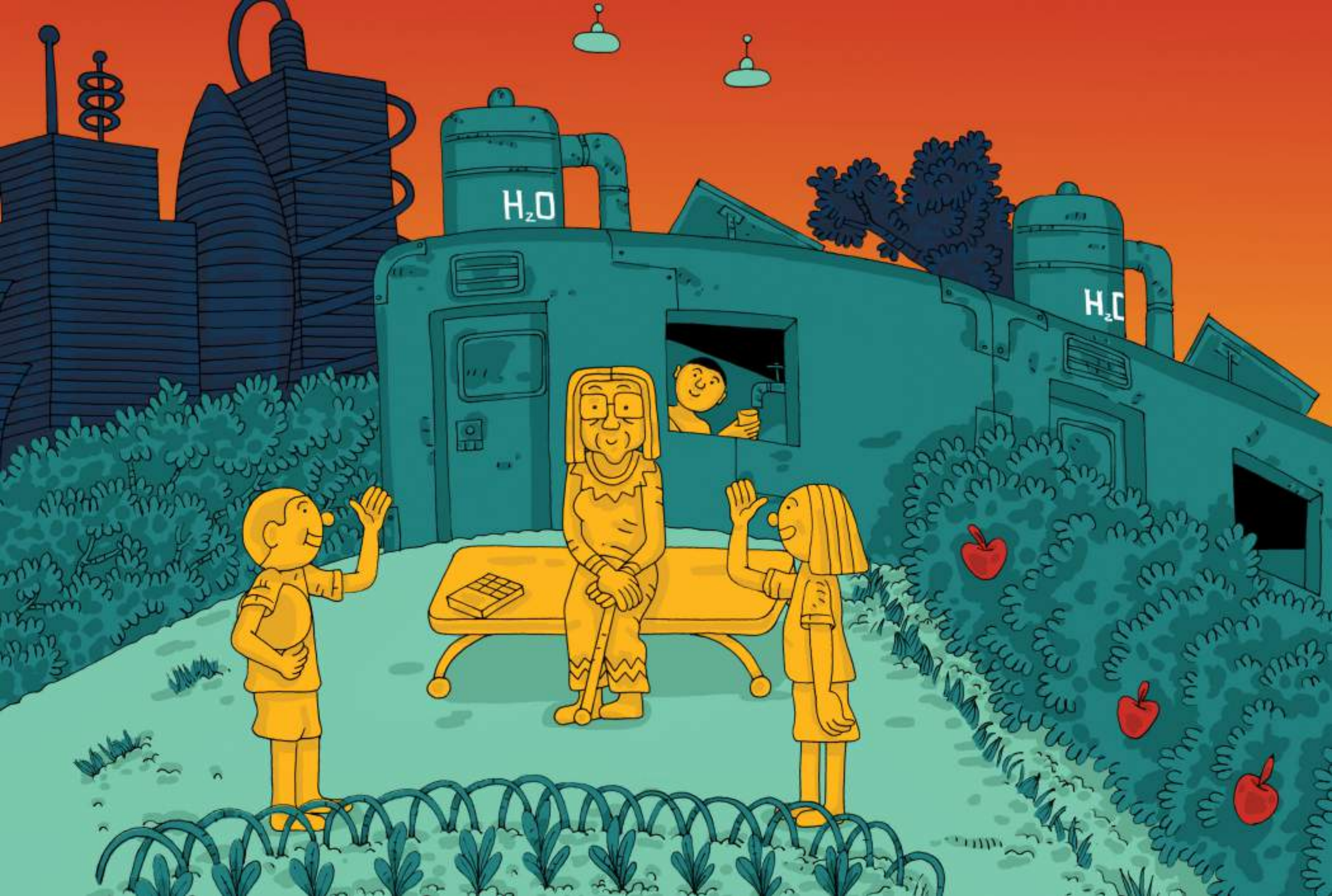


Refreshing Futures: Clean Water for All



“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...**





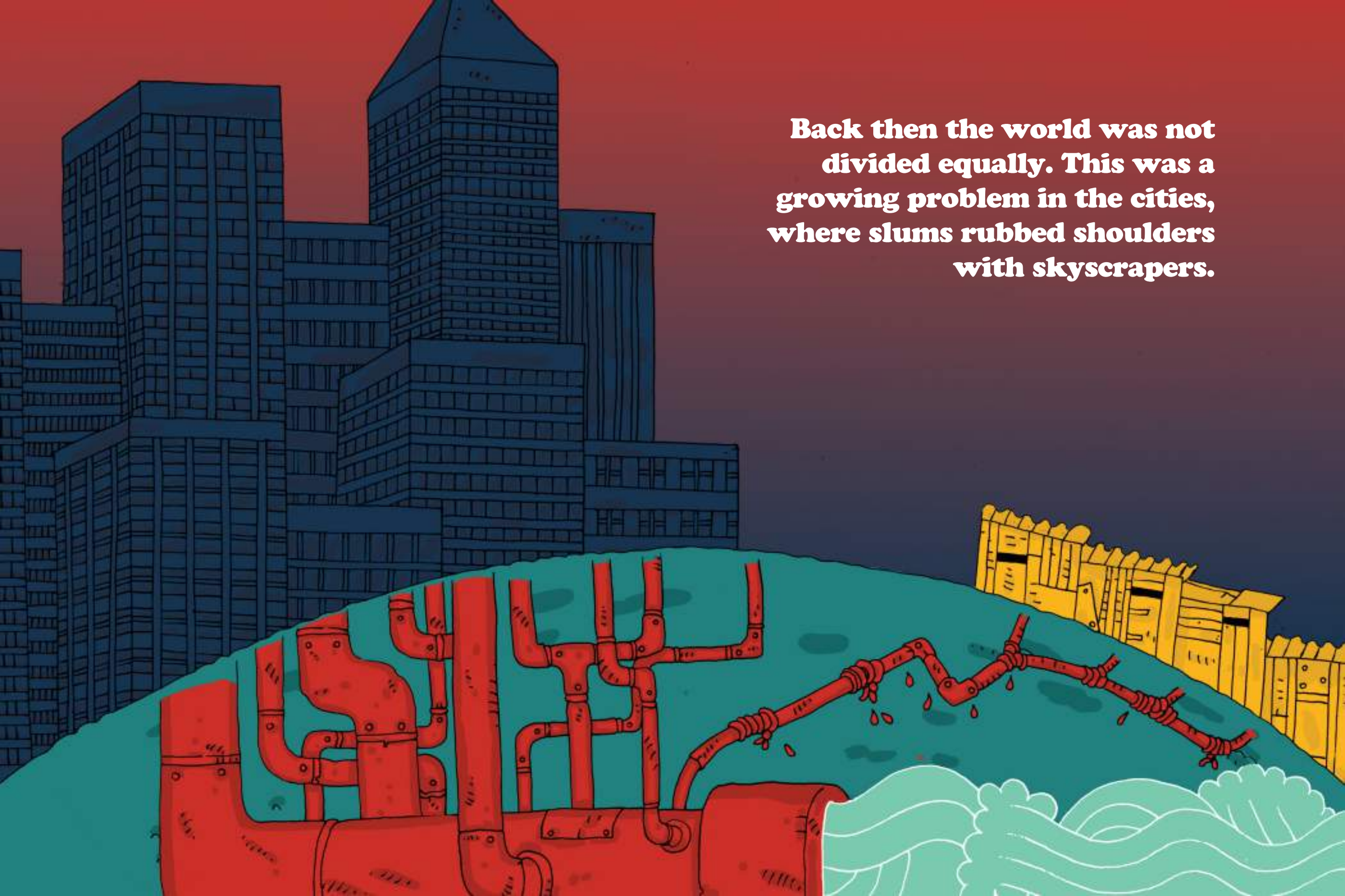
But the craziest thing was...



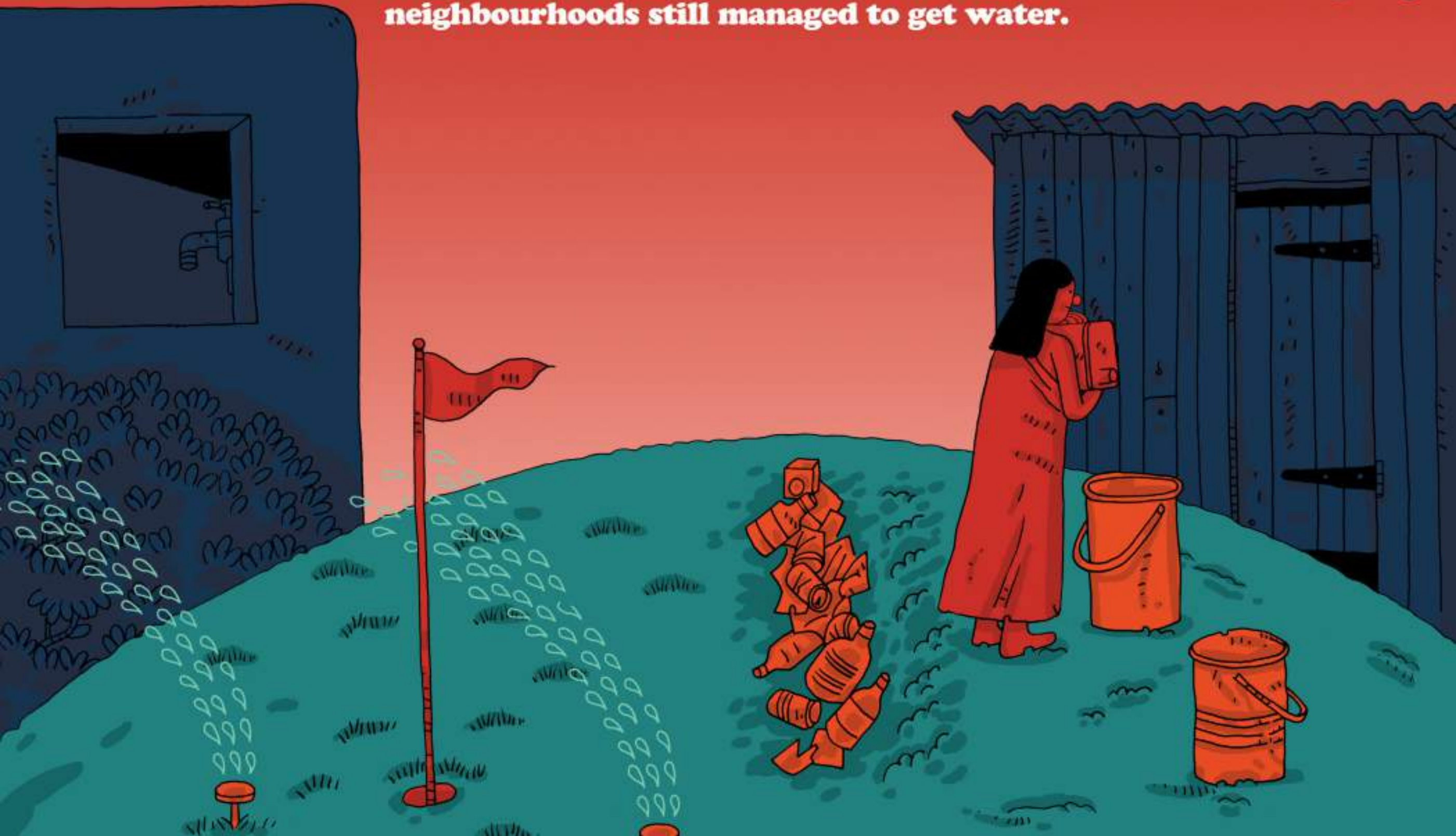
**...we could have ensured everyone had the
water they needed to live comfortably.**



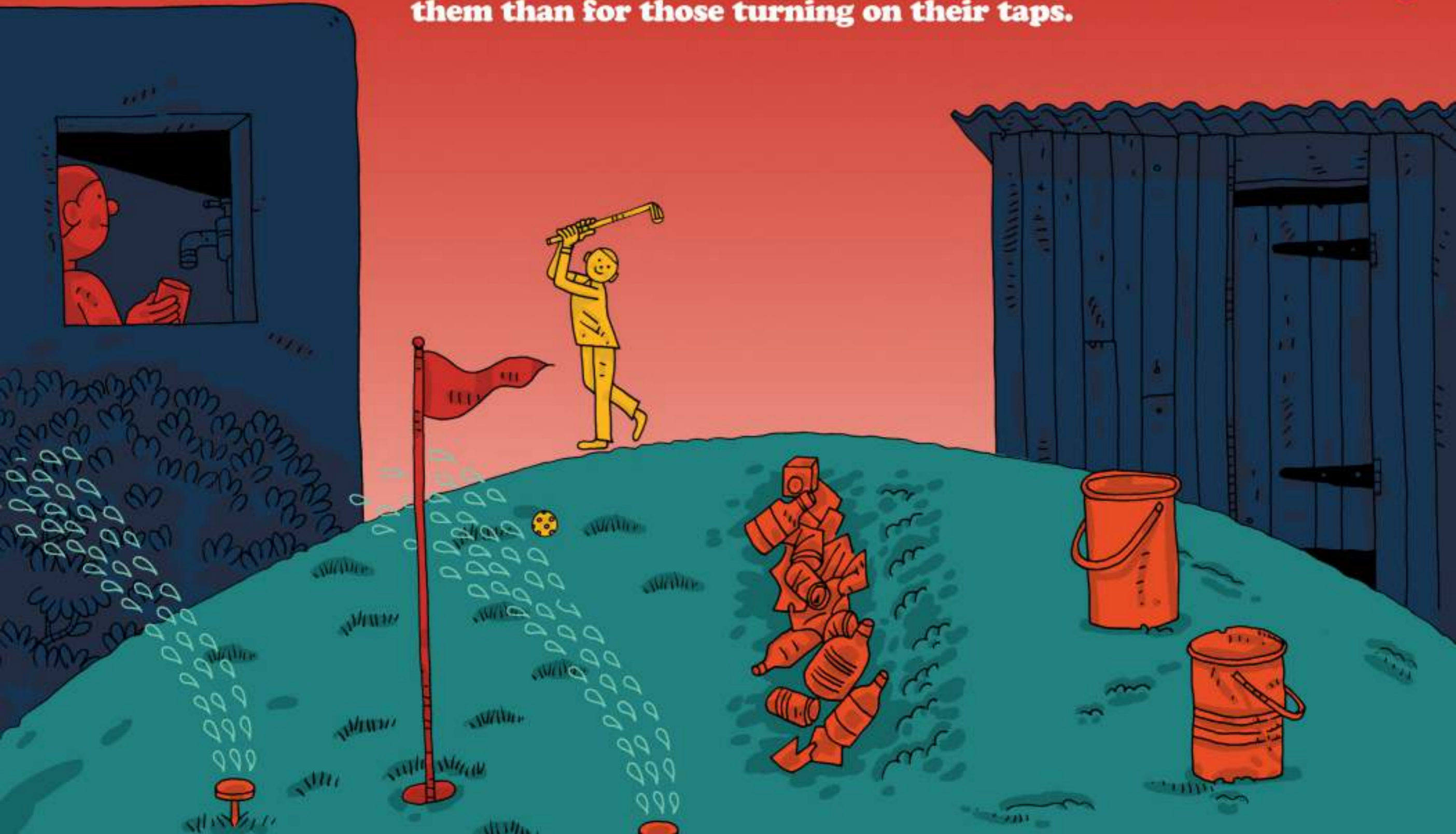
Back then the world was not divided equally. This was a growing problem in the cities, where slums rubbed shoulders with skyscrapers.



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!

H₂O!

H₂O!

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.

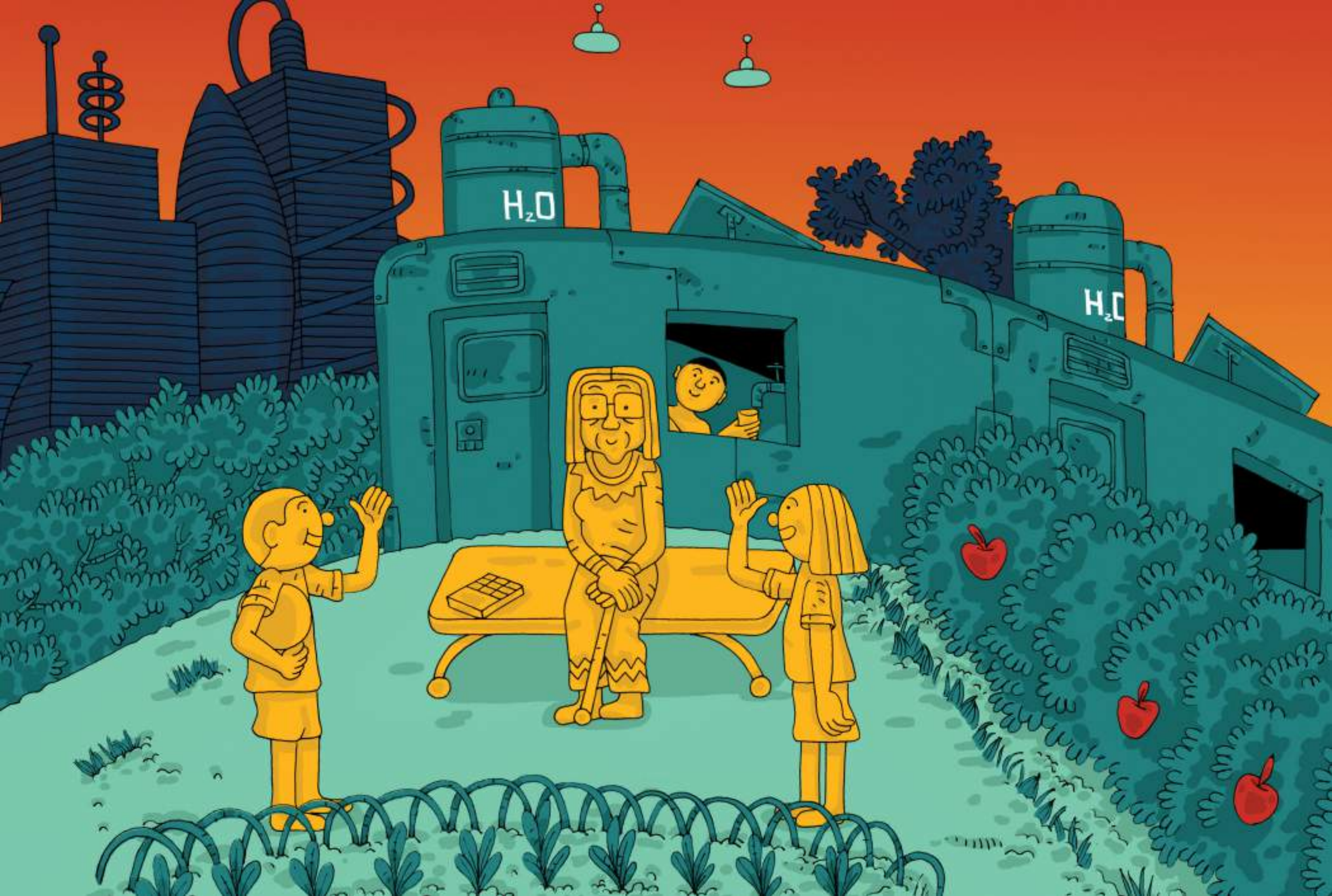


And because of the actions of those who came before us.



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

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