THE RICHT TO FOOD: A Window on the World

Illustrated by Young People for Young People



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was founded in 1945 to help countries improve nutrition and agriculture and better the lives of rural people.

With 190 members, FAO works across the globe to fight poverty and hunger and achieve food security - access by all people at all times to the food they need to lead active and healthy lives.

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy Email: FAO-HQ@fao.org Web site: www.fao.org

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

is a worldwide movement providing non-formal education where girls and young women develop leadership and life skills through self-development, challenge and adventure.

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts learn by doing.

The World Association brings together Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Associations in 144 countries. It is the voice of girls and young women who influence issues they care about and build a better world.

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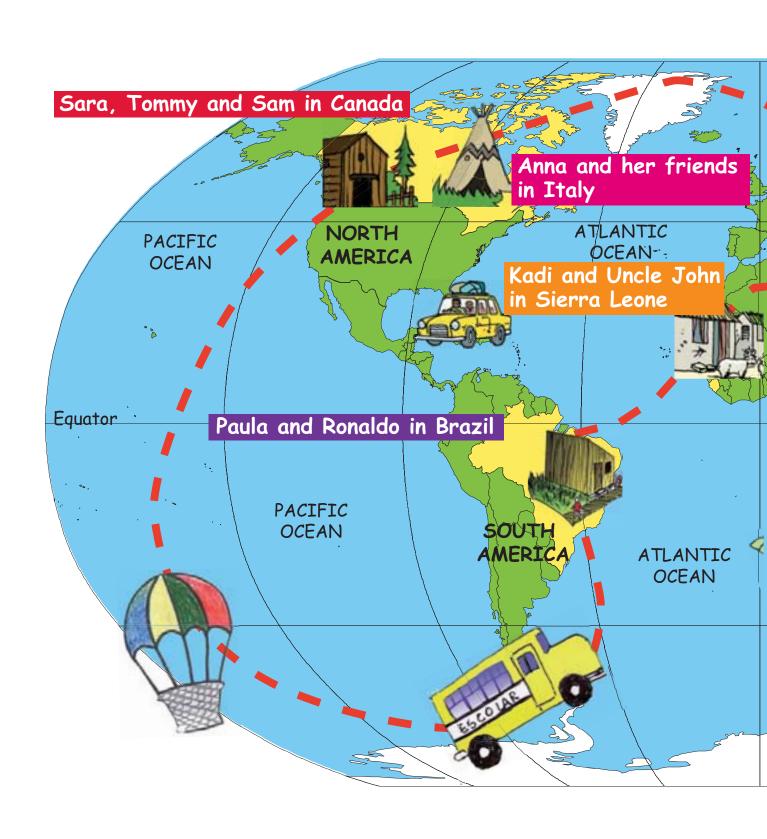
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THE RIGHT TO FOOD: A Discover the world and the



WINDOW ON THE WORLD



About This Book

This is a book about the right of every human being to be free from hunger. It tells eight different stories about people in eight different countries. All of the stories are about making sure that all people, no matter what their cultural, economic or social situation, can get the food they need.

Many millions of people in the world never get enough to eat. When people do not have enough food or enough of the right kinds of foods to meet their body's needs, they will be hungry and malnourished and will not be able to lead healthy and active lives. Many will die. Food is so important for life and health that governments all over the world have recognized that people have a right to food.

The right to food means that all people have the right to feed themselves and their families with dignity. People must be able to grow or hunt or catch the food they need or earn enough money to buy it. Fulfilling the right to food means ensuring that people have the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunities they need to get food for themselves. It also means that when people, for reasons beyond their control, are not able to feed themselves, they still have a right to food and they must be helped until they are able to feed themselves again. By recognizing that people have a right to food, national governments have committed themselves to doing everything possible to make sure that all of their people have enough to eat.

Each story in the book points out different important features of the right to food. By reading these stories, you will understand that:

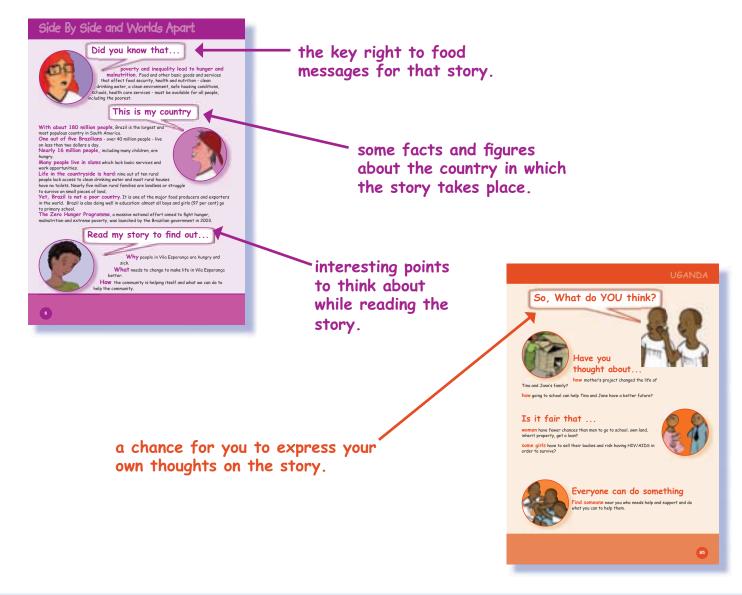
Everyone has the right to obtain and enjoy food in a dignified way. It is a right that is due to every person.

Fulfilling the right to food means that everyone must have access to nutritionally adequate and safe food

Freedom from hunger and malnutrition means that all people must be able at all times to get a sufficient amount and variety of good quality and safe foods to meet their body's needs.



At the beginning and at the end of each story you will find:



National governments must meet certain obligations on the right to food

Governments must do everything possible to make sure that all of their people are free from hunger and have access to adequate and safe food. They must help people who are not able to get adequate food on their own and they may not take any actions that prevent access to food or **violate** the right to food.

All members of society have responsibilities in the realization of the right to adequate food

Everyone - individuals, families, local communities, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private business sector - has responsibilities in securing and protecting the right to food for the local and global community.

UNICEF Voices of Youth www.unicef.org/voy

Brazil



poverty and inequality lead to hunger and malnutrition. Food and other basic goods and services that affect food security, health and nutrition - clean drinking water, a clean environment, safe housing conditions, schools, health care services - must be available for all people, including the poorest.

This is my country

With about 180 million people, Brazil is the largest and most populous country in South America.

One out of five Brazilians - over 40 million people - lives on less than two dollars a day.

Nearly 16 million people, including many children, are hungry.

Many people live in slums which lack basic services and work opportunities.

Life in the countryside is hard: nine out of ten rural people lack access to clean drinking water and most rural houses have no toilets. Nearly five million rural families are landless or struggle to survive on small pieces of land.

Yet Brazil is not a poor country. It is one of the major food producers and exporters in the world. Brazil is also doing well in education: almost all boys and girls (97 per cent) go to primary school.

The Zero Hunger Programme, a massive national effort aimed to fight hunger, malnutrition and extreme poverty, was launched by the Brazilian government in 2003.

Read my story to find out...

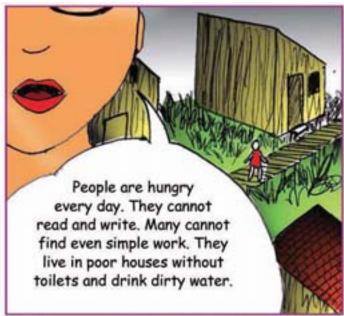
Why people in Vila Esperança are hungry and sick.

What needs to change to make life in Vila Esperança better.

How the community is helping itself and what we can do to help the community.















<u>human rights:</u> advantages that should belong automatically to everyone, such as life, education, health care, shelter, food

THE TEACHER HAS ORGANIZED A SCHOOL TRIP TO VILA ESPERANÇA, JUST OUTSIDE A BIG BRAZILIAN CITY. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE LEFT THE RURAL AREAS BECAUSE OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND LAND DISPUTES.















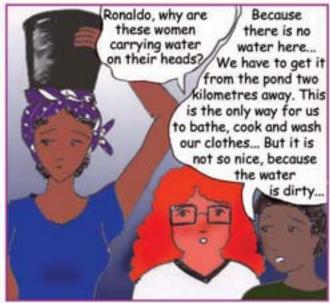








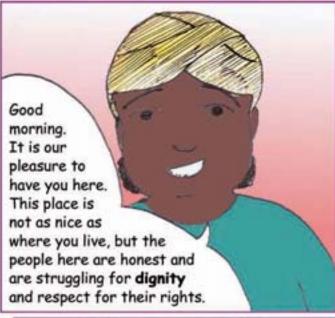






















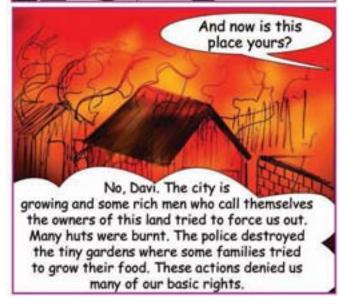




Well, our life here is very hard. If you look around closely, you will notice that we lack many things you take for granted. Many children do not go to school because they have to help their families. Others become street children because

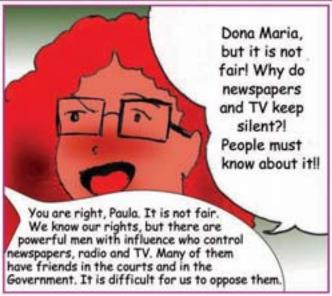


And where did you come from? Some people left their villages hoping to find work in the city. Others were forced off their own land. Some native people also live in Vila Esperança, When the Government built a dam, their houses were flooded and their families lost everything.



When we came here more than twenty years ago this was abandoned land. There was no fence and no owner. So we occupied the land and built our huts.







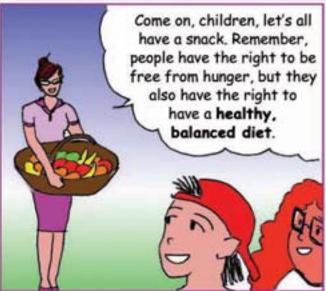
Pedro was one of the first to arrive in Vila Esperança. When they tried to force us out, he attracted attention to our problems. He collected signatures, organized demonstrations, wrote letters to local and national newspapers and TV and created the Association.

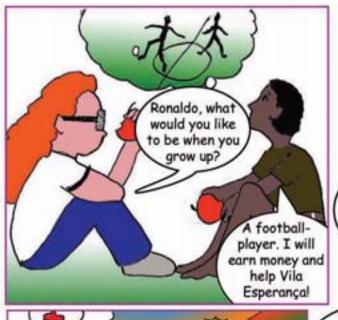


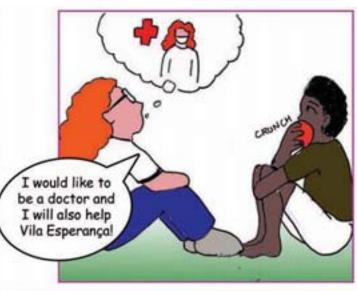
I hope to We are sure live long enough we will gain our o see our people rights! This is wha get back their gives meaning to land, have jobs, our lives. And what eat in a dignified keeps us smiling way and be despite all the respected. Their problems. children will go to school and have a better future.









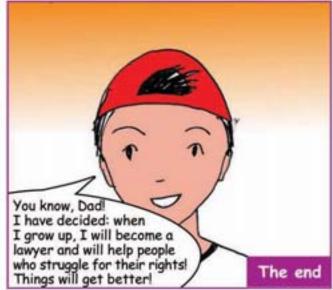




Hi, Davil
Is everything okay?
How was your trip?

Incredible! You know,
mum, real people live in slums,
not all robbers and thieves. And you
know what?! We met Dona Maria
there! She is the President of the
community Association!









Have you thought about...

why Mrs. Fernandes wanted Paula, Davi and their schoolmates to go to Vila Esperança?

how Ronaldo's life is different from Davi's?

Is it fair that...

some people do not have enough food to eat, while others have plenty?

people who are poor do not have the basic things they need for a dignified life?

some children live and work in the streets instead of going to school?





Everyone can do something

Dona Maria carried out many activities to make things better in Vila Esperança. What can be done in your community?

Canada



Did you know that...

individuals and communities have the right to voice their opinions and participate with local governments in decisions and actions that affect their right to food.

This is my country

There are about 31 million people living in Canada. It is a wealthy and food-secure country.

Yet, one in ten people - 3 million Canadians - were living in poverty in 2001.

Three out of every four Canadians believe that hunger is a problem in their country.

Over 800 thousand Canadians received food aid in one month in 2005. About 330 thousand of them were children and young people.

People most likely to be poor and food-insecure in

Canada are single mothers and their children, disabled people, unemployed and aboriginal people.

About one million Canadians are aboriginal. Most of them have moved to towns and cities, where their traditional lifestyles and diets are adapting to city living.

To improve food security for all Canadians, many cities and towns adopted Food Charters, built on Canada's international commitment to the human right to food.

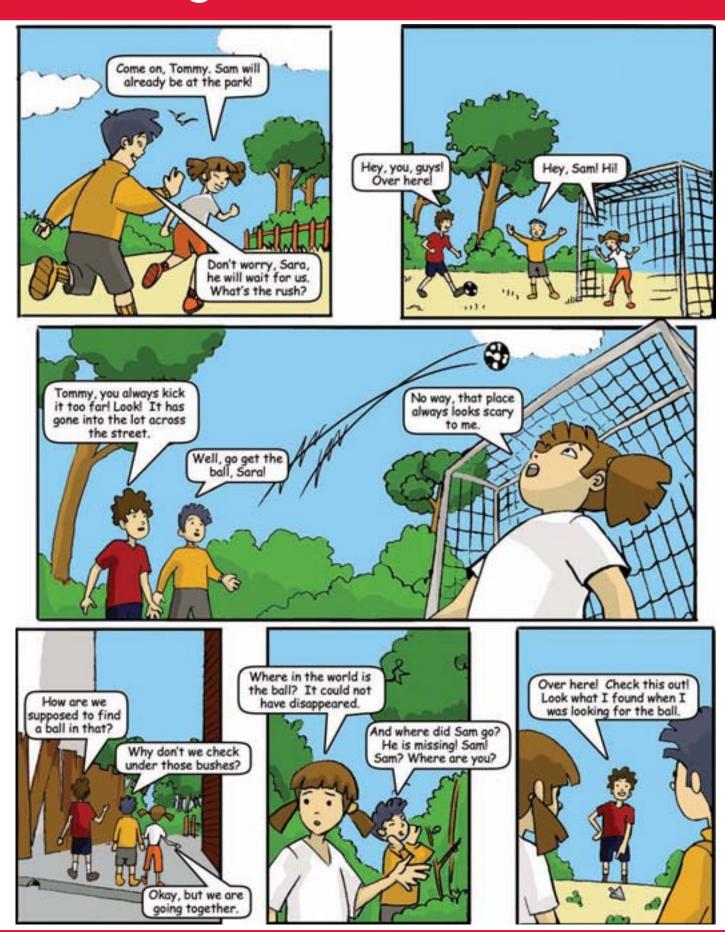


Read our story to find out...

How taking away our land took away our ways of getting food.

What community action is all about.

How a Food Charter improved our access to food.







bow and arrow: a weapon used for hunting or sport

ancestor: those from whom we are descended: parents, grandparents, etc

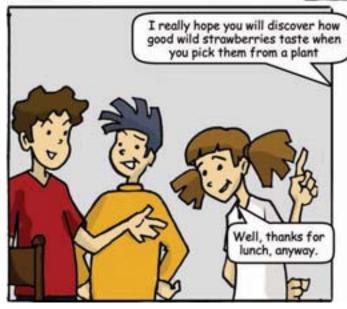
fertile: land which is capable of growing healthy plants



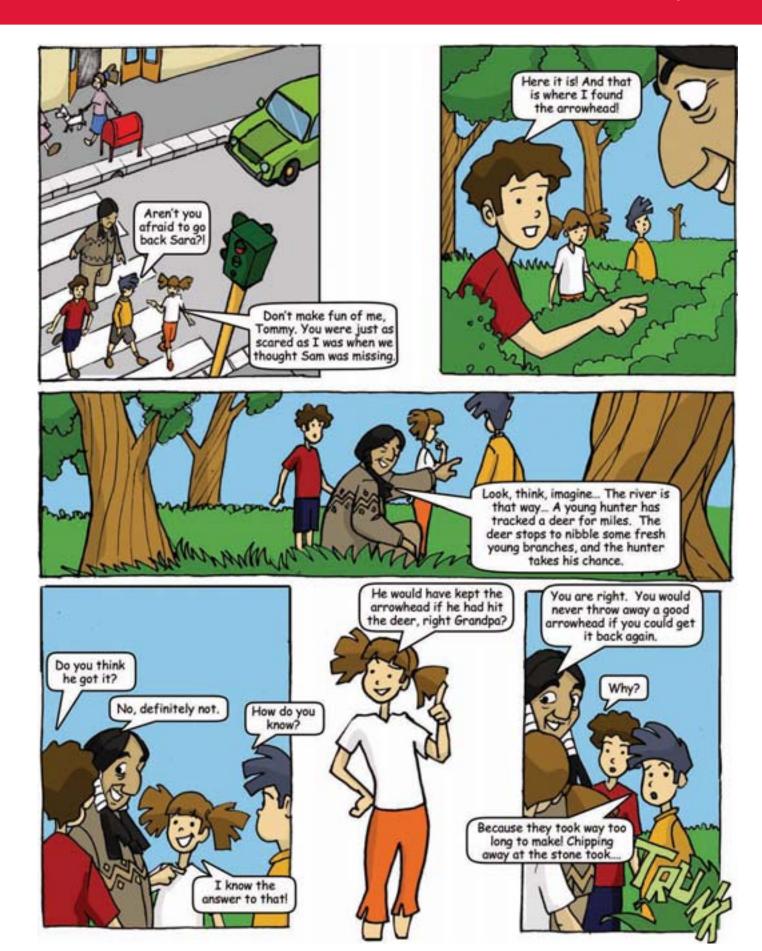


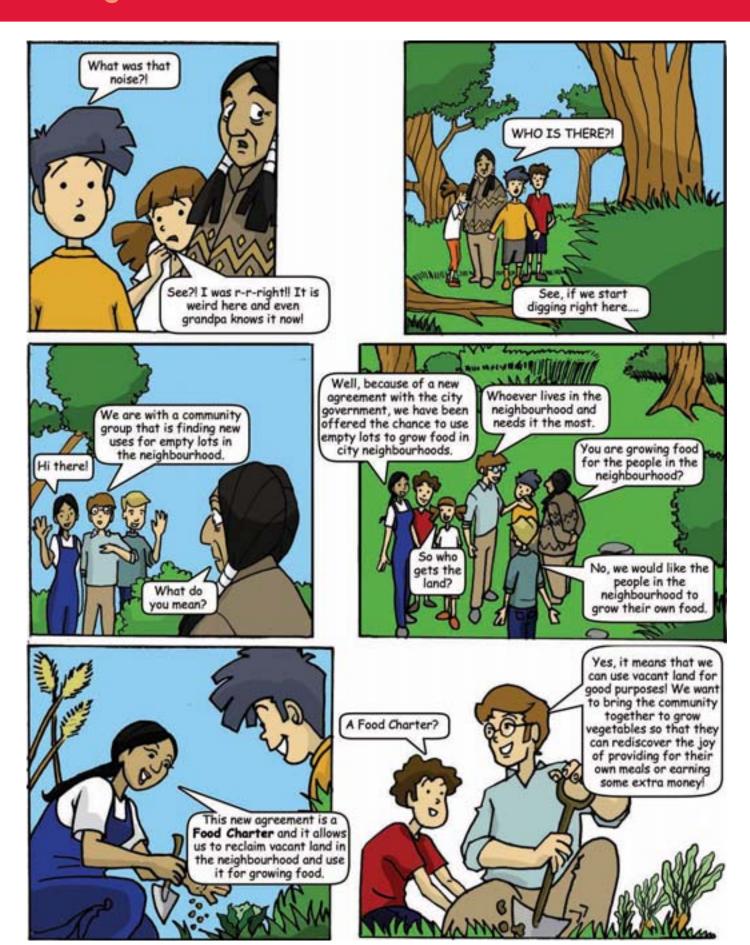


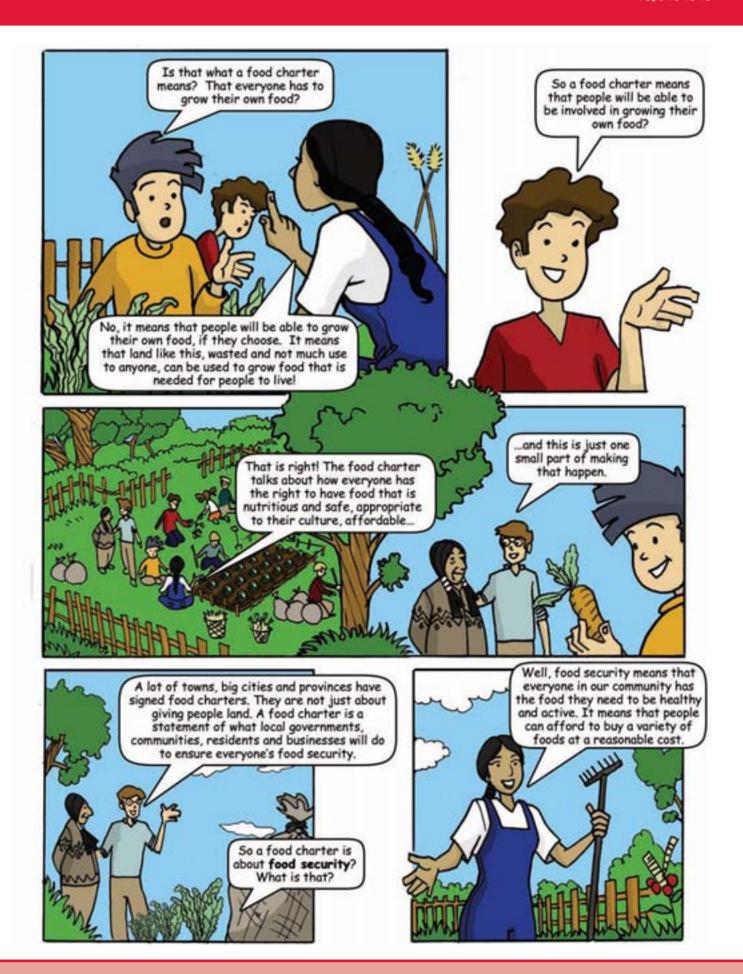


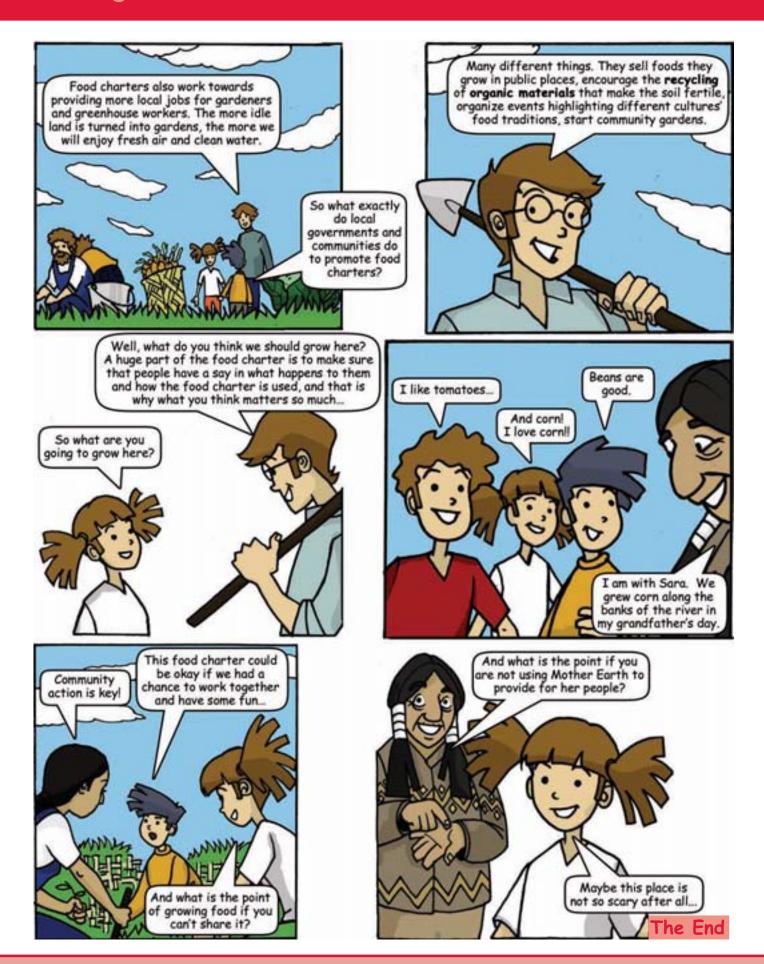








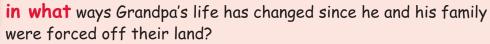




So, what do YOU think?



Have you thought about...



how a Food Charter can improve life for Tommy, Sara and others in their community?

Is it fair that...

native people were pushed off their land and their rights are not recognized?

people should have a say in actions that affect their right to food?





Everyone can do something

Start a community or a school garden or join others who are already doing that.

India





We all need to help people who are not able to get adequate food on their own. Authorities can be held responsible by citizens for what they do or do not do to ensure the right to food for all of their people.

This is my country

With more than one billion people, India is the second most populated country in the world. In the last century India recovered from a great famine, changing from a starving nation to a leading nation in the field of agriculture and technology.

Yet, 850 million Indian people live on less than two US dollars a day.

One out of five Indians, over 220 million people, are hungry. Malnutrition affects nearly half of the children under five years old.

Rural poverty is widespread: three out of four rural families lack tap water and toilet facilities and half of all rural women are unable to read and write.

In 2001 India experienced "hunger amidst plenty". People were starving while about fifty million tonnes of grain were stored in public granaries across the country. The Supreme Court of India responded to this by directing state governments to provide every child who goes to government primary school with a nutritious, cooked meal.



Read my story to find out...



How we made our voices heard when we needed food.

What governments can do to help people who need food but are too poor to buy or grow it themselves.

How school lunches help us to be healthier and study better.



<u>right to food:</u> the right of every man, woman and child to always have enough food for a healthy and active life

<u>debt:</u> money owed to another person or organisation

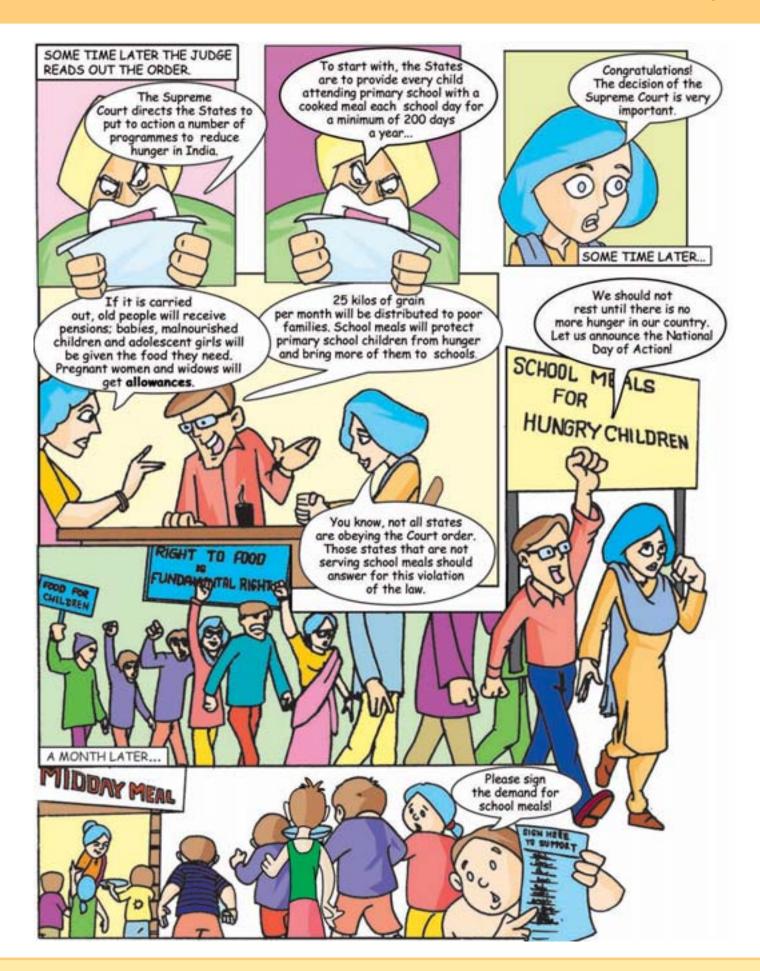
ration shop: a shop sponsored by the government where poor people can buy goods at a low price



fundamental right: a basic right which everyone should have

namaste: a greeting in India

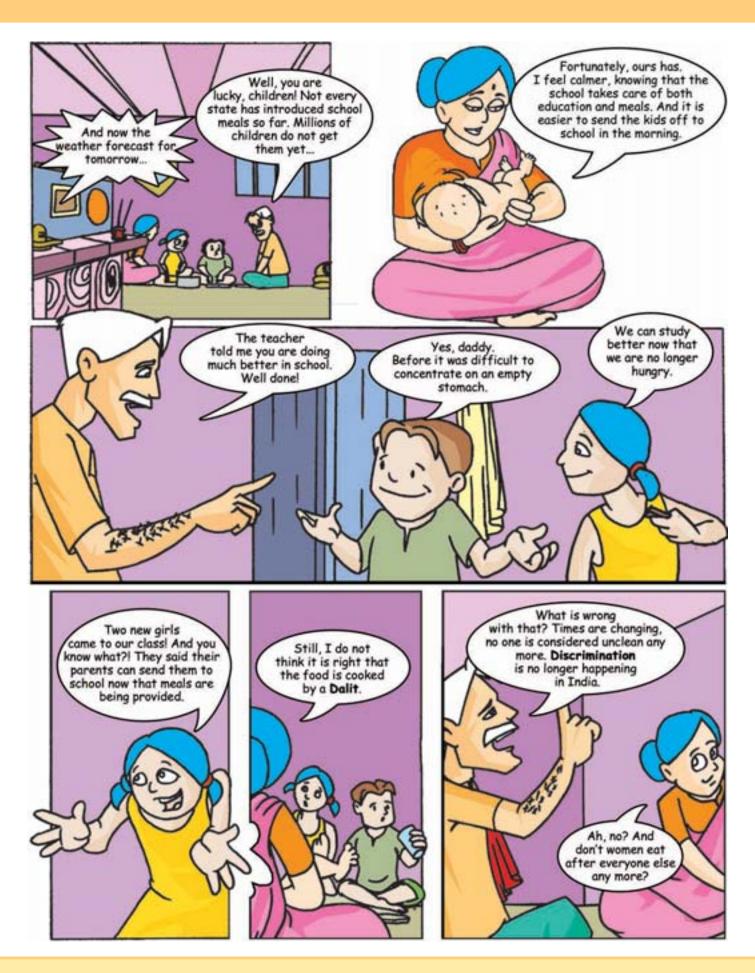
<u>Supreme Court:</u> the highest court of justice in a country <u>access to food:</u> always being able to buy or grow enough food



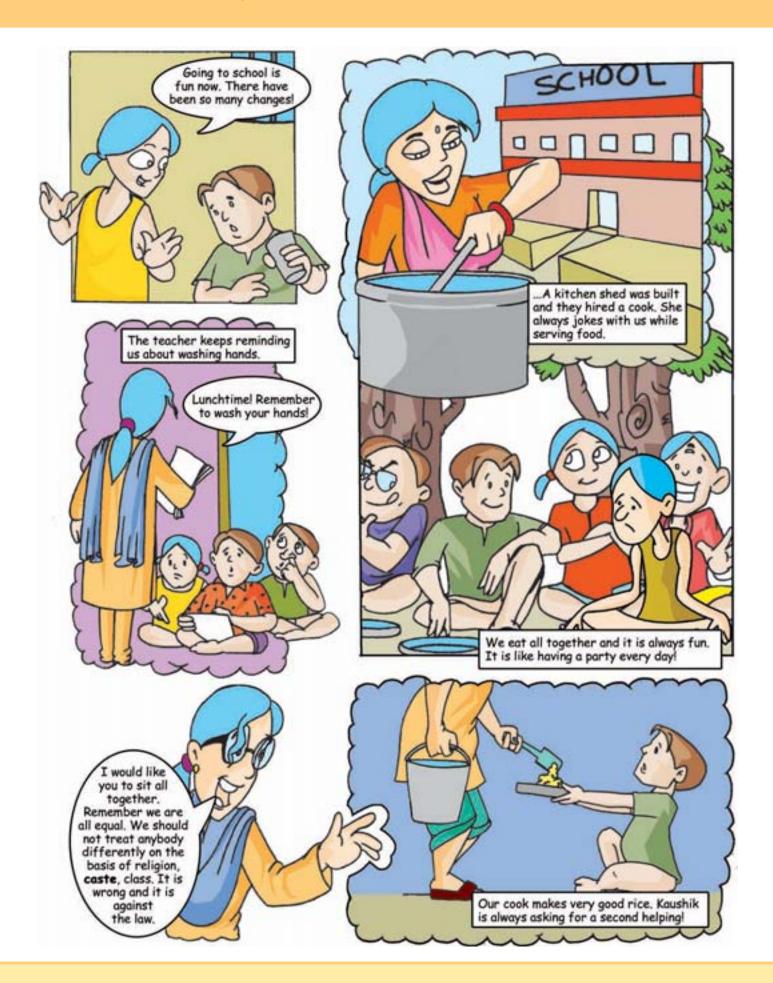


<u>vitamin:</u> substance found in small quantities in food and essential for the health and normal working of the body

medicinal: a food or substance which can be used as medicine



<u>dalit</u>: the name for the lowest caste of people in India <u>discrimination</u>: when people are treated unfairly because of their race, colour, sex



caste: a social class in India









Have you thought about...

what made the government take action to help hungry people?

why Gayatri and Kaushik study better now that they get a meal at school?

Is it fair that...

sometimes governments do not fulfil their obligations?

some people starve, while a country has extra food stored?

people are treated differently because of their religion, sex or origin?





Everyone can do something

Choose a problem in your community that you find unacceptable and do something to change it.

Indonesia





local governments, businesses or individuals cannot take actions that take away people's access to food, and communities should be involved in plans and actions that affect their food security.

This is my country

With 217 million people, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world.

Made up of more water than land, Indonesia has over 13 thousand islands, over half of which are uninhabited. The country has ten per cent of the world's remaining tropical rainforests that supply people with food, medicinal plants and building materials.

Indonesia has seen many crises in recent years such as civil conflicts and natural disasters: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, El Niño, floods and tsunamis.

One out of two Indonesians lives on less than two dollars a day.

Over twelve million people - six per cent of the population - suffer from hunger. One out of four children under the age of five (nearly five million) are hungry.

Almost all young people under twenty-four years of age can read and write, but only half of boys and girls are in secondary school.

Indonesia recently started a school nutrition programme in poor villages to provide children with locally grown snacks made by parents and teachers.



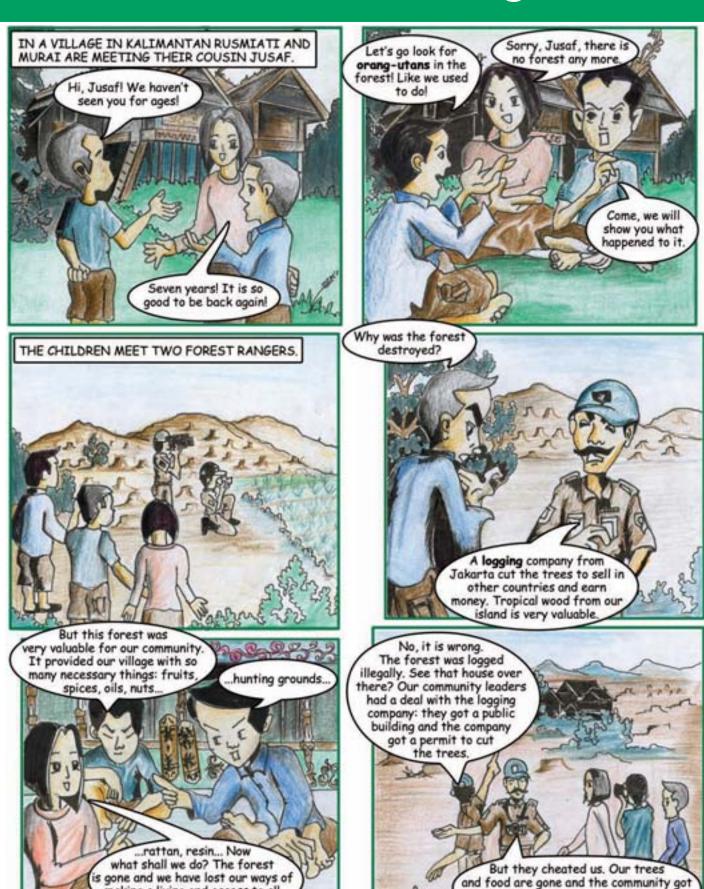


Read my story to find out...

How destroying our forest and polluting our river affected our village.

What decisions we made to restore our environment. How we learn to grow fruit and vegetables at school and why this is good for us.

Trees, Fish and Orang-utans



orang-utan: a large, long-armed monkey native to Indonesia

making a living and access to all

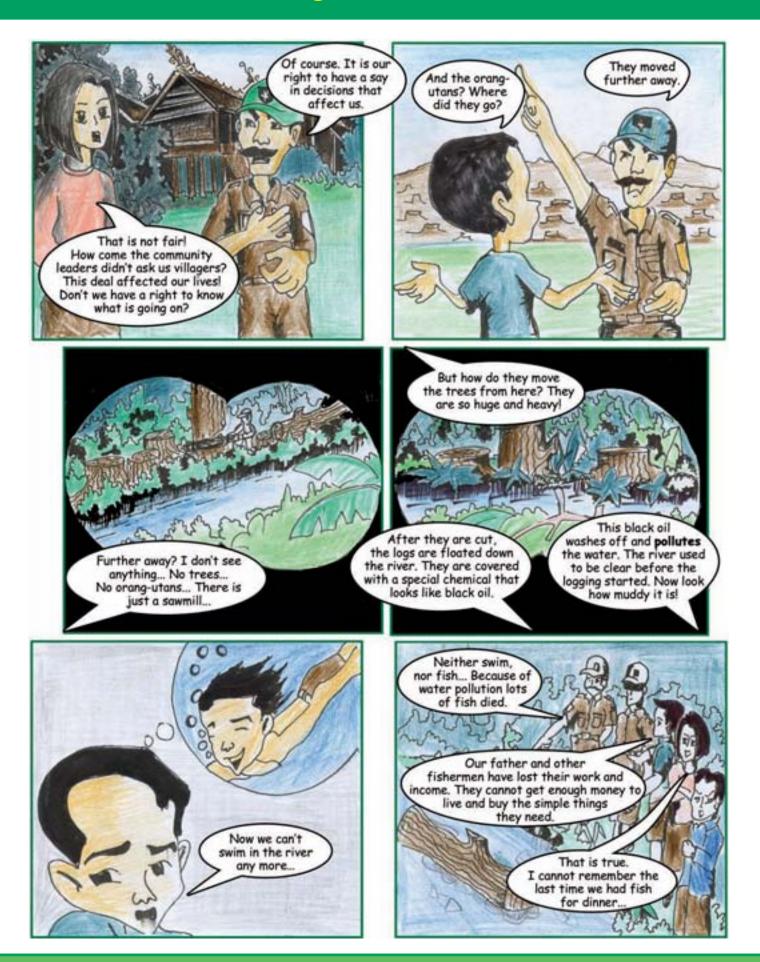
these things. Is it right?

<u>logging:</u> removing trees from a forest for timber

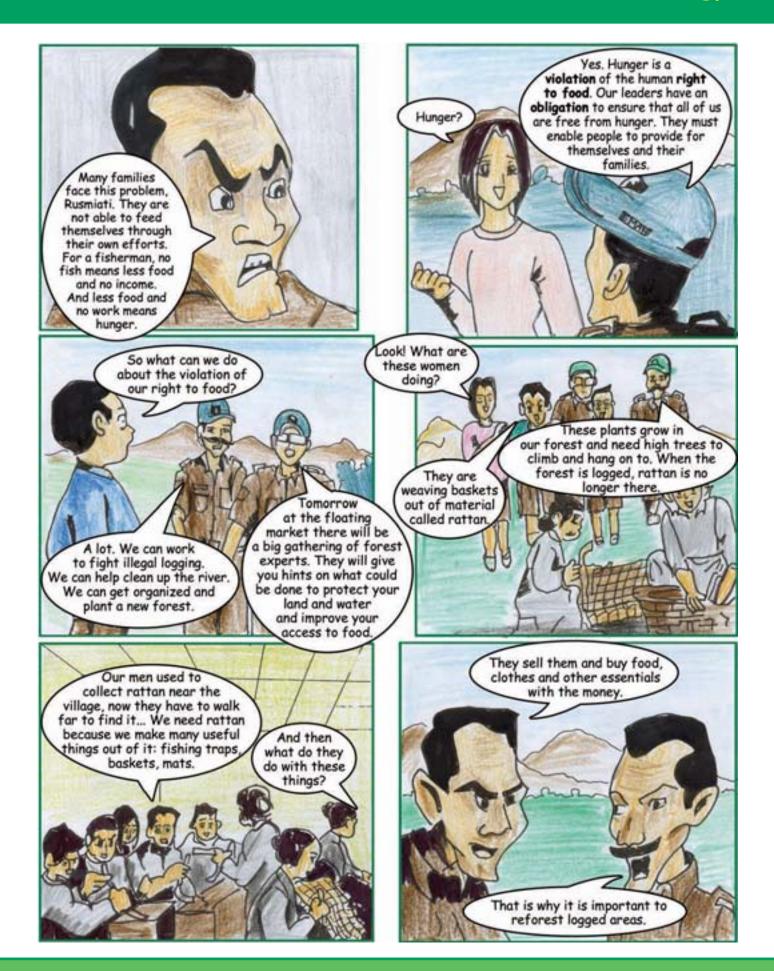
a very small part of the money that was

made from the trees

Trees, Fish and Orang-utans



Indonesia



violation: when somebody breaks a law or a rule

<u>right to food</u>: the right of every man, woman and child to always have enough food for a healthy and active life

obligation: a duty, something a person should or should not do

Trees, Fish and Orang-utans





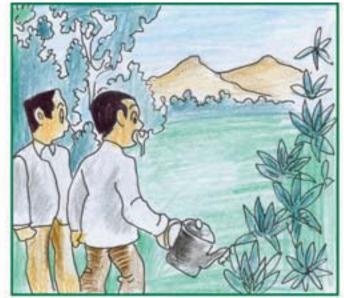








Indonesia





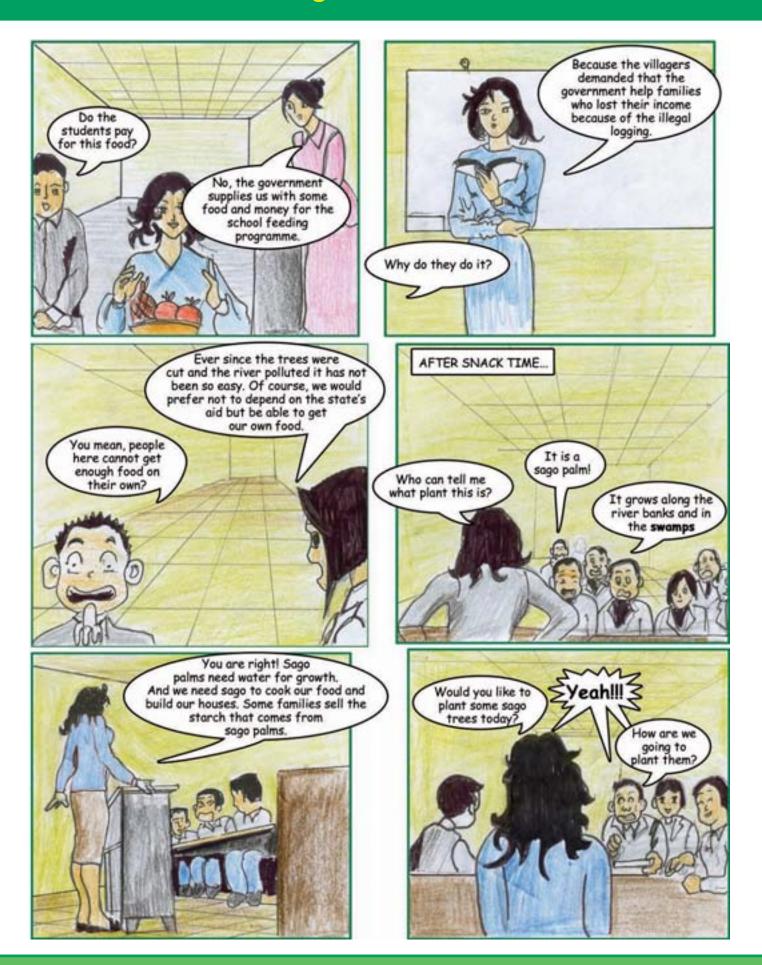








Trees, Fish and Orang-utans



Indonesia









Trees, Fish and Orang-utans





So, what do YOU think?



Have you thought about...

how many things changed for the people in the village when the forest was destroyed?

how people who lose their ways of making a living can get the food they need?

Is it fair that...

community leaders sometimes make important decisions without involving the people?

the government should help people who have their access to food taken away?





Everyone can do something

Find out what important decisions are being made by your community leaders and encourage your family, friends, neighbours and your school to get involved.

Italy



we must have the right quantity and variety of safe, good quality foods to meet our body's needs and we must have information on how to make the right food choices in order to be healthy and well-nourished.

This is my country

There are 58 million people living in Italy. It is a developed, food-secure nation with one of the largest economies in the world.

Yet, in 2004 seven and a half million people - two and a half million families - lived in poverty.

Some people in Italy are food-insecure; in 2004 over 1.2 million Italians received food aid. The needy are elderly people, young mothers, children, refugees, immigrants, drugaddicts and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Italians are known for their healthy and nutritious

Mediterranean diet based on fruits, vegetables, cereals, legumes, dairy
products, fish, olive oil and some red meat.

At the same time, malnutrition is a problem in Italy where many adults and children are overweight or obese.

Italy has nutrition education campaigns for primary and secondary school children to promote informed food choices and healthy diets.

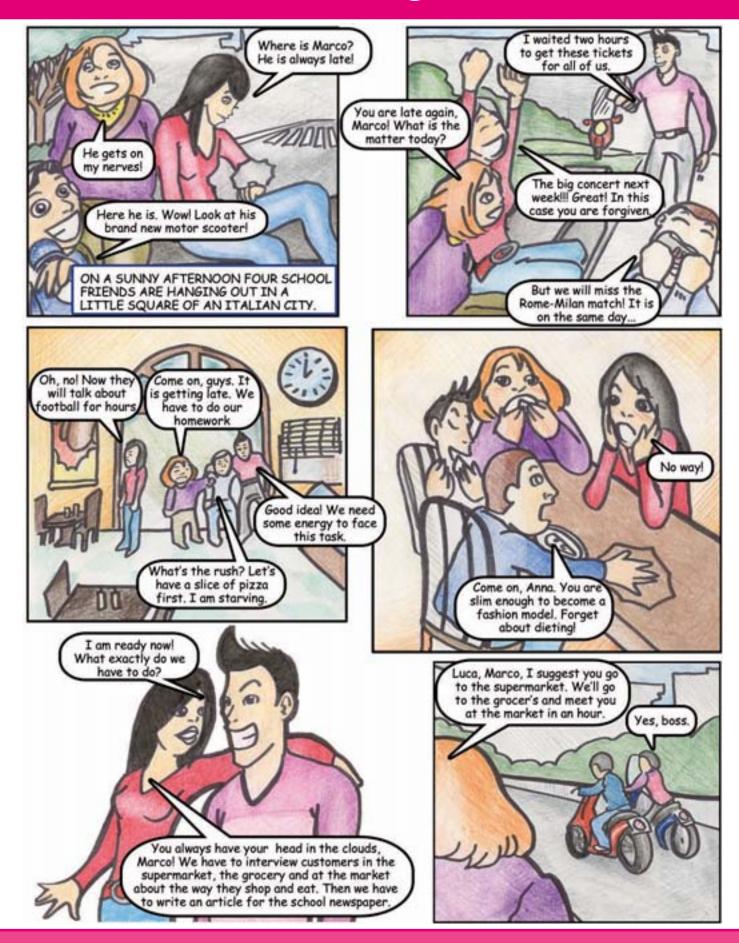
Read our story to find out...



What we need to be healthy and well-nourished.
What we need to be able to make healthy food choices.

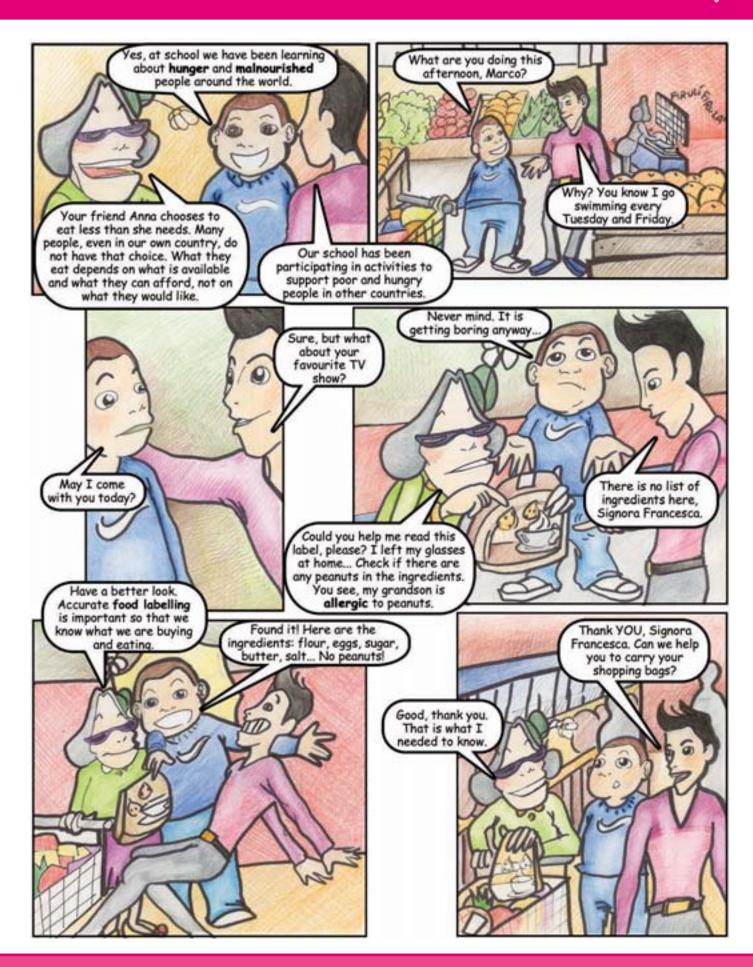
Where we can get information about food, nutrition and healthy diets.

Just the Right Mix



Just the Right Mix

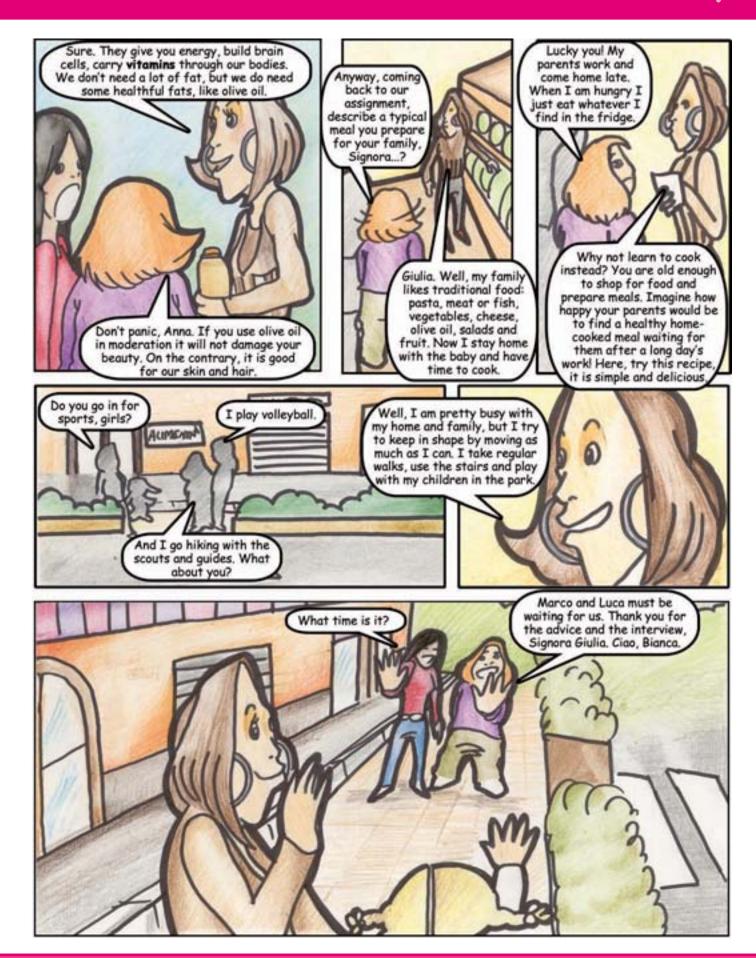




<u>hunger:</u> not having enough food to meet our nutritional needs
<u>malnourished:</u> people who are unhealthy as the result of eating too little, too much or not having the right variety of food
<u>allereis:</u> an unpleasant reaction a person's body has to certain things, including food

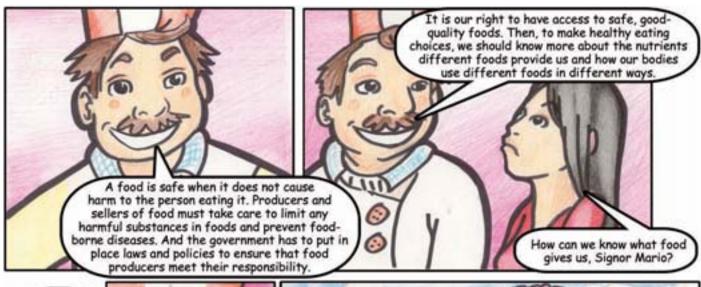
Just the Right Mix





Just the Right Mix





Nutrition education is the key! You should ask your parents or teachers. Somebody from our association could come to talk with your class. You can also look for books or do some Internet research.

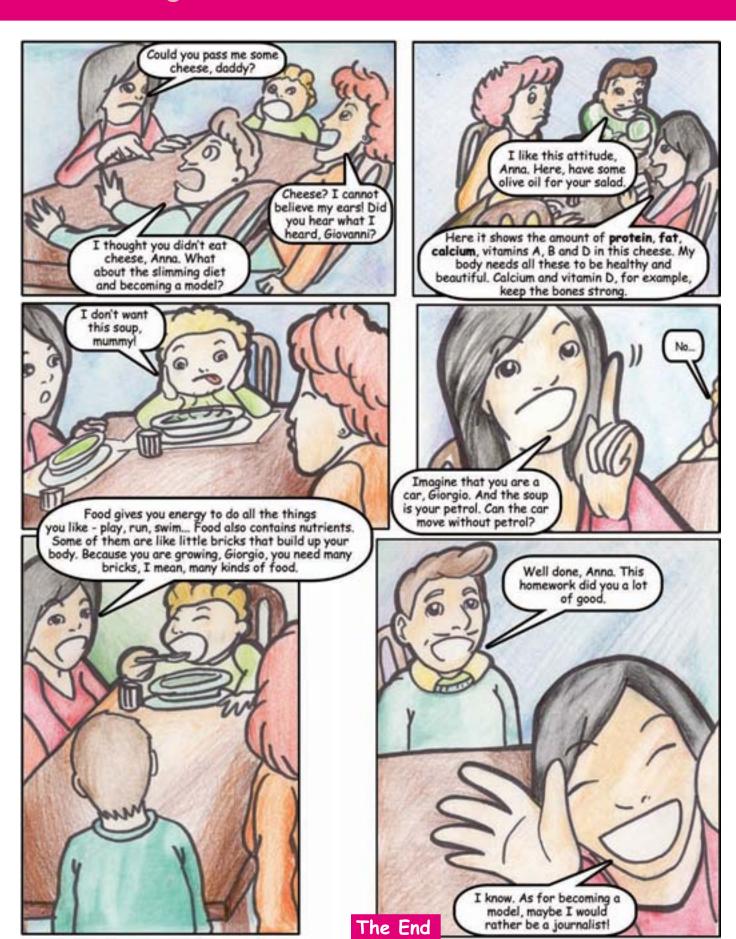








Just the Right Mix



So, what do YOU think?



Have you thought about...

why some people have many safe good foods available to choose from, while others have little choice?

why Anna changed her mind about what foods she chooses to eat?

what a good, healthy diet is for you?

Is it fair that...

food producers should be responsible for producing food that is safe for us to eat?

the government should make sure that we get the right information on foods and healthy diets?





Everyone can do something

Lisa, Anna, Marco and Luca are interviewing people about the ways they shop for food and eat. Can you do the same?

Jordan





safe, clean water is necessary for life and health and should be guaranteed and protected for all people in a fair and equal way.

This is my country

There are 5.4 million people living in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, including over 900 thousand Palestinian refugees. Jordan is a stable and relatively prosperous country.

However, 400 thousand people (seven per cent of the population) live on less than two dollars a day and are food insecure.

Jordan is in the top ten of the most water-scarce countries with a dry climate and few rivers. The country depends heavily on rainfall, 92 per cent of which evaporates.

Two-thirds of Jordan's water goes to irrigation of crops.

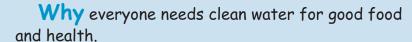
An average Jordanian uses 85 litres of water a day, an Australian uses 440 litres a day and an American - about 600 litres a day.

Jordan deals with its water shortage by rationing water year round, rehabilitating ancient cisterns, drip-irrigating, treating wastewater, installing water saving devices and rooftop tanks, as well as educating the public on water issues.

Education is a priority in the country, with an increasing number of girls in school. Nine out of ten children go to elementary school.







How we can save water in our houses, gardens and farms.

What we did to help people have enough safe drinking water.

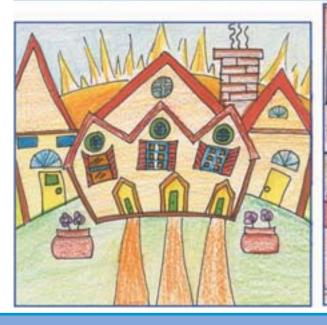




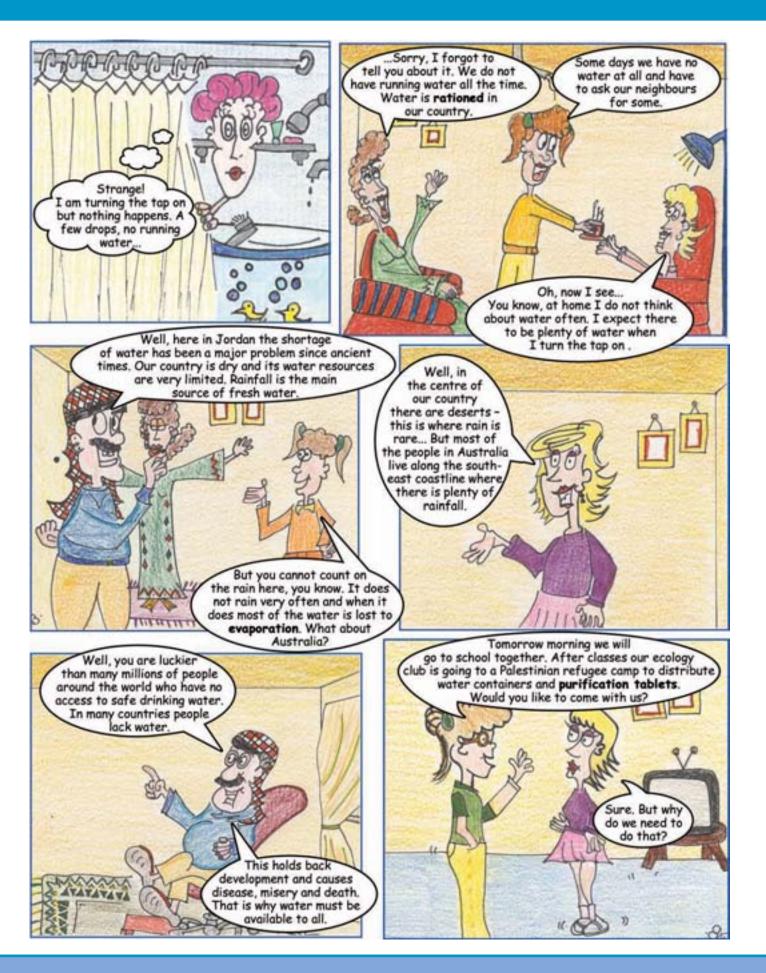




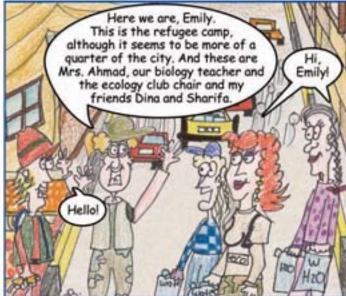












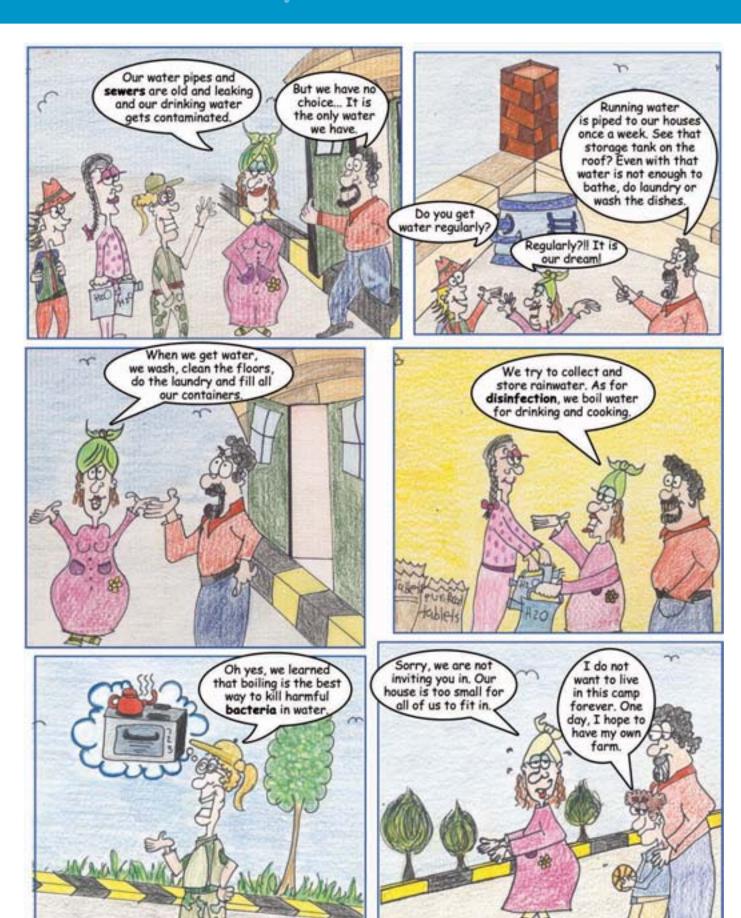






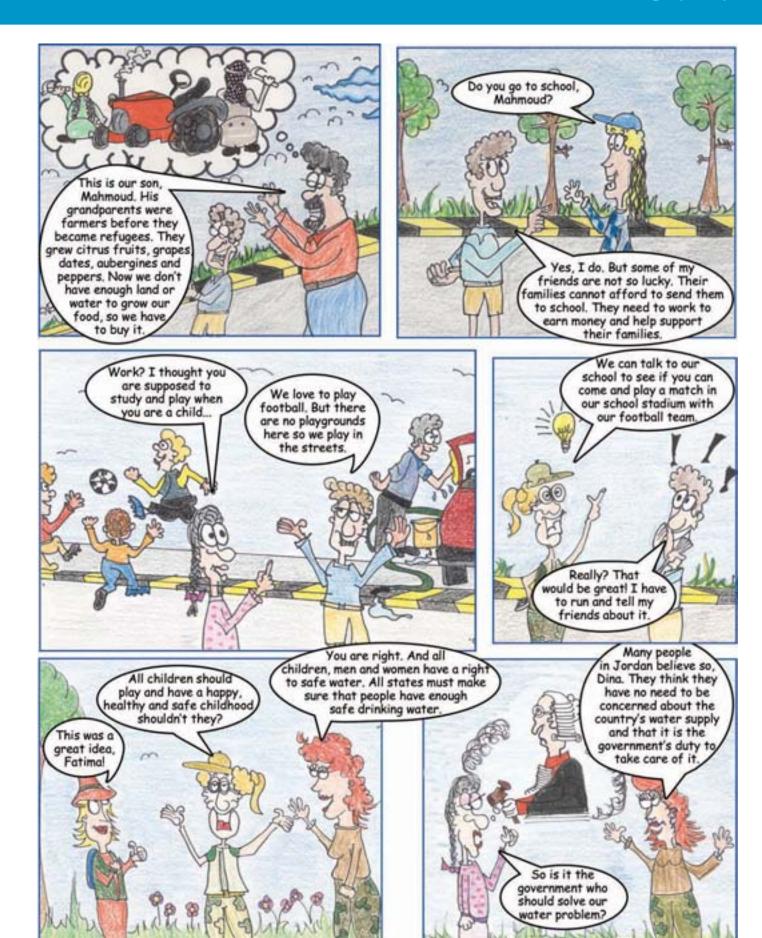


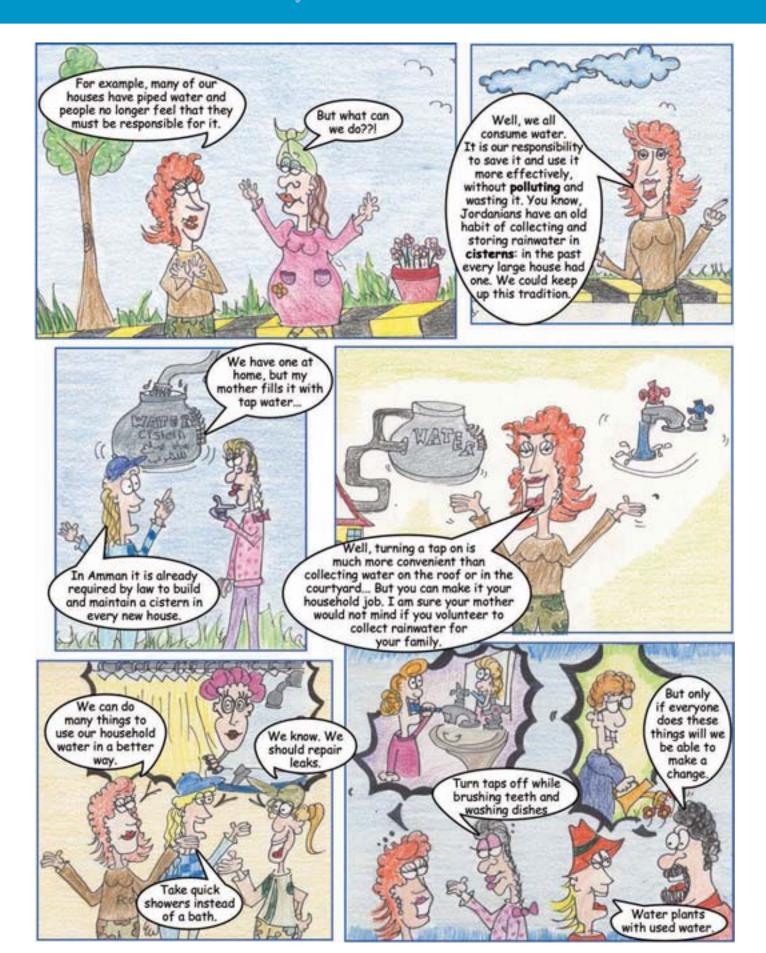
contaminate: to make something unclean or unsafe



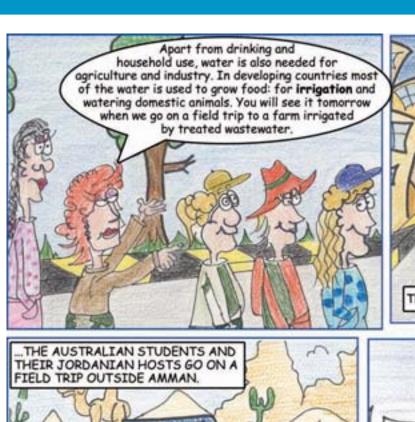
sewer: a pipe that carries away wastewater

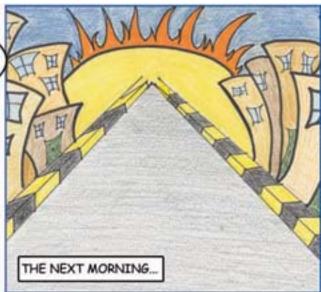
<u>disinfection:</u> water treatment which destroys harmful bacteria <u>bacteria:</u> tiny living things that are not seen but can cause diseases

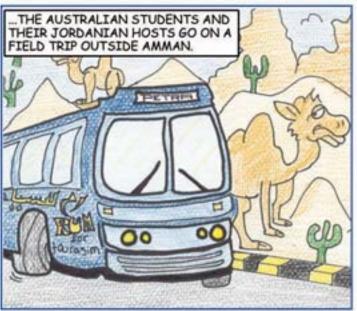




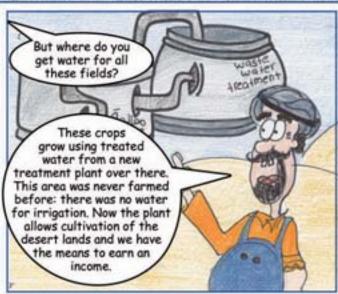
pollute: to release harmful substances into the environment **cistern:** a container used to catch and store rainwater

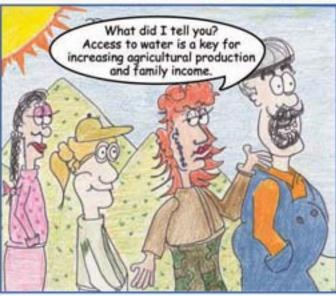














fertilizer: a substance added to soil to make it better for growing plants

pesticide: chemical substance used to kill insects that harm plants

reservoir: a lake, pond, or basin used to store water





Have you thought about...

how daily life changes when there is little clean water?

how Mahmoud's life is different from Fatima's and Emily's?

what Mahmoud's father meant when he said: "But only if everyone uses water wisely will we be able to make a change."?

Is it fair that...

poor communities do not have enough safe, clean water?
some people and industries use water in wasteful ways?





Everyone can do something

Make a water use plan for your family or school and put it into action.

Sierra Leone

Did you know that...

people in emergency situations or recovering from emergencies - such as wars and natural disasters - often do not have enough food. They must be given food and helped to recover by receiving the additional help, care and training they may need to improve their economic resources and rebuild their lives.

This is my country

There are over 5 million people living in Sierra Leone, almost half of whom are children under the age of fourteen.

The country is recovering from the civil war of 1991-2002, when tens of thousands of people died and more than 2 million people (about one-third of the population) were forced to move away from their homes. The war especially affected those in the rural areas, where seventy per cent of the population lives.



Three out of four people live on less than two dollars a day.

One out of two Sierra Leoneans is undernourished. Six out of ten Sierra Leoneans have no access to health services. Four out of five women cannot read and write. Seven out of ten Sierra Leoneans have no safe drinking water.

In 2002, the President of Sierra Leone pledged to do everything in his power to ensure that no Sierra Leonean should go to bed hungry.

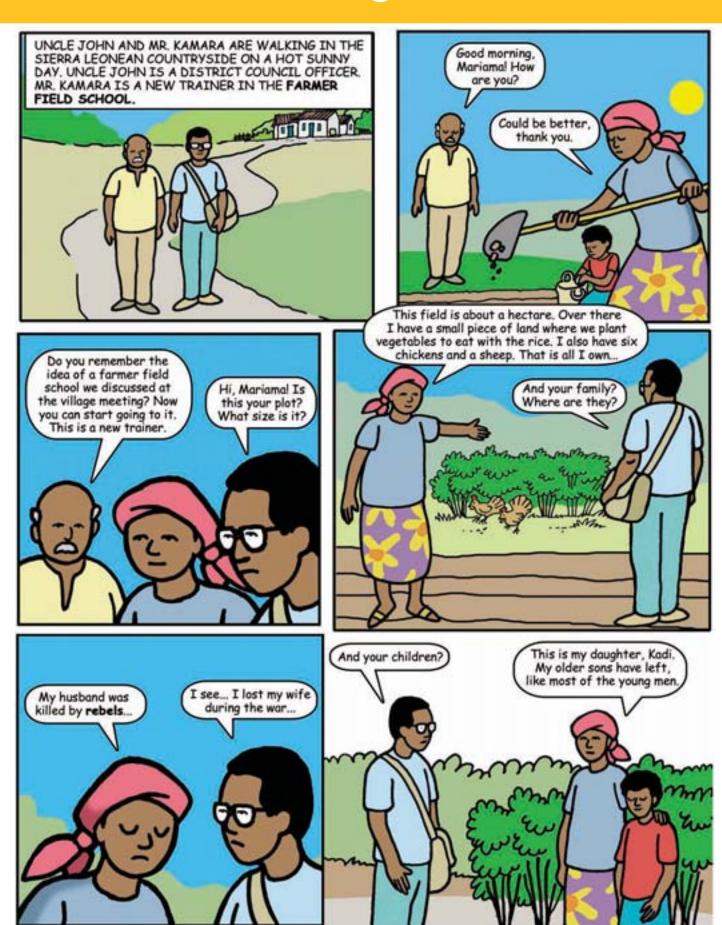
Read my story to find out...



What effect war in our country had on farming and our food supply.

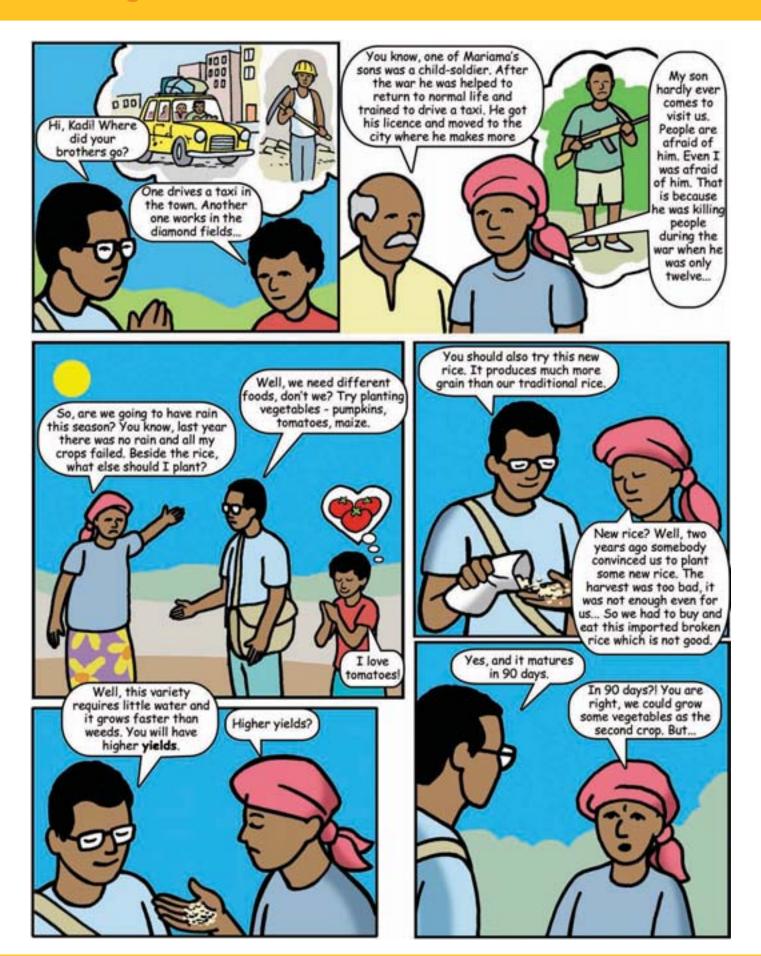
How we rebuilt our lives and got food after the war. How our government can help those of us who have lost everything.

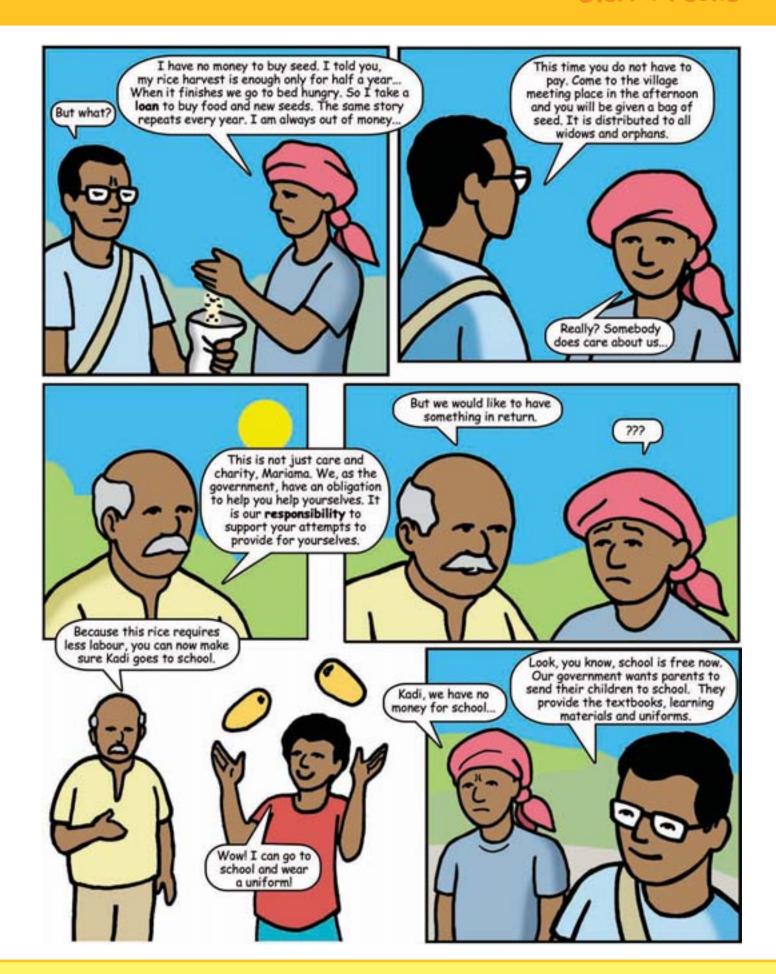
Starting Over



<u>farmer field school</u>: teaching adult farmers new farming practices in the field <u>rebel</u>: a person who fights against authority

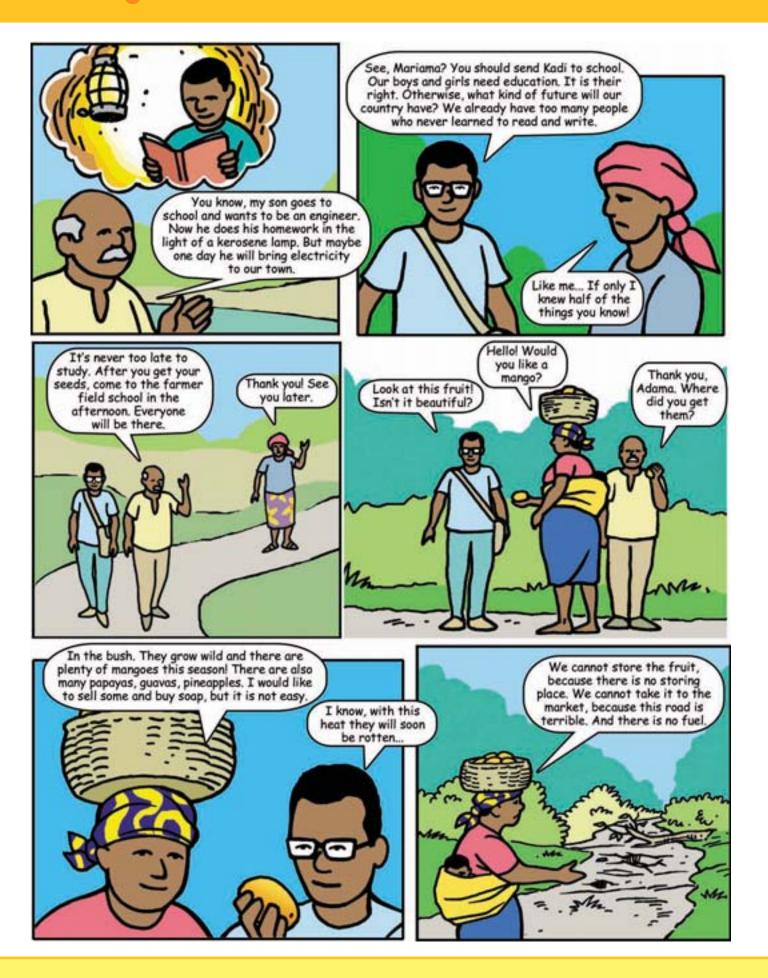
Starting Over

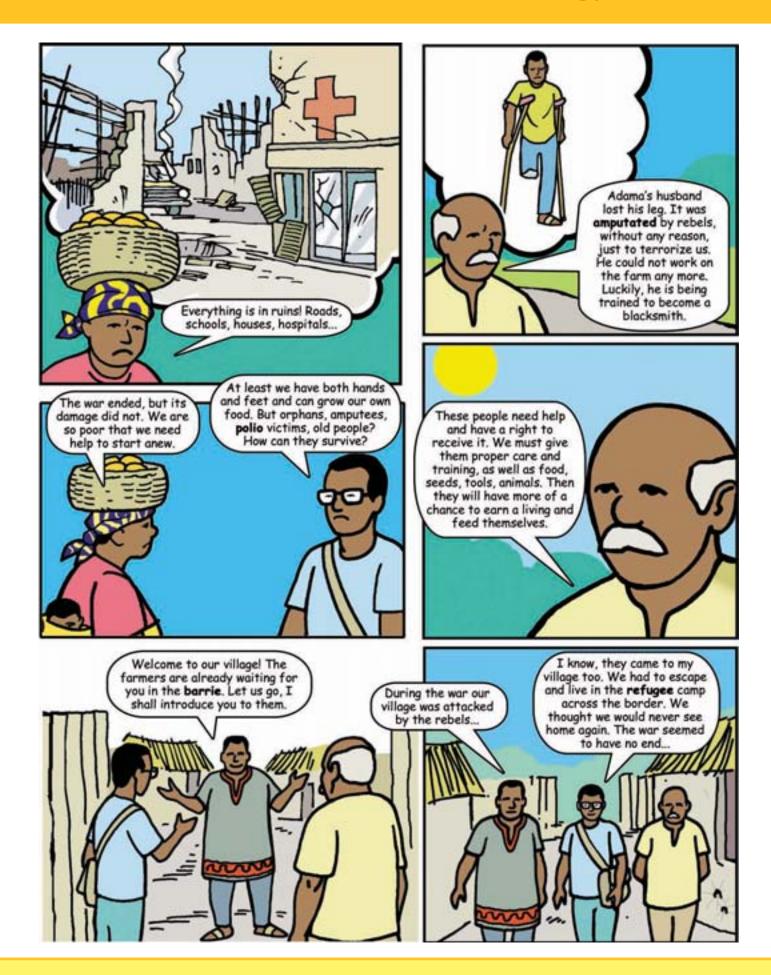




<u>loan:</u> a sum of money borrowed that is usually repaid with interest <u>responsibility:</u> a duty, something for which a person is responsible

Starting Over





amputate: to remove a body part, such as an arm or leg

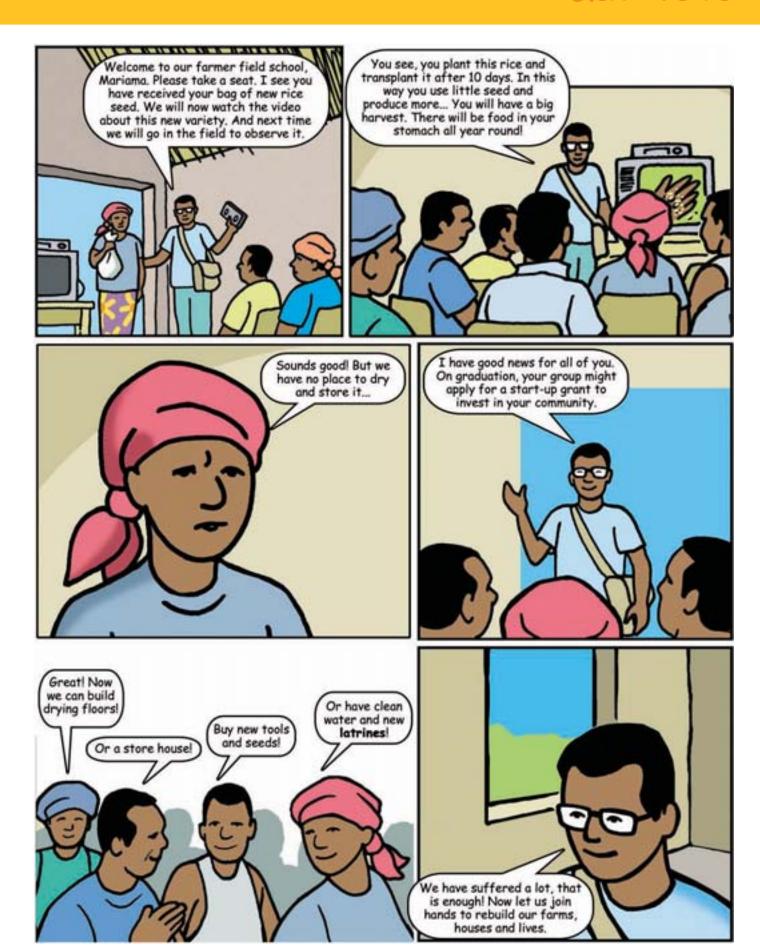
polio: a disease caused by a virus which can lead to paralysis (inability to move)

barrie: a meeting place in an African village

refugee: a person forced to leave home to seek safety or protection in another country

Starting Over





latrine: a specific area used as a toilet

Starting Over







Have you thought about...

what happened to farmers and their families during the war?

why it was a good idea to open a Farmer Field School in the village?

what help people need to recover after a war?

Is it fair that...

people in emergencies should be given free food?

people who have been affected by war should receive extra help, care and training to rebuild their lives?





Everyone can do something

You can gather information about emergencies and talk about how to respond to them at home, with your friends, neighbours, at school.

Uganda



Did you know that...

Girls and women should have full and equal rights, benefits and opportunities. Special attention should be given to the problems that women and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including people affected by HIV/AIDS, face in getting food.

This is my country

There are about 27 million people living in Uganda.

The country is rich in natural resources and produces enough food to feed its population.

However, four out of five people live on less than one dollar a day.

One out of five, or about 4.5 million Ugandans, are hungry. They are the poor, refugees, women and children, orphans and families living with HIV/AIDS.

Food insecurity and poverty are highest in the countryside where nine out of ten people live.

Women in Uganda produce eighty per cent of the food, but have no right to own land.

Over 1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and 880 thousand children are orphaned by it.

Currently, Uganda has a very strong HIV/AIDS prevention campaign and is one of the few countries that has actually reduced the rate of HIV/AIDS infection.



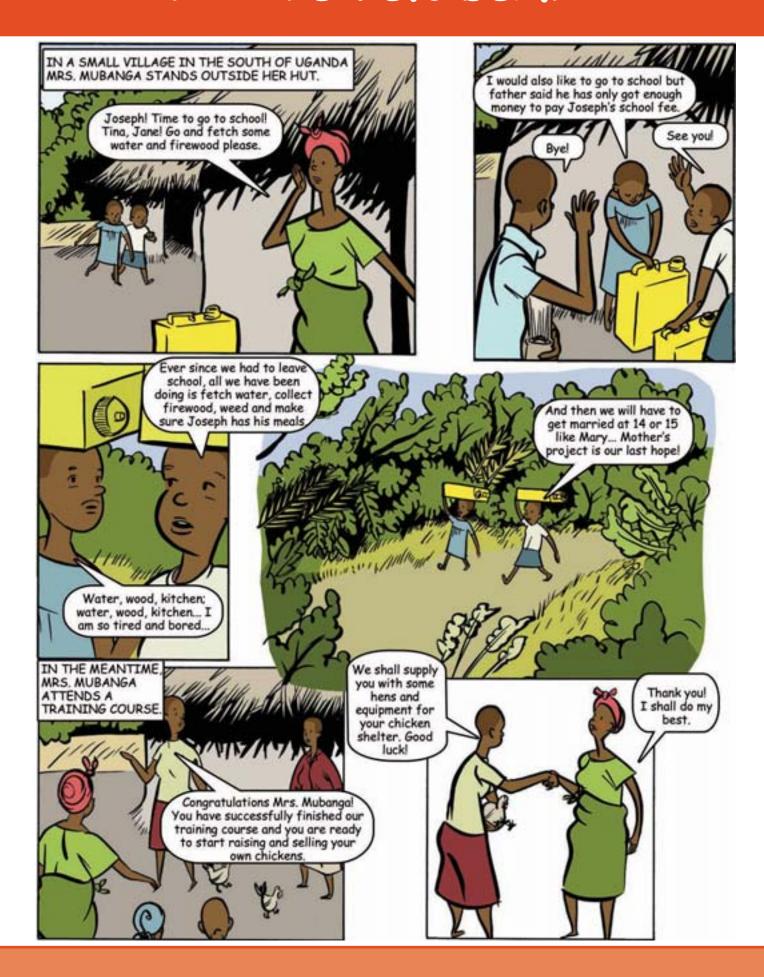
Read our story to find out...



How we got the chance to go to school, just like our brother.

What we did to warn our community about the dangers of HIV/AIDS.

How good nutrition and health care can help people with HIV/AIDS.

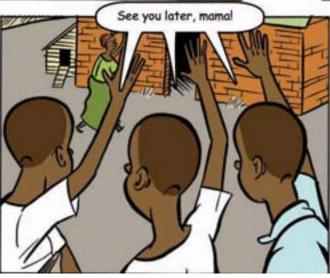














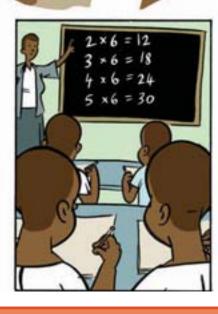


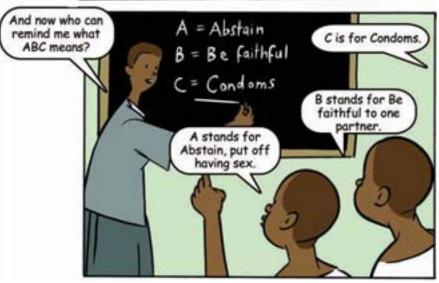




Lisa and Jiml Go and wash your faces and hands with soap, please. And remember to do so before eating and after using the latrines. By the way, who is on duty

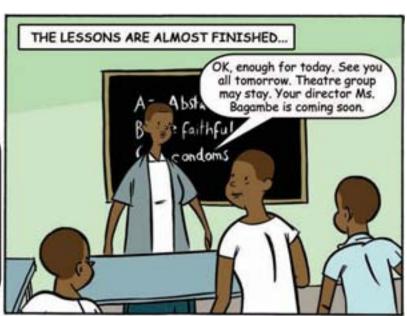






latrine: a specific area used as a toilet







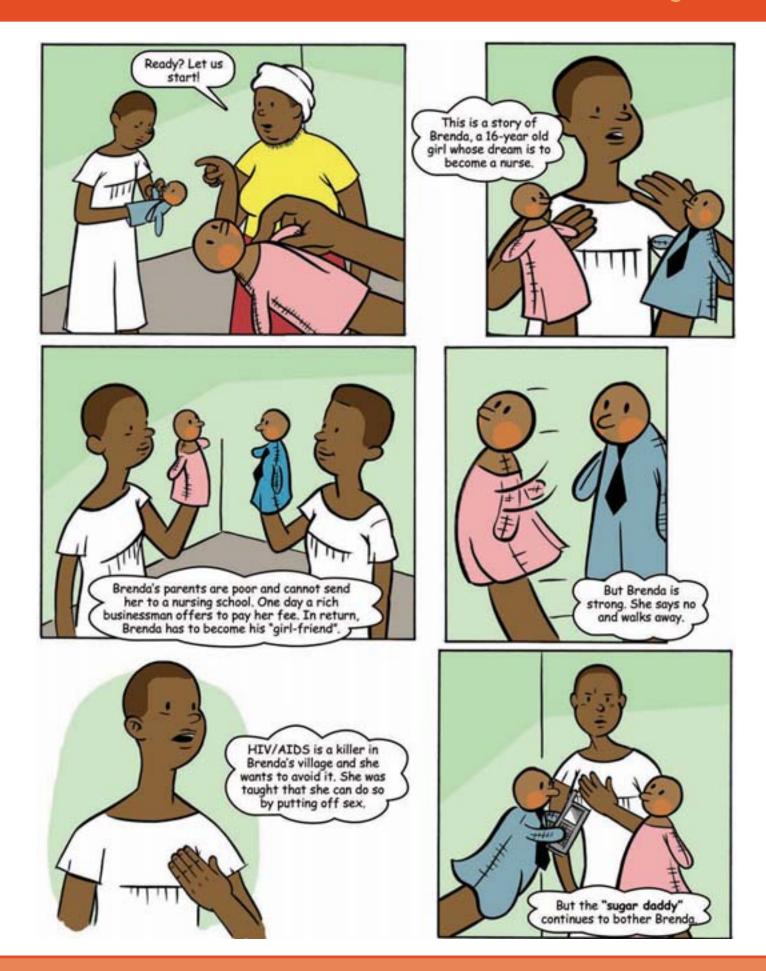






HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus - infection which may cause AIDS

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome - a group of diseases caused by HIV infection



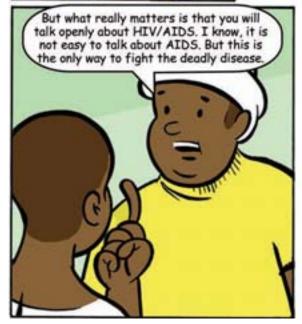
<u>sugar daddy:</u> a wealthy older man who gives a young person expensive gifts in return for friendship or sex



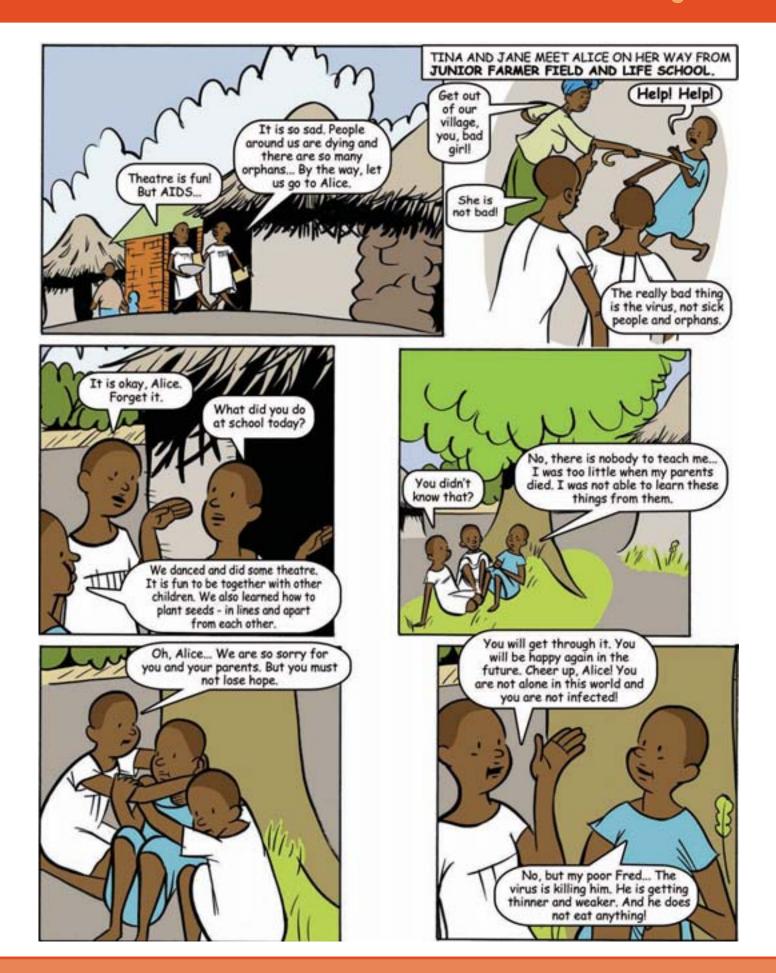


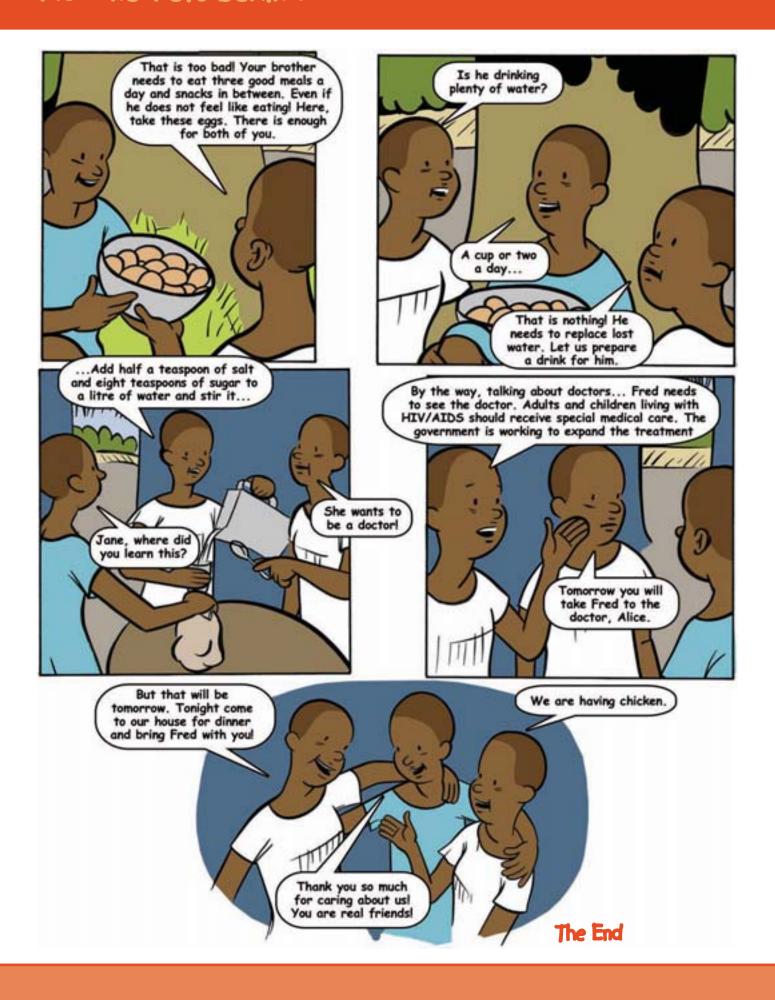












So, what do YOU think?



Have you thought about...

how mother's project changed the life of Tina and Jane's family?

how going to school can help Tina and Jane have a better future?

Is it fair that...

women have fewer chances than men to go to school, own land, inherit property, get a loan?

some girls have to sell their bodies and risk getting HIV/AIDS in order to survive?





Everyone can do something

Find someone near you who needs help and support and do what you can to help them.

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Uganda

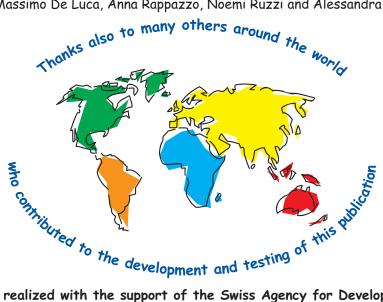
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BRAZIL

When Paula, Davi, their teacher and classmates go to Vila Esperança, they see with their own eyes the lives of people living in poverty with little food and poor housing. They hear their stories and discover what can be done to help.

CANADA

Sara, Tommy and Sam find an ancient arrowhead that leads them to discover how Aboriginal people were forced off their land and had to change their ways of getting food. Together with their grandfather, they meet a community group who are planting a vegetable garden to help provide more food for the neighbourhood.

INDIA

A group of citizens try to get the government to distribute stored food to the poor. This leads to free mid-day meals for schoolchildren provided by the government. Kaushik and Gayatri can concentrate better in school now that they are not studying with an empty stomach.

INDONESIA

Jusaf visits the village of his cousins only to find that the food and life of the community have changed because of deforestation and pollution of the river. Together, the cousins learn the value of nature for their community and how they can help the land to recover.

ITALY

For their school work, Anna and her teenage friends interview shoppers at a supermarket, grocery store and an open-air market about their food choices. Together they learn about healthy eating and life-styles. Later, Anna tests what she has learned at the dinner table.

JORDAN

When Emily arrives in Jordan from Australia, she learns about the importance of water for food and life. Together with her host Fatima, she visits a refugee camp and a farm, and realises the importance of safe water for people, agriculture and industry.

SIERRA LEONE

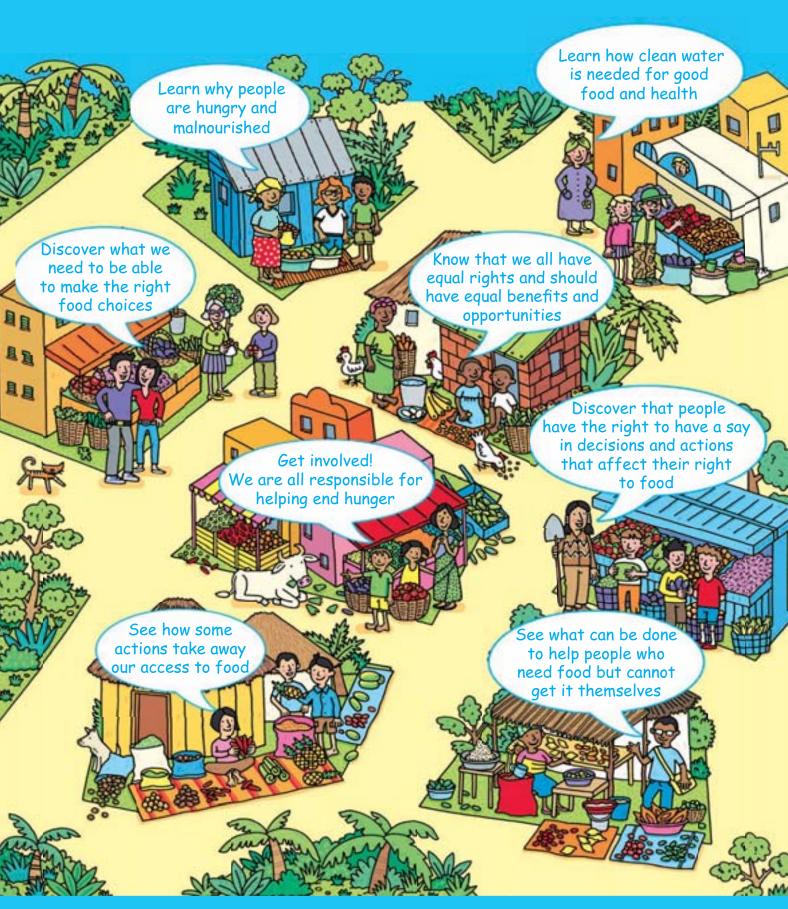
Life is not easy after the war. Mariama's husband has died and Adama's husband has lost his leg. With help and training, they are able to take over the farming to provide food for their children and rebuild their lives.

UGANDA

Tina and Jane want to go to school like their brother Joseph, but their help is needed at home. Thanks to their mother's chicken production and a new water point, they are able to return to school, where they learn some lessons that they share with others.



Read our stories about everyone's right to have enough food to eat every day



For further information:

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