

SILPI'S STORY

Water Water everywhere



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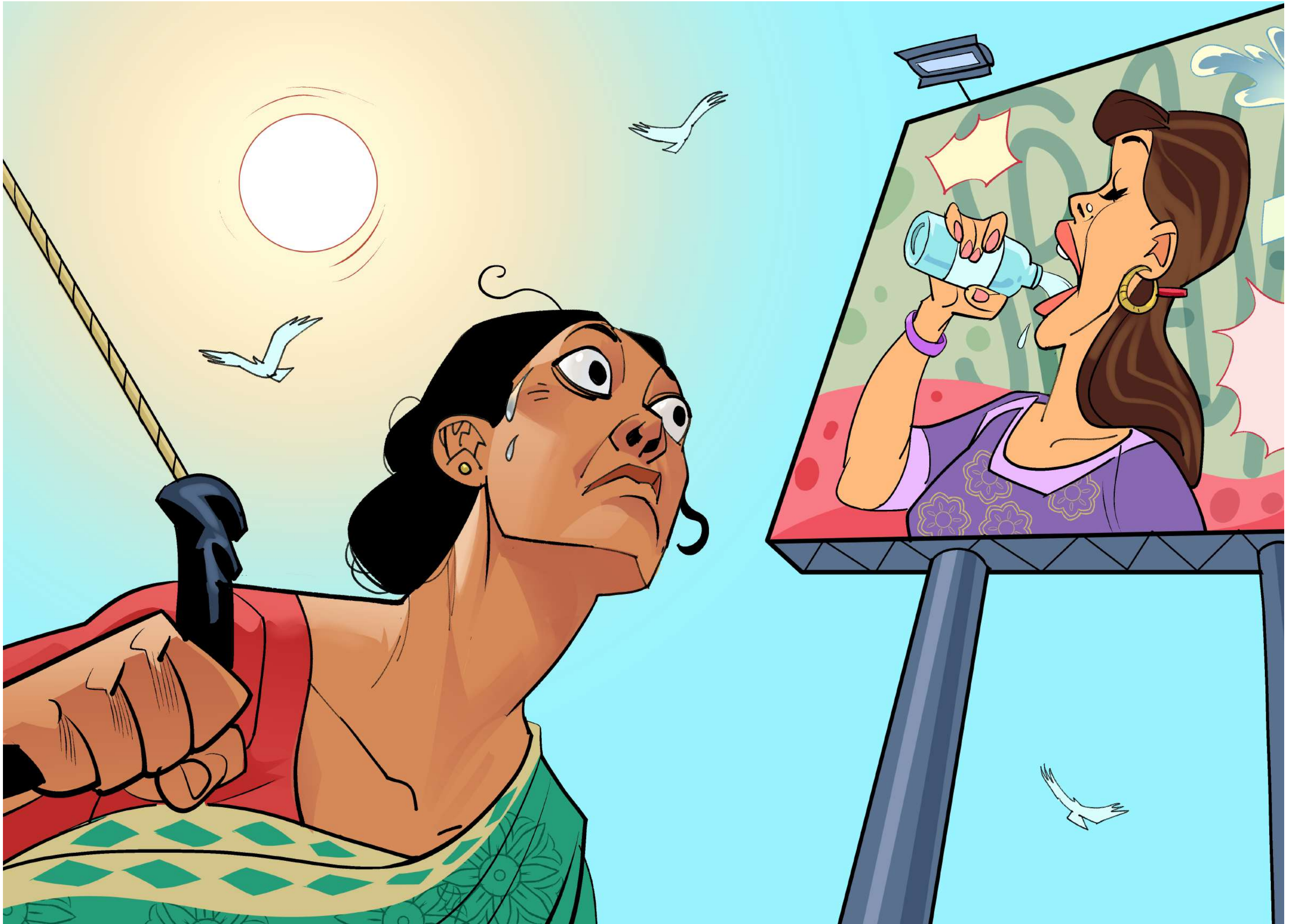
Meet Silpi. Each day she fishes on the Pashur river. She is surrounded by water.
Water water everywhere but not a drop to drink.



Silpi lives in the Signal Tower Colony. A community of climate-induced migrants.



She has recently been widowed So each day she must support her 1.5 year old son and autistic daughter.



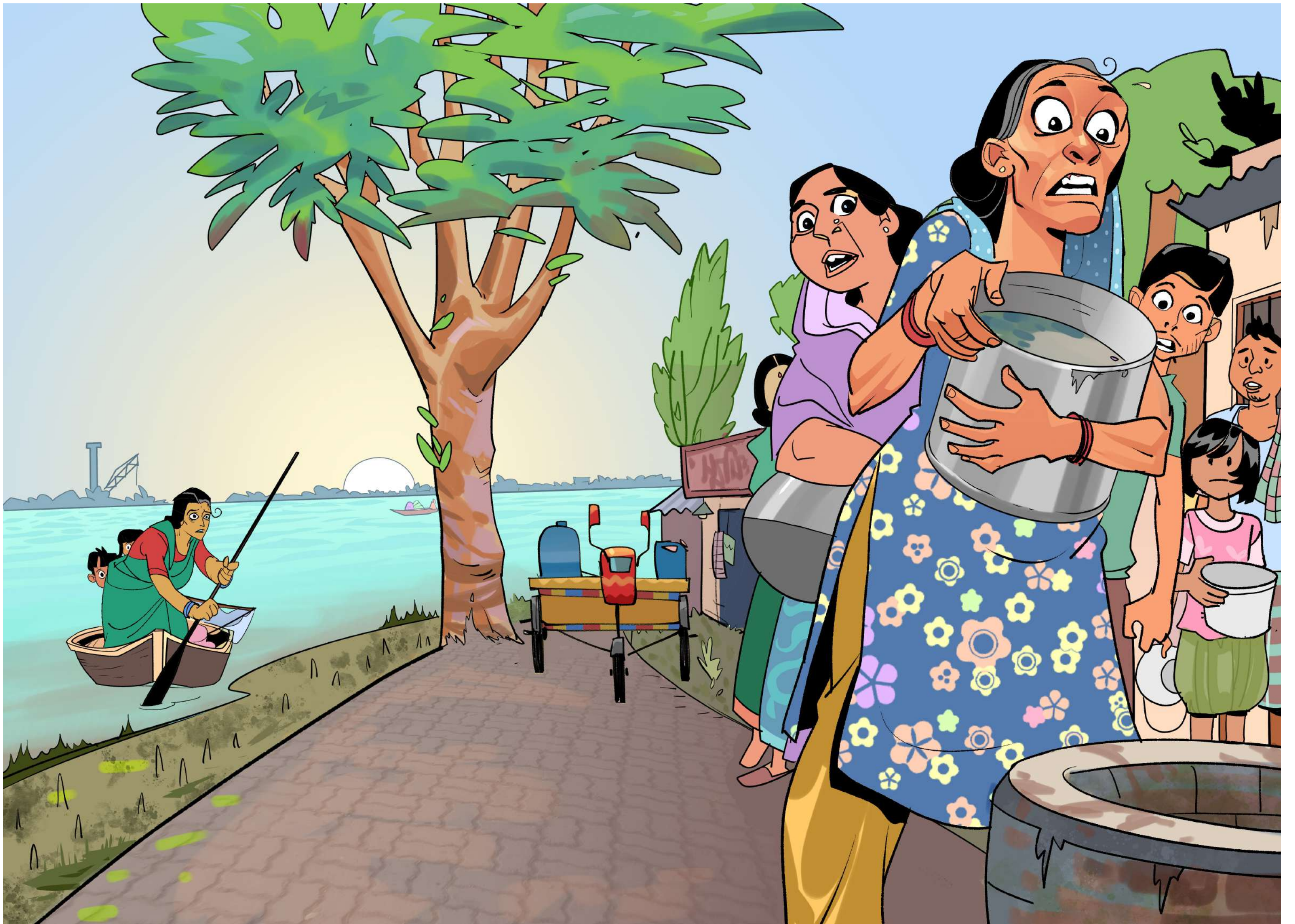
slaving away under the hot sun. There are many things standing between Silpi and a cool, clean glass of water



There's a rainwater harvest pond... but it's more than an hour away



The water vendors sell water... but she cannot afford the charge.



There are two common water points... but the water is not drinkable and often needs purifying.



Plus the supply is low and the water points are only accessible for a short time in the morning and afternoon. Those who can't get water within the assigned time have to return empty-handed.



There's a pond... But it's saline and the water is contaminated.



It gets even worse in summer and when storms and high tides ruin the water quality.



Government and non-government organisations have given out a few rainwater harvesting tanks,



.. but they are expensive and require space which few have, so there are not enough



A legal water connection would only be available for a short time in the morning and afternoon and would cost the dwellers around US\$ 40... which they can't afford.



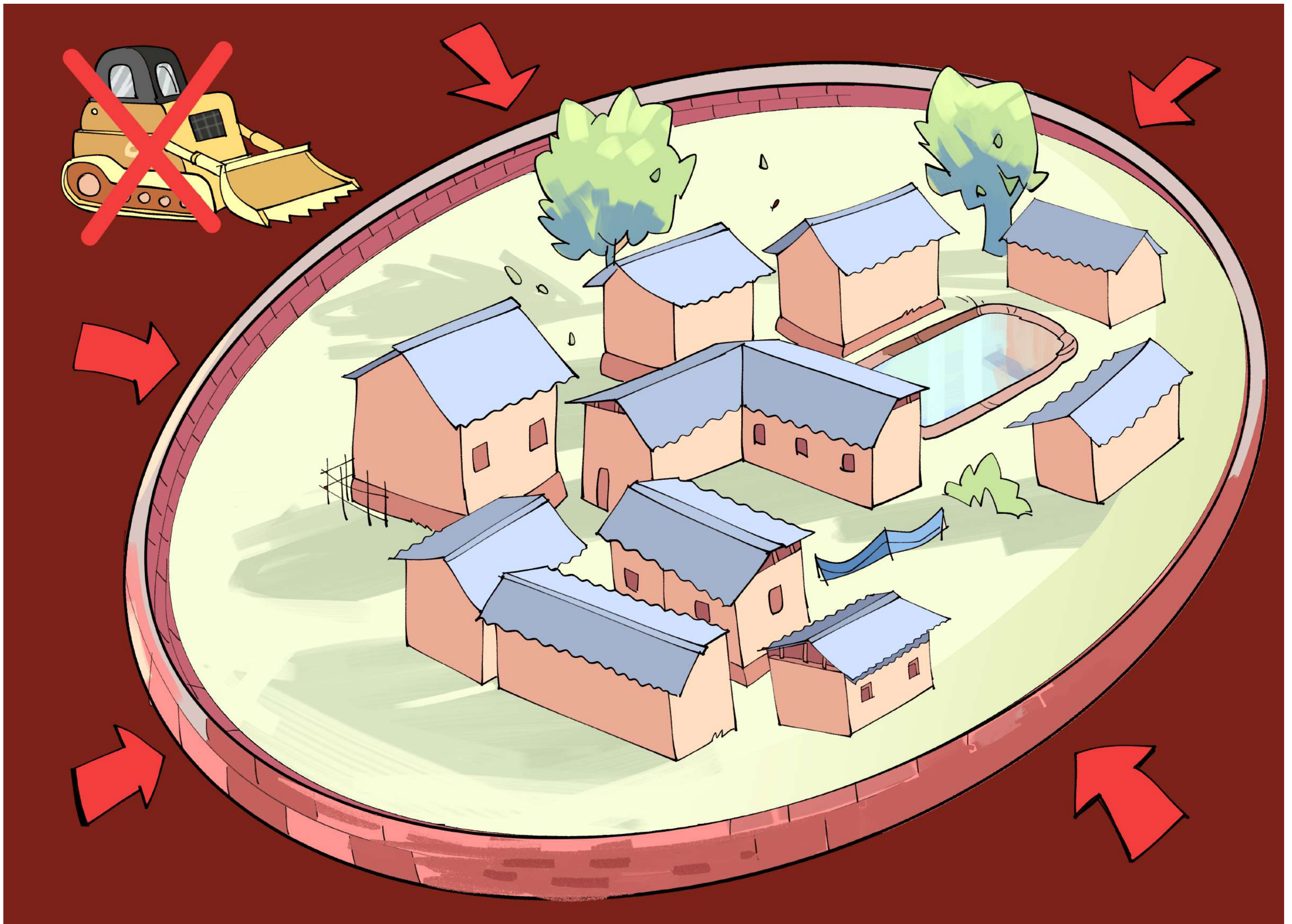
Signal Tower Colony residents are scared of spending such a huge amount, as they lack land ownership and face eviction at any time.



So what should be done to solve their water problems? The most inclusive solution would be if the local government or municipal authority charges less for connecting the community and for the monthly water bill.



In addition a rainwater harvesting pond would help the residents. If they get assistance from the government and non-government service providers.



Plus tenure security would enable them to invest in the water source and stay in the area.



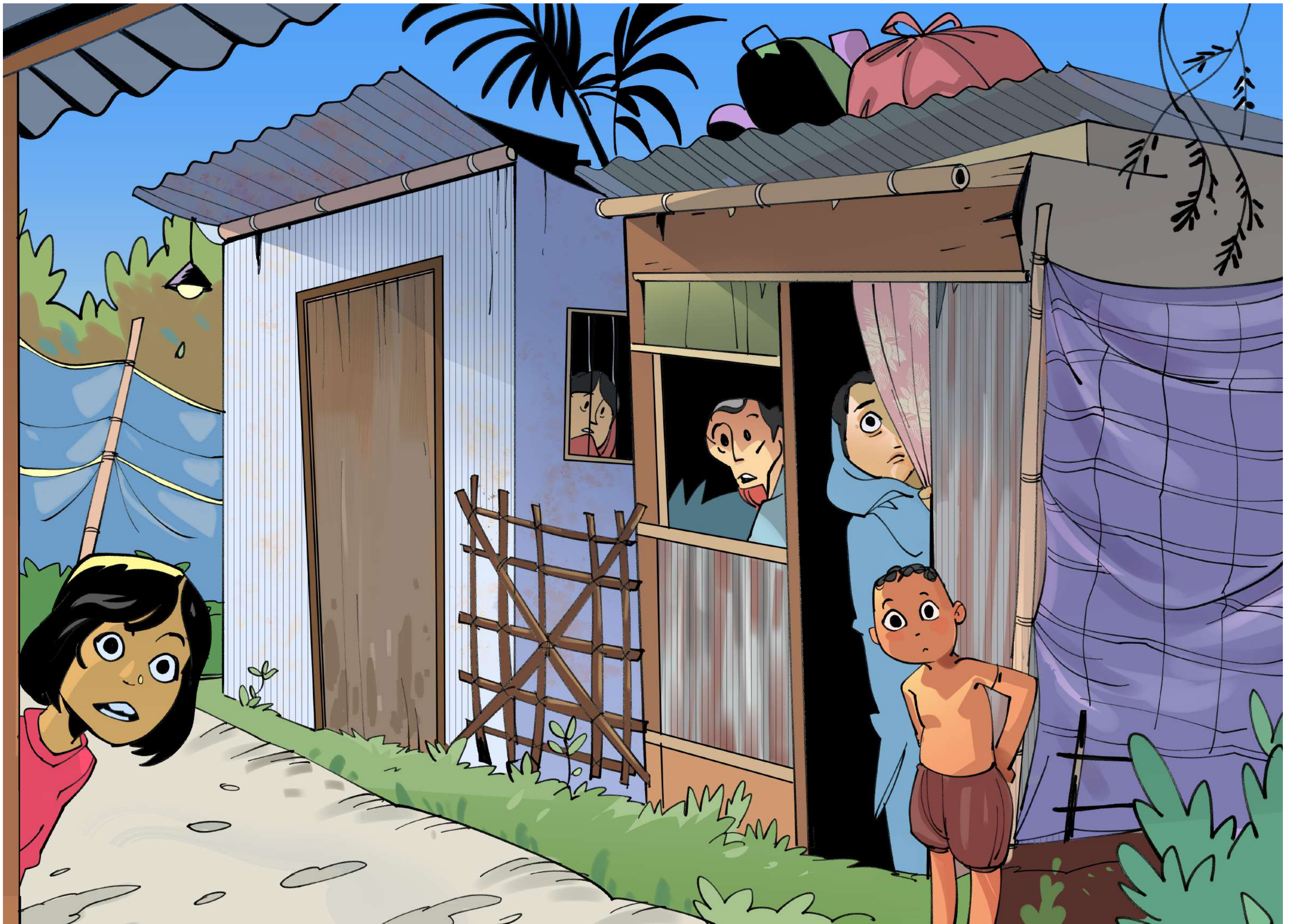
Another solution would be to provide a rainwater harvesting tank for each individual. It would mean a sizable investment from each resident. But if government and non-government services provide them at around 95% of the total, the residents could bear the rest of the cost.



Alternatively, the community could separate into community groups, each serviced by a rainwater harvest tank.



The major costs would need to be provided by government and non-government service providers and the community would share around 10% of the total cost.



But once again, this solution would require tenure security.
The community faced eviction attempts in both 2008 and 2019.



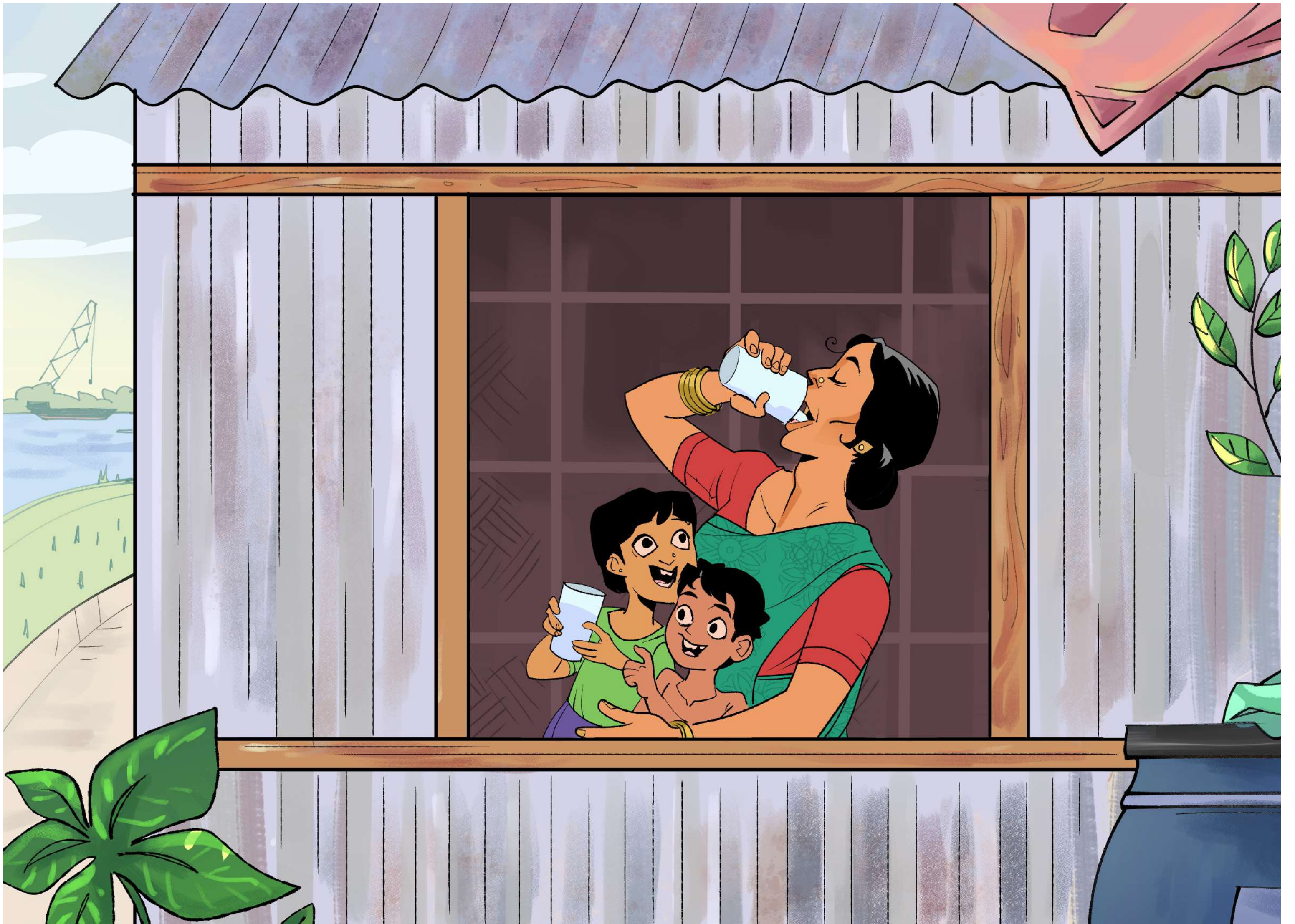
With no where else to go, they formed a mass movement Rising up and demanding that the municipality mayor protected them from eviction.



He agreed and also improved access to electricity and safer roads.



Silpi and her community now need access to clean, safe water.



It is a human right that no one should be without.



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

