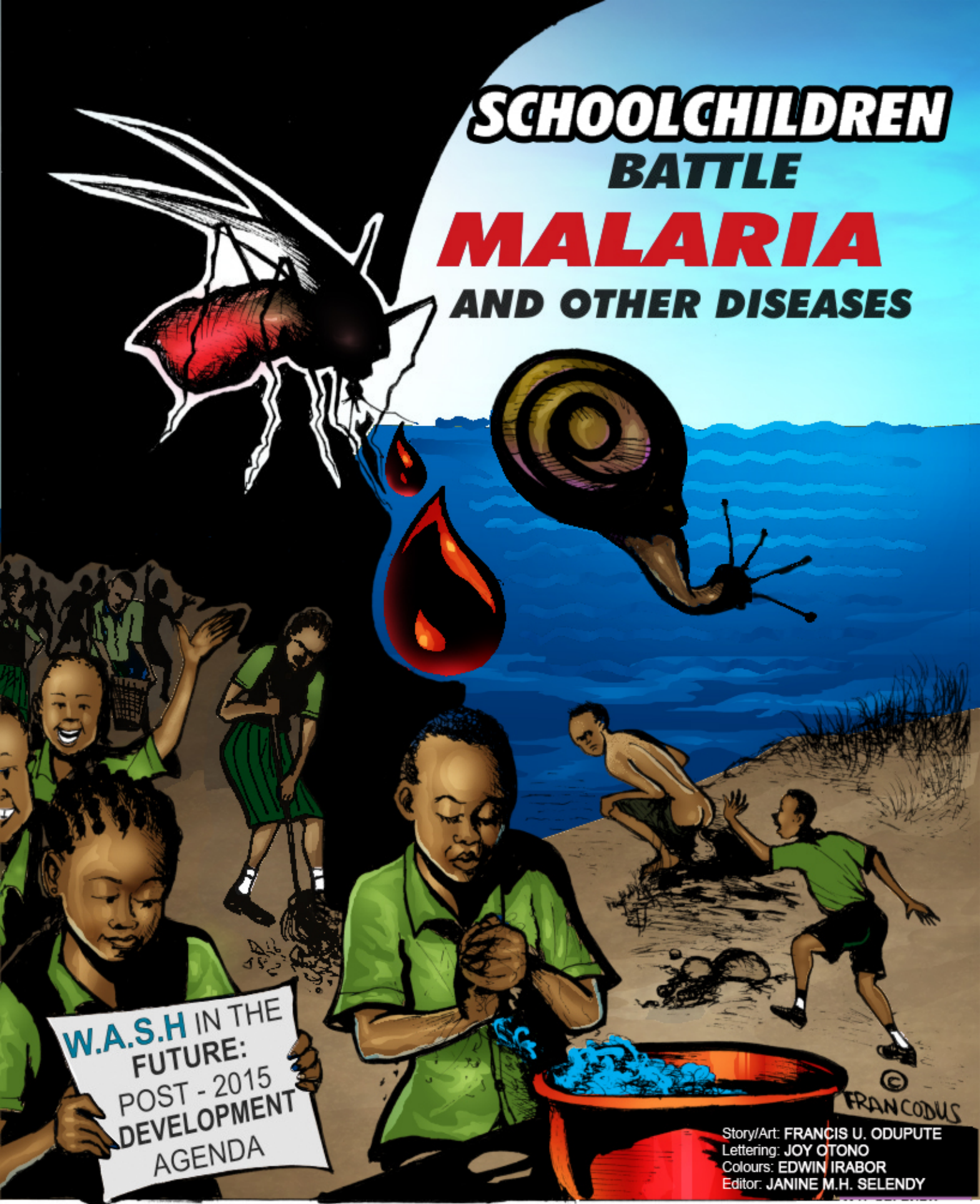


SCHOOLCHILDREN BATTLE MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES



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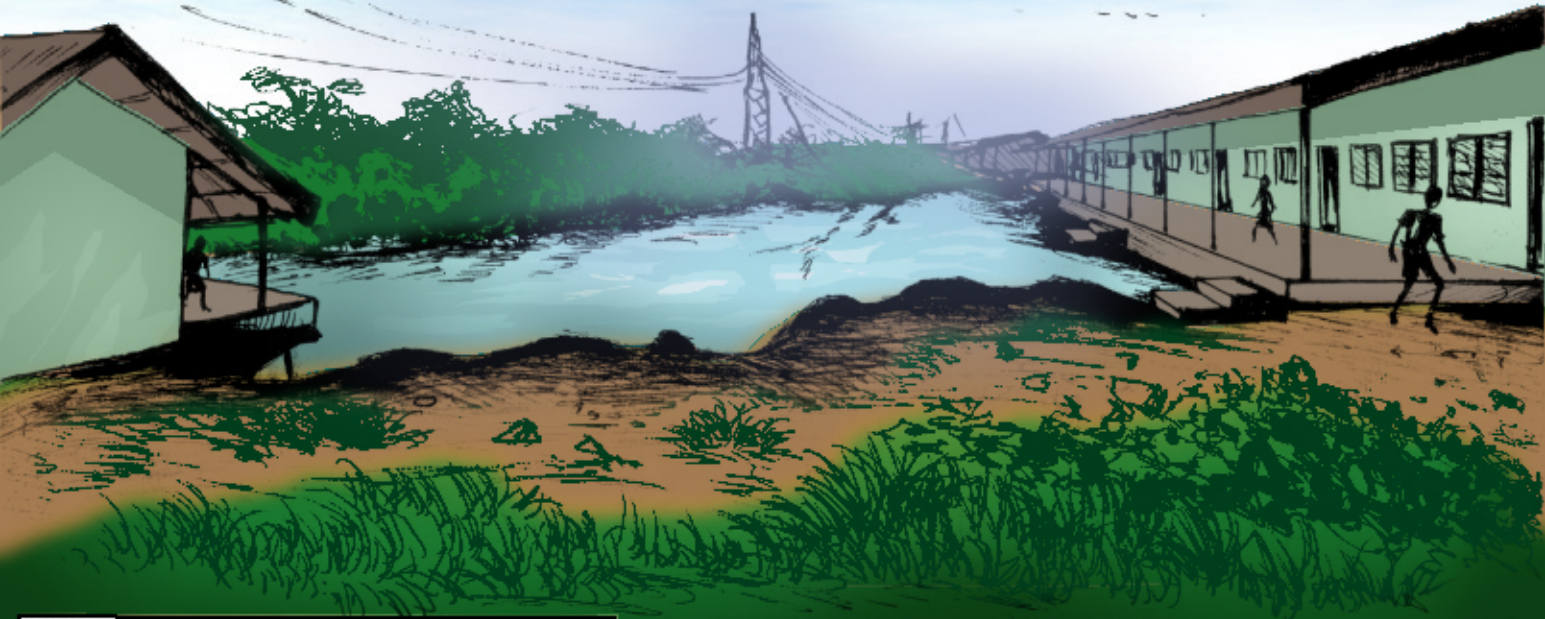
WASH4All

Comic Book Series
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WELCOME TO **EBOKU COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL**, SOMEWHERE IN A REMOTE PART OF **AFRICA**. IT'S A HUMID AND MUGGY MONDAY MORNING. AS USUAL, ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES GO ON SMOOTHLY, DESPITE THE **FLOODED AND SMELLY SCHOOLYARD**... HOWEVER, ALL IS NOT WELL...



IN ONE OF THE CLASSES...



...DAN EBO!

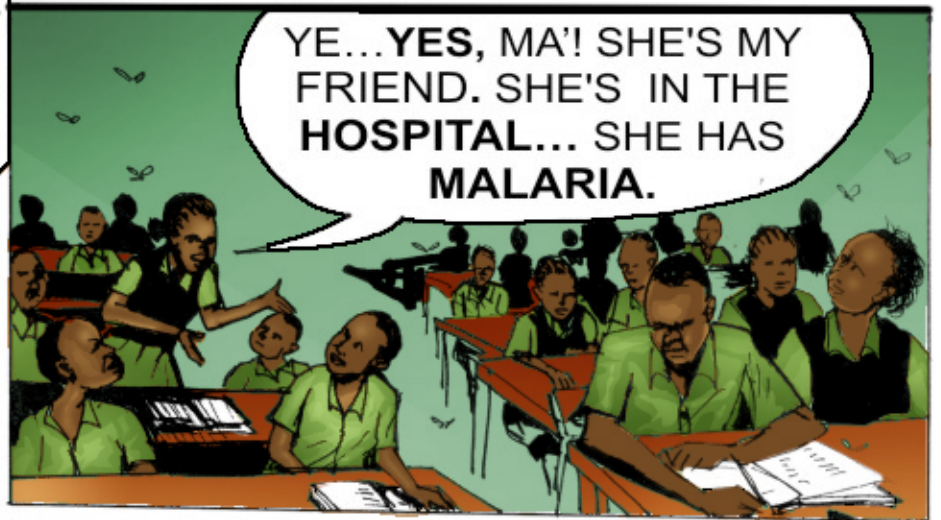
... PRESENT MA'AM.



... KATE OTUTU!

SHE'S ABSENT MA'...

THAT GIRL HAS BEEN AWAY FROM **SCHOOL** FOR TOO LONG ... DOES ANYONE **KNOW** WHY?



YE...YES, MA! SHE'S MY FRIEND. SHE'S IN THE **HOSPITAL**... SHE HAS **MALARIA**.

MALARIA IS A DANGEROUS DISEASE CAUSED BY A PARASITE TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOES, A DISEASE VECTOR. EVERY YEAR, OVER 600,000 PEOPLE DIE FROM MALARIA...ESPECIALLY CHILDREN UNDER 5 AND PREGNANT WOMEN IN TROPICAL AFRICA. 3.4 BILLION PEOPLE, ALMOST HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, IS AT RISK.

IN ANOTHER CLASS, SAME SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE TRYING TO LEARN MATHS, WHILE BEING ATTACKED BY MOSQUITOES.



SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE STUDENTS BEGINS TO THROW UP IN CLASS...



BEN!... ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT'S THAT NOISE ABOUT? HUH!...



...ARE YOU ILL, BEN?

GET UP AND GO OUTSIDE. ANN, PLEASE HELP HIM.



BEN IS LED OUT OF THE CLASS BY ANN WHO WATCHES HIM VOMIT AND COUGH PAINFULLY...



SORRY! ...IS YOUR STOMACH ACHING TOO?

NOPE! ...I JUST FEEL COLD*...

OUR SCHOOL IS FLOODED ALL YEAR ROUND... WE COME TO SCHOOL EVEN WHEN WE ARE SICK WITH CHILLS AND FEVER; THERE ARE MOSQUITOES EVERYWHERE... ALWAYS AT THE MERCY OF RUTHLESS MOSQUITOES: WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE GET MALARIA?...



... BESIDES THAT, WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A SCHOOL TOILET OR SOURCE OF CLEAN WATER FOR US TO USE. WHY ISN'T EVERYONE SICK FROM SOME DISEASE OR OTHER?

* FEELING COLD IN A HOT CLIMATE COULD BE A SYMPTOM OF MALARIA. OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDE HEADACHE, VOMITING, HIGH FEVERS...

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD,
**WATER SCARCITY AND A CULTURE THAT FAILS TO
RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SANITATION AND
HYGIENE CALLS THE SHOTS...**



...**EKU RIVER** IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF **WATER** IN **EBOKU COMMUNITY**. MANY **TRADITIONS** ARE FOLLOWED: SOME GOOD AND SOME BAD...

...FOR EXAMPLE, IT'S A **TRADITION** AT THIS PRECIOUS RIVER THAT **DRINKING WATER** BE FETCHED ONLY FROM THE **UPPER SIDE** FROM WHERE THE WATER FLOWS OUT OF THE **ROCKS**...

...IT IS ALSO A **TRADITION** THAT BATHING, **WASHING**, RELIGIOUS RITUALS, ETC, BE CARRIED OUT ONLY AT THE **LOWER END** OF THE RIVER...

ALAS! OTHER **HABITS** AND **TRADITIONS** GO ON AT THE RIVERSIDE MOSTLY **UN-NOTICED**. **OPEN DEFECATION** IS ONE...

MALARIA IS NOT THE ONLY DISEASE EBOKU PEOPLE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT. THERE ARE MANY OTHER DISEASES PEOPLE GET WHEN THEIR ENVIRONMENT IS NOT HEALTHY. LET'S LISTEN AS WOMEN MEET TO DO THEIR LAUNDRY...

...TWO WOMEN HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE RIVER THAT DAY. ON THEIR WAY, THEY GOSSIP ABOUT VARIOUS PEOPLE...

... I EVEN HEARD THAT MARY AND HER HUSBAND WERE RUSHED TO THE HEALTH CENTER...

...AND THAT THEY WERE BOTH DIAGNOSED WITH A DISEASE CALLED "TRACHOMA" ...A DISEASE LINKED TO POOR SANITATION AND FACIAL CLEANLINESS... CARRIED BY FLIES... IT CAN SPREAD FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER. IF NOT TREATED, IT CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS.

...THE LATEST WORD IS THEY ARE GOING BLIND...

...NO SOONER HAD TITI AND ROSE ARRIVED AT THE RIVER TO WASH CLOTHES, WHEN CHILDREN CAME RUNNING DOWN TO SWIM... SOME COMING FROM THE COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL...

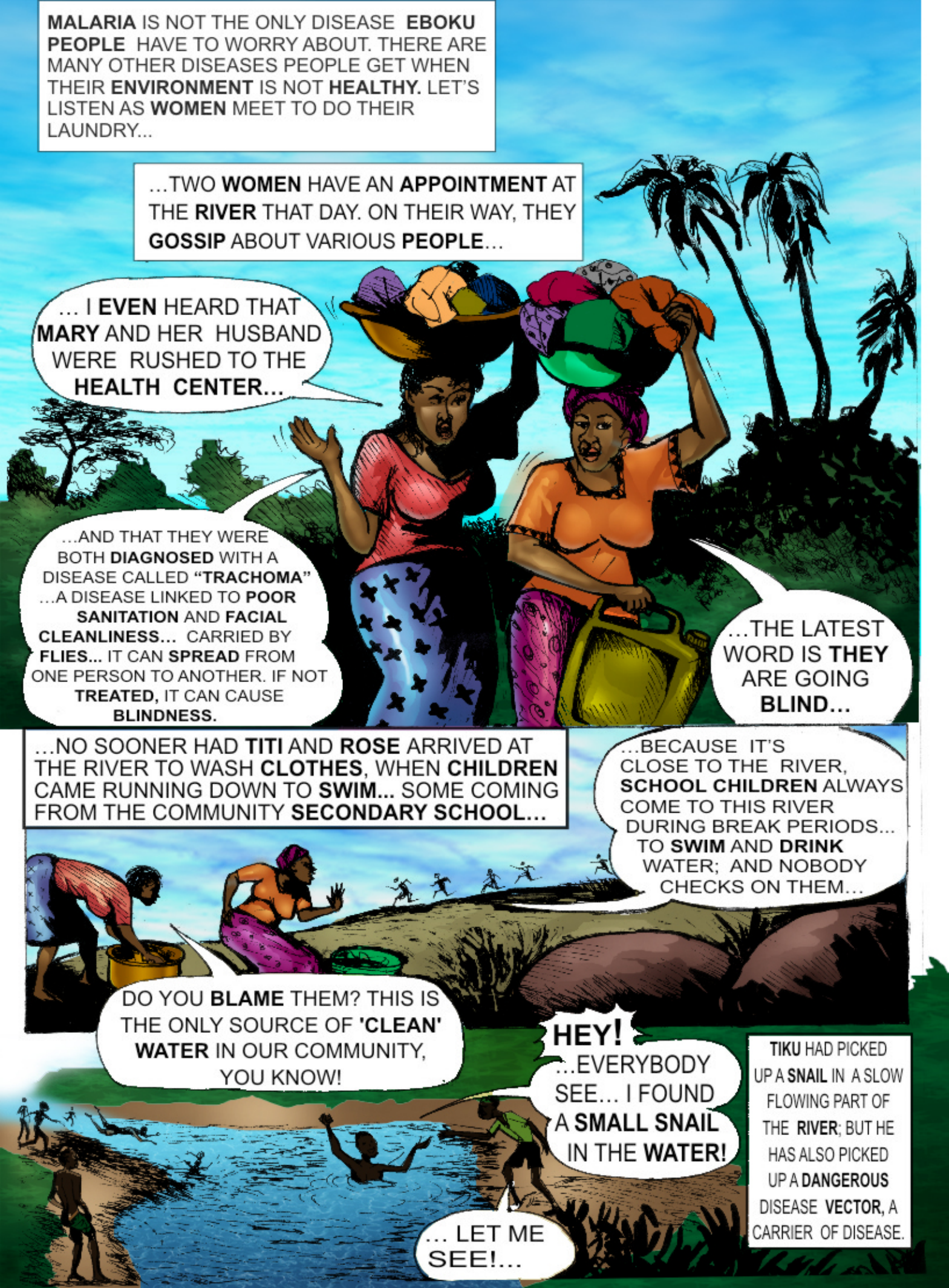
...BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE TO THE RIVER, SCHOOL CHILDREN ALWAYS COME TO THIS RIVER DURING BREAK PERIODS... TO SWIM AND DRINK WATER; AND NOBODY CHECKS ON THEM...

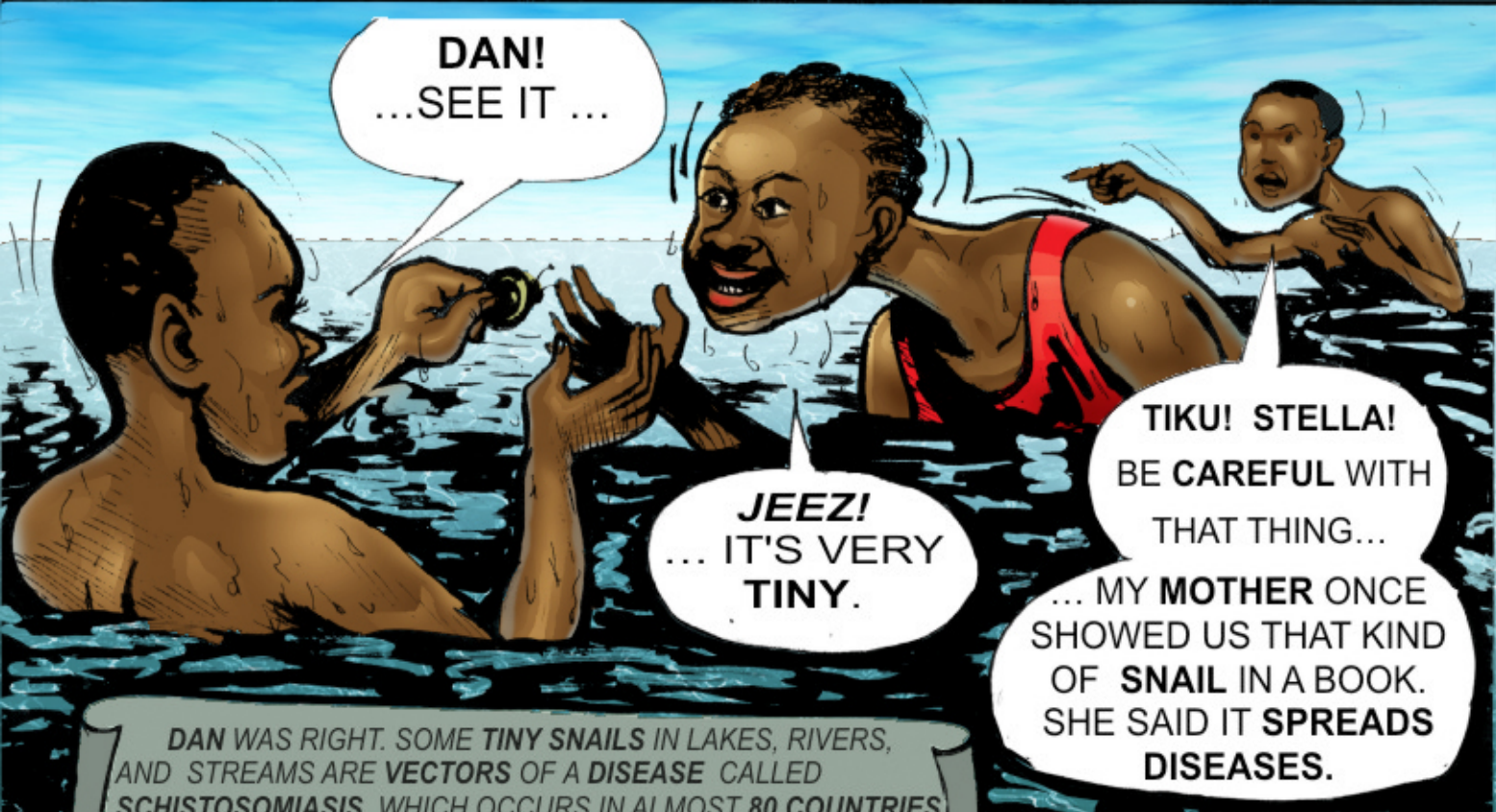
DO YOU BLAME THEM? THIS IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF 'CLEAN' WATER IN OUR COMMUNITY, YOU KNOW!

HEY! ...EVERYBODY SEE... I FOUND A SMALL SNAIL IN THE WATER!

TIKU HAD PICKED UP A SNAIL IN A SLOW FLOWING PART OF THE RIVER; BUT HE HAS ALSO PICKED UP A DANGEROUS DISEASE VECTOR, A CARRIER OF DISEASE.

... LET ME SEE!...





DAN!
...SEE IT ...

JEEZ!
... IT'S VERY
TINY.

TIKU! STELLA!
BE CAREFUL WITH
THAT THING...
... MY MOTHER ONCE
SHOWED US THAT KIND
OF SNAIL IN A BOOK.
SHE SAID IT SPREADS
DISEASES.

DAN WAS RIGHT. SOME TINY SNAILS IN LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS ARE VECTORS OF A DISEASE CALLED SCHISTOSOMIASIS, WHICH OCCURS IN ALMOST 80 COUNTRIES ...IN AFRICA, ASIA AND THE AMERICAS. THE SNAIL'S LARVAE ARE RELEASED INTO THE WATER... THEY PENETRATE THE HUMAN SKIN, AND INFECT THE BODY...

...WITHIN DAYS AFTER BECOMING INFECTED, YOU MAY DEVELOP A RASH OR ITCHY SKIN. FEVER, CHILLS, COUGH, AND MUSCLE ACHES CAN BEGIN WITHIN 1 TO 2 MONTHS OF INFECTION. MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO SYMPTOMS AT THIS EARLY PHASE OF INFECTION, SO THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THEY ARE INFECTED.

SO, WE SEE THAT THERE ARE **MANY RISKS** FROM DRINKING AND PLAYING IN AND AROUND THIS COMMUNITY'S DRINKING WATER SOURCE. NOW, WE'LL RETURN TO **MALARIA** AT THE **SCHOOL**...

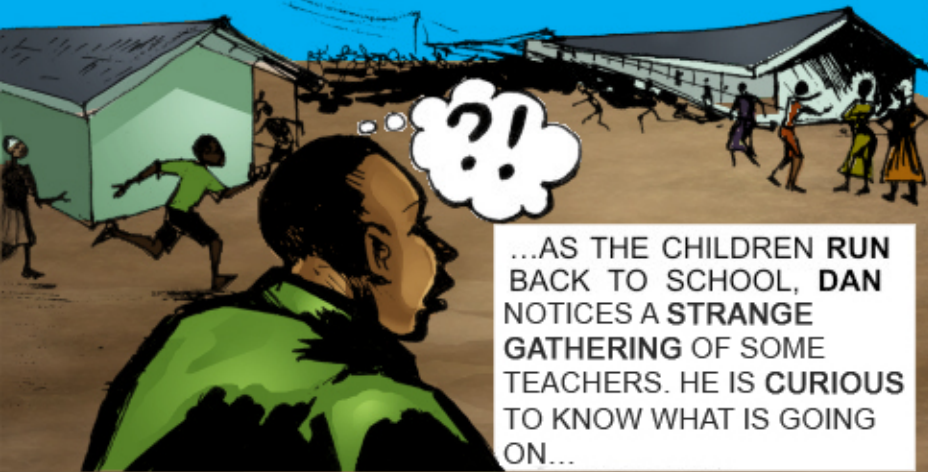


...HIDING BEHIND THE SCHOOL WALLS, HE **OVERHEARS** THE **TEACHERS' CONVERSATIONS**...



...THE **PARENTS** JUST LEFT AFTER BREAKING THE NEWS TO THE SCHOOL HEAD! THIS IS THE **SEVENTH CHILD** TO DIE OF **MALARIA** IN THIS SCHOOL IN 3 YEARS...

...MY GOD!
KATE?
NO, THIS CAN'T
BE TRUE...



...AS THE CHILDREN RUN BACK TO SCHOOL, DAN NOTICES A **STRANGE GATHERING** OF SOME TEACHERS. HE IS **CURIOUS** TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON...

IT IS IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION RECORDS THAT:

- "EVERY MINUTE, SOMEBODY DIES OF MALARIA."
- "MALARIA ACCOUNTS FOR THE DEATH OVER 600,000 PEOPLE A YEAR WORLD-WIDE."
- "MALARIA IS CAUSED BY PARASITES TRANSMITTED THROUGH MOSQUITO BITES."
- "IN 2012, 90% OF THE WORLD'S MALARIA DEATHS OCCURRED IN AFRICA AND ABOUT 460,000 AFRICAN CHILDREN DIED BEFORE THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAYS."
- MALARIA IS PREVENTABLE AND CURABLE.

THE NEWS OF KATE OTUTU'S AVOIDABLE DEATH SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE THE FOLLOWING DAY. HER SCHOOL MATES ARE IN FEAR, ESPECIALLY HER CLOSE FRIENDS AND PLAY GROUP...



...AND I HEAR THAT MALARIA IS CONTAGIOUS... WHO KNOWS WHO THE NEXT VICTIM WOULD BE?



... I'M JUST TIRED OF THIS PUBLIC SCHOOL. THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR HEALTH...

...THEY SAY WE'RE GIVEN FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION, BUT INSIDE FLOODED CLASSROOMS, WE'RE EATEN UP BY MOSQUITOES AND EXPOSED TO ALL KINDS OF WATER-BORNE DISEASES IN AND AROUND OUR SCHOOL?

EVERYBODY COMPLAINS OF MOSQUITO BITES IN MY CLASS, STRUCK DOWN WITH CHILLS, AND ALL, BECAUSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT... BUT WHO CARES?

...THE WORSE IS THAT OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEVER TALKS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL COMPOUND, YET WE'RE SICK FROM SO MANY DISEASES AND DYING FROM MALARIA ONE BY ONE...

SOMEHOW, THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL HEARD WHAT THEY SAID...



... THIS IS ABSURD! I'LL TEACH THOSE KIDS A BIG LESSON.

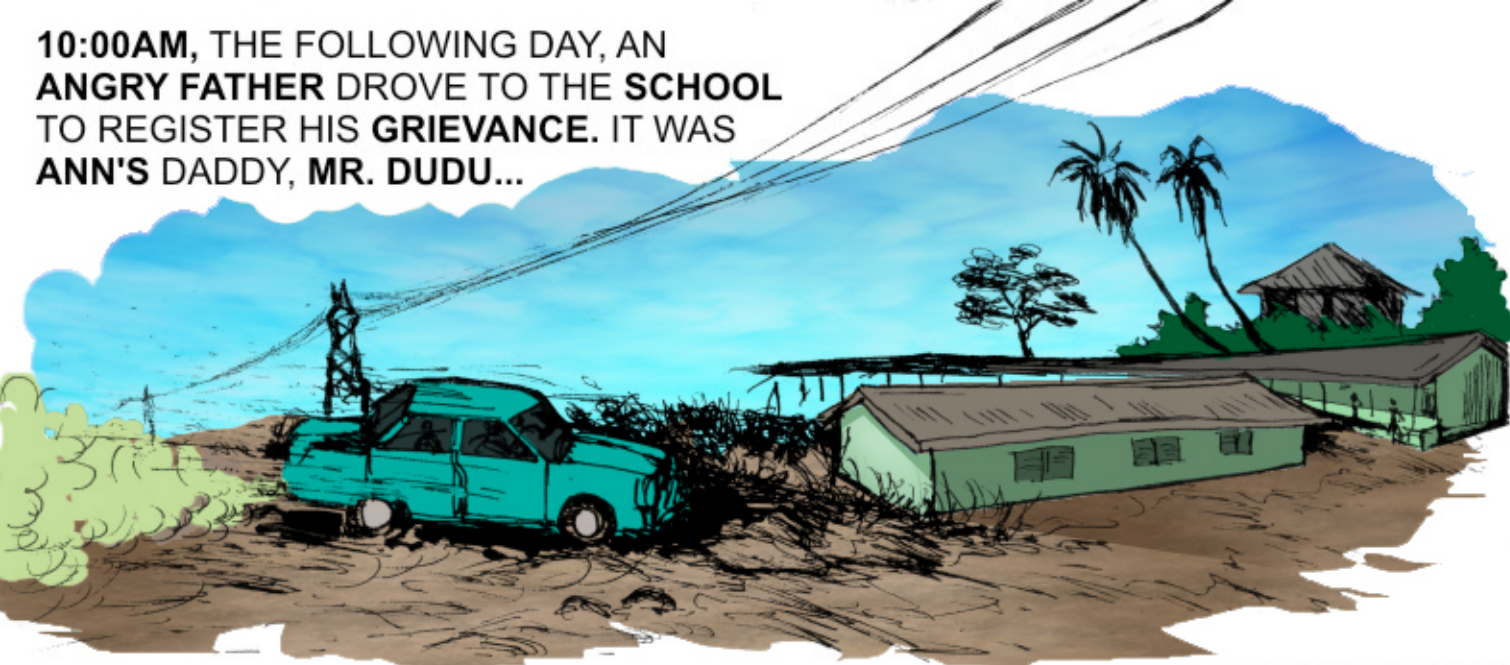
... THE STUDENTS - DAN. ANN, AND THREE OTHERS - WERE GIVEN CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR "GOSSIPING" AND "SLANDERING"...

... 'OVER SABI' * CHILDREN!... COMPLAINING AS IF THEIR ENVIRONMENTS AT HOME ARE SO NEAT AND FREE FROM MOSQUITOES AND WATER-BORNE DISEASES. = hiss = C'MON, GIVE ME YOUR HAND!



* SLANG FOR 'I KNOW TOO MUCH'

10:00AM, THE FOLLOWING DAY, AN ANGRY FATHER DROVE TO THE SCHOOL TO REGISTER HIS GRIEVANCE. IT WAS ANN'S DADDY, MR. DUDU...



...I'M A **SON-OF-THE-SOIL** IN THIS **COMMUNITY**, A MEMBER OF THE **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**...

MR. DUDU, YOUR DAUGHTER IS ALSO MY 'DAUGHTER'! WHEN SHE DOES ANYTHING **WRONG**, IT'S MY **DUTY** TO **CORRECT** HER; THAT'S WHY SHE'S MY **STUDENT**!

...I SAW THIS **INJURY** ON HER **HAND** AND ASKED HER. SHE SAID YOU, THE **PRINCIPAL**, DID IT BECAUSE SHE AND HER FRIENDS **COMPLAINED** ABOUT THE **SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**.

...JUST BECAUSE ONE OF HER CLASSMATES RECENTLY **DIED** OF **MALARIA** **COMPLICATIONS**, ANN LED A **GOSSIP** AGAINST ME ABOUT...

...ABOUT THE **UNHEALTHY STATE** OF YOUR **SCHOOL PREMISES**. YES, SHE TOLD ME...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO **INFLECT** SUCH **PAIN** ON MY **CHILD** FOR STATING THE **VERY OBVIOUS**!

...SINCERELY SPEAKING, WE ALL KNOW THE **FLOODY, BUSHY** AND **SMELLY** STATE OF YOUR SCHOOL...DON'T SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE **RIGHT** TO A **HYGIENIC ENVIRONMENT** FOR **LEARNING**? IT SHOWS YOU'RE NOT DOING ENOUGH IN PROVIDING **LEADERSHIP** IN THIS...

LOOK!! ...MR. DUDU, I TAKE **EXCEPTIONS** TO THAT. YOU HAVEN'T COME HERE JUST TO **INSULT** ME, HAVE YOU? YOU'RE LIKE A **POT** THAT CALLS THE **KETTLE BLACK**...

...YOU SAID YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE **CDA** OF THIS **COMMUNITY**. I'M ONLY A **CIVIL SERVANT** HERE; ...NOW, TELL ME, WHAT ARE YOU **PEOPLE** DOING ABOUT THE **PERPETUAL FLOODING** OF YOUR ONLY **SECONDARY SCHOOL**, WHICH CAUSES THE **TALL BUSHES**, **POOLS** OF **STAGNANT WATER** THAT BREED **MOSQUITOES**...? OH, YOU **PEOPLE** ARE WAITING FOR **GOVERNMENT** TO DO EVERYTHING FOR YOU...

AFTER SOME 20 MINUTES OF HEATED ARGUMENTS...

... LET BY-GONES BE BY-GONES! I APOLOGISE...

...FOR THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT... SHOW ME YOUR HURTING ARM, ANN! UUH... SORRY DEAR!...

...SHE'S NOT USED TO CANING AT ALL... WE BROUGHT HER UP WELL.

...YOU WILL BE OKAY SOON.

THANK YOU, MA'AM!

...AS THE THREE OF THEM CAME OUTSIDE, ANN'S FATHER SAID:

...MADAM, I PROMISE YOU THAT I'LL LOBBY THE CDA CHAIRMAN FOR A COMMUNAL HELP FOR YOUR SCHOOL THROUGH AN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH AWARENESS WORKSHOP.

4 WEEKS LATER, AS THE PRINCIPAL ADDRESSES THE STUDENTS DURING THE USUAL MORNING ASSEMBLY AT EBOKU SECONDARY SCHOOL...

...CHILDREN, THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL EVENT HERE TOMORROW...

...ON HOW TO PREVENT AND TREAT MALARIA, DIARRHEA AND OTHER ILLNESSES...

THE FOLLOWING DAY,...

...WE WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS SPECIAL WORK-SHOP ON WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE.

...WE WILL FOCUS ON HOW TO FIGHT MALARIA AND OTHER WATER-BORNE DISEASES.



FIRST, LET ME HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS **BOOK** WHICH WE USE AT OUR **HEALTH CENTRE...** IT'S TITLED: "**WATER AND SANITATION RELATED DISEASES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: CHALLENGES, INTERVENTIONS AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES**"... *

...EVERYTHING WE'LL **LEARN** HERE TODAY IS **DISCUSSED** IN FULL DETAIL AND WITH **BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS** THAT AID CLEARER **UNDERSTANDING** AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF **W.A.S.H-RELATED HEALTH MEASURES!**...



... THERE ARE ALSO **DVDs** WITH MANY **VIDEOS** WE CAN WATCH TOGETHER LIKE ONES ON **TRACHOMA, SANITATION, SCHISTOSOMIASIS,** PLUS SOME **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS** ACCOMPANYING THIS BOOK. **...VERY USEFUL BOOK!**

* THE BOOK IS PUBLISHED BY **WILEY-BLACKWELL** WITH **HORIZON INTERNATIONAL.** DETAILS AT: <http://www.solutions-site.org>

HELLO! CHILDREN!... **WASH 4 ALL**

D'YOU KNOW WHAT **W.A.S.H** IS ALL ABOUT?

NO O O O ...

OK!...

...FROM THIS **BOOK** IN MY HAND, WE SHALL FIND OUT AND **LEARN** HOW TO **FIGHT WATER AND SANITATION-RELATED DISEASES,** IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME... **ESPECIALLY MALARIA.**

... **W.A.S.H** MEANS "**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE.**" THE AIM OF THIS **WORKSHOP** IS TO **IMPROVE** THE SAFETY OF YOUR **DRINKING WATER,** TEACH YOU HOW TO BE AWARE OF AND ENCOURAGED **COMMUNITY SANITATION,** AND TELL YOU HOW TO **IMPROVE YOUR OWN HYGIENE.**

TO MAKE YOURS A **WASH-FRIENDLY AND MOSQUITO-FREE SCHOOL** WHERE CHILDREN'S, TEACHERS' AND OTHERS' **HEALTH** IS PROTECTED AGAINST **MALARIA** AND OTHER DISEASES, YOU MUST **REGULARLY PRACTICE W.A.S.H HABITS** AND PROTECT AGAINST **MOSQUITOES!**



...EVERY MINUTE, A CHILD DIES FROM MALARIA. MOSQUITOES CAUSE MALARIA! WHAT SHOULD WE ALWAYS DO TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES...

...FROM BREEDING, AND TO REDUCE MALARIA TRANSMISSION IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME? WE CAN USE SOME SIMPLE CONTROL MEASURES:



* CLEAR GRASSES AND BUSHES IN YOUR SURROUNDINGS, AND FILL UP POT HOLES AND POOLS OF STANDING WATER. KEEP YOUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN ALWAYS...

* PROPERLY DISPOSE OFF ALL DISCARDED ITEMS THAT CAN HOLD WATER AND BREED MOSQUITOES...



* AT HOME, ALWAYS SLEEP UNDER A LONG-LASTING INSECTICIDE TREATED NET (ITN)...



* WHEN YOU CAN AFFORD IT, HAVE A TRAINED PERSON FUMIGATE YOUR ROOMS AT HOME, IN YOUR OFFICES, ETC, WITH INSECTICIDES, TO KILL THE MOSQUITOES AND OTHER VECTORS. IT CAN BE EFFECTIVE FOR OVER THREE MONTHS...



EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND PROMPT TREATMENT OF MALARIA REDUCES DISEASE AND PREVENTS DEATH.

TREATING MALARIA:

BEFORE YOU TREAT, TEST TO BE SURE IT IS MALARIA.

MALARIA CAN BE TREATED WITH A COMBINATION OF MEDICINES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE BASED ON ARTEMISININ. THIS IS CALLED ACTs (ARTEMISININ-BASED COMBINATION THERAPIES).



THE FOLLOWING WEEK, DAN, ANN AND MOST OF THEIR CLASSMATES AT SCHOOL MAKE A 'DEAL' TO TURN THEIR SCHOOL INTO A W.A.S.H-FRIENDLY SCHOOL, AND TO EXTEND THE "DEAL" TO THEIR HOMES.

A REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN IN EBOKU COMMUNITY...

...SO IT'S A DEAL AMONGST US ALL THAT GOING FORWARD, WE DECLARE "OPERATION FIGHT MALARIA AND ALL WATER AND SANITATION RELATED DISEASES- AT SCHOOL AND IN OUR HOMES..."

YES!!!

...REGULAR WEEDING AND SWEEPING OF THE SCHOOL COMPOUND...



...SAND-FILLING OF POTHOLES TO DRIVE AWAY STAGNANT WATER...



...PROPER DISPOSAL OF DISCARDED ITEMS AND REFUSES...



...A MALARIA- FREE WORLD IS POSSIBLE. A HEALTHIER WORLD IS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE JUST SEEN WHAT WE CAN DO. NOW LET'S FIGHT MORE DISEASES CAUSING US MISERY AND DEATH... IT BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME. TARGET DIARRHEA, TARGET MALNUTRITION, TARGET TRACHOMA, SCHISTOSOMIASIS, AND MORE... BECOME WASH-FRIENDLY AND SEE THE CHANGES... LET'S DO IT!

...REGULAR HAND WASHING WITH SOAP- IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME...



HEY YOU!!!...
STOP! NO MORE OPEN DEFECATION...

"...ONCE WE CAN SECURE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND TO ADEQUATE SANITATION FACILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS, A HUGE BATTLE AGAINST ALL KINDS OF DISEASES WILL BE WON".

FROM THE LATE DR. LEE, WHEN HE WAS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

(NEXT EPISODE...)