

CLIMATE CRISIS
STORY BOOK
3rd Series

** Adapted from
URBAN NEXUS
comic



Food Waste and Climate Crisis

*** Disclaimer:**

All character appearing in this story are fictitious.
Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.



In mid-2021, Gita had an assignment to record COVID-19 cases in her neighbourhood. However, some facts caught Gita's attention.

Gita also wants to discuss some interesting facts about environment with the friends of the earth (SAHABAT BUMI).

Gita: Hi friends, this afternoon I got an assignment to record numbers of COVID-19 cases in our neighbourhood.

Kanaga: How is it there, Git? Are the numbers of the people transmitted with COVID-19 high?

Gita: Thank God! The number of COVID-19 cases decreases every month but there are a lot of dysentery and diarrhea patients.

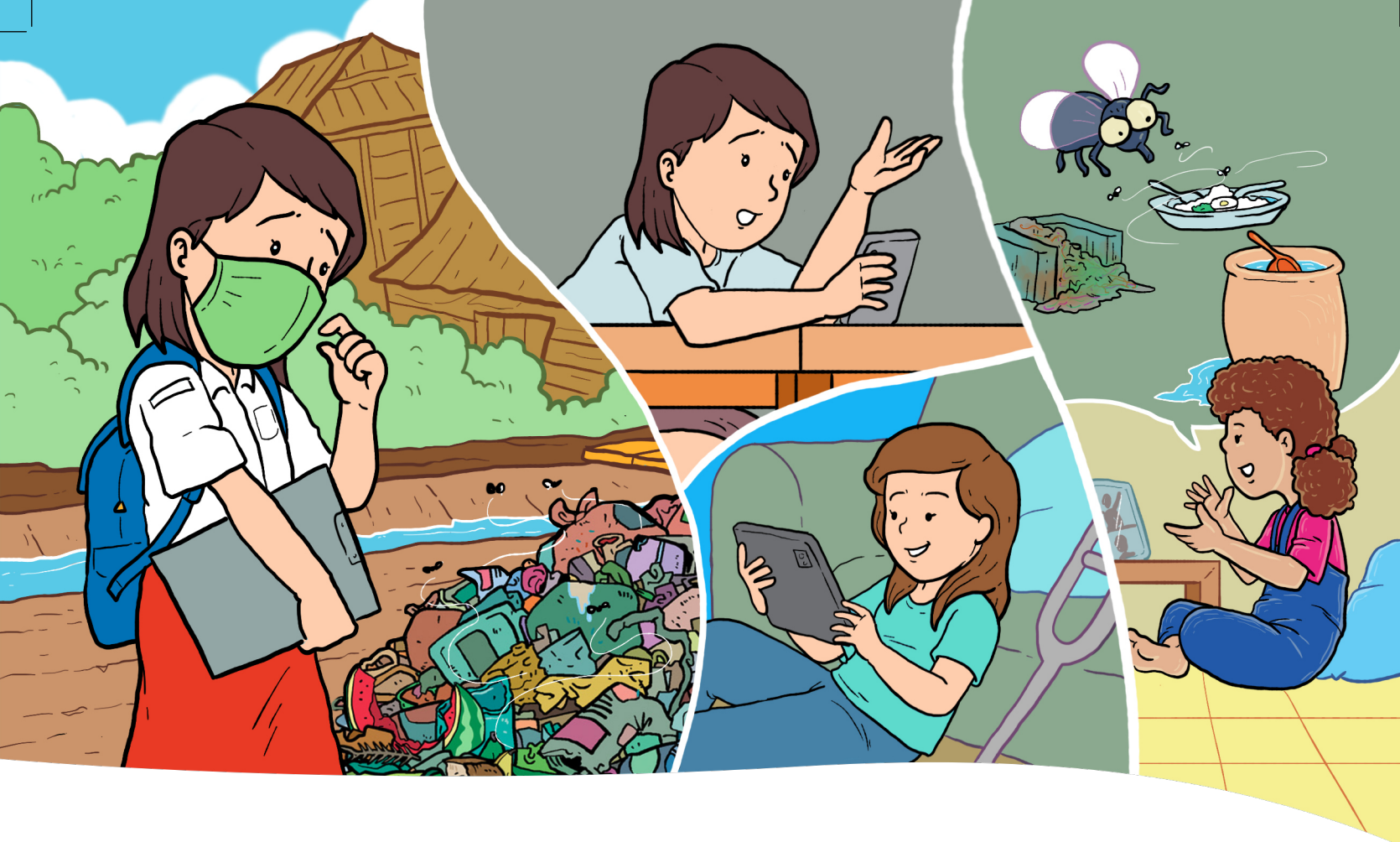
Kanaga: Wow, how come? Have you tried asking the medical worker there?

Gita: Yes, I did but their answer wasn't clear.

Niken: Let me check on the official website of the Ministry of Health. It mentions that the causes of dysentery or diarrhea are bacteria, viruses and parasites infection from contaminated food or an unhygienic environment.

Gita: Thank you, Ken. Tomorrow I'll visit the neighbourhoods around the village to find more information.

Kanaga: Don't forget to wear the double mask and follow health and safety protocols.



On the next day, after school, Gita walked in the neighbourhood of the village affected by the diarrhea outbreak and found garbage scattered everywhere with swarming flies, a pungent smell and a puddle of water around it.

Gita: So much food waste here.

Then, Gita went home, cleaned herself by taking a bath. After that, she had lunch, open an online chat with her friends.

Gita: Friends, I have been looking around the village. There is so much wet waste piled up on the corner of the village. I saw lots of flies and the area smells bad.

Kanaga: Maybe that's the cause. Flies click to food and water make it contaminated.

Niken: It shall be reported to the village officials or medical workers. If you don't, more people would suffer from it.

Gita: Alright, I'll call the head of village office and health officer. Coincidentally my parents know them. I hope to get a response soon!

Niken: OK, that's better, Git. We hope for a quick response. And please stay home if nothing urgent.



After receiving the report from Gita's family, village and community health officials made a home visit and environment check. Officers found that a lot of household waste was littered. Moreover, they also checked food storage in people's homes and found that many foods or drinks were not tightly sealed so flies could stick. Then, community health officials immediately held counselling on how to store food with a lid that can prevent flies or other vectors from sticking to food and socialization of hand washing with soap. In addition, community health officials also conduct counselling on reducing, sorting and recycling waste.



Then the online meeting of Gita and her friends began again.

Niken: Hi. Glad you can join us, Git. Has the case been reported?

Gita: Yes, Niken. Only after a day, they immediately responded. The village officers and medical workers have been given counselling to residents.

Patar: Cool. Very quick response!

Gita: Yes, Tar. They came and immediately provided counselling to the residents.

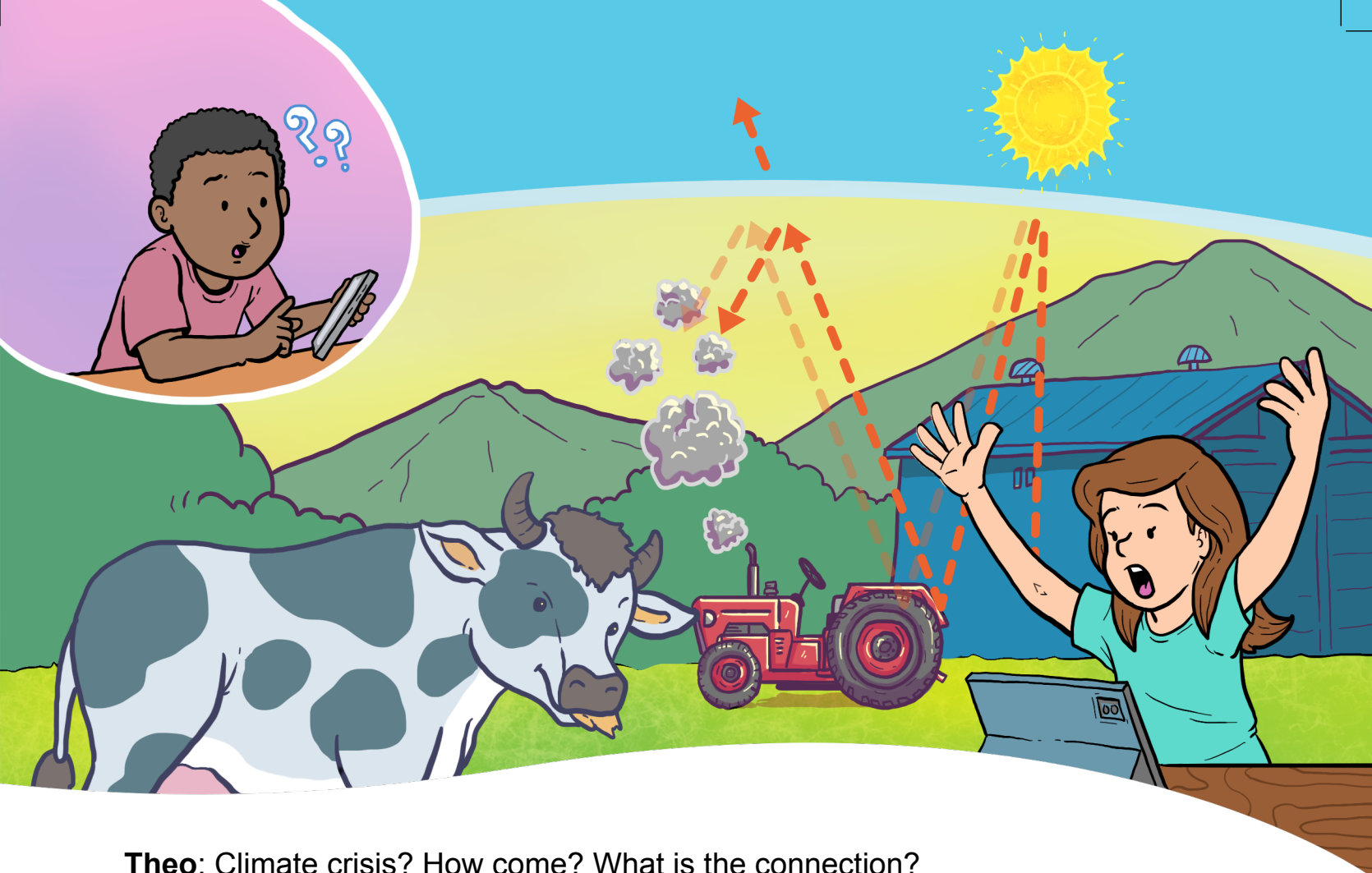
Kanaga: Very good action, Gita.

Harris: Currently, food waste is a big problem in several cities in Indonesia. Even one of the countries with the highest numbers of food waste reached up to 48 million tons/year. (Based on Bappenas data in 2021)

Kanaga: Based on the 2020 data, food waste in Kupang reached up 200 – 250 tons per day and even more in 2021. (Based on data from Kupang City Environment and Hygiene Agency, NTT)

Niken: Yes, you are right, Harris! I also found out that the food waste has reached almost 7,424 tons per day in Jakarta as of March 2021. (Based on data from DKI Jakarta Environmental Agency)

Harris: Yeah. Then don't be surprised if there is disease outbreak and climate crisis increase.



Theo: Climate crisis? How come? What is the connection?

Niken: Theo, food production cycle is a long process, starting from breeding, nursery, harvesting, processing, packaging then delivery to customers. Everything requires energy.

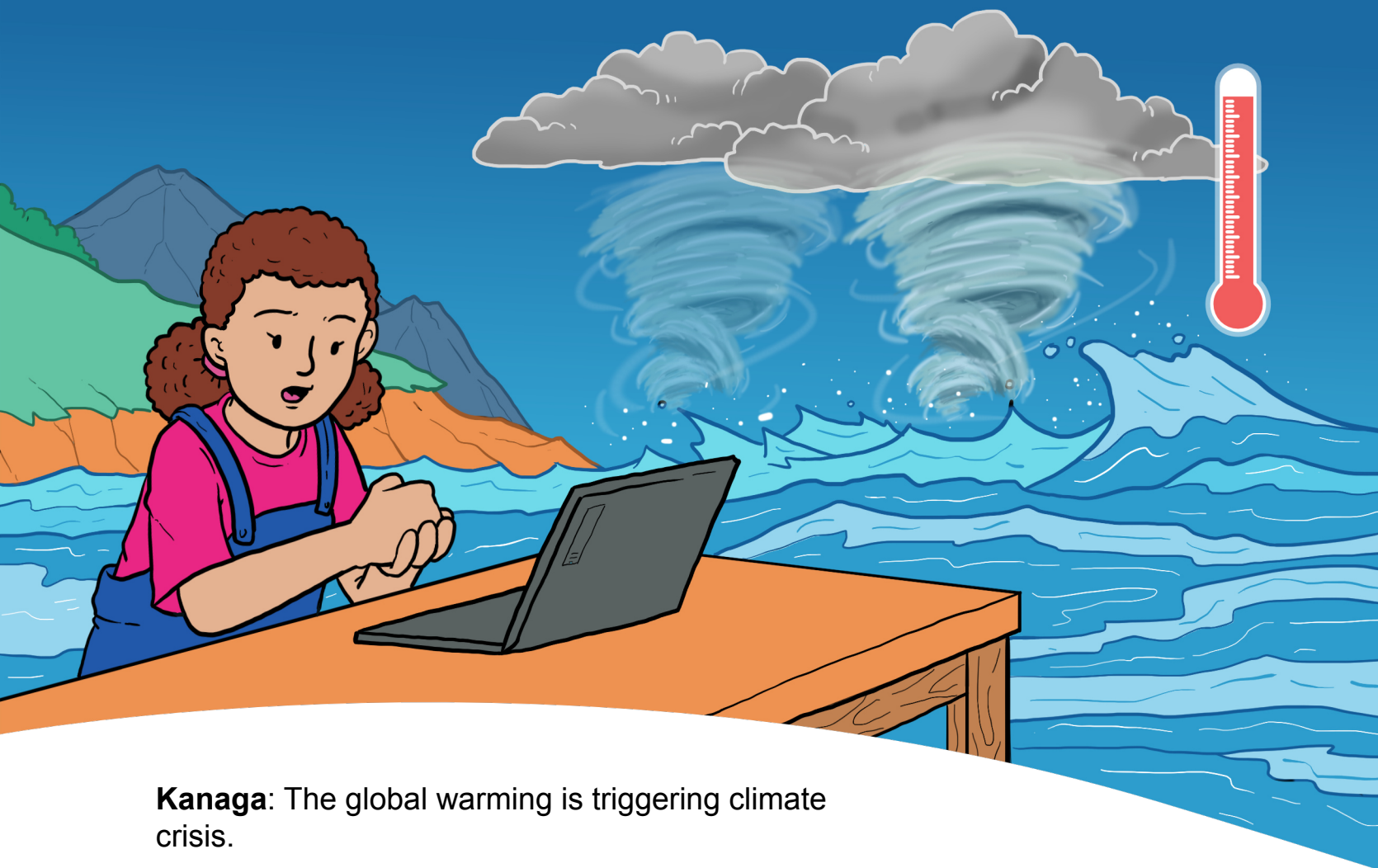
Kanaga: If you want to know more details, search information on the internet using keyword “impact of food waste for the environment”.

Niken: Food that comes from livestock also requires energy and vacant soil which produces methane.

Kanaga: Then you can imagine how many litres of solar for the tractor, how many litres of pesticides needed for pest control, how much electrical energy is needed for processing machines, packaging tools and chillers? How many litres of gasoline is required for the distribution transport?

Harris: Yes, that’s right! Not to forget, those activities produce greenhouse gas such as carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons and methane. That makes the earth warmer.

Kanaga: Exactly! The waste of rotten food also produces more methane and causes even much warming impact. Because methane is a potent greenhouse gas –about 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at warming the earth.



Kanaga: The global warming is triggering climate crisis.

Harris: We are even suffering from the impact right now. Aren't we?

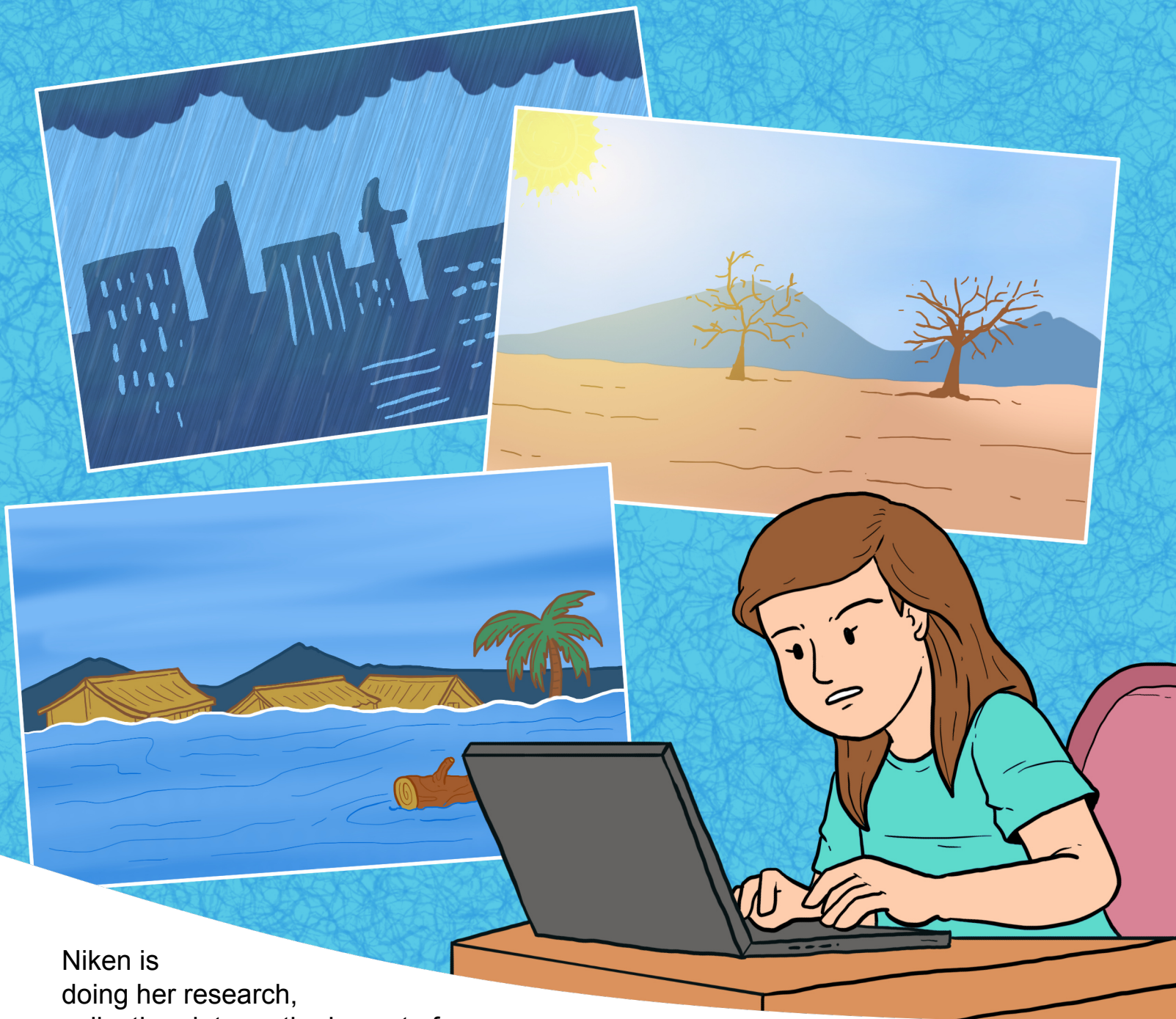
Theo: Indeed. It causes more extreme rainfall in some regions.

Niken: Climate change also increases flood risks and failure in harvesting.

Kanaga: That's true. Because of climate change, tropical cyclones are likely increasing in intensity. These changes are driven by rising sea temperatures and increased maximum water vapor content as the air heats up. Just how it occurred here in my hometown.

Gita: The extremes dry season triggers forest and land fires.

Niken: Right! And extreme heat wave also threatens some other areas.



Niken is doing her research, collecting data on the impact of the climate crisis from the internet.

Based on data from the Yayasan Indonesia CeraH, in 2068 – 2100, Indonesia will potentially be affected by extreme heatwave per two year-round. In 2070 - 2100, extreme rainfall and drought threat will be increase up to 40% and in 2030 the flood risk will be increase up to 90% in island of Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku and Papua.

Niken: We can't be ignorant about this. How shattered this earth would be if that happens.



Niken informs her friends about her findings in climate crisis impact in the future.

Theo: Ah, it's very bad and threatening our life.

Kanaga: Let's prevent it, friends.

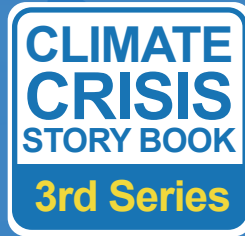
Niken: Yes, for example... Buy food as needed and make a shopping list if you go to the market.

Kanaga: In addition, we can be creative in processing food at home. So, we don't have to buy more food from outside.

Niken: Take sufficient portion of food as needed. So, no more food waste.

Patar: Right! So, nothing is wasted!

Kanaga: It is essential to distribute this information to others, friends. The more people are informed, the more they could help in reducing millions of tons of food waste and prevent the production of greenhouse gas emissions.



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