

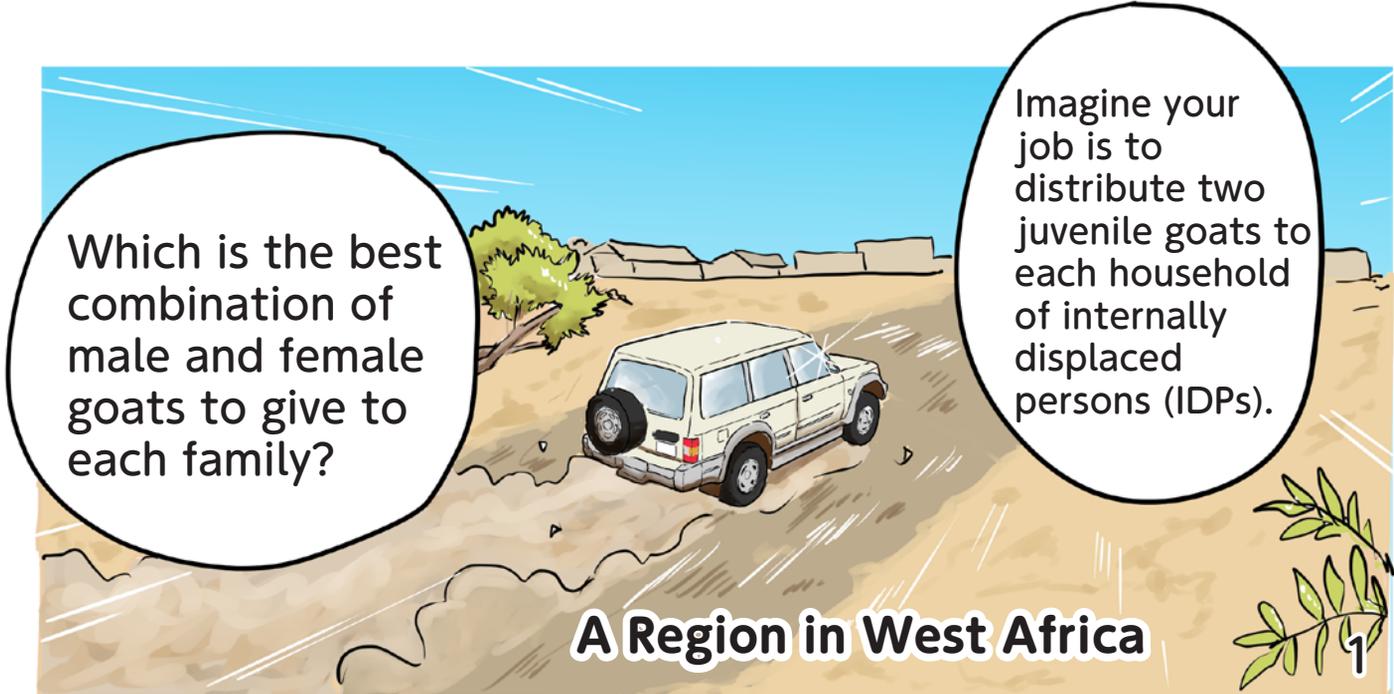
Goats of Hope

A Story about Liptako-Gourma and Resilience



Produced by: Rene Hoshino

Commissioned by: UNDP



Female, Female

Female, Male

Male, Male

The best combination of two goats ...

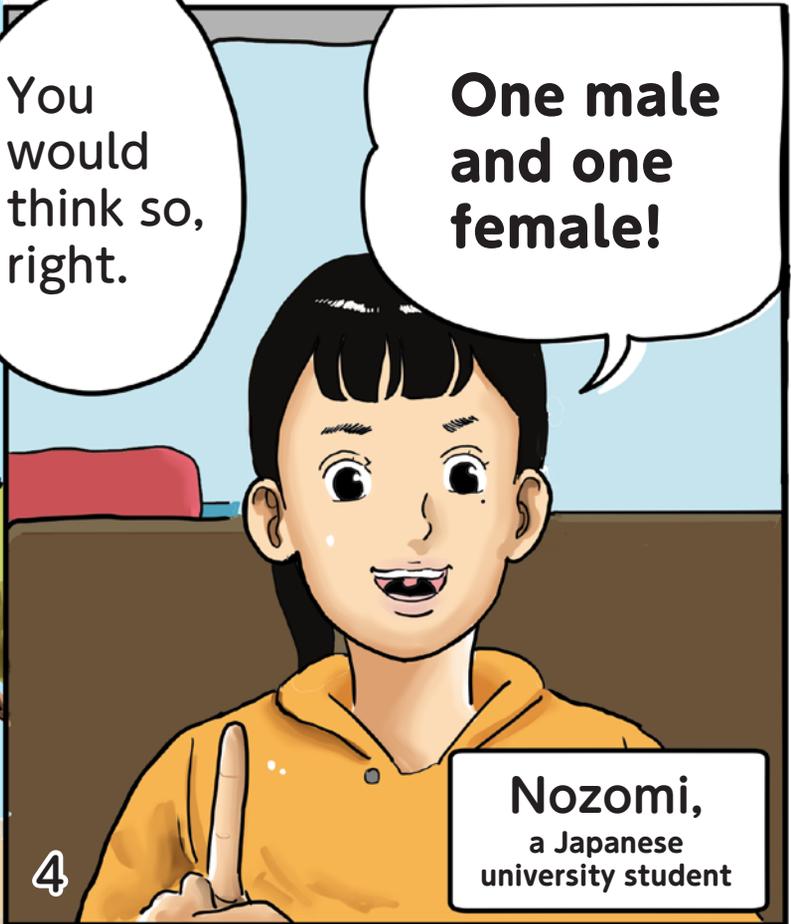
3



Or maybe not!?

You would think so, right.

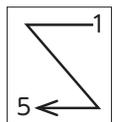
One male and one female!



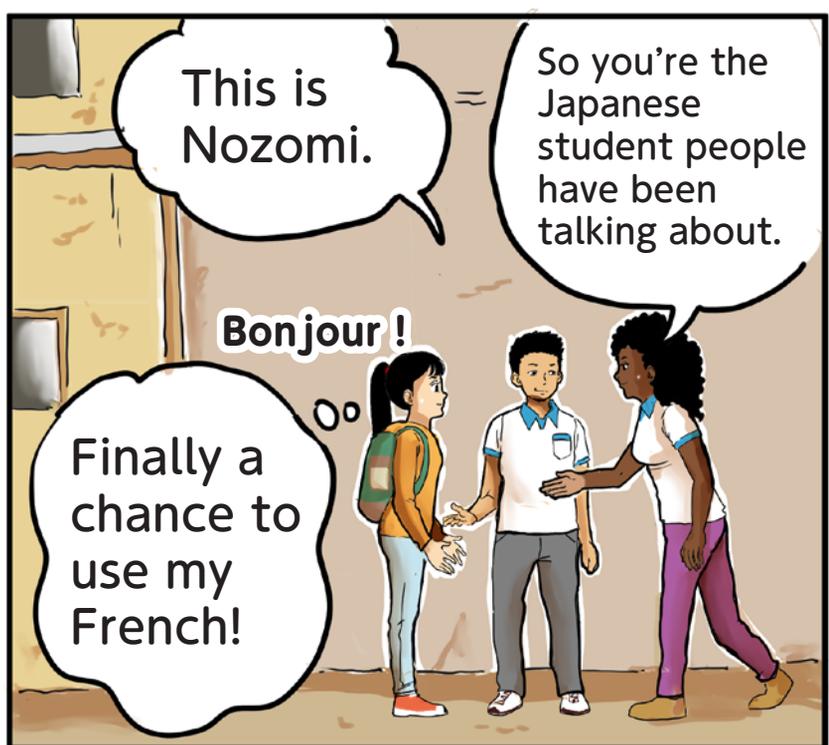
You'll see for yourself soon.

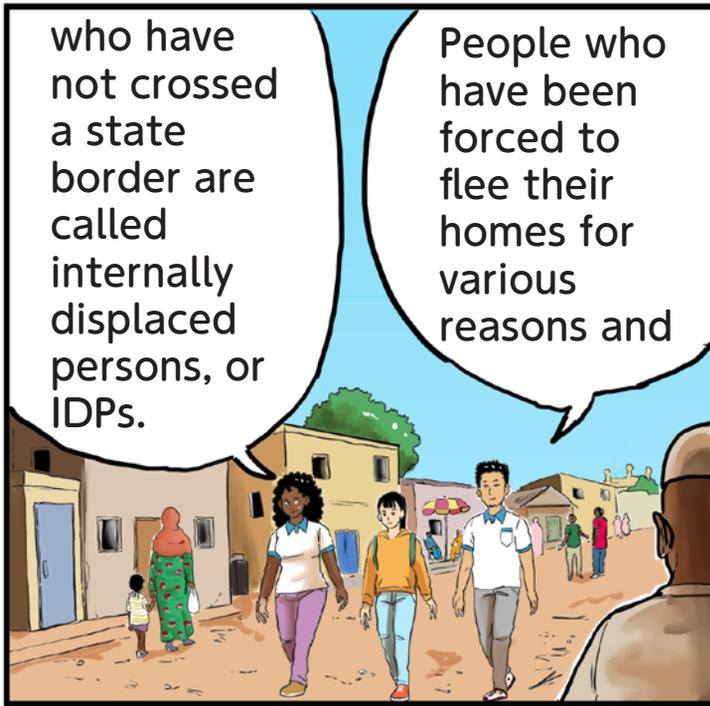


To be read from right to left, top to bottom



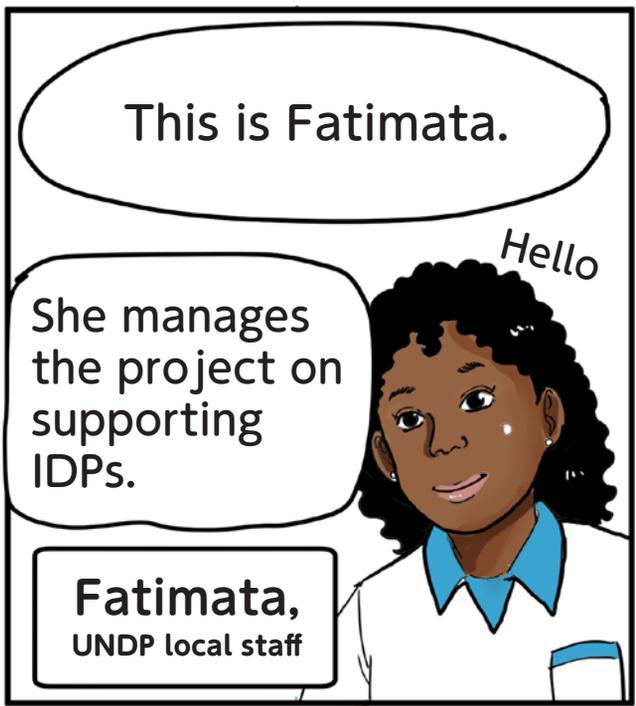
Gouyaouahi Town





who have not crossed a state border are called internally displaced persons, or IDPs.

People who have been forced to flee their homes for various reasons and



This is Fatimata.

Hello

She manages the project on supporting IDPs.

Fatimata,
UNDP local staff



Over there is the IDP family that will show you around.

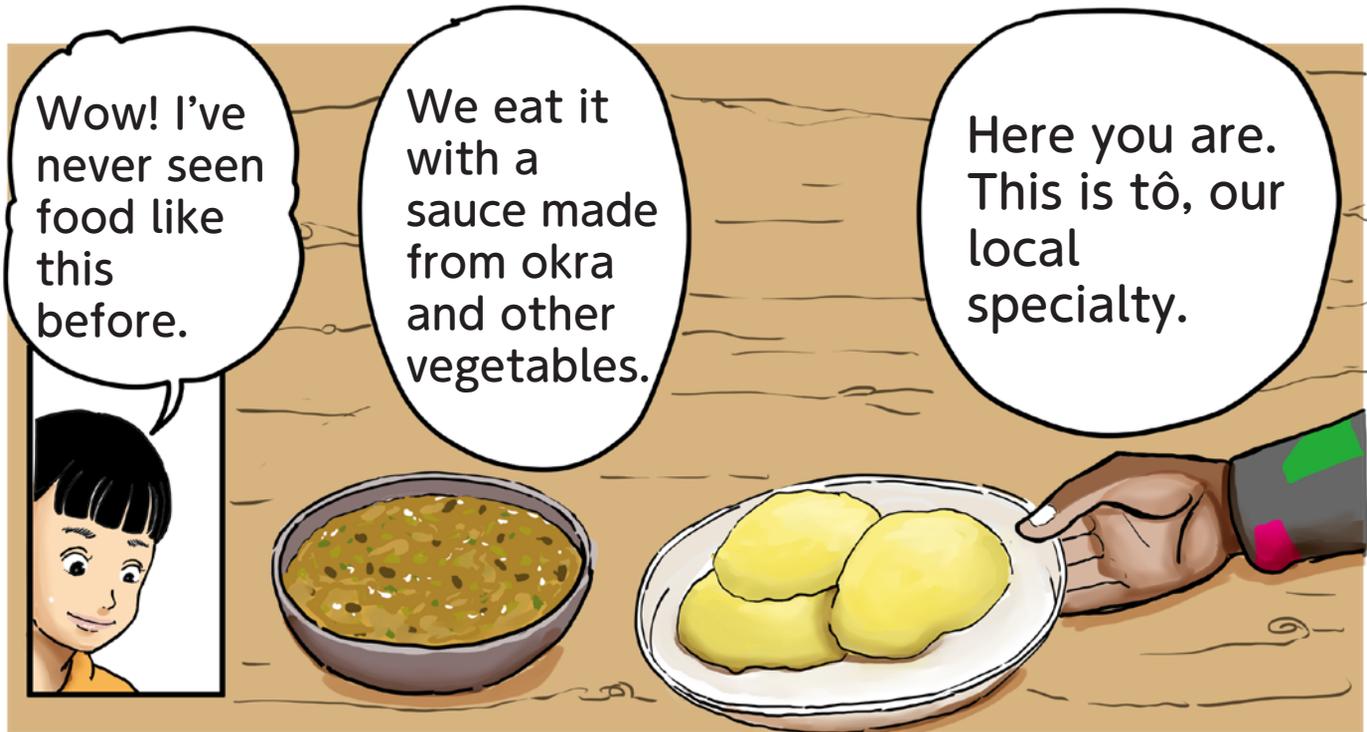
That many!?

In 2021, there was a record 55 million of them worldwide.



Welcome.

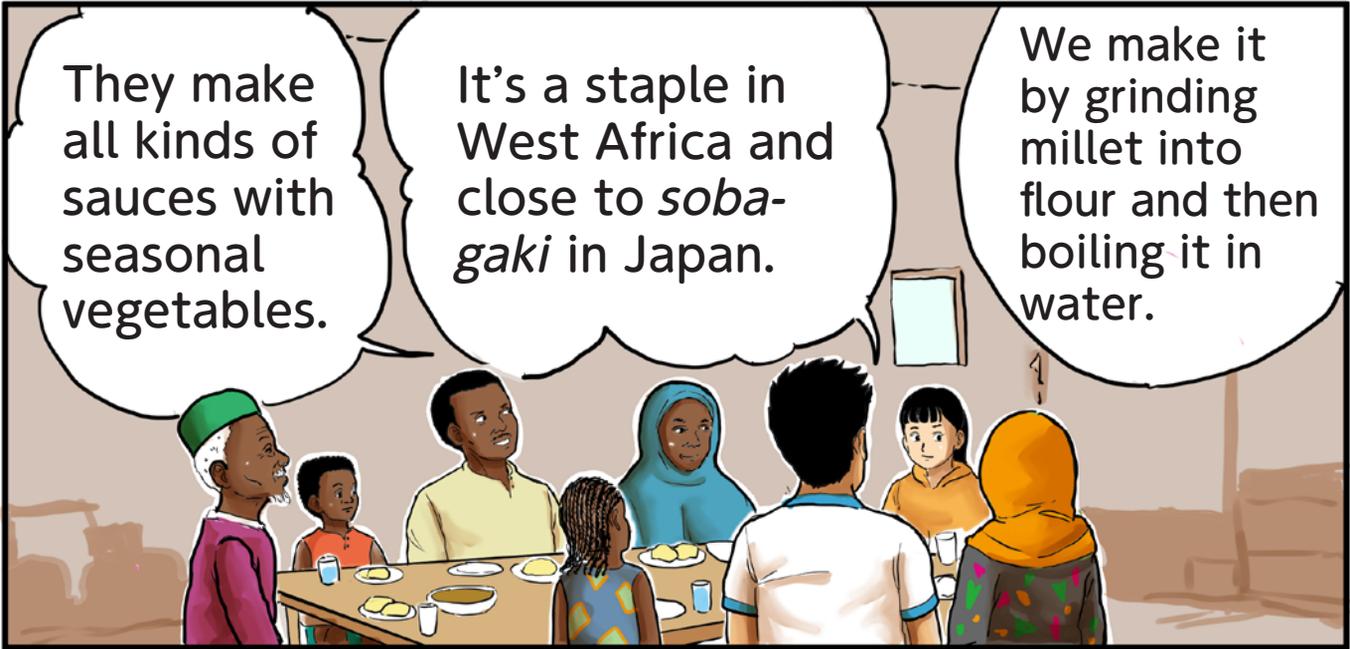
They're the Belem family.



Wow! I've never seen food like this before.

We eat it with a sauce made from okra and other vegetables.

Here you are. This is t^ô, our local specialty.



They make all kinds of sauces with seasonal vegetables.

It's a staple in West Africa and close to *soba-gaki* in Japan.

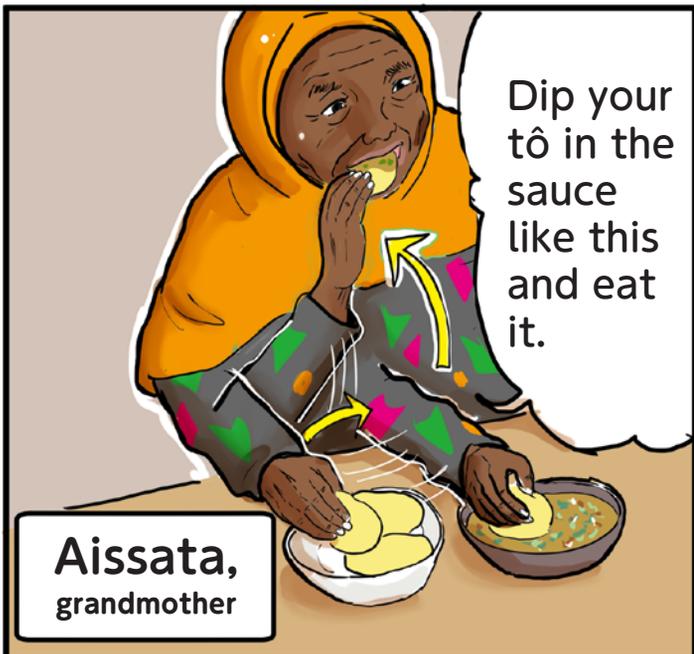
We make it by grinding millet into flour and then boiling it in water.



I'm glad you like it.

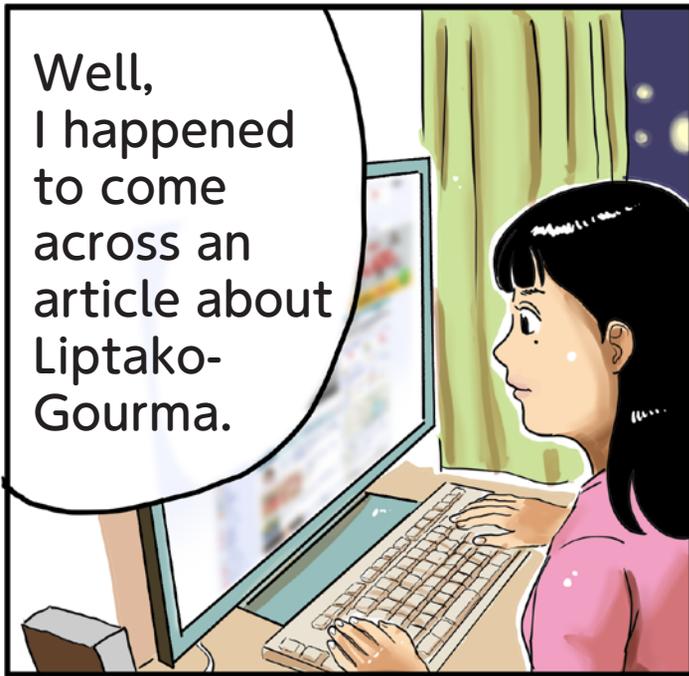
It has a nice texture, and tastes great with the sauce!

Zara, mother

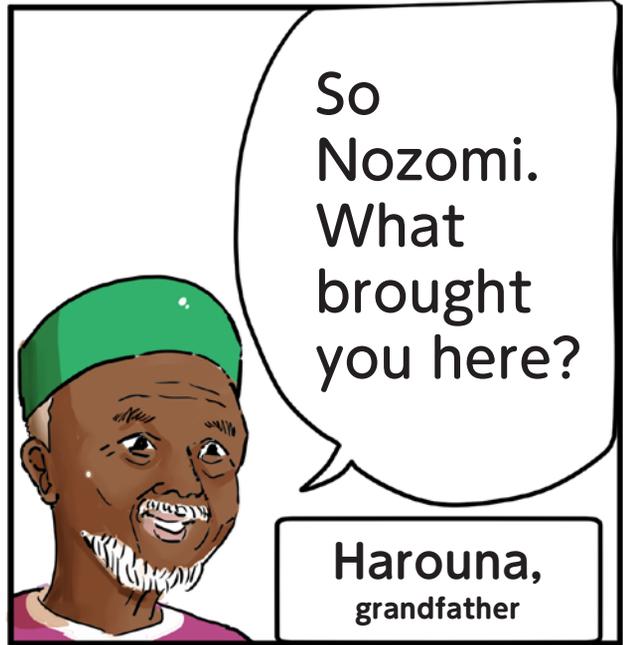


Dip your t^ô in the sauce like this and eat it.

Aissata, grandmother

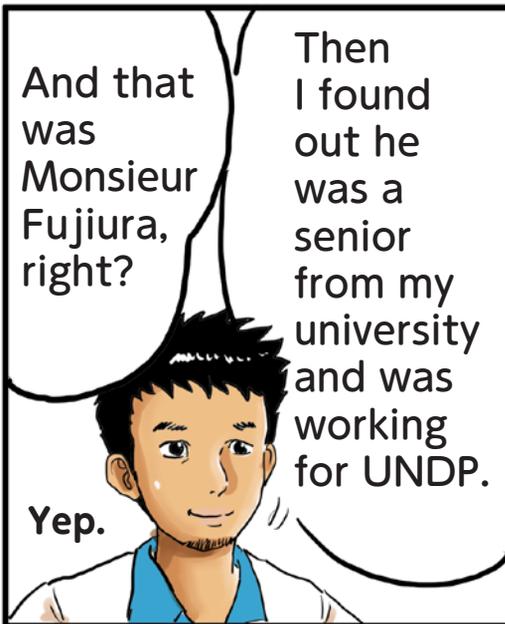


Well, I happened to come across an article about Liptako-Gourma.



So Nozomi. What brought you here?

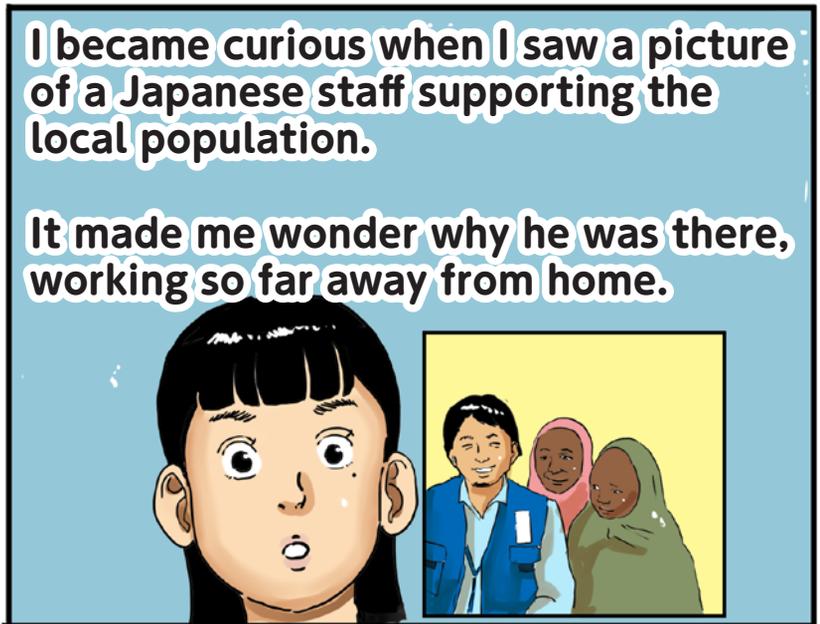
Harouna, grandfather



And that was Monsieur Fujiura, right?

Then I found out he was a senior from my university and was working for UNDP.

Yep.

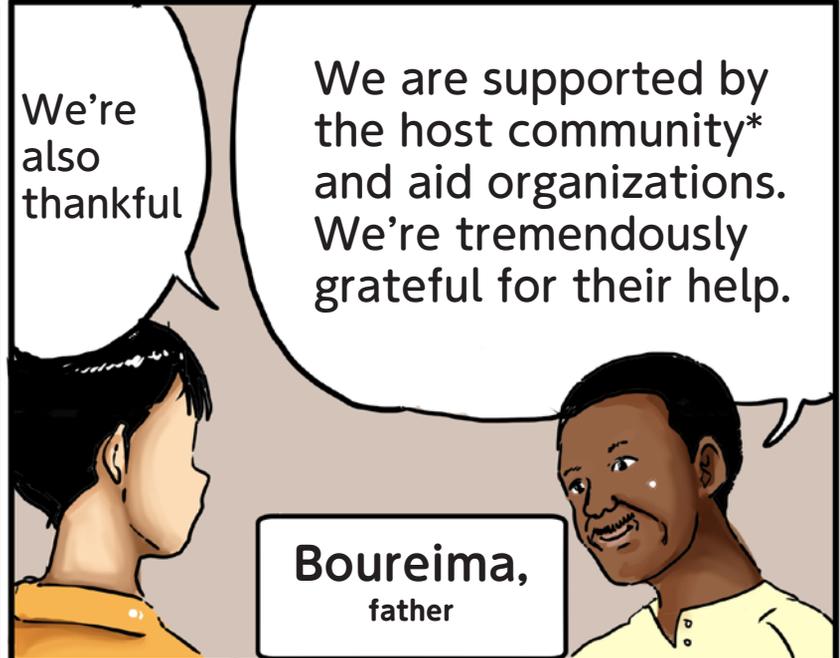


I became curious when I saw a picture of a Japanese staff supporting the local population.

It made me wonder why he was there, working so far away from home.



for people from abroad like you who are concerned about our situation.



We're also thankful

We are supported by the host community* and aid organizations. We're tremendously grateful for their help.

Boureima, father

*Host communities in this context refer to the local, regional and national governmental, social and economic structures within which IDPs live.



Are they males or females?

You've got two goats!

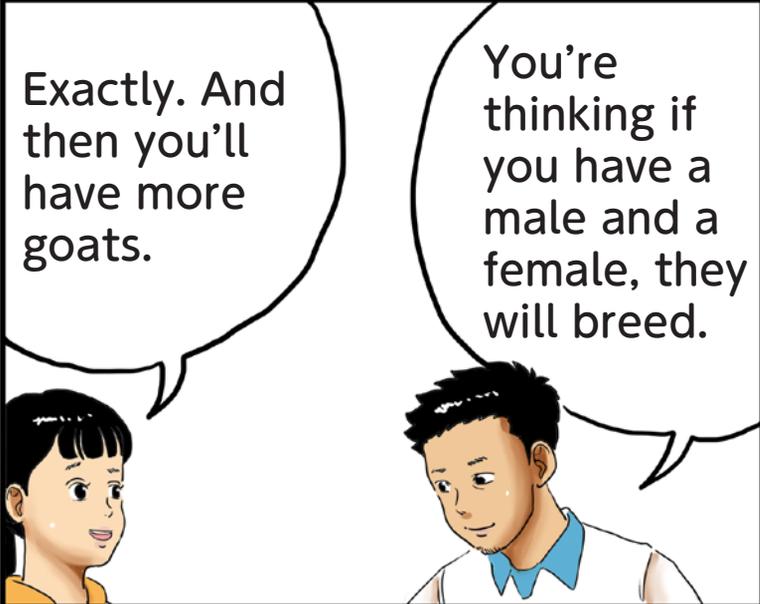
Check them out! These are our goats!

Madi, son



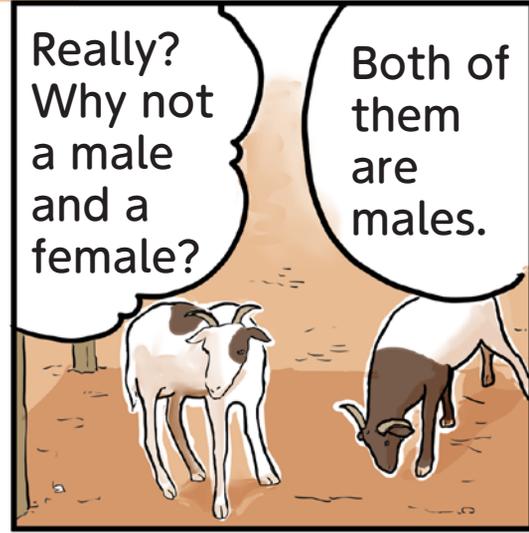
Feed goats!? Sure thing!

I'm going to feed the goats now. Want to come?



Exactly. And then you'll have more goats.

You're thinking if you have a male and a female, they will breed.



Really? Why not a male and a female?

Both of them are males.

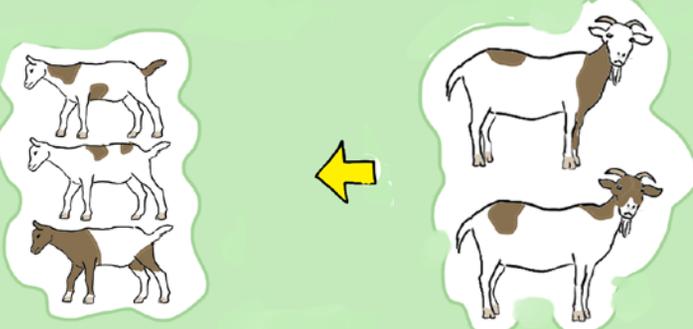


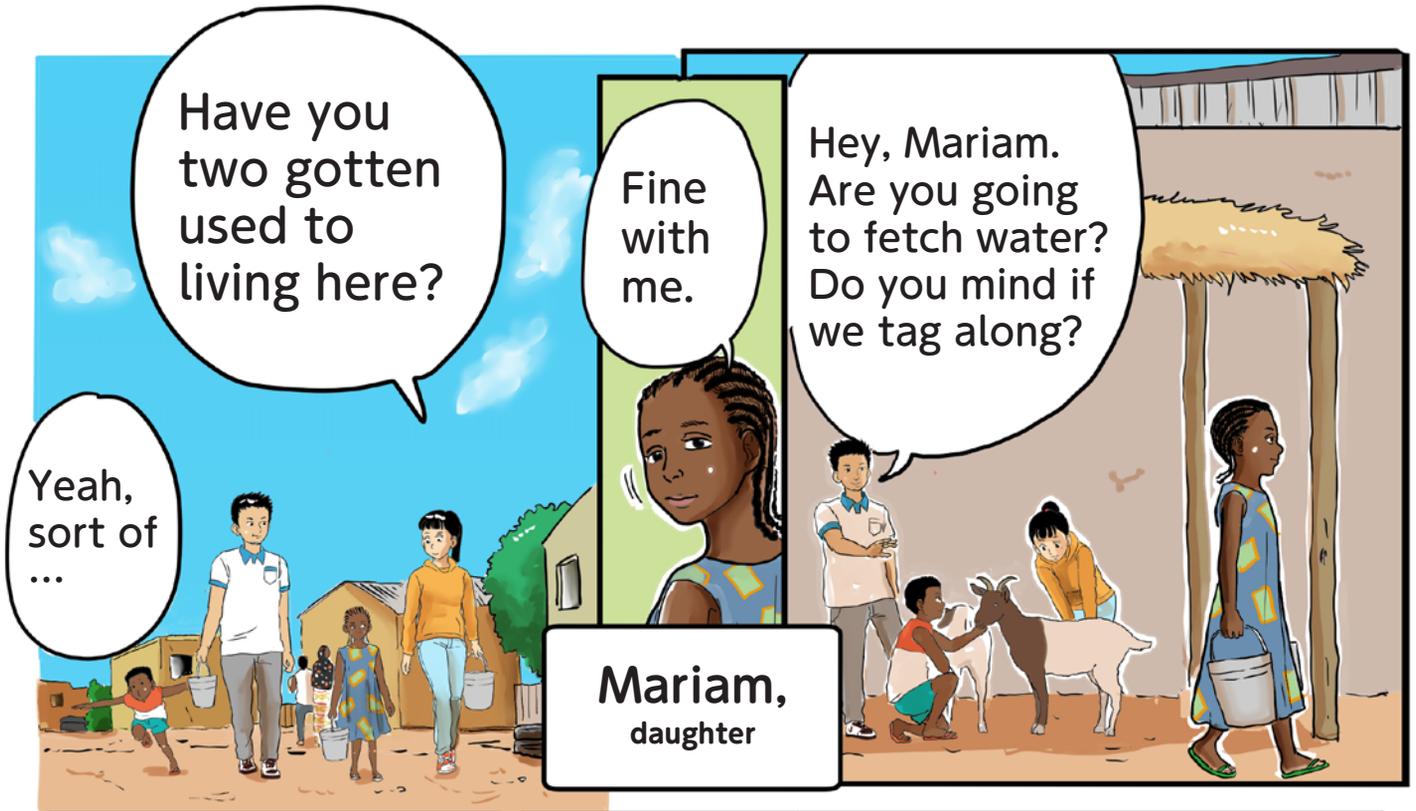
I get it. I'd never have guessed that.

by selling mature males at the market in town and then buying more juvenile males.

But that takes a lot of time and effort.

Because male goats mature faster, it's easier to earn an income





Have you two gotten used to living here?

Yeah, sort of ...

Fine with me.

Hey, Mariam. Are you going to fetch water? Do you mind if we tag along?

Mariam, daughter



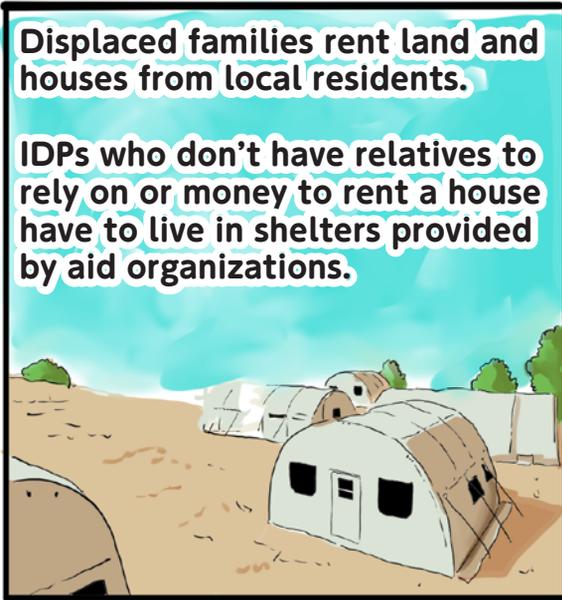
They can't. Not even the most ordinary things...

I see ...



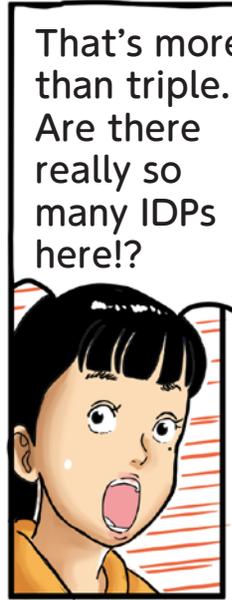
Me too. I want to play football with them again.

I wish I could see my friends though.

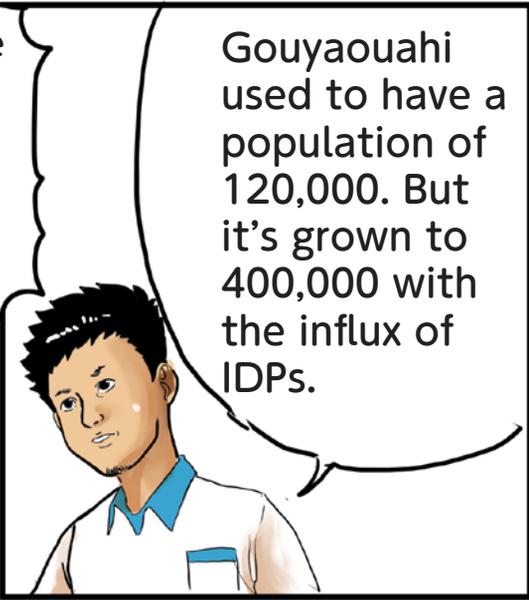


Displaced families rent land and houses from local residents.

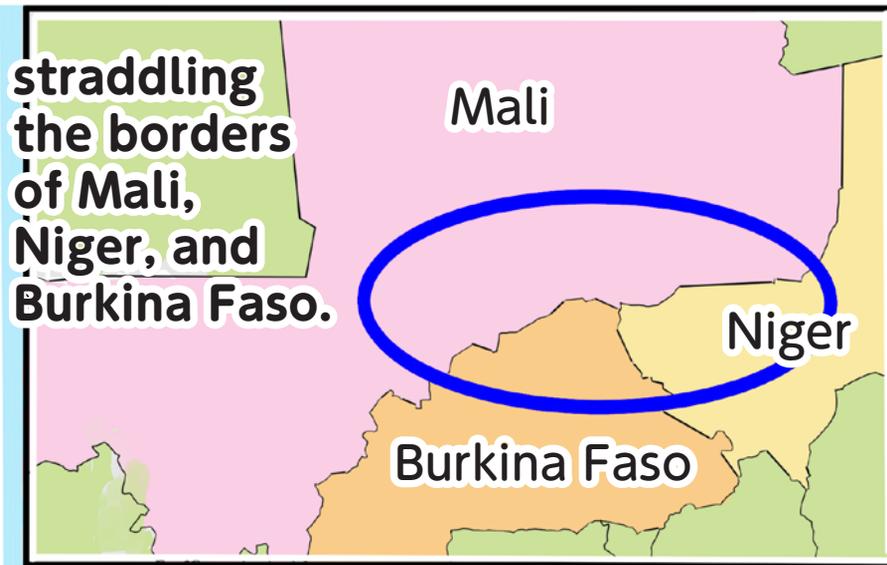
IDPs who don't have relatives to rely on or money to rent a house have to live in shelters provided by aid organizations.



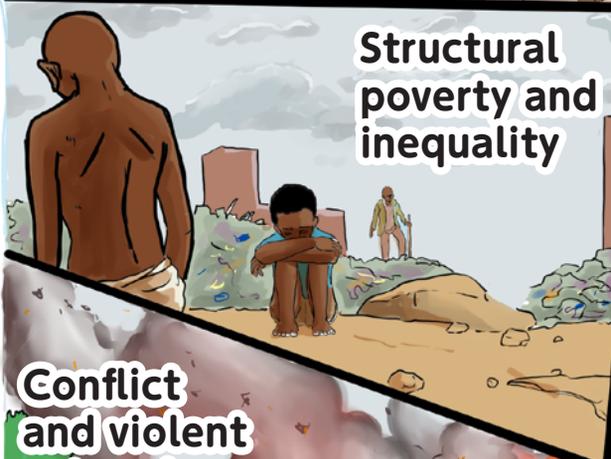
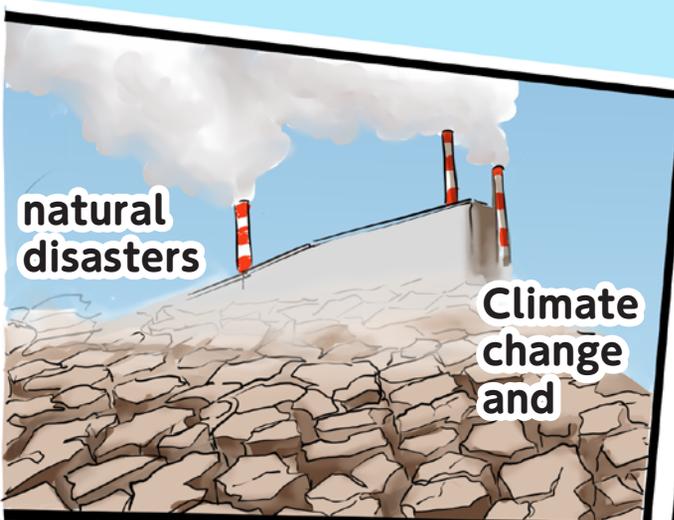
That's more than triple. Are there really so many IDPs here!?



Gouyaouahi used to have a population of 120,000. But it's grown to 400,000 with the influx of IDPs.



Gouyaouahi, where we are now, is in the Liptako-Gourma region of West Africa,



The region is a microcosm of the problems the world is facing.



The people of Liptako-Gourma need to work together across national, ethnic, and religious lines to tackle these problems.

Common to all these problems is that state borders have no meaning.



solutions must also cross borders.

To deal with cross-border problems,



What kind of work does UNDP do?

I see it's all happening here ...

donors including Japan, local NGOs, and other aid organizations that are also active in the region.

Besides the local governments, there are various UN agencies,



Its strength lies in the knowledge and experience gained in the field in 170 countries and territories around the world.



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's lead development agency for eradicating poverty, tackling inequality and exclusion, and supporting sustainable development towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It plays a “convener” role, connecting various actors, including governments and private companies.



UNDP provides holistic support that links all 17 SDGs, rather than specializing in specific areas.



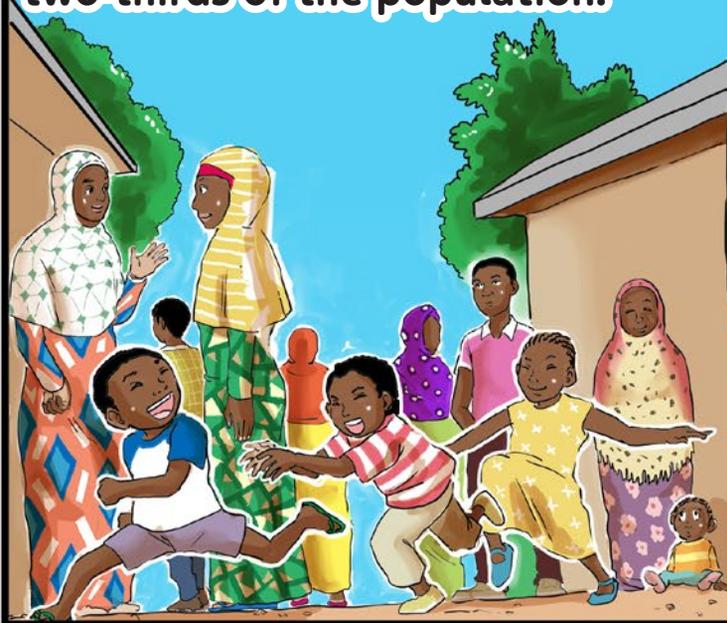
In other words, the focus is not so much on fighting fires as it is on making sure they don't happen in the first place.

UNDP's role is to support nations and people in building their resilience.

In addition to dealing with problems after they occur, UNDP works to address their root causes.



The region has a large working-age demographic, with young people under 25 making up two-thirds of the population.

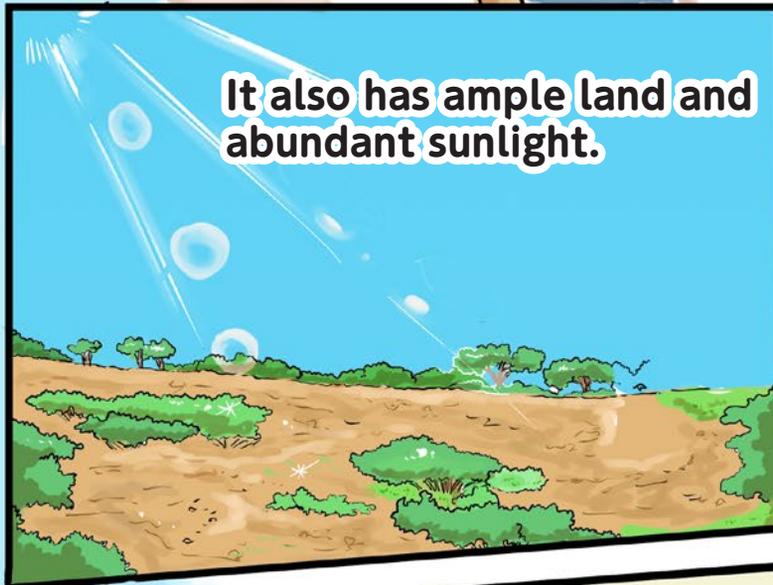


The problems Liptako-Gourma is dealing with are huge, but this region is equally a land of opportunities.

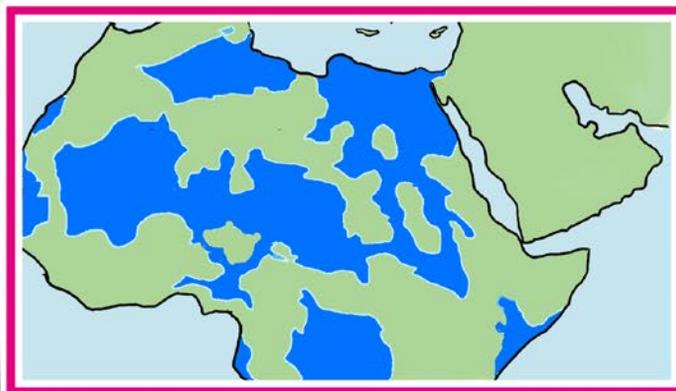
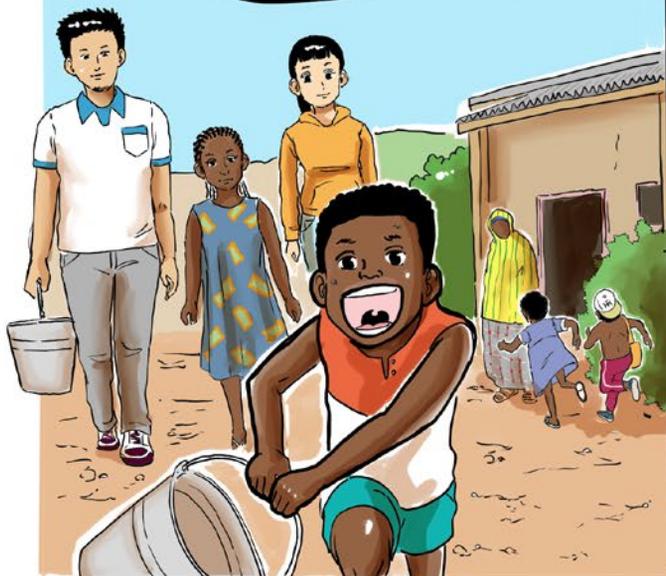


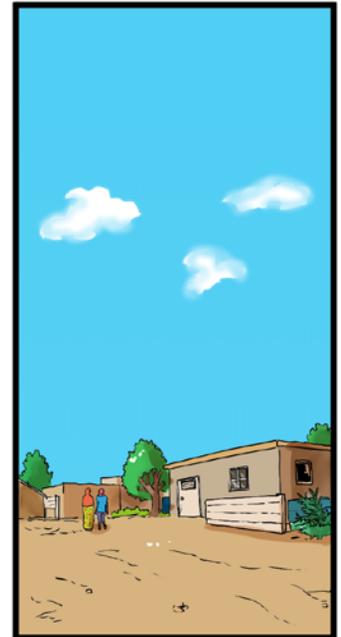
I see - Liptako-Gourma has incredible potential!

It also has ample land and abundant sunlight.



And home to one of the largest sources of groundwater on the continent.





It's a valuable skill that allows IDPs to earn a living.

Part of UNDP's support is training people to make soap.

What are they doing over there?

I'll show you what I learned.

I've never seen soap-making before.

Ne y yibeogo, Nozomi.

Zara, you're here too.

How to make soap



(2) Mix the shea butter thoroughly with coconut oil.

(1) Dilute caustic soda with water the day before. Boil shea butter and skim off any impurities.

(5) Pour the mixture into moulds and leave it for 24 hours to harden.



(4) Add sodium silicate and fragrance and mix thoroughly for about 15 minutes.

(3) Add the caustic soda solution a little at a time.



Caustic soda

Coconut oil



Fragrances

The following items are provided as a starter kit.



Shea butter

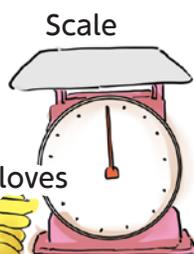
Sodium silicate



Bucket



Protective gloves

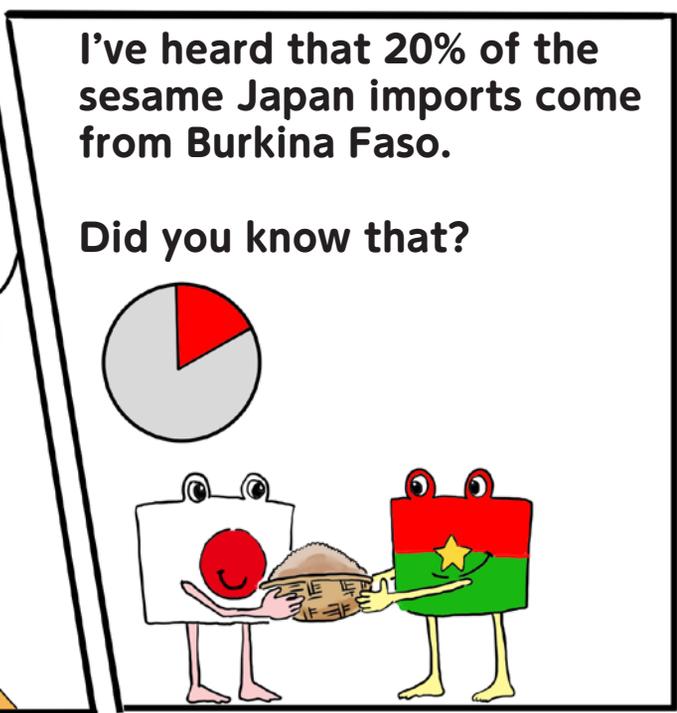
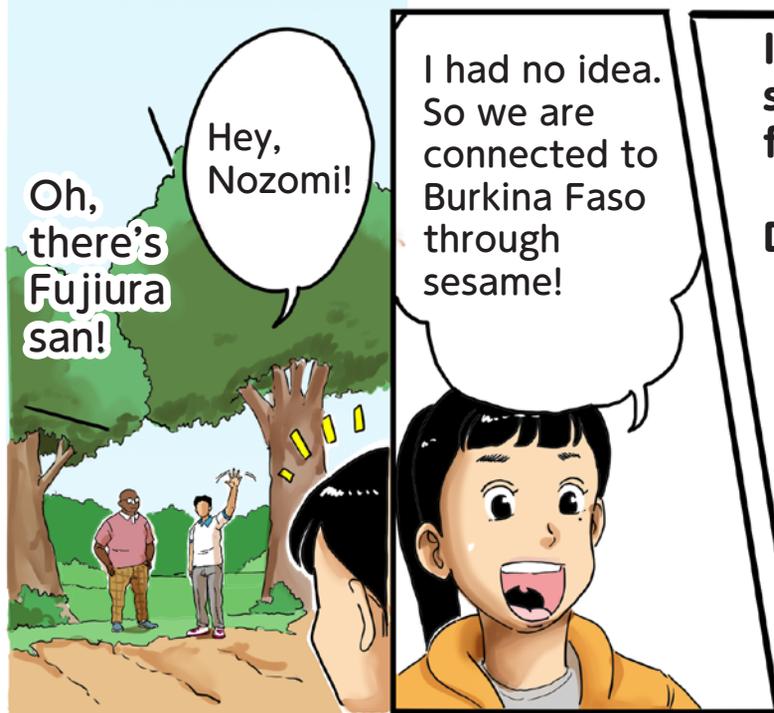
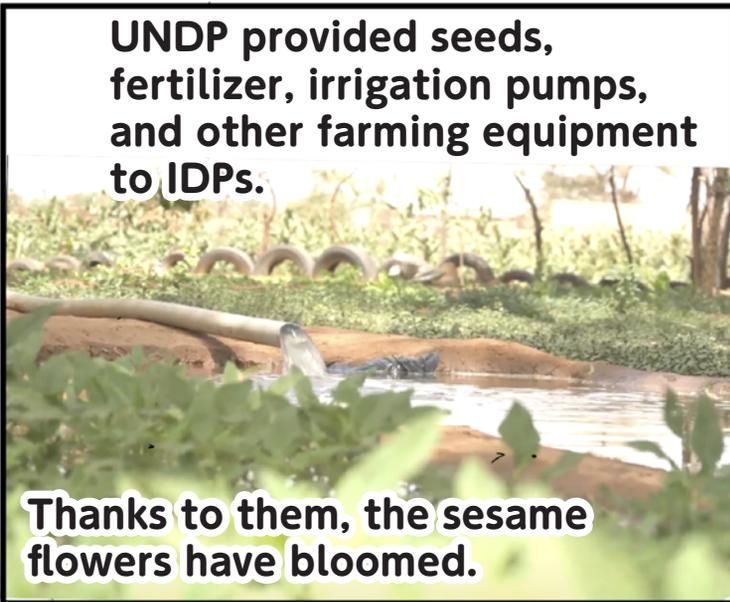


Scale

(6) Remove the soap from the mould, emboss it with a logomark, and package it.



(7) The soap should be used within a week (because it has no preservatives).





It's not just them who are benefitting.

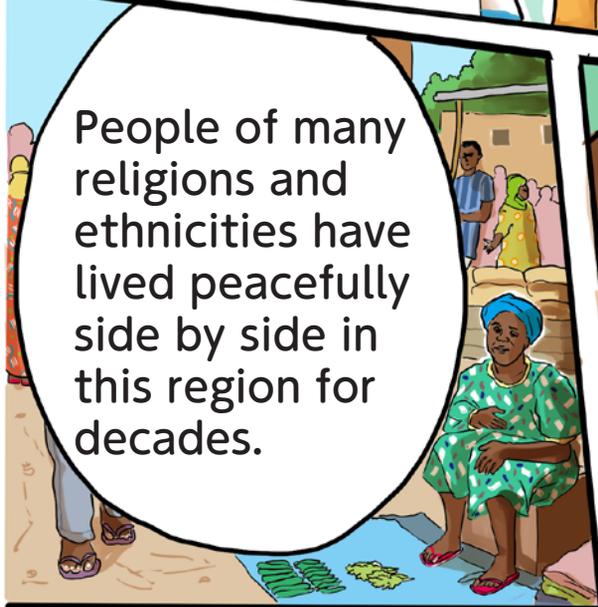
I know the local residents who lease out their land is helping many displaced people.



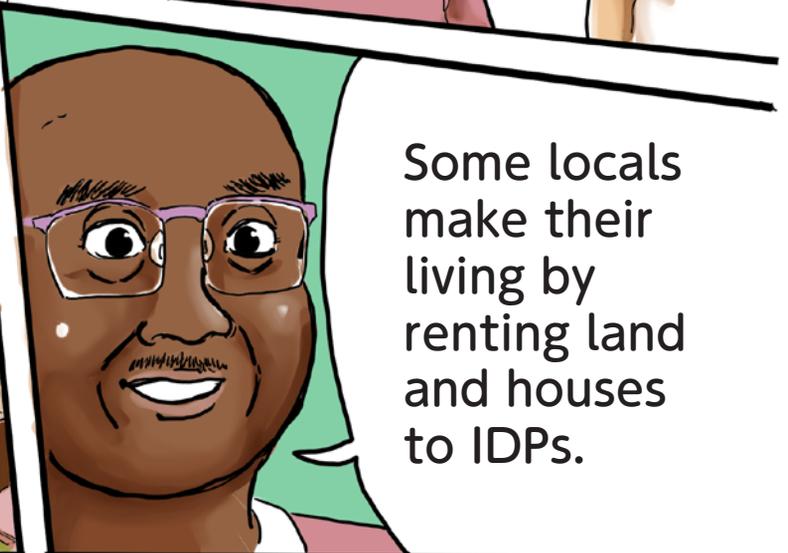
Hi!

Ah, you're the student everyone's talking about.

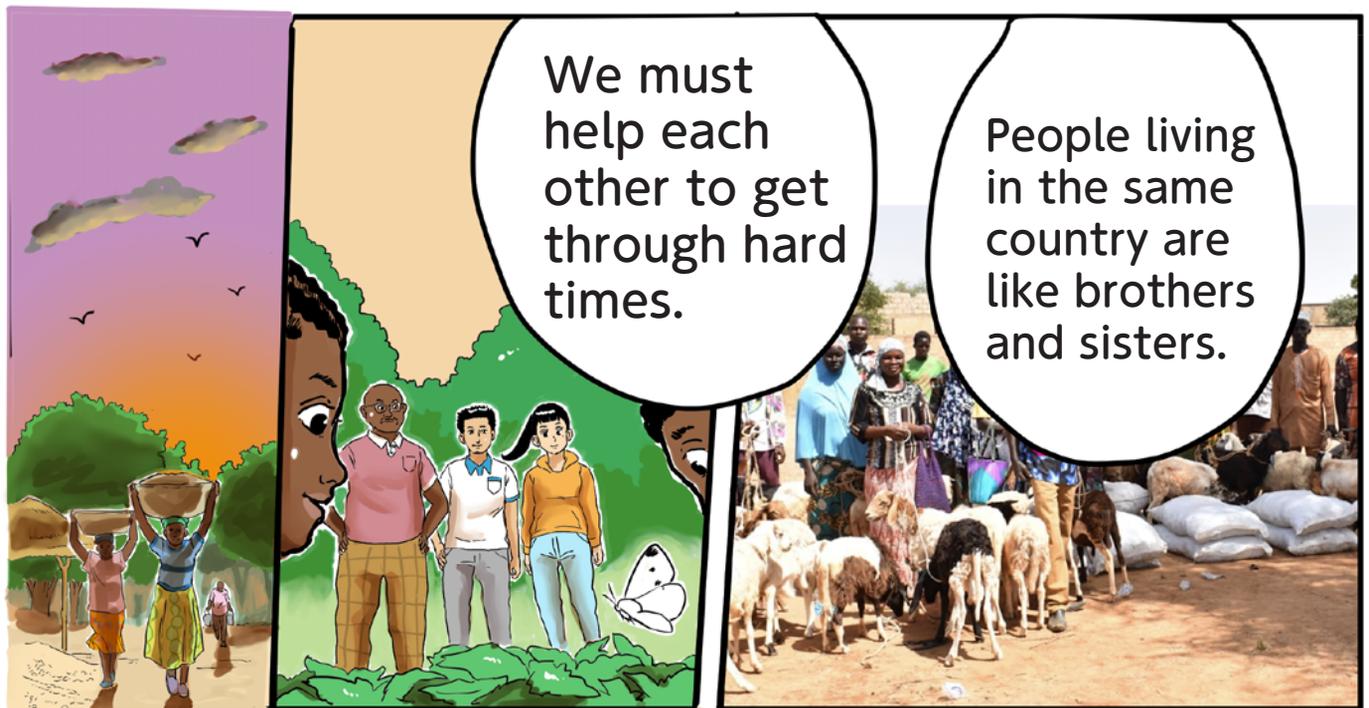
This is Moctar, a local resident. He leases parts of his land to IDPs.



People of many religions and ethnicities have lived peacefully side by side in this region for decades.

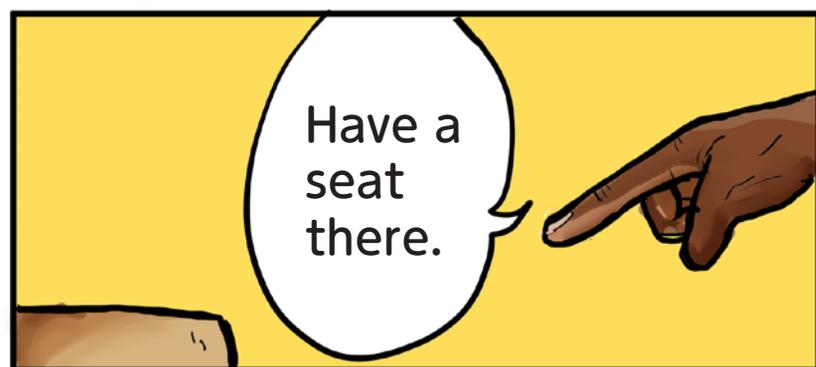


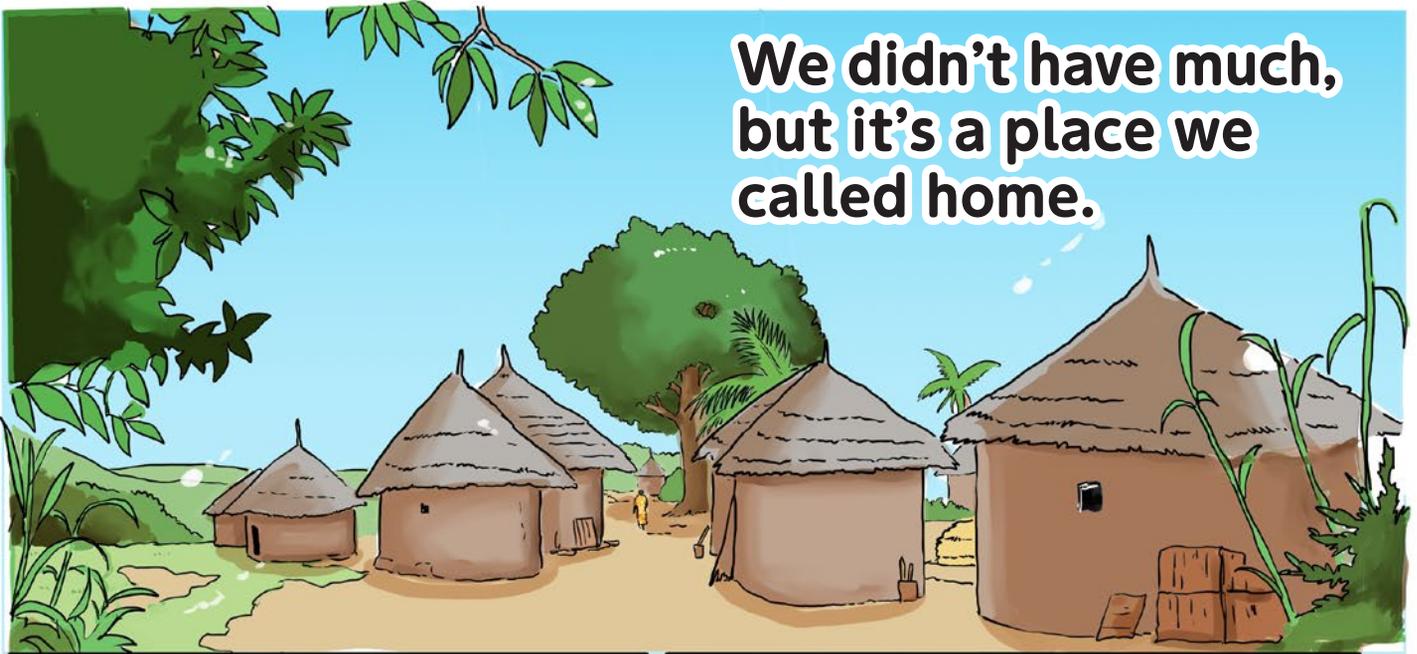
Some locals make their living by renting land and houses to IDPs.



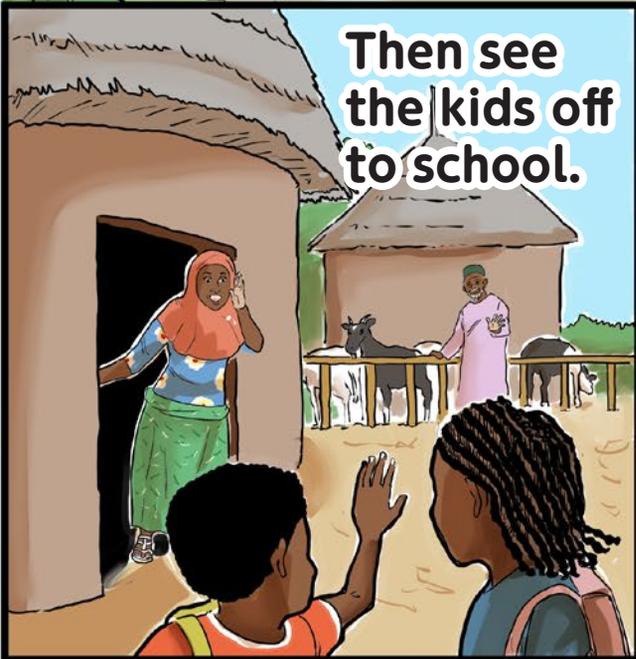
We must help each other to get through hard times.

People living in the same country are like brothers and sisters.

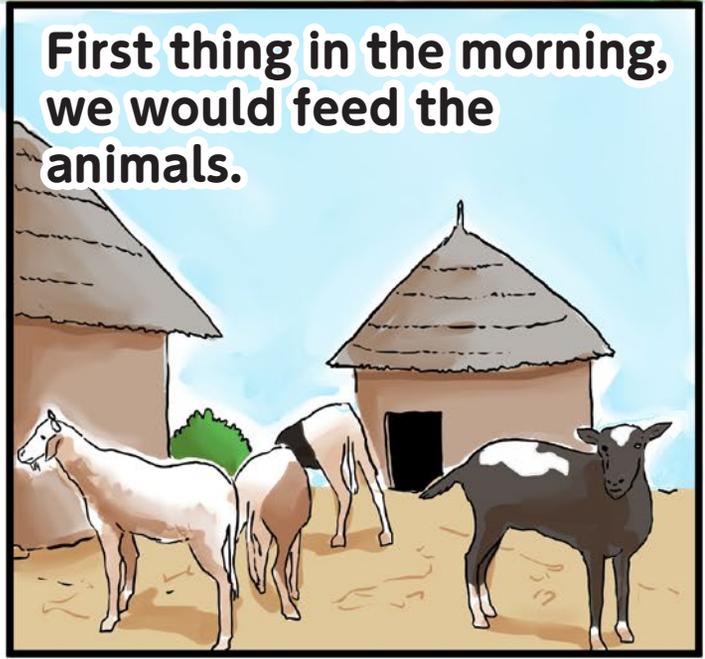




We didn't have much, but it's a place we called home.



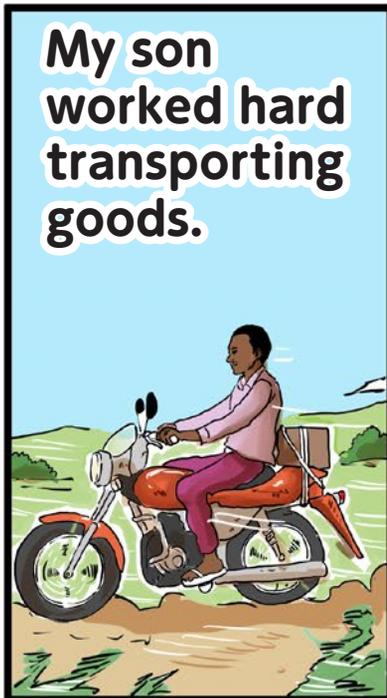
Then see the kids off to school.



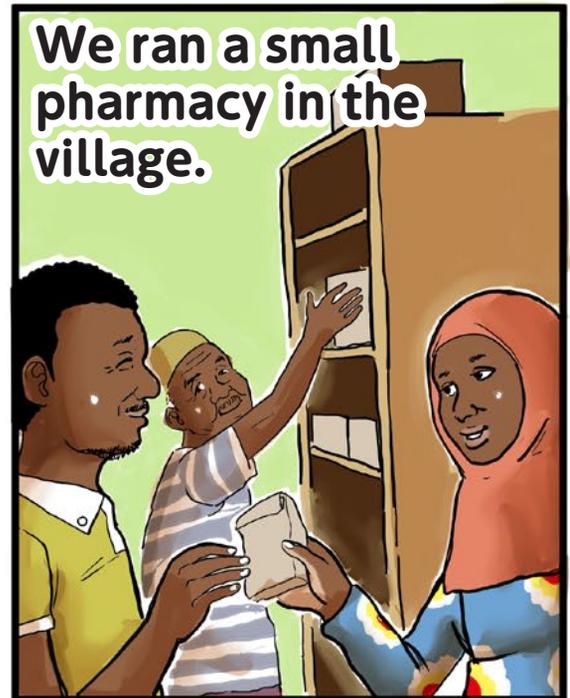
First thing in the morning, we would feed the animals.



It was nothing special, but they were happy days.



My son worked hard transporting goods.



We ran a small pharmacy in the village.

Everyone was worried about the deteriorating situation in the country.

...

Not again. How many has it been this year?

Did you hear about the village attacked by an armed group?

However, a few years ago, I started hearing some disturbing news.



And then...

We lost everything overnight. All the things passed down to us from our ancestors.

They stole the livestock and burned all the houses.

The Liptako-Gourma region is home to many armed groups.



The one consolation is that my family escaped unharmed.



Once the harmony of communities is broken, the fires of conflict quickly get out of hand.

Those who suffer are the most vulnerable... people like us.



They attack over and over again for many different reasons.

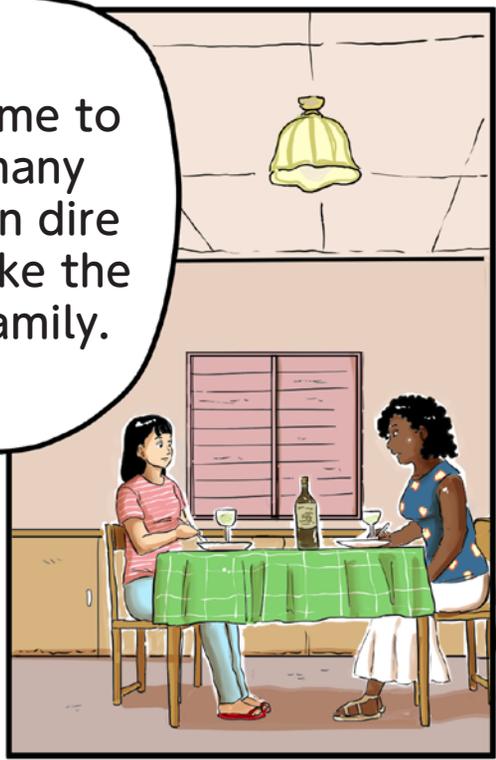
One goal they have in common is to divide communities and fuel unrest through violence.



How long have you been working here, Fatimata?



It pains me to see so many people in dire straits like the Belem family.



Later, I began assisting IDPs, mostly women, because I realized improving the livelihoods of families was essential to improving the conditions for children.



I first joined a local NGO to help children who couldn't go to school due to the worsening security situation these last few years.



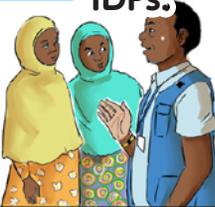
Toward a more resilient society.



That motivated me to try to help build better local communities while respecting the will of the people.

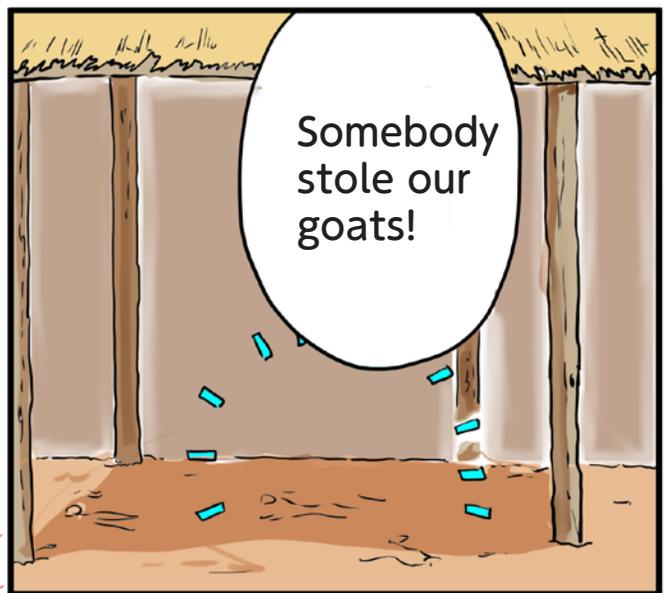
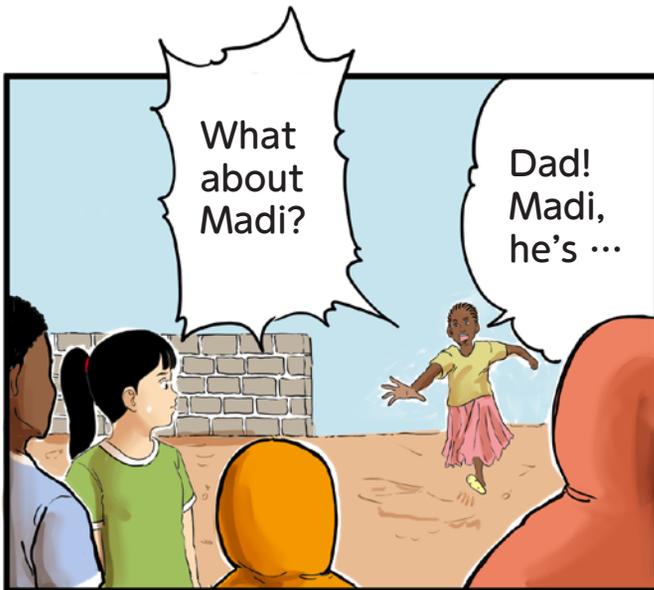


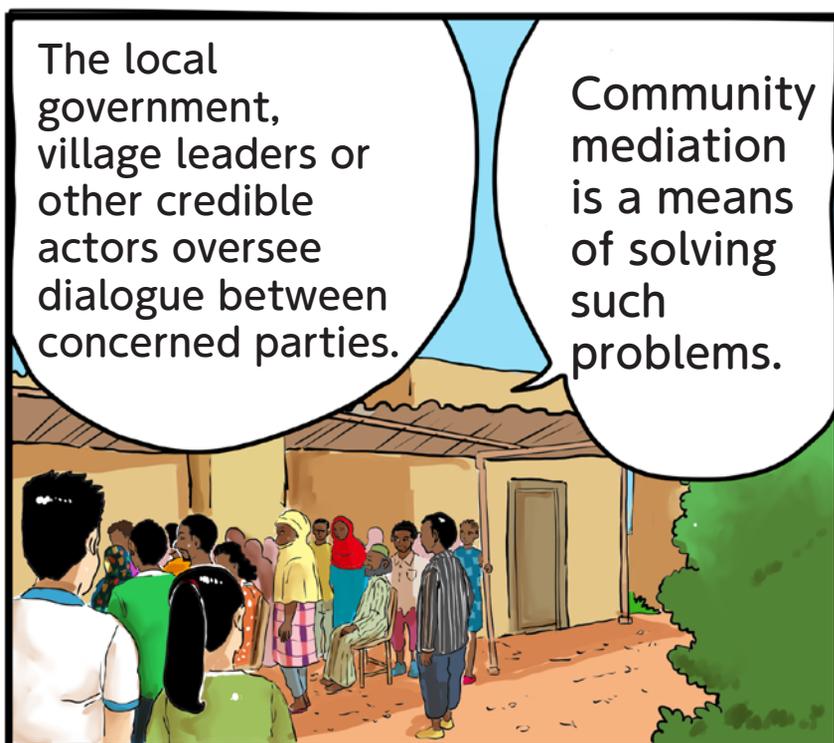
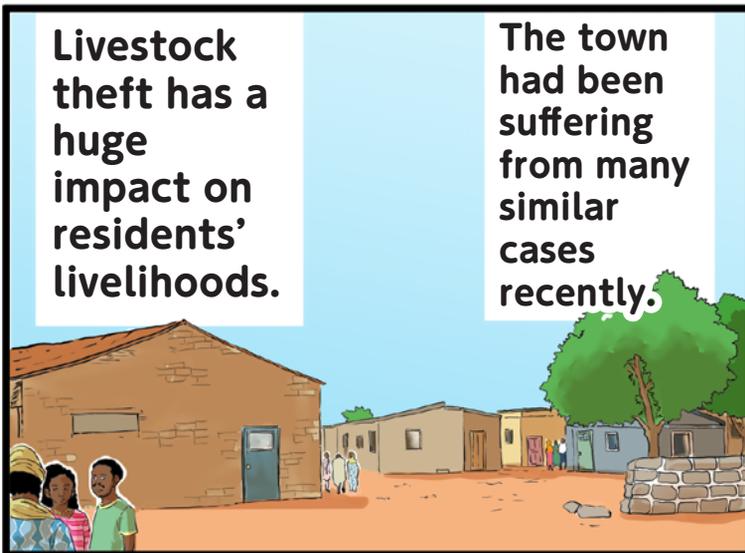
UNDP has always been supporting comprehensive local development through joint dialogue with local authorities, host communities, and IDPs.

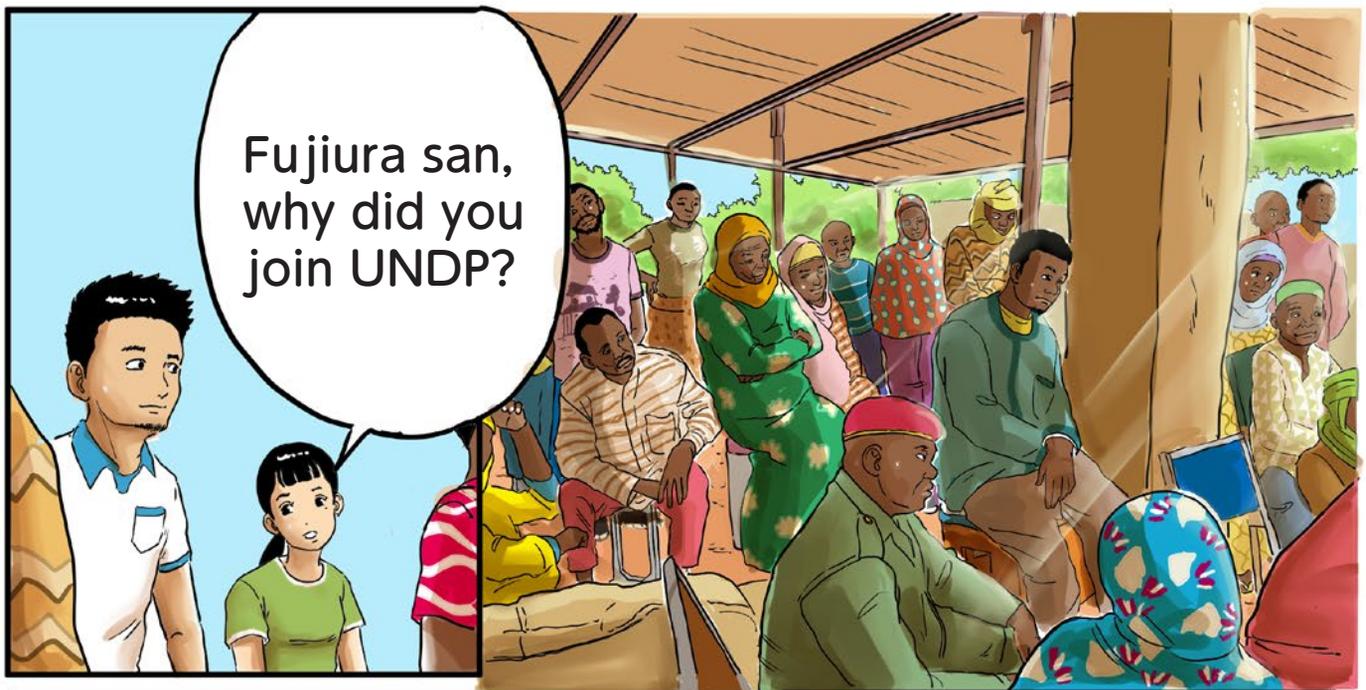




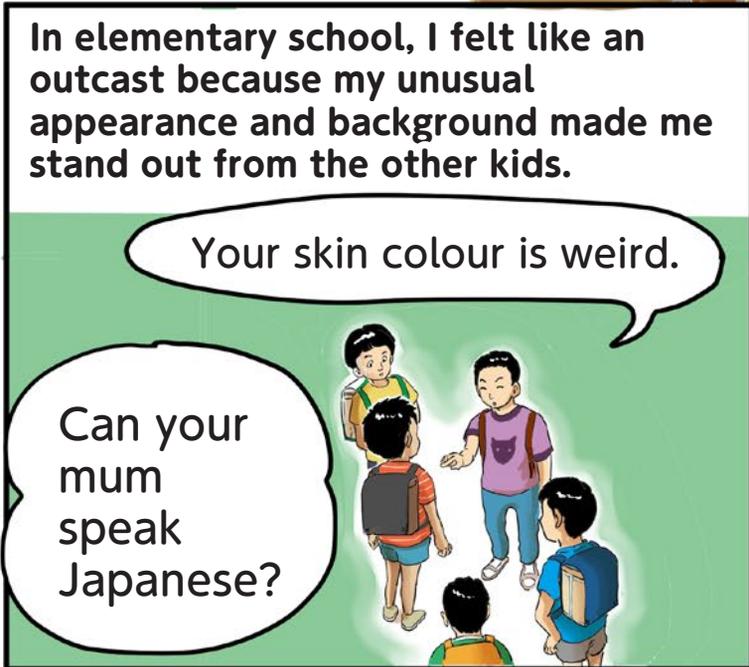
Next Morning







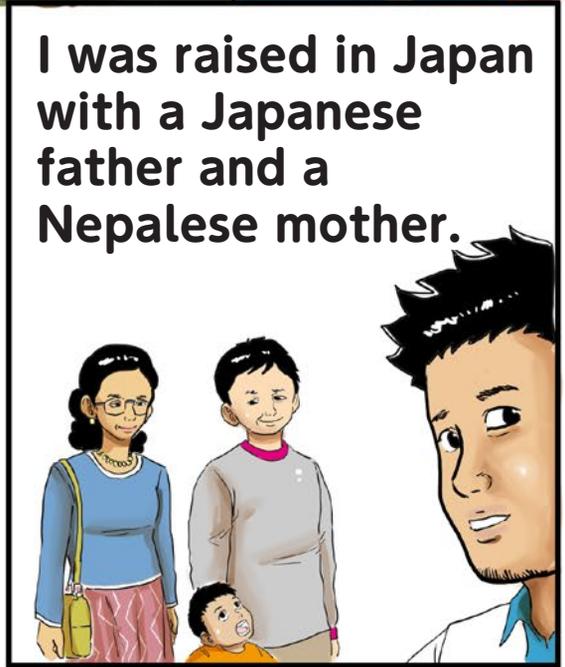
Fujiura san,
why did you
join UNDP?



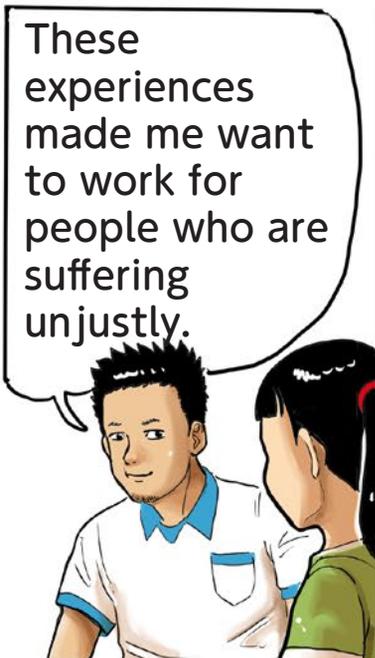
In elementary school, I felt like an outcast because my unusual appearance and background made me stand out from the other kids.

Your skin colour is weird.

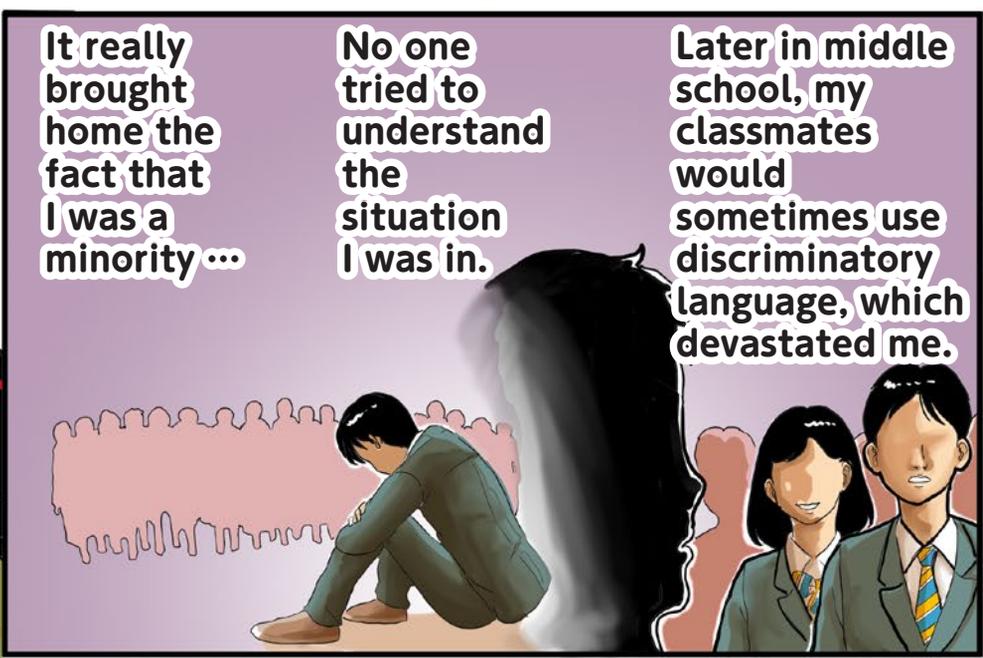
Can your mum speak Japanese?



I was raised in Japan with a Japanese father and a Nepalese mother.



These experiences made me want to work for people who are suffering unjustly.



It really brought home the fact that I was a minority ...

No one tried to understand the situation I was in.

Later in middle school, my classmates would sometimes use discriminatory language, which devastated me.

Then, after the Great East Japan Earthquake,



That's how I began working closely with various social minorities.



A search and rescue team from South Africa



was helping with the relief efforts.

I volunteered to take part in the recovery operations.



That's where I saw something I never imagined.

This inspired me to pursue a career in the international cooperation field.



Do you remember what happened back then? Immediately after the earthquake, countries around the world reached out to Japan in many different ways. Sending financial support, dispatching experts, and expressing solidarity.



People, resources, knowledge, and cultures are all connected in one way or another.

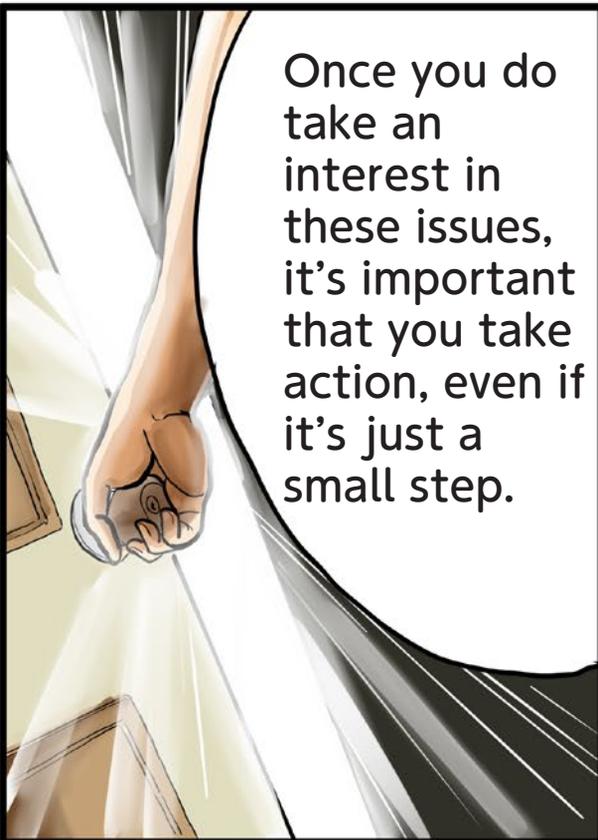
exchanges and cooperation with the rest of the world.

Our lifestyles are sustained through



many more suffer from conflicts, famine, and disasters.

But we know that while some regions and people benefit from this system,



Once you do take an interest in these issues, it's important that you take action, even if it's just a small step.



Indifference and a "me first" attitude inadvertently contribute to the misery of someone else.

Being indifferent is easy. But no one is unaffected by what happens in other parts of the world.

After discussions, the representatives of the host community and the IDPs decided

It looks like they've come to some kind of agreement.

They also decided to take turns carrying out nightly patrols.

to provide timber and wire fencing to build enclosures for the livestock with assistance from the local government and NGOs.

A few days later

The Belem family was given a male goat through a mutual aid fund set up by the IDPs.

The process of discussing solutions through collaborative dialogue like this is crucial for social cohesion.



No. We plan on settling down here in Gouyaouahi.

Do you want to go back to your hometown someday?



Watch this video for the answer.

I'm sure you're curious.

So what happened to the Belem family after they started rebuilding their lives with one goat?

Several years later in Japan



As for the sesame grown in the Belems' field ...



Who knows, it may have found a way to our dining plates.



Since then, the family steadily increased their herd and now have 10 goats.



providing vocational training to young people in Liptako-Gourma is that



In my current work at UNDP, what I have learned while

They were also able to reopen their long-awaited pharmacy.



**people have
the power
to rebuild.**



**even when all
seems lost,
amidst the
deepest of
adversities,**



**Anything is possible
when this innate
power is unlocked -**

**the power of
resilience.**





**From
the People of Japan**



Based on a true story of a family from the Liptako-Gourma region, West Africa.

Illustration by Rene Hoshino

Copyright © UNDP 2022

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of UNDP.

For more information, please contact:

UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo
UN House 8F, 5-53-70 Jingumae
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001

jp.undp.org