



Fighting for Our Rights

Why We Need Social Protection Now!



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Did you find us a spot?

Arunny is Chivy's daughter. She just turned 11 two moons ago.

This market is her playground. She was born in a small clinic here next to the school.

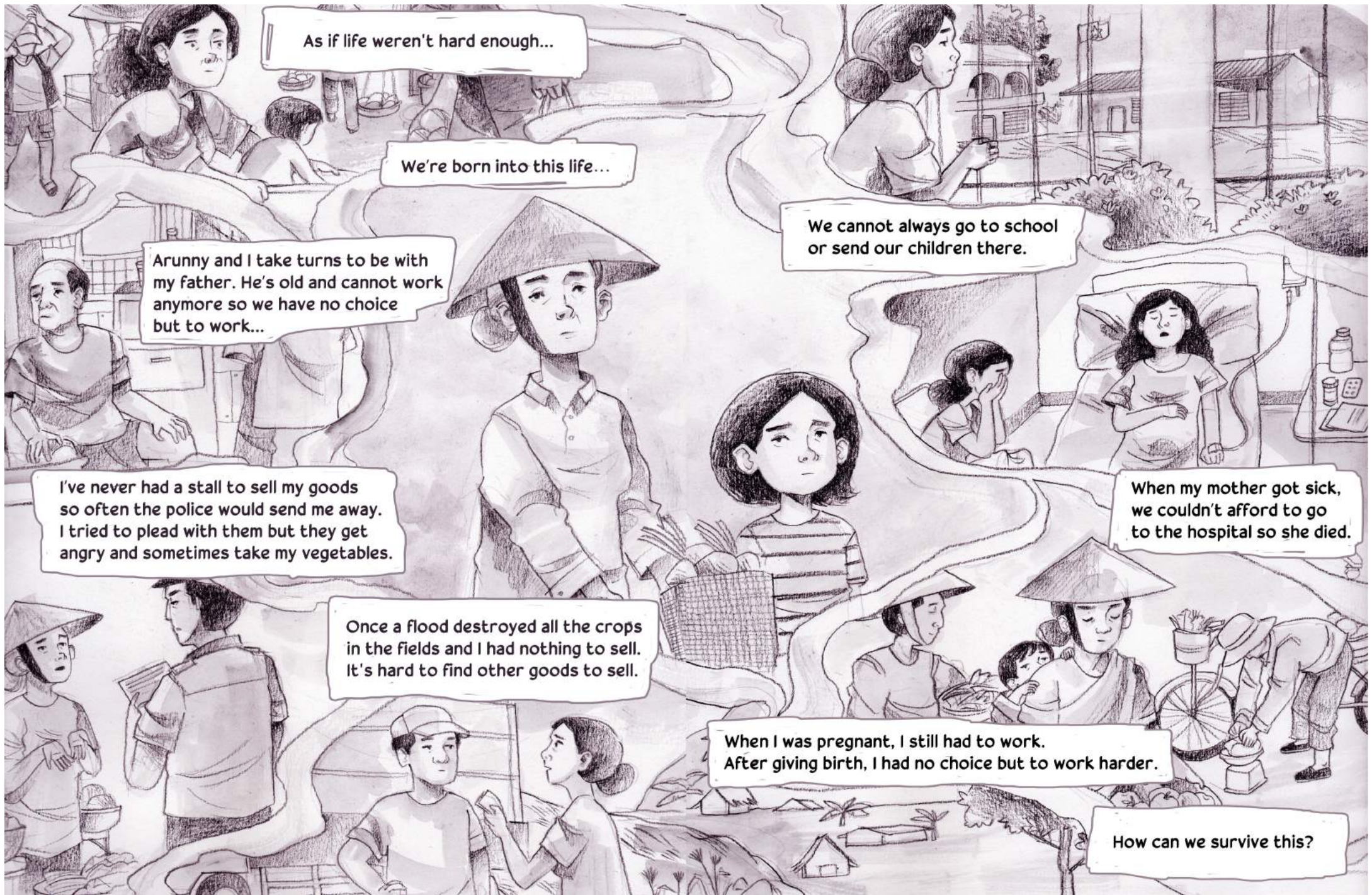
She's old enough to be in Grade 6 but she's only in Grade 4.

Chivy was 11 when she started to sell vegetables here. Her parents, both farmers, could no longer afford to send her to school and needed an extra hand so the market became her school. Here she learned to read the seasons, knowing which fruits and vegetables would be in stock. She could tell the sweetest fruit just by how it looked and despite not knowing to read and write, she was the fastest at computing a customer's change.

Yes mama!

Over here!





As if life weren't hard enough...

We're born into this life...

Arunny and I take turns to be with my father. He's old and cannot work anymore so we have no choice but to work...

We cannot always go to school or send our children there.

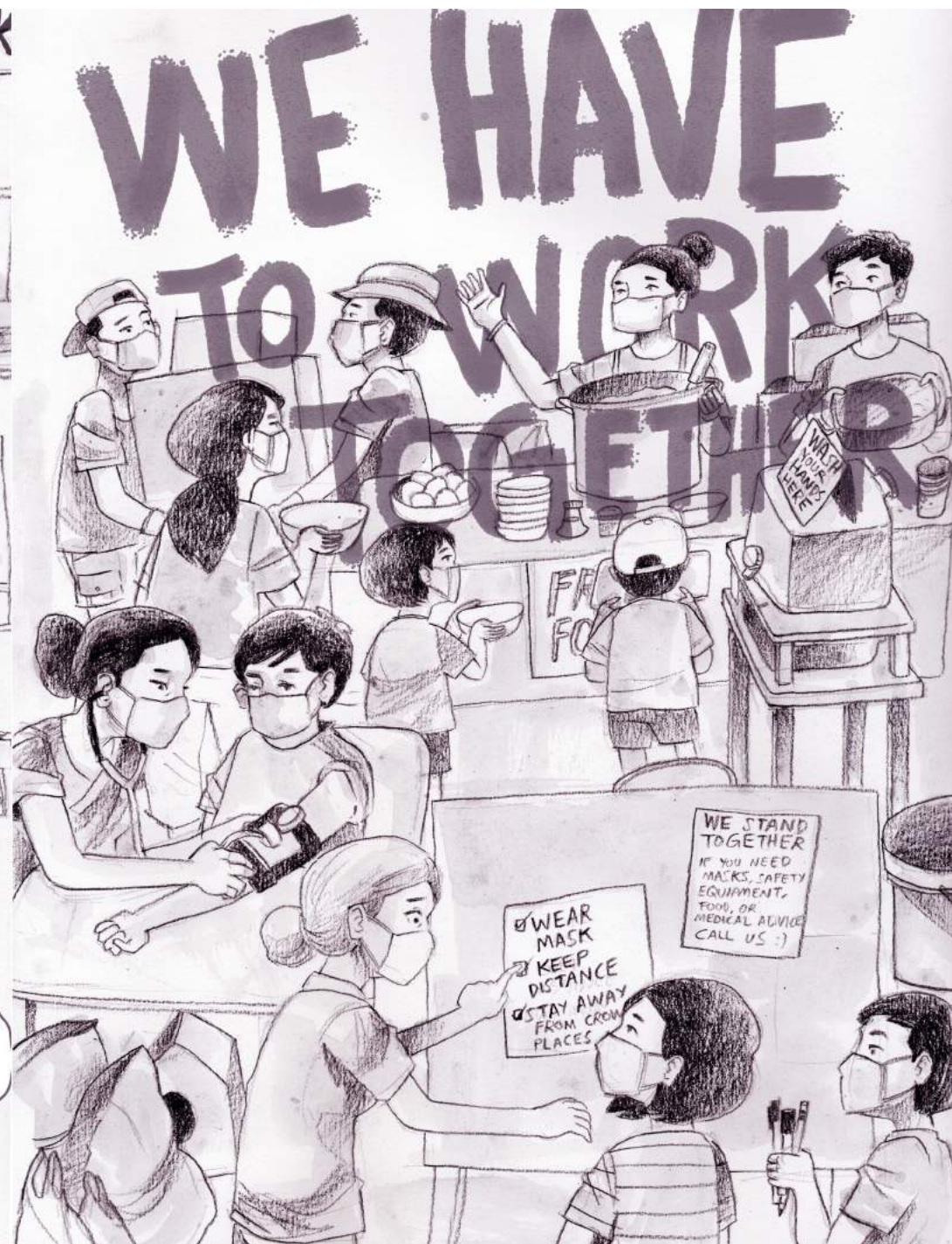
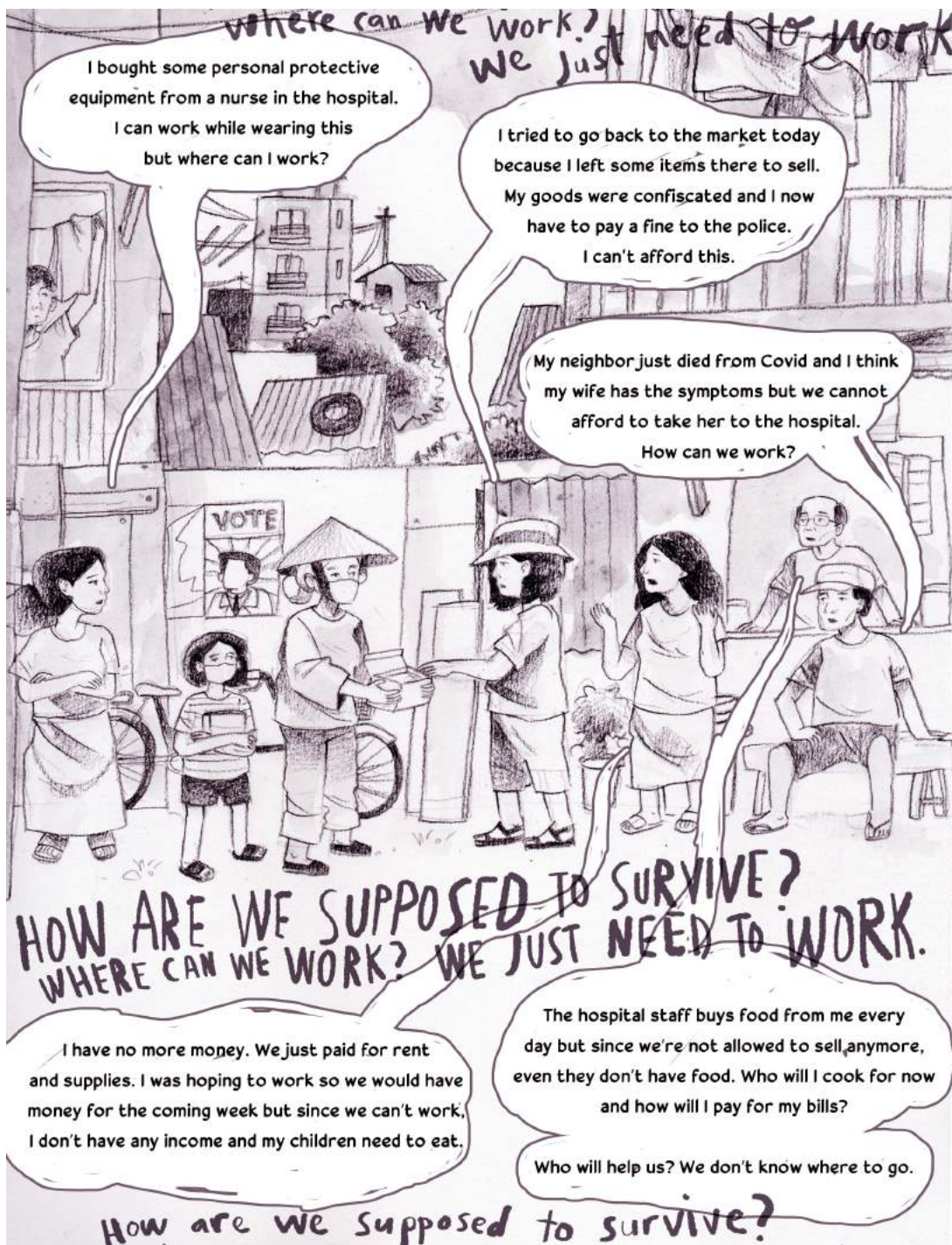
I've never had a stall to sell my goods so often the police would send me away. I tried to plead with them but they get angry and sometimes take my vegetables.

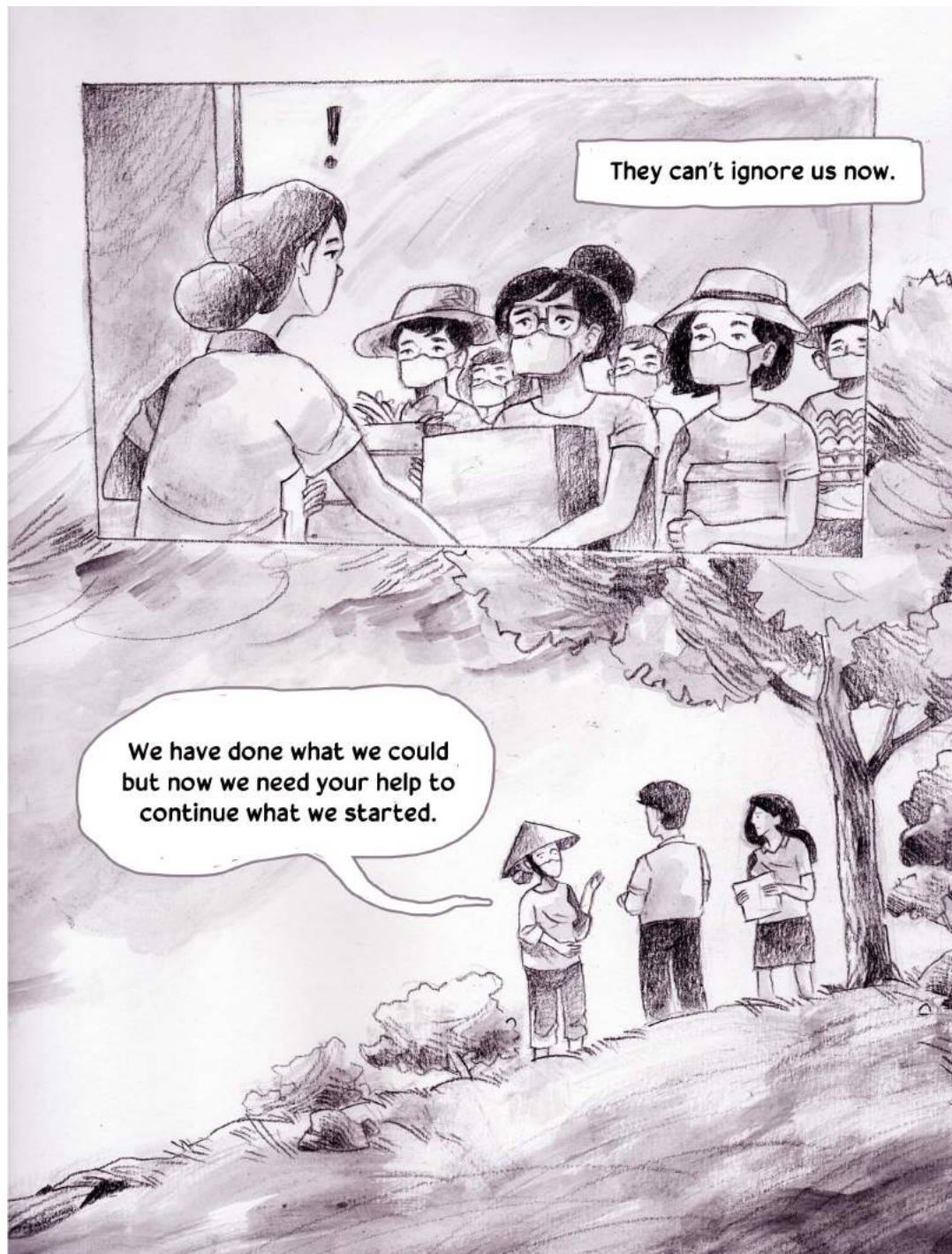
When my mother got sick, we couldn't afford to go to the hospital so she died.

Once a flood destroyed all the crops in the fields and I had nothing to sell. It's hard to find other goods to sell.

When I was pregnant, I still had to work. After giving birth, I had no choice but to work harder.

How can we survive this?





There's no turning back now. The pandemic has shown how difficult our lives are as street vendors. We have lost our jobs, our income, and sometimes even our lives but we cannot give up. We need your help to make sure that we are better protected from threats to our health, our livelihood, and our families.



OUR DEMANDS



Recognition as essential workers.

Representation

Access to safe work places

Right to association

Cash support

Extension of social protection schemes to include us

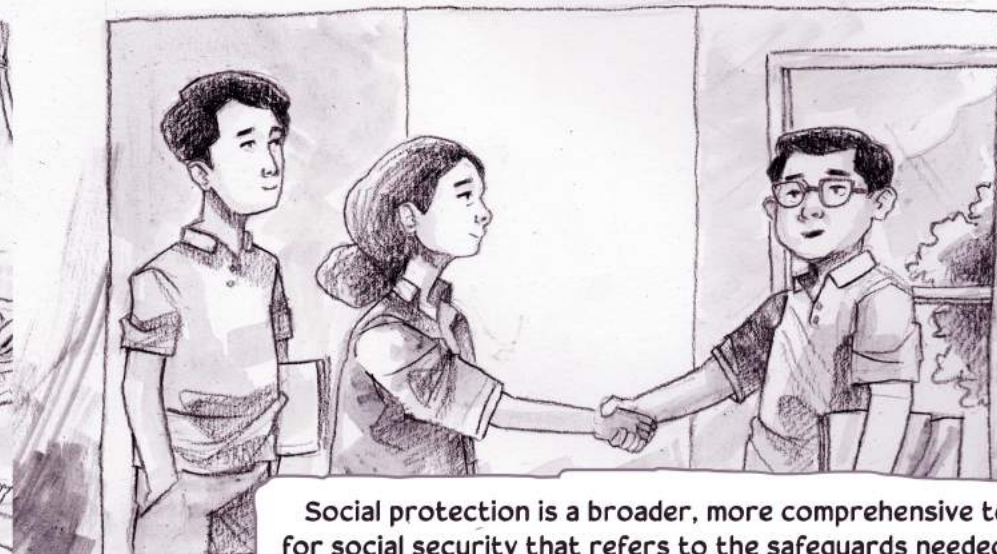
Right to work

Simplified ways to engage government & access support systems

Access to testing & vaccines



We are workers! We have rights!



Social protection is a broader, more comprehensive term for social security that refers to the safeguards needed to protect informal economy workers against the various risks they face in their lifetime.

Social protection programs and policies must be designed and implemented to prioritize human rights and equity considerations.



Social protection can be provided by the state, the private sector, or a combination of both.

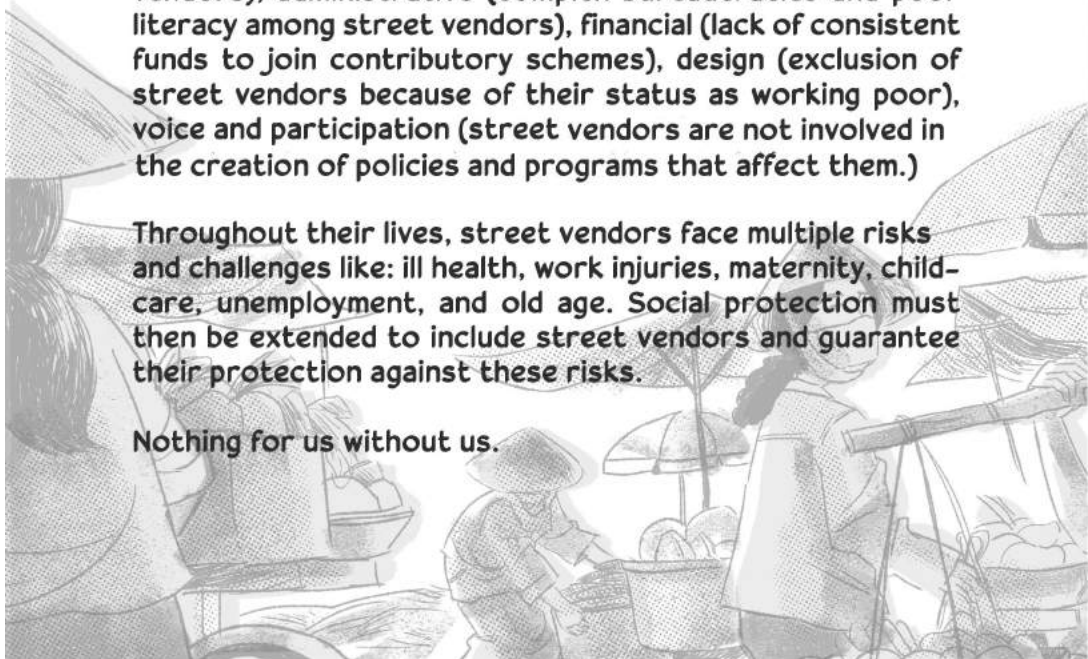
Social assistance (paid for through taxes), social insurance (contributory schemes agreed upon between workers, employers, and government), and social services (public and private) make up the broad category of policies and programs known as social protection.

However, informal economy workers are often excluded from these schemes by design. They are not considered poor enough to benefit from cash transfers. Their incomes are too low to contribute regularly to social insurance schemes.

Access to social protection is often blocked by the following barriers: legal (non existence of laws protecting street vendors), administrative (complex bureaucracies and poor literacy among street vendors), financial (lack of consistent funds to join contributory schemes), design (exclusion of street vendors because of their status as working poor), voice and participation (street vendors are not involved in the creation of policies and programs that affect them.)

Throughout their lives, street vendors face multiple risks and challenges like: ill health, work injuries, maternity, child-care, unemployment, and old age. Social protection must then be extended to include street vendors and guarantee their protection against these risks.

Nothing for us without us.



Nash Tysmans

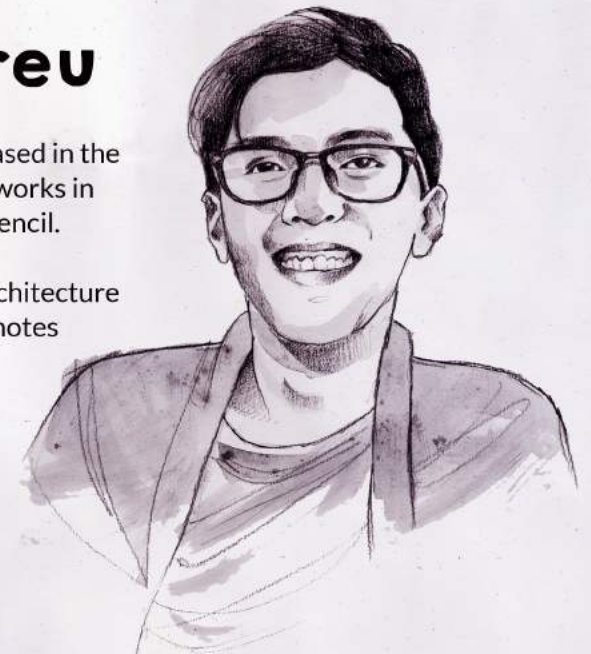
is StreetNet International's organizer for Asia. She dedicates this story to the street vendors and informal economy workers without whom many things would not be possible.

They inspire her everyday.

Juno Abreu

is a freelance illustrator based in the Philippines. He primarily works in watercolor and graphite pencil.

He finished a degree in Architecture and loves doodling on his notes and making comics.



StreetNet International is a global alliance of street vendor organizations with over 690,000 members from 54 countries. We advocate for the rights of street vendors and encourage them to participate in actions that reflect their needs and the future they deserve.



@Streetnet1



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