

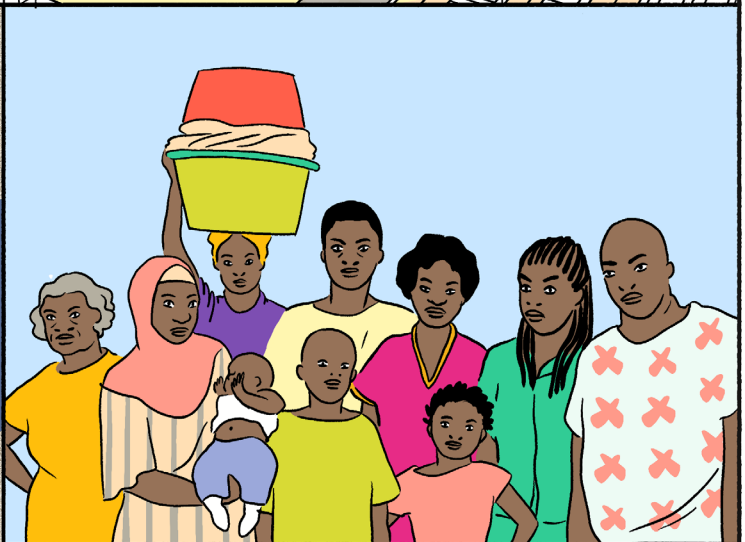
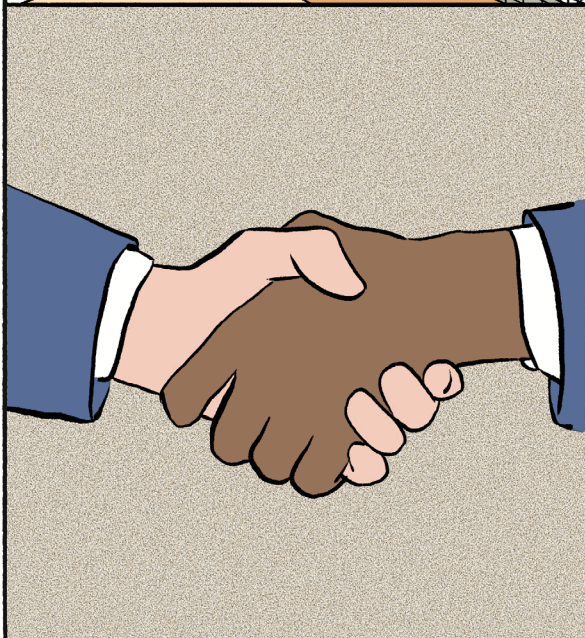
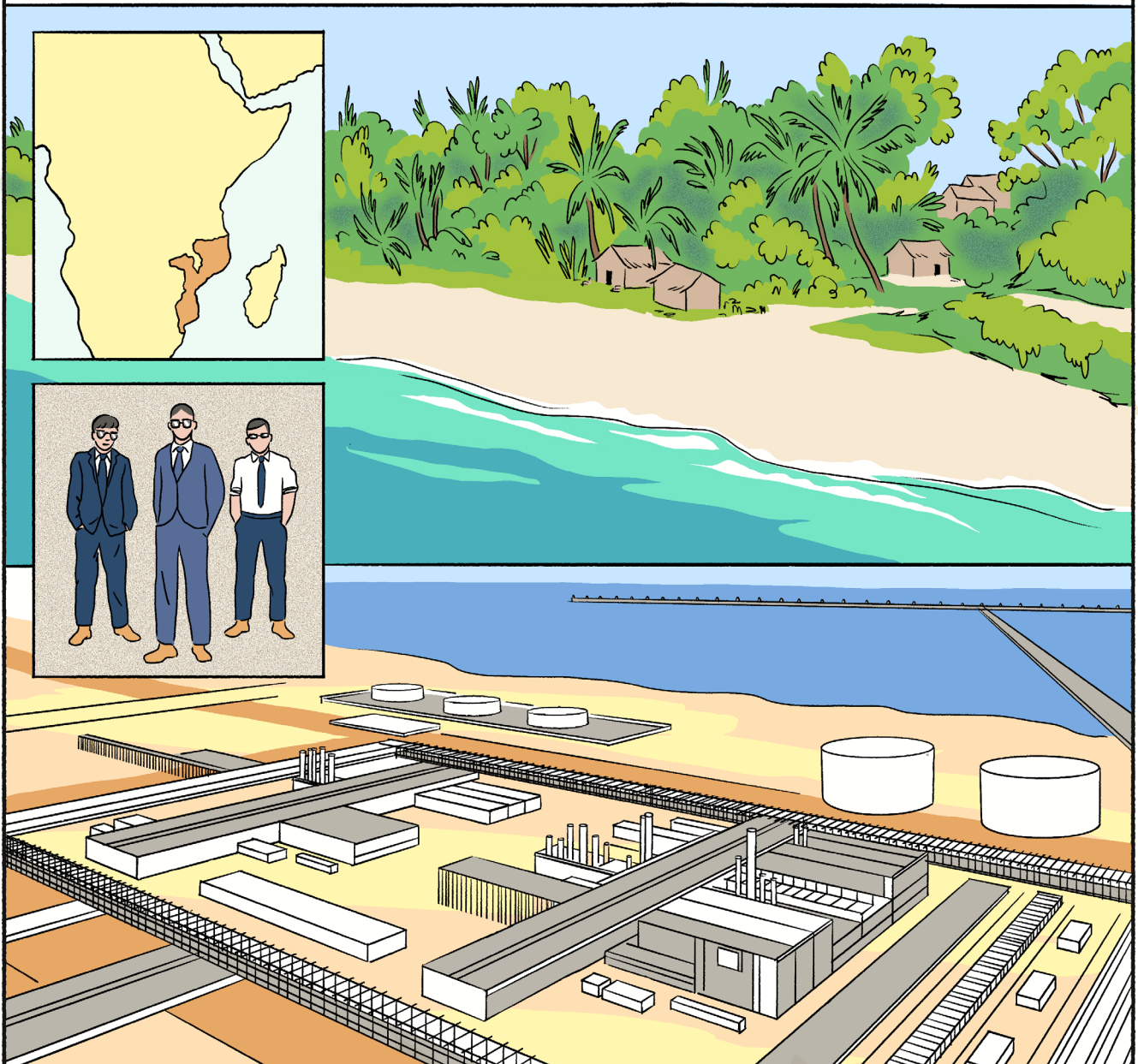


Fuel and fire
in northern
Mozambique

This comic is dedicated to the people of northern Mozambique whose lives have been torn apart and disregarded by corporations and governments.

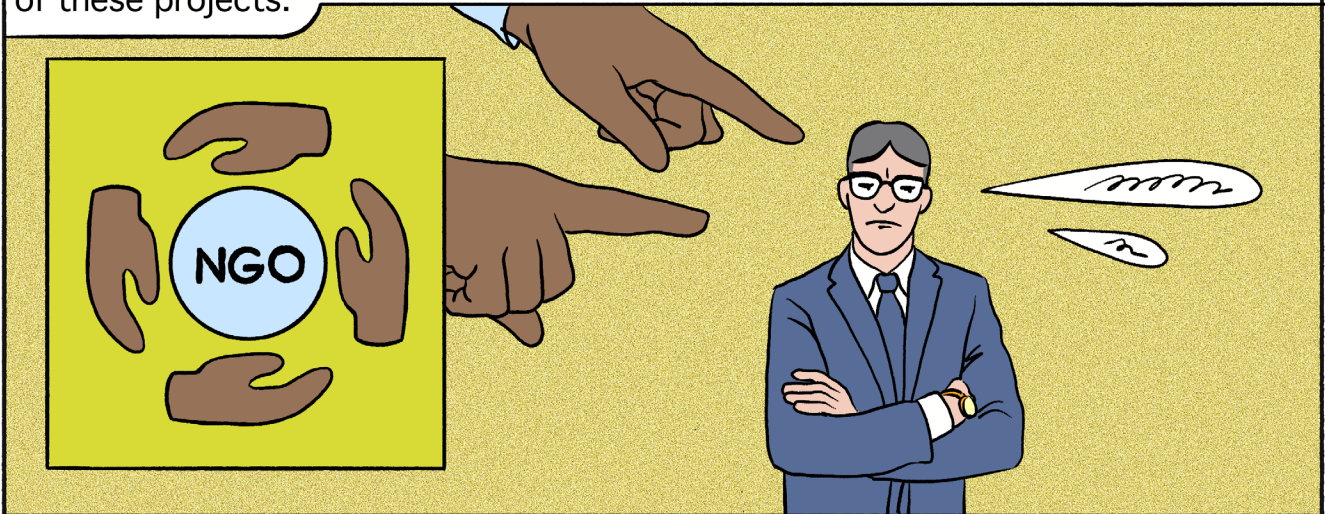
In 2010, a large quantity of gas is discovered off the coast of northern Mozambique (Cabo Delgado Province) ...

Companies like TotalEnergies and ENI arrive in northern Mozambique to extract gas.

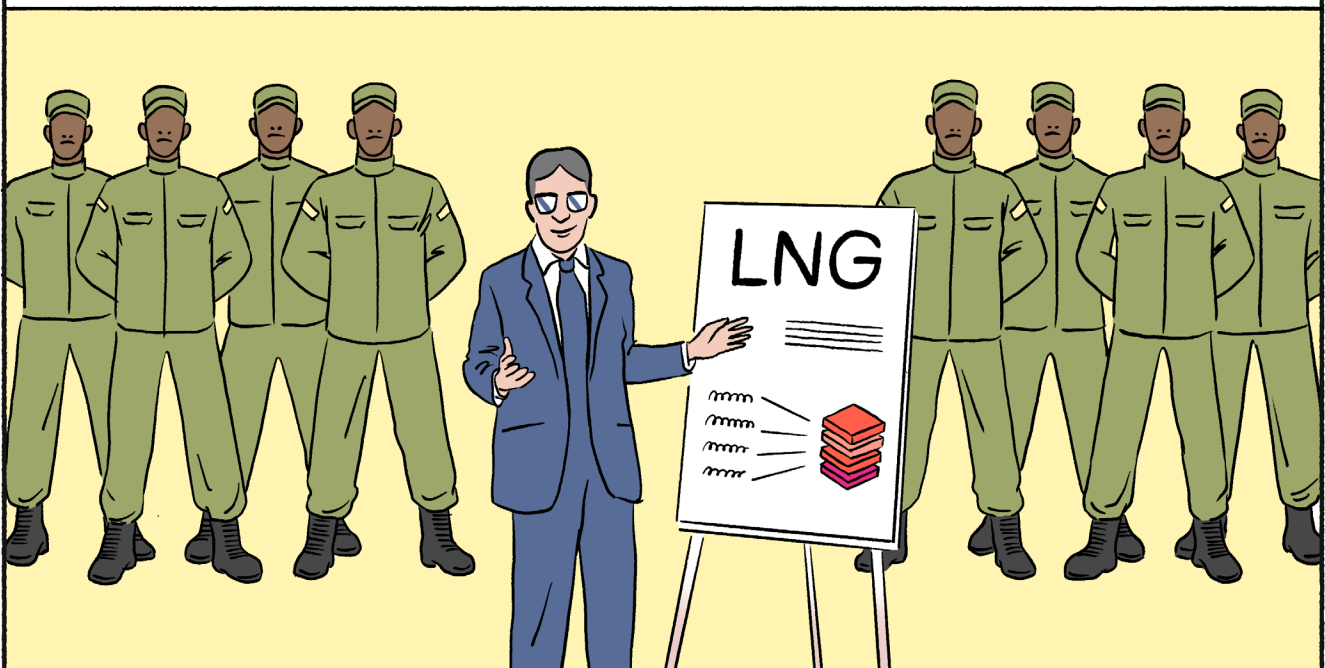


The local population was not engaged in the decision-making and planning of the gas projects.

Only after NGOs got involved the communities were informed of the true impacts of these projects.



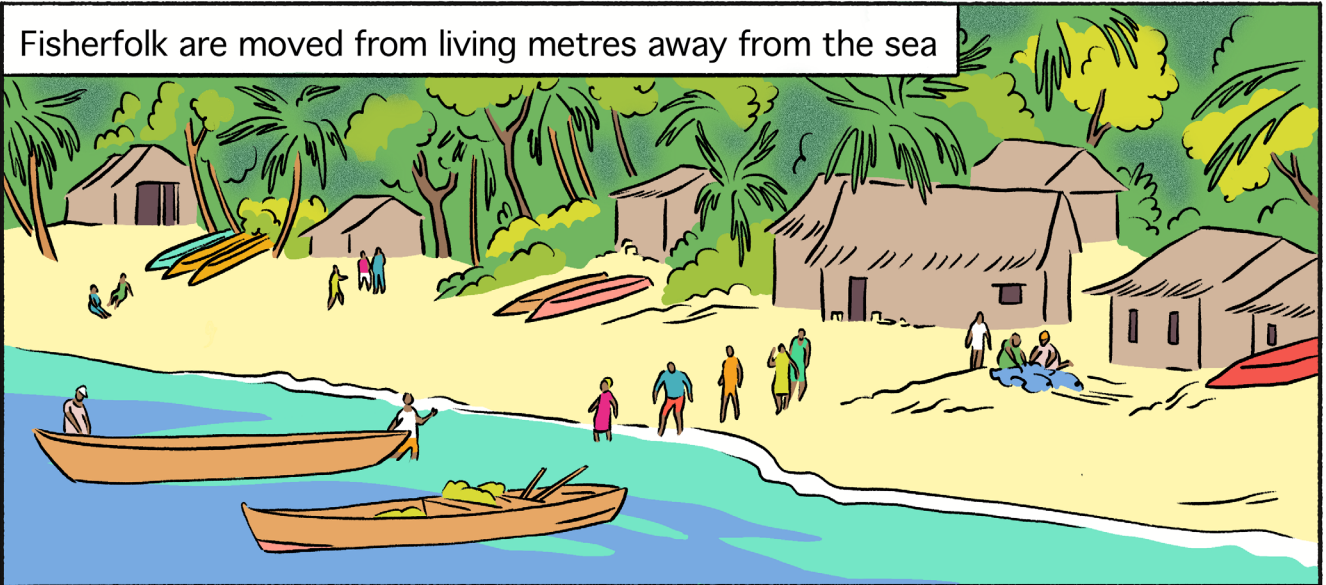
When the companies visited the people to 'consult' they came with military entourage...



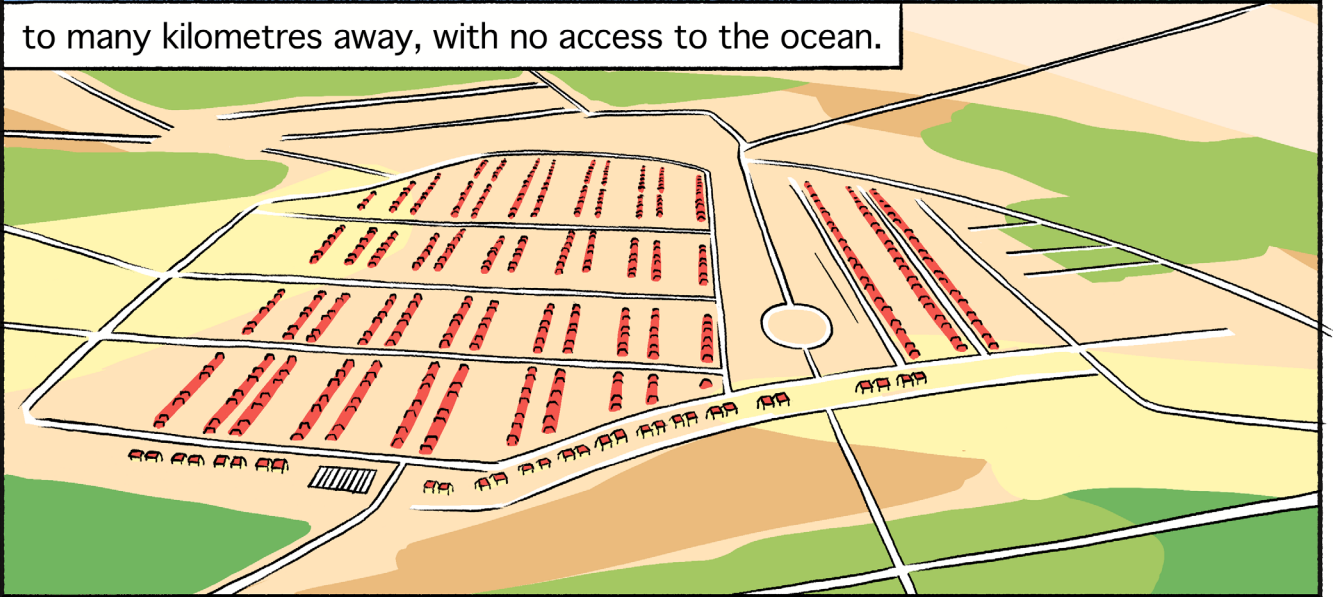
People were afraid to speak out and dissent.



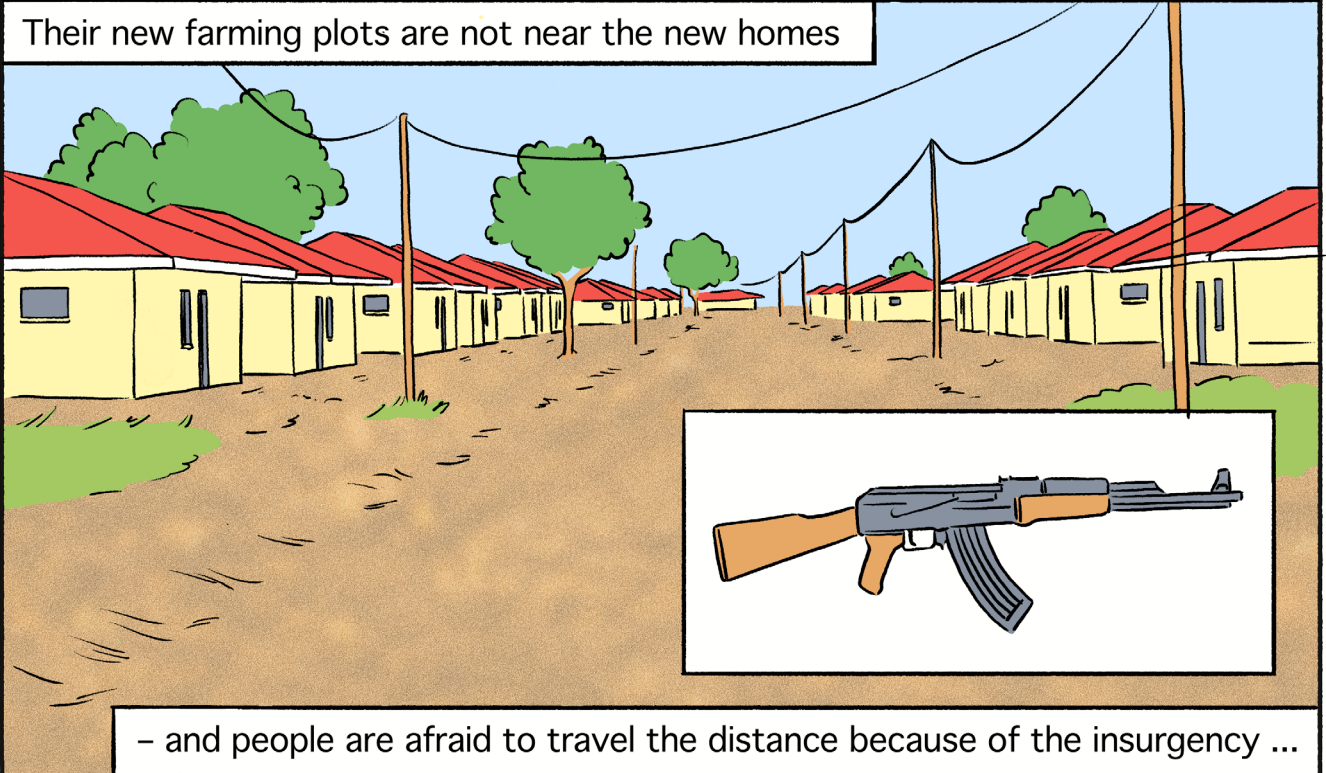
Fisherfolk are moved from living metres away from the sea



to many kilometres away, with no access to the ocean.

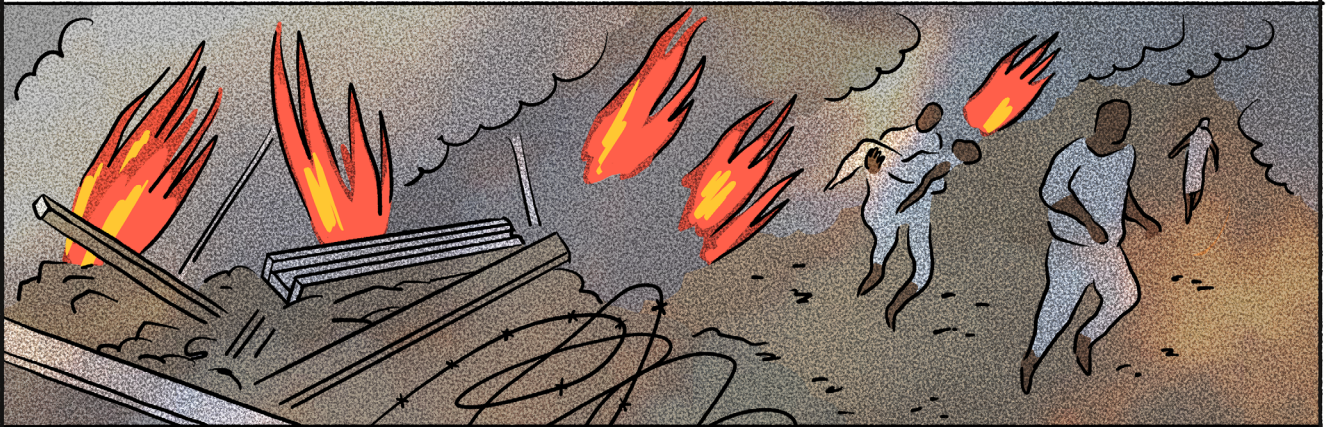


Their new farming plots are not near the new homes

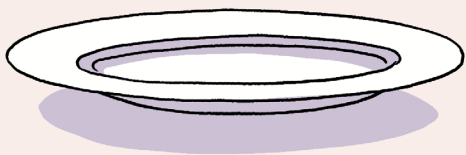


- and people are afraid to travel the distance because of the insurgency ...

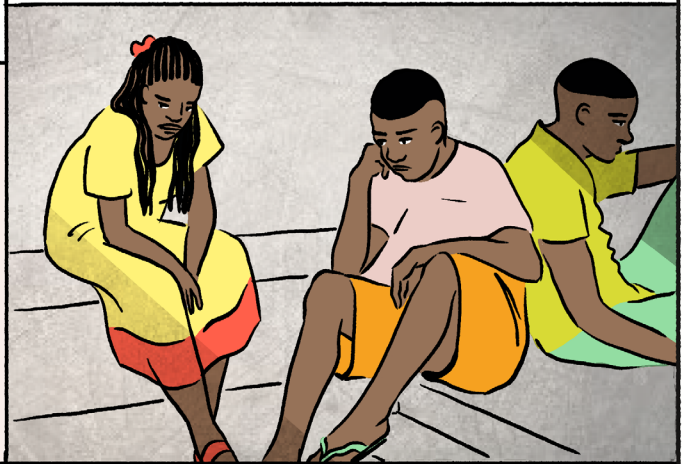
The gas projects have fuelled violent insurgencies in the region.



Insurgencies are fuelled by poverty: the local population in the north of Mozambique have been excluded by the state from the benefits of the gas windfall.



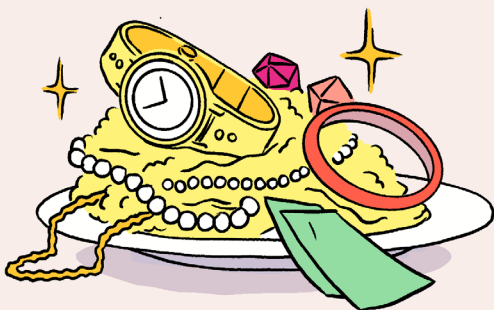
Unemployment and frustration is especially high among younger people.



And now the majority of the population have lost their livelihoods,



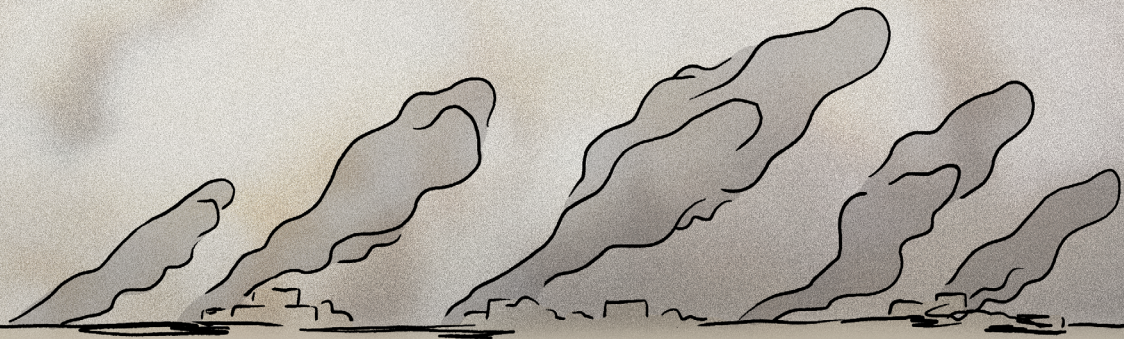
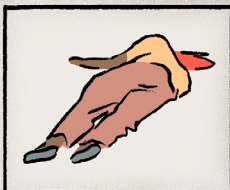
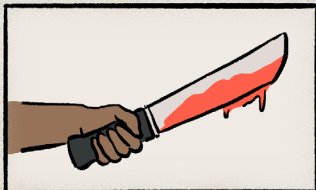
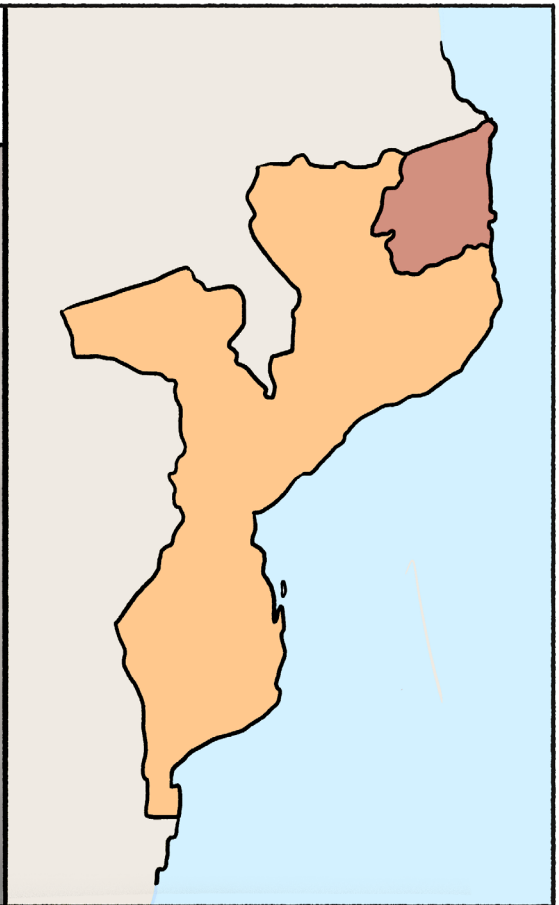
all while watching the elite get richer



— a perfect recipe for armed revolt.



Extremist armed groups have launched aggressive attacks on civilians in the northern province of Cabo Delgado.



Since 2020, increased violations against civilians, including killings, beheadings, sexual assault and kidnappings, have been reported in Cabo Delgado.

Insurgents have been abducting women and girls, to use them as wives and concubines.



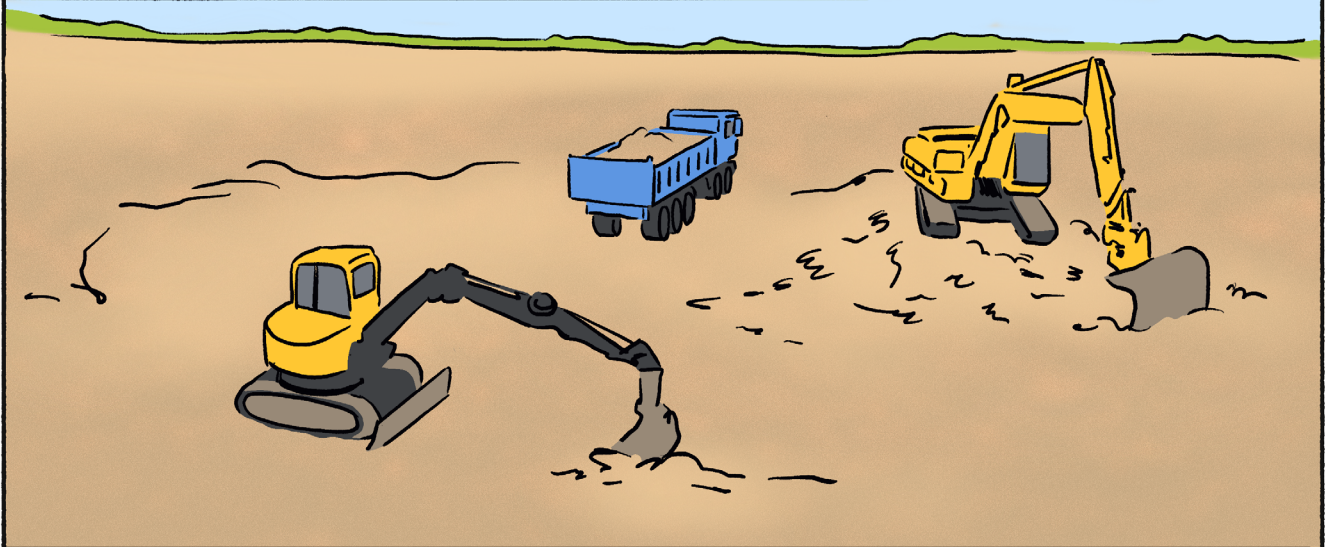
These women and girls are also forced into recruiting and spying for the insurgents.



If they are captured in order to force them to confess, they are likely to suffer more violence, extortion and sexual assault at the hands of government forces.



Meanwhile, construction of the gas project continues whilst the local population fears for their lives.



Instead of addressing the root problems, the government brings in more military and private security forces.



... And signs a security agreement with TotalEnergies to protect the gas project.



Some of these private security groups have been accused of shooting civilians.



Due to the insurgencies many people have fled their houses and villages.



People live in refugee camps under poor conditions. It is a humanitarian crisis.



The refugee camps are overcrowded, there's no privacy. They're primitive, lacking decent water and sanitation.



Girls in resettlement camps can't go to school. In the camps they are likely to suffer abuse.



To help feed their families who have no means of earning a livelihood due to being displaced,



They can be forced to marry,



or to go into prostitution.



They can fall pregnant.



In 2021, around 1.3 million people from Cabo Delgado need humanitarian assistance and protection.

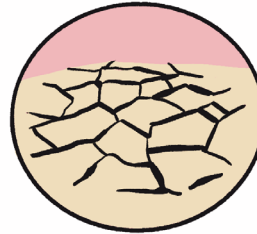
In Palma in March 2021, militants killed dozens of people including foreign workers working on the nearby gas projects. In April 2021, TotalEnergies claimed 'force majeure' over the violence and paused the project. Because of that, the compensation payments to local people stopped completely, leaving them to survive on humanitarian aid in the wake of a full blown insurgency.

Mozambique is already vulnerable to climate disasters like cyclones, floods and droughts.

The gas extraction projects in Mozambique have the potential to result into an enormous release of greenhouse gas emissions, especially methane, which could increase the whole of Mozambique's greenhouse gas emissions by 14%. This would exacerbate the climate crisis.

Gas extraction projects in northern Mozambique: climate crisis and environmental impact

Gas is often presented as a 'green' fossil fuel. This is not the case. The development of gas projects in northern Mozambique will have a huge impact on the local environment in Cabo Delgado.

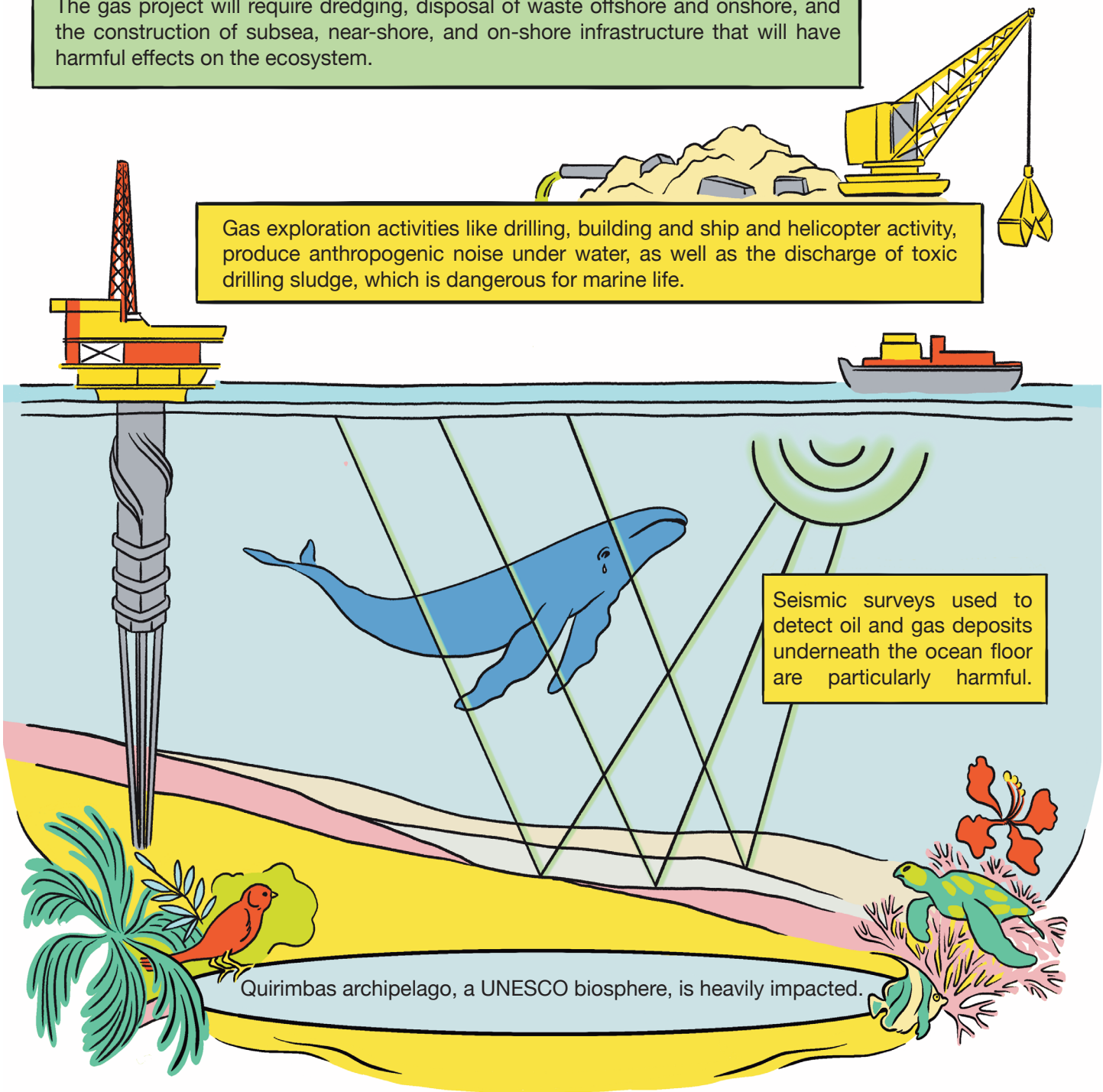


The gas project will require dredging, disposal of waste offshore and onshore, and the construction of subsea, near-shore, and on-shore infrastructure that will have harmful effects on the ecosystem.

Gas exploration activities like drilling, building and ship and helicopter activity, produce anthropogenic noise under water, as well as the discharge of toxic drilling sludge, which is dangerous for marine life.

Seismic surveys used to detect oil and gas deposits underneath the ocean floor are particularly harmful.

Quirimbas archipelago, a UNESCO biosphere, is heavily impacted.



We need **stronger EU laws and a UN treaty** to end the impunity of transnational corporations and **enable communities across the world** to take companies to court to get the justice they deserve.

Join us and find out more at **<https://justice-business.org/>**

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