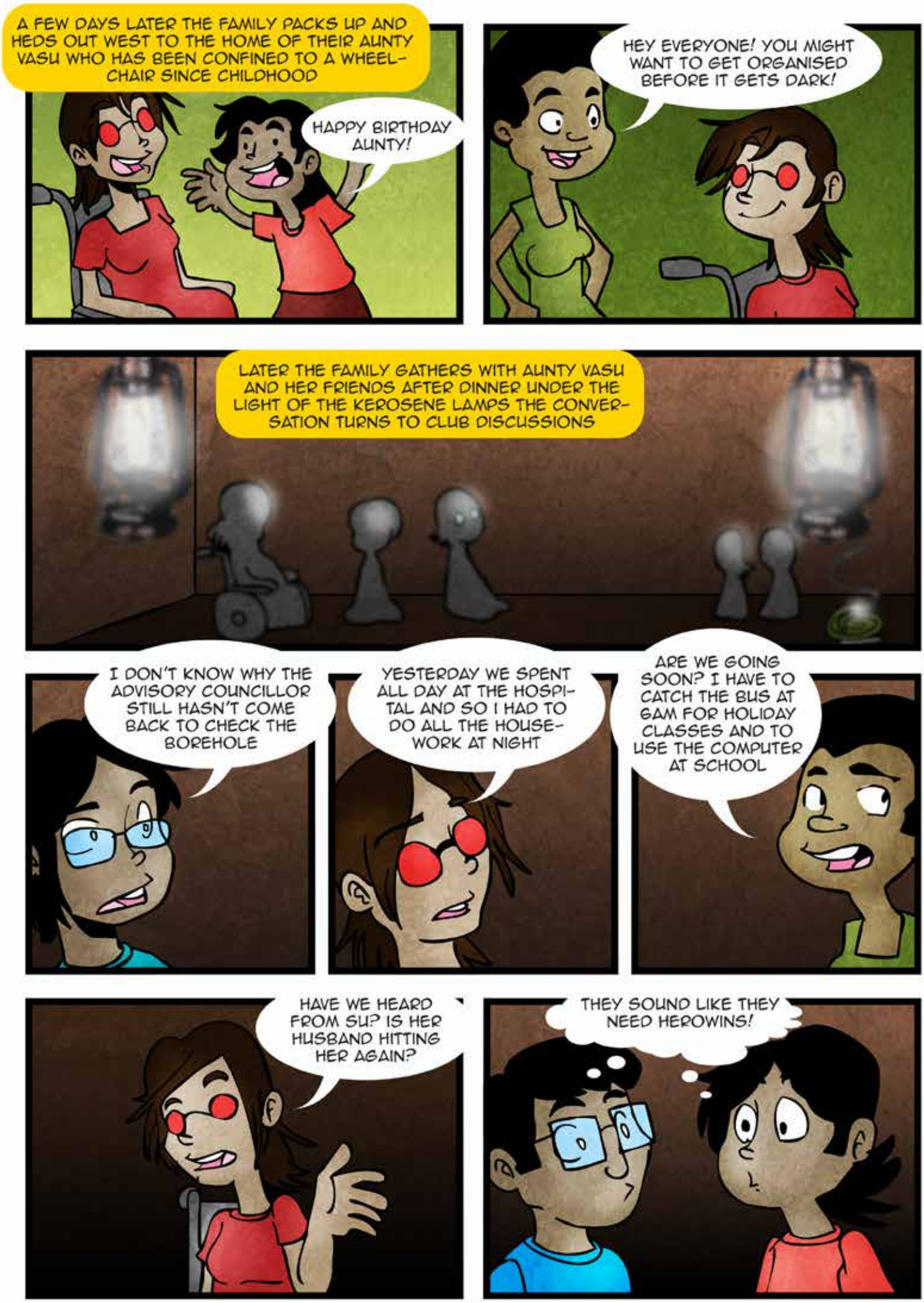
THE
HERO-WINS!

BRINGING WATER AND ELECTRICITY TO RURAL COMMUNITIES
TACKLING ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN
MAKING HEALTHCARE ACCESIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL
THEY ARE...
THE HERO-WINS!
AWESOME!
WOOHOO! I CAN'T WAIT!
IN A TYPICAL PACIFIC FAMILY, BROTHER AND SISTER GEORGE AND ANA ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW TV SHOW THAT HAS BEEN FILMED BY THEIR LOCAL TV STATION.

A FEW HOURS LATER, THEY DISCUSS THE NEW SHOW WITH THEIR PARENTS...
SO, THEY'RE ALL WOMEN AYE?
I KNOW! ISN'T THAT TOO COOL, DAD?
WHO WOULD BELIEVE 3 WOMEN AS SUPERHEROES?
YEEEAH... BUT THE HEROWINS COULD BE ANYONE!
JUST IMAGINE! THEY COULD BE SUPERHEROES IN PARLIAMENT, IN GOVERNMENT, IN SPORTS! I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE FIRST SHOW!
JUST ONE PROBLEM, THAT'S THE DAY WE'RE VISITING AUNTY VASU IN THE THE VILLAGE, AND YOU KNOW THERE'S NO ELECTRICITY...
NOOOOOOO!


A FEW DAYS LATER THE FAMILY PACKS UP AND HEDS OUT WEST TO THE HOME OF THEIR AUNTY VASU WHO HAS BEEN CONFINED TO A WHEEL-CHAIR SINCE CHILDHOOD
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUNTY!
HEY EVERYONE! YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET ORGANISED BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
LATER THE FAMILY GATHERS WITH AUNTY VASU AND HER FRIENDS AFTER DINNER UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE KEROSENE LAMPS THE CONVER-SATION TURNS TO CLUB DISCUSSIONS
I DON'T KNOW WHY THE ADVISORY COUNCILLOR STILL HASN'T COME BACK TO CHECK THE BOREHOLE
YESTERDAY WE SPENT ALL DAY AT THE HOSPI-TAL AND SO I HAD TO DO ALL THE HOUSE-WORK AT NIGHT
ARE WE GOING SOON? I HAVE TO CATCH THE BUS AT 6AM FOR HOLIDAY CLASSES AND TO USE THE COMPUTER AT SCHOOL
HAVE WE HEARD FROM SU? IS HER HUSBAND HITTING HER AGAIN?
THEY SOUND LIKE THEY NEED HEROWINS!

THE NEXT DAY... BACK ON THE MAT
AT THE CLUB MEETING THE WOMEN WRITE DOWN THEIR POINTS
MUM SWITCHES ON HER LAPTOP TO SEND AN EMAIL FOR THEM.
NOT JUST THE MINSTER OF WOMEN AND WATER AUTHORITY...
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HEALTH AND FINANCE TOO!
AND ALL POLITICAL PARTIES!
EVERYONE NEEDS TO ACT NOW!
THEN AUNTY JULIE HAS A BRAINWAVE!
LET'S GO TO THE CAPITAL!
THIS IS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, NOT YOUR SPORTS TOURNAMENTS!
WELL... WE'D ALL BE THERE TOGETHER!

A FEW WEEKS LATER...
AUNTY VASU AND AUNTY JULIE ORGANIZE THE CLUB MEMBERS AND THE CHILDREN AND ARRIVE IN THE CAPITAL.
THEY MEET WOMENS RIGHTS GROUPS
DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS
WOMEN IN SPORTS GROUPS...
AND SHARE THEIR CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS
PARTICIPATION!
PARTICIPATION!
PARTICIPATION!

WE COUNT because WE COUNT

WHAT IS CEDAW?

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms. The Convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life -- including the right to vote and to stand for election -- as well as education, health and employment. States parties agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, so that women can enjoy all their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They are also committed to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations.

DEFINING OUR PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY & DEVELOPMENT PRIORTIES:

Recommendations from FemLINKPACIFIC's Rural Community Media Network

Economic Security
Girls and women, especially in the rural areas, have reported an increase in the burden of poverty which is the inability to afford healthy meals or the lack of social protection which include access to land, economic and employment opportunities. Access to electricity is also a concern as some households do not have electricity and some that do are unable to afford the rates. Having access to electricity, especially for lighting and refrigeration, and use of technology for education and information is important for achieving human development. Economic security is linked to women's political and personal security. In rural areas many people have been forced to leave their communities because they can no longer make an adequate living and/or have limited access to services and opportunities such as health care, education and employment.

Environment Security:
Girls and women described how the changes in the environment affect their daily lives and whether it is improper drainage systems causing flooding, unhygienic conditions and resulting in loss of productive time and livelihoods; water and land pollution creating changes in the river/sea ecosystem and leading to loss of food sources; unpredictable weather patterns causing flooding and road damage affecting accessibility to school, marketplace and workplace.
For women with disabilities, environmental security is particularly important to provide them freedom of movement to live a productive and meaningful life, and have an adequate standard of living. Environmental security is central to economic and health security due to its interconnectedness with natural resources, development, land, sanitation and health security.

Food Security:
This is more than just food on the table, and women play a critical role in dietary diversity and children's health. Food security priorities were having enough food to eat, information and services on agricultural opportunities, and active and substantive roles in climate change programs. Food security was about accessibility, adequacy and availability.
Climate change and economic downturns also impact how women and girls access food. Most women ate less food than their children and husband or went without food so the family had food. Political and societal instability linked to poor governance limit sustainable economic growth.

Health Security:
Women have spoken about the accessibility and affordability of medication, lack of maternal health care, poor hospital facilities and lack of medical and health professionals. Women also raised concerns on the quality of health care and service provided by doctors and nurses, reporting misdiagnoses and delayed treatments.
Environmental concerns such as flooding, improper disposable of garbage, inadequate sanitation and polluted water cause outbreaks of diarrhea and other diseases in communities.
Health security for women and their families is linked to economic and food security, the ability of people to afford proper nutrition and have access to money to get proper medical care, including being able to buy medication. Health services must respond to the specific needs of all women – including women with disability, the elderly and LGBT community.

Personal Security
This is about the right to live without fear of violence. It requires the prevention of sexual harassment and bullying. Women with disabilities highlighted the need for more disability friendly public services and places, including opportunities for employment. Communities want to be able to address the root causes of violence and ensure protection from the police.

Political Security:
This is as simple as having equality in decision making. Women of all diversities aspire to the achievement of 50:50 in all community, local and national decision-making structures such as villages, disaster management, local government and parliament. Cultural and social barriers were identified as preventing women from participating in decision-making.

Peace, Human Security and Sustainable Development is possible when women in all our diversities are equal partners within civil society, and with governments and international organisations.
Women's participation is key from the local to the national level and must be supported with an inclusive and creative information and communication system by amplifying women's knowledge and voices a shift from reaction to prevention is possible

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UN WOMEN

WACC

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