

HandyPods

Building safe and sustainable sanitation systems is a huge challenge for any poor community, but where homes are built over water the technical obstacles are even greater.

In Cambodia, over a quarter of the population lives in challenging environments such as floating villages.

When they need to go to the toilet, they take a boat to a secluded spot, go into surrounding forest, or at night may squat off the side of their

floating house. People use this same water to wash dishes and clothes, and young children swim in it.

A social enterprise called Wetlands Work has created a sanitation solution with lots of potential. With funding from Grand Challenges Canada, WaterAid is partnering with

them to test the 'HandyPod'.

The HandyPod is a basic water-purifying system resembling a floating garden. This small man-made wetland of water hyacinths helps make toilet waste safe enough to pass into the lake without causing any harm.

A private squat toilet on the back of a house connects to a drum where the raw sewage goes through anaerobic (oxygen-less) processes.

Waste then passes to the HandyPod floating nearby.

Microbes around the plants' roots further break down harmful substances.

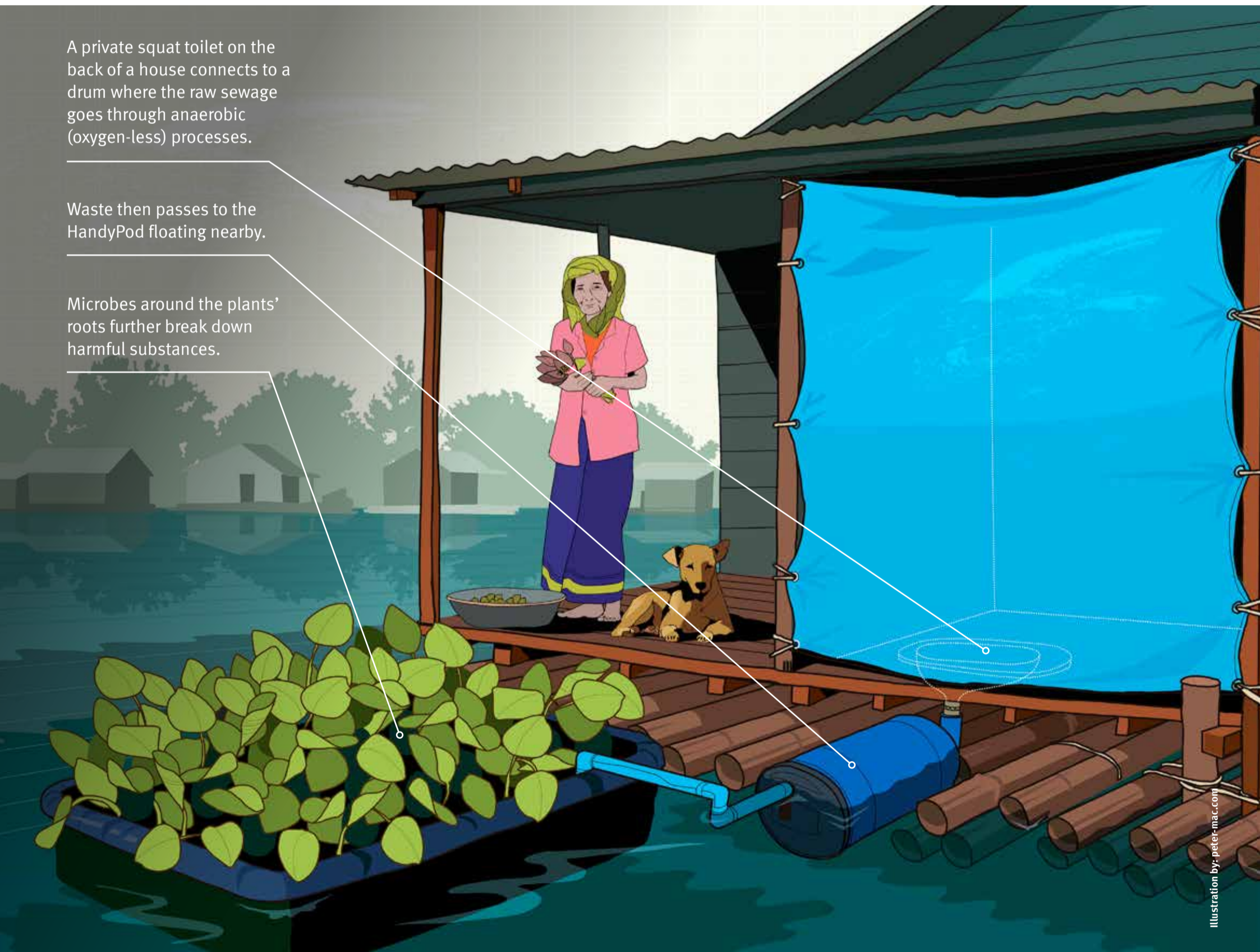


Illustration by: peter-mac.com