



**Bangladesh: Coal is
destroying their
land — but people
are resisting.**

Here's why 



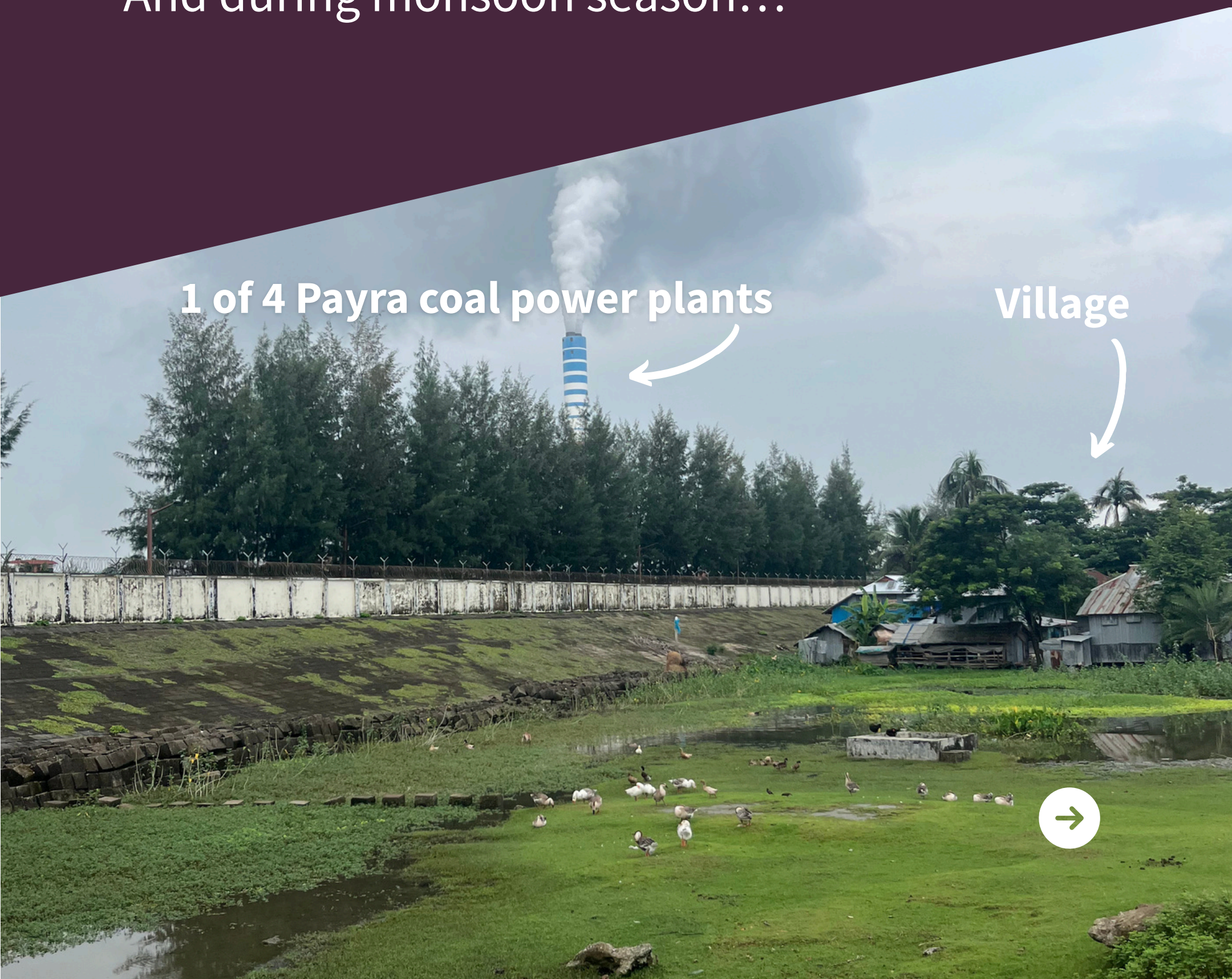
In southern Bangladesh, coal dust turns palm trees black. Children cough like lifelong smokers. A primary school sinks into the ground.

All this is happening because ...



... **Patuakhali district in the Barisal Division** has been buried under fossil infrastructure — like the Payra coal power plant. **Entire villages were displaced to make way for it.** People were resettled directly against the plant's outer walls. **Constant coughing, burning eyes, and sore throats are everyday realities.**

And during monsoon season...



1 of 4 Payra coal power plants

Village



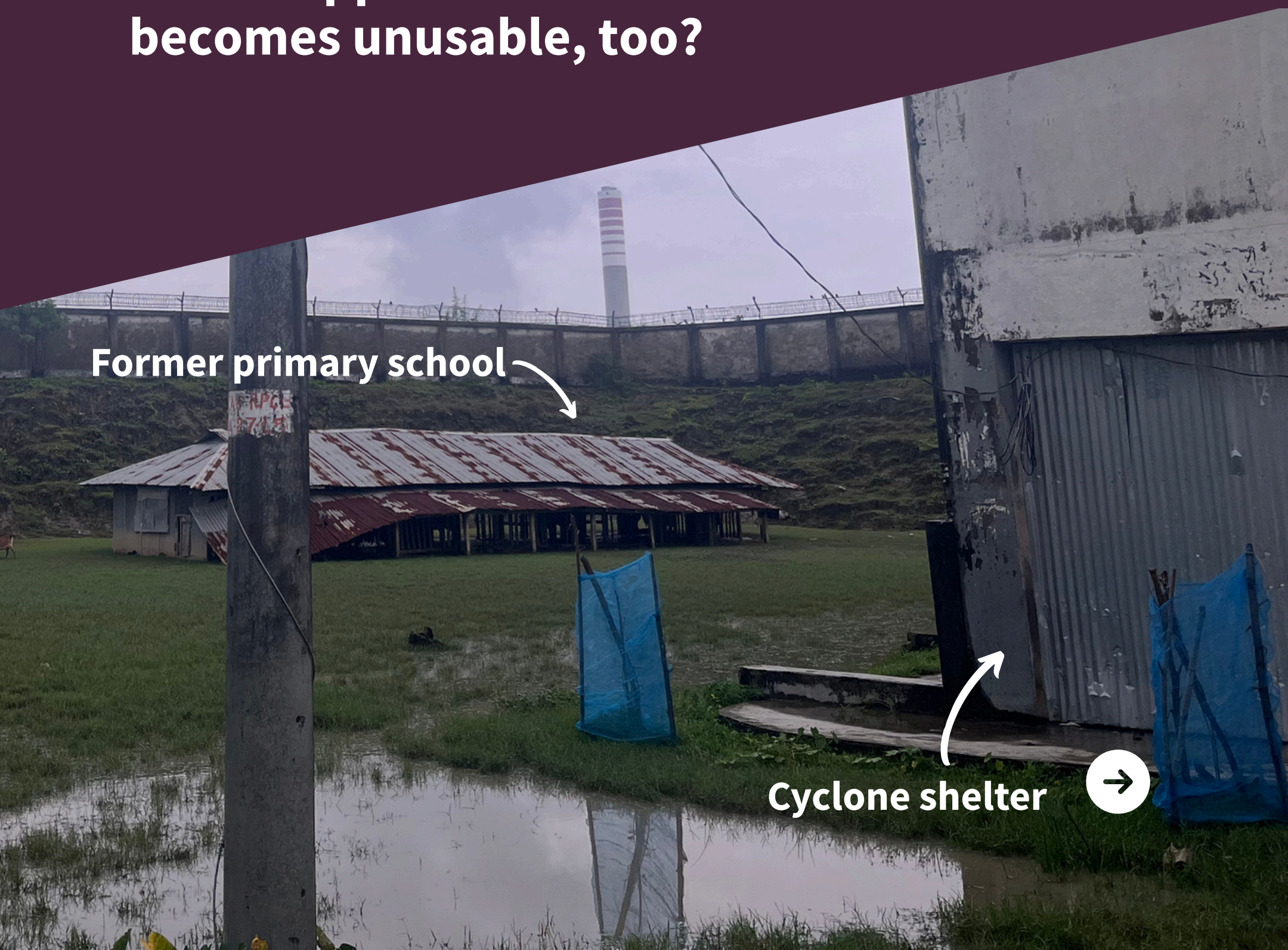


... the water in the lower-laying resettlements no longer drains away. **Diseases like malaria and dengue spread faster.**



A primary school was supposed to be demolished to make way for the Patuakhali power plant. **Because the school's leadership resisted, the school was walled in from three sides.** Now the rainwater cannot drain as before and the **building is sinking.** Classes take place in the cyclone shelter, which also floods during heavy rainfall.

What happens when that becomes unusable, too?



Former primary school

Cyclone shelter





Coal plants do not only harm the residents of surrounding villages. Even the palm trees are blackened by soot. **Just 30 km to the west lie the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.** And by the way ...



... the coal plants **do not produce electricity for the local population.** The power goes to industry and urban centers.

The jobs also do not go to locals. **Many have lost their livelihoods because of the plants.**



Responsible actors: state-owned companies from Bangladesh and China:

Patuakhali plant

Main financiers:

Export-Import Bank of China

Bank of China

Payra plant

Main financier:

Export-Import Bank of China



China's goal...





... is to expand its influence in the region.
Such projects exist all across South Asia, often at the expense of people and nature.



That is why, together with other NGOs, we founded **RIMA** six years ago — a network of organizations fighting environmental and social harm.

At this year's meeting, our campaigners Nora and Nicole were there.





People living around the coal plants **rise up** — for example, by **filing lawsuits against low compensation payments.**

Here, Mariyam Begum from Kalapara describes how the coal power plant has negatively affected her life.





Our common demand:

Energy and profits must benefit local people. Stop fossil fuel projects and their human rights violations!

Often involved in these projects: the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Germany holds 4% of the shares.

That means: we have influence — and we must use that influence.

The future is renewable!

Share this post to inform more people about the fossil dealings of Asian banks, including the AIIB **which is financed with our tax money.**