
HMDC Presents...
UNICEF: Childhood Hunger: Food Waste, Food Recovery, and Farmland Restoration
The committee meets this December. We have a lot of work to do.
Gemini Notebook


Millions of children are starving. Yet, the world throws away a massive amount of its food.
How is that possible? Where is the food going?
DOSSIER
1 in 4 children globally live in severe child food poverty.
(Source: UNICEF, June 5, 2024)
DOSSIER
8% of food is lost on farms. 17% is wasted in shops and homes.
(Source: FAO 2018 / UNEP 2021)
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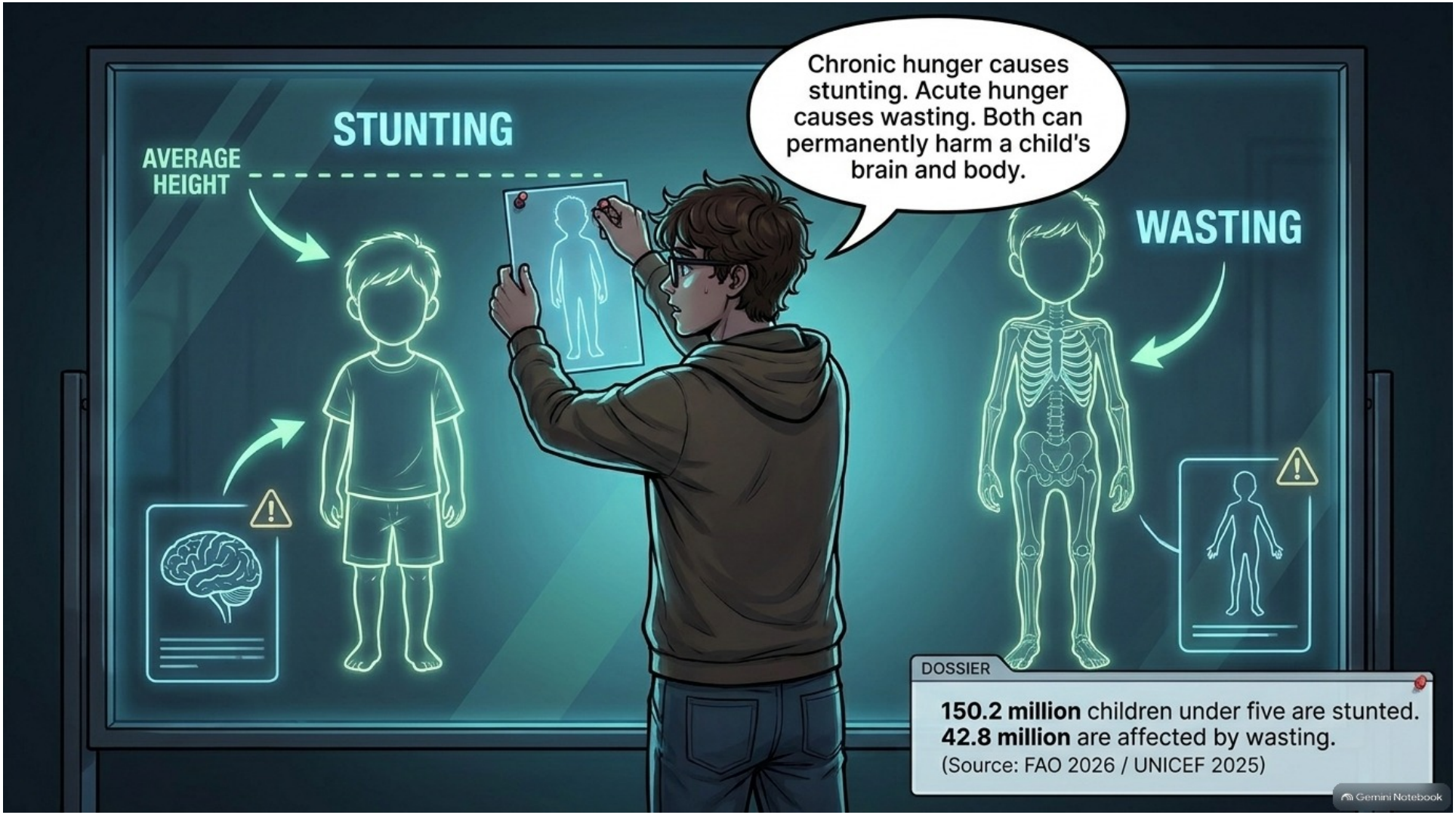
Chronic hunger causes stunting. Acute hunger causes wasting. Both can permanently harm a child's brain and body.
STUNTING
AVERAGE HEIGHT
WASTING
DOSSIER
150.2 million children under five are stunted.
42.8 million are affected by wasting.
(Source: FAO 2026 / UNICEF 2025)
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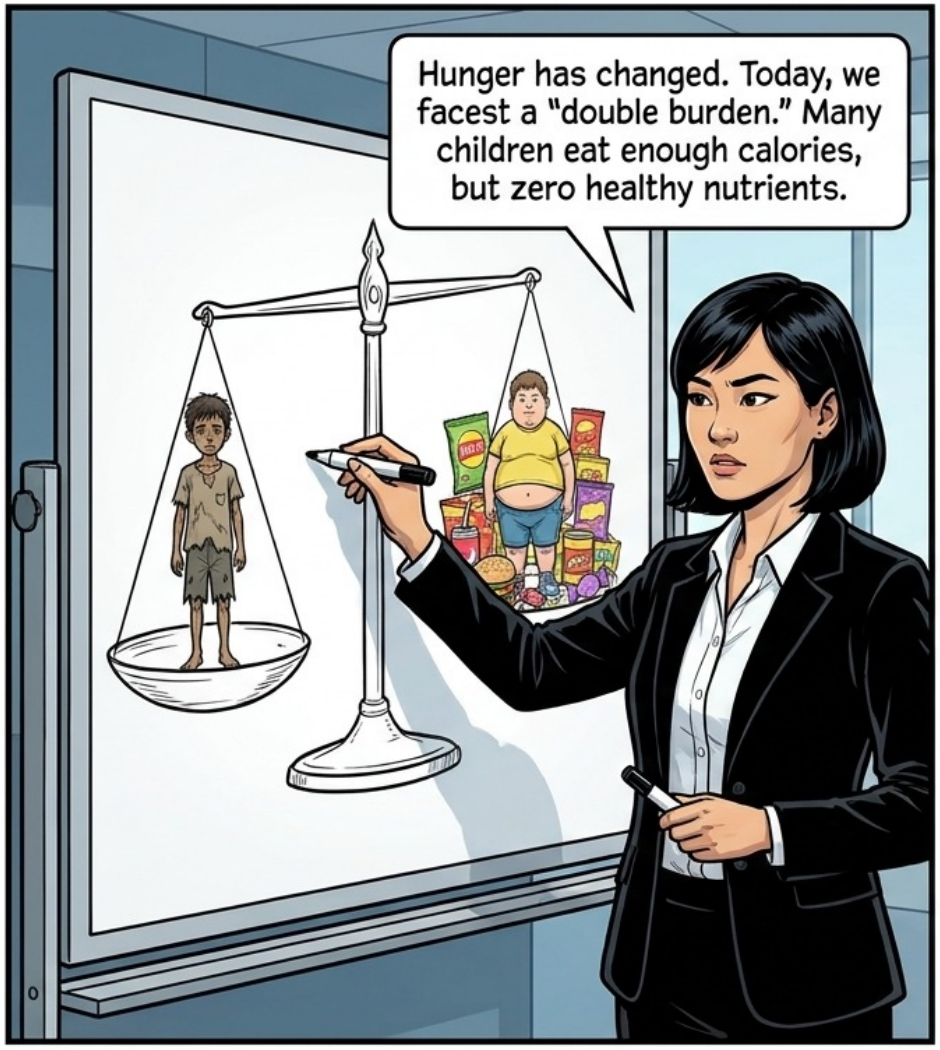
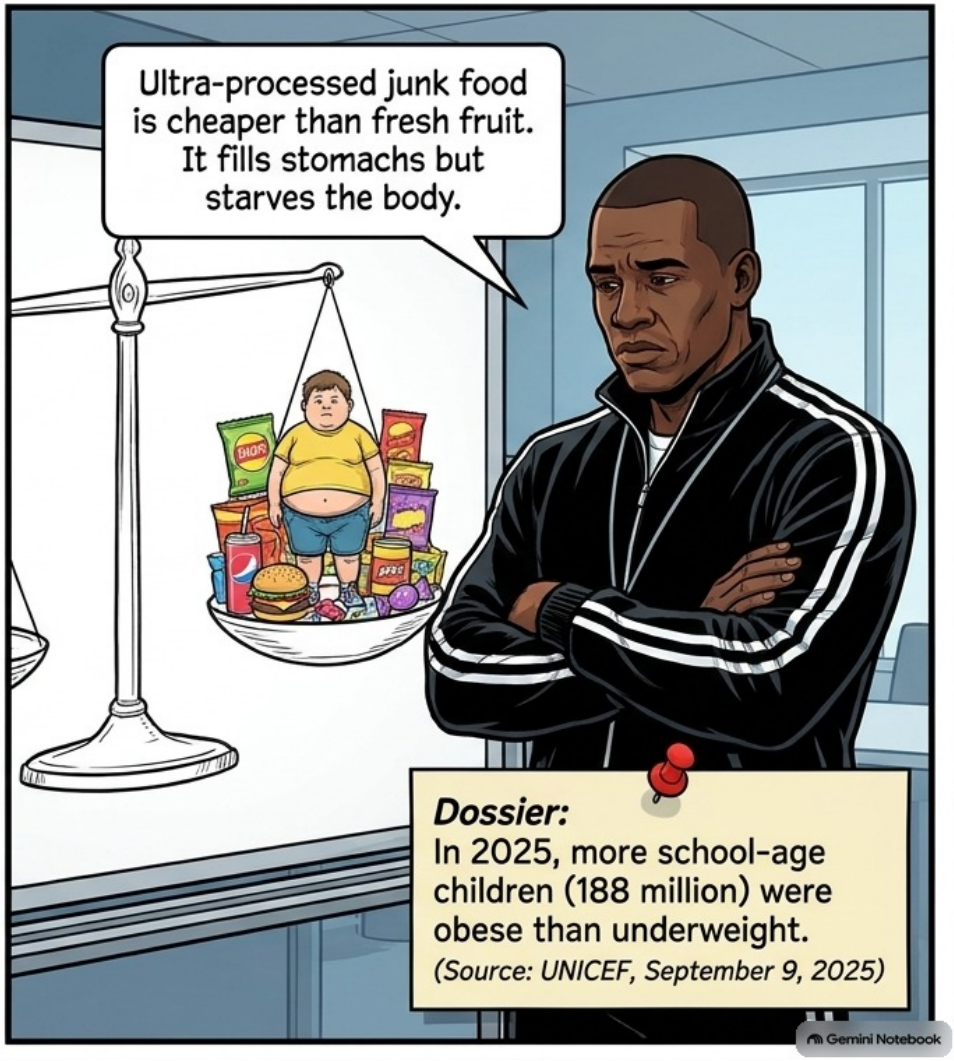

Hunger has changed. Today, we facest a "double burden." Many children eat enough calories, but zero healthy nutrients.


Ultra-processed junk food is cheaper than fresh fruit. It fills stomachs but starves the body.
Dossier:
In 2025, more school-age children (188 million) were obese than underweight.
(Source: UNICEF, September 9, 2025)
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To solve the problem, we must know the vocabulary. We have two very different leaks to fix.
FOOD LOSS
Spoils before it reaches the shop.
SHOP
FOOD WASTE
Thrown away by shops or families.
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Solution 1: Cold chains and farmer training! Keep food fresh so it doesn't rot.
But cold trucks emit greenhouse gases. And if food gets cheaper, people just buy more and waste more. That is the 'Rebound Effect'.
STEP 1
STEP 2
STEP 3
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Solution 2: **Food Recovery.** We take safe, unsold food and give it to food banks.
LIVE
Solution 3: **Fix the laws.** In many countries, it is cheaper for a shop to throw food away than to donate it.
Food charity keeps food out of landfills. But remember, charity does not fix why families are poor in the first place.
Dossier:
There is no evidence that surplus food solves household food insecurity; it can hide the real causes of hunger.
(Source: Ulster University, January 26, 2017)
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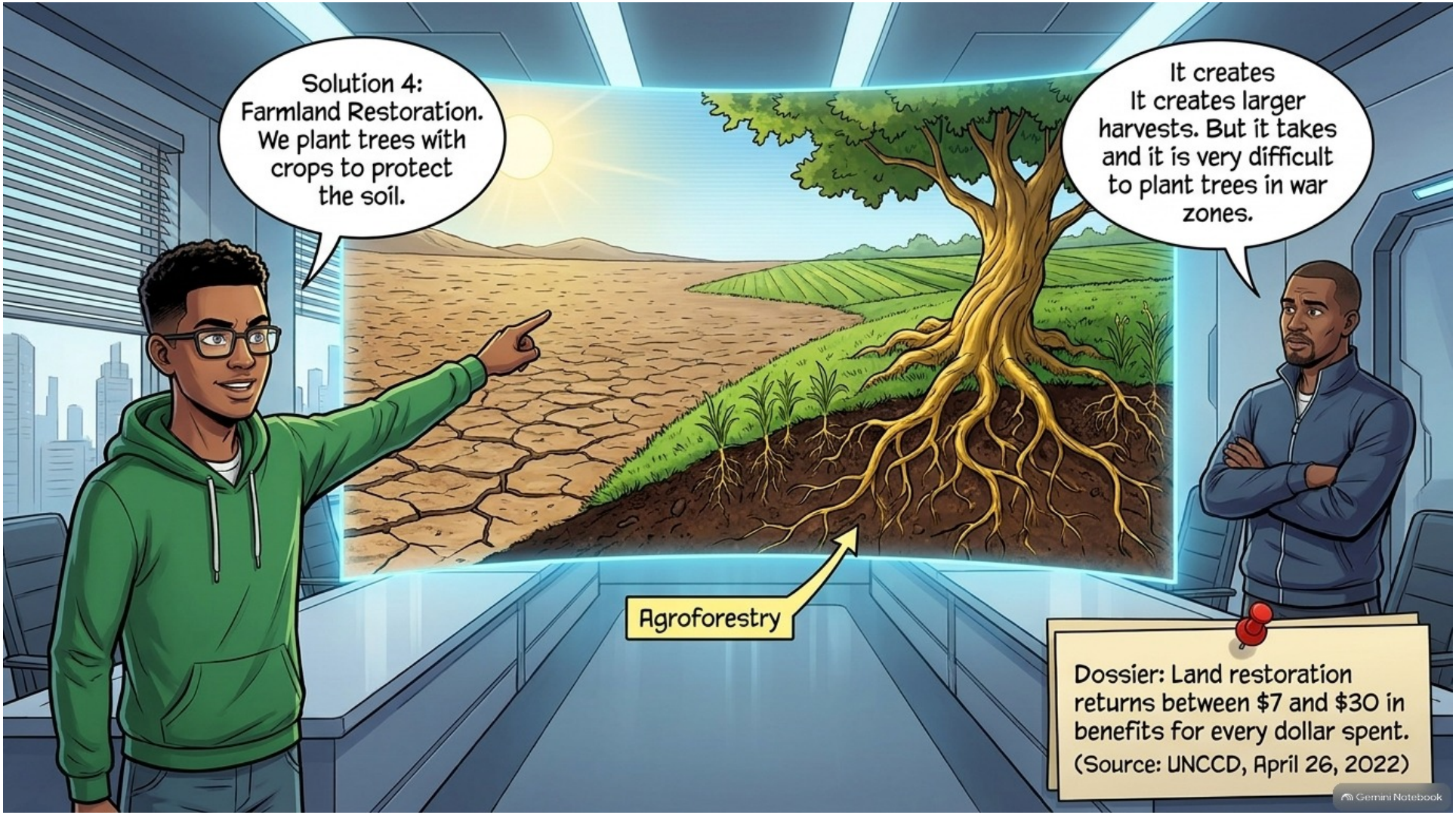
Solution 4: Farmland Restoration. We plant trees with crops to protect the soil.
It creates
It creates larger harvests. But it takes and it is very difficult to plant trees in war zones.
Agroforestry
Dossier: Land restoration returns between $7 and $30 in benefits for every dollar spent.
(Source: UNCCD, April 26, 2022)
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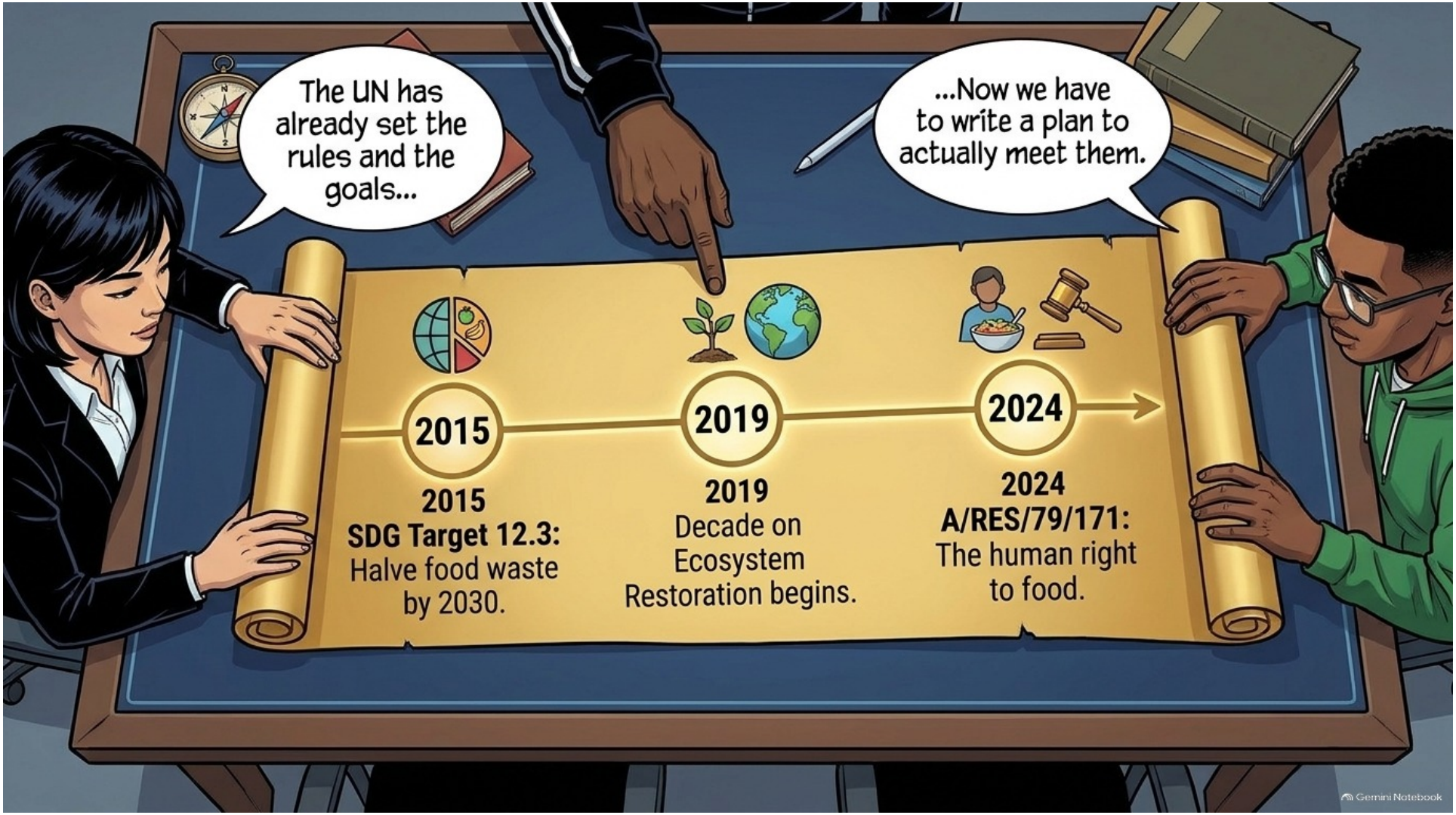
The UN has already set the rules and the goals...
...Now we have to write a plan to actually meet them.
2015
2019
2024
2015
SDG Target 12.3:
Halve food waste by 2030.
2019
Decade on Ecosystem Restoration begins.
2024
A/RES/79/171:
The human right to food.
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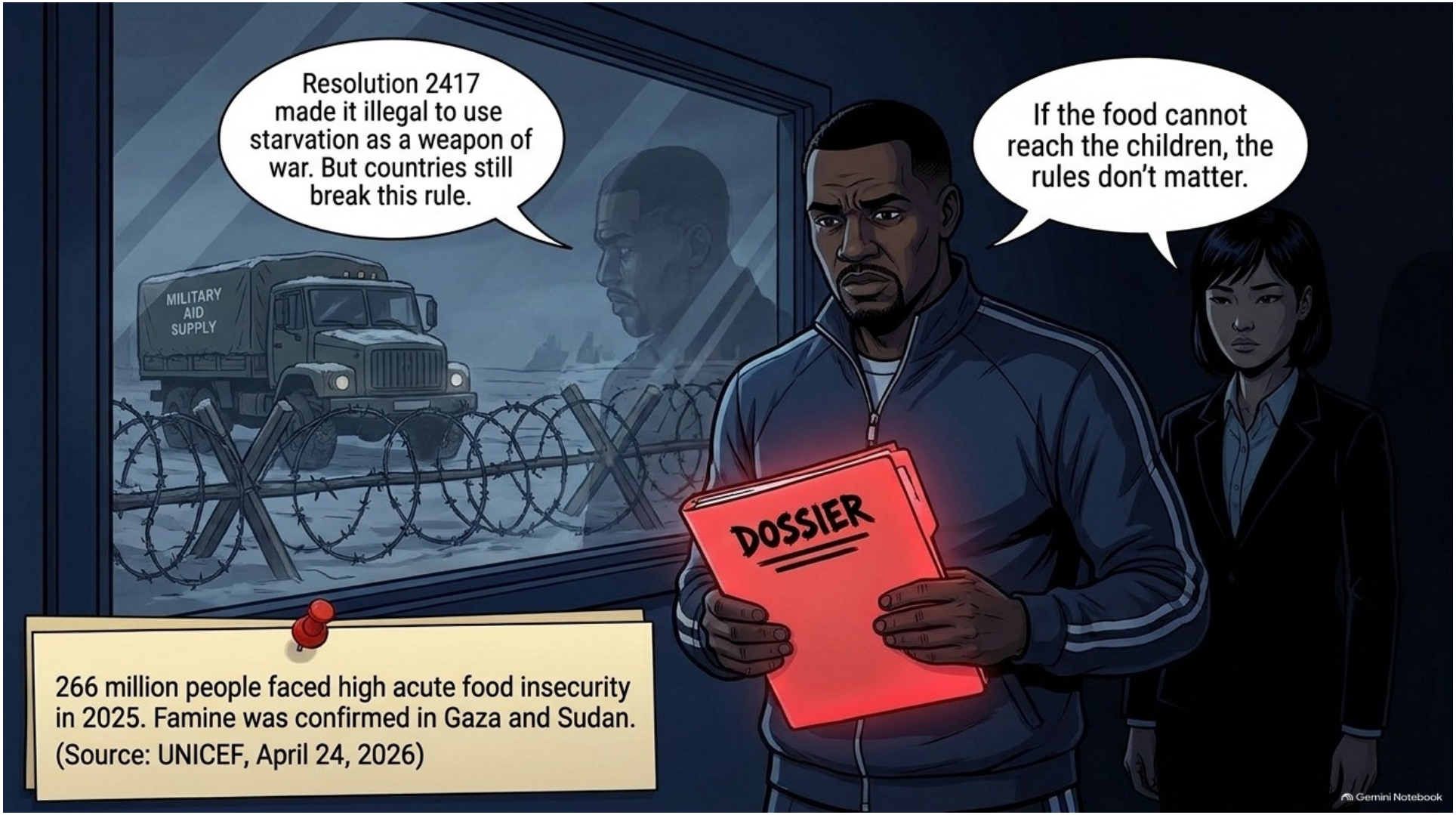
Resolution 2417 made it illegal to use starvation as a weapon of war. But countries still break this rule.
If the food cannot reach the children, the rules don't matter.
MILITARY AID SUPPLY
DOSSIER
266 million people faced high acute food insecurity in 2025. Famine was confirmed in Gaza and Sudan.
(Source: UNICEF, April 24, 2026)
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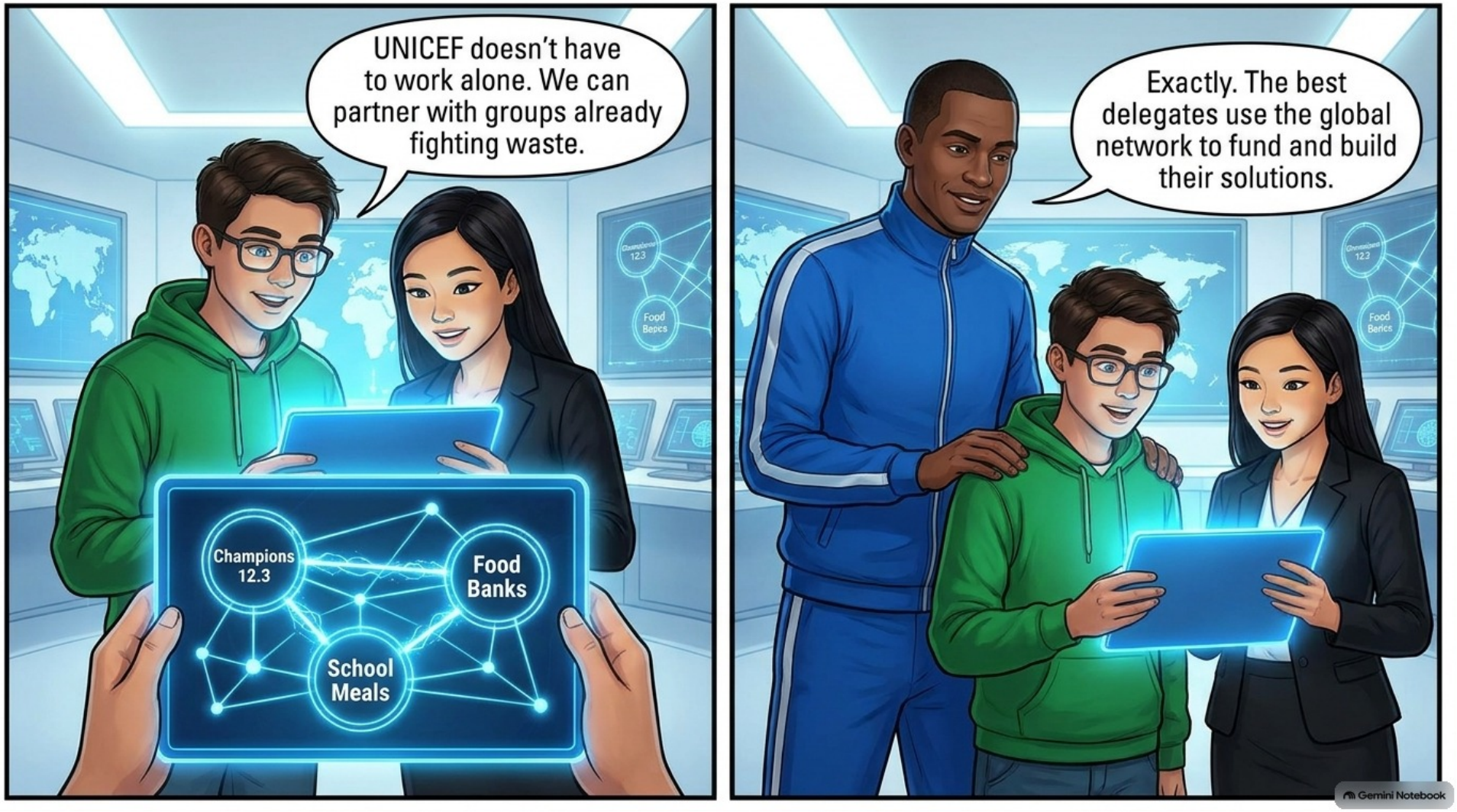
UNICEF doesn't have to work alone. We can partner with groups already fighting waste.
Champions 12.3
Food Banks
School Meals
Exactly. The best delegates use the global network to fund and build their solutions.
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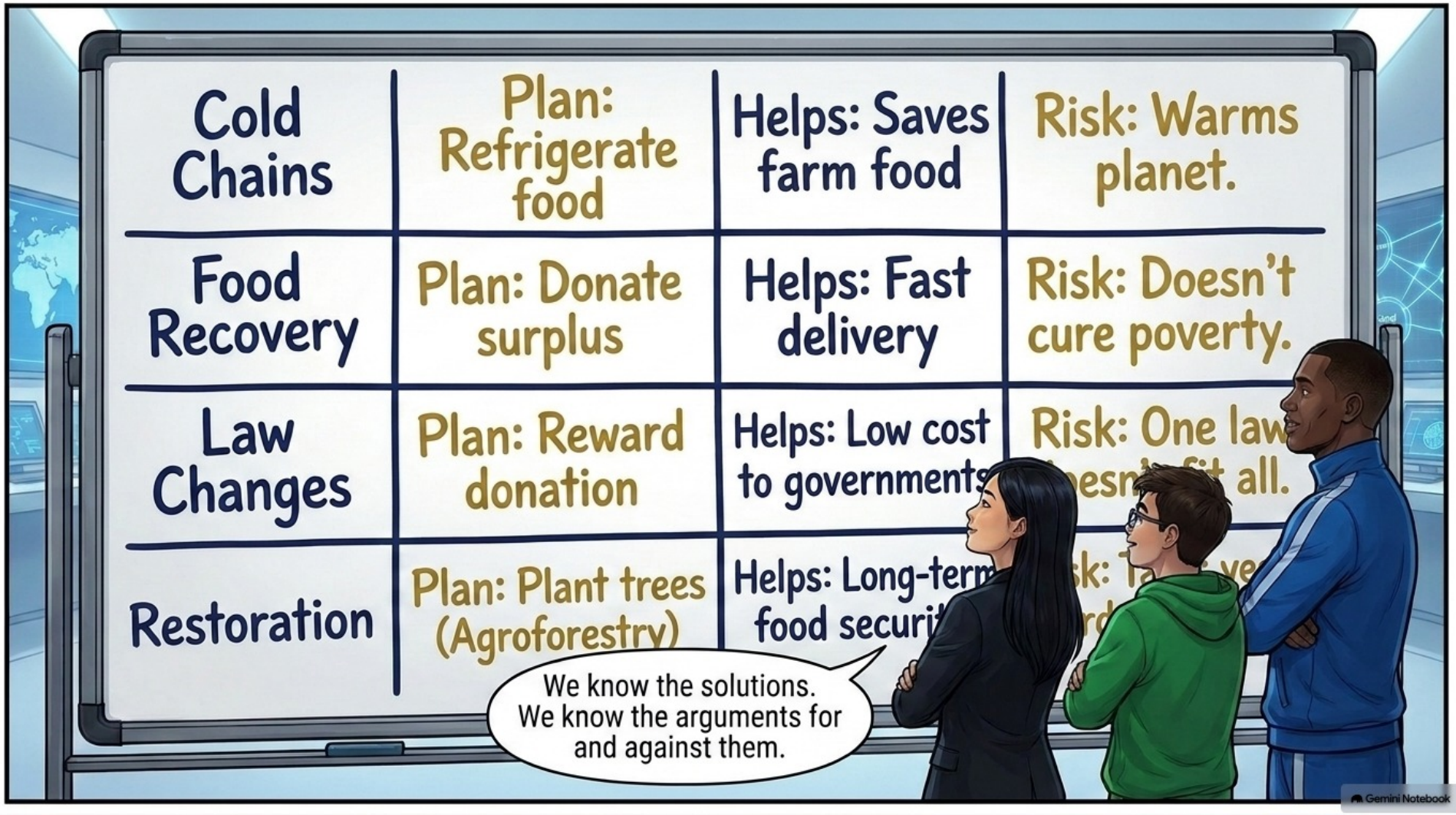
Cold Chains
Plan: Refrigerate food
Helps: Saves farm food
Risk: Warms planet.
Food Recovery
Plan: Donate surplus
Helps: Fast delivery
Risk: Doesn't cure poverty.
Law Changes
Plan: Reward donation
Helps: Low cost to governments
Restoration
Plan: Plant trees (Agroforestry)
We know the solutions. We know the arguments for and against them.
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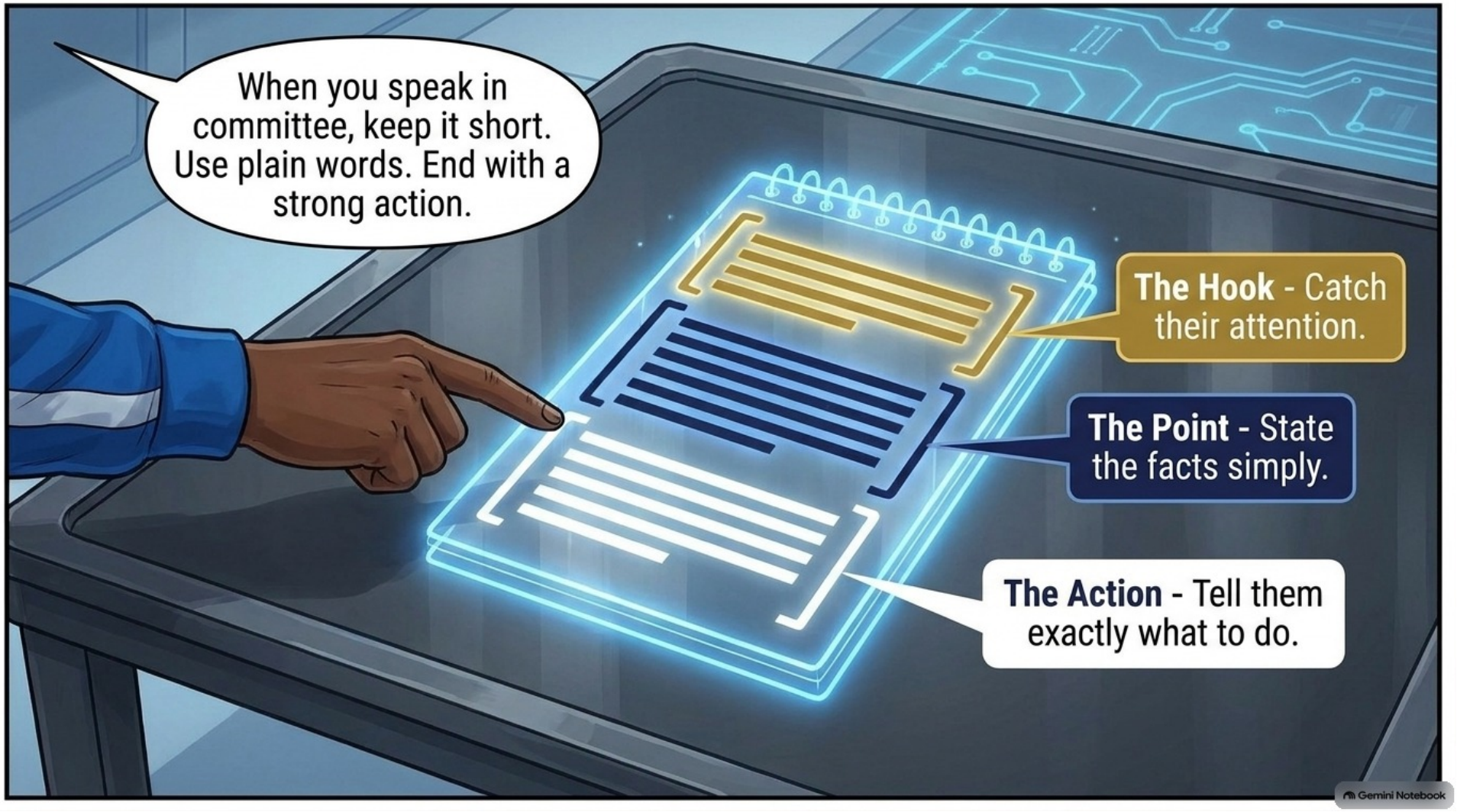
When you speak in committee, keep it short. Use plain words. End with a strong action.
The Hook - Catch their attention.
The Point - State the facts simply.
The Action - Tell them exactly what to do.
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The Sponsor
(Who is writing it).
The Action Word
(Operative Clause).
1. Calls for solar-powered refrigerators on farms to secure child nutrition.
The Details
(How it helps children).
Every clause must focus on helping children. That is why we are UNICEF.
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Strategy Room
The research is done. You understand the harms, the solutions, and the rules.
Let's go save the world.
NEXT STOP: HARVARD MUN ONLINE!
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