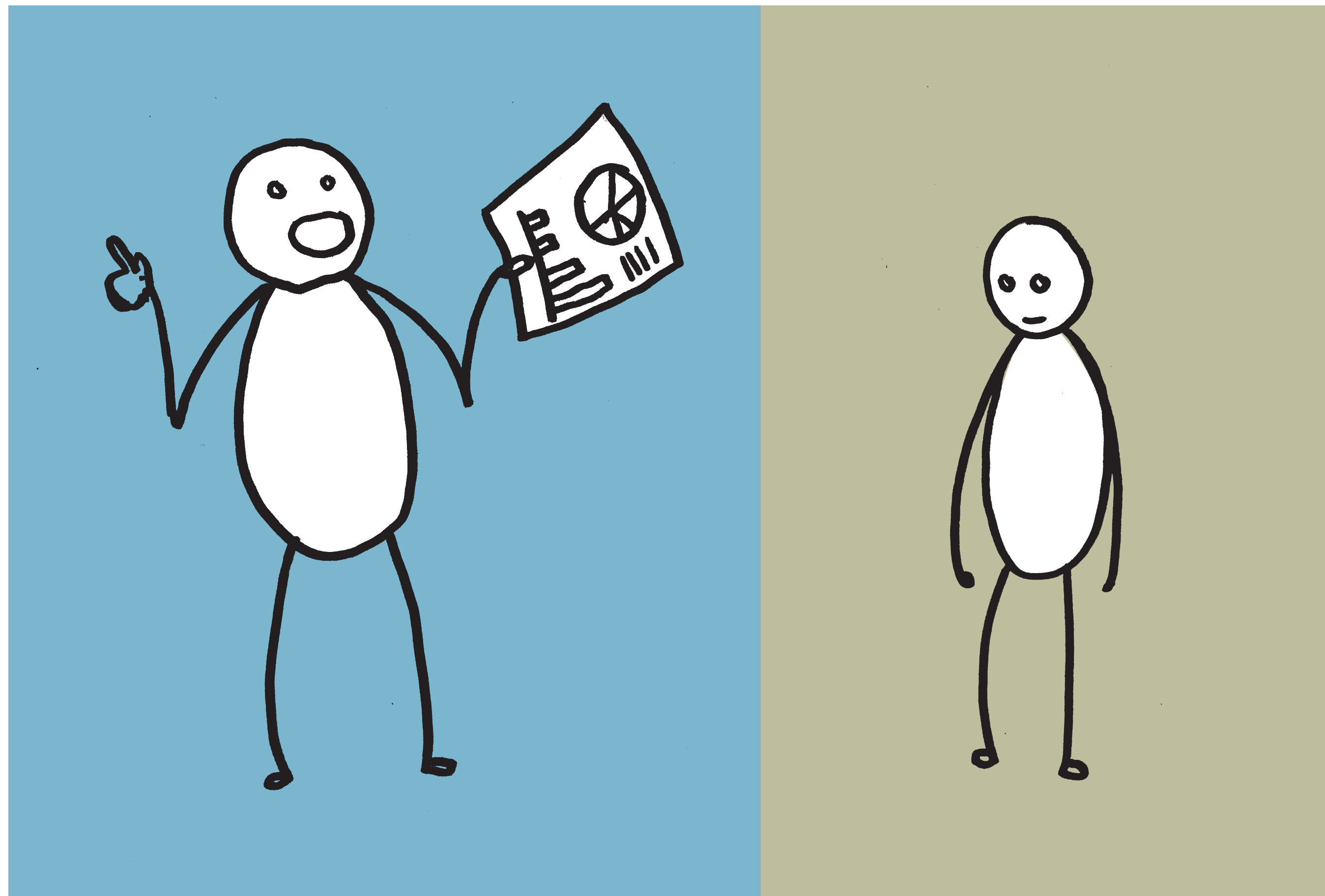
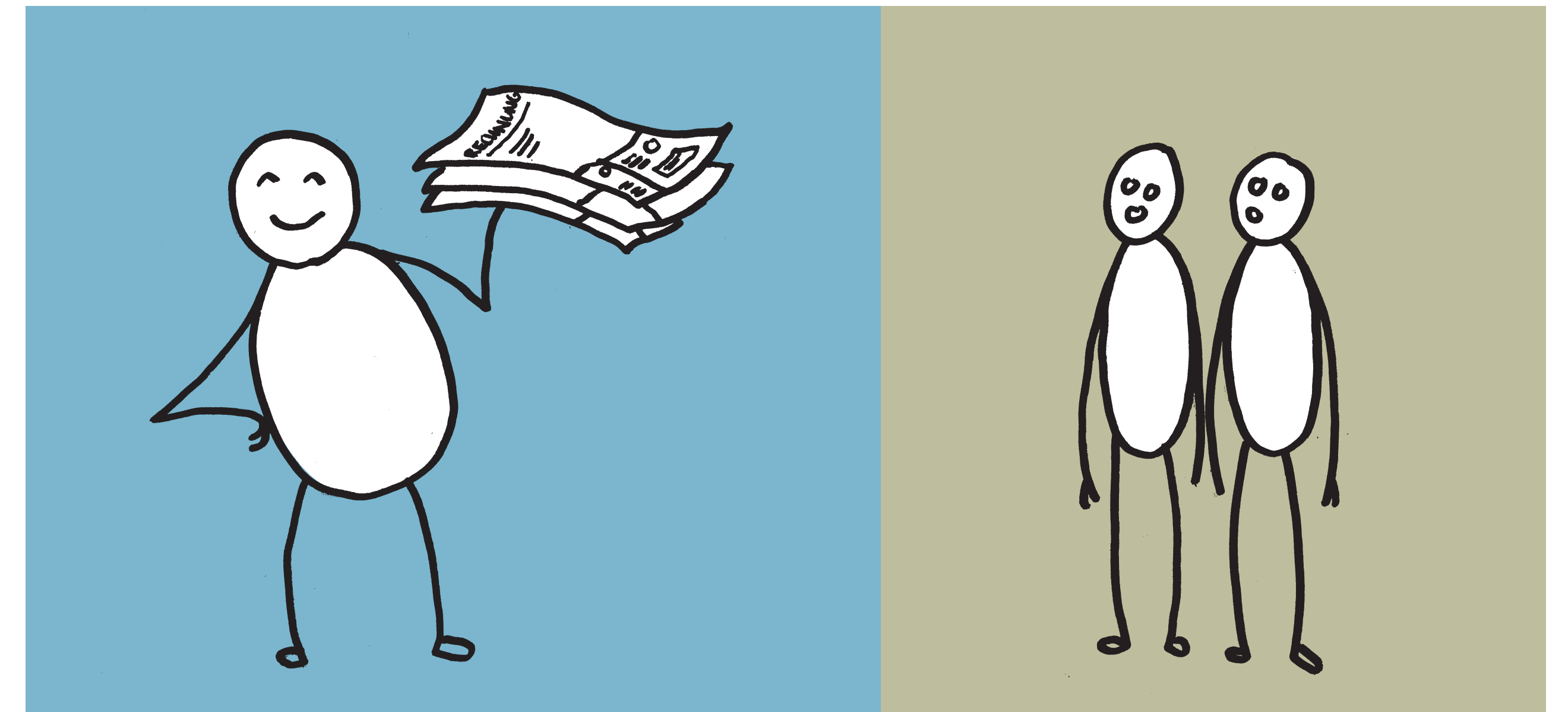


Excerpts from the interview “**Is a person’s dignity compromised by receiving development aid?**” with Kilian Kleinschmidt. The former UN staff talks about his experiences as manager of the refugee camp “Zaatari” in Jordan.



“It is about working together with these so-called victims **as equal partners**, talking to them as people and not as statistics or victims. Seeing them as equals with capacities of their own, who want to make a contribution, and who essentially are not looking for charity handouts, but rather to shape their own lives.”



“A vitally important principle is to **get away from thinking about victims and charity**. I remember in camp ‘Zaatari’, when I first said that people could actually pay for their own electricity and water, aid organisations were disbelieving: ‘No, these are refugees, they can’t pay for this.’ And that is exactly the argument. There is nothing worthier for a person than paying a bill, and therefore taking responsibility for what you use and need in this world.”



“The point is to **turn people back into people again**, to provide them with opportunities, so that they don’t have to spend 90% of the time fetching water and food.”