

Climate Change Adaptation vs Mitigation

What's the difference and why does it matter?

The effects of climate change are already here

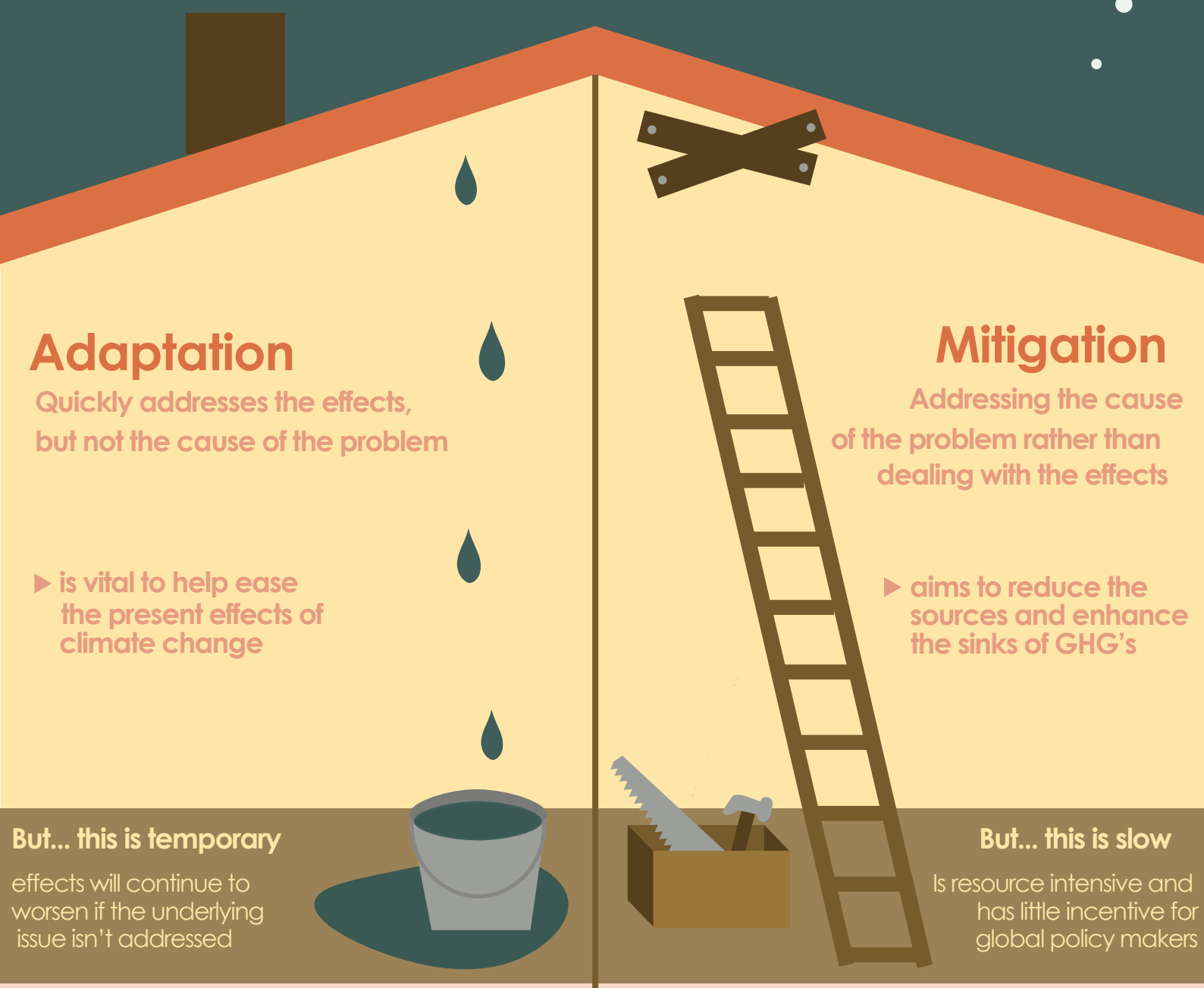
Frequency of tropical cyclones and other extreme weather events increasing

The global average amount of CO₂ hit a new record high in 2020: **412.5 parts per million.**

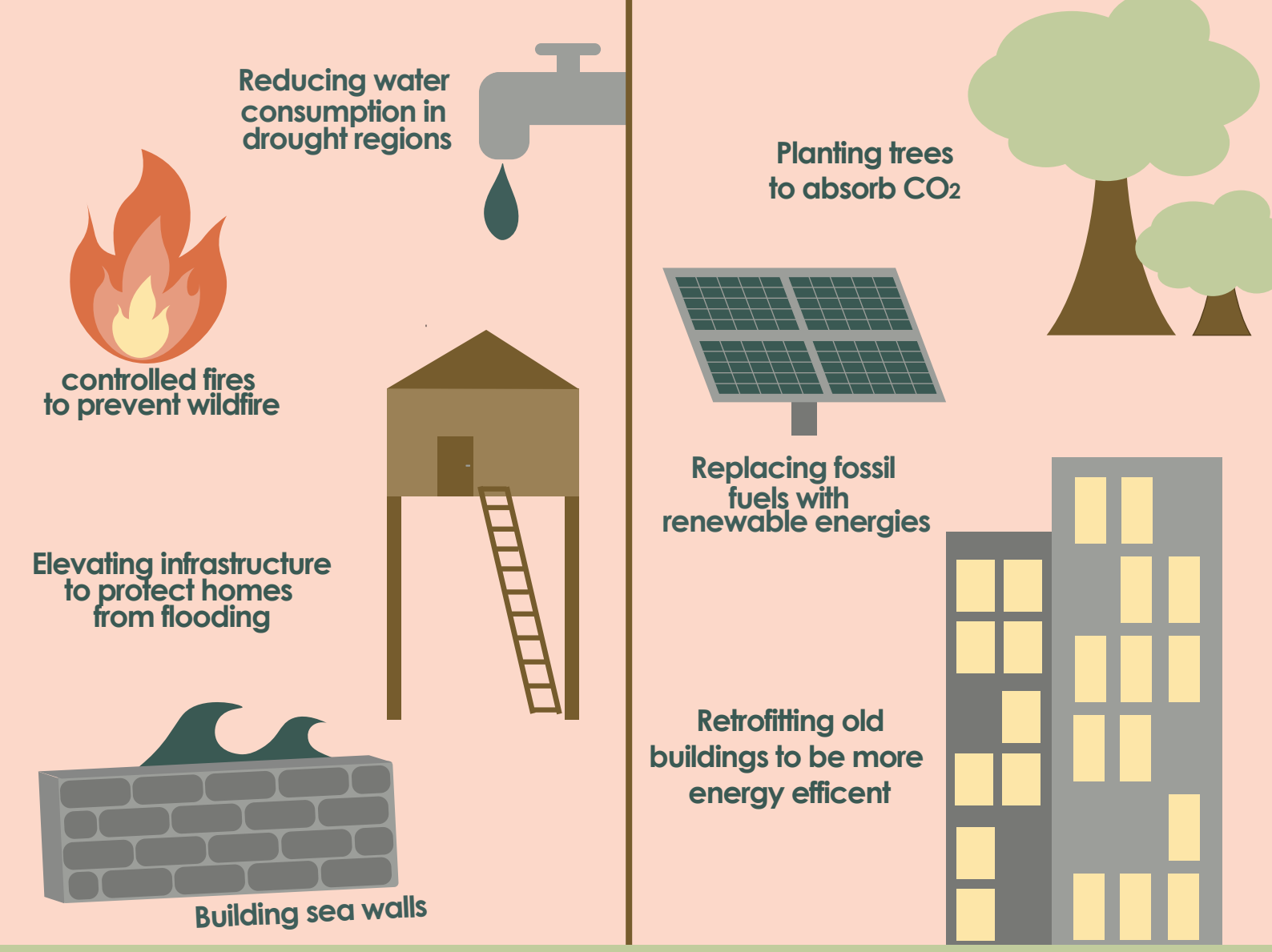
an estimated 23.1 million climate related displacements annually this past decade

In 2020, global sea level set a new record high — **91.3 mm (3.6 inches) above 1993 levels**

Both **adaptation** and **mitigation** strategies can address these effects...



What do these strategies look like?

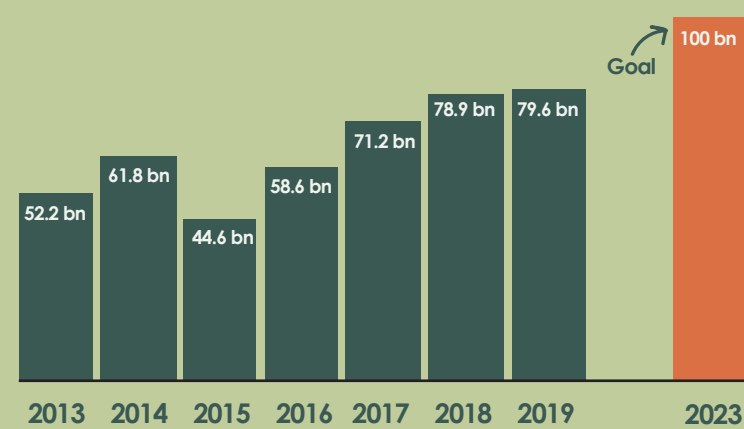


Why does it matter?

These two solution paths are far from equal. Both may protect people from a changing climate, but they have very different outcomes

Climate Finance

Amount provided and mobilised by developed countries (US\$)



Rich countries which have been responsible for huge amounts of carbon emissions need to go further

Climate Justice

wealthy countries have the power of choice. They can bear the cost of reducing emissions to the benefit of the world, or they can choose to adapt, ensuring their short-term security while leaving vulnerable countries behind. So far, they've largely chosen to avoid mitigation

Though we **MUST** adapt today, we must **TRULY** solve the problem by mitigating GHG emissions as quickly as possible

Sources:

Lindsey, R. (2020a). Climate Change: Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide | NOAA Climate.gov. [online] Available at: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide#:~:text=Based%20on%20preliminary%20analysis%2C%20the>.

Lindsey, R. (2020b). Climate Change: Global Sea Level. [online] Available at: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level>.

Morris, C. (2021). COP 26: How much is the developing world getting to fight climate change? BBC News. [online] 27 Jul. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/57975275>.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO). (2021). Climate change indicators and impacts worsened in 2020. [online] Available at: <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/climate-change-indicators-and-impacts-worsened-2020>.