

UGANDA

Slow Death at Katwe Salt Lake



Salt mining at Lake Katwe dates back to the 16th century. Lake Katwe is too salty to support aquatic life, but it has sustained thousands of Katwe inhabitants.

On a typical day, more than 4,000 women and men of Katwe spend more than eight hours under the scorching equatorial sun harvesting salt from the highly polluted waters, which contain concentrated salt (brine), ammonia, hydrogen and other gases. The miners work without protective gear and suffer the consequences of prolonged exposure to hazardous chemicals and inadequate access to health care.

Salt mining is labour-intensive and involves the use of rudimentary techniques. Women miners are particularly vulnerable and negatively impacted. Common health problems as a result of salt mining include inflammation of the uterus – and even outright loss of the uterus – dehydration, and chemical-induced burns and infection. Due to the influx of transient traders from other parts of Uganda and beyond, the prevalence of HIV infection is also high and women, again, are most vulnerable due to poor access to health care and a work environment that can only exacerbate their already precarious circumstances.

Women are specifically involved in winning salt.



This is a process of recovering salt from concentrated solution after it crystallizes in open pools, known as salt pans, which run along the shores of Lake Katwe. Although salt winning is done predominantly by women, the majority hold no ownership of either the process or the profits. Most salt pans are family businesses, and ownership resides with men, through a system of inheritance. Women, as daughters or workers or both, have no title and are at the bottom of the chain of production, notwithstanding the fact that they constitute the majority of harvesters.

The work of harvesting, winning and selling of rock and table salt is an age old productive activity from which traders make the greatest gains by peddling the salt across Uganda and neighbouring countries like Rwanda, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Although miners are by law obliged to remit taxes to the central government, little has been done to regulate or improve their working conditions. The salt miner's governance body – the Katwe Salt Conservation Board – is responsible for overseeing salt mining operations, but it has done little to ensure good working conditions and negotiate for better returns for the miners.

After taking part in a Participatory Action Research (PAR) project, women miners at Katwe have deepened their understanding of the impacts of salt mining on their lives. Given that representation by the Katwe Salt Conservation Board is falling short, they have formed the Katwe Women Salt Miners Association to demand accountability and lobby for appropriate action to improve their livelihoods.



Susan Kabugha applying super glue to cover her wounds – chemical burns suffered from salt mining.

For the full report see <http://womin.org.za/images/docs/uganda-report.pdf>

This research project is a collaboration of WoMin and National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE).

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) is a lobby and advocacy organization giving voice to vulnerable communities and the environment of Uganda. Key activities include media campaigns, public meetings (political cafés), commissioning and publishing research and producing documentaries that expose development models with gross human rights footprints. <http://nape.or.ug/>



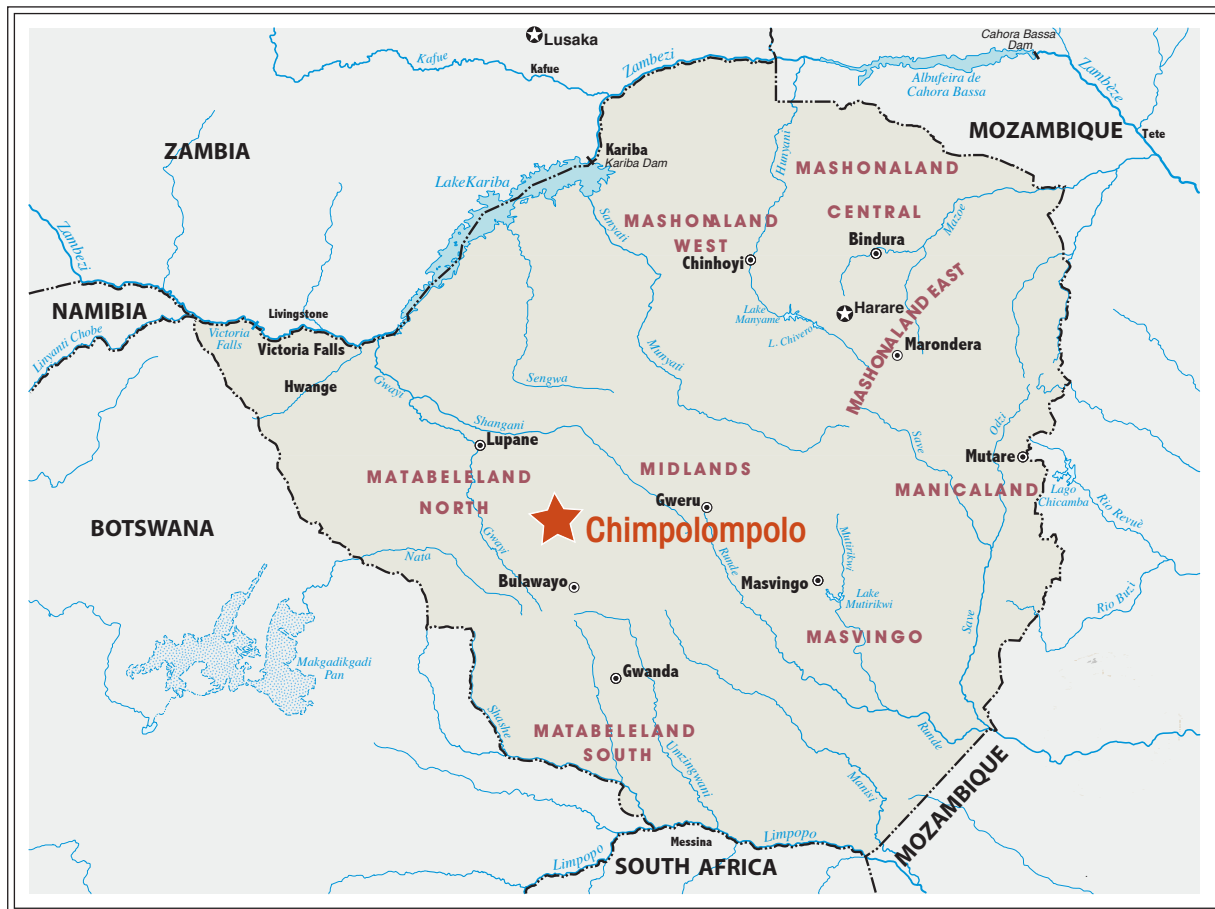
WoMin – African Gender and Extractives Alliance brings together non-governmental organisations and grassroots women resisting destructive extractivism, focusing on mining, oil and gas in Sub-Saharan Africa. Established in 2013, WoMin and its allies undertake women-led research, solidarity exchanges, education and campaigns to promote development models advancing gender, ecological, energy and climate justice. www.womin.org.za

Participatory Action Research

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTION ON WOMEN IN AFRICA

ZIMBABWE

Down Under: Durban Mines Disrupting Communities in Zimbabwe



When people and civil society organisations speak about the impacts of mining activities on communities, they tend to generalise. Sometimes what they perceive to be the big issues may not necessarily revolve around the degradation of the livelihoods of rural women. This was evidenced in Chimpolompolo area in Bubi, Zimbabwe through a participatory action research (PAR) project, which showed, for instance, the numerous but mostly unreported negative impacts of deforestation (hardwood logging) in the area.

The women in Chimpolompolo area benefit from the hardwood found in the area. In addition to the wood, which is used for fuel, women also harvest and sell Mopani worms and medicinal herbs derived from the trees. The arrival of mining companies, in particular Durban Mine, dealt a devastating blow to the communities because large tracts of hardwood forest were cleared by the company for use in manufacturing staircases for the mines. The hardwood trees take more than 100 years to mature.

The PAR was conducted from 2013-2014 by Women

and Land in Zimbabwe, the Centre for Development of Women and Children, and the Centre for Natural Resource Governance. The purpose of the PAR was to ascertain the extent of the impacts of Durban Mine's mining activities on the lives of community members with a deliberate and special focus on women. The research enabled the community to gather data, analyse it and come up with solutions to identify impacts. It was a tool for mobilising and organising communities, to empower them to tackle perceived socio-economic injustices resulting from activities of Durban Mine. It provided insights into the problems the community is facing, including the following key concerns:

- Women walk long distances in search of wood for fire, medicinal and other purposes.
- Indiscriminate logging has taken a big toll on the community which looks like a desert, especially now that rainfall is no longer frequent. This is an added burden.
- Women are no longer able to collect Mopani worms.



The women of the community are frustrated and concerned, as evidenced by the statement of one woman during the PAR:

'We, the women of Chimpolompolo, are demanding an end to this nonsense business of cutting down trees in this area. We used to get all what we want from the forests but now the forests have moved away and we are suffering. Even the rains are no longer falling down.'

The PAR process created a platform for women in the area to come together with others in civil society to discuss issues affecting them. It enabled them to form advocacy committees to take up the identified issues with relevant institutions. One of the bold steps that the women took was saying no to the continuation of indiscriminate tree logging in the area. They lobbied the local authority to facilitate the formation of a community association for the protection of natural resources in their area. Women and men have equal representation in the leadership decision-making positions in the association.



Durban Mine has been clearing hardwood forest to make staircases for its underground operations.

For the full report see <http://womin.org.za/images/docs/zimbabwe-report.pdf>

This research project is a collaboration of WoMin, Women and Land in Zimbabwe, Centre for Natural Resource Governance and Centre for the Development of Women and Children.



Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ) works to facilitate the eradication of gender discrimination in access, ownership and control of land, natural resources, and related opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Its focus is the socially and economically disadvantaged and excluded women of Zimbabwe. <http://www.wlzimbabwe.org/>



Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) is a research and advocacy civil society organisation whose mandate is to promote good governance of natural resources, particularly minerals, in Zimbabwe. CNRG advocates that natural resources should be extracted in a transparent, accountable, community inclusive and bio-sustainable manner.



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Participatory Action Research

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTION ON WOMEN IN AFRICA

NIGERIA

Dirty Oil, Destroyed Livelihoods – Ibeno, Nigeria



Oil pollution is a serious political issue in Nigeria. Communities in the Niger Delta in particular, are neglected and deprived of basic amenities by both the government and oil companies. The failure of government to regulate the activities of the oil companies and hold them accountable for the pollution and devastation suggests a conspiracy against the interests of the people. Exxon Mobil appears unwilling to comply with environmental protection laws and the government appears unwilling to hold the company to account.

Indeed, years of agitation and public campaigns in the Niger Delta have failed to eliminate pollution, poverty and paucity in oil-producing communities. Pollution from extractive activities of multinational oil companies is responsible for a wide range of misery across this region. Participatory action research (PAR) was conducted in Ibeno, Ibo State by the Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre, in collaboration with the WoMin – African Gender and Extractives Alliance.

To begin, 25 community women were trained as research assistants. They conducted in-depth interviews,

oral history, film screenings, public meetings, focus group discussions, transect walk and social mapping. The PAR project took the community women to locations in and around Ibeno where they heard from members of the community about their experiences.

According to PAR respondents, after decades of Mobil's oil operations in the coastline communities of Ibeno, the people still have no source of clean drinking water. Oil politics have left the communities impoverished. Aquatic life has been all but destroyed because of regular oil spills. This, in turn, has destroyed traditional fishing grounds, which are key to community livelihoods.

Community members were vocal about the injustices they suffer. Mr Moses Ekot Ekot from the community of Itak Udim Ukpa:

'Our drinking water is polluted by the oil spill. Our crops are also affected by the spill. We are calling on government to do something to stop this suffering. Mobil has not done anything since the spill occurred.'



Community women explained how oil company activities have caused severe problems:

'[There is] no clean drinking water for us. Oil has spoiled our farmlands, our rivers and streams. It is if we are not existing ...'

Another community member lamented:

'Once there is oil spill it affects Igwo-okpom Opolom because we are close to the Atlantic ... Many of our children have died because of this. There is one sickness that has come into this community; body scratching ... When we go to the hospital the doctor will tell us there is no problem.'

Speaking on sources of livelihood Agnes Ifum said that women have no sustainable means of livelihood. Mobil oil activities have disrupted their economic life. She said the people still live in thatched houses and structures are constantly damaged as a result of gas flaring. Another respondent, Helen Abraham, said,

'We are dying slowly. Even our herbs, plants, moreover the fishes are dead. Since Mobil came into this place there is no more fish.'

Poverty caused by oil pollution is the biggest challenge to the economic survival of women and children in Ibeno communities. Women are differently impacted than men because they constitute the majority of the subsistence farmers and fisher folk. Finding alternative sources of income is challenging. Men own the land that women farm on and compensations are paid to men who own the land, not to the women who do the farming. Men are the community leaders and gatekeepers so they are the ones who negotiate with companies and relate with government officials. This makes it easy for men to become contractors

with the corporation and government.

Common ailments in the community are skin rashes, skin cancer, malaria, worm infection, diarrhoea. Meanwhile, there is no hospital in Igwo-Okpom Opolom. The existing health facility is a one-room establishment, popularly known as the Drug Store. It has three staff (two women and one male nurse), who are paid by the State Ministry of Health. Once a year they receive paltry supplies of medication from the Exxon Mobil Clinic. The Drug Store cannot offer maternity services, so pregnant women are referred to the Polyclinic at Ukpenekeang, many kilometres away by boat and motorbike. There are three traditional birth attendants in a community with a population of about 5,000 persons, 2,000 of them women.

Emerging from the PAR process were the following recommendations:

- Political will must be exerted to punish environmental crimes and make pollution unfashionable.
- Oil pollution in Ibeno can be eliminated by strict enforcement of existing laws.
- All spill sites must be remediated with polluters paying for this and victims duly compensated.
- Types of dispersants and other chemicals used in tackling oil spills must also be disclosed and approved before usage.
- Ibeno women need vocational skills as alternative means of livelihood.
- Women need capital to start trading and other businesses.
- Provision of Health Centres should be established in all the coastline communities in Ibeno.
- Roads and bridges should be constructed where they are needed within Ibeno.

For the full report see <http://womin.org.za/images/docs/nigeria-report.pdf>

This research project is a collaboration of WoMin and Kebetkache Women and Development Resource Centre (KEBETKACHE)



Kebetkache Women and Development Resource Centre (KEBETKACHE) is a women's rights organisation using community action, education and advocacy to address development and social justice issues affecting women and children in Nigeria and around the world. http://kebetkachewomencentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=435



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Participatory Action Research

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTION ON WOMEN IN AFRICA

GHANA

Clash on the land – Mining destroys farming life in Ghana



Ntotroso is a farming community in Asunafo North District in the Brong-Ahafo region of Ghana. The community derives its name from the Ntotro River, which is a major source of water for drinking, sanitation and irrigation farming. The town was founded in 1768 and is 40 minutes' drive from Sunyani, the capital of Brong-Ahafo. Ntotroso shares boundaries with communities in Acherensua to the north, Gyedu to the south, Ahafo to the east and west to the Keyansi. The only health centre serving the community is at Gyedu, which is some distance away.

Mining activities are carried out by multinational companies and small scale miners in most rural communities in Ghana. These activities have been detrimental to the lives of most people in those communities. Farmers,

many of them women, have lost their lands to the miners, fresh water sources have been polluted and biodiversity disrupted, with attendant negative health effects. Many people have also been reported killed as a direct consequence of the pits created by the miners. Increases in rates of alcoholism, prostitution, rape, school dropout have been reported. The Ghanaian government and other associated institutions have proffered a number of interventionist programs as a result of these problems.

In response, ECASARD and WoMin collaborated and implemented a participatory research project focusing on the negative impacts of large scale gold mining by Newmont Mining Corporation on women farmers in Ntotroso.



Ntotroso community today



A building damaged by blasting



Polluted water source caused by Newmont and a sign post warning people not to drink from, or swim in the dam

Research findings and key issues

- Women were not consulted by the mining companies before their lands were leased. This was corroborated by the Queen Mother, Nana Kwartemaa Amponsah. She also complained about the lack of adequate compensation to affected women.
- Women complained of the lack of opportunities for women in the mining companies' workforce.
- The women were deprived of their lands with nothing to fall back on.
- Faced with dire economic conditions, many of the women resorted to prostitution to survive.
- Displaced and disposed, many women were stranded with no form of resettlement, rehabilitation or government assistance.
- Personnel at the Gyedu Clinic in the community reported illnesses related to water-borne diseases.
- Women are poorly informed or have no knowledge of the country's mining regulations.

Recommendations

- Appeal to the government to make mining laws accessible to the citizens of the country, especially women.
- Create alternative livelihoods for all those whose lands have been expropriated
- Provide long term compensation instead of one-off compensation to the affected people. This is the responsibility of the mining company.
- Improve resettlement conditions
- Encourage woman to participate in negotiations for compensations benefits
- Develop eco-friendly mining activities that are not hazardous to people or community dwellers
- Create a system to monitor and evaluate the activities of the mining companies.
- Involve entire affected communities in the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Create employment opportunities for women and girls.

For the full report see womin.org.za/images/docs/ghana-report.pdf

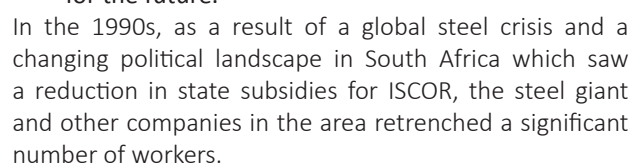
This research project is a collaboration of WoMin and Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ECASARD)

Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ECASARD) is a decentralised network established in 1991 and operational in 7 regions of southern and middle Ghana (Brong-Ahafo, Shanti, Volta, Western, Central, Eastern Region and Greater Accra). www.ecasard.org



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'Infections, not affection'





ArcelorMittal's steel mill near Vanderbijlpark.

Photo: VEJA archives

'Between 1993 and 1998, 46,000 jobs, including 20,343 manufacturing jobs, were cut on the Gauteng side of the Vaal Triangle ... In the first decade of democracy, about two million full time formal sector jobs were cut in the name of competitiveness and productivity. Iscor alone cut 30,000 jobs nationally ...'.³

Many of the workers were retrenched because they were sick but the company did not disclose this at the time. In the words of one former ISCOR worker from Bophelong, 'ISCOR gave us infections, not affection' (interview, 10

December 2014). According to Samson Mokoena, head of the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) '... during this transition period, no proper labour laws were followed, including exit medical check-ups and sorting out pension fund payments.'

This led to VEJA working with the Vaal Working Class Crisis Committee (VWCCC) and the Samancor Retrenched Workers Crisis Committee (SWCC) – movements formed by ex-workers in response to the retrenchments as well as to challenge companies on unfair evictions, unfair labour practices and corruption.



VEJA activists marching against ArcelorMittal.

Photo: VEJA archives



WoMin partnered with VEJA to look at the impacts of these retrenchments and the health impacts on women in particular, using participatory action research (PAR). Eleven interviews were conducted at two sites – KwaMasiza Hostel, where the majority of residents are employed by ISCOR, and Sebokeng where they are employed by Samancor, a ferro-chrome company.

- Out of the 11 women interviewed, 10 complained of health problems, including: swollen feet, liver damage, coughing 'black substance', body sores and body swelling. Five of the women also reported that their husbands had blood in their urine and impaired sexual functioning or as Thina Dhlamini (65 years) described it 'his knife wasn't cutting well' (interview, 11 August 2015).
- For Florence Ubisi, her husband's death led to a loss of income. She had to stop running her small nut-selling business because of the customary one-year mourning period: '... you have to wear black. If you are dressed like that, no one will come close to you. You can't be touched, no one should brush you, no one will sit next you. No one will buy from you. At sunset you must be home' (interview, 10 August 2015). An earlier research report⁴ also found particular impacts on women's reproductive health: 'Lulu used to work for ISCOR as a crane driver. She smiles a lot, but weeps when she speaks of her inability to have children. She has had two miscarriages, and both fetuses had genetic defects '



Wives of ex-Samancor workers participated in PAR focus group discussion, Sebokeng, 11 August 2015.

Photo: J. Pather



VEJA member Victoria Riet, left, conducting an interview. KwaMasiza Hostel is in the background, 10 August 2015.

Photo: J. Pather

In all the cases documented by VEJA and WoMin the wives and families of deceased workers had to engage in long and often confusing processes to access pension/provident funds, healthcare and other benefits due to them. In the words of one widow:

For the past 15 years I have been struggling to get my husband's money and I don't have the strength now to go further. (August 11, 2015)

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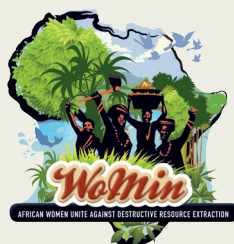
- 1 Bench Marks Foundation (2010) "Action Voices 2010"
- 2 Cock, J. and Munnik, V. (2006) "Throwing Stones at a Giant: An account of the Steel Valley struggle against Vanderbijlpark Steel Works", CSS/UKZN.
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For the full report see <http://womin.org.za/images/docs/south-africa-report.pdf>

This research project is a collaboration of WoMin and Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA)



Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) is a network of ten affiliates from various parts of the Vaal Triangle in South Africa. Since inception in 2004, VEJA has worked with the Vaal Working Class Crisis Committee and the Samancor Retrenched Workers Crisis Committee to demand corporate accountability for the occupational health impacts of steel, coal, petrochemical and iron ore production in the Vaal. <https://www.facebook.com/Vaal-Environmental-Justice-Alliance-VEJA-322703054542182/timeline/>



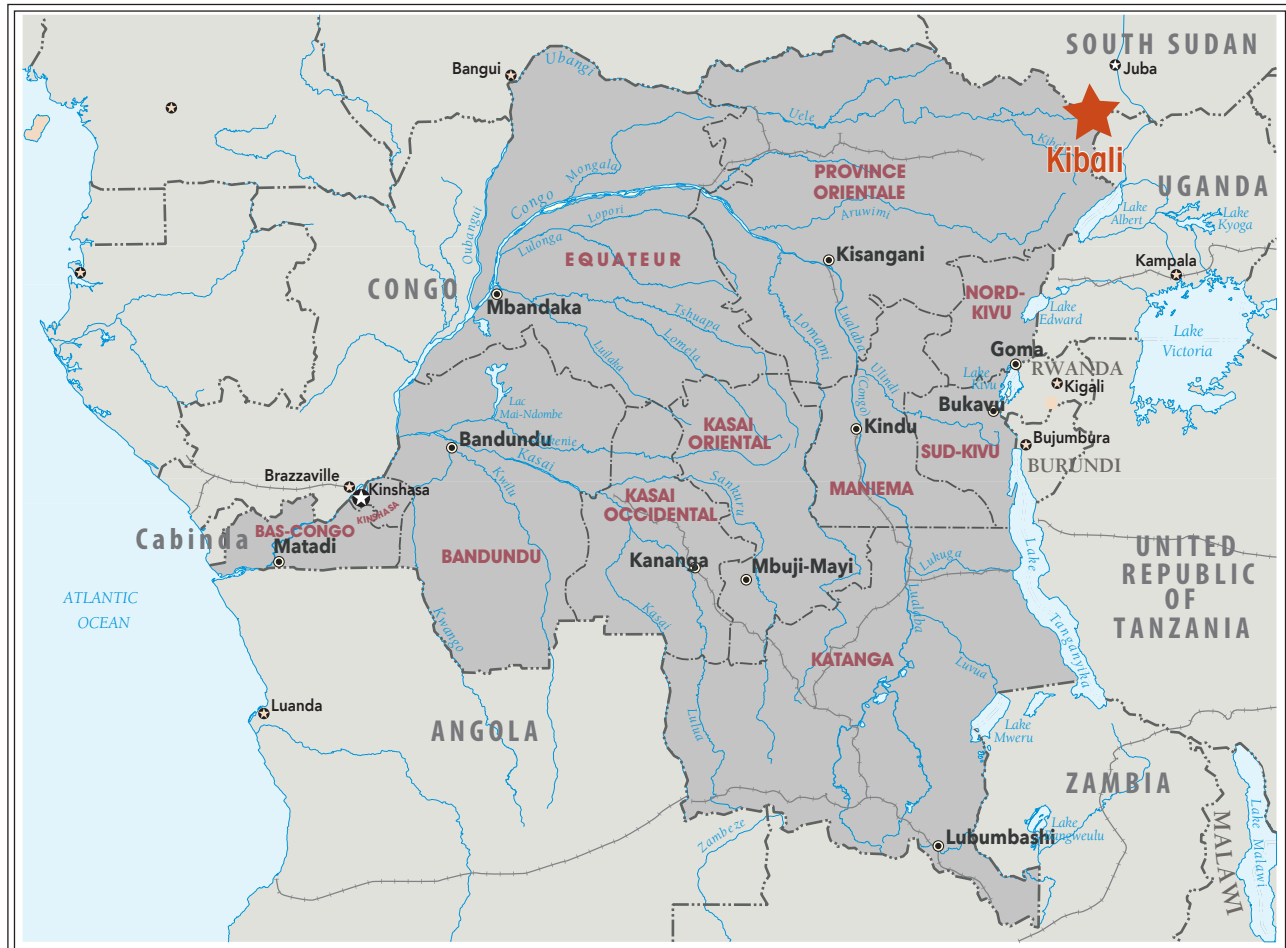
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Participatory Action Research

IMPACTS OF EXTRACTION ON WOMEN IN AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Dilemmas of displacement for women and girls of Doko and Durba



Femme et Justice Economique (FEJE), with the support of WoMin - African Gender and Extractives Alliance, carried out research in July-August 2014 to document the experiences of women and girls of Doko and Durba relocated to Kokiza by the Kibali Gold Mines project. The site of the project is in the densely forested, landlocked and oil-rich territory of Watsa, in the Orientale Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For several years, the state-owned company, OKIMO, was the only company mining gold in the area. Poor management and repeated wars led OKIMO to enter into partnership with Kibali Gold Mines.

FEJE sought to evaluate the terms of the resettlement agreement between Kibali and the local populations, the compliance with the terms of reference, including the way women were compensated, as well as the terms and conditions regarding the rehousing of communities. FEJE also aimed to assess the impact of Kibali Gold Mines investment on relocated and resettled populations, particularly women and girls.

In order to cover 19 villages and reach out to 4216 households in Kokiza, 4 researchers and 20 community investigators (working women, teenage-mothers, housewives, female sex workers and women members of women's associations) were mobilized to carry out studies in different villages.

Results

Before the relocation, the population relied for their livelihood on gold panning, field cultivation, vegetable gardens, livestock, small businesses and the distillation of palm oil. Girls attended school in addition to completing daily household chores. Though good schools were built by Kibali Gold Mines in most of the relocation sites (some of the new schools lacking sufficient classrooms), girls began dropping out of school. This is because with the establishment of the gold mine, selling and breeding became difficult and young girls were expected to work to supplement family income.

In general, women are faced with the following difficulties:



- The loss of cultivated fields and lack of arable land in the new Kokiza sites. After relocation, women found themselves cultivating vegetable gardens on plots of land too small to feed families.
- A lack of capacity building regarding the impact of mining on women and girls.
- The lack of institutions and appropriate solutions for issues of rape, sexual abuse and illiteracy – all brought to the fore with the establishment of the mine.
- The destruction of fields and insufficient arable land for larger scale agricultural production.
- A lack of financial support, training, and education to allow women to develop new income generating activities.

It is important to underline that most women and teenage mothers rely on agriculture as their main source of income. Women are responsible for running households, including feeding and caring for the family, paying for children's education and other family expenses. The establishment of the gold mine has in turn led to a general imbalance in the socio-economic situation of the population.

Women were not informed by Kibali Gold Mines of the terms of reference for the relocation, which was carried out before any compensation was provided to the affected populations. In an effort to overcome the various challenges arising, women have created NGOs and cooperatives but face difficulties finding partners and

obtaining funding. During one of the peaceful marches organized by the affected populations to air their demands, gun butt beatings, whippings, and tear gas were delivered by the army and police. At night in the villages, police and army personnel make threats to the relocated villagers, at times right within the homes of women. All resettlement related letters of villagers addressed to organs of the state remain unanswered. Some 35 households have not benefited from any resettlement rights and entitlements and instead face regular threats from Kibali Gold Mines.

Deprived of the means of livelihood and income, the community burden falls on girl children who drop out of school and engage in petty trade in the vicinity of the mine. This exposes girl children to sex work and ultimately, illiteracy, with direct consequences such as unwanted births, STDs and HIV-AIDS. As they are not organized under a strong leadership, Doko and Durba women and girls are not able to act effectively to assert their rights. This is why FEJE has stepped in to sound the alarm about the negative effects of extractivism in the DRC, including Kibali Gold Mines in Orientale Province. Mining and other companies must attend to their social responsibilities. FEJE has set up a network of women with the aim of breaking the silence and empowering women to claim their rights.



Investigators with a woman and her daughter who are selling millet



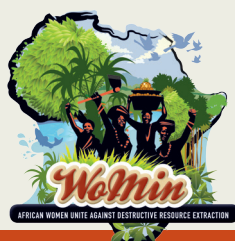
Community investigators mapping the research

For the full report see <http://womin.org.za/images/docs/drc-report.pdf>

This research project is a collaboration of WoMin and Femme et Justice Economique (FEJE)



Femme et Justice Economique (FEJE) is a nongovernmental organisation working for the emergence of a just society in the Democratic Republic of Congo based on the integration of women, respect for women's socioeconomic rights, respect for the environment, and equitable distribution of resource based revenue.



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IMPACTS OF EXTRACTION ON WOMEN IN AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

Extraction of gold and women's struggle to survive in Kalsaka



"We were promised happiness with the advent of the mine, but the mine has made us more miserable."

Awa, 63 year old female resident, Kalsaka

Gold is extracted everywhere in the Kalsaka area. Women dig small holes from which they extract the earth. They pound the earth to make it thinner or winnow it to keep the ore-containing earth.

Then they wash the retained ore to obtain gold. The gold thus obtained is sold and helps women support themselves and their families. Alternatively, men dig deep holes from which they bring the ore to the surface. Women pound the ore and put it in bags which are then returned to the male diggers. Late in the evening, as compensation, male diggers give a number of bags to the female pounders who then wash the ore and extract gold. Either way, women claim that they benefit in that the gold permits them to earn cash income.

Artisanal gold mining has long been an important source of cash income for members of the 51 villages in the Kalsaka area. In 2006, the Cluff Mining Company arrived in the area and was later replaced by Amara Mining, which continues large scale gold mining operations in Kalsaka today. The establishment of industrial gold mining has led to the demise of both agricultural production and artisanal

mining, the latter not least because the mining company has charged a security company with denying artisanal miners access to the gold site. Farmers expropriated of their fields are dissatisfied with the financial compensation received from the mining company because they believe it is inadequate.

Former artisanal gold miners still present in Kalsaka condemn the brutality of the prohibition to access the site. The decision to prohibit access was taken without discussion with artisanal miners. In turn, countervailing measures for losses suffered by the community were not considered. Compensation was provided by the mining company only for the loss of fields. The contrast is stark between the rights granted by the state to the mining company, operating beneath the soil, and those granted to the community - farmers and artisanal miners working the soil.

While the establishment of the mine has caused much upset for the community as a whole, women are the most affected.



On the one hand, women have lost access to land upon which they produced various subsistence and market goods. On the other hand, women have lost access to the cash income they drew from artisanal gold mining.

In more detail, the vast majority of women in Kalsaka worked the family fields as well as smaller, individual plots on which they grew crops, vegetables and tubers. The two activities complemented each other, with family field production allowing for livestock production and the sale of crops, and individual plot production providing subsistence goods for the family. With the deprivation of fields and plots due to the establishment of the mine, agricultural and livestock production was brought to a halt, leaving women without the means to provide for families, and ultimately, the community. Some women were able to access new plots of land but the conditions have not been conducive to effective production.

My field is far away from home and with the long journey I must make by foot, in addition to daily housework, I am now suffering from chronic back ache. I do not even have money to seek treatment.

Mariam (30)

Supplementing agricultural production, gold panning constituted a source of cash income which allowed women to cover school and other family expenses – all of which amounted to a considerable measure of financial independence for women. Today the reality for women in Kalsaka is ever decreasing purchasing power.

They (the mining company) deprived us of land, they forbid us from gold panning, and then my husband left to look for work in the city. I am alone with my five children and I no longer know how to feed them.”

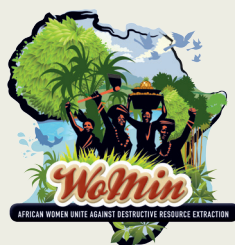
Fatima (30)

Petty trade as a source of income is the only option for women in Kalsaka today. Few, however, are engaged in petty trade due to a lack of funds. Though women try to cluster to work together and generate income, they face numerous social barriers. Most notable among these are illiteracy and the decision making of their absent husbands' families, with which they are obliged to live due to traditional and religious norms.

For the full report see <http://womin.org.za/images/docs/burkina-faso-report.pdf>

This research project is a collaboration of WoMin and l'Organisation pour le Renforcement des Capacités de Développement (ORCADE).

L'Organisation pour le Renforcement des Capacités de Développement (ORCADE) is a non-profit Burkinabé nongovernmental organisation with the main objective of addressing economic and social issues to promote development. It works in partnership with a number of NGO coalitions around the world. It has accompanied the people of Kalsaka since the start of large scale gold mining in the area in 2008. www.orcade.org



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