

Business Impacts on Human Rights,
the Environment and Peace building:
A toolkit for women and women
human rights and environmental
defenders in Sierra Leone



INTRODUCTION

In countries with a history of conflict, like Liberia and Sierra Leone, businesses can have a major impact on the environment and human rights of the people living in local communities. Businesses can contribute to jobs, local development, cooperation and support peacebuilding efforts. Too often, however, businesses adversely impact the environment by for instance contributing to water pollution, water scarcity or degradation of land and food resources. Business activities can also contribute to the violation of human rights, for instance, displacement of local communities, loss of livelihoods, or the violation of land rights. This can worsen social tensions and lead to social conflicts.

Women are particularly and directly affected by business activities. They often lack the same access and rights to land, natural resources, and jobs. When decisions about business projects are made, women are often excluded from participation. Additionally, women can also meet resistance, exclusion or sexual and gender-based violence when raising their voices about how business activities impact land rights, natural resources, human rights, social conflict or peace.

This is a toolkit for women in Liberia and Sierra Leone who live in communities where business activities have a large impact on the management of natural resources, land, human rights, and the risk of conflict. The toolkit is a cartoon that tells a story about Jebbeh and her concerns around land rights, women's rights, and how a new company might impact the environment, rights of women, and the risk of social conflict. The toolkit outlines Jebbeh's concerns about how the business will affect her and her community and what rights all women have. The toolkit also brings up the obstacles that Jebbeh and other women face when defending their rights and seeking redress. Lastly, it outlines which actions to take and where to turn if businesses adversely impact the environment, rights or contribute to social conflict.

Na de motal man rights dem office

Woman dem rights include freedom from fet fet, slavery, di wae how dem dae push dem from tin wae other pipul dae get, en also the right fo education, fo get property, fo vote, en get de same korpor with pursen wae den dae do di same woke.



... Jebbeh dae fen pipul dem fo help am get di land wae e papa lef fo ram.

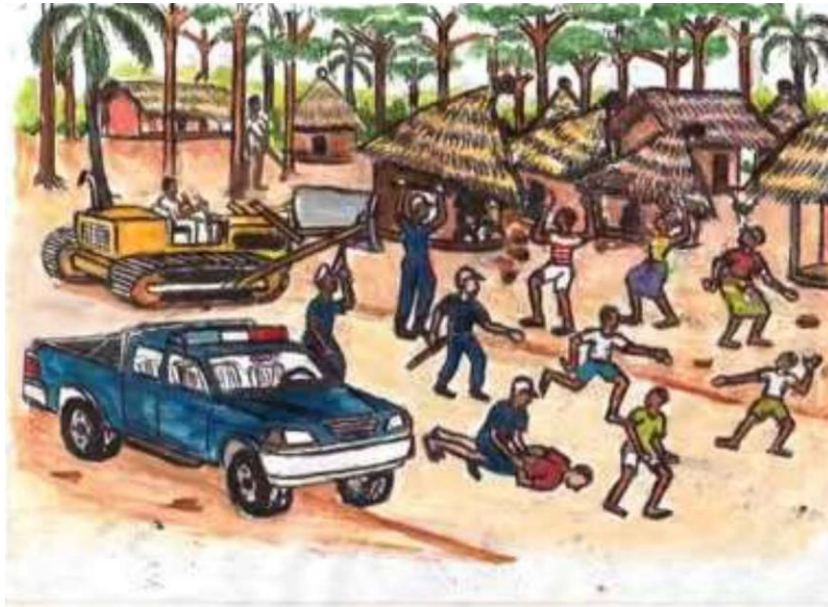
Bendu tell Jebbeh but De Environmental Protection Agency, National Land Policy of Salone and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).



Wae di mining kompani kin get meeting na ton, dem nor dae gree fo make woman tok, na mass dem kin mass wi rights, how ar go komplain?

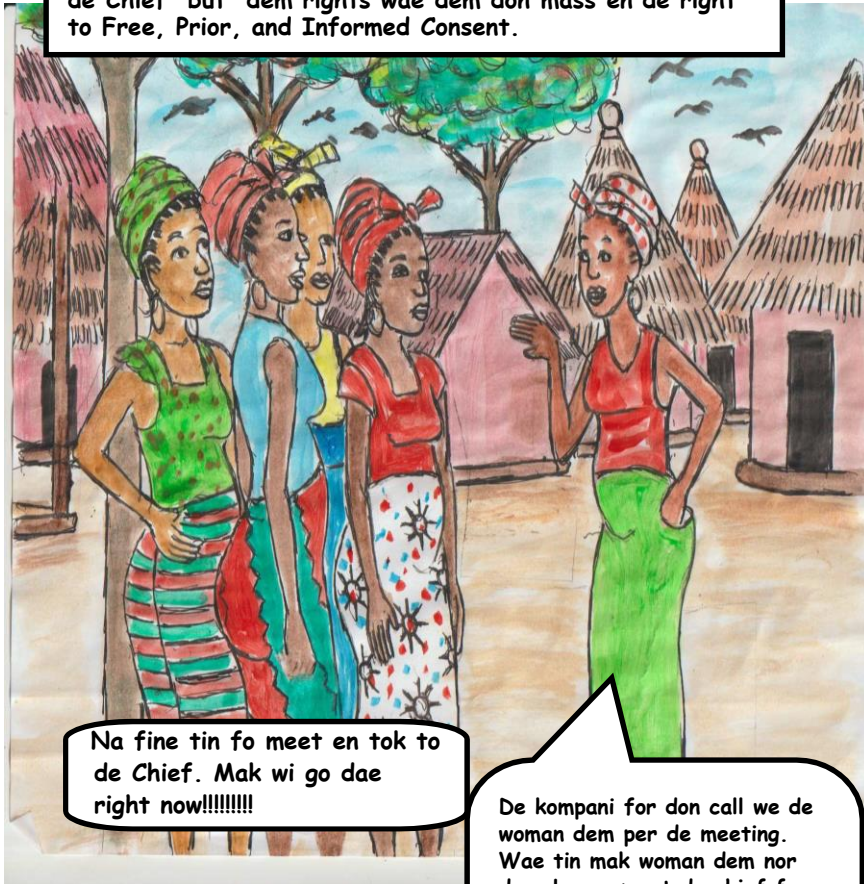
Yes, Jebbeh dem mass you rights, all man en woman fo tok when dem get meeting fo make any kompani get di go ahead fo mine mineral na wi ton.

How fo get land without FPIC and forced eviction



Jebbeh member watin happen na de naba ton after wae de mining kompani kam na ton.

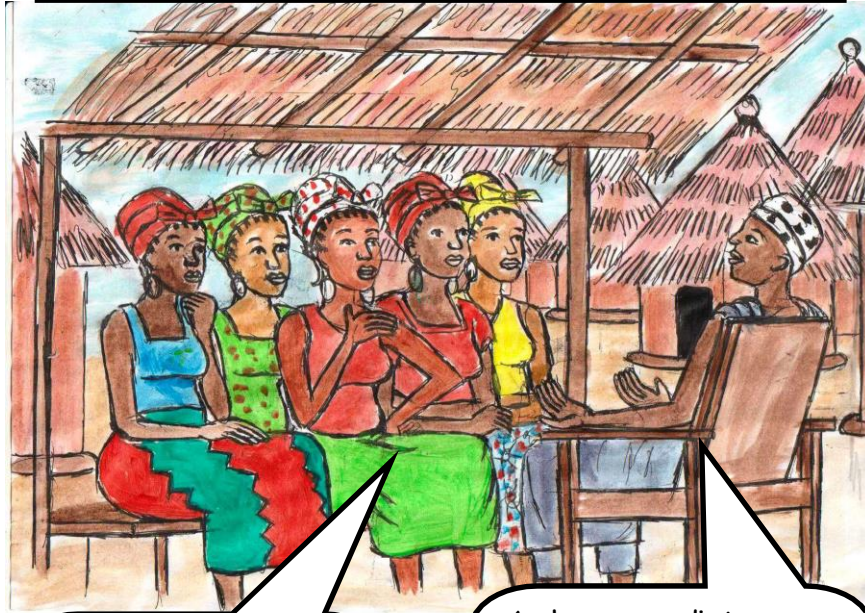
Wae dem nor gree fo make de woman dem tok na de ton meeting, Jebbeh en de oda woman dem don gree fo go tell de Chief but dem rights wae dem don mass en de right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.



Na fine tin fo meet en tok to de Chief. Mak wi go dae right now!!!!!!!

De kompani for don call we de woman dem per de meeting. Wae tin mak woman dem nor dae. Le we meet de chief fo know woman dem rights na dis ton, make wi ask am watin make na man dem nor mor fo decide watin dae happen na ton. Lek waewae chairlady e man beat am fo dis same tok ya.

Jebbeh en de oda woman dem go to de Chief but de Chief tel Jebbeh say if e fasin dis woman rights bines wae e dae pa, e go tel am makelef de ton en fen sie fo go.



Kushe oh Chief, wi kam meet you because wi nor glady wae dem pull we per de ton e tok one en de company fo get tok na we ton e land en boku oda tin dem.

Ar know say na dis tranga ace Jebbeh don tell una all fo kam even you sef Warrah?!!, jebbehif you fasin dis you woman rights bisnes ar go tell you mak you lef dis ton mak younor mix up de oda woman dem.

Wit de chief yi action, Jebbeh bin still dae lok fo oda sie for get help fo de trouble wae den dae face.



De Chief be vex en even open kol wi. Right now, ar torment because me fambul dem don tel me fo lef dis fet fo de woman dem rights or mak ar lef de ose.

Ar nor go lef yat. Makewi go tell wan NGO na de next ton. den, wi dae go tel back de Human Rights Commission of Salone, Ministry of Gender, Environmental Protection Agency en tel dem say woman den nor dae take part par de ESIA en any decision na de town fo new busines.

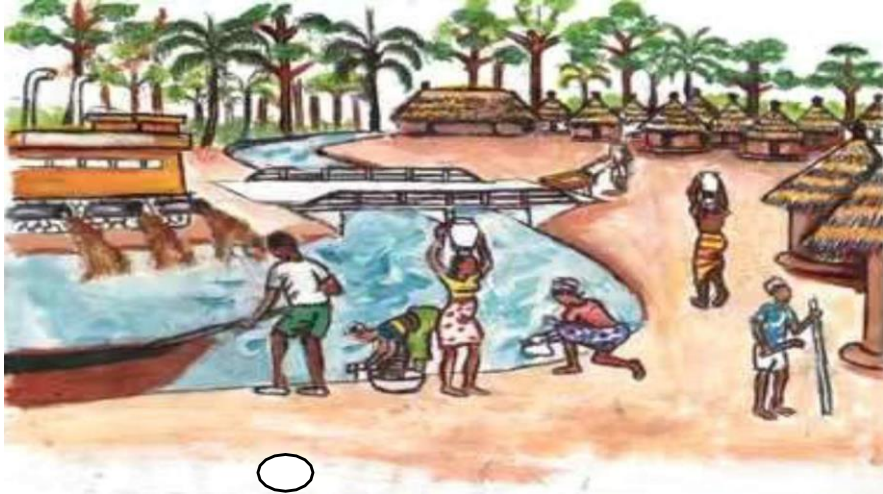
Pa all de Environmental concerns around de Mining company, Jebbeh daetry fo fen sense to Bendu fo sake of dis kompani.



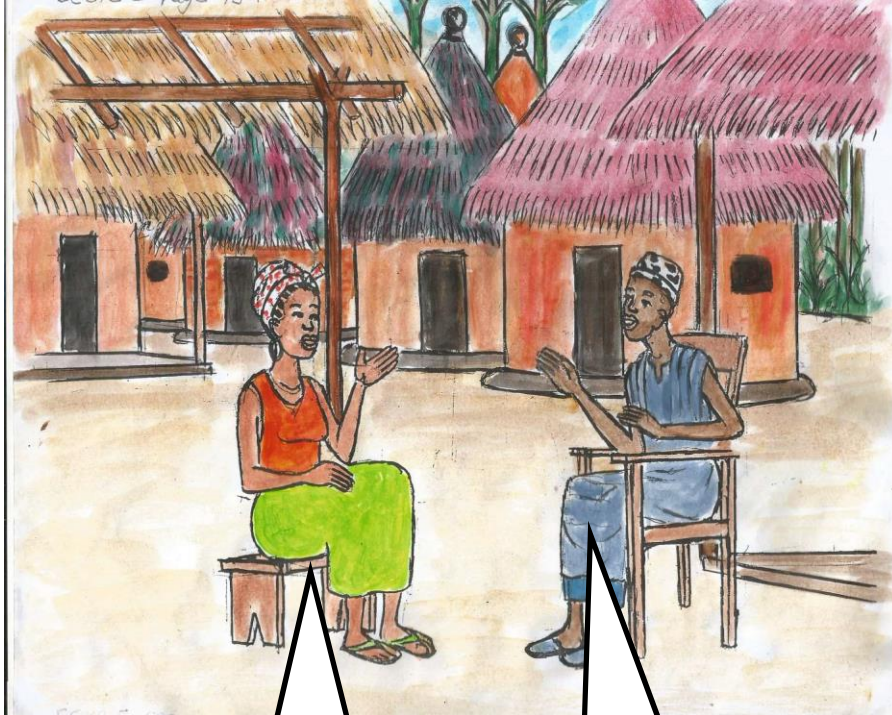
Jebbeh, na Salone boku law dae wae govment put fo protect de Environment en de pipul dem sef pa tin lek dis. E go bette make ar tok to de Chief en de big wan demna de ton.

Wan kompani kam na wi ton fo kam pul minerals na wi tong but de ton Chief en de big wan dem na de ton dae fraid say dis kompani e woke go poil wi water en farm land, watin you feel?

Poil Water, environmental degradation



Pa all wae de ton dae pa mix up but wae tin for get from de mining kompani. Jebbeh go ask master sabi pipul dem pa motal man rights en e don kam tell de chief but watin dem tell am en don sabi but kompani dem.

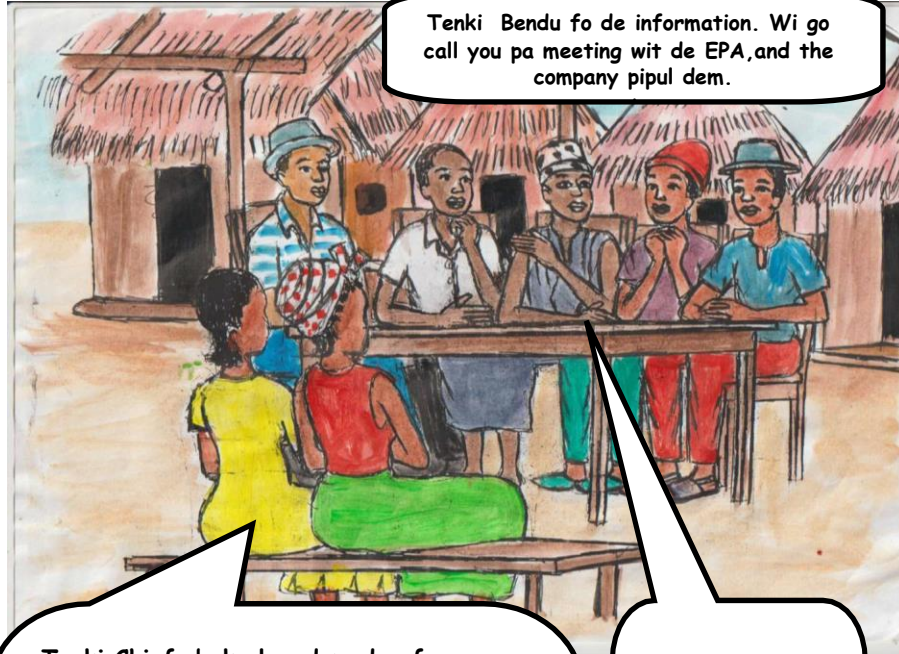


Chief, ar dae ya fo kam tel you watin oda pipul dem na dis ton den get but dis kompani wae kam ya den days ya.

Tenki Jebbeh. But I want fo call de oda big wan dem na dis ton fo make dem go yeri.

De chief call de bigwan dem, Jebbeh and Bendu fomek de go tell de pipul dem fine fine wan fo pull de ton pan torment because wae de kompani wan kan do mining na de ton.

Tenki Bendu fo de information. Wi go call you pa meeting wit de EPA, and the company pipul dem.



Tenki Chief, boku law dem dae for protect de environment en pipul dem pa dis kind tin ya. lek, de Environmental Protection Agency wae dae fo protect de environment wae get watin dem call Social Impact Assessment. Dis dae fo make anytin fo de protect de rivers en wata en de air fo consider fine fine wan before a kompani day begin fo woke. Fo make de kompani waka with de ESIA de Environmental Protection dae open e yai pa de kompani fine fine en dem dae monitor dem tranga wan.

Bendu dae ya fo tell wi but de laws wae dae fo responsible business investment wae go help fo gie advice fo don wit palava wae de kam but mining kompani.

Dis na meeting with de Mining kompani, Environmental Protection Agency en one NGO en oda big one na de ton.

Kushe una all. Teday get pipul dem from de kompani, EPA, NGO. Wi kam ya fo tok de concerns wi get but dis kompanu e wok en go start wit de kompani.

Are dae ya fo tell una say EPA go test una water, land and air fo make sure say de kompani e woke no poil dem fo una. Sef na de ton, wona fo report any tin wae de kompani de poil. De wata, land or air any damage to de. Chief, local govment office, community NGO's en national NGO dem sef.



Dis Mining kompani go bring woke fo de pipul na dis tong, go make roads, build school en hospitals dem na dis ton. Wi woke nor go poil una water, land or air, wi go gie una korpor if wi woke poil una plant dem. Wi go protect motal manrights dem, respect una woman en young man dem sef.

Dis na meeting with Mining company, Environmental Protection Agency and one NGO and the de ton pipul dem

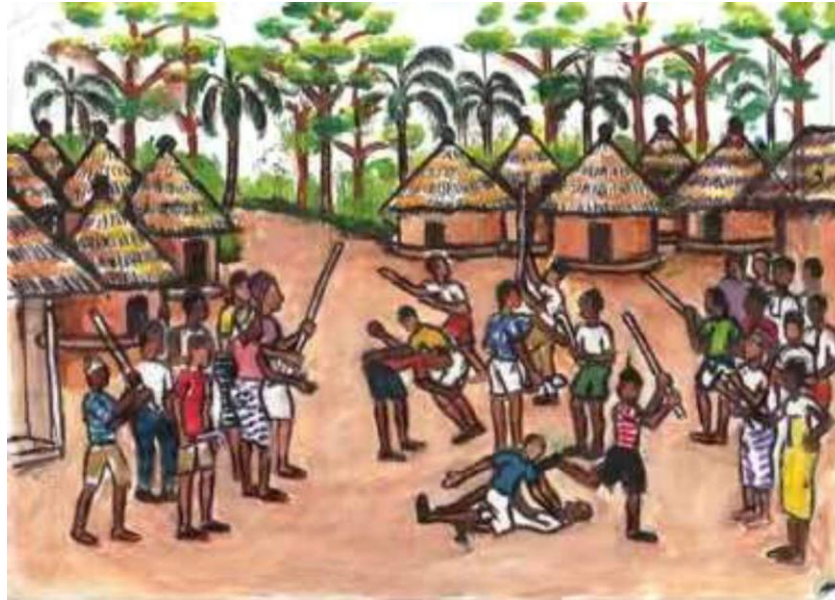


Dis na meeting wit de Mining company, Environmental Protection Agency and one NGO and the de ton pipul dem.

Since wi nor get wan wod pa dis tok, we go call oda meeting wit de ton pipul dem make wi kamfen one sense but wi ton.

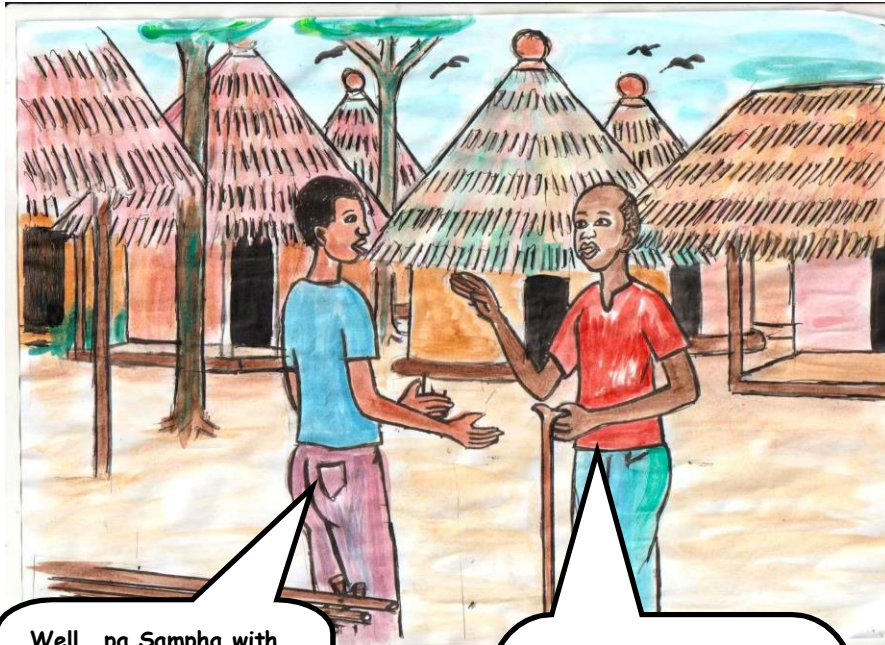
Me don gree for make de kompani woke na ya because of de fine fine tin wae wi de kompani woke get fo bringkam na wi ton.

Land fet fet between communities
and intra communities fet fet



Pa meeting, de pipul dem na ton be get fo tok but de bad
tinks wae palava bisnes gi get.

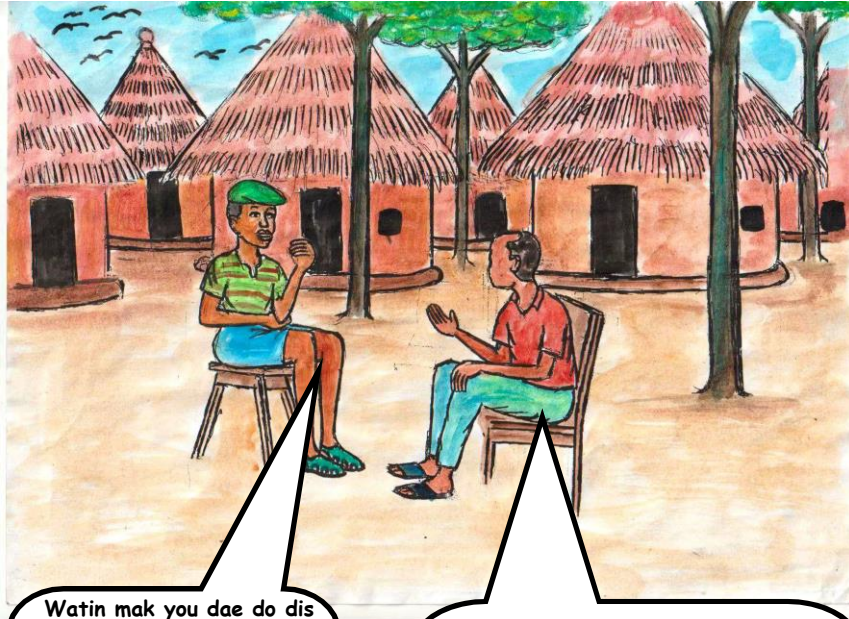
Pa Sampha dae shabe di korpor to de people dem wae e take from di kompani hand, diskorpor don kam wit hala hala fo de new kompani na dis ton oh.



Well....pa Sampha with dis korpor are go gree fo make de kompani kamwoke na wi tong ya.

Kushe oh Amara pa de meeting yesterday, de kompani be kam with boku fine tindem fo dis ton. Ar wantmake you gree fo make de kompani kam woke na wi ton, ya Le 100,000 fo yousef make you go dae member fin fine wan but watin ar tel you.

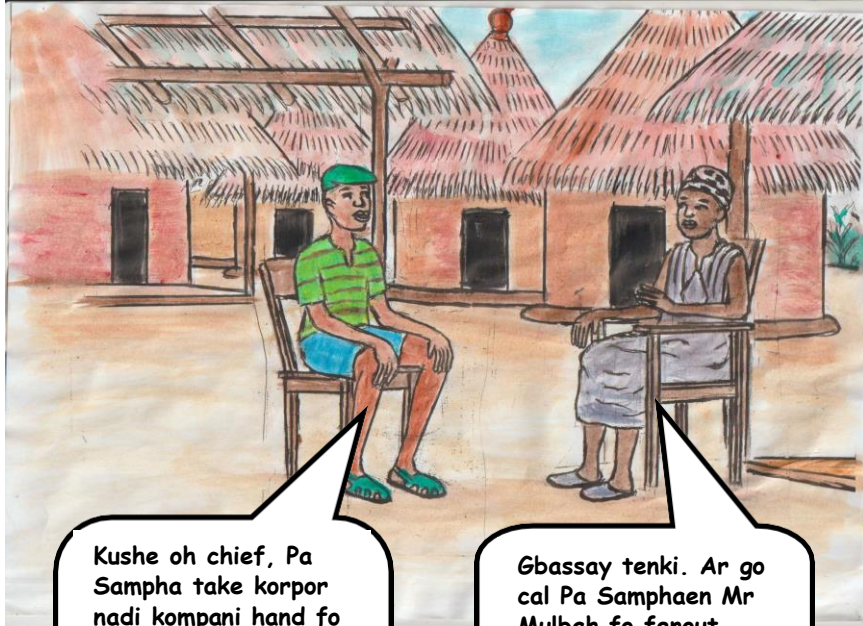
Pa Sampha dae shabe de korpor wae e don take na de kompani hand fo mix up en divide de ton en pipul dem wit hala hala, le peace nor go dae again na town en start big wahala na ton again.



Watin mak you dae do dis tin na ton Pa Sampha? you know fo say Boku pipul nor wan dis kompani woke nadis ton, but you take korpor na dem hand fo full di pipul dem. Me dae na road fo go tell di chief.

Fayia, pa de meeting yesterday, de kompani be kam wit boku fine tin fo di pipul na dis ton, you member pa di meeting yesterdaen ar wan mek you gree fo le de kamponi fo wok na we ton. Ya le 100,000 for you sef, are want you dae think but watin are tell you. Ar tell Tamba di same tin sef wae are be dae kam.

De komapni dae gie korpor to some pipul dem na ton. Dis na way fo ful de people en tun dem fo le den wok en turn watin wi don plan. Dis make Pa Foday nor glady em go tel de Chief.



Kushe oh chief, Pa Sampha take korpor nadi kompani hand fo make e tok to di ton pipul dem so make di kompani go kam woke yah, e gie me korpor fo make are gree fo dekompani.

Gbassay tenki. Ar go cal Pa Samphaen Mr Mulbah fo fenout watin make dem do dis kine tin.

Wae de kompani gie korpor to Pa Sampha fo tok to de ton pipul dem make de kompani kam woke ya. Mr. Mulbah de Chief call am make e kam tell dem watin make e do so.



Na me call dis meeting en tell Mr. Mulbah fo kam so dat e go tell wi watin make e gie Pa Sampha korpor fo make e tok to de tong pipul fo e kompani.

Na true say are gie Pa Sampha korpor fo make e tok to de pipul na tong make me kompni kam woke ya, de last meeting nor be komot fine na e make are do so. Do ya una lef hakeh fo me are nor me. our intention was to make sure that we get thean fo kam with palava with de tong pipul dem. Wae dis kompani kam woke na ya, e go kam with boku boku fine tin dem lek woke nay a en dat go make e tong fine.



Wae dem be don tok with de ton pipul dem, de chief, the kompani, en de NGO, the kompani don gree pa dem tin ya. Kompani go respect Salone Land Right Law en FPIC, woman dem sef tok pa tin dem wae go do with land bisness na dem ton. If new palava kam, de pipul dem go meet de kompani en de kompani go settle de palava fo land bisnes, environment, or rights, wae go make gbos gbos don happen na de ton.

Where to turn in cases of Human Rights Violations or Environmental Harm?

Step 1:

- Start a dialogue in your community by contacting youth leaders, mammy queen, town Chair Ladies and town Chiefs

Step 3:

- Contact the company mechanisms for solving disputes with local communities and for seeking compensation.

Step 5:

- Turn to State mechanisms:
 - ◇ Labor inspectorates
 - ◇ Employment tribunals
 - ◇ Environmental tribunals
 - ◇ OECD Natidna Contact Points
 - ◇ Consumer protection bodies
 - ◇ Privacy and data protection bodies
 - ◇ Public health and safety bodies
 - ◇ Professional standards bodies
- Report to the Human Rights Commission on Sierra Leone, Ministry of Gender, or Environmental Protection Agency.
- Bring up the ESIA process or FPIC when speaking to the chief, the human rights organization, or the company.

Step 2:

- Turn to a local or national civil society organization or human rights organization that work with rights to help you file a complaint, write a letter, hold dialogues, or take other actions.

Step 4:

- Seek alternative dispute resolution (ADR)

The issue can be raised in a:

- ◇ Chiefdom security committee.
- ◇ District security committee.
- ◇ Provincial security committee.

Step 6:

- Turn to the police and the police can bring your case forward in the legal system.

How to organize?

Do you and other women want to organize for your rights? Then you can:

Step 1. Organize around needs: Start by thinking about what is important to you and other women (such as food security, employment, healthcare or something else).

Step 2. Write down who has power over that issue: Women and girls can identify people and institutions in government and private sector and hold them accountable to respect, protect and fulfill those needs and rights.

Step 3. Start a campaign: Once women and girls have done step 1 and 2, they can choose a way to campaign and defend their rights.

Step 4. Change laws and policies: Sometimes, changing the laws or policies may be the best way to help women's rights. It is not only national laws that are important, also harmful traditions in communities can lack respect of women's rights

Step 5. Use formal mechanisms: talk to a local or national human rights organization, turn to the company, legal system or others.

Step 6. Use the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): Women and girls can insist on the right to FPIC. If decisions that affect them are only made by men, then women's rights are not respected. Instead, make sure that women are invited to platforms for dialogue;

Step 7. Solidarity action and movement building: As part of their campaign, women and girls can also talk to international organizations and people that work on the same topics around the world. Women in different parts, local and international, can cooperate.

SUMMARY

This toolkit told the story about Jebbeh and a group of women in her community that are concerned about a company's impact on human rights, the environment and social conflict.

The women lack the same access to land, livelihoods, and natural resources. This gives less power to influence land and resource issues when the new company comes. When the women want to exercise their rights, they face many obstacles like exclusion from decision-making, social pressure, and sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination.

Women have human rights. These are called women's rights.

Land rights

Women do not have the same access to land. Fathers, sons, and husbands often inherit and own land.

The National Land Policy

The land policy acknowledges women's rights, regardless of marriage status. It aims to ensure equal tenure rights and access to land for women and girls.

Violence and discrimination

Women can face violence and discrimination when reporting on business impact on environment, human rights and social conflict

Freedom from violence, slavery, and discrimination

It is illegal to beat a woman or discriminate her.

Decision-making

Women are often excluded from meetings with companies and the community.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent, FPIC

Women have a right to be consulted when a company wants to use land and natural resources, according to the international legal principle FPIC.

The National Land Policy

Encourages women to participate during stakeholder meetings before any company is awarded the right to mine or use their land.

Environmental protection

Some companies impact the environment negatively, by for instance water pollution, hazardous waste or degradation of land. Businesses can also negatively impact the people who use the land and the natural resources, by forced displacement and eviction, or lack of consultation with the community.

The national land policy

Women can participate during stakeholder meetings before any company is awarded the right to use their land and natural resources.

This toolkit was developed by GAI and SiLNoRF with the support from Swedwatch. Swedwatch do not necessarily share the expressed views and interpretations.

This project has been granted funding from Folke Bernadotte Academy's (FBA) support to civil society for peace and security, read more at www.fba.se/stöd. GAI and SiLNoRF are responsible for the content.

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Illustrations: Charles Sharper, Liberia.

December 2021