

POWER UP

Case studies & success stories



COMIC
RELIEF



VIDYANIKETHAN - India

“I am living happily with my family. I would like to thank the IMAGE next project and movement for their valuable contribution in my life.”

16 years old Chitra Naykar from a village in north-Karnataka, was married at a very early age. While she was 14, her marriage was fixed during the mass marriage event organised in her village.

Chitra says with agony “my mother forced me to get married to my uncle. They fixed the marriage during the mass marriage event, to reduce the marriage expenses. After my marriage, so many students used to comment on me that I am married. I lost my interest in studies and dropped out from the school”.

At that time, IMAGE Next (the project) stepped into her life, which has been supported by CRF and TdH. She enrolled in the movement and also became a member of EMG club. She has participated in the Counseling and Awareness sessions on health and Education. The partner team would visit her home regularly and provided counsellings to family members to continue her education.

Finally they agreed to support Chitra to continue her education. She was regular to school and was preparing for her SSLC examination. During the pandemic time, the school was closed and she found it difficult to prepare her subjects, since there were no means to get guidance at home.

In the right moment, IMAGE Next project provided electronic tablets with preloaded education materials to the early married girls who are appearing for the SSLC examination. Chitra was given a tablet to prepare her lessons well. With the tablet, she was also provided dry rations, reusable masks, and hygienic materials to keep safe from Corona.

She prepared well for the examination and appeared for the examination. She further supported paying her examination fees and transportation costs. Because of all these efforts, she passed the examination with 76%. This made her overjoyed. Now she is pursuing her higher study and is very active in the movement activities. In future, she wants to be a Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO).

VIDYANIKETHAN - India

"Education is very important to every child as it enables them to live their life with dignity and not become victims of child exploitation."

With a long ponytail, red bindi and sparkling eyes, Mangala is one of the youngest movement leaders of IMAGE. She was married when she was just 5 years old and it has been 10 years since.

Soon after Mangala was registered under the IMAGE project as an early married girl, she started attending different pieces of training conducted by the project. It didn't take Mangala much time to emerge as a movement leader for her district. Through the training, Mangala learned extensively about child rights. She recognised that child marriage and child labour is illegal. This gave Mangala further motivation to stop these exploitations from happening against children by raising her voice.

Being a girl who not just speaks but displays in actions what she learnt, Mangala noted all the things in her surroundings which were forcing children like her into child marriage and child labour.

She took this observation to the Children's Gram Sabha (Child Parliament) and boldly asked the village authorities to ensure children are not exploited in her society. Mentioning the high school dropout numbers in her village, Mangala confidently explained the challenges faced by her and other children in her village. On the lack of proper educational facilities, Mangala suggested the authorities construct the Science Lab at her school along with clean and hygienic toilets for girls.

The local government praised her confidence in sharing her concerns and demands during the children's Grama Sabha session and have started with the construction of the science lab at her school premises along with the construction of toilets for girls.

Mangala says, "Education is very important to every child and especially to girls as it enables them to live their life with dignity and not become victims of child exploitation. Child Marriage and Child Labour are obstructions to development of a child and we have to collectively raise our voice against these practices".



From *The Future is Female: Stories of girl brides and their journey towards empowerment*. Available [here](#).

VIDYANIKETHAN - India

"I am glad that my eyes have opened as I am now aware of my rights"



17-year-old Veena who got married as a year old baby has been a hero of courage for girls in her neighbourhood, for standing firmly asking for her rights.

Veena fought her way to ensure she was not sent to her in-laws' place before 18 years. But when the second wave hit the country causing innumerable people to leave their jobs, Veena's husband took his life, her father emptied tons of alcohol bottles and her parents being daily wage labourers were struggling to afford a meal per day for their 3 children.

After many sleepless nights, the IMAGE project came to her rescue as her family was provided with ration kits and hygiene kits. Being labelled as a widow at just 17 years by people around her, Veena felt boxed in anxiety. But being the courageous and norm-defying girl that Veena is, she was encouraged by the IMAGE staff to not let these adversities become her identity.

Once again Veena soars high as she decides to not give in to the labels people give her but to continue focussing on her studies so she can become financially independent and support her family. Through her words and actions she is inspiring other girls.

Veena says, "I refuse to be acknowledged as a widow as child marriage in itself is not legal and I was married before I even started walking. No one taught me the ill effects of child marriage until I was registered as a part of the IMAGE project. I am glad that my eyes have opened as I am now aware of my rights"

Veena is continuing her Pre University examination and hopes to start working part-time after this while attending a university. She is also spreading awareness about child marriage in her family and neighbourhood so that 'no girl has to go what she went through.'

From [The Future is Female: Stories of girl brides and their journey towards empowerment](#). Available [here](#).



CITIZENS UK - United Kingdom

“In June 2016, Jo Cox MP hosted a dinner for undergraduate students on a programme I help run annually. She talked passionately about the need for British moral leadership in the international system and becoming a rising star in British politics. Three weeks later she was murdered. I was shaken to the core. Was this the fate of bright women in politics?”

I had always been interested in international politics and share Jo’s humanitarian ethos. I received my PhD from the Department of War Studies at King’s College London and have taught courses on global politics and international security. I have also channelled this knowledge into human rights activism, serving for three years as a Youth Ambassador to the OSCE.

I also believe that change begins at home, which is why I sit on the governing board of two London schools. I have been working hard to make a difference in my community. Politics loomed large as the way to do this, but the system felt inaccessible and intimidating.

COVID-19 changed that. I participated in the 50:50 Parliament sessions, a transformative experience where my faith in the political journey for women was finally restored.

Here was an incredible organisation, assuring us of the need for women’s voices in the political space, and helping us navigate the complexities and realities of all the parties, processes, bodies and agencies (pew!).

50:50 connected me with other women who share my progressive views and values of social liberalism, and who are providing a support system in this daunting journey. In the Equal Power training webinars, I heard from MPs and Councillors who provided insight into their careers, undertook skills training on topics such as digital safety, and participated in dedicated Lib Dem ‘bite size’ sessions run by 50:50 Parliament, where women from the party shared genuine, reflective advice.

Crucially, through 50:50 Parliament’s New Girls Network and The Parliament Project’s 6-week peer support circle I connected with strong women from across the political spectrum. For me, Equal Power embodies Jo’s ethos that we political women ‘are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us’.”


FRIDA - Nigeria

Hadiza was a 23-year-old young lesbian who was just finding her footing. Before coming to WHER's space, she thought she was the only lesbian in Nigeria. She later attended some activities and also participated in WHER's psychological and financial empowerment workshop. After the workshop, she applied for an internship scheme under the empowerment project.

In her words "...This internship scheme offered me a solid foundation for my career because I have evolved and learned so much in a short space of time. I have learned how to effectively perform many tasks. I was also opportune to also take part in research last year and this was a learning process. This internship has empowered me financially and psychologically."

After the internship scheme, Hadiza was retained as a staff member and she is currently the program officer (Health and Well-being) at WHER.

FRIDA - Nigeria

A close-up photograph of two dark-skinned hands clasped together in a firm grip. The hands are positioned in the upper right corner of the page, partially overlapping the white text area. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange-brown color.

In April 2020, two lesbian military women who served at the Nigerian Armed Forces were arrested when a colleague reported them to a superior on the allegations of homosexuality and assault. On the day of the arrest, the women were indoors laying naked on each other with the room door open. The colleague snuck in and took a picture of the women while they were naked on the bed. After taking the picture, he informed the women what he did and it resulted in a scuffle.

The colleague went to a superior officer and reported that he caught the women in the act of lesbianism. The women were arrested and detained. After the arrest, the women were interrogated, tortured and asked to give the names of other lesbian and queer women in the barrack. They gave up the names of some women in the barracks, the women were arrested and tortured to give more names. This led to the arrest and detainment of over eighty-seven (87) women while the others had to flee the barrack to avoid arrest.

We contacted the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) who provided support to us in securing the release of the women detained. The women were released and went back to their respective duties.



WOMEN IN PRISON - United Kingdom

“This gave her hope and a way forward, as well as the knowledge that she doesn’t have to go through this journey alone”

Jackie was supported by the Sutton Women’s Hub (a WIP women’s centre) due to complex health needs related to long-term alcohol use. During an initial meeting and assessment with her Health Matters Advocate, she identified her alcohol use as her priority and acknowledged the affects it had on her health. Jackie asked for support accessing alcohol services and better managing her health. She has a learning disability and said she’d like support attending appointments because she’s aware she can find it difficult to understand, process and remember information.

Her project worker supported Jackie by accompanying her to an initial assessment at the local alcohol and drug service. It took several attempts for her to build up the confidence to attend, but once she succeeded getting over that hurdle, she was able to be assessed by a recovery nurse. Together with Jackie, a recovery plan was put in place which included attending groups and a place at a residential detox and rehab.

In regards to her health needs, Jackie was sent Liver Function Test results with no explanation of what they meant. All she saw was some high numbers and she thought that meant she didn’t have long to live. Her Health Advocate accompanied Jackie to a GP appointment where the GP explained the test results, and although they showed liver damage, Jackie was able to understand that there’s an opportunity to repair her liver if her alcohol use is reduced. She also received several letters from the hospital which she didn’t understand. Her project worker went through the letters with her and explained them, which also meant Jackie was accompanied and supported in the upcoming appointments the letters asked her to attend.

This gave her hope and a way forward, as well as the knowledge that she doesn’t have to go through this journey alone. Jackie regained a sense of control over her own health and future, and a support network by her side through this daunting journey.

PASTORAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL - Tanzania



Noorkerumbuot Mokoro age 43 from Kimokouwa village is a member of WRLF. She has 4 children (2 boys and 2 girls). She is one of three wives. Her husband is a drunkard and sold off all their livestock because of this habit. In the past they struggled a lot to make ends meet but the situation has changed because of her hard work.

For the last 2 years she has engaged in cross-border trade at the border of Kenya and Tanzania and raised enough income to take her children to school. She has also been able to buy livestock which she is planning to fatten and sell at a profit.

“Now I am proud I have 150 goats and 100 cows because of selling herbs. Being a member of the forum is an opportunity to mentor other women to become self-reliance and stand up for their rights. It is time for women to wake up and be in frontline to demand their rights because I am sure there are hundreds of women whose hearts are broken because of violence in their families and community.”

PASTORAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL - Tanzania



Meet Sarah Toroge holding ballot paper number 17 who contested for district councillor's position in Ngorongoro district. She has committed to women work especially in women leadership issues. She knows how women in pastoralists communities are looked down upon in the community.

"I have come up on floor to contest for this position to represent thousands of pastoralists women who still lag behind and inspire them to compete with men who still see women as people who do not have ability to lead. What I believe is that women are able to lead even in high discipline."

PASTORAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL - Tanzania

Nanja Lechichi from Mairoa village has an interesting story on her struggle for her land. She is a widow, her husband passed years ago and left her with 9 children (2 girls and 7 boys). With the support of local politicians, her brother's in-law attempted to disinherit her by taking her plot of land. Nanja pushed back and sought the support of her local WRLF who assisted her to seek justice in the village council. The council identified her as one of the local women to be assisted by PWC to process a formal title deed certificates for her plot of land.

"I was very stressed to see my children and I been evicted from my plot where we have been living for years before my husband died. I had to fight for my rights, since I have nowhere else to go. was not seeing any where to go. I am very happy for the support I received from my local WRLF and the women organization (PWC) who saw my cry and now am proud that I was given my land certificate on 26/02/2021 which will be my weapon anywhere.



- **Pastoral Women's Council** - A short [video](#) depicting the impact of Women Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs) in enhancing pastoralist women's meaningful participation in the decision making spaces, and land and property ownership as well as preventing and addressing gender-based violence in their communities.

PASTORAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL - Tanzania



“Before we knew of our rights, Maasai women could not stand before men. In the rare occasions that a woman attended a meeting, usually when summoned to defend herself, you would have to get hold of some grass, get on your knees and wait to be given the chance to speak. Women were denied their rights and the situation was even worse for widows and married women who did not bear children.

Through WLRFs we have been transformed and we in-turn are at forefront of transforming our communities. In Gilai for instance, as members of the WRLF, we spearheaded community contributions to improve health services in our village by mobilising Tshs 1,500,000 amongst ourselves and mobilising other women to contribute to this cause. This helped our forum gain recognition and support from village leaders and the community at large.

We have made sure that no community meetings proceed without women being summoned and we actively participate and make decisions collectively as a community. We are holding men accountable for committing domestic violence and victims of gender-based violence now have a place to run to.”
Naitajewoki, Longido-Gilai Lumbwa (pictured above) WRLF member addressing fellow WRLF members in a Ngorongoro visit.



Mzee Kazimoto (pictured above) also from Longido has shown his utmost support for the WLRFs and women and girls rights in general. He says ‘I have offered one of my houses to be a training centre for girls who have dropped out of school. With practical skills like tailoring, the girls can provide for themselves be free of oppression from their families and husbands. I have taken all my daughters to school and I wish for every family to do the same. I am happy that at least now we have a respected women’s (training centre) structure that is taking this issue seriously. His request for support in turning the building into a training centre to equip as many out-of-school girls as possible with vocational skill was received by the local and district government as well as PWC and we are in discussion on how best to support his vision.

“Women are slowly changing the nature of governance in India.”

Women’s increased political participation has yielded positive results—development issues such as violence against women education, health, nutrition, and increase in family income take center in interventions by PRI. Women representatives have demonstrated that they have critical information about community resources, can learn quickly about how to lead effective community-centered development, are inclined to be more inclusive and are adept at managing funds.

Post COVID19 lockdowns in India, thousands of daily wage labourers belonging to the informal sector left big cities for their hometown. They had no other alternative but to return to their villages though their future there was also bleak. This also led to backlash, discrimination and isolation of the migrants in their own respective villages.

Safiya (Name changed) an Elected Woman Representative along with the team of Jharkhand Mahila Uthan, was looking after the state run quarantine center in Hazaribagh. Elected representatives and CSOs were given responsibilities to look after the quarantine centers [1]and ensure that all services are reached to the needful.

While being there 24/7, Safiya got to know that the Muslim migrants were being treated very badly. They were not accepted, some of them were even asked to sleep in the verandah (outside the main building) of the quarantine center. Safiya says “When I heard about this issue I thought this is a good opportunity for me to spread love. I am also a representative so I have to raise this question. ”

It was midnight when she got the news; she did not see the time and reached the place and had a very deep discussion with the 20 people who were in the center.

She emphasized on the fact that “it is the bond and togetherness between people regardless of their caste, creed, religion or gender. It is the feeling of oneness, brotherhood and social unity under communities and society in a country which we all should follow. This place, Jharkhand, is home to different religions, castes, creeds, sex and different background living together in the society with love and peace amongst them”. She further added that “COVID is a trying time for all of us and we should not indulge in anything that disrupts our social harmony”. After a long intervention, the problem was sorted and till the migrant workers were in the center, nothing of that sort was repeated.

After the incident, one of the migrant workers said, “We actually also had a sense of gratitude to the lady. You can make out from her name that she is from another religion but she has always been there to support everyone in the community. My wife says she loves Safiya didi- how could we not listen to her what she was trying to say. After all, she was saying what is right”

Due to patriarchy and the perceived threat of men losing their domination of the political system, potential and achievements of elected women in PRIs was not recognized in the beginning. They were dismissed as proxies of their husbands and other male members of their families and at times as proxies of elites in the village. Their capacity to understand the process of governance and to lead the affairs of panchayats was questioned. However, many women elected representatives have made their mark in bringing positive changes in their areas. Leaders like Safiya are the torchbearers of how leadership ought to be. It is very challenging to be accepted by all and when one is accepted by all it means that impact of work.

WOMANKIND - Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe



Success Story: ZINWA Karoi heeds to women's demands

Ward 7 Karoi had been facing water challenges for the past six years. Residents had to travel long distances to fetch water in uncovered water streams, ponds and dams. Some relied on neighbours with boreholes who sold a bucket of water for \$20, which most families could not afford. Others had been reaching out to nearby households in the middle of the night but were exposed to risks of being raped, maimed or even killed.

The Chinhoyi Chapter of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) started working in Hurungwe District and had been creating safe spaces for women to engage with duty bearers. On the 24th of July 2020 and 13th of August 2020, Zoom meetings were held between women and duty bearers in Makonde and Hurungwe Districts (which covers Karoi Town). The duty bearers included a Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) Engineer, Municipality of Chinhoyi Engineer and Hurungwe District Ward 5 Councillor.

In these meetings, the women highlighted the gendered challenges they were facing because of water shortages and demanded that the council supply running water. After twenty days and subsequent planning meetings between the council and ZINWA, water services were restored and Karoi residents in their homes.

A new member of WCoZ shared her gratitude:

"Personally, I am very happy with the swift response from Council. We also want to thank WCoZ for facilitating the engagement. At least now we get to channel our energies to other pressing issues as we do not have to walk long distances in search of water or spend hours queueing for our turn at the boreholes"

"I never thought when we were engaging the duty bearers about our water challenge that today we will be having water flowing from our taps. My grade one granddaughter had never used the shower to bath today for the first time and I am really happy," said another resident.

The residents are now protecting the water supply by repairing broken pipes to avoid unnecessary wastage of water. Residents are also conforming with ZINWA water saving regulations around not using hosepipes in their gardens and using buckets instead.



YOUNG WOMEN'S TRUST - United Kingdom

As soon as the coronavirus crisis began, we could see the impact it was having on young women. In surveys and webinars they told us about the isolation they felt and of instant job losses.

We worked with these young women to meet with MPs who sit on the Work and Pensions Select Committee to talk about their experiences.

The young women talked to Stephen Timms and Debbie Abrahams about their experiences. One young woman told Stephen about how difficult it was to make her universal credit last after public transport in her area was reduced and she couldn't travel to an affordable supermarket. Another young woman explained she was due to leave sheltered accommodation before the crisis began but her council case worker had not been in touch and she was stuck living in one bedroom alone.

These cases studies all fed into an evidence session that MPs of the Work and Pensions Select Committee had in May. We are continuing to work with these MPs as part of our No Young Woman Left Behind campaign.

On a personal level, telling their own stories to MPs was an empowering experience for our young women. Those young women have gone on to sit on panel events, speak to the media and write blogs about their experiences during the crisis.

We also held a peer to peer training session where young women who met their MPs guided other young women in our network through all the steps from how to write a letter to your MP, to how to research your MP ahead of a meeting and how to structure what to say

WOMEN IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT GLOBALIZING AND ORGANIZING - Nepal

“I want to ensure that no victim of violence should be kept away from accessing legal recourse.”

“Just a few months ago, one of the home-based workers in my community was touched inappropriately by a contractor. When she protested, he shoved her and abused her,” recounts Geeta Thimozina Dahal – a home-based worker leader in Panvati, Nepal. Dahal says that instances of violence are all too common in her community. But she hopes to change that.

In October 2020, Dahal attended a training of trainers on the issue of gender-based violence conducted by SAATHI in partnership with HomeNet South Asia. After the training, she says she is better equipped to handle the issue of violence as an organiser. During the training, she was made aware of the legal mechanisms available to women in Nepal when they face violence. Armed with the knowledge, Dahal has now taken up the issue in her community.

Despite the pandemic, Dahal has trained over 30 home-based workers and their families in her community on the issue. She says that she ensures that the women know that they are not alone and that they can seek recourse in the law with help from dedicated organisations. Dahal is also working with the men in her community to eradicate the issue.

In the future, Dahal says that she hopes to train hundreds of others across Nepal so as to ensure a violence-free world.

The Training of Trainers on GBV, Geeta Dahal received was part of the HomeNet South Asia’s Comic Relief-funded initiative – Empowering Women Home-Based Workers.



Geeta Thimozina Dahal

WOMEN IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT GLOBALIZING AND ORGANIZING - India

“Organising Helped Us Access Clean Drinking Water and Ensure A Cleaner Neighbourhood.”

Ramilaben lives in a crowded settlement of over 300 houses in Ashapurinagar that's part of the larger Amraivadi locality in Ahmedabad, India. She has lived here for over 20 years and for much of it has worked as a home-based worker. From her compact house, Ramilaben tailors blouses, kurtas and other women's apparel for the customers in her community and beyond. However, in the recent past, Ramilaben's reputation has gone beyond her work.

Last year, after a training in organising conducted by SEWA Academy in partnership with HomeNet South Asia, Ramilaben says she was able to enhance her skills in organising. While she has been working in the field as an organiser for SEWA for a few years, Ramilaben says the hands-on training improved her advocacy skills and she has been able to usher in change in her community.

In Ashapurinagar, an informal settlement, water is a precious resource and is often fetched by women after having stood in long queues at community taps. However, a few months ago, Ramilaben and the members of community stopped receiving adequate water and when water was supplied to the community it was often unclean and not consumable. This not just affected the livelihoods of the women, who had to spend time bringing in water from other faraway resources, but also cast a shadow on the health of those who lived in the community.

This led Ramilaben to swing into action. Lane by lane, she organised women and their families so that a group would visit the local municipal office every day and speak to their representative about the problem. For a week, this continued. Women and men would reach the office and urge the corporator to solve the problem. This happened for a week.

By the second week, the municipality relented and ensured clean drinking water to the community. This was a big win for Ramilaben and her community. But instead of dwelling over the win, she chose to do more. She, then, urged the local authorities to improve the waste management facilities in her area. And achieved success there too!

Ramilaben's efforts have resulted a cleaner, better living for home-based workers and others in her settlement. It has also strengthened her organisation, SEWA, where she brought in more than 150 members in the past year.

Ramilaben often forgoes her tailoring work in order to dictate herself to community organizing efforts. To her, it has been worth it. “It's ok if I don't earn as much, I find satisfaction in helping other.”

The organizing training Ramilaben received was part of the HomeNet South Asia's Comic Relief – funded initiative – Empowering Women Home-Based Workers.



WOMIN AFRICAN ALLIANCE & CNRG - Zimbabwe

Sese women win over Murowa Diamond mining company

The women of Sese in Chivi District successfully led a non violent protest campaign against RioZim's Murowa Diamond Company that had been prospecting for diamonds in their area from 2018. Through the project, the women conducted a Feminist Participatory Action Research that allowed the women to have a deep understanding of the possible effects of extractivism on their lives. The research enabled the women to see first-hand how some livelihoods had been negatively affected by the exploration activities of the company. This led to the resistance movement that gained community-wide support. The women further received training on their rights and also the courses of action they can take to address their concerns. The mining company's exploration activities had resulted in livestock mortality after drinking contaminated water. Noise from the mining activities was distracting children's learning and co-curricular activities since the company was camped close to Danhamombe schools. The drilling by the company was causing rampant environmental damage and pollution, and in most cases deep holes were drilled on household crop fields causing loss of farmland. One of the local dams that supplied a water for irrigation of two nutrition gardens was drained dry by the diamond company. Had the project entered the mining phase, scores of families faced displacement.

The project's interventions enhanced women's agency to confidently speak out to stakeholders and amplified women's voices at national level. Based on the advocacy skills gained, women led the community protest against a big mining company. The women mobilized other community members to block the company's machinery and vehicles and took the matter to the District and Provincial Development Coordinators. As a result of the pressure from the community, the company finally left the community in October 2021



WOMIN AFRICAN ALLIANCE & CNRG - Zimbabwe

Women of Hwange raising their voice on the impact of coal mining on their children.

Coal seam fires is now becoming a growing and life-threatening scourge in Hwange, a coal mine town in western Zimbabwe. The fires have resulted in grave injuries and loss of lives that are increasing the burden of care work for women who reside in Hwange. Prior to the action by the women the Hwange Colliery Company (HCCL) had shown no commitment to solving this issue.

The women of Hwange conducted a Feminist Participatory Action Research in which they studied the impacts of the coal seam fires on their day to day lives. They interrogated how each woman was affected and, in their investigations, they found that the impacts of coal seam fires were more widespread than they had initially thought. They found that there was a significant number of women that had been affected both directly and indirectly. The whole research allowed women to look at the extractive or economic system differently. The information which the women then gathered through the Feminist Participatory Action Research contributed to the publication of the CNRG report on the impact of coal seam fires on children in Hwange.

The case was widely reported in the media resulting in a public outcry. Below are some of the media stories triggered by the report:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/dec/15/what-burns-beneath-the-deadly-threat-of-underground-coal-fires-to-children-in-zimbabwe>

- <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/12/govt-mum-on-hwange-coal-seam-fires/>
- <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/underground-coal-fires-wreak-havoc-in-hwange/>
- <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/invisible-coal-seam-fires-leave-hwange-children-with-charred-limbs-shattered-dreams/>
- <https://www.fairplanet.org/story/coal-seam-fires-destroy-lives-in-zimbabwe/>

The publication amplified the voices of the women and exposed the unchecked negative effects of coal mining. The biggest success that the women attained was that through their work they compelled the Hwange Colliery Company and the Government of Zimbabwe to act on the scourge of the coal seam fires that were claiming lives and maiming children in that area. In December 2021, HCCL hired a German coal-seam fire consultancy company to investigate the origins of the fires and provide recommendation. <https://www.herald.co.zw/probe-into-hwange-underground-fires-starts/>

The findings of the consultancy company have, however, not been shared yet, but the women continue to fight for their cause and are looking forward to petitioning parliament on the issue.

A close-up, top-down view of a person's hands peeling a green bean. The person is wearing a blue dress with a white and yellow pattern. The hands are positioned over a white woven bowl. To the right, a metal strainer with green beans inside is visible. The background is a textured, brownish ground.

THANK YOU