



## Narrative Progress Report, January to December 2016

### 1. Major achievements in 2016

The last year has been a period of both consolidation and growth. The consolidation and deepening of an existent strategy has been supported by a threefold growth in full time staff capacity. This rapid growth has been essential but has brought its own challenges to the organisation and its fledgling systems and procedures. See section 6 at end of the report.

In the past year, WoMin celebrates the following significant achievements:

- The **fossil fuels energy and climate justice women-led women's rights campaign** has grown significantly with the development of campaign leadership structures (comprising all or significant representation of women community activists) in three countries, and clear plans for the campaign's development in the same number of countries. The campaign has worked hard to bring in and embrace a wide range of CSOs and succeeded in its efforts to bring grassroots women leaders to the front of the campaign. This is a commitment that will take years to fully satisfy but we believe progress has been made to assert the leadership of affected women. The campaign's approach to supporting organising and movement building in a key test site in South Africa – the coal afflicted communities of **Somkhele and Fuleni** – is bearing fruit as women activists there gain confidence and strength, and proclaim their interests against the mine and corrupted local traditional leadership.
- WoMin has very successfully started to advance a **feminist concept of consent**, which explicitly grapples with the organisation of power around extractives industries and the development model driving extractivism. In our emerging understanding, consent is a radical and radicalising process of people, and women specifically, organising to claim their right to self-development. An important moment for debate and definition was WoMin's important regional convening 'Development Futures: An African Roundtable on Extractives, Mega Infrastructure and Women's Right of Consent' in Nairobi at end November. This workshop brought together 38 leading activists and thinkers from across the region, sharpened and deepened our collective analysis, and agreed a *clear roadmap to guide regional organising and action in the next years*.
- In 2016, WoMin and its allies have made significant strides deepening our understanding of the relationship between **extractivism, militarisation and violence against women**, and extending

our network of allies to include security and peace, political and civil rights, legal, and trauma/psycho social organisations in countries and regionally. A set up workshop took place in Zimbabwe in November 2016 and the same is organised for Sierra Leone in February 2017. We have also raised sufficient funding to implement the work over the next three years and are poised to recruit a full time project staffer starting in April 2017.

- In 2016, WoMin has grown rapidly, expanding its programmes capacity threefold, and recruited a full time operations and finance manager. We now have a full-time staff compliment of eight, and three consultants on retainer to WoMin. This growth in capacity has been absolutely essential to implement planned work and fulfil our strategy commitments. There has been particularly significant progress in our external visibility and internal (within alliance) communications with the addition of a full time communications, solidarity and alliance building coordinator. Our processes are better documented and the outcomes cohesively communicated via a range of social media platforms. And, in 2016, we have progressed extremely well in our fundraising with a growth of income by 48% and the same increase forecast for 2017.

## **2. Shifts in operating context /environment in 2016**

The team has observed and responded to the following changes or consolidations of trends in the context we operate in:

The trend addressed in our last annual report – that of a continuing commodity price slump – continued into 2016 as emerging economies, China in particular, further decelerated their growth and consequently their demand for commodities. According to Deloitte and Touche *‘Tracking the Trends 2016’* this growth slowdown has continued to slash coal, iron ore, aluminium, copper, zinc and lead prices. This same trend analysis also points to ‘juniors fighting tooth and nail’ for survival. This echoes what we are hearing of some contexts (Zimbabwe, the DRC and Kenya for example), where small and medium-scale mining operations mushroom with these ‘juniors’ running rabid across the countryside, using their political connections to enforce prospecting, displace families, kill male heads and threaten women to force the release of property to exploration. This trend is complemented by a confirmation of our emerging analysis in 2016 that “reduced FDI inflows... is likely to contribute to a frenetic and rapid pattern of super-exploitation of labour, natural resources and capital investment in *existing mines and oil rigs*. The deep bleeding of job losses in the extractives sector will continue as corporates restructure to maximise profits at low commodity prices. In this context, “[t]here is limited incentive to reinvest, to engage seriously in Corporate Social Responsibility or environmental protection, or to open new production facilities”.<sup>1</sup>

These trends, the mining sector’s response to tumbling demand, poor ore grades and reduced financing heighten conflict and competition between the mining actors, whether they operate at the small, medium or mega scale. In turn, the scraps are few for state actors at every level, and the race is on to attract investments no matter how cheaply the jewels are sold and no matter the accumulated cost to communities and state in the medium to long term. Accompanying this race to the bottom is intensified repression of communities resisting mining and or artisanal miners pushing back on dispossession. In South Africa, traditional leaders and even workers tied to the ruling party controlled trade union have been deployed against dissenting communities. WoMin has withdrawn from potential work in Tanzania addressing the role of the military and private security in the repression (and slaughter) of communities fighting gas and mineral exploration because the civil society space is so compromised by allegiance to the ruling party that the work is too ‘dangerous’. In

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<sup>1</sup> IMF, 2015 in Bond, P (2016) Eco-social development and popular resistance in Africa, unpublished paper

Mozambique and the DRC, civil conflicts remain deeply tied to contestation over the control of vast mineral and energy resources. We are looking to ally with Justice Ambiental in Mozambique to explore how militarization and civil conflict in the coal producing provinces has impacted in particular ways upon women's bodies. And in the DRC, WoMin and its ally, Femme et Justice Economique (FEJE), have placed the fossil fuels energy and climate justice campaign there on hold because of the civil conflict, and recently determined that the only possible strategy is to build the campaign in the urban context of Kinshasa.

Our final observation for this report concerns the rising evidence of climate change and its impacts on the constituencies we work with across Southern Africa. In the last rainy season (October 2015 to March 2016), Southern Africa experienced an El Niño-induced drought, the worst in 50 years, which has resulted in an intense drought.<sup>2</sup> El Niño interferes with normal weather patterns, "bringing heavy rains and drought to different parts of the world."<sup>3</sup> Scientists report that 2015, the hottest year in recorded history, was also characterised by a 'super' El Niño. Scientists argue that the global average warming effects of greenhouse gases linked to human activity, and the El Niño effect combine to cause this record hot year; they believe El Niño was responsible for 8 percent to 10 percent of the warming. Rising temperatures linked to climate change extend and intensify the effects of El Niño and, in turn, a 2014 study<sup>4</sup> suggests that "super El Niño events could double in the future due to climate change".

The drought has crippled rain-fed agricultural production, the major source of livelihoods for most Southern Africans. The April 2016 harvest was meagre, with regional maize production falling short of needs by an estimated 9.3 million tons.<sup>5</sup> Beyond agricultural production, El Niño has resulted in a more or less 10 percent decline in average rainfall predicted for 2016. This reduction in average rainfall translates into severe shortages of water for domestic production. The UNOCHA estimates that more than half a million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition in seven priority countries in Southern Africa, and disease outbreaks are intensifying as people drink from unprotected water sources.<sup>6</sup> The drought which is intensified as a result of climate change is in turn linked to a dominant fossil fuels based energy system with South Africa standing out as the 13th largest emitting country based on 2008 fossil-fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the single largest emitting country in Africa.<sup>7</sup> The climate change impacts, and the role of South Africa in particular, provide a powerful rationale and motivation for the strengthening and expansion of the WoMin-led women's rights fossil fuels energy and climate justice campaign.

### **3. Goal/overall impact promised over 5 years (as set out in WoMin's 5 year strategy)**

*In a minimum of five years (2014 to 2018), peasant and working class women impacted by extractives industries in at least twelve countries in the Africa region, as well as at the sub-regional and regional levels may benefit from minimum safeguards which they and their allies clearly locate in a transition towards a progressive post-extractivist, women-centred and ecologically responsive African alternative to the current destructive model of extractivism.*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://phys.org/news/2016-02-drought-el-nino-threatening-southern.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2016/02/02/el-nino-and-global-warming-whats-the-connection/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v4/n2/full/nclimate2100.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unocha.org/el-nino-southern-africa>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> [http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/emis/tre\\_saf.html](http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/emis/tre_saf.html)

#### 4. WoMin’s objectives, outcomes, and indicators (over 5 years)

These are the objectives and outcomes which contribute towards WoMin’s impact goal over the five year period 2014-2019. The outcomes presented below reflect the gains or changes which will be achieved as a result of multiple activities, and their various concrete outputs. When we report on our activities in the section to follow we indicate which outcomes these activities contribute towards.

Objectives	Outcomes
<b>Objective 1</b> – Organise, build movement and solidarity, and advance alternatives to destructive natural resource extraction	<b>Outcome 1:</b> Women impacted by the extractives industries are defending their communities and their own gender-specific interests against rapacious extractives industries, including by developing, testing, piloting and replicating food, energy, and other livelihoods alternatives at the local level.
<b>Objective 2</b> – Undertake research and knowledge construction through activist-led writing and documentation that is, as far as is practicable, democratically-directed and participatory in orientation	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Impacted women and their allies have greater knowledge about the extractives industries, their structural location, their impacts (and in particular the differentiated effects upon women) and the existent or desired alternatives to dominant extractivism.
<b>Objective 3</b> – Facilitate political education and awareness-raising work, linked to campaigns and movement-building support, targeting grassroots women leaders and women activists located in support organisations	<b>Outcome 3:</b> Grassroots women, NGO support staff and women leaders from allied movements are empowered to deepen their struggles against destructive extractivism and for the alternatives.
<b>Objective 4</b> – In close alliance with others, target at least three corporates through advocacy and campaigns	<b>Outcome 4:</b> The violation of women’s human rights by at least three offending extractives corporations has been exposed, and they have been shamed, penalised and held accountable for their actions and omissions.
<b>Objective 5</b> – On the basis of research, and responding to the priorities of women on the ground lobby and advocate to national, sub-regional, regional and global institutions for policy and legislative reforms that are non-reformist in nature.	<b>Outcome 5:</b> Legislative and policy reforms at national, sub-regional and regional levels provide minimum safeguards and rights as part of a planned transition to a different model of development.
<p><b>New objective 6:</b> Build and strengthen WoMin as a regional women’s rights alliance</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> an alliance building objective framing many of our ongoing concrete activities was not included in the 3-5 year strategy and so this omission is addressed in this annual plan</p>	<b>New outcome 6:</b> A stronger, more democratic and accountable women-led alliance deeply linked to and supporting other progressive chapters of the women’s movement, advancing women’s movement building at all levels and proposing progressive feminist alternatives to dominant extractivism.

## 5. Narrative reporting by area of work

### **THEMATIC AREA ONE: Fossil fuels energy and climate justice campaign**

In 2013, WoMin made a clear choice to focus on minerals, oil and gas in the extractives terrain, but this still left an extremely wide and unmanageable agenda for work. Towards the end of 2014 and throughout 2015, WoMin was led to a narrowing focus on minerals and natural resources linked to energy production. Our primary focus is to the extraction, processing/refining of, and combustion of conventional fossil fuels, with a secondary but deeply significant focus to the new renewable energies.

In October 2015, the Niger Delta exchange and strategy meeting resolved to build an African women-led women's rights campaign addressing fossil fuels, energy and climate justice. At this meeting a set of core campaign principles was agreed – The Campaign

- 1) Should be led by women for women with the support of men in communities and male-led and mixed male-female organisations and movements;
- 2) Will ensure that grassroots women leaders are fully informed and participate equally in decision making processes at different levels;
- 3) Will reclaim the voice of grassroots women so that they speak for themselves rather than through the voice of a “mother organisation”;
- 4) Will build on women's lived experiences, alternatives and demands as the basis for the campaign's political positioning; and
- 5) Will develop women's position and strengthen their power in the family, community and society more generally.

Women's organising and women's solidarity will be the key vehicles for building women's power. It was further agreed that the campaign should adhere to the principles of equality, democracy, accountability and transparency.

Following the October 2015 Niger Delta meeting, the WoMin Secretariat took a strategic decision, in light of its alliances in different countries and the readiness of organisations to lead the building of the Energy and Climate Justice campaign, to start the campaign in four countries: South Africa, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Nigeria. As the campaign builds and strengthens, further countries will be 'added' to the initial four. The pace at which we 'scale up' will be greatly determined by capacity and resources. The building of the campaign has just started in Kenya and a national consultation meeting will be convened there in February 2017.

#### ***National Campaign Consultation Meetings***

The women-led women's rights campaign is being pioneered in four countries: Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Kenya came on board in November 2016. In 2016, national lead organisations have been identified and/or mandated by organisations in country and have assigned key staff to support the national campaigns development. In the months of June and July 2016, WoMin and local partners convened national campaign consultation meetings in four countries - Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria and the DRC.

The WoMin secretariat supported the national consultations with (a) a campaign concept to guide national discussions, (b) a broad framework or guidance for the design and content of the national meetings and (c) funding, which was channelled via the national lead organization. All of these materials were translated into French to support our colleagues in the DRC. In advance of the national consultations, the secretariat 'engaged' the lead organization and/or an interim steering group in country to clarify objectives, and strengthen a participatory approach and methods for the national consultation. In the case of South Africa, WoMin co-convened the consultation with two grassroots networks – the Southern African Green Revolutionary Council (SAGRC) and the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA). WoMin provided intensive guidance and mentorship to countries to ensure that the national consultation process was consistent with the Niger Delta campaign principles and the methodologies that were employed during the WoMin-JASS Women's Building School held in March 2016.

The consultations were significant in bringing together key national and local movements, community based organisations, NGOs and religious bodies for an opening dialogue and capacity building on the main 'themes' of the campaign – fossil fuels energy and climate justice – with some countries bringing in the questions of water and food all 'read' from a women's rights or feminist perspective. The space also enabled a discussion on the campaign idea and how such a campaign could be approached given great diversity in operating contexts. The meetings offered an opportunity to map out organisations and struggles of relevance to the campaign, develop clear next steps, and start to put in place the necessary structures and processes for accountable governance of the campaign.

To fulfil our vision of a campaign led by grassroots women, the consultation meetings had a ratio of 60:40 with community groups and movements enjoying the higher proportion of seats. Local community organisations based in geographies affected by fossil fuels extraction, energy projects and or related mega infrastructure projects, such as dams, were included in the meetings. Organisations and movements represented in these meetings were drawn from environmental and climate justice, energy, extractives and peasant sectors. Women's organisations were involved but in limited numbers.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) is leading the process in Uganda, Kebetkache Women's Development and Resource Centre is taking the lead in Nigeria, whilst Femme et Justice Economique (FEJE) is responsible in the DRC. In South Africa, WoMin is leading in partnership with the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) for at least the next 18 months. In Kenya, a community campaign called 'Save Lamu' is currently leading coordination towards the national campaign consultation in mid-February 2017. All the lead organisations are working with and accountable to national campaigns steering committees comprised of leading members of the campaign. By mid-December 2016, the regional campaign steering committee had been finalized, and is made up of two national steering committee members from each country.

### ***Regional campaigns strategy meeting***

In the first week of August 2016, WoMin convened a five-day regional campaigns strategy meeting. Participants were drawn from the four lead countries as well as five other countries – Kenya, Mozambique, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Malawi – identified as the next 'layer' of

countries to draw into the campaign in the second half of 2017 and 2018. The meeting attracted more than 50 participants from across the region and involved key allies from Greenpeace, the Council of Canadians/ Blue Planet, the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) and International Rivers, organisations we hope to ally with more deeply as the campaign develops.

The regional strategy meeting bridged training/political education, campaigns concept development and agreement, and planning. The following themes or issues were addressed: 1) what is a campaign and how does it differ from lobbying and advocacy? 2) what are the building blocks of an eco-feminist approach to campaigning?; 3) the political economy of energy and water; 4) the politics of climate change; 5) why energy is a women's rights issue; and 6) agreeing a campaign framework that would guide the building of the campaign over the next eighteen months to two years. The regional meeting also included action planning for the campaign. The discussions had at the regional meeting have informed the building of a campaigns framework and draft communications strategy.

Various materials were prepared in advance of the meeting and served the dual purpose of (a) helping to deepen the analysis and thinking of the WoMin secretariat and meeting facilitators, and (b) put in writing key ideas related to the campaigns concept and development which could aid discussion and debate. Two new documents were prepared and translated into French and Portuguese: (a) the campaign concept and our roadmap to developing it; and (b) a discussion document – an ecofeminist approach to campaigning.

### ***Building information, building knowledge***

The women-led women-driven fossil fuels, energy and climate justice campaign is breaking new ground - addressing energy and climate justice in Africa from an ecofeminist structural perspective – and doing so through a campaign approach that places women's movement-building at the centre. There is little theoretical/conceptual knowledge, research, and resource materials to draw on. WoMin is therefore investing quite heavily in this area of our work.

- On 26 October 2016, WoMin launched '[\*\*\*Women Building Power\*\*\*](#)' a developing collection of research, information materials and tools which form the knowledge hub of our Fossil Fuels, Energy and Climate Justice campaign. The Women Building Power platform was launched online and physically at an official launch event in Kampala, Uganda. The physical launch was hosted in partnership with local allies NAPE and National Association of Women's Action in Development (NAWAD), and drew close to 100 attendees, including media, diplomatic representatives, members of parliament and women activists fighting oil extraction and displacement in Uganda. In October we launched the following specific resources:
  - ***Seven information booklets*** split into three 'theory' or content booklets: (1) what is energy, (2) the political economy of energy in Africa, (3) why is energy a women's rights question and four 'how to' booklets on the use of solar and other simple renewable energy technologies: (a) heating (b) cooking (c) distilling water and (d) keeping food cool. These information booklets aim to inspire women with simple renewable energy technologies which they can build, saving them time

and releasing them to organize for bigger structural changes in the energy system through the campaign.

- ‘Women Building Power - Towards Climate and Energy Justice for Women in Africa’, the **first in a series of women and energy papers**. The paper enables those supporting and taking part in the campaign think through ways of understanding the current energy system in order to strengthen their actions to change it.
- **‘Our Lives Matter: Women Fighting for Water in Somkhele & Fuleni’** – To add to the body of knowledge on Energy and Climate Change, WoMin has been engaged in intensive participatory research and solidarity efforts with women in two communities fighting coal mining - Somkhele and Fuleni - in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. The work there is underpinned by the broad aim of strengthening participatory approaches and methods which enable organizing and advocacy to inspire and guide the wider campaign. A research report “Our Lives Matter: Women Fighting for Water in Somkhele & Fuleni” has been finalised and translated into Zulu for launch in February 2017.
- **Women and Coal Fact Sheets** – WoMin has partnered with the International Coal Network (End Coal) to write Women and Coal Fact Sheets, which will be launched in the first quarter of 2017.

### ***COP21 Assessment and Future Planning***

In December 2015, WoMin supported a large delegation of eleven women, eight from countries leading the women-led fossil fuels and energy campaign, participate in the Paris COP 21. In 2016, in advance of decision-making about our participation in the Marrakesh COP 22, WoMin undertook a review to determine the impact of our campaigning at COP 21 on our network and the campaign we are co-implementing. We were specifically interested to explore whether our participation had a) added to the pool of knowledge and information held by WoMin’s allies; b) brought positive change within their organisations, communities, and countries; and c) challenged their conceptual analysis of the COP and the power interests organised around this global negotiating platform.

The review found that the participants directly benefitted from their exposure to the debates in civil society spaces in Paris, and the chance to network with allied organisations. The participants specifically mentioned that they had gained in-depth understanding of a) what the COP is, its mandate and who constitutes the COP; b) the politics of climate change and the Green Climate Fund; c) unequal power relations between the Global North and the Global South, particularly Africa; d) the power of transnational corporations in influencing the negotiating agenda and wider public thinking about climate change; and e) the different political ideologies existing in the environmental and climate justice NGOs.

Participants to the review felt that while it is essential for progressive civil society presence to be maintained outside/at the COPs, there is also need to ensure that the knowledge and information gained flows to grassroots women who are the most negatively impacted by climate change. Most participants felt that the climate justice civil society spaces should be ‘localised’ by creating platforms where grassroots women can discuss and share information and ideas on what the decisions made at the COPs mean to them, their livelihoods and well-being. It is against this background that WoMin is exploring ways of supporting alternative

spaces at grassroots level for women to discuss climate change, denounce the COPs, and talk real alternatives for organizing and action.

Given this feedback WoMin resolved not to send a delegation to COP 22 but to rather invest deeply in planning grassroots women's CJ spaces within the Campaign in 2017 and build meaningful dialogues and actions at COP 23 in Fiji. Collaborations with Asian organisations are already in motion for end-2017.

### ***National Campaign Steering Committee Meetings***

In November and December 2016, national campaign steering committee meetings were held in South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda. DRC could not hold their steering committee meeting due to the political instability there. The meetings aimed:

- To support members of the national steering committee deepen their relationships and identify how each organisation/group/movement could contribute to the success of the campaign;
- To assist WoMin build a deeper understanding of the context in the countries where the campaign is being built;
- To discuss the campaigns framework and assist members clarify how the campaign might best work in their particular contexts;
- To clarify the roles and responsibilities of steering committees and build agreement on how transparency and accountability will be exercised within the leadership structure and between this structure and campaign members;
- To agree on a communications strategy;
- To discuss and agree on a strategy for resource mobilization; and
- To develop an action plan for the campaign for the next one year.

### ***Building the Campaign in South Africa***

- *Campaign capacity building in the lead organization* - In South Africa, WoMin is leading in partnership with the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) for at least the next 18 months. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between VEJA and WoMin. The National Campaigner works from the VEJA offices for two days a week to provide the necessary support to the organization and assist women's organizing under the umbrella of the campaign in the Vaal area.
- *Exploratory workshops and actions in the participating communities* - the purpose of the workshops is to introduce the campaign to other women in the communities and agree a programme of action for 2017.
  - *Vaal Triangle workshop (Gauteng/ Free state)* - The first consultation meeting in the Vaal Triangle was held on the 15 November 2016. It was attended by 22 women from Sasolburg and Sebokeng who are members of the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA). The purpose of the workshop was a) to present the Energy and Climate Change programme of VEJA; b) to seek partnership with the different stakeholders in Sasolburg and the Vaal Triangle; c) to discuss issues that are affecting women in the areas; d) to present the National Plan of Action drafted by the South

- Africa National Campaign Steering Group. The women welcomed the campaign and committed themselves to support and mobilise more women to join the campaign.
- The area is known as Vaal Triangle Air – Shed Priority Area (VTAPA). On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 WoMin supported 15 women from Vaal Triangle join a march that was organized by Earthlife Africa to keep Nukes out of COP, and to Keep Nukes out of South Africa.
  - *Public Consultation Workshop* - On the 9<sup>th</sup> December women in Sasolburg participated in a public consultation workshop for the strategy to address air pollution in low-income communities. At this workshop government presented its strategy for addressing the problem of domestic coal burning. Women raised their concern that they had been pushed to the periphery and their voices were not heard during the process.
  - *Women’s Walk (Protest)* - On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016, women in Gauteng organised a 6-kilometre walk from Sasolburg town to Zamdela, walking past one of the biggest polluting companies, Sasol. This polluting company has enjoyed representation on the South African negotiating team at the COPs. The women’s walk called on government to pull the two biggest polluters – Sasol and Eskom, SA’s energy parastatal - out of the negotiation team because they have no interest of cutting their carbon foot print. Instead their agenda is to maintain the status quo and keep making profit.
  - *Workshop held in Lephalale (Limpopo)* – In 2012, Lephalale was declared an air pollution priority zone known as Waterburg-Bojanala Priority Air-Shed Area (WBPA). Lephalale used be a beautiful rural area which has rapidly transitioned into a densely populated and highly impoverished peri-urban informal settlement as a result of the building of the fourth largest coal fired Power Station, called Medupi. The South Africa government continues to expand the use of coal for energy. According to the community members 26 new coal mines will be opened in the area to feed the power station. The only river which the community is depending on for drinking water and other household uses has already been diverted to serve the Power Station. The workshop, which was held on the 26 November, was attended by 20 women from the surrounding areas called Marapong and Steenbokpan.
  - *Workshop held in Phola/ Ogies in Mpumalanga* – Mpumalanga was the second area to be declared a pollution hotspot area after the Vaal Triangle in 2007. It is also known as the Highveld Priority Area (HPA). Mpumalanga used to be the food basket of South Africa, but now the area is surrounded by 13 Coal Power Stations and many coal mines. The area is regarded as having the dirtiest air in the whole world. The meeting in Phola was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December and was attended by 50 women from Ermelo, Witbank, Carolina and surrounding areas in Phola/ Orgies.

Building a women-led women’s right grassroots driven campaign has required us to think deeply about our approach, our methods of working, our guiding principles, and the implications for campaign structure and internal relations, specifically decision-making and accountability. This process has just started and there is a long road to travel to build a deep ecofeminist approach to and practice of campaigning, but we are asking the ‘right’ questions and this is the place to start. Rigorous analysis, thinking and practices are required if the campaign is to make critical contributions to women’s feminist movement building regionally.

<b>Results promised in 2016:</b>	<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Contribution to strategy outcomes:</b>	<b>Assessment of progress:</b>
<p>Strengthened movement of women against fossil fuels and for socialized renewable energy, climate justice, women's rights, food sovereignty and freedom from violence in a minimum of four countries</p> <p>Women are organizing against fossil fuels extraction, processing and combustion in a maximum of 8 sites across the four priority campaign countries</p>	<p>Women are meeting locally, starting to lead on local strategy, and taking action to bring about change</p>	<p>1, 3</p>	<p>In 2016, we have made some progress on a very ambitious result of strengthening women's movement. This is a long term objective for the campaign as a whole. We have progressed in clarifying a campaign approach that is clearly rooted in and supports the leadership of grassroots women, and is oriented to movement building. And we have progressed in supporting national campaign leadership structures that comprise a significant majority of community leaders. In SA we have made noteworthy progress, with a dedicated national campaign coordinator, of starting to build in very specific local sites. The work in the Somkhele/Fuleni communities in northern KwaZulu Natal, South Africa has supported women's knowledge development, organisation and leadership. The work there is a pilot for a campaign methodology that supports women's organising.</p>
<p>Lead campaigning organisations in each country are starting to build the necessary human resource capacity, knowledge and concrete skills to support local struggles of women against fossil fuels and for the alternatives</p>	<p>Each lead organization has an appropriately skilled and knowledgeable woman staffer assigning at least half of their time to the fossil fuels campaign</p>	<p>1, 3, 6</p>	<p>We have made significant progress on this result in three of the four countries. These are South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria. In SA there is a strong national steering committee comprised of grassroots women leaders. In each of Uganda and Nigeria the campaign leadership has been democratically constituted and comprises a majority of community leaders. These structures have met at least twice in the last year and have clarified relationships, strategy, modalities of working and accountability arrangements. In SA, there is a full time campaigns coordinator and in Uganda two women staff in NAPE dedicate significant time. The lead organisation in Nigeria is very committed to the campaign and in 2017 funds must be mobilised to guarantee dedicated capacity there. Work in the DRC has not advanced because of the civil conflict.</p>
<p>The women in Somkele and Fuleni in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, are increasingly leading struggles against coal and their perspectives are shaping the ideas and actions of the communities and other allies involved in anti-coal campaigning.</p>	<p>Women in Somkele and Fuleni are better organized, have researched key questions to inform their struggles, and have taken at least two key actions across the year</p>		<p>Significant progress has been made on this result in 2016. A group of ten local women activists constituted the PAR research team, were trained and supported to undertake the research. In August 2016, 8 women (four from each of Somkhele and Fuleni) travelled to Swaziland to testify to the People's Tribunal Against Corporate Impunity. Their cases were documented and presented in written form too. Feedback received there was that women</p>

Results promised in 2016:	Indicators:	Contribution to strategy outcomes:	Assessment of progress:
			impressed with the clarity of their analysis and the strength of their leadership. Women have undertaken, in alliance with the wider community, two actions against the mine and to gain the attention of responsible duty bearers.

## **THEMATIC AREA TWO: Consent and democratised socio-economic decision-making**

Consent is a well-established idea, grounded in moral theory and legal statute, in the medical field which recognizes the right of individuals to make informed decisions (to give or withhold consent) concerning medical examination and treatment. In addition, there is a body of feminist theory which addresses the right of women to make decisions about their bodies, about reproduction, and about their sexuality and sexual choices. In more recent years, other sectors have borrowed from liberal theory and law to expand the notion of consent to the collective, to the right of indigenous groups and communities to make decisions about developments affecting their lands and natural resources. This notion of consent is enshrined in various frameworks, laws and protocols, such as the ILO 169 convention, the ECOWAS protocol in West Africa, and national laws in some countries.

In the context of an economic system founded on the exploitation of cheap labour and natural resources to generate profits enjoyed by corporates and their beneficiaries, achieving the right of consent in practice is deeply challenged. And this is because consent gives communities a voice to say 'no' or to determine fair and just conditions governing resource exploitation, all of which erode the profit logic, and are therefore resisted, undermined, corrupted and distorted by corporates and their allies in the state. Moreover, a wider development paradigm and logic frames decisions about development, which is expressed in national law, policy and plans, like macro-economic strategies or national development plans. This development logic typically supports extractives, privatization of public services, large-scale agriculture, plantations and related foreign investments. The decision to proceed with extractives and mega projects is already 'given' under this development logic and decision-making, consent, and impact assessment processes are often reduced to rubber stamping exercises to enable projects already politically agreed to proceed without hindrance.

Aside from these challenges, the process of legislating or domesticating consent provisions is often highly problematic in distorting indigenous community practices of decision-making, and placing power of management, oversight and regulation in the hands of the state and not the people. In addition, systems of land tenure and customary law are typically patriarchal in nature, as are most social and cultural systems, and generally exclude the participation of women and young people. These are just some of the challenges to democratizing decision-making in reference to mining and other mega projects.

A consent focus is politically strategic for WoMin and its allies from two perspectives – democratizing decision-making and strengthening immediate resistance against mega projects – but has its limitations. A regional (in country) and national level focus on democratizing decision-making and ensuring the full involvement of women around macro-development processes and priorities requires focused attention. And this brings us to our wider focus on African Feminist Development Alternatives.

Peasant and rural women’s movements are using agro-ecology, food sovereignty and, for some, circular living economies as a critical part of the alter-development. Movements and struggles for environmental and climate justice have constructed and claimed the notion of a development transition to a low carbon economy (usually understood as renewable energy), or sometimes the more expansive notion of a *transition to a post-capitalist socialist society* in which the system of production, and humanity’s relationship to nature is totally transformed.

Organisations on the extractives terrain talk about post-extractivism (a Latin American concept that has found traction in some pockets of organising in Africa) and WoMin strongly references ecofeminism as the guiding politics for an alternative post extractivist, post-capitalist development order. Feminism embraces ideas of a society in which women are free of violence, enjoy bodily autonomy and reproductive rights though there are widely divergent ideas about the systemic changes that would be needed for women to enjoy these freedoms. And in the last decade, a focus to unpaid labour or care work (some feminists prefer the political concept of social reproduction) has thankfully been resurgent and offered a tool for analysing divisions of labour, the value/s of labour but also very importantly offering an absolutely essential feminist frame for an alternative development approach – one in which care and not profit is the fulcrum around which societies are organised directing developmental priorities, policy and law, and social and financial investments.

In 2016, WoMin has:

- Invested time in the further conceptualization of this thematic area in the secretariat and to and with its allies, and mobilized the needed financial resources to implement the planned activities.
- Recruited and inducted a Senior Projects Coordinator to give overall leadership to two project areas, the second being the Militarisation and VAW project area, which projects will be split in 2017 once funds are available to recruit a second senior projects coordinator.
- During the month of July (the first month of her employment in WoMin), the Projects Coordinator invested significant time undertaking research on Consent and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) specifically. Analytical reading from a feminist vantage points have been ongoing in the months of July and August and informed a draft concept note for an African Roundtable on Women’s Rights and Consent which was held from 29 November to 2 December in Nairobi, Kenya.
- In the three month run up to the Development Futures Roundtable, the Senior Projects Coordinator and WoMin Director were engaged in deep conversations with partners and allies to finalise the concept, identify key participants, build the programme, and approach resource people and speakers. Heavy investments in

conceptualisation, thinking through and planning paid off with an enormously successful roundtable.

- The Development Futures meeting was convened in Nairobi from the 30<sup>th</sup> of November to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2016. See [communiqué](#) in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The Development Futures roundtable interrogated the concept of Consent, its expression in various tools and legal framework, its limitations and potential all read from a women's rights perspective which has, with a few exceptions generally been lacking in debates on consent processes among CSO and responsible governance Institutions. A deeper conceptual and empirical feminist understanding of the concept of Consent is one key output of the Roundtable. In addition, the roundtable successfully identified three themes we will collaboratively research and act on to achieve the project objectives. The themes are:
  - Deriving consent from/in customary law, with a specific focus on how to transform customary systems to advance women's rights in decision-making/consent. Specific actions proposed include (a) documenting cases where communities, and women in particular, have used customary law to claim consent rights and the strategies employed to achieve this; (b) training organisations to build a deeper understanding of customary law from a women's rights perspective; and (c) working together to build new practice such as community referendums.
  - Advancing women's land rights – we discussed the deep link between the strength of tenure systems, communal tenure systems in particular, and consent rights. Since women are generally denied control over land under common property arrangements they are excluded from decision-making. Potential actions with allied organisations working on women's land rights include: (a) support to women's organising including training on strategies for expanding and deepening women's land rights; and (b) empirical research and legal exploration to build a stronger concept of what we mean by women's land rights and how use rights to land could become a source of consent rights.
  - Strengthening consent as opposed to consultation, with a strong women's rights focus, through (a) mapping of community strategies regionally, (b) training/capacity building targeting community activists/organisers and (c) building country specific handbooks to inform and support actions.
- Conceptualised and facilitated an Africa-wide regional meeting (in partnership with Urgent Action Fund-Africa) addressing the theme 'Beyond Extractives: Deepening African Feminist Development Alternatives' which was held in Kampala, Uganda between 25-27 October 2016. WoMin and UAF worked in alliance with the Southern African Rural Women's Assembly, JASS, the Rita Edwards Collective, the Women and Environment Development Organisation (WEDO) and RSCDA-IO (Madagascar) to convene this meeting. The meeting offered an extremely important moment to conceptualise, hand in hand with key arms of the women's movement regionally, a post-extractives African feminist development alternative. The meeting embraced some of the following themes:
  - Understanding the crisis (of environment, climate, food, reproduction, work, violence) and the powerful potential of a transformative feminist positioning
  - Food sovereignty and agro-ecology: feminist perspectives
  - Constructing a society organised around care and social reproduction
  - Climate change and a just transition from a feminist vantage point

- The commons – building African feminist perspectives.

Discussions had there will be taken forward through WoMin’s work on development alternatives in and through all of its campaigns and programmes, and very concretely through the piloting work to be undertaken in partnership with the Gaia Foundation, NAPE and NAWAD in Uganda. A collective, present at the Beyond Extractives meeting, are also interested to cooperate to build research work and action addressing the question of social reproduction in the African context. See also below for how this work will be taken forward.

- The Gaia Foundation and WoMin have worked with two Ugandan partners to conceptualise a 2-3-year development alternatives project. Part of the work is already funded by OSF New York, and now Novo Foundation, but we have also pitched the project to Comic Relief and will know in February 2017 whether we have succeeded. Whether CR funds or not, we have opened an important collaboration on wider development alternatives we will build on in Uganda and Zimbabwe or Zambia.

Results promised in 2016:	Indicators:	Contribution towards strategy outcomes:	Assessment of progress:
A deeper conceptual and empirical feminist understanding of consent, the shortcomings of FPIC and other public participation processes	More CSOs are starting to speak about the gender barriers to women’s consent, and are building work that addresses the same	2, 5 once the work advances	We have made some progress towards this result but have quite some distance to still travel. The concept note guiding the roundtable on consent was informed by a reading of the feminist literature on consent and by a critical analysis of the consent literature from a feminist structural standpoint. The concept note already posits a very different analysis about consent. The roundtable, too, was designed to stimulate a critical discussion on consent, opportunities and constraints, all read from a feminist political economy standpoint. We advanced a very important discussion and strategy from this meeting. The papers, research and collaborations that will follow will be framed by a very different conceptual position on consent.
Two new papers addressing the linked questions of women’s consent, land rights and customary law launched	Papers launched, available on the WoMin and other website, and being referenced by other efforts	2, 5	The recruitment of the senior projects coordinator was delayed and the roundtable could therefore only be implemented in late November 2016. The sum result was that the papers which were to have been written following the roundtable have been deferred to 2017. The one paper will be published in June 2017 in a gender and development journal. WoMin will also be commissioning analyses on women’s rights and consent and a second on customary law and women’s rights of consent.

Results promised in 2016:	Indicators:	Contribution towards strategy outcomes:	Assessment of progress:
An emerging practice of consent processes which are women-centered, highly democratic, transparent and grassroots controlled is being established and shared, and includes proposals for whether/how these may be advanced into law, customary practice and human rights frameworks.	Minutes of development alternatives working group and outreach meetings in one country.	1, 3, 4, 5 when in advanced implementation	This work has not advanced at all and was very ambitious given major capacity constraints. A new practice of consent process is years of work away. The roundtable has offered its own action plan which addresses the result, in part, but will be carried forward with a range of different allies regionally and internationally.

### **THEMATIC AREA THREE: Extractivism, militarisation and Violence against women**

Extractives industries are deeply damaging to communities, and women in these communities. Affected communities are those who work in the mines, wells and industries that beneficiate raw materials. Working conditions in the mines and wells, at any scale, are dangerous and highly exploitative. Miners work with explosives, and highly toxic fluids; the division of labour in the small and artisanal scale mines is such that women are the ones left to work with the cyanide used to separate the gold from the ore. Mine and pit owners, in the case of small and medium scale mines, and overseers and supervisors in industrial mines exercise a high level of control, including the use of violence, over the work force. Violence against women is perpetrated by mine owners, pit bosses, supervisors and fellow miners, and the forms of violence are usually sexualised, that is women are subject to sexual harassment, must 'sell' sex to get and keep a job, receive support to do the work, and very importantly, gain access to the basics, such as water, for survival.

Communities who live in the pathway of mines, or adjacent to mines and wells, are also directly affected through physical dislocations; loss of land, water and other natural resources upon which livelihood depends; air water soil and noise pollution; and a wide range of social impacts, such as increased settlement concentrations, the rise of transactional sex and prostitution, poor health, rising levels of inter-personal violence etc. These dispossessions and impacts devastate local livelihoods, ways of living, cultural heritage, health and general well-being, and can only be described as violent. Women bear the brunt of these impacts because they lack land rights and control over other natural resources in their communities, and linked to this, because they lack voice and power to influence decisions in their own communities and at different levels of government. WoMin characterises these devastating externalities of the extractives sector as structural violence.

Communities who resist extractives pay the price, and it is women leaders and community members who pay the highest price. Communities are barely consulted about extractives and linked mega-infrastructure projects. They rarely enjoy the right to give or withhold

consent for such projects, and processes of participation are generally undermined by the corruption of traditional leaders, their councils, elected councillors and other local elite. Segments of the community, often substantial, who say no are often targeted for attack and assassinations are becoming increasingly common place. Women, again, are differently impacted – they have little voice in decision-making in often rural and quite traditional communities primarily impacted by extractives – and they experience the violence of the mines and their private security companies, the state (and the military and police deployed against dissenting communities), and the co-opted local elite in particular ways. Women across the region report instances of sexual harassment, strip and search violations, rapes, and gang rapes by these actors aligned to the mining and oil industries. Few women speak out because of the risks in and to family and community, with the result that few of these cases are documented and acted upon.

WoMin's analysis is that this violence – structural and physical – is deeply embedded in the prevailing model of development, which places profit before people, and which sees nature and human beings as goods to be maximally exploited. We will never address violence against women; structural violence on communities, with women carrying most of the burden; and violence against eco-systems and ultimately the planet if we do not address the underlying causes, which WoMin sees as systemic. This requires that we challenge and expose the injustice of the system, and propose a counter narrative and a counter solution. This is the intent of all of WoMin's work.

The identified needs of women impacted by this violent extractives-driven model of development is:

- To obtain justice- according to how they define it, which protects them and their communities from further risk - for the violent acts perpetrated against them
- For authorities and bearers of duty to listen to them, respect them and take action to protect them
- To be free of all forms of violence in their families, communities and wider society
- For their development priorities and aspirations to shape planning, policy development and resource allocation in their communities, and at different levels of government
- To have their voices heard in decision-making affecting all aspects of their lives
- To exercise power and control over the resources they rely upon for livelihoods and income generation, and for them to ultimately exert control over the income they earn.

Activities carried out in the 2016 under this programme area include the following:

- Invested in the further conceptualization of this thematic area, and linked to this, mobilized the needed financial resources to support the programme over the next three years.
- Recruited and inducted a Senior Projects Coordinator who gives 50% of her time to leading this project area. In 2016 funds have been raised which permit the recruitment of a full time projects coordinator for the VAW work.
- In the months of July and August, the Senior Projects Coordinator has researched and compiled a list of Human/ Women's Rights Networks in Africa. A database of these organisations has been constituted. The Projects Coordinator has also begun to identify

human rights frameworks, such as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights that will help advance our cases when seeking for justice nationally and regionally.

- In the second half of 2016, WoMin established connections to and opened conversations with allies in four countries with a view to making decisions on contexts and organisations to ally with – the countries identified as potential pilot sites are Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Tanzania and Mozambique. We have decided to prioritise work in Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe for 2016 and early 2017, and will bring our ally in Mozambique on board in mid-2017.
- WoMin has also outreached to national, regional and global organisations working on repression, risk and violence against women, such as Just Associates (JASS), Saferworld, Frontline Defenders and the women's movement in the DRC and Nigeria. These new alliances have helped us learn and think through an approach and methods of working which can support us address trauma, women's silencing linked to patriarchal viewpoints and practices, risk and safety, and women's organizing in conflict and post-conflict settings. Relations are also being constructed with trauma and psycho social support organisations, such as the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) and Sogatown Counselling Centre in South Africa, as well as Counselling Services Unit in Zimbabwe. All of these organisations have worked on psycho social support to communities and individuals suffering trauma on a short or long term basis, the reality of the lives of working class women and men. New alliances and partnerships are needed if we are to advance this most necessary work with sensitivity and care.
- In 2016, we successfully convened, in partnership with the Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) in Zimbabwe, a national project set up meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. Eleven (11) CSOs – human and women's rights, legal, counselling, extractives and community based organisations - actively participated in the meeting. The participants traced the history of extractives in Zimbabwe, concluding that this sector has (from colonial times) bred violence and conflict. The drive for natural resources and cheap labour has motivated the occupation and colonisation of Zimbabwe, and this exploitation has continued as an unbroken chain post independence up until the current period, where extractivism has been presented and justified as an important nationalist project. The underlying system driving exploitation and accompanying violence is a patriarchal – extractivist – capitalist system. The meeting also offered organisations – Chiadzwa Development Trust, Counselling Services Unit, Women and land Zimbabwe, and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights - an opportunity to profile some of their work to expose and address the violence of this system. Organisations represented in the meeting unanimously committed to work with WoMin and CNRG to build alliance, expose the repression and violence, and search for justice alongside affected women. In the next strategy session (February 2017), agreement will be reached on the content and focus of the scoping research, the sites in which to implement participatory action research with affected women, and a general strategy for building alliance and addressing risks that will confront all actors associated with this project.

<b>Results promised in 2016:</b>	<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Contribution towards strategy outcomes:</b>	<b>Assessment of progress:</b>
Greater knowledge and awareness (amongst CSOs) about militarization, extractivism and repression in two countries, how women are differently affected, and the different ways in which CSOs could be responding for redress and rights	A clear, simple (non-legalistic) analysis exists and informs follow on actions by women in the case communities and the longer-term strategy work at national and regional levels  Reports launched in countries (where it is safe to do so) and regionally	2, 3 and 5 with time	These results will be achieved through at least 2 years of intensive exploratory work with allies. In 2016, we have just started up the work and so have within the WoMin secretariat and with some allies in Zimbabwe begun to build knowledge and awareness about the relationship between extractivism, militarisation and VAW, and what is/will be needed to mount a response that simultaneously protects women and their communities, and supports redress. The scoping analysis has yet to be commissioned in either Sierra Leone or Zimbabwe and will likely only be implemented towards the end of the first quarter of 2017. No launches have occurred in the absence of the research being implemented.
At least 4 specific examples of gendered repression identified, documented and the offending actors clearly identified	Women survivors in some extractives-impacted communities have identified their experiences as a rights violation, and elected to pursue legal and/or other options for redress, which options are supported by adequate documentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 with time	Again, this is a result to be achieved through the entire exploratory project of two years. The sites in Zimbabwe will be confirmed in the February follow up meeting planned for end February 2017. Marange is likely to be one of 2/3 sites for work there. WoMin has made progress in identifying what capacities will be needed to research extremely sensitive political cases. We will be contracting a PAR specialist to build common modules for Feminist PAR. In addition we have reached out to and started to construct relations with three organisations working to provide psycho social support to survivors of trauma. And WoMin as agreed to host a Southern African right to protest project which aligns well to this project and will offer us the basis for sustained legal advice. This brings important capacities in house.
A network of organisations in two countries and at the regional level consolidated and committed to take joint action  More 'traditional' women's rights organisations and movements join WoMin and are active participants to this sCOPing, documentation and strategy development effort	The network in each country is meeting and playing a more visible public role asserting a women's rights perspective on matters of repression and violence pertaining to the extractives industries and related infrastructure and energy projects	1, 3, 4 with time	In Zimbabwe the first meeting of organisations that would likely constitute a network was convened in November 2016 and the follow up meeting is arranged for end-February. Women's rights organisations were actively involved and are committed to taking this work forward collaboratively. Important new bridges are being fostered through this initiative.
WoMin and its allies have a clear political strategy and plan	Written national and regional strategies for	1, 4, 5 with time	This is a longer term result to be achieved over three years but progress has been made in the last year.

Results promised in 2016:	Indicators:	Contribution towards strategy outcomes:	Assessment of progress:
for addressing repression's gendered impacts and the question of extractivism and VAW more generally over the next 3 years	a second phase of work.		WoMin, in conjunction with its allies, is developing a deeper understanding of the complexity of this project and what is needed to manage great risks to women and allied organisations in countries. This political awareness is informing our approach to the set up workshops, who is being invited to join, and how we are navigating the project's development in each context. New alliances are being constructed in different sectors/movements to respond to the manifold challenges we must address as we build this work.

## **CONTENT SUPPORTING WORK**

### ***Feminist Movement Building School***

In March 2016, WoMin collaborated with JASS (Just Associates) to build its first Women's Movement Building School (WMBS). The School was attended by 41 activists from 8 different countries, the four already identified to lead the fossil fuels, energy and climate justice campaign, and activists from the 'second tier' campaign countries, as well as allies from countries which will play a leading role in our other thematic work areas.

The School was designed with the following main objectives: 1) to build the politics and practice of an African sisterhood; 2) to build an analysis of the nexus between patriarchy and capitalism as relevant to extractives and climate change; 3) to build the collective vision of a post-extractivist African ecofeminist development; and 4) to provide an experience which allows participants to understand feminist popular education as a process, practice and strategy.

The School was extremely successful with participants making the following comments in the evaluation process:

"I learned you must break out of silence from the Masters House (patriarchy and other oppressive systems) using [your] power...I learnt new method and tools I will use to mobilise...I felt powerful now as a woman with the visible, invisible and hidden power."

"That I have power within and can easily participate in any challenges as long as I have learnt to be out of the Masters House."

"The school meant a lot to me... understanding...what feminism is all about... I have the understanding to fight more struggles."

“The school has taught me that no matter where we are or who we are as women, our struggle is the same.”

“Get out of the master’s house, free myself from capitalist ideology.”

“A lot was explained to us and my eyes have been opened beyond my imagination and I gathered so much knowledge and feel so much power within which I have and I can use to change what is impossible to become possible by having confidence, with energy and without fear. “

A second 2016 School was planned for the last quarter of 2016, but we did not have the internal capacity – with the tripling of WoMin’s programmes team in mid-2016 – to undertake a highly demanding process such as this. Running two schools annually is beyond our reach in terms of funding too. We will therefore run one school annually, with the next one planned for April 2017.

### ***WoMin Film on Devastating Extractivism and Women’s Resistance***

The WoMin film will be a critical support to our three content areas of work. Conceptualised in mid-2014, the film has consistently challenged us for its cost and capacity demands. In January 2016, Yaba Badoe (the WoMin filmmaker) and a team, filmed the first part of the film in Somkhele/Fuleni in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. A seven-minute trailer was concluded for use in Somkhele/ Fuleni organizing and an online film fundraising campaign which was launched in December 2016.

In July 2016, WoMin recruited a film project manager on a monthly retainer to give additional time and capacity to the film project. Armed with a completed fundraising proposal, WoMin is working hard to raise funds for the film project. The online fundraising campaign is being undertaken via the Indiegogo site and was planned to coincide with COP 22 and 15 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women. This campaign will continue into 2017 as will other strategic fundraising activities to raise monies for the filming of the next two parts of the film. In March 2017, WoMin will undertake filming for Part 2 in Uganda supported by our local partner, NAPE.

We hope to conclude and launch the film by the first quarter of 2018.

This film is extremely important but has been the single most costly project in WoMin’s history. When concluded, the film will make an extremely important contribution on the human rights film terrain, and with its alignment to WoMin’s work and the Fossil Fuels Campaign specifically will be invaluable to our change efforts. An in-depth evaluation of this effort will be needed at the conclusion of the WoMin five-year strategy.

### ***Building the alliance, deepening our independence and strengthening the secretariat***

In 2016, WoMin has achieved the following:

- Successfully recruited four new programme staff based in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Cameroon, a team that is building its capacity to work trans-nationally.
- Brought in three new funders for 2016/2017 – Urgent Action Fund, Novo Foundation and Wallace Global Fund - and opened discussions with other foundations for new funding in 2017.
- Met all funder reporting requirements and satisfied support requests from our funding partners
- Participated in the regional steering group for the People’s Tribunal and lent capacity, funding and other forms of support to the PT process, including the Swaziland August 2016 convening.
- Adjusted WoMin’s founding documents to support the recruitment of staff from other countries to the WoMin secretariat in Joburg, and ensured the input of labour law specialists to WoMin’s organizational policies, staff and consultant contracts and recruitment processes
- Supported the Board to meet on a quarterly basis by telecon, and provided the Board with all of the information needed for them to perform their critical oversight role
- Undertaken a mid-term review of strategy which will be closely considered in the January 2017 staff retreat. A draft monitoring and evaluation framework will be discussed and agreed at this same retreat.
- In the last quarter of 2016, WoMin recruited a full time operations and finance manager and work has started to strengthen our operational systems and procedures.
- WoMin is in the process of articulating a clear communications strategy (to be finalised in February 2017) as well as a solidarity and alliance building strategy that will cut across all thematic areas and help the organisation forge a clearer identity and voice on the landscape of activism around extractivism and climate justice. As part of this work, WoMin already began to increase its profile through 2 radio interviews, blogs, press releases and articles published in national / regional / international outlets geared towards sharing knowledge, learning and perspectives on women’s rights and climate justice to a broad spectrum of audiences. This work will continue and deepen in 2017.

<b>Results promised in 2016:</b>	<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Contribution towards strategy outcomes:</b>	<b>Assessment of progress:</b>
At least 84 women activists have deepened consciousness about women’s oppression under a system of neo-liberal capitalism, have greater knowledge and skill to act with others to change their contexts, have extended their ability to support women’s organizing whilst addressing risk, and have more confidence and a sense of being part of a greater movement struggling for the	Signs of women activists leading organizing efforts and actions in and across specific localities in their countries.		The target of 84 women activists was based on planning for two feminist schools in 2016. Only one school was implemented reaching 41 activists. The evaluation of the school indicates profound and deep impacts on knowledge, political awareness and self-confidence of the participants. The evaluations also tell us that participants experienced a real breakdown in feelings of isolation, with some reporting a strong feeling of being part of a wider community of women activists. We were less successful, given the extent of the training, in supporting women build concrete skills for strategising, movement building and risk management. This is something to address in the

Results promised in 2016:	Indicators:	Contribution towards strategy outcomes:	Assessment of progress:
same changes in often hostile contexts.			planning of the 2017 school but will also need to be integrated into the FPAR training and accompaniment within the campaign and organisational projects.
Activists from support NGOs will build a common analysis with and have the perspective of peasant and working class women shape their own thinking about the changes needed at a systemic (patriarchy and economic system) level.	Support organisations are investing more time and resources to women's organizing.		This is less obvious to us and would require some follow up evaluation of how NGO staff are shifting their thinking and approaches to facilitating local organising given new knowledge and perspectives gained through the school.
An approach to and methodology for political education work that is feminist, strongly oriented to organizing and movement-building, and addressing the typical conditions and experiences which characterise the extractives contexts will have been built, tested and modified.	Programme, methodology and materials available for other political education processes, including at national level.		We have made great progress on this result. An approach and methodology has been written, the process carefully evaluated by the participants and the facilitators, and written materials adjusted to reflect the methodology as it was implemented. We elected not to share the training materials to participants but instead made the report of the school available to them. The methodological limitations have been identified and will be addressed in the 2017 School. WoMin has enlisted the support of popular economists to bring in important perspectives and tools that were missing from the last school.
<p>Women's organizing and actions in specific localities has been strengthened.</p> <p>Women are acting in solidarity with one another across localities in support of a wider change agenda.</p> <p>The experiences and perspectives of women affected by extractives industries gain greater visibility and challenge the thinking of civil society organisations and different arms of the state.</p>	Support organisations report more confidence and visibility of women's struggles.		We have not undertaken an evaluation of the impacts of the feminist school and ongoing support to women's organising under the campaign. This is something that would need to be addressed in 2017 and in the final impact assessment of the current organisational strategy. The fossil fuels campaign provides a powerful frame and support for the solidarity envisaged, as do the networks to be forged through the VAW project. Our communications and solidarity support capacity has been greatly increased through the recruitment of a full time staffer. The impacts of this are being felt through greater visibility of the struggles of allies and women in communities, and powerful communications which advance new perspectives from the vantage point of women.

## **6. Challenges confronted in 2016**

### ***Advancing partnerships which align with WoMin's vision and way of working***

One of the greatest challenges in the last 6-7 months has been identifying and building partnerships with organisations that have the capacity, political commitment and exercise in their internal practices and ways of working general alignment to WoMin's vision, mission and political strategy.

We find greatest alignment amongst strong grassroots networks and movements but these are few and they generally lack the institutional capacity needed to manage processes and money. In SA, under the fossil fuels campaign, we have adopted the model of a partnership arrangement with a grassroots network, VEJA. In this model, our national campaigns coordinator works out of their office for 2 days a week providing ongoing support and capacity-building so that in the next eighteen months to 2 years they can gradually take over all dimensions of work required to successfully coordinate a national campaign of this nature.

In other countries, again under the umbrella of the campaign, we have experienced challenges with conflict between allies and partners, undemocratic behavior of organizational leaders, and in some low levels of accountability and transparency for implementation of agreed plans. We are taking on each of these challenges one-by-one openly and constructively, spending time in countries guiding and supporting the national work, and through the WMBS schools and other training spaces will spend time focusing on women's movement building and feminist praxis in leadership. In 2016, we had hoped to build a partnership policy, but capacity constraints have prevented this work being taken forward. In the 2017 January staff retreat, questions of movement building, risk and partnership are firmly on the agenda and will lay the basis for new organisational policies in 2017. We will, of course, continue our efforts to build relations with organisations that are well-aligned or have the commitment and potential to work in accordance with the principles that guide an ecofeminist transformative approach to change.

### ***Lack of capacity to support women's organizing and participatory development practice***

For the last four years we have found that most solidarity/support organisations across the countries we link to do not (a) have a strong understanding of and commitment to movement building and women's movement building in particular and (b) related thereto do not have capacity in approaches and methods that support participation, organization, local knowledge and people-driven change. There is of course a particular challenge in knowledge and capacity for women's rights work and organizing. This is one of the reasons we have initiated a women's movement building school, which we are adjusting and facilitating for the second time in April 2017. We intend running a 'training of trainers' school' in 2018. We hope from 2018 to support national schools but this will require a great deal of additional support capacity in WoMin and may not be feasible.

In the first half of 2017, WoMin will be working with a specialist in Participatory Action Research (PAR) to deepen work started in the last quarter of 2013 to build a Feminist

approach to PAR. We will build 'training' modules and supporting materials for rollout and testing through PAR training planned under the climate and energy justice campaign and the project addressing extractivism and VAW.

***Finding external strategic support that can bridge our areas of focus and strategy***

WoMin's work generally breaks down silos and encourages new connections and intersections. In regard to our Energy and Climate work, we differ from other environmental and climate justice organisations and movements in respect of our focus on women and women's rights. We diverge from other women and energy organisations in our emphasis to power and politics – we seek to expose and work with others to challenge an unjust energy system and its links to climate change. We call for macro-structural changes and go beyond welfarist models of energy work. In turn, the women's movement remains focused on 'traditional' questions of violence, education and political participation and are barely present on the economic justice terrains of natural resources, extractives, climate, energy and environment. We are experiencing similar challenges in respect of our other thematic areas of work – the VAW project is particularly challenging as our perspective and approach go well beyond what 'traditional' VAW organisations and activists address. We are bringing in questions of economic structure, macro-micro power relations, conflict and post-conflict, and the 'usual' challenges of patriarchal power structures, beliefs and practices.

The sum result is that we struggle to find consultant and research institutes that carry the political perspectives and analytical capacity we need to research, build popular and information materials, advise and support capacity building. We are slowly starting to build a pool of people we can trust but we generally find perspectives are missing – someone may be very strong on analyzing the political economy of energy but lack feminist perspectives, or we find more mainstream gender analysts who lack an understanding of power and political economy. We are fortunate to have a strong staff who can link and build bridges but this means that a lot of pressure comes to bear on our capacity and time. We will need to grow our internal capacity further so we come to rely less and less on external support.

***Internal support capacity and systems need to catch up quickly!***

As mentioned in the section above addressing 'Building the alliance...' we dwell on the question of operations capacity and supporting systems/procedures. The rapid growth of the programmes team has not been matched by the needed investment in admin and finance capacity and operating systems. Since August 2016 WoMin has been engaged in a process of 'rapid catch up' and this process will continue in a more planned fashion into the first half of 2017. We will continue to bring in highly skilled consultants to increase capacity and build the systems and procedures we need to operate with an expanded team. The recruitment of a senior full-time finance and operations manager is already yielding enormous benefits to the organisation. The last 6 months of 2016 threw up important lessons for organisational leadership about how to manage maternity leave and the necessary cover.