

# Mining and Human Rights in Malawi

## Problems with Mining for People in Malawi





## Who we are

We are called Human Rights Watch.



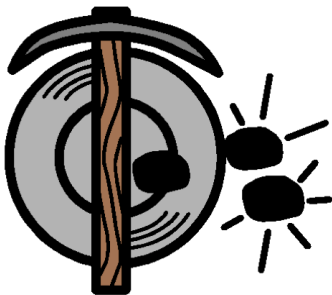
We work to make sure everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.



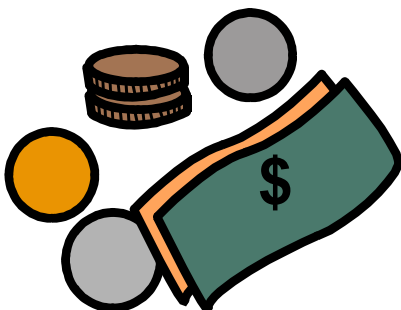
## What is this report about?

This report is about a country in Africa called Malawi.

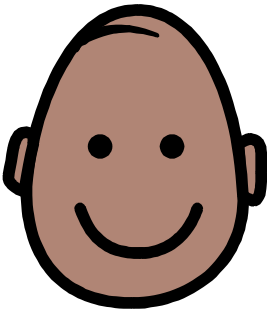
It is about mining in Malawi.



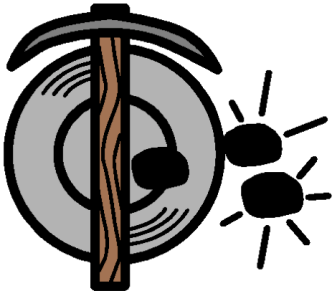
Mining is when you dig deep into the earth to find things like coal, rocks or metal.



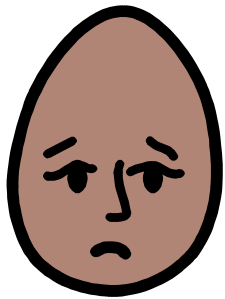
The mining company sells these things for money.



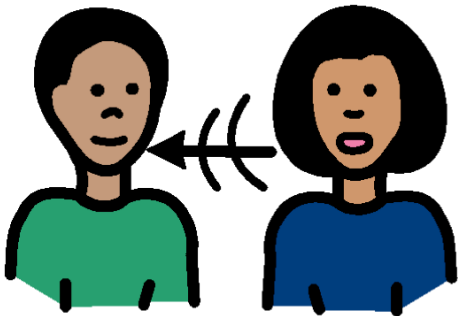
The government in Malawi says it wants mining so it can get money and make life in Malawi better.



Some companies have started mining for coal and metal.



But local people in Malawi are very worried about mining.

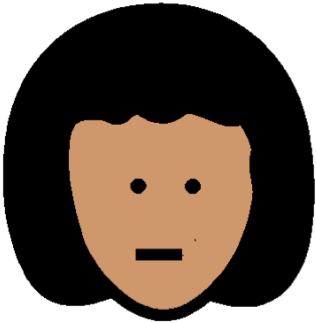


We spoke to many people in Malawi like:

- local people who live there
- people from the government
- companies and other groups

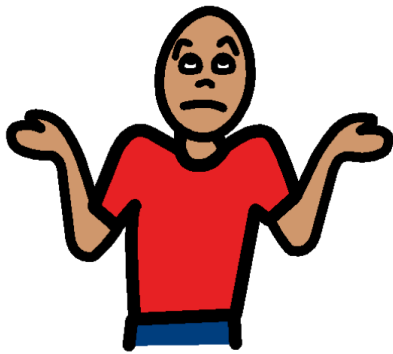
We found out about the problems that mining can cause.

## Why are people worried about mining?



People in Malawi who live near the mines told us they are very worried about problems that mining may cause.

This is because:

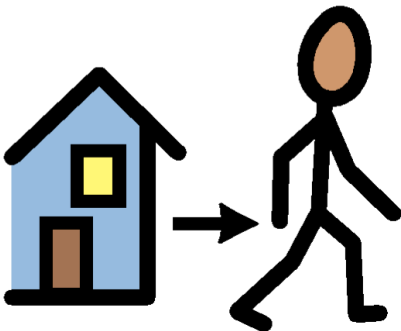


- people may not be told that mining will be happening in their area before it starts

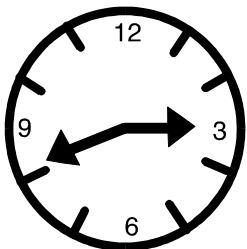
This means they do not have a proper say in what happens



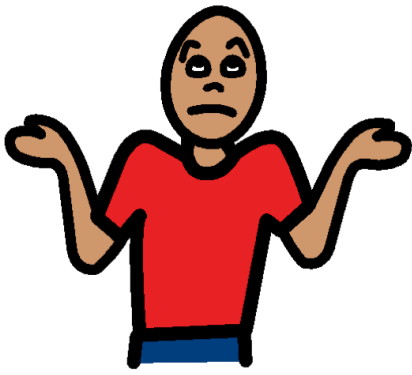
- people may not be told about the good and bad things about mining, what the law says and their rights



- people may have to leave their homes and lands because the mining company wants the land



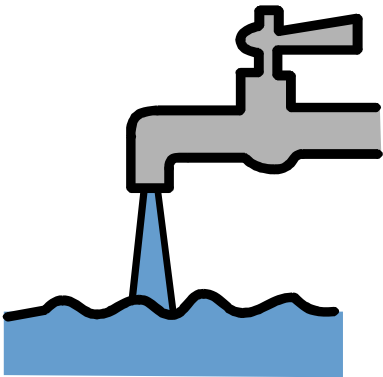
People may not get enough information, time or money to move if this happens



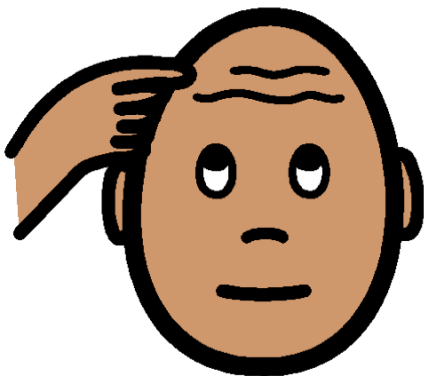
- It is hard to get information about problems that mining may cause



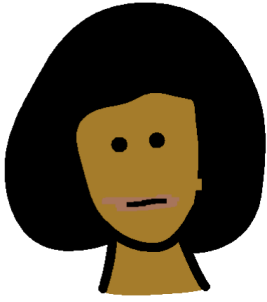
- people are worried about health problems because of mining



- people say that mining is causing problems with their land, work, food and water



- people think that the government should do more to stop problems with mining



## Problems for women

All these problems can be worse for women.



For example, women often do not get the chance to have a say in what happens.

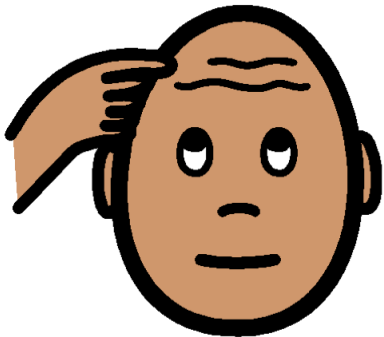
And women and girls who collect water for their families have to walk a long way to get clean water.



## Other problems

There are some laws and rules about people's rights when mining happens.

But the government does not make sure they are followed.



This means there are no proper checks to see:

- what mining companies are doing
- what problems mining may cause



There will soon be a new law about mining. But there are some important things missing from it.

For example it does not talk about people's right to get information.

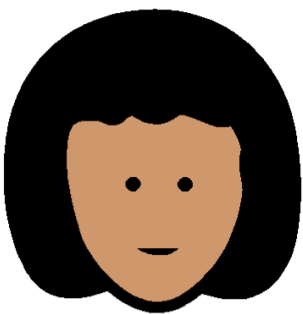
People need information so they know what is happening and can have a say about it.



The government in Malawi should make sure people get their human rights.

They should make sure mining happens in a way that is right for local people.

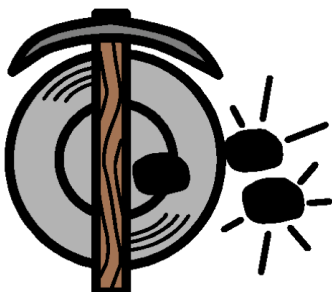
## **Nagomba's story**



One person who has had problems is Nagomba.

Nagomba lives in the north of Malawi.

She is a farmer.



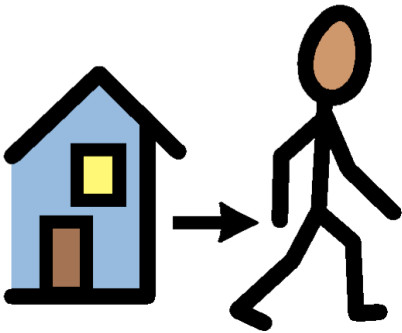
A mining company started mining coal next to her village.

Nagomba did not know about this.

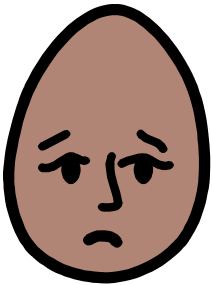


The mining company damaged the water pipes so that Nagomba could not get water from a tap any more.

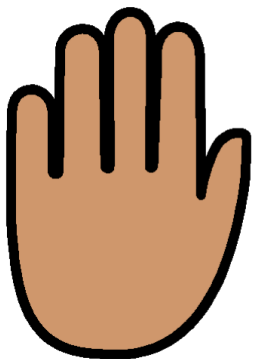
Now Nagomba has to walk to a river 4 times a day to get water. She is not sure if the water is safe to drink.



The mining company told her to move home because they needed the land.



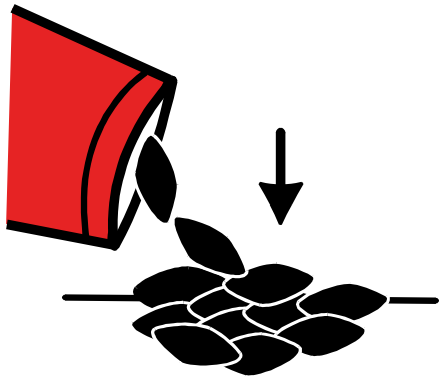
They gave Nagomba some money. But it was not enough to build a new house.



Then the company asked Nagomba to move again.

This time she said no.

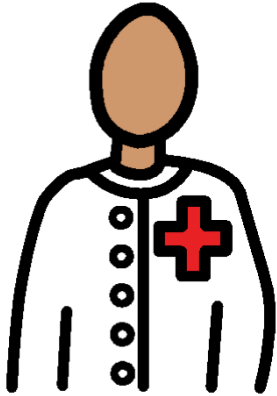




Later the mining company left.

But they left things behind that may be dangerous.

Like piles of coal and big holes in the ground.

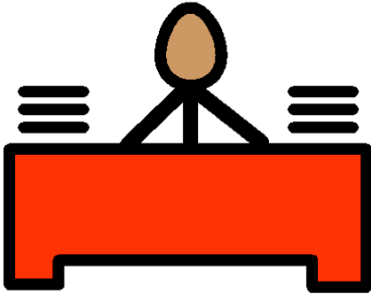


Nagomba and other people are worried about problems with their health and land because of mining.



No one from the government or the mining company has checked to see if everything is safe.

## What should happen next

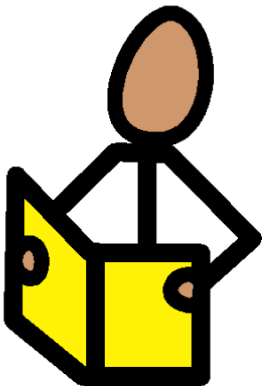


Here are some things we want the government in Malawi to do to help people like Nagomba.



Make the new law about mining better so that local people get their rights.

This means:



- there should be proper checks to make sure mining does not cause big problems for people
- people should get proper information about what is happening and their rights



Make sure different parts of the government work together to check:

- what mining companies are doing
- how mining is working for people

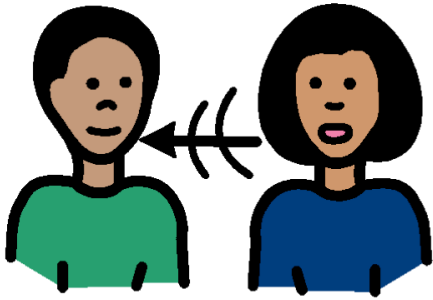
Make sure there are enough staff for this to happen.

## Things for the government in Malawi to do

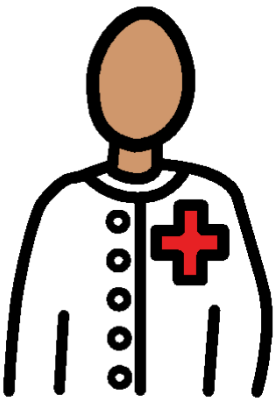


Make sure there is information about:

- what problems mining may cause and what will be done about them



- how the government and companies will work with local people and make sure they can have a say



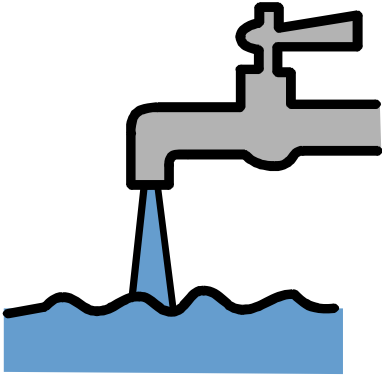
Check if mining is causing health problems for people.

Make sure local people can see information about this.



Make a plan about better health for people who live near mining places.

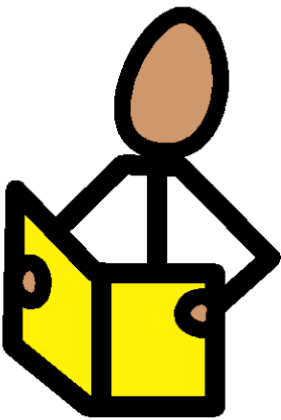
Make sure people in these places can get good healthcare.



Check water near mining places to make sure it is safe.

Make sure local people can see information about this.

### **Things for the government and mining companies to do**



Make sure people can see reports and plans about mining and how it is working.

Make sure they are easy for people to get hold of and understand.



Make sure people are treated fairly and get the right money and support if they have to leave their homes or lands.

Make sure women and children get the right information and support.