



Timeline

# THE EXPLOITATION GAME

**Oil has been discovered.** A multinational corporation working with a local oil company intends to drill for oil in three provinces. They want to build an oil refinery in one province and link it via a pipeline to oil wells in the other two provinces. Once the pipeline is completed they can extract and export the oil. According to the United Nations, the oil company must obtain informed consent from local people before drilling for oil. This has not happened but the oil company have proceeded with their plans. If local people can find evidence of the oil company building the pipeline without consent, they can apply for an injunction to stop the drilling; however, if the pipeline is completed, it is too late. The development of the oil and gas industry could have negative economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts on communities; especially given that the majority of people depend on the land for their livelihood.

'I catch you in the act of building illegally in circle number 48.'

'You caught me in the act!'

**How to Move**

- 1** Oil Company can occupy the circles only and must move one circle at a time, unless using a Special Movement Card.
- 6** Activists can occupy the squares only and can move one or two squares at a time, unless using a Special Power.
- 6** This is the common area.

— This is the path or pipeline.

Every time the Oil Company completes a turn, they must move their counter along this timeline in order to track how many moves from the oil refinery they have progressed.

'Have you been building illegally in circle number 22?'

'No!'

'Yes!'

# THE EXPLOITATION GAME

## Facilitator Notes

Explore the following activities as a tool to debrief the experience of playing **The Exploitation Game**.

The game has a wide range of potential learning outcomes related to power, business and human rights, inequality and land rights. Below are three activities that will help illicit learnings from the game.

## ACTIVITY ONE: CASE STUDY

- Split the young people into groups of three or four. Explain that they will be examining a case study about oil exploration in Kenya.
- Ask them to read the case study below and identify five similarities between the case study and the game.

### Case Study

In 2012, Tullow Oil PLC discovered oil in Turkana, in Northern Kenya, and is currently transporting crude oil by road to Mombasa, with the aim of transporting eighty thousand barrels of oil per day upon completion of an export pipeline from Turkana to Lamu. Since the discovery of oil in Turkana, there have been significant concerns, partially based on similar experiences in other developing countries, that despite representing a promise of increased financial resources in the county, the development of the oil and gas industry could have negative economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts upon residents, especially given that the livelihoods of the majority of indigenous Turkana communities depend upon community lands to carry out traditional forms of migratory pastoralism or agropastoralism.

Turkana is an arid region and is the poorest in Kenya, with 59.9 per cent of the population living in extreme poverty according to the most recent World Poverty Clock. The ongoing and growing conflict in the county is driven by a scarcity of

- After identifying the similarities, ask them how they feel now about playing the game.

natural resources, particularly livestock, pasture and water, compounded by successive and increasingly regular droughts largely as a result of the effects of climate change.

The planned construction of a large oil field in Turkana South and East has now given rise to serious concerns within the local population in relation to their rights to own, control and benefit from the use of land, water and other natural resources upon which their livelihoods and culture depend.

In 2017, Trócaire worked in partnership with six local partners based in Turkana to deliver a multidimensional programme designed to address the risks of conflict in the county. It focused on working with women and youth in three areas: conflict mitigation – supporting community members to manage conflicts emerging in their locality peacefully and positively; public participation – supporting community members to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes affecting their lives; and natural

resource rights – supporting community members to claim their rights to land and natural resources, including their right to free, prior and informed consent.

Programme findings indicated that while the legislative and policy framework has developed in Kenya, including the Community Land Act (2016), Environmental Management and Coordination Act (2015) and Petroleum (Exploration, Production and Development) Bill, the implementation of such legislation is inadequate.

Key elements to ensuring resource rights in Turkana were identified as: addressing concerns in relation to the implementation of legal and policy frameworks; ensuring free, prior and informed consent for new developments; access to information; public participation; sharing of oil resources; means of land compensation; implementation of environmental regulations, in particular relating to disposal of hazardous waste; and transparency in leasing of land to investors.

These issues will continue to be the focus of a Trócaire project in Turkana which will promote human rights by working with affected communities and other key stakeholders to ensure the realisation of their land, resource and environmental rights.

The case of fossil fuel extraction in particular raises the fundamental issue evident in the majority of countries, developed and developing alike, around consistency of government energy and economic development policy with their obligations under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the impacts on the type of investment and activity that is enabled, encouraged and regulated. The opening up of new fossil fuel reserves anywhere in the world now poses serious risks to planetary stability given that the vast majority of known fossil fuel reserves cannot be exploited if the temperature limits that are central to the Paris Agreement are to be respected.

The world is currently on track to produce about 120 per cent more fossil fuels in 2030 than is consistent with the agreed global goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.\*

\*‘Emissions Gap Report’ (2019), United Nations Environment Programme.

Case study taken from *Making a Killing: Holding Corporations to Account for Land and Human Rights Violations*, published by Trócaire as part of its programme of Policy, Research and Advocacy.

Watch our supporting video on: [trocaire.org/education/motherearth](http://trocaire.org/education/motherearth)



# ACTIVITY TWO: EXPLORING THE LANGUAGE IN THE CASE STUDY AND LINKING IT TO THE GAME

- Split the young people into groups of five.
- Photocopy and cut out a set of the phrases and definitions below, mix them up and give one to each group.
- Ask the young people to match the phrases to the definitions.
- Ask the young people to share their ideas of how the phrases and definitions below had/could have had an impact on the game.

<b>Trócaire partner</b>	<b>Trócaire’s approach</b> of working in <b>partnership</b> with the Church and other civil society organisations in the countries where they work, rather than taking an operational <b>approach</b> , is based on the core values of solidarity, participation, perseverance, courage and accountability.
<b>NGO</b>	NGO is a non-profit organisation that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue.
<b>Indigenous land rights</b>	Indigenous <b>land rights</b> are the <b>rights</b> of indigenous peoples to <b>land</b> , either individually or collectively. <b>Land</b> and resource-related <b>rights</b> are of fundamental importance to indigenous peoples for a range of reasons, including: the religious significance of the <b>land</b> ; self-determination; identity; and economic factors.
<b>Human rights defenders</b>	Human rights defenders protect their communities and the environment from exploitation and human rights abuses by businesses.
<b>Activist</b>	A person who campaigns to bring about political or social change.
<b>UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People</b>	The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples delineates and defines the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, including their ownership rights to cultural and ceremonial expression, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues.
<b>Paris Agreement</b>	The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, dealing with the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016.
<b>Free, Prior and Informed Consent</b>	Free, Prior and Informed Consent ( <b>FPIC</b> ) is a specific right that pertains to indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

# ACTIVITY THREE: HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Explore the following questions:

- Ask the participants to indicate ways in which they believe the game simulates the real world and ways in which they believe it is unrealistic.
- How did it feel to be the Oil Company?
- How did it feel to be the Activists?
- Who had the power in the game?
- Was there a transfer of power?
- At any stage, did the game feel unequal?
- What helped the Activists in the game?
- What helped the Oil Company?
- Did you collaborate with the other Activists?
- When did you decide to work together?
- How did it feel to collaborate with other players?
- When the oil well was revealed, how did you feel as the Oil Company?
- Did you feel more accountable when your actions were no longer secret?

