

From awareness-raising to meaningful participation: Amplifying youth voices in extractive regions



1. Introduction

Human rights awareness and dissemination of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR 2025–2029) have expanded into new spaces in Angoche, Moma, Montepuez and Palma. Between July and September 2026, CDD and its partner organisations organised community di-

alogues, school-based sessions and a webinar addressing citizenship, inclusion and the human rights impacts of business activities.

These initiatives demonstrate a significant capacity for local mobilisation and offer an important opportunity to bring the NAPBHR closer to communities affected by extractive industries,

particularly young people, women and other groups in vulnerable situations.

The central challenge is ensuring continuity. Participation becomes meaningful only when the concerns raised by rights-holders are properly documented, referred to the competent institutions and addressed through clear respons-

es whose implementation can be monitored.

This policy brief analyses the activities undertaken and proposes a follow-up mechanism suitable for CNDH-MOZ, capable of transforming awareness-raising into meaningful participation, accountability and influence over decisions affecting local communities and their territories.

2. The Public Policy Challenge

Schools provide an opportunity to engage young people before they fully enter the labour market and formal decision-making spaces. However, learning about citizenship, taxation, human rights and sustainable development does not, on its own, connect young people to the processes through which public priorities, social investments and natural resource governance decisions are determined.

Similarly, community consultations lose their effectiveness when they are conducted as isolated events, take place after key decisions have already been made, or fail to provide feedback to participating communities.

In areas hosting extractive industry projects,

these shortcomings have concrete consequences. A young person seeking information about local employment opportunities, a community reporting environmental harm and an individual wishing to file a grievance may require different forms of information. All of them, however, have the right to know who is responsible for responding, which mechanism should be used and within what timeframe.

Meaningful and inclusive participation also requires targeted measures to ensure the involvement of women, out-of-school youth, persons with disabilities and other groups that are frequently excluded from decision-making processes.

2.1. What the Activities Reveal Schools as an entry point

In Moma, Olipihera and CDD engaged 122 young people at Moma Secondary School, including 62 boys and 60 girls. Conducted in co-operation with the school administration, the session addressed different forms of civic participation, including public debates, community consultations, human rights advocacy and local development initiatives.

In Montepuez, CDD and Ovanela organised sessions on citizenship, inclusion and the NAP-BHR. The first session, held on 12 September, involved 112 students from 15 de Outubro Secondary School. The second, held on 24 September, brought together 35 young people from

Dom Bosco Community Secondary School.

Collectively, the three sessions reached 269 young people and students. This figure demonstrates the immediate reach of the activities but does not, by itself, measure knowledge acquisition, changes in attitudes or the participants' subsequent engagement in decision-making processes.

Nevertheless, the Montepuez experience demonstrates the value of presenting the NAP-BHR through issues closely connected to students' everyday realities, including decent work, equality, environmental protection, inclusion and corporate responsibility.

From youth dialogue to engagement with other stakeholders

In Angoche, a dialogue organised in July by CDD and CARO brought together representatives of government institutions, communities, civil society and the media to discuss mining

and corporate social responsibility. The discussions highlighted concerns relating to education, healthcare, infrastructure, youth employment and support for cooperatives.

On 18 September, OLICANISSA organised a session at the District House of Culture on youth participation in the context of extractive industries. The activity involved students from Grades 11 and 12, as well as members of civil society organisations.

These initiatives demonstrate the potential to establish a bridge between community priorities and young people's capacity to participate

in public debate, demand accountability and influence decisions affecting their territories.

In Palma, a webinar organised on 15 September by CDD and the Civil Society Platform addressed the prevention of adverse human rights impacts arising from business activities, as well as available mechanisms for filing grievances, referring cases, reporting violations and accessing remedy.

2.2. A Three-Stage Territorial Response

Provide information before dialogue

Schools, community radio stations and grassroots organisations should disseminate information about the NAPBHR in clear, accessible language and, where necessary, in relevant local languages. This information should explain the

rights of communities, the State's duty to protect human rights, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and the mechanisms available for lodging grievances and seeking remedy.

Document and refer cases without exposing individuals

District-level partners should maintain a simple and secure record of the concerns raised, identifying the issue, location, date, responsible institution, indicative response timeframe and status of the referral.

Sensitive cases must be handled confidentially, with informed consent and through secure reporting channels. Public reports should present aggregated information without disclosing

the identities of victims, complainants or whistleblowers.

Measures must also be established to prevent retaliation against individuals or communities that report violations. Civil society can monitor cases and support rights-holders, but it cannot replace the State's obligation to regulate business conduct, investigate alleged violations and ensure access to justice and effective remedy.

Provide feedback and verify results

Public authorities and companies should respond to matters falling within their respective mandates and provide reasons for their decisions. Even when a proposal is not accepted, the decision should be explained and communicated to participants in clear and accessible

language.

Follow-up processes should also verify whether commitments have been implemented and whether the measures adopted have contributed to preventing violations, remedying harm and improving conditions for affected communities.

3. Conclusion

The activities undertaken demonstrate two important capacities that still operate somewhat separately. Schools mobilise young people and make the NAPBHR more accessible through issues such as decent work, inclusion, equality and environmental protection. Community

dialogues, in turn, identify concrete priorities, including employment, public services, the impacts of mining and corporate responsibility, which require direct engagement with public authorities and the private sector.

In Palma, discussions on grievance and reme-

dy mechanisms demonstrated the need to connect these two capacities to concrete pathways for referral, response and accountability. Without this connection, young people learn about participation but remain without a clear and recognised pathway for influencing decisions that affect their lives and territories.

The 269 young people reached through the three school-based sessions represent significant outreach, but participation figures should not be equated with actual influence. The NAP-

BHR will only be meaningfully implemented at the local level when civic education feeds into permanent processes of participation, accountability, access to remedy and institutional responsiveness.

Progress assessment should therefore move beyond counting the number of sessions conducted. It should also measure the concerns referred, responses received, community priorities incorporated into decisions, harms remedied and commitments effectively implemented.

4. Recommendations

To the Government and district authorities

Establish periodic district-level sessions to follow up on concerns and grievances raised by communities, involving representatives of young people, community organisations, public institutions and companies connected to the issues under consideration.

Designate a district focal point responsible for referring matters to the competent institutions

and publishing a summary of the responses received, commitments made and progress towards implementation.

Ensure that participation and grievance mechanisms are accessible, inclusive and safe, without discrimination or retaliation against individuals who report violations or demand respect for their rights.

To extractive industry companies

Before finalising social investment plans, provide clear and accessible information on employment opportunities, the impacts of operations, and the measures planned to prevent, mitigate and remedy harm.

Conduct meaningful consultations with young people and affected communities and communicate, in writing, which priorities have been in-

corporated, which have not, and the reasons for each decision.

Clearly disclose the procedures, contact details and expected timelines of operational-level grievance mechanisms, while ensuring confidentiality, independence, protection against retaliation and unrestricted access to public authorities and judicial remedies.

To partner organisations

Following each awareness session or dialogue, document the priorities raised by participants, refer them to the competent institutions and communicate the corresponding responses to the school or community concerned.

Olipihera, Ovanela, OLICANISSA and other partners working on the Business and Human Rights agenda should adopt a common tracking mechanism identifying the recipient of each issue, the status of the referral, the re-

sponse received and the date on which feedback was provided to the community.

Partner organisations should also engage out-of-school youth and ensure appropriate conditions for the participation of girls and young women, persons with disabilities and other groups in vulnerable situations.

Finally, district-level updates should be published periodically, outlining the issues raised, responses received, commitments implemented and cases that remain unresolved.



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Inspirar e impulsionar acções para proteger os direitos humanos, fortalecer a democracia e promover a justiça.

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Inspiring and driving actions to protect human rights, strengthen democracy, and promote justice.

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