

# VOICES

SPRING/SUMMER '25



## RESILIENCE IN FOCUS



We will  
not give up.”

Climate activist Pavel shares his story

04



Yasmeen is protecting the  
West Bank olive harvest

06



Fitri is learning prawn  
farming in Indonesia

10



Amir shares his festival  
volunteering experience



OXFAM



# WELCOME TO VOICES

Welcome to the latest edition of VOICES, your supporter magazine connecting you with your global community, fighting poverty and injustice around the world.

This spring, we wanted to share powerful stories of resilience with you. Resilience will mean something a bit different to each of us as individuals, but for many, it’s the strength we draw on when confronted with all of life’s challenges. It’s the drive that keeps us moving forward.

In this edition, you’ll find stories of how people endure adversities, from factors far beyond their control, including conflict and the climate crisis. But even when faced with these huge foes, there is hope. Hope in our power as individuals – and as a collective – to square up to these challenges and keep fighting for a fairer and more equal world.

On the right, you’ll hear from Pavel, an environmental activist who is determined to keep working for the health of our planet, no matter what setbacks he comes up against. On page 4, you can read Yasmeen’s story about how she’s working to protect the Palestinian olive harvest, while facing violent attacks and intimidation from illegal Israeli settlers. And on page 8, you can hear from Evgenia, a human rights activist in Ukraine, who is supporting LGBTQIA+ people through the war.

In VOICES, you can read all these stories and more from members of your global community – in their own words – because we each tell our own stories best.

Every act of solidarity – big or small – is a step in the right direction, and we’re so grateful to have you with us.

Team VOICES

PS. If you’re looking for an exciting way to support Oxfam, why not check out the festivals spread on page 10 and discover new volunteering opportunities?

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Right now, the Global South is bearing the greatest burden of a climate crisis they did the least to cause. Pavel is an activist and photographer from Madre de Dios, Peru, and also the founder of Oxfam partner Generación Verde. Last year he attended COP29, the annual climate change conference held by the United Nations.

## My journey to environmentalism

From a very young age, I learned to appreciate nature. But over the past two decades, I have also witnessed how the extraction of gold, wood, fossil fuels and other resources has not only harmed the biodiversity of this vast region of the Amazon, but has also impacted our indigenous and mixed-heritage communities.

This is why I joined the “Make Rich Polluters Pay” campaign. They will not deprive us of our future so easily. We shall continue to fight.

## COP29 was a disappointment

There’s no doubt that the climate is changing, and we should change too. That is the message we expected to hear from COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan – the most important and, as it turned out, one of the most disappointing climate change summits to date.

Here, the economic powers – who for more than 200 years have been polluting our planet – turned their backs on its inhabitants. They suggested a ridiculous funding agreement that fell significantly short of what scientific estimates have been calling for.



## A frustrating realisation

A sense of great frustration filled the room after the announcement. There was little applause to be heard. Looking at the faces of other activists, there was no need to put our disappointment into words.

It was clear, in that moment, that international diplomacy is focused on power instead of justice, on ambition instead of solidarity and on money instead of love.

## The climate crisis is an inequality crisis

I am from the Peruvian jungle. We believe Peru, like many other countries at risk from the climate crisis, is not to blame for its effects. This isn’t just about the numbers, but about calling for climate justice for those of us living in the Global South, the populations already being affected by extreme temperatures.

Evidently, this is a crisis that developing countries have done little to cause, a crisis that favours billionaires and, as Oxfam says, a crisis of inequality.

## We must focus on justice

We are at a pivotal moment for humanity. Each year, millions of deaths occur as a result of the climate crisis, while the true culprits continue to count their profits in billions of dollars. This situation is unsustainable. It is urgent that they pay now to help build a fairer and more liveable world.

There is no doubt that the climate is changing, and we should change too. I repeat this phrase because we don’t plan on standing by and doing nothing. Life is the most precious gift that we have, and it is always worth defending. We will not give up.

## SIGN THE PETITION

We are calling on the UK and Scottish governments to fairly tax the super-rich’s use of private jets and superyachts. Taxing these luxuries properly could significantly reduce carbon emissions and raise vital funds to tackle the climate crisis. Join us at [oxfam.org.uk/voicesluxurytax](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesluxurytax)



**GENERACIÓN VERDE**  
Oxfam partner Generación Verde is a group of activists committed to the responsible and just development of Madre de Dios, the “Biodiversity Capital of Peru”. Through art, education and living culture, Generación Verde proposes advocacy actions to face the socio-environmental and climate challenges of the Amazon, with the aim of building a sustainable present and future.





Yasmeen outside the Union of Agricultural Work Committees offices.  
Suhaib Jarrar/Oxfam



# Palestinians are caretakers OF THIS LAND.



The olive harvest is a cornerstone of Palestinian heritage and culture, as well as being crucial to people’s economic health and wellbeing. But the Israeli occupation of the West Bank of Palestine is severely damaging Palestinian farmers’ ability to farm and support themselves, by restricting and destroying access to fertile land and water sources.

Yasmeen is Palestinian and lives in the West Bank. Through her work with Oxfam partner, Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), she is supporting Palestinian farmers and rural communities facing injustice and violence from Israeli occupation forces and Israelis illegally settling in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

### I was named after jasmine flowers

My mother named me after the flowers that lived in my grandmother’s garden. Every morning, during my childhood summer visits to our village of Ya’bad, Jenin, I would trail behind my teta (Arabic for grandma) as she worked her way from tree to tree. From Teta’s garden, we can see the Israeli settlement on the neighbouring hill and the Israeli military checkpoint that sits between us, all of which is on stolen land.

Teta started raising the trees in her garden long before [the settlers] came. She uses the Arabic word for “raised”: the same word used to refer to raising a child. The farmers I now work with use the same word to talk about the olive trees that the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) or Israeli settlers have uprooted, poisoned or burnt. They raised these trees like their children, and the Israeli occupation killed them.

### This violence is designed to uproot us

While the Israeli occupation carries out its genocidal war on Gaza, it has also been intensifying its systematic oppression of the West Bank. The occupation uses a system of colonial oppression to uproot Palestinians and dismantle our livelihoods.

Palestinian farmers, herders and rural communities are enduring an unprecedented onslaught of Israeli settler violence, land theft, and destruction in the West Bank. In 2024, the Israeli occupation stole more land in the West Bank than in the last 20 years combined: it’s clear that it’s essentially being annexed.<sup>1</sup>

### Settler attacks are strategic

Each year, both IOF and illegal Israeli settler violence peaks during the olive harvest. Israeli settlers, with the support of the Israeli government and their backers, uproot trees and poison crops. Along with the constant violence of the IOF, military lockdown and rapid settler expansion, settler attacks violently prevent rural communities from harvesting or even reaching their land.

By devastating land, homes and infrastructure, these attacks endanger lives and threaten Palestinian livelihoods. Attacks target ‘Area C’, an area that covers 60% of the West Bank, is fully under Israeli military control, highly fertile and critical to Palestinian livelihoods.<sup>2</sup>

### My work with UAWC

The UAWC supports the steadfastness of Palestinian communities in the face of Israeli settler colonialism. We work to protect and defend Palestinian land and



Yasmeen speaking to her UAWC colleague, Aghsan.  
Suhaib Jarrar/Oxfam

food sovereignty in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip of Palestine. We build Palestinian agricultural resilience with key infrastructure, from water pipes to greenhouses, as well as creating farming cooperatives, indigenous seed banks – and so much more.

“We have a responsibility to care for each other.”

Since the beginning of the genocide in Gaza, our work includes addressing the most critical needs of our communities. Our campaign “Stop Gaza Starvation” reached over 1,193,760 people with essentials like food parcels, water and hygiene kits, as well as putting sanitation facilities and community kitchens in place.<sup>3</sup>

### This is not just a job

Palestinians are caretakers of this land. We speak of the land as our family because we are its stewards. We have a responsibility to care for our land and for each other, and we will continue to do so, until long after liberation.

### TAKE ACTION NOW

From signing Oxfam’s Stop Arming Israel petition to reading up on the current situation in Gaza, and supporting UAWC’s Stop Gaza Starvation campaign directly, you can take action and learn more about the occupation. Visit [oxfam.org.uk/voicesgaza](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesgaza) or scan the QR code now.



References  
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2. UAWC (Union of Agricultural Work Committees). (n.d.). Reality of Area C: A human rights perspective. Available at: <https://www.uawc-pa.org/Files/pdf/Reality%20of%20Area%20-%20-%20A%20human%20rights%20perspective%20%20UAWC.pdf> (Accessed: 4 March 2025).  
3. Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC). (2024). Stop Gaza Starvation – Updated Briefing Report Oct. 2024. Available at: <https://uawc-pa.org/stop-gaza-starvation-updated-briefing-report-oct-2024/> (Accessed: 4 March 2025).





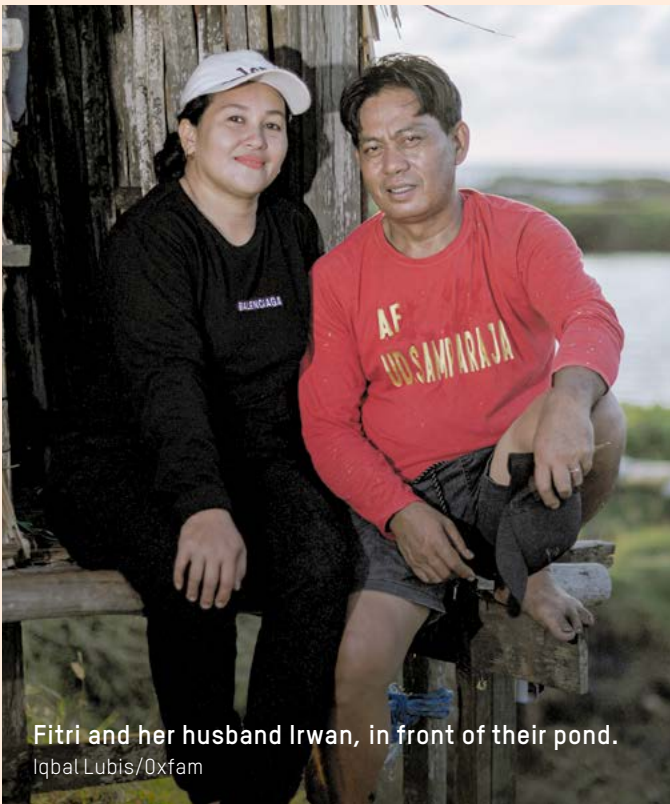
# GENDER EQUALITY makes me happier.”

Pinrang Regency is one of the biggest tiger prawn producers in Indonesia. But because most of the paid work is traditionally done by men, it can make communities and families vulnerable if the men fall sick or can’t work.

Fitri, alongside other women, has been learning how to farm prawns and is working with Oxfam partner, Konservasi Indonesia (KOIN). Together they are learning more about challenging gender roles in the home, sharing household work and building economic resilience as a community.

## What are some of the barriers you faced when learning prawn farming?

There are cultural barriers to undertaking this work. One time, I was scorned for working by some people locally. If a woman works, [the community calls] the husband “Masiri”. It’s like the husband is degraded: his worth decreases if his wife works.



Fitri and her husband Irwan, in front of their pond.  
Iqbal Lubis/Oxfam



Fitri, at her home in Lanrisang District, Pinrang, Indonesia.  
Iqbal Lubis/Oxfam

## How did your husband react when you started working?

Initially, there was a little bit of quarrelling here and there. My husband said, “You don’t need to [work].” I learned step by step and then became good at it. Thankfully, I am trusted to handle the work now.

## How has it helped you build resilience?

I’m bored of being at home, so it’s better if I learn about my husband’s work. I’m glad I learned prawn farming little by little. If my husband is ill, the work still continues because I’m good at it now.

## Has what you learned with KOIN helped at home?

When we had gender training, my husband came along too. I asked him when we got home, “Try implementing the things we learned?” Implementing gender equality makes me happier because my husband no longer hesitates to help with his wife’s work.



**KOIN**  
Oxfam partner KOIN is based in Indonesia and works in environmental conservation and protection.

The programme Fitri took part in began in 2018, and has supported over 4,500 participants including farmers, business leaders and government officials. The programme focused on encouraging inclusive and responsible shrimp farming practices, which has helped empower more women economically as well as building climate resilience for the community as a whole.



# Plans focus on the needs of THE PEOPLE.”

To ensure government decisions contribute to people’s wellbeing and prosperity, it’s vital that local representatives speak up for their communities.

In Papua New Guinea, elected representative Philemon is just one individual taking part in Good Governance, an Oxfam project supporting local people who may not often have a voice in government decision-making processes. With this training, Philemon is learning more about government structure and gaining the knowledge he needs to act on behalf of every voice in his local area.

Philemon is an elected ward member for his community.  
Aimee Han/Oxfam



I am a local representative for Ward Two in Gahuku LLG (Local Level Government). I came in as a councillor because the previous councillor passed away. I entered through a by-election.

The current government only focuses on specific projects. You can’t do extra things outside of those. That means that, back in the village, we just exist without structure or organisation. There’s no planning. Many people in my village had nothing to do. They are not literate – they can’t read or write – yet deserve to improve their lives.

I didn’t know much about planning before. When I first started, I came in as an ordinary person with limited knowledge of how to do certain tasks, like working with the government or NGOs. Good Governance trained me in how to plan for the ward area where I live. And how we should look after our wards and manage development in them. That really helped me because now I can focus on the needs of the people. I think I will be able to continue my work well as a councillor.

“We are people who have stepped up.”

Good Governance has supported me to do this job, how to step up as a councillor and recognise my power and role. It includes learning skills such as how to conduct meetings, how to make plans and how to set aims and goals. These things are what we’re now trying to start implementing. I now feel that I can do the work in my ward and for the village I live in.

We’re already helping people in the villages, supporting them to learn skills which will improve their lives. People have undertaken small and medium enterprises training, which has taken things to the next level. They are running small trade stores, markets and gardens. But the support also brought in village court officials and trained peace mediation committees. We’re even organising village meetings and the council office is supporting us.

We’re beginning to put things in place, step by step. This is a very big task. It will take time. But eventually, things will start to show results, and we will see progress.

**GOOD GOVERNANCE**  
Good Governance is an Oxfam-run project helping to create a fairer, more equal world for everyone. By training elected government representatives on policy implementation, rights and more, they can ensure their local communities, including underrepresented groups, build knowledge to hold those in power to account.

Improved services mean community members are receiving literacy training, accessing leadership opportunities and inequalities are being addressed.

Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).







# War is always about LIMITATIONS.

Evgenia, a 26-year-old volunteer from Odesa, Ukraine, is the leader of a local human rights movement and has supported the LGBTQIA+ community amid the ongoing war. She was interviewed as part of a series by Gay Alliance Ukraine (GAU), an Oxfam partner working with LGBTQIA+ people in Ukraine.

**Before the invasion, had you expected war to break out?**

When I heard the sound of a fighter jet overhead back in 2014, I realised a big war on the streets of Odesa was only a matter of time. At that moment it seemed to me that this was already so close – almost a tomorrow, spring at best. And this premonition was hanging over me. But as the beginning of this war was constantly pushed forward, there came a feeling that it wouldn’t happen in my lifetime.

Therefore, on the 23rd February 2022, I was more or less calm. I was sure that nothing would happen.

**How has conflict affected your life?**

The full-scale invasion ruined all my plans. I had planned a beautiful, fairytale spring for myself. But spring came under a completely different banner, and the plans were completely forgotten.

There was a curfew. Many people were even deprived of seeing sunlight and breathing fresh air because they were driven into the subways, into bomb shelters, into the basements of buildings.

I remember that we’d already had a plan of LGBTQIA+ events for March. I was hoping that we would be able to restart the community centre.

Instead, I quickly put most of my energy into volunteering: hunting for canned goods, helping anyone who needed help. But at the end of 2022, all my batteries died, I had a very deep depressive episode. I just ran out of fuel and started burning like a phoenix.

**What has volunteering meant to you?**

Volunteering is all about great happiness and great grief. Sometimes it’s about giving a bag of food to a person who hasn’t eaten in a long time and is very glad to have found you. Sometimes it’s about speaking loudly into a microphone. These are all shades of the same thing. So yes, I worked and volunteered, loved and hated, cried and laughed, sang, wrote poems.

Volunteering has become an inseparable part of me, without which I cannot live.

**What do you hope for Ukraine’s future?**

I don’t have a definite answer. We have a lot to strive for.

However, I am certain Ukraine has the greatest potential for strong and conscious tolerance. Most likely due to the fact that we are on our own path that’s not like the path of any other country. I believe that people who will live in post-war Ukraine will be the ones to really love my country. And they would want to see it beautiful and comfortable for us. For them. Peaceful. A wonderful, fair, constitutional state.

Illustrations from the GAU LGBTQIA+ storybook. Credit: Gay Alliance Ukraine

**READ THE FULL INTERVIEW**

Since the conflict began in Ukraine over three years ago, Oxfam has been working with partners, like Gay Alliance Ukraine, to help improve life and bring vital support to more communities.

To find out more about Evgenia, hear from more GAU volunteers, or read about Oxfam’s work in Ukraine, visit [oxfam.org.uk/voicesukraine](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesukraine) or scan the QR code.

**GAY ALLIANCE UKRAINE**

Around the world, LGBTQIA+ people are more likely to experience discrimination and poverty, and during conflict, this can worsen. Gay Alliance Ukraine (GAU) is the largest LGBTQIA+ organisation in Ukraine, and has been working with Oxfam to provide safe spaces where people can access food, medicine and psychological support. They also run a hotline offering support to those facing discrimination and challenges during the war.

# The world is bigger THAN US.

Sometimes, the world’s problems seem too huge to tackle. But long-term Oxfam supporter, Margo, believes we can all do something positive – big or small – to make the world a better place. That’s why she’s chosen to stay in the fight for a fairer world, with a gift in her Will to Oxfam.

**Beyond the curriculum**

As a teacher, I tried to broaden the kids’ horizons. My work was to show these kids that there was a bigger world and give them an awareness that we are part of a huge community. You are involved with young people in their lives and the curriculum is just one part of it. It’s their wellbeing, how they view life. Being teachers, we should open children’s eyes.

**Where it started**

I was only about 11 and at secondary school when Oxfam established Pledge Giving. I started a little club collecting something like 10p a week from my classmates, and sending it to Oxfam. My support has spanned a long time. I even gave my wedding dress to Oxfam. I got married in 1975, so it’s taken me a while – but it was time to let it go.

**“We all need to have a feeling of self-worth and being useful to society.”**



**Looking at the world**

The difference between my life and the lives of others is huge, it shouldn’t be like that. I really believe we are all part of a community and we all need each other. Supporting organisations on the ground, also listening to the communities themselves, is so important.

**A type of power**

I have done lots to support people throughout my life but you never feel it is enough. Supporting Oxfam makes me feel a little less helpless about so many things that need changing. Leaving a legacy is something I have the power to do. I haven’t had children, but there are other families and generations that I can give to.

**LEAVE A LEGACY. STAY IN THE FIGHT.**

If you believe in building a fairer, more equal world, you can stay in the fight by leaving a gift in your Will to Oxfam.

Scan the code or visit the website below to learn more or sign up for a free gifts in Wills guide: [oxfam.org.uk/voicesgiftinwill](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesgiftinwill)





Amir (furthest right) with his fellow Oxfam volunteers at Glastonbury.  
Sam Baggette/Oxfam

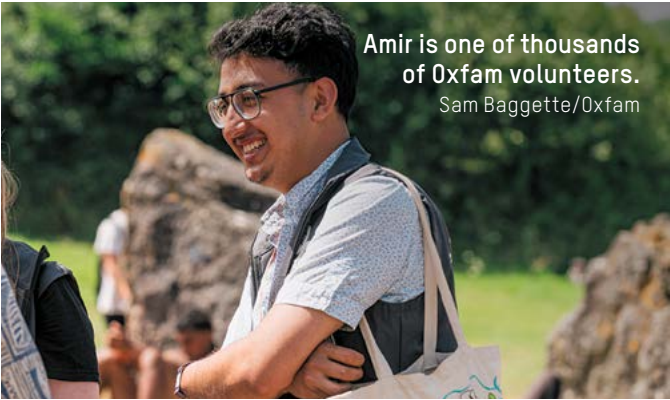
Volunteers are the heartbeat of Oxfam, and this summer, there'll be over 9,000 of them at festivals across the country. From campaigning to make the biggest polluters pay to doing shifts in thriving festival shops, hear from some of our helping hands to see what you could be a part of! And, as Oxfam gets paid for every volunteer shift, your volunteering will be supporting our vital work.

### Campaigning with Amir

Amir came to the UK as a refugee in August 2021, after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan upon the US withdrawing their troops. He has since started campaigning for Oxfam, and at Glastonbury 2024 he talked to festivalgoers about the climate crisis. He shares his festival volunteering experience with us, and what it means to stand up for a future that benefits us all.

"When I was in Afghanistan, I worked as a photographer and documentary maker, and now I'm so glad to have been at Glastonbury. It was such an honour to be part of the campaigners for Oxfam.

"We talked to the public and shared our ideas about climate justice, and how the government can focus on it. But we also asked everyone to save as much water as they can and to keep as many trees for the next generation as they can. I thought it really important to bring this message to the festival



Amir is one of thousands of Oxfam volunteers.  
Sam Baggette/Oxfam

because people had come from all across the world. We asked people to join us. We received lots of beautiful messages and people supported us. They were really happy to share their signatures. They loved being a part of it. And this gives me hope.

"I learned lots of new things that I have never done before. It was such an amazing place to be and to campaign, especially when you're talking about a really important subject."



Jacob volunteers with his mum, Louise.  
Sam Baggette/Oxfam

### Stewarding with Jacob and Louise

"I love coming to festivals. I love the whole atmosphere. But I have quite a severe visual impairment, so I can't always access other festivals to work. Oxfam let me be a steward. And they let my mum tag along with me as my eyes.

"If you're thinking about volunteering with Oxfam, if you have special accessibility requirements or need a bit of help, or if you don't, I would say a hundred percent do it."

Louise, Jacob's mum and Oxfam volunteer

"Volunteering with Oxfam, you've always got a purpose in the day, on your shift. But then once we're off shift, Mum and I got to do what we used to do and experience the festival together."



After volunteering at her local Oxfam shop, Angie took on volunteering at Glastonbury.  
Andy Oxley/Oxfam

### Shop volunteering with Angie

"I'm an Oxfam festival shop volunteer. It's such a good cause and I like to think I am contributing to helping to raise money. I love all the glittery sequin treasure trove items and glitzy outfits. But I still prefer to be in my wellies than high shoes!"

### VOLUNTEER WITH US!

To see what exciting volunteering opportunities are awaiting you, visit [oxfam.org.uk/voicesfestival](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesfestival) or scan the QR code.



# GET FESTIVAL READY!

Whether you're volunteering with Oxfam this summer, attending a festival or just looking to shop sustainably, our pre-loved and ethically sourced items are kind to the planet and support Oxfam's global community!

### Zero-waste soap

Suma was launched in 1977 and now delivers over 7,000 vegetarian, natural and responsibly sourced products – including their *Alter/ Native* range! Arriving in 100% recyclable containers and inspired by the power of plants, these soaps, washes and bars are perfect for staying fresh while camping.



### Period products with purpose

Buy a planet-friendly period product from *hey girls* and they'll donate another product to somebody facing period poverty in the UK. *hey girls* is an award-winning social enterprise fighting to eradicate period poverty and lobby for period dignity across the UK.

### The preloved vibe

You can find dozens of second-hand festival fashion pieces at Oxfam shops, or on the Oxfam shop online, to make your next trip to the fields extra special. And when the fun is over, your clothes can carry on dancing! Re-wear your outfits or donate them back to Oxfam so they can enjoy another life.



### SHOP SOURCED BY OXFAM

You can buy ethically sourced products, and support the Oxfam global community, by shopping our Sourced By Oxfam range. Visit [oxfam.org.uk/voicesshops](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesshops) or scan this QR code to find out more.







It's inspiring  
to see so many  
**VOICES  
UNITED.**

Paulina (pictured below) took part in a march to celebrate the progress made by African women in gender equality, and to reflect on the ongoing challenges and next steps.

Paulina works for Núcleo das Associações de Mulheres da Zambézia (NAFEZA), an Oxfam partner who collaborates with us on gender equality and reproductive rights projects. Paulina told us, "It was inspiring to see so many voices united for such an urgent cause. The energy, solidarity and commitment of each participant reinforced the importance of continuing to fight for a future where all women can live with dignity, respect and in safety. This march was a powerful step towards the social transformation we aim for."



Paulina (left) taking part in a feminist march, in honour of African Women's Day.  
Rosário Matateu/Oxfam

The stories and opinions shared in VOICES belong to our individual contributors, with minimal editing from Oxfam GB. All language and cultural experiences are reflective of our contributors' lived experiences.



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SCAN THIS QR CODE TO FILL OUT OUR SURVEY AND SHARE YOUR  
THOUGHTS ON VOICES OR GO TO: [OXFAM.ORG.UK/VOICESURVEY](https://oxfam.org.uk/voicesurvey)

