

VOICES

AUTUMN/WINTER '23



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To create change, I needed to unite with others.

As an activist, Perk is building unity and community

UNITY IN FOCUS

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Use your voice! Sign our petition to the Prime Minister



OXFAM

A NOTE FROM TEAM VOICES

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

Running through all our articles is a theme: unity. Right now, we're up against enormous challenges, from the cost of living to the climate crisis, that are driving inequality and division. But by working together, we can overcome them.

Unity is at the heart of our partnerships with communities and their local organisations around the world, always valuing and respecting their skills and expertise. By working alongside local partners, power and money is shifting to communities driving their own change. Look to Maria's story (p4) to learn more, or see how farmers like Ali are building resilience against climate change (p6).

Empathy is so important in how we take on global challenges together. We can understand that the world treats us differently, depending on different characteristics we each have, such as our sex, race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, class background, age or whether we have a disability. In VOICES, you'll hear from people in their own words, describing their own lived experiences. You can read stories from climate activist, Perk (cover), or LGBTQIA+ activist Odi (p8), who write about the challenges they face, as well as how they are working with their communities to overcome them.

When the world often feels divided, we hope that reading VOICES brings you closer to your global community, and the people taking steps to create a fairer world. Even though the past wasn't, and the present isn't, the future must be equal. We can make this happen together.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Team VOICES

PS.

Thank you to everyone who fed back in our last survey. In this edition, we've taken steps to improve the accessibility of our writing, while staying true to the stories we are sharing. We're also making VOICES more environmentally friendly, here and in future editions.

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Find joy and give joy on the high street



Perk in his garden in Accra, Ghana. Matilda Dogbatsey / Oxfam

“To create the change I envisioned, I needed to **UNITE WITH OTHERS.**”

After flooding devastated his city, Accra, Ghana, Perk was compelled to take action for climate justice. Ever since, he's been helping to unite the movement. Perk now campaigns on Oxfam's behalf, helping to fight for climate justice alongside five partner organisations across Ghana. He believes in our individual power to create change, and recently his home-gardening project has helped him lower his carbon footprint, and bring him closer to nature and his family.

June 4th, 2015, was my birthday and should have been a happy moment in my life. Unfortunately, it was a sorrowful one. Ghana was in mourning. Heavy rainfall, caused by the climate crisis, led to severe flooding that took many lives and homes. I was sad and broken emotionally. A friend of mine had lost her sister, a nurse, to the floods. I had to do something about this situation, but I wasn't sure where to start.

In my activism journey, I realised that Ghana and many other African countries contributed least to climate change but are disproportionately

affected by it. There is a justice element which must be addressed. And there was a need for me to unite with other climate activists to create that change I envisioned.

As a graphic designer, I was able to use my skills to volunteer with Ghana Youth Environmental Movement (GYEM) – a nationwide youth-led group that trains and empowers activists to take action and build climate resilience. I helped design materials to use in their campaign, “GYEM Against Coal Power” or #NoCoal2GH.

The campaign successfully stopped our government's plan to build a new coal power plant, which would have adversely impacted the health and wellbeing of many people living in the area. After volunteering and working with GYEM, I am now its National Coordinator.

Now, alongside leading at GYEM, I'm also trying out a new kind of activism – in my 'makeshift garden' at home. I've seen the devastating impact of agriculture on our ecosystems and wanted to take a small action to help reduce my carbon footprint, while learning more about the natural world.

My garden became a sanctuary, taught me about biodiversity and nature and reminded me how interconnected all living things are. To avoid using chemicals, I researched organic gardening techniques and took advice from experienced gardeners.

“I'm trying out a new kind of activism – my 'makeshift garden'.”

At the beginning, I lost all my plants to a disease and had to uproot everything and burn what was infected. But I kept going, and recently made a meal for my family with the harvest from my garden.

Each tomato, okra, and cucumber that grew was a victory for sustainability, and showed me change starts from the ground up. By embracing home gardening, we can contribute to a healthier, more sustainable future, one seed at a time.

“When we do something good, our mind feels at PEACE.”

Last summer, unusually heavy monsoon rains caused by climate change led to catastrophic flooding in Pakistan that destroyed homes, infrastructure and livelihoods, affecting more than 33 million people. In the face of this humanitarian disaster, supporters from our global community united and raised millions for Pakistan and everyone managing the crisis. Over a year on, hear from Maria* who worked as a community mobiliser, in the flood recovery effort in Balochistan province.

Maria’s story

The greatest thing in this [life] is the service of humanity. This has always been my passion. When we do something good, our mind feels at peace and a deep happiness.

For the past eight years, I’ve worked with different non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Tameer e Khalq Foundation (TKF), one of Oxfam’s partners. I felt this work was something I could do in service of my community. For me, there was no other avenue except for the NGO sector.

Many people have been affected all over Pakistan due to the floods. People’s lives have been lost. People’s property, livestock and crops have been destroyed. In areas of Balochistan and Naseerabad [many] people are very poor. Their problems have been made even worse because of the floods.

I am also part of this flood. My children were at home when the roof of our house cracked. My uncle’s house is next to ours, so I asked them to [shelter] there. When I saw the condition of my home, I was very sad. But when I saw people [hungry and thirsty] on the roads of Dera and Naseerabad, I felt that my grief was nothing. Those people had [lost] their homes.



Maria, a community mobiliser, talks to Nababa (in yellow) in her home. Ingenious Captures / Oxfam

OUR PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

To end poverty, the way we work is just as important as what we do. We know from decades of experience that by working with others — and pooling our expertise and resources — we can achieve much more than we ever could on our own.

Oxfam funds and partners with a diverse range of grassroots organisations around the world. These partners have the best understanding of their own individual communities, and have the knowledge and expertise to lead the way and decide what they need. Investing in longer-term partnerships with local organisations and communities is also a far more effective way of driving meaningful change.

Part of our partnership approach involves working with community mobilisers, such as Maria, who play a vital role in bridging communication between Oxfam and communities. This is always important, but particularly so in the wake of climate disasters, where this response can be fast-moving and complex.

After seeing all the pain suffered by the people, we put aside our problems, and worked with TKF to help as much as possible. In an emergency, we do many jobs and take care of all things, from distributing important supplies to interviewing families to assess what they need. I follow the protocol that is given to us by TKF.

When I visit families, many say, “Sister, this is our major problem regarding water.” Children are getting sick because of the water. The water is dirty and not drinkable. I try to find a solution to their problems. I [hold] sessions on hygiene and cleanliness, and show them how [they] need to use the items [provided] by Oxfam. These items are exactly [what is needed].

There are lots of things to be done because [people’s] entire houses [have] been affected. We have arranged a Health Camp, but staying inside tents is hot and some people have fever. Regarding health, people need more facilities.

In Pakistan, people are mostly affected in Balochistan and Sindh areas due to floods. They should be helped as much as possible in terms of food, health and other things as well. I would like to thank TKF because they gave us the opportunity to help people through them.



Maria conducting a water, sanitation and hygiene session in Jaffarabad, Balochistan. Ingenious Captures / Oxfam

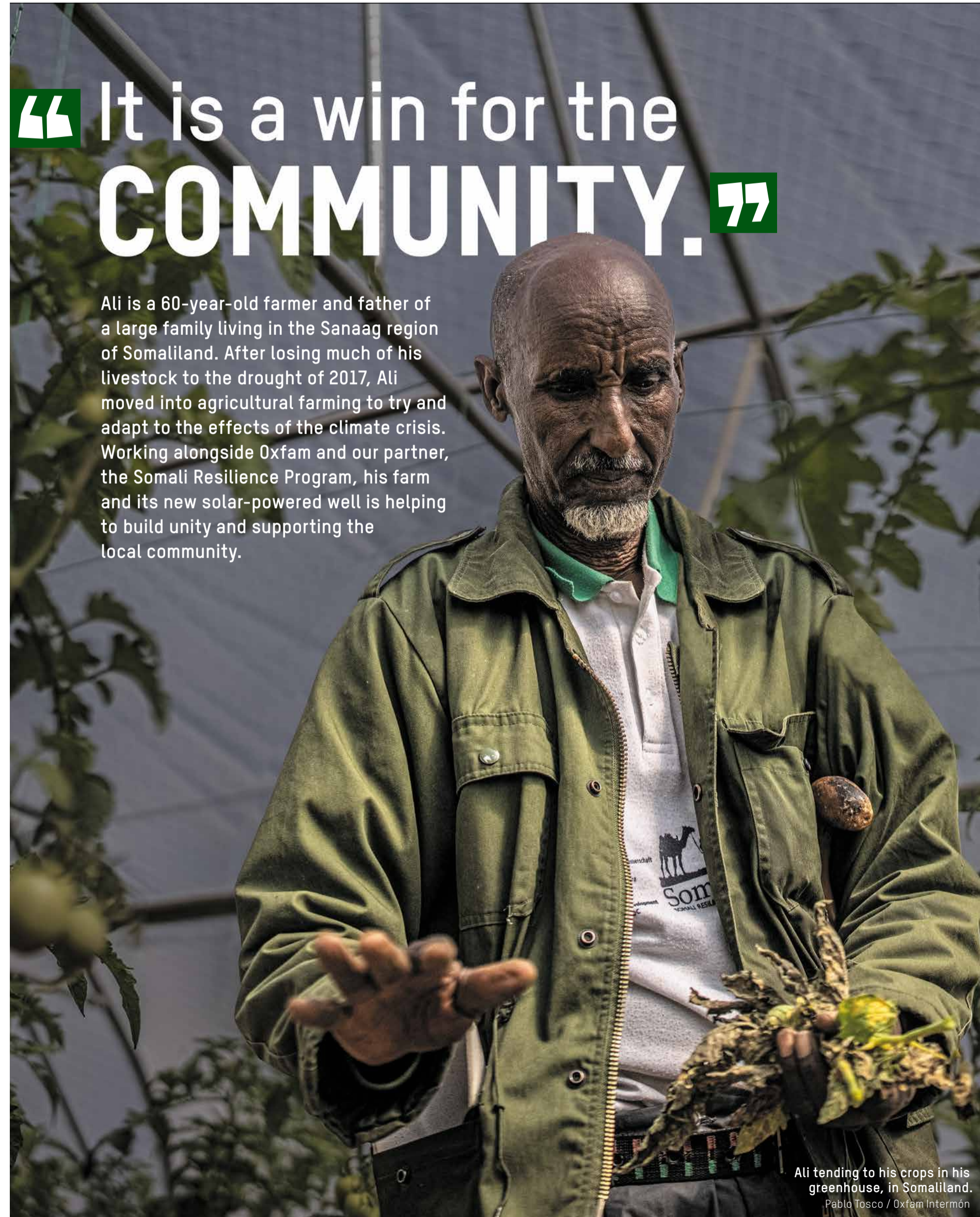


Flood-affected areas in Balochistan province, Pakistan. Arif Shah / Oxfam

375,377 people in Pakistan reached by Oxfam and partners and provided with emergency support

TAMEER E KHALAQ FOUNDATION
TAMEER E KHALAQ FOUNDATION (TKF)
 In the wake of the floods Oxfam provided funds to our partner, Tameer e Khalq Foundation (TKF), a Pakistan-based not-for-profit that responds to communities affected by disasters. They also work to strengthen communities by improving education access, health, the environment, infrastructure and work opportunities.
 *Maria’s name has been changed to protect her identity

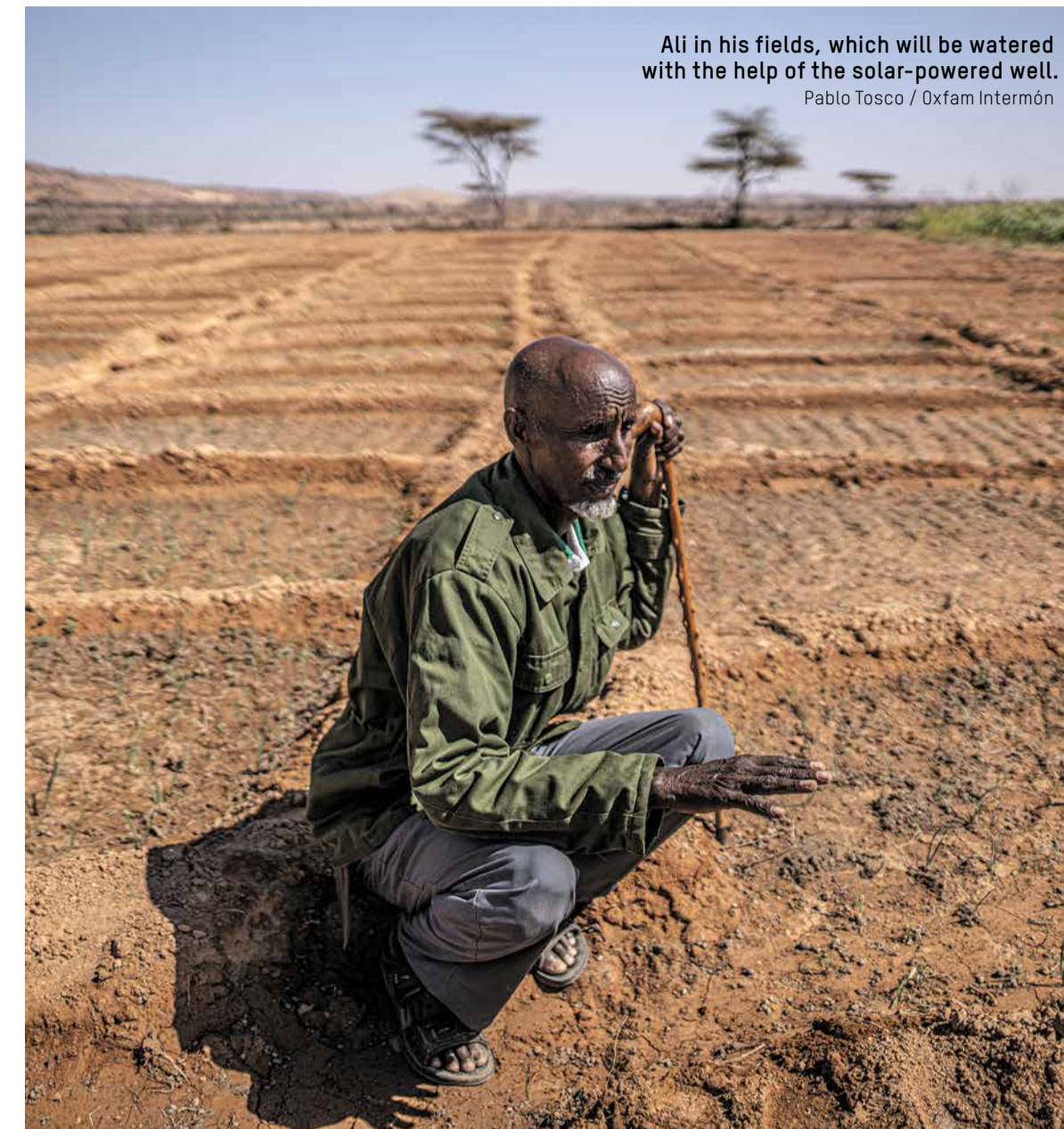
LEARN MORE ABOUT FLOODING IN PAKISTAN
 To find out more you can listen to a podcast, hear from Maria in her own words, or watch a video from one year on. Just scan the code or visit the website below.
oxfam.org.uk/voicespakistan



“ It is a win for the **COMMUNITY.** ”

Ali is a 60-year-old farmer and father of a large family living in the Sanaag region of Somaliland. After losing much of his livestock to the drought of 2017, Ali moved into agricultural farming to try and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis. Working alongside Oxfam and our partner, the Somali Resilience Program, his farm and its new solar-powered well is helping to build unity and supporting the local community.

Ali tending to his crops in his greenhouse, in Somaliland. Pablo Tosco / Oxfam Internón



Ali in his fields, which will be watered with the help of the solar-powered well. Pablo Tosco / Oxfam Internón



Oxfam campaigner Esme Stroud at Glastonbury 2023. Sam Baggette / Oxfam

It's not right that people who've done the least to cause the climate crisis are suffering its harshest consequences. Sign the petition and demand big polluters pay communities for the damage caused.

Why should big polluters pay?

People everywhere are being affected by climate change, but we are not being impacted equally. In some low-income countries, extreme weather is devastating lives on a scale that drives more and more inequality. This must end.

What are we asking for?

We're demanding the UK government to fairly tax the biggest fossil fuel polluters who are growing their wealth while their actions drive catastrophic climate change. The money raised from this taxation should be used to help communities hit hardest by the climate crisis, particularly those recovering from the loss and damage caused by climate disasters.

Our united voice matters

Last year, we joined together with Kenyan activist Elizabeth Wathuti, thousands of UK climate activists, and everyone who signed our petition, to secure the agreement to set up a Loss and Damage fund. Now, we must unite to demand our government taxes big polluters fairly, and pay for the crisis they have helped cause.

We'll deliver our petition to the UK government this autumn, ahead of COP28 in November.

SIGN THE PETITION NOW

With COP28 just around the corner, there's no time to lose. Make your voice heard. Use the campaign action card enclosed with this mailing, scan this code or follow this link to sign the petition. oxfam.org.uk/voicespetition



How has the climate crisis impacted you?

[My] animals got weaker. Plants did not grow. But people are most affected because they [are] displaced. My family is now living [in] three different villages because life here became tough.

When did you start working with Oxfam and partners?

[They visited us during the drought] and we started this project together, [at first by] constructing the greenhouses. We used to plant tomatoes outdoors but [they] didn't grow as expected the first time. [The greenhouses] helped us to overcome that challenge. We hired a trainer for the farmers and [they] gave us seeds. [Working together, we] fixed our broken well, installed solar power, and connected it to provide water to the village 5km away.

What's your farm like today?

When we finished the training [with] Oxfam, we created a farm for 25 farmers. I wake up at 5am and pray, and wake up [our] farm staff. I spend most of my day harvesting, planting and irrigating. We're growing onions, beetroot, tomatoes and carrots. I am very happy, it is a good thing to help people. It is a win for the community and I do recommend [it to] others.



The Somali Resilience Program

The Somali Resilience Program (SomReP) is helping to build resilience by supporting people to take up a diverse variety of livelihoods, helping them adapt to the huge challenges of the climate crisis.

Oxfam has worked with SomReP for 10 years. It's a member-led organisation, and often works alongside women, young people and people with disabilities as they are most likely to be severely affected by the climate crisis.



IN CONVERSATION

By telling real stories, we can challenge stereotypes and **ENCOURAGE ACCEPTANCE.**

Antony Trivet Photography Creative

Still today, in the UK and around the world, LGBTQIA+ people are facing discrimination that increases their likelihood of living in poverty. To dismantle the systems that keep people in poverty, we must understand this discrimination, so that we can challenge it together. Activist Odi* shares his perspective as a pansexual** man living in Kenya.

Q: What was it like growing up LGBTQIA+ in Kenya?

A: At school, I knew I was different from other boys. I liked playing with girls because they were understanding and made me feel comfortable. But later, during my college diploma course, I began to feel lonely. I withdrew into myself. In a way, that helped me focus on my studies and accept my sexual orientation. I was introduced to GALCK+ – the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya. Through them, I was lucky to get a job. I was busy and life became much better.

Q: What kinds of issues can LGBTQIA+ people face in Kenya?

A: The LGBTQIA+ community in Kenya has suffered in various ways like verbal abuse, sexual abuse, blackmail, stigma, discrimination and even murder. Some of the risks an LGBTQIA+ person may face with family is being disowned and experiencing homelessness. Extra challenges are poor access to sexual health services due to discrimination brought about by lack of expertise or understanding among healthcare providers.

“Everyone has a right to equal opportunities.”

Q: Have you seen progress in Kenya?

A: Kenya is progressive in many areas of society. The LGBTQIA+ community hasn’t been left behind, but there’s a long way to go. Progress is happening in major towns and cities, but there is less acceptance in certain rural areas where people are less exposed to LGBTQIA+ issues.

Q: What’s supporting this progress?

A: There are activists and organisations making headway. For example, GALCK+ is building relationships with the government to create a society that appreciates diversity and recognises everyone has a right to equal opportunities. There is also Bold Africa, that is committed to telling real and inspiring stories of African queer people. By doing this, we demystify stereotypes and encourage acceptance here and around the world!

Q: Why do you think it’s important to share LGBTQIA+ stories?

A: I know of many LGBTQIA+ individuals who have gone to their graves with their experiences. But now, more LGBTQIA+ celebrities and activists in Kenya are sharing their stories. I am happy this is taking place. Over time, the larger Kenyan public will gain more of an understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community, supporting greater acceptance.

*Odi’s name has been changed to protect his identity.

** Pansexuality means people experience sexual, romantic or emotional attraction towards people of all genders, or regardless of their sex or gender identity.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS AND OXFAM

The protection of LGBTQIA+ rights is key to our goal of creating a more just world, because we must challenge all forms of discrimination that cause poverty. To do this, we’re working with partner organisations, such as Uskikimye in Kenya, that provide care and support to LGBTQIA+ community members who are struggling with poverty. To learn more about Oxfam’s work, or find support for any of the subject matter of this story, scan this code or visit our website at: oxfam.org.uk/voicesLGBTQ+



“One day we will **BE OKAY.**”

In the early hours of 6th February, 2023, an earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria, claiming tens of thousands of lives and leaving many people injured and displaced.



Oxfam’s global community of supporters rallied in solidarity for everyone affected, raising vital funds. We’re working with our national partners and community mobilisers like Zeynep to provide life-saving support to people affected by the earthquake.

Zeynep’s story:

“[When the earthquake struck] I was in my home. I felt that the earth was moving but I thought it would be okay. I was not afraid. Then I realised it was a huge crisis – an earthquake. I ran to my sisters to wake them up and go outside. After that I went to my aunt to tell her to leave. We escaped to the street. Then the house collapsed completely.

Now I live in a tent with my family. I work as a community mobiliser helping during the distribution of essential support to families. I work in the monitoring programme, collecting information from people. I really enjoy it. I feel happy when I’m helping people. One day we will be okay, we have to be patient to begin the rest of our lives.”

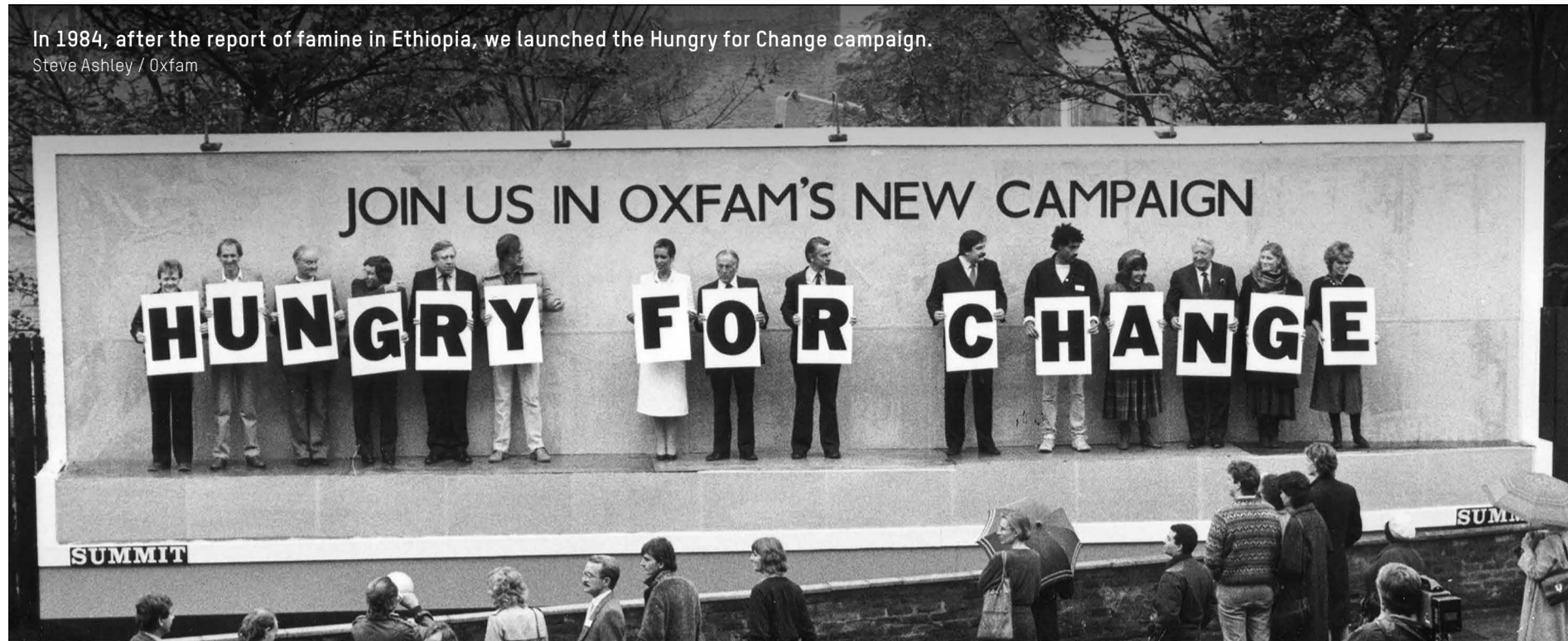
By working alongside our partners and community mobilisers, we have:

-  REACHED ALMOST **1 MILLION** PEOPLE ACROSS TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA
-  DELIVERED CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SUPPORT TO **926,051** PEOPLE
-  SUPPORTED SAFETY CHECKS FOR **6,200** BUILDINGS
-  PROVIDED **15,000** PACKAGES INCLUDING MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS TO PEOPLE LIVING IN SHELTERS
-  DISTRIBUTED CASH SO PEOPLE CAN BUY WHAT THEY NEED MOST



Zeynep volunteered as a community mobiliser, helping to organise the earthquake response in her local area. This role is vital in relationship building and supporting communication between Oxfam and communities.

Lily Partland / Oxfam



In 1984, after the report of famine in Ethiopia, we launched the Hungry for Change campaign.
Steve Ashley / Oxfam

UNITY THROUGH THE AGES

As these pictures show, you're part of a proud legacy of positive action. A legacy that's built a global community united in fighting poverty.

Today, just as in years gone by, we act in solidarity. We speak up. We sign petitions. We demonstrate. And we give. Because we believe in a world where every person has the opportunity to live a full and happy life.

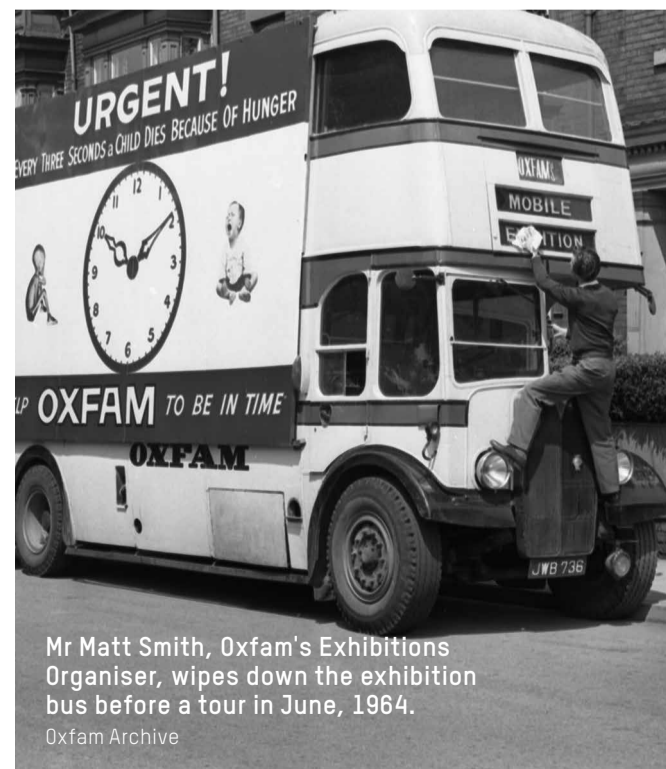
Together, we've made progress towards that world. But we still have a long way to go. So please stay in the fight for equality and an end to poverty, by leaving a gift in your Will to Oxfam. It's a powerful way to keep acting in unity, and ensure the vital movement for change you're part of today continues into the future.

LEAVE A LEGACY. STAY IN THE FIGHT.

Learn more about leaving a gift in your Will to Oxfam and watch our new TV ad by scanning this code or visiting our website here:
oxfam.org.uk/voicesgiftinwill2



A World Refugee Year banner in Wantage, 1959. Oxfam was part of a push to raise awareness of the crisis after World War II.
Oxfam Archive



Mr Matt Smith, Oxfam's Exhibitions Organiser, wipes down the exhibition bus before a tour in June, 1964.
Oxfam Archive



Responding to the severe drought in India, 1973.
Oxfam Archive

FIND JOY. GIVE JOY.

Finding thoughtful presents and giving them to our loved ones is one of life's little joys. Gifts from your local Oxfam shop add the joy of connecting with people beyond your community, whose skills and creativity have helped put these handcrafted products in our shops. You'll also find secondhand treasures, and any presents you do buy will support our fight against poverty.



Fight poverty on your high street



Pre-loved presents are perfect

From cosy knits to vintage homeware, find special presents that are kinder to our wallets, and more sustainable – see why at oxfam.org.uk/greenclaims

Discover handcrafted decorations

With Christmas just around the corner, it's time to discover our Sourced By Oxfam range. It's got all you need, from decorations to plastic-free crackers.



Creators in the spotlight: Hatale

You'll find Hatale gifts instore and online, as part of our Sourced By Oxfam range. Hatale is a small organisation in Kathmandu, Nepal, made up of artisan women workers. It aims to develop the traditional Nepali craft industry, while improving the living standards of its producers, workers and their families through fair trade.

'Hatale' translates to 'made by hand', and each one of these decorations is uniquely handmade from sheep's wool that would otherwise have gone to waste.



Send ethical festive greetings

Send a message to loved ones, and fight poverty at the same time, with our unique range of greetings cards.

Fisher Studios

SHOP JOYFUL

Visit your local shop, or discover thousands of unique secondhand and new donated items from home by visiting oxfam.org.uk/voicesshop



Yeasmin (left) is learning to make dresses and hopes to continue her tailoring work from her home in the camp.
Fabeha Monir / Oxfam

“ I BELONG to this community.”



Having fled terrifying violence in Myanmar, almost one million Rohingya people are living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Living conditions are harsh, and they are particularly difficult for women shouldering family responsibilities.

At two Oxfam and partner-supported women's centres in Cox's Bazar, women such as Yeasmin (pictured) are learning to read, write and make items like clothing and fishing nets to sell. They're also taking part in trauma-recovery activities, forming friendships, and learning about their rights.



LET'S HEAR YOUR VOICE!

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)



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