

VOICES



**THANKS
TO YOU ...**

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OXFAM
Australia

Connections

with Lyn Morgain, Chief Executive

I hope you enjoyed some rest and reconnection with your loved ones over the holiday period, and your new year is off to a great start. After the stress and isolation that so many of us experienced last year, I'd like to usher in 2022 with more opportunities for genuine connection within this wonderful Oxfam community of ours. That's why I'm extending an invitation to you to send me your Letter to Lyn (see details below).

The stories in this edition of Voices give a window into just a few of the many lives that have been changed for the better, thanks to the kind support of people like you. I take great pleasure in sharing these heartwarming stories of change and impact — and I hope they help you feel connected to the vital work that you support.

I'd also love for you to share your thoughts, stories and reflections with us here at Oxfam. Whether it's feedback about one of these stories, a personal anecdote about why justice and equality matter to you, or a request to know more about a particular area of Oxfam's work — I'd love to hear from you. This year, we'll start publishing your Letters to Lyn in Voices, and inviting all members of the Oxfam community to join the conversation.

Send me your letter today. Use the enclosed form and Reply Paid envelope to share your story. You can also drop me a line at enquire@oxfam.org.au or simply scan this QR code to send in your Letter to Lyn.



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Our life-changing development programs and life-saving humanitarian efforts are made possible by the generous support of donors like you and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Oxfam Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the original custodians of the land, and respects the rights they hold as the Traditional Custodians. We also recognise the dispossession of the land and its ongoing effects on First Nations Peoples today.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

“This project really helped me; it is helping me, my kids are benefiting from it, and they feel better because they have three meals a day now.”

— Lucinda, Guatemala

Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam

Cover photo: Eastern Highlands, Papua New Guinea: Eriko is a survivor of gender-based violence. As Director of Oxfam partner Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association, she connects other survivors with support and justice. Photo: Patrick Moran/OxfamAUS.

A woman with grey hair, wearing a green dress with a white and yellow patterned collar, is shown in profile, holding a baby. The baby is wearing a red and white patterned top and blue polka-dot pants. They are standing in front of a textured, reddish-brown mud wall. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor or shaded outdoor setting.

Thanks to you ...

In the last year, we reached **25.7 million people** in **68 countries** with life-saving emergency aid and life-changing solutions to help tackle poverty — an epic achievement!

We swiftly mobilised to help communities across India survive the deadly Delta wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out more on page 6.

We're tackling child malnutrition in Guatemala by giving mums like Lucinda (pictured) the resources they need to feed their kids nutritious food.

YOU & OXFAM
TACKLING POVERTY TOGETHER

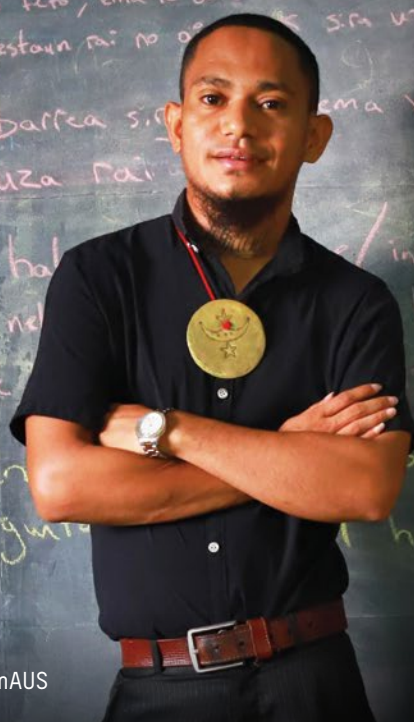


Photo: Reginald Ramos/OxfamAUS

A leading light

Cesario (pictured) contracted polio as a baby, leaving him with a disability that's only made him move faster in his work supporting his community and advocating for disability rights in Timor-Leste.

"At first I didn't feel any different to my other friends. But when I played football ... some people would come and laugh at me. From then, I began to realise I was a person with disability."

"The biggest challenge in my life is stigma... it is discrimination, which always happened from community... especially in school."

"[My mother] was very supportive and encouraged me to study because of my condition."

Cesario's passion for advocacy started at university. He found work with Oxfam partner Asosiasaun Defisiensiia Timor-Leste (ADTL), a leading disability

rights organisation where he held many roles before becoming Executive Director.

"The most important lessons for me is human rights ... In ADTL, when we go to the municipalities to see the conditions of vulnerable people and people with disabilities in the rural area... I think about what we can do for them ... or find a program that can link them to the right programs or institutions that work in the sector."

"My hopes and dreams for Timor-Leste is that the future of Timor-Leste is inclusive and accessible for all."

"I feel happy, because if you try to save money at home you will spend it. But when I save it in the group it is safe."

— Amelia, Timor-Leste

Photo: Kate Bensen/OxfamAUS

Saving for her dreams

Since joining an Oxfam-supported savings group in Timor-Leste, Amelia has learnt how to save and manage money, and can cope with unexpected emergencies.

"Before I was involved in the group, my life was difficult," she says. "You [try to] save money at home but ... you cannot keep proper control of it."

Every savings group comprises a treasurer, a safe-keeper and a person who guards the safe key. Amelia is the key-holder in her group.

She says, "When we need money, we don't have to go and borrow it from somebody else, we can just borrow it from our group."

By saving money every week, Amelia can access low-interest loans that she must repay within three months.

"Saving money has helped ... you can say, 'Oh, can I borrow some money from the group because I have no food'. After that, every week, you can repay the money," she explains.

Group members save for their "dreams" — be it farming equipment or a new roof.

Eventually, Amelia hopes to buy a tractor: "I am still saving and I am hopeful. I did manage to buy one cow and one big pig (pictured) ... I feel happy, because if you try to save money at home you will spend it. But when I save it in the group it is safe."

Stopping the spread

When the deadly second wave of COVID-19 tore through India, lion-hearted people like you stepped up to help. The funds raised by our amazing community of supporters were pooled with Oxfam affiliates around the world, to make sure our emergency response would have the deepest impact in India and beyond.



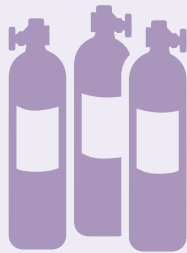
Earlier this year, news footage of the second wave of COVID-19 impacting India shocked us all. The country held more than 3 million active cases and infections were soaring.

Pankaj Anand, Humanitarian and Programmes Director at Oxfam India, said at the time: “I do not know of a single family that has not seen at least one of its members infected. We are seeing hundreds of thousands of new cases every day and many more deaths.”

But thanks to the generous support of people like you, we have been able to deliver urgent assistance to communities across India. From emergency food supplies to hygiene and medical equipment – including oxygen cylinders and nebulisers – Oxfam and partners have been working tirelessly to provide life-saving support to under-resourced hospitals and communities.

This response would not have been possible without our compassionate Oxfamily of supporters.

“I want to say to our supporters ... that you are such wonderful people. It is your support, your solidarity and you, standing with us together in this crisis, which is giving us a lot of hope,” says Pankaj.



21,882

vital medical supplies given to hospitals, including oxygen tanks, nebulisers, beds, swab and detection kits, and digital thermometers



432,250

people supported with food



75,351

people received safety equipment such as masks and goggles

Find out more about Oxfam's global Covid-19 response at oxfam.org.au/pandemic

What She Makes

Last year, despite months of lockdown, Oxfam's What She Makes (WSM) campaigners — alongside thousands of supporters like you — worked harder than ever to share the message of fair pay for the women who make our clothes.

Around 140,000 people have now joined the WSM campaign, calling on big fashion brands to pay a living wage to garment workers like Tania* (pictured below), who makes clothing in Bangladesh for Kmart and other international brands. An estimated 2.3 million shoppers saw WSM ads in shopping centres around the country following the launch of our report, Shopping for a Bargain. And the campaign was mentioned 221 times in the media, reaching more than 3 million people.

Now, thanks to the ever-increasing momentum of the campaign, five of Australia's largest fashion brands have committed to "ring-fencing" wages in their price negotiations with garment factories. This means the wages paid to garment workers are transparent and protected — one large step towards ensuring the women who make our clothes are paid a living wage.

Thanks to you, we're urging big brands to do the right thing by their workers. While none of the brands were so "nice" as to pay the women who make our clothes a living wage in 2021, some were nicer than others. Dangerfield, Gorman and H&M stepped up their act to be more transparent; make commitments towards paying fairer wages; and separate labour costs. Meanwhile, our 2021 Naughty or Nice List reveals the "naughtier" brands that made no progress towards fair pay for the workers in their supply chains: Myer, Just Jeans, Peter Alexander, Lorna Jane and Jay Jays.

* Name changed to protect identity.

See how the big fashion brands stacked up in our latest Naughty or Nice List at oxfam.org.au/naughtyor nice2021



Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam AUS



Photo: Collin Leafasia/Oxfam

Justice for the Pacific

The climate crisis affects all of us — but not equally. So we're amplifying the voices of those on the frontline of the crisis, calling for a safe and just future for all.

The great injustice of the climate crisis is that it hurts those who are least responsible for causing it, and who are least equipped to protect themselves from it. In short, people like Adriana in Solomon Islands (pictured above) are reeling to survive a nightmare they didn't create.

Adriana lives by the sea in Malaita province, where climate change is making it harder to grow food, "Now that the sea level has risen, it is spoiling our gardens and we have not eaten any potato from that garden." We want climate justice and we know you do too.

With support from Australian Aid and people like you, our Pacific Climate Change Collaboration Influencing and Learning (PACCCIL) project is raising up the voices of climate action networks across the Pacific to secure a safe, just and sustainable future for the region. Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) is one such network. Fijian activist Dylan Kava (pictured right) represented PICAN at COP26 in November 2021, where he said, "I am here to represent young Pacific voices, and to hold space for our people who are here in spirit."



Photos: Supplied by PICAN

During the climate change conference, Dylan joined delegates from across the world at the Global Climate March: "Together, we marched through the streets of Glasgow calling for climate justice."

Through PACCCIL, we're partnering with Pacific thought-leaders like Dylan to ensure that action on climate change in the region is more effective, inclusive and collaborative. Dylan adds, "Young people are capable of mobilising themselves, and it really is the optimism that drives this — optimism not as a privilege, but as a necessity for our survival! If leaders can't do it, young people will."

Justice starts with us. Visit oxfam.org.au/climatejustice to read our new climate finance report, and add your name to growing calls for the Government to fund solutions to the climate crisis.



CONTENT NOTICE

DISTRESSING CONTENT

Lives on the line

The scope of Oxfam's life-saving work is not limited to famines, floods and warzones. In the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG), we partner with Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association (KUSWA) to provide vital support, safety and healing for those accused of sorcery.

Home to 852 known languages, PNG is one of the world's most culturally diverse nations. It's also one of the most rural — only 18% of the population live in urban centres. Shielded by dense forests and mountains, PNG remains one of the world's least explored countries, culturally and geographically.

In PNG, ancient beliefs and traditions are still part of everyday life. "Sanguma" — a local word meaning sorcery or black magic — is one such tradition. Throughout the PNG highlands, belief in sorcery is widespread and people often attribute unexplained deaths, illnesses and mishaps to someone in the community practicing sanguma. And tragically, accusations of sorcery often give rise to devastating mob violence, torture and life-long ostracism.

But with your help, we're working with partners in PNG to connect survivors with the support and safety they need to rebuild their lives.

For confidential, 24-hour support or advice, please call Lifeline Australia (crisis and suicide prevention) on 13 11 14 or 1800RESPECT (family violence and sexual assault counselling) on 1800 737 732.





Eastern Highlands, Papua New Guinea: Pictured here with their families, Dirua* (second from left) and his brother Suri* (second from right) are survivors. They were accused of sanguma and violently attacked and tortured.

* Names changed to protect identities

Photos: Patrick Moran/OxfamAUS



“My 12-year-old daughter came running to the house and told me that the people had accused me of practicing sorcery...”

— Mendiwan, PNG

The accused

In 2016, Mendiwan* (pictured) was attacked outside her home by a mob of men who accused her of practicing sanguma.

“It was on a Sunday,” she recalls. “Two men had died [in the community]. I had gone to their house of mourning, came back to [my] house and ... a boy had fainted at the house of mourning. I didn’t know what was happening there. But my 12-year-old daughter came running to the house and told me that the people had accused me of practicing sorcery, resulting in his fainting.”

The mob took Mendiwan from her home, bound her hands and feet, and tortured her for five hours, until the news arrived that the boy who had fainted was fine.


“I was taken to the hospital ... I was there for one month.”

After the attack, Mendiwan was shunned by her community. Her husband left her, taking their youngest son with him. When he beat the son for trying to see Mendiwan, she went to the police.

“There was a woman from Tribal Foundation there. She arranged [to connect me] with Oxfam because I said I had nowhere to go ... So [Oxfam] came and left me at the safe house.”

At the KUSWA safe house, Mendiwan has received food and ongoing support. She says, “I think I would have died a long time ago if KUSWA was not around.”

* Names changed to protect identity.



"They came in a big group and surrounded the house ..."

— Dirua, PNG

Driven out of town

After a member of his extended family died, Dirua* (pictured) and his brother Suri* were accused of killing the relative using sorcery.

"When that man died, we the family contributed money and we assisted them during the mourning period," Dirua recalls. "Then after that, the accusations came."

"They came in a big group and surrounded the house and said my eldest brother and I had killed the man. We stayed in the house until dark.

"I knew that they were going to kill us. It wasn't a small group that came to the house. It was the whole village ... I can only estimate the number to be around 100."

The brothers fled to a nearby town, where Dirua contacted KUSWA who notified the police. By the time

the police arrived in the village, the mob had burnt down the brothers' homes.

"KUSWA sent police to the village and gathered all the women and children and brought them to [town]. Then KUSWA made our canvas house, gave us food and bales of clothing, and beddings."

"[Later], KUSWA bought a piece of land for us and gave us some money. They bought some roofing iron and we built our houses. All the women and children, we're living together. Some of the children are in school. We've been here for five years."

Champions of change

Many don't survive the violence that stems from accusations of sorcery in PNG. And those who do carry the physical, emotional and social scars with them for a lifetime. But thanks to our partner Kafe Urban Settlers Women's Association (KUSWA), more and more survivors are getting justice and a chance to heal.

KUSWA founder Eriko (pictured right and on cover in green dress) is no stranger to the impacts of violence; she survived many years of unrelenting intimate-partner violence.

"It was a nightmare," she says. "I couldn't sleep at night. I went to sleep but my eyes are still open thinking about what I can do for my children. I've gone through so much violence and my husband nearly killed me too."

After years of abuse, Eriko felt compelled to take a stand. Together with seven other survivors, she formed KUSWA in 2003. The organisation provides crisis support, legal referrals and repatriation services for survivors of gender-based violence and sorcery accusation attacks.

While men are sometimes accused of practicing sanguma, Eriko says it's mostly women who face such accusations — and many don't live to tell the story.

"When a community accuse a woman, when it's in a community, they don't report," she says. "They kill some women and they throw them in the big river."

"Before we [got this] funding from Oxfam, it was a bushfire — so many women were killed. Nobody knows how many women are drowned in the water."

Now, thanks to the generosity and compassion of supporters like you, our partner KUSWA is working closely with police, government, community leaders and non-government organisations to prevent or intercept attacks, and provide safety and justice for survivors.

"We are all connected," Eriko says. "We are working together."

"My whole idea is to protect life," she adds. "I don't want women to be killed. I want everyone to be safe."



“We are all connected, we are working together.”

— Eriko, PNG

This vital work is saving lives in PNG. And we're thrilled to keep the partnership going after the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) awarded this program funding for a further 2.5 years in 2021. EIDHR supports the promotion of democracy and human rights in countries beyond the European Union. The EIDHR funding is a very competitive global funding call that no Oxfam affiliate, worldwide, has ever won before. If ever there was a worthy program, this is surely it.





"In the Highlands, most of them believe, they believe in sorcery."

— Marie, PNG

Women in blue

Delivering justice and saving lives is all in a day's work for Marie (pictured), a police officer who has worked with KUSWA since 2013.

"I've been in the police force for almost 32 years ... I deal mostly with family and sexual violence cases, sexual abuse, on gender-based violence and sorcery-related killings."

"Sometimes in the Highlands, people get aggressive. So for a female police officer to go out to the village to talk and get those perpetrators to court, we face challenges."

"In the Highlands, most of them believe, they believe in sorcery."

"It's very hard ... for us to convince them that it [is] not true because ... that's their belief."

Marie's department often lacks basic resources, like fuel and paper. So KUSWA help however they

can to mobilise the police when a sorcery-related attack takes place.

Marie explains, "If there's a report of sorcery, we work in partnership — so I contact Eriko and she comes in. She puts some money for the fuel ... and then we go quickly to the scene. So that's how we work, and it's really effective."

In Marie's experience, education deters violence: "We tell people that if you kill somebody about sorcery matters, you will be arrested and charged, you'll go to court, and you'll face the full law. So we educate them — we do awareness out there."



A new leaf

KUSWA's outreach programs inspire boys and men – like Umba (pictured) – to champion positive change in their communities.

“When I was [a] teenager, I was one of the person that never respected anybody, and I was a perpetrator,” Umba says. He admits that, as a young man, he instigated acts of mob violence, especially against women. But when his aunt was targeted in a violent attack, Umba saw the error of his ways.

He recalls, “She saw me and called my name, ‘Umba’ and we looked into each other’s eyes ... I saw her – what they did [to her] – it’s like they are doing it to my mother. So, this is the turning point.”

“From that moment, I changed [and got] involved with KUSWA.”

Umba now leads community conversations about human rights and the detrimental impacts of violence.

“Because of patrilineal society here, men are the head of the family, men make decisions and do what they want. And ... because of the masculinity that men have, they use [their power] to accuse people, instead of using for good purposes.”

But Umba says accusations have been declining since he started working with KUSWA in 2010: “I think I’ve changed a lot of youth mindset about violence – aggravated violence, like sorcery-related violence and also gender violence. People are changed.”

Together, we’re championing positive change in PNG. Learn more about the progress your support makes possible at oxfam.org.au/towardsgenderjustice

Seeking asylum, making art

Nothing expresses the pain, struggles, resilience and joy of the human spirit quite like art and poetry. And so, we invited Rohingya artists and writers to share their stories and reflections with the world.

Last August marked four years since a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar resulted in more than 700,000 Rohingya people fleeing to Bangladesh, in search of safety. Rohingya communities in both Myanmar and Bangladesh continue to face enormous challenges, including violence and displacement.

To recognise this milestone, we asked Rohingya artists to share their creative perspectives, reflecting on the ongoing crisis in both Bangladesh and Myanmar, as well as their hopes for the future. Following an open call for artist submissions, we received a wide range of visual art, photography, writing and poetry from Rohingya artists — these are just a few. The artwork speaks to the incredible resilience of the Rohingya community, as artists reflect upon past hardships and trauma, daily joys, and their hopes for the future.

Visit oxfam.org/en/rohingyaart to see more photo, video, art and poetry submissions from Rohingya artists.

1. Zia Hero Naing — “The Fire”
2. Abdullah @ Khin Maung Thein — “Tradition”
3. Ishrat Bibi — “Rohingya Hope”







3. Mayyu Khan — “Mother and Child on the Bank of the Naf River”

4. Azimul Hasson — “Rooftops”

5. Azimul Hasson — “Aftermath of the Fire”

My Refugee Life

Ro Anamul Hasan

Under this tarpaulin shelter,
I dwell like ants in hole
Spending my mundane life
By hankering for home and homeland
My dark night never turns into daylight.

In daytime, I stand at the queue
By holding ration-card for foods
Sometimes, I'm whipped with sticks
Sometimes, I'm fallen and crashed
For these, I forget the day I smiled

Having always the same tasteless foods
I lose my appetite bit by bit
Children murmur with mother
I hardly swallow just to survive
For these, I forget the day I laughed

Men are lined up to refill stove-gas
Women, for soaps and sanitation

Children, to pour water into vessels
The queue is as long as my eyes can see
Vessels are much as my mind can count
For these, I forget the day I exulted.

The night under this shelter lengthens
My head on pillow with open eyes
The memories in mind are recalled
Soon my cheeks get wet with tears
Indeed, I forget the nights I slept in peace

Where I was and now where I am surviving
What I did and now what I'm doing
Who I was and now who I am
Today, I've to look for charity like a beggar
Indeed, I forget the dignity I belonged.

The actual meaning of refugee life is
Yearning for homeland every moment
Battle of homesickness,
Battle of sleeplessness,
Battle of nostalgia,
Downhearted mood darkens deeper
The whole world gets darker and darker
Indeed, I forget the face I had in my own land

Envirobot to the rescue

The pandemic has caused untold grief for countless communities around the globe. But in Zimbabwe, it has also inspired one especially innovative solution. Meet Envirobot — the artificial intelligence (AI) platform that's helping people solve some very real problems.

When big mining companies come to town, local communities don't always get a fair share of the wealth and prosperity that's extracted from their lands. In many cases, the unchecked exploitation of land and resources does more harm than good.

In Zambia, Telisa (pictured inset) and Georgina (pictured on back cover) used to earn a decent living from surface mining. But since Chinese-owned Collum Coal Mine started exploiting their lands, their livelihoods have been upturned and their community is grappling with environmental damage.

Telisa says, "The water is bad now. The road used to be tarred but there is no more tar on the road."

"We thought that when we were selling land to them that our lives were going to improve because they were going to employ our young people. But it is not working out this way."

That's why, with funding support from Australian Aid and big-hearted people like you, we're helping communities right across Southern Africa cope with the impacts of mining. Our Extractives program equips people like Telisa with the tools and know-how they need to challenge unfair mining practices and protect their lands and livelihoods.



"We thought that when we were selling land to them that our lives were going to improve ... But it is not working out this way."

— Telisa, Zambia





Photos: Keith Parsons/OxfamAUS



Hi-tech justice

In Zimbabwe, our program partner Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) is using AI to empower people to uphold their rights. ZELA has created a WhatsApp-based platform called Envirobot, where users can report environmental problems, such as air or water pollution, or land degradation; speak to lawyers; find helpful news and information; and learn how to address environmental and human rights abuses — all in a Covid-safe way.

Sikholiwe (pictured left) lives in Gwanda, a gold mining town with high levels of unemployment. He learnt about his rights and how to exercise them in a community workshop delivered by ZELA.

“We didn’t know that we have the right to protect the environment. We knew mines were there and we let them work, but we didn’t know at the same time they were harming our environment ... We got to know all of this through ZELA.”

He adds, “We have the right to know about things that affect our community.”

Sikholiwe and his community have already used the Envirobot to report problems: “Namely, mines that were discharging dynamite and damaging the asbestos roofing of nearby houses. We wanted those mines either closed, or they move to other areas away from town.

"I used the Envirobot to report these cases on behalf of the community."

Susan (pictured right) works with communities affected by mining in Zimbabwe's Manicaland province, an area rich in diamonds.

"Our lives before diamonds were just normal," she recalls, "... our main activities [are] rearing cattle [and] looking for wild fruits — especially our popular fruit which comes from the Baobab tree.

"When illegal mining activities began here in Chiadzwa, most of the families lost their land from the mining companies. We are now struggling to survive as there isn't enough money to feed our families."

"Our cows started dying because there isn't enough grazing land. There were restrictions in most of the areas and we were no longer allowed to go around picking wild fruits — our livelihood was greatly disturbed."

"We thought that the big mining companies coming here would improve our lives, and our lives would be changed for the better."

"But since the companies came here, [our families are] no longer allowed to mine diamonds and there were increased cases of human rights abuse. Some people

"We thought that the big mining companies coming here would improve our lives, and our lives would be changed for the better."

— Susan, Zimbabwe

were bitten by dogs while others were beaten and left for the dead by police officers guarding our diamond fields."

Susan helps local communities uphold their rights by engaging with governments and mining companies. But the pandemic has made in-person negotiations impossible — until Envirobot arrived on the scene.

Susan discovered the bot in a workshop in 2020: "During that training, we realised that since we're in lockdown we can't meet different stakeholders that are involved in the mining."

Envirobot overcomes that hurdle, connecting people with the information and resources they need to make formal complaints and kick off important conversations. Using Envirobot, Susan has successfully reported people who were illegally cutting down trees.

She adds, "I've managed again during the lockdown to help a girl child under the age of 18 who was being forcefully married off in the Buhera area.

"I used the Envirobot — I type 'hi, I want to talk about children's rights' and then that's when I got an option to contact a lawyer on that issue. Within a few seconds, I was able to speak to Josephine, a legal officer, and explained the issue... She helped us to speak to JCT (Justice for Children's Trust) and we were able to work with the police as well to help that child. She was able to go back home."

It's only early days, but this game-changing innovation is already having a huge impact. Give yourself a pat on the back — together, we're building a fairer future without poverty, where people and planet go before profits.

Write a Will today to leave a fairer world

Leave a legacy that is compassionate, meaningful and will transform lives for years to come.

Oxfam has partnered with Australia's leading Will-writing platform Safewill, making it easy, safe and affordable for all Australians to write a bespoke Will. You can start, complete and update your Will — anytime, anywhere — in less than 20 minutes. And all Wills are reviewed by an Australian Solicitor.



A gift in your Will is a powerful way to leave the world a fairer place. Scan this QR code to find out more.



Photo: Georgina Goodwin/Oxfam AUS



THE GREATEST ADVENTURE YOU'LL EVER SHARE

Oxfam Trailwalker is an unforgettable adventure through some of Australia's most beautiful and challenging trails. Tackle 100km in 48 hours or 50km in 24 hours in teams of four. You'll achieve the extraordinary and change the lives of people living in poverty around the world.

- 📍 Melbourne
Endeavour Hills to Heidelberg
25–27 March 2022
- 📍 Brisbane
Mount Glorious to Mount Coot-tha
17–19 June 2022
- 📍 Sydney
Hawkesbury to the Harbour
26–28 August 2022



Photo: Sam Biddle/OxfamAUS

Register today at trailwalker.oxfam.org.au





Photo: Supplied by Eaglehawk FNC

Trail-walking Hawks

The pandemic may have thwarted their team training regimen throughout 2021, but Bendigo footballers Mali, Matthew, Rhys and Henry (pictured left to right) found another way to stay fit in the off-season: Oxfam Trailwalker.

The four members of Eaglehawk Football Netball Club signed up to walk last year's Melbourne Trailwalker in October but the event was postponed until March 2022, due to further outbreaks of COVID-19. That didn't stop them from training or fundraising for the 100km adventure. In fact, they undertook their own practice walk in October along the Goldfields Track that runs from Ballarat to Bendigo.

Captain of the Hawks' reserves team, Henry says the walk was very tough, sidelining two team members with blisters and fatigue, "We probably underestimated what we were trying to do and the terrain we would encounter. But by doing this first walk, it has really shown us what is required to try and complete it in under 24 hours."

Now that they've recovered from their effort on the Goldfields Track, the Eaglehawk FNC team are ready

to take on Trailwalker in March. Henry says, "Once we had healed up and got our heads straight again, the fire began to burn pretty quick again. The guys who didn't quite make it are very keen to make amends."

The Hawks have already raised more than \$9,000 to help Oxfam tackle poverty, doubling their original goal of \$4,500 thanks to some nice sponsorships and generous individual donations. Henry says the practice walk gave their fundraising a real boost: "We managed to raise about \$1,500 on that day alone."

Now, the team are building up for another great challenge at Melbourne Trailwalker in March. Henry says, "We all play footy together so we should be in pretty good shape seeing as the walk is at the end of preseason training."

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Voices is printed with vegetable inks on an unbleached, uncoated paper that is made from 100% recycled post-consumer waste and is carbon neutral.



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