

Seeking a Learning Partner for our Power of Voices Programs

Learning about equal partnership and how it can support impact of our project goals

Power of Voices Programming & Partnership

Oxfam Novib currently is part of two Power of Voices programs funded for 5 years by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In each program Oxfam Novib fulfils a different role in the partnership.

The Power of Voices project “FAIR FOR ALL: Improving Value Chains at Scale” is led by Oxfam Novib, and co-implemented together with Huairou Commission, Third World Network Africa, and SOMO, in 14 countries, two regions, and globally in partnership with over 70 partners.

The Power of Voices project, “African Activists for Climate Justice” is led by PACJA, and co-implemented by Oxfam Novib, FEMNET, Natural Justice, African Youth Commission in eight African countries.

Originally, both programs were co-created with partners and further developed into proposals. Two years into the programs we see that each program has its own dynamic and challenges in terms of partnership and/or striving to working as equal partners and what role we play in this as Oxfam Novib.

Fair for All undertook already a first learning trajectory together with VU/Athena Institute on what Equal or Authentic Partnership would mean. A blog was published [here](#) and report [here](#). This has led to the formulation of a number of questions which we would now like to further explore with the help of a learning partner.

- What factors and partnership arrangements create balance or imbalances between the different actors/ project partners in the Global North and South, what is the current power dynamics?
- What is needed to realize a shift in the power dynamics to achieve more symbiotic and equitable partnerships, creating flexibility in project strategies based on partners' experience? and
- How can all the partners be best equipped and supported to explore different ways of working and what changes in strategy are needed for the project to become more impactful?

In short, how can we come to better a program impact through learning about more equal and symbiotic, mutually supportive and accountable partnership practices. We would like to be led through this process by a potentially Southern learning partner with a strong feminist lens.

OBJECTIVE OF THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

To mutually identify and create a project duration long (2022-2024) partnership between Oxfam Novib and an external learning partner. Together we will undertake periodic critical reflections with project partners and stakeholders to help:

- a. facilitate collective, collaborative learning with our project implementation partners on country and global level on our partnership practices, through collective reflections and analysis
- b. inform our project strategies based on each partners' experience and analysis - what is working, what needs adjusting, what are the gaps in the strategies, and how the partnership agreements/ relationship accommodates the changes through collaborative partnership practices
- c. apply learning emerging from collective reflections to inform decision making, shifts in strategies and tactics, partnership arrangements by the Oxfam Novib leadership teams.
- d. share these learnings with other Consortium Members, and create the possibility for other consortium members to participate in the process based on their interest and time availability
- e. implement with us a process to share our learnings with external parties

Focus countries

We have chosen three focus countries to implement the learning journey. They are all based in Africa as we want to have an overlap between both programs to make comparison of experiences in each program possible. The countries are Ghana, Mozambique and South Africa.

WHO IS OUR LEARNING PARTNER?

We are looking for an organization who would like to be our learning partner: To design and facilitate conversations and reflections on our equal partnership practice with the aim to improve programmatic strategies and impacts. Research with and for us on how we can shift our ways of working together with our partners, creating collaborative, collective functioning impacts. Ideally the organization/learning partner recognizes itself in the following profile:

- Has lived/been part of the experience of implementing large complex multi-year development sector projects, with partnerships between organizations of the North and South
- Interested in helping find ways to shift and share power and build new narratives and practices on how to do this from a feminist perspective
- A background in decolonizing knowledge & research and, creating new forms of knowledge gathering, narratives etc.
- Can bridge Northern & Southern realities on decolonization and how to create meaningful dialogue on this
- Passionate about advancing equal and equitable partnerships and want to influence INGOs in their ways of working

- Rooted in the South and part of an organization who is interested in a learning partnership with Oxfam to learn and explore together
- Is interested and willing to be our ultimate radical and critical friend
- Help create a safe learning space for all stakeholders involved
- Has a willingness to uphold [Oxfam's values](#) and [feminist principles](#), and apply these values and feminist principles to the research

WHAT WE OFFER

- A space to research change processes to build equal partnerships
- Budget: 30.000 euros divided over minimum of 2 years and including research in two of our program countries

TO RESPOND TO THIS CALL

- Organizational resume specifically focused on the experience as learning facilitator and partner
- Short plan with a timeline, offering initial ideas as to key steps and/or or elements required to tackle the questions (a-c) mentioned above.

MORE INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION

Please submit by Tuesday 10th January 2023. This can be sent to Marije Nederveen, marije.nederveen@oxfamnovib.nl. For more information and questions, please reach out immediately.

We will hold selection interviews on 16th and 17th of January 2023.