

be friendly

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When Going Home Is No Longer a Risk

The Story of a Transgender Man



Organization

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ANTRA
ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL
PARA PROMOÇÃO DOS DIREITOS
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A 20-year-old transgender man, studying his second year of nursing, has lived for 13 years in a suburb of the city of Beira, in an informal settlement frequently affected by floods. The house where he lives was built by his late mother, after many years during which the family lived in rented homes.



Every year, between October and June, water would pool around the house, making it difficult and dangerous to enter or leave. To reach the main road, he had to roll up his pants and wade through flooded areas before he could get properly dressed at a neighbor's house.



The situation had a profound impact on his health, dignity, and social life. Unable to afford boots, he was frequently exposed to contaminated water, which led to recurring episodes of filariasis and other infections.

He currently lives alone at home. His grandmother visited him regularly, but she too was forced to wade through the water to get inside.

In May 2026, through the BeFriendly project: Climate Recovery and Economic Resilience for LGBTQIA+ Communities in Maputo and Beira, implemented by INCLUSÃO – Associação para Promoção da Inclusão Social da Juventude e Diversidade em Moçambique, with support from Outright International, young people from the community came together to provide support.





The initiative involved purchasing two truckloads of sand and 40 bags. The community effort included filling the bags with sand and building a safe path between the house and the main road, allowing him to enter and leave his home without having to wade through the water.



On the very day the trail was completed, he welcomed friends into his home for the first time, something that had never happened before. The improved access eliminated one of the main physical and social barriers that had isolated him from spending time with other people.

In addition to the improved access, he also received food, hygiene, and education kits, consisting of: 9 kg of rice; 4 kg of sugar; 5 liters of oil; 1 kg of OMO detergent; 1 tube of toothpaste; 1 toothbrush; 2 bars of soap; 1 box of mosquito coils; 6 cans of sardines; 1 backpack; 5 A4-size notebooks.



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I had never had visitors at home before. Usually, my friends would wait on the street and I'd walk home alone. That day, Anésio said he wanted to come with me. I replied, 'No, I'll show you the way on my own.' But he insisted on coming inside with me. When we arrived, I thought they were going to stay outside. Then they said, 'Let's go in.' I asked, 'Are you really going to come in here?' We went in. Then they said they wanted to come inside the house. That was very strange for me. I wasn't prepared for that. They asked me questions, we talked, they were very friendly, and I felt very at ease. Before, I used to leave the house in shorts and only put on pants at a neighbor's house or on the way, because I had to cross through water. Now I can leave the house dressed normally and get to the road without having to wade through water.

— Transgender man receiving benefits

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This story demonstrates how small community interventions can bring about profound changes in the dignity, social inclusion, health, and quality of life of LGBTQIA+ youth facing climate and economic vulnerability. However, this situation is not unique. There are many other young people facing similar conditions, marked by social exclusion, poverty, housing insecurity, and impacts exacerbated by climate change. While emergency support has been essential in addressing immediate needs, the need for more sustainable and targeted investments to restore and strengthen these young people's living conditions remains evident.

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