



EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS

- Support for Angolan Women Farmers -



EMPOWERING WOMEN FARMERS: AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, PRODUCTION, AND SALES

In rural Angola, women are at the forefront of transforming agriculture, thanks to the Support for Women Farmers project, which, among other things, provides essential training in sustainable farming techniques. Through its partnership with USAID, ADPP is empowering women farmers with the knowledge and skills to increase crop production, improve food security, and boost their incomes.

In the municipality of Catabola, Victoria Tchova, a 62-year-old farmer, has seen her farming practices evolve since joining the project. Initially, she grew only corn in her small plot, but after receiving training in conservation agriculture, she now knows that she can also grow crops like tomatoes, onions and garlic. *"I never imagined I could grow so many different things," Victoria shared. "The techniques we've learned are helping us keep the soil healthy and increase our yield."*

Similarly, in the village of Kididi, in the municipality of Belas, Inês Fernando, a 63-year-old farmer, learned sustainable farming techniques through the project, which helped her increase her agricultural production. She now grows a variety of crops, including vegetables, and practices soil conservation methods. She explains, *"Before,*

our production was limited and the agricultural techniques we knew barely met the needs of our families. But, with the methods and techniques we learned, our agriculture began to develop. We learned to grow different crops, to take care of the soil, and to make better use of the available resources."

These techniques have not only enabled her to feed her family but have also led to surplus crops, creating new opportunities for income through sales. *"The improvement in our productivity is remarkable. Today, we not only produce for our own consumption, but we are also able to sell in large quantities"* Inês shared.

The impact of this agricultural training goes beyond just food production. By learning new methods, women farmers are also improving their prospects at markets, where they can sell their crops and earn a steady income. The project's focus on training in both agriculture and business skills is helping them expand their farming enterprises and achieve financial independence. Through the project, rural women are not only feeding their families but also becoming active players in their local economies.



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY: EMPOWERING WOMEN IN RURAL ANGOLA

In rural Angola, literacy is not just about reading and writing; it's about empowerment, independence, and opening doors to new opportunities. Through the Support for Angola Women Farmers project, in partnership with USAID, ADPP is helping women overcome the barriers that have long limited their potential by providing adult literacy classes in communities across the country.

For many women in rural Angola, education has not always been a priority. Women like Rosalina Mbwela, a 62-year-old mother of seven, never had the chance to attend school beyond childhood. *"My father didn't see the value in educating girls,"* Rosalina recalled. *"I only started studying when I was 12, but I soon had to drop out of school due to the armed conflict"* But thanks to the literacy programs brought by the project, Rosalina, along with other women in her community, is now gaining the skills that were once out of reach.

"Now, with the literacy classes, I have learned to write and read and I am able to sign my own documents," she said. *"This has given me autonomy and dignity. No longer having to rely on other people to sign my documents has given me confidence and made me realize that education is essential for anyone, regardless of age"*

This newfound literacy is not only giving her autonomy but also enabling her to help her children with their schoolwork, something she had never been able to do before.

The impact of literacy reaches beyond individual achievement. In the village of Ondoquela, Júlia Wime, 52, is learning to read and write for the first time. *"I thought I was too old to learn,"* Júlia admitted, *"but I can read and write my name and the names of other family members."*

The project's literacy classes are helping women break free from the limitations imposed by illiteracy. By teaching women to read, write, and understand basic calculations, the project is giving them the skills needed to participate fully in their communities and economies. As these women gain confidence in their abilities, they are also becoming advocates for education, encouraging others in their communities to take part.

Through literacy, these women are not only transforming their own lives but also contributing to the growth and development of their families and communities. It is a reminder that it's never too late to learn, and with education, anything is possible.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH CITIZENSHIP: A PATH TO RECOGNITION AND OPPORTUNITY

In rural Angola, access to personal identification and legal documents has long been a challenge, especially for women. However, thanks to the Support for Women Farmers project, women are now gaining the tools they need to access essential services, claim their rights, and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Before the project arrived in communities like Casseque and Cachimbo, many women were unable to register their children's births or obtain ID cards. Without these essential documents, they faced barriers to healthcare, education, and employment, and were often excluded from many aspects of civic life. The project, supported by USAID and ADPP, has helped women in rural areas navigate the often complex process of obtaining official documents, ensuring they are recognized as full citizens.

For many women, the process of obtaining an ID card or birth certificate is more than just paperwork; it is a powerful symbol of their rights and recognition in society. Madalena Dominga

Cassova, a women from the municipality of Cubal, shared her own story: *"with this women's support campaign I was able to register my two grandchildren. I was very grateful that the project team came to help resolve our problems, and for teaching us about the importance of documents."*

By providing assistance with documentation, the project is not only helping women secure their rights but also laying the foundation for their economic empowerment. With the ability to access financial services, women can start businesses, manage their money, and contribute more effectively to their communities.

As these women gain legal recognition, they are no longer limited by the lack of identification and the opportunities that come with it. The project has opened new doors, allowing women to take control of their lives, create financial stability, and become active, empowered citizens in Angola's growth and development.



STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS: EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES

In rural Angola, land is not just a source of livelihood; it is central to a family's identity, security, and future. Yet, for many women, the right to own and inherit land has been a longstanding challenge, often dictated by tradition rather than law. Through the Support for Women Farmers project, however, women are beginning to reclaim their rights to land, ensuring their access to resources and the opportunity to thrive.

In communities across ten provinces, the project, supported by USAID, has been educating women and communities on land rights and the legal processes that protect them. These efforts are helping to shift long-held beliefs, creating a more inclusive environment where women are recognized as rightful landowners and decision-makers.

The project has been providing training on the importance of legalizing land and the rights of women to own and inherit property. Through these workshops, women are not only learning about their legal rights, but also how to go through the legal process to secure their land rights, giving them the tools they need to safeguard their property and make decisions that will improve their families' livelihoods.

For women like Domingas Ernesto Ngola from the municipality of Quibala, the knowledge gained from the project has been lifechanging. She explains, *"with the land rights component, the dissemination of information on land rights, and*

the process of delimiting community lands, I now have a lot of knowledge about this subject, which has given us great advantages because we women know that women within the community have the right to land".

She adds, *"This brings us great satisfaction, as in the past, women had no right to own any piece of land; only men could hold property."*

By empowering women like Domingas with knowledge about their land rights, the project is not only helping to secure livelihoods but also promoting gender equality and social justice. These women are no longer passive participants in their communities' development; they are active, informed leaders, making decisions that will ensure their families' future success.

"We depended on men for everything," Domingas says. "But now we also have power because we finally have the knowledge that women have their rights to land. I have taken this message to all the women and men in my religious class, because this is something we are acquiring, so that tomorrow our children and grandchildren will not face the same struggles."

With newfound confidence and knowledge, these women are building a legacy of empowerment and resilience. Their journey is not only transforming their lives today but also shaping a more secure, equitable future for generations to come.

CHAMPIONING GENDER EQUALITY: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

Across rural Angola, women have long faced social, economic, and cultural barriers that limit their potential. However, through the Support for Women Farmers project, supported by USAID and ADPP, these women are now leading a movement towards gender equality, challenging outdated norms, and securing a future where both men and women have equal rights and opportunities.



The project's focus on women's empowerment has transformed the lives of many participants, particularly through the Women's Advocates Network. These advocates are trained to address critical issues such as gender equality, women's rights, and the importance of personal documentation. By equipping women with knowledge and confidence, the project is helping to create a more inclusive society where gender-based discrimination is being actively challenged.

One inspiring example is Isaac Tchitango, a member of the Women's Advocates Network in the Cachimbo community in Cuando Cubango. *"This makes me feel empowered. I now know how we should treat our women. In the lesson on gender equality, I learned a lot that will be of great use to me."* he said. *"I feel empowered to teach others in my community."*

In communities where the Women's Advocates Network operates, discussions about women's rights are becoming more common, and women are standing up for themselves in ways they never have before. This shift is not just about personal empowerment; it is also about challenging entrenched social norms that have historically sidelined women.

The project has also worked to ensure that women are not only advocates for themselves but also for their families. In places like Cubal, in the province of Benguela, Rosalina Mbwela is an example of how literacy and advocacy go hand in hand. *"My plan is to continue encouraging other women to participate in literacy classes. I want them to see, through my story, that it is never too late to learn and that education can open doors, even for older women,"* Rosalina said.

Through advocacy training, women have gained a deeper understanding of their legal rights and the importance of standing up for themselves in the face of discrimination. This newfound confidence is enabling them to be not only leaders in their families but also change-makers in their communities.

The Women's Advocates Network has created a ripple effect in many rural areas of Angola, promoting gender equality and ensuring that women are no longer invisible or silenced. Thanks to the project, these women are becoming the driving force for a more equitable and just society, where gender equality is not just an ideal, but a reality.

As more women join the movement, the project's impact continues to grow, helping rural communities break down the barriers that have traditionally hindered women's progress and creating a future where everyone - regardless of gender - has the opportunity to thrive.

