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Angola Africa

## **The food crisis in Angola Africa**

Imagine your stomach rumbling but no food in sight to fix that. Everyone else around you is crying because of how hungry they are. This is what kids and adults may feel in Angola, Africa, a country where about six million people go hungry per year (blog latest news). Food shortage is a reality for so many people, especially people in Angola Africa where food is scarce, and so many kids go without meals; this can be from various problems, such as climate change, infrastructure flaws, minimal technology, and lack of support from the Angolan government.

To begin with, Angola Africa is located in the Southern region of Africa. This county has a population of about 32.7 million people where about 33.17% live in rural areas or areas that are not connected to others (trading economics). These people who live in the rural areas normally have a small portion of land next to their hut on which they farm; however, this farmland does not always produce enough food for these families. This means that if the food can't even feed the families, then no surplus food can be sold for profit. The land grows food, such as cassava, bananas, potatoes, citrus, and pineapple (internal trade administration). A lot of these foods can't even make a whole meal if put together for the families.

These foods grow on the farmer's land upon terraces and hills. Terrace farming is a method of farming where the Angolan people grow their crops on the side of mountains (Jaymi Heimbuch). This can cause problems since it is much harder to get tractors, or different machines up to the crops, as well as irrigation systems can be more challenging to put into place. The families that live in these huts are normal families of about 4.8 people (Guy Oliver). These people eat foods, such as beans and rice, pork and chicken, various sausages, tomatoes and onions, garlic, and fungi. Most of this food can attempt to be grown on the terrace farm beside the family's hut. These people have also attempted to raise cattle on the land, but land diversification is starting to cause these cattle to be more of a burden than a viable food product. The weather in this area has rainy and dry seasons. So many of these foods only grow in certain seasons. Though here in the last couple of years, Angola has seen less than ideal precipitation, even during the rainy season. Global warming is making the land experience droughts. These droughts are causing the land to be less fruitful, so there is no grass growing to feed cattle (reliefweb). With continued droughts, the crops that grow better in rainy seasons are no longer growing; this causes an even greater shortage in crop production.

The first main problem in this country is their ability to grow sustainable food because of the effect of climate change and their limited knowledge of growing crops. Before the civil war, this country was exporting many different types of food and products, such as coffee, sisal, and bananas, but after the civil war, they had to import the majority of their foods (International Trade Administration). This shows that

this country was able to rely on itself and make money, but is now struggling as many of its people were displaced during the war. Moreover, climate change is playing a major impact on Angola, especially right now with this country going through the worst drought they have seen in 38 years (world vision). This is affecting these people in many negative ways. Their crops will not grow as well as it's too hot and they don't have water to waste on the crops, as they don't have enough water for themselves. This drought is also killing off their livestock, predominately their cattle, which is the main source of meat for these people. So this drought is causing malnutrition for many of the children and adults in Angola, Africa. These people also do not know the best way to produce crops. Right now, these people are using terrace farming, so their small farms are on the side of hills. This can be very difficult. It is harder to get farming machinery such as tractors up to these small farms. These terrace farms also make it difficult to get water to them, as these people would have to carry the water to the crops. It is also very easy for these farms to be washed away by landslides. Due to global warming, Angola will have times when all it does is rain, so this rain will completely wash away their farms. These people are faced with the major problem of sustainable food production and global warming.

Now how can Angola fix these problems? The *IFAD* or the International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nation is donating money to 218,000 families to help with the effects of climate change (*IFDA* investing in rural people). This will have a major impact on the people of Angola as they will have help with producing more food. This donation will help these people add in ways to get water to where they need it, or properly store their water to use during droughts, as well as using the money to do further research on climate change in the area. If they can figure out what effects climate change the most in Angola, then they can minimize the environmental impact. The research would also give scientists a chance to look at what works best in the overgrowing changing environment in Angola. This donation can also benefit these people and give them the opportunity to advance their agriculture techniques. If they can put into place more sustainable agriculture techniques, the Angolan people can produce more food— meaning they can sell food and help the country prosper again. So the *IFDA*'s donation to Angola Africa will have a major impact on placing more sustainable agriculture practices.

The country of Angola, Africa is lacking basic infrastructure. The war caused a lot of damage to the already scarce roads that are there. This country has about 11,903.5 miles of road but more than 60% of these roadways need repairs. (nations encyclopedia). This country also has airports, but many of them don't have paved runways (nations encyclopedia). With a low number of working roadways, it is very hard to get goods and ideas to different people. This causes the Angolan people to not see many other people, meaning communication and the sharing of ideas are deficient. Without the ability to communicate with others, the people of Angola can't sell food or share ideas. The low number of paved airports makes it difficult to export or import various goods. So these people have virtually no way to move goods or communicate findings with other people.

We know better than any that technology plays a major role in our everyday life. We use technology to communicate with others, we use lights to see in the dark, refrigerators to keep our food cold, and stoves and ovens to cook. All these technologies that we use on a daily basis, the people in Angola don't have access to. Most huts in Angola do not have electricity, refrigerators, stoves, or microwaves (world bank).

This has a major impact on what foods these people can eat or grow. Without refrigerators, food goes bad more quickly, and with their warmer environment, these people don't even have the ability to store foods in different places. A lot of their foods will spoil more quickly. Additionally, without stoves, there is no way to boil water, which means that the water that is already scarce is even more difficult to make portable. Without the use of ovens or microwaves, these people have no ability to cook food so this also lowers the quantity of food they are able to cook and eat. With no access to phones, it makes it more difficult for these people to communicate with others about new ideas and different farming methods; this means that agriculture there has low chances of growing and producing more. The minimum amount of technology that the Angolan people have access to plays a major role in the everyday lives of these people.

How can we work to solve this problem? The idea I have come up with seems very simple but could be very beneficial to these people. Instead of trying to get water and all the other necessities up the mountains, it would be easier to put everything in a central location where people can meet and get what they need and trade for other items. A major barrier to this is that they don't have proper roadways to get from place to place so the Angolan government would have to step in and help. The government has already been trying to step in and help so that they can move oil easier; so if this government can get help from organizations such as *Direct Relief*, *CARE*, and *Doctors Without Borders* (impactful ninja). If these different organizations can help, then they can get better infrastructure put in. So let's go back to the idea of putting everything in the same place. Think back to when you were in elementary school and you would trade food with your friends at lunch to get what you needed. This is essentially what the idea is of putting everything in one place. The Angolan people would be able to trade for what they need, such as if one person comes in with corn seed they can trade another person for a banana plant. This would help these people get different crops. They could also communicate when trading, so talk about what worked and what didn't work when growing new crops. Now if technology is also put here and running water these people will have easier access to these essential materials. They can focus more on improving crop production than having to worry about getting running water.

We can see that Angolan people are facing many problems right now. It is crucial that we take action. Most of these complex problems can be fixed or mitigated with simple solutions. The global warming problem needs to be addressed so that they can build basic farming techniques that will last well into the future. With better farming techniques, there will be more food produced for the Angolans. This would help with the problem of malnutrition in the country as well as give the people the ability to sell crops. They need to have basic infrastructure added so that they can get this one meeting area to trade food and ideas. By adding basic infrastructure, they will be able to communicate with others and get the different items they need for survival and growth. Having infrastructure will also benefit the help groups that are coming in to help the country because they can get to the different areas of the country easier. So the country of Angola, Africa is in desperate need of help so that they can be a thriving country again.

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