

Harvesting Hope

Fulfilling Angola's Agricultural Potential

The central highlands of Angola have the agricultural potential to satisfy the nation's demands for basic foodstuffs, provide a major surplus for export, and bring rapid growth in incomes for the rural population. Unfortunately, Angola's "breadbasket"—as the region is known—bore the brunt of a protracted civil war where land mines were laid in significant numbers, making much of the agricultural countryside inaccessible.

Angola's economy is still in disarray in the aftermath of a recently-ended civil war that began after the nation's independence from Portugal in 1975. Dependent on food aid and commercial imports, Angola urgently needs to increase agricultural production to meet domestic food requirements and revive a rural economy shattered by civil conflict. The major constraints to socio-economic development are low land use, poor farming practices, lack of and high cost of agricultural inputs (high quality seed, tools, and fertilizer), low prices for agricultural produce, and lack of access due to the threat of land mines.

During the civil war, large numbers of mines were placed on arterial routes across the region, making secondary roads and bridges and large parts of prime agricultural land off-limits. As a result, villagers in the war-torn provinces of Huambo, Bie, and Benguela have not received food relief, medical attention, and education on HIV/AIDS and mines. The people of these villages have also been denied the vital information and assistance needed to revitalize the agricultural economy.

Working Together

Demining and redevelopment have typically been viewed and funded as separate, unrelated efforts, often to the detriment of mined areas. Roots of Peace and World Vision bring a coordinated approach to this problem in the central highlands of Angola, moving people from severe malnutrition to food sufficiency, lifting people out of abject poverty, and helping them to become economically self-reliant.

Roots of Peace, a California-based nonprofit organization, and World Vision, an international Christian relief and development organization, are collaborating to implement a project to open access to and revitalize the agricultural sector for rural economic development in the central highlands, a vital step in helping secure a lasting peace in Angola.



"The eradication of poverty begins with the removal of land mines. We must remove these seeds of destruction so that Angolan farmers can plant seeds of hope."

Heidi Kuhn, founder and CEO of Roots of Peace, shown here in the middle of a group of Angolan farmers



ROOTS OF PEACE
demine-replant-rebuild

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World Vision

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This project consists of three parts:

- **Clearing and rebuilding roads, bridges, and other priority areas:** Bringing its expertise in clearing land mines, Roots of Peace will conduct a mine survey that includes mapping and education efforts. Roots of Peace will also demine and reconstruct vital roads and bridges, opening access to regions in acute need of assistance.
- **Strengthening agri-business development and improving food security:** World Vision will focus on its already established and highly successful Pro-Rural model program, as well as food security through small-holder farming. This will be accomplished by revitalizing farming systems and developing a market for agri-inputs, strengthening farmer associations and access to credit, and developing new marketing mechanisms. This aspect of the project has two crosscutting themes—HIV/AIDS awareness/education and promotion of the active participation of women and young people.
- **High value crop production and export:** This portion of the project will be implemented jointly, with Roots of Peace taking the lead. This component will leverage the agricultural infrastructure and activities implemented through World Vision's Pro-Rural program by executing a plan to grow and market selected high value crops. This market-centric phase of the project is designed to take farmers from food security to prosperity.

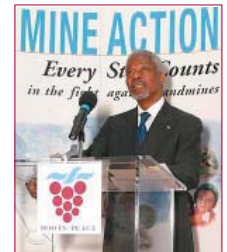
Building a Brighter Future

The specific project objectives are to: demine and rebuild roads and bridges to open access to impoverished rural areas, restore production of subsistence farming and access to agri-inputs to reduce rural poverty, and establish high-value crops and marketing mechanisms to increase farmer income. Expected outcomes are as follows:

- Reduced land mine road threat for the safe movement of people, aid, and commerce
- Increased household income, assets, skills, and productivity of rural enterprises
- Improved food security for 100,000 small-holder farmers
- Expanded rural enterprises supported by rehabilitated community agricultural infrastructure, market-oriented farming systems, and sustainable credit instruments
- Reduced imports of agricultural produce into Angola, and expanded exports of high-value crops

An Opportunity to Transform Lives

This ambitious pay-as-you-go project will raise \$10 million over the next three years. The anticipated long-term impact of the project will be profound, allowing war-weary farmers to reap a new harvest of hope. Roots of Peace and World Vision will work in concert to increase the safety, security, and stability of the region; restore people's dignity by moving them from poverty to self-sufficiency; contribute to an enduring peace in the region; and turn the nation's agricultural promise into reality. Please consider joining with us to help the people of Angola.



"You have turned mines to vines by replacing the seeds of destruction with the seeds of life, and you have shown the world that even with modest beginnings, a partnership backed up by persistence can make a real difference."

*Kofi Annan,
United Nations
Secretary-General,
June 2000, speaking
about Roots of Peace's
successful demining
and redevelopment
efforts in Afghanistan*