



Mother of Eight Looks Forward to Harvest of Hope

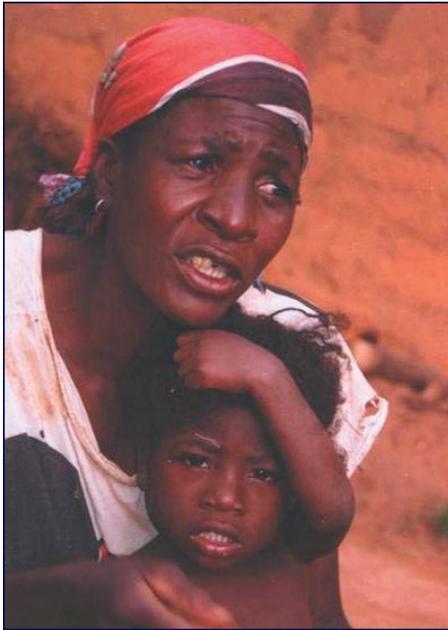


Photo: USAID/Angola

Solomay Epouca, mother of eight.

“I don’t have to think about what I will feed my children. Instead, I can think about my children going to school and learning things I don’t know.”

- Solomay Epouca

Once peace came to Angola in 2002, Title II humanitarian assistance began to reach the people living in areas previously controlled by UNITA guerilla forces. USAID’s Food for Peace program funded a consortium of organizations to assist war affected families throughout Angola. One such family is Solomay Epouca and her eight children. After living in poverty for forty-three years, surviving civil war for twenty-seven years, and raising eight children for two decades in the former rebel stronghold of Huambo, Solomay Epouca is one of the fortunate few who have not lost an immediate family member and who has hope for a better future.

Sitting on a pile of bean husks, with her three-year-old daughter on her lap, Solomay says, “Things are a better now. If we can have two successful harvests, I will be able to sell some food and buy some clothes. All we need is a little extra food and seeds so we can become strong and self-sufficient.” Through the USAID-funded program, Solomay and her family have received over 300 pounds of Title II corn, beans, and vegetable oil. In addition, other sources of assistance have provided the seeds and basic tools necessary for her to begin growing crops for the family.

Over 58,000 families in Huambo have benefited from this Title II program which encourages displaced people to move back to their home villages, where assistance awaits them and self-reliance is rapidly promoted. When asked what difference humanitarian assistance makes in her life and how it has affected hopes for the future, Solomay simply says, “I don’t have to think about what I will feed my children. Instead, I can think about my children going to school and learning things I don’t know.”

First Person

