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## **Improved food and nutritional security**

### **Background**

Many rural communities in Angola still struggle with high levels of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. In particular, Bié and Huambo provinces were hard hit by decades of civil war and have yet to recover, although both provinces have great agricultural potential.

Small-scale farmers in these provinces have on average one to three hectares of land, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. With the right assistance, they can break the generations-long cycle of malnutrition and food insecurity in their families and communities. Developing the agriculture sector, in particular family agriculture, is central to economic diversification and poverty reduction.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the project is three fold: agricultural support; capacity building; and nutrition hygiene. The combination of growing and eating nutritious food, combined with higher yields and rising farm income builds household and community food security and resilience.

### **Project focus**

This rural development project seeks to improve food and nutritional security in two municipalities that have high malnutrition levels. Priority is given to communities that are motivated, have reasonable road access and receptive local authorities.

The project is implemented by People in Need and has several components:

- The agricultural component helps farmers set up cooperatives to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables and establish 80 poultry farms. The project assists cooperative organization, commercialization of farm produce and integration of agricultural mechanization

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- The capacity building component provides training on modern farming techniques. In addition, the project connects farmers with suppliers of agricultural inputs, emphasizing the use of low-maintenance equipment and appropriate seed, fertilizer and herbicides. In turn, the farmers hire neighbours as farm workers, creating employment and multiplying project impact. The project will benefit 1500 farmers with direct support and 1500 farm workers hired by the first group
- The nutrition component involves teaching better practices for food preparation, cooking without losing nutritional value, hygiene, baby care, including the benefits of breast feeding, and setting up and managing 15 school canteens. Teaching methods for active learning include group training, workshops, radio programs and information campaigns.

### **Location and target audience**

The project is located in 45 villages in two municipalities in the Bié and Huambo provinces. It targets 3000 families, equivalent to 18000 people.

### **Duration**

The project was established in April 2015 and will run until June 2018.

### **Implementing partners and stakeholders**

The main implementing partner for this project is People in Need, as well as local farmer associations.