



Women Economic Empowerment and Gender Responsive Budgeting

Angola ratified quite a number of international instruments and conventions aimed at achieving women empowerment and gender equality, these include the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1984 and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In addition the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights regarding the Rights of Women in Africa are some of the main frameworks which have been the most referred to documents in the quest for gender equality. At regional level, Angola ratified the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which the National Policy on Gender Equality and the Strategy for its Implementation (2013)

Angola

Total Population mid-2018	29,590,000
	51% Women
	49% Men
Population Annual Growth Rate	3.5%
Adult Literacy	58% Women
	84% Men
Maternal Mortality Rate	477/100,000 live births
Infant Mortality Rate 2017	44/1,000
Total Fertility Rate, per woman	5.5%
People Living with HIV and AIDS	2.26%
HIV incidence (new infections) all ages	1.01%
HIV prevalence (% of people living with HIV) age 15-49	2.0%
	2.6% women
	1.2% men
Annual GDP (2018)	US\$107.970 billion
GDP Annual Growth Rate (2018)	-1.1%

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

Women with account at financial institution or mobile money	22.3%
Mandatory paid maternity leave	90 days
Proportion of:	
Women in Agriculture (2019)	67.2%
Women who are economically active	50.1%
Households headed by Women	35%
Parliamentarians who are Women	30%

Africa Statistical Yearbook 2018; African Development Bank Group 2019; SADC Selected Economic and Social Indicators 2018; Angola Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) 2017; UNAIDS Angola Report mid-2018

are aligned to. The frameworks are aimed at the advancement of women and equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities for men and women in all areas of economic, social, cultural and political life. Angola has a National Development Plan (PND) which stipulates that to promote development, men and women must always be the point of convergence of all results, policies and actions. However, women were faced with discriminatory heritage, customary laws and practices, and effects of three decades of warfare, which the mentioned policies are still to address, hence the establishment of the Ministry for Family Issues and the Advancement of Women (MINFAMU) to promote the rights and address the needs of women in government, civil society, and in the private sector.

Productive Resources and Property

Women in Angola, as in many parts of the world, face challenges with regard to access to, use of and control over land. In rural areas of Angola, where customary laws remain dominant, productive resources such as land are controlled by men, who are seen as the traditional heads of households. Women land rights are directly related to customary law that dictates distribution of wealth within a family, marriage and divorce, polygamy, and rules of inheritance. Land inheritance in particular is patrilineal, and few women inherit land from their family of birth.

In peri-urban areas, female-headed households may have more livelihood options; however, cost of living is higher and whether divorced, separated, or in polygamous relationships, these women are rarely supported by the men or provided a maintenance fee for the children. Thus, women are often solely responsible for meeting all livelihood needs of the family yet they do not own the majority of productive resources in their own right (SIDA, 2015). Eighty-five percent of Angola's land is unregistered, and most land transactions take place on the informal market, in this regard, women end up with no land because they lack financial resources (MINAGRI, 2013).

Despite tradition still having a role in the marginalization of women, notable change is being seen, for example, through a research

conducted by the Lutheran World Foundation and the Government of Angola in 2014, out of four farmers associations in a village in Lumandi, two are headed by women. In addition, local authorities have reduced the land registration fees for women farmers associations making it possible for more women to join and enjoy the benefits of being farmers.

Agriculture

Angola has abundant natural resources. It has 575,900 square kilometres of arable land of which only 5.7 percent is currently exploited (AfDB, 2015).

Agriculture, livestock and forestry contribute about 12 percent of GDP and 42 percent of total employment, with women estimated to provide 67.2 percent of agricultural labour (INE, 2019). During the war, women were more likely to stay home to tend to the family, and in the post war period women are estimated to account for the majority of agricultural labour to date. Women are mainly responsible for family or home-based economic activities like food production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Gender-specific roles exist in farming activities with men normally carrying out land preparation, ridging, and spraying, while women participate in planting, weeding, water carrying, harvesting and marketing (AfDB, 2018).

Children are involved in small-scale agricultural production such as marketing of farm produce and domestic chores. Girls work more than boys, which impacts negatively on their chances of attending school. In Calenga, a town which has an estimated population of 40,000 people (10,000 farm families) women account for 58 percent of the population and about 8 percent of the population are widows, mainly due to the war. Female-headed households account for 38 percent of households, a situation that requires women to take up more roles, which normally would have been taken by men, in addition to their traditional housekeeping roles.

The Government of Angola noted these challenges and put in place a programme to allocate land for agricultural use in transparent manner in Bom Jesus. The land allocation programme of 1,150 hectares gave

priority to the existing farmers, women, single-headed households and widows. Although no supporting statistics are available, literature reveals that more women are beginning to own land in their own right.

Mining

Angola has one of the largest and most diversified mining resources of Africa. It is a global diamond exploration area and the production of copper, iron ore and gold. Due to limited literacy and education, women face certain disadvantages in the mining sector. Mining jobs are usually physically demanding in nature, therefore women have lower technical skills which prohibit them from engaging in certain tasks such as mining underground. In addition, women lack access to capital, preventing them from owning their own mining sites or engaging in contract agreements with fellow mine owners. It is difficult for women to break into the mining sector because of gender stereotypes and perceptions that mining is not a suitable career option for women. Furthermore, women hardly venture into mining in Angola because of fear of diseases and rampant killings that occur at some of the mines.

Credit

Increasing access to credit for women can contribute to positive change in empowerment for women. Angola has made efforts to improve access to credit for marginalised women who face barriers in accessing resources from financial institutions. Nevertheless, women in Angola still struggle in accessing credit because they often do not have the collateral that lenders require. There are several micro-finance schemes such as the Banco Sul and Banco Nacional Popular which are providing credit to women in business. Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA) has initiated a review of all ongoing microfinance programmes in order to develop a national micro-finance policy and strategy and to create a conducive environment for small enterprise development (AfDB, 2016). Kixicrédito is a microcredit company, licensed by the BNA, dedicated to

supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) especially those owned by women. Among the thousands of Kixicrédito clients, 60 percent are women because women have less opportunities for access to education and employment (Development Workshop, 2018).

For several years, many informal sector vendors have organised themselves into savings and credit associations known as Kixikilas, where they take turns to give each other money from deposits that other members make.

ICT

The Government of Angola has prioritised the ICT sector as one of the engines for economic growth and empowerment. This sector is guided by the White Paper on ICT, the National Plan for the Information Society, and the Electronic Governance Strategic Plan. To realize gender equity in this sector, Government spearheaded the Angola Online Project, which aims to increase access to the Internet for the population, without leaving women behind. Some provisions of this online platform include annual digital literacy and technology fairs that target women and girls, and the installation of free Internet access points in key areas such as schools and universities. Data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE) shows that women are less literate (58 percent) than men (84 percent). Therefore, women in Angola lack skills in technology, especially in the rural areas.

Access to ICT %	Total	Urban	Rural	Men	Women
Access to mobile phone	37.5	46.8	21.2	40.9	30.4
Computer access	9.9	11.8	6.5	11.6	8.3
Internet access	10.2	12.0	7.0	11.8	8.7

Source INE 2017

Employment and Benefits

All employees are protected by the Angolan Labour Law which governs employers to provide work, to pay for the work and to provide a safe working environment for their employees. The General Labour Law of 1981 guarantees equal pay for workers without any discrimination. In addition, the General Labour Law also entails the prohibition of discrimination, including protection against any form of discrimination. In spite of the protection from the labour law, women in Angola still have a low labour force participation which is caused by high illiteracy levels among women. It is estimated that 95.8 percent of women employed in the labour force in Angola are unskilled as compared to 84.7 percent of men (INE, 2018). INE indicates that the ratio of female to male participation in the labour force is 82.3 percent, but only one-quarter of those involved in non-agricultural employment are women. Women mostly participate in the informal sector which excludes them from employment benefits.

The economically active population (employed and unemployed aged 15 and over) was estimated at 12,749,140 people accounting for 6,104,537 men and 6,644,603 women. The activity rate of the population aged 15 and over was estimated at 86.5 percent, with the urban area being higher than the rural areas at 90.4 percent and 84.3 percent, respectively. The activity rate of men is slightly higher than that of women in all age groups.

The employment rate for men is even higher in industries such as construction as these are said to be highly demanding industries both physically and financially.

Women are largely confined in sectors such as agriculture as shown in the table.

With regard to employment benefits, women in Angola have maternity leave that commences any time from four weeks before the expected date of delivery and 90 days after

Participation in the Employment Sector by Industry

Sector	Women	Men
Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing	2 369 023	1 779 659
Industry, construction, energy and water	96 886	640 040
Services	2 088 607	2 022 596
Others	40 797	36 714

Source INE 2017

the date of confinement. Paternity leave provision for men is generally a short period of leave and it follows immediately after childbirth. Men only get one day of absence for the delivery of each child.

Multiple Roles of Women

In rural Angola, a traditional culture predominates with socialization practices aimed at preserving identity. The socialization of children, particularly girls, takes place in the context of tradition, supported by initiatory rites and based on the discrimination of women whose destiny is set: being a housewife, wife and mother, whose life is subject to the logic of male domination. The social function of rural Angolan women is restricted to the domestic chores and women therefore cannot take up any other activities. While there is no statistical evidence of time use surveys conducted in Angola to ascertain the amount of time women spend on various non-remunerative tasks, the majority of women in rural areas are the most affected by multiple roles and thus do not have the time to contribute to the economy and their own livelihoods. Women have been affected by poverty because in the absence of men during the war, they have carried the burden of raising the children, taking care of the household, including the sick and elderly, generating income, providing household food security, and generally ensuring that family continues to survive. The rural women in Angola usually spend the entire day tending the cultivated fields with children and husbands and then after that perform various other duties at home. In 2008, it was estimated that women spent six hours doing farm work and 14 hours doing household chores per day (AfDB, 2008).

Gender Responsive Budgeting

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) ensures that men and women benefit equally from allocated resources. There has been an ongoing debate on Gender Responsive Budgeting Angola since 2008, initiated by the Ministry of Family and the Promotion of Women and involving other ministerial departments, groups of women parliamentarians, Provincial Governments and the civil society. The National Policy for

Gender Equality and Equity established a gender-focused budgeting system in the country. Angola has in place a system for tracking gender-based budgetary allocations. This is undertaken under the leadership and oversight of the central government unit in charge of public expenditures. Gender indicators also inform local budget allocations. Despite these developments, information on GRB interventions in Angola is scarce, as is disaggregated data.

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