

Smart agriculture improving lives of rural women in Lóvuá municipality and Lóvuá settlement.

Women play a crucial role in the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing of the society. Today the United Nations recognises the importance of female contribution to agricultural and rural development.

The theme for this year is ‘rural women and girls building climate resilience’. In Lóvuá settlement, located in the remote municipality of Lóvuá in Angola, 20 refugee and host community mobilisers, 7 of whom are women, such as Solange Kidiata, train refugees on best agricultural practices. Many of the Congolese refugees like Solange come from rural settings in the Kasai provinces in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Due to traditional farming practices, which have led to a lot of environmental destruction, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), partner Lutheran World Foundation (LWF), and the refugee community mobilisers came up with the idea of promoting climate friendly agricultural practices through Low Input, High Output Gardens (LIHO). Such LIHO activities include the use of small area (3m x 5m) with advanced cultivation methodologies to production and this reduces environmental destruction for agriculture. Due to this high production, refugees and members of the host community can have agricultural produce for home consumption as well as income generation.



Figure 1: Solange Kidiata impressed with produce from her first harvest in her farm. ©UNHCR/Omotola Akindipe

Women such as Solange are important in the education and implementation of smart agriculture, which will assist in the development of rural communities across the world.

