



Sarah's Story

A Congolese Refugee Living in Kenya

● MATERIALS...

Three bottles of water—one clean, one dirty, and one that appears clean but has a black dot on the bottom of the bottle.

● FACT...

In partnership with Covenant World Relief (CWR), the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK) has been providing water filters to the residents of Kitengela, a community near Nairobi. Water filters make the water safe and clean for drinking and cooking. By drinking the safe water, children are protected from diseases such as typhoid, diarrhea, and cholera. These illnesses can make children sick for many months. Some children even die from these illnesses.

● STORY...

My name is Sarah, and I'm ten years old. After my father died in Congo, my family and I fled to Kitengela, Kenya. We are now safe and live in a house. One day I became ill with typhoid, because the water I drank was not clean. I had a fever of 104° F. I was weak. I had bad stomach pains and a constant headache. I was able to get medicine, but it took three months to get well. During that time I could not play with my friends or go to school. My mom was very worried about me and spent a lot of time taking care of me.

To keep from getting sick again, the ECCK gave us a water filter that makes the water clean. When my brother, sister, and I get home from school we rush to the water filter and dispenser to quench our thirst. We cannot drink water at school because it is not treated

and is unsafe for drinking and I don't want to get sick again. We are grateful to those who give money to the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya's water project with CWR because now we have clean water to drink.

● REFLECTION...

Look at the three bottles of water. Which would you rather drink? What do you think would happen if you drank the dirty water? What if your water at school was like this dirty water? What if the water looked clean, but was really dirty? Look for the bottle with the black dot on the bottom. Even though this water looks clean, in Kenya sometimes the water can actually carry sickness. We are lucky to have access to clean water where we live and that we don't have to worry about getting sick from our water.

Look at the map and find the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya. What would it be like to not drink the water at school? What are some of your favorite things to do with your friends? Imagine what it would be like to be so sick you could not play with your friends or go to school for three months. Fortunately, the ECCK is helping by giving families water filters that make the water clean and safe for drinking.

● RESPONSE...

There are many other children like Sarah who are sick because they don't have clean water to drink. We can help children like Sarah. We can pray for those who are ill and we can give an offering to CWR so that the ECCK can purchase more water filters for families and children like Sarah.

