



PRAY

FOR THE CONGO
WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Isaiah 35:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

[LENTEN PRAYER GUIDE: WEEK 1]

In Africa, there's a saying: "Water is life." Families in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), who struggle every day to find sufficient amounts of water that is not contaminated, know exactly what this means. Only one in three people living in rural areas have access to clean water. Families who live in communities like Gemena know that drinking water from contaminated sources is a gamble with their life—but it's often the only option they have.

Thanks to the prayers of compassionate people like you, clean, life-changing water is coming to this region. Through the Covenant Kids Congo partnership, World Vision is training families on the importance of clean water and sanitation and working to drill wells and restore existing water sources—efforts that will save lives and improve child health.

God of Abundance, pour out your living water on families in Gemena. Bless the efforts of those who are working to bring clean water to this region. Send them an abundance of water to nourish the health of their families.

A lack of clean water threatens children's futures. In Gemena, children—girls in particular—often walk miles each day to distant water sources, carrying heavy jerry cans filled with water for their families' daily needs. This task can take so long and be so exhausting that children are unable to pursue the education that would help them overcome poverty.

Lord God, thank you that access to clean water can provide children in Gemena with the opportunity to change their lives. Give strength to those who have the task of gathering water; provide for their needs so that this activity will no longer define their lives and drain their energy.

Unclean water and poor sanitation prevent children from living life in all its fullness. Often, the only water families have is from open sources that are also used for cleaning and watering livestock. In the DRC, two in three people lack access to improved sanitation. As a result, the prevalence of diarrhea and other waterborne disease is high. Illness keeps children from thriving and sets them behind in school. And with limited access to proper healthcare, even treatable illnesses like diarrhea become life threatening.

Father, we lift up children suffering from waterborne diseases, and parents who live in constant fear that their children will fall ill. Thank you for those who are teaching them about hygiene and sanitation and helping to change their circumstances. Provide life-giving water so that preventable, treatable diseases will no longer steal the abundant life you have for your children.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

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The Evangelical Covenant Church is united by Christ in a holy covenant of churches empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the great commandments and the great commission: to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to go into all the world and make disciples.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.