



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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PHOTO CREDIT:
JANA ČAVOJSKÁ



Current Crisis in Ukraine

The current crisis in Ukraine has caused the largest displacement of people in Europe since WWII. More than 3 million refugees have fled from Ukraine into the surrounding nations, and those numbers are growing. These displaced people are in dire need of food, housing, hygiene supplies, trauma counseling, medical care, and transportation. CWRD is providing immediate assistance to refugees from Ukraine through our established partners on the ground in Poland, Slovakia, and other European countries who are taking in the refugees.

You can participate in this urgent ministry of welcoming neighbors in need by donating to CWRD. Please join us in praying for a rapid end to the destruction and bloodshed. The needs of Ukraine will go on long after the war has ended, and CWRD partners will provide aid as conditions evolve. Please consider giving towards this important effort today: giving.covchurch.org/priorities-detail/ukraine-response.

A Resilient Woman Recovers Her Voice

Jetrouda Lwangano is a 55-year-old mother of five children. She and her husband are farmers who live in the eastern region of Buhene in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her neighborhood is one of the most violent regions of the country, with frequent skirmishes between militias, army, and police. In April 2021, Jetrouda lost a close family member to armed conflict between Kumu and Nande tribes. Then a volcanic eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near their home on May 22, 2021, severely impacted her family. She was so traumatized by these events that she hardly spoke at all for some time.

Then AGIR RDC, a global partner of CWRD, began a speaking group as part of a sustainable development project in Buhene. Speaking

groups provide a healing space for people to support one another as they talk through their experiences and work toward a better future. Participation in the speaking group was not easy for Jetrouda at first, but through the games and activities, she gradually began to talk.

Now she says, "After the eruption I lost everything—my house, my clothes, even my joy. But gathering here together, talking, sharing, doing breathing exercises, and finding other ways to ease the pain has become a time of comfort. The fact that we're meeting here will help us again and again. Getting together and the conversations are the first answers to my questions."

Esther, the group facilitator, says Jetrouda is so committed she never misses a session. "She is feeling life again, which she had thought she'd lost. She is still very fragile economically, but she keeps trying new small businesses to help her family survive." *(continued)*



SPEAKING GROUP
IN BUHENE, DRC

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 JOHN 4:7-8, NIV

(continued from previous page) "What matters is that God has protected me through it all," Jetrouda says. "That I am still alive today is a divine grace."

In addition to the speaking groups, this project provides a literacy program for 80 women, as well as vocational training in culinary arts, masonry, professional cleaning, soap-making, and tailoring. CWRD partners are able to demonstrate God's love to resilient people such as Jetrouda because of the faithful support of Covenant donors and churches.



Covenant Kids Congo Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

This year Covenant Kids Congo (CKC) celebrates ten years of partnership with the Evangelical Covenant Church, World Vision, and the Covenant Church of Congo. CKC is now an initiative of CWRD, specifically focusing on community development work in Gemena and Karawa, DR Congo.

Recently Gary Walter, former president of the Covenant and key voice in the launch of CKC, said, "Hope shows up when people of hope show up." We are so thankful for the hundreds of Covenant churches and thousands of child sponsors who continue to show up and bring hope to our sisters and brothers in DR Congo. We have seen amazing progress in the region in the past ten years of partnership and are encouraged to continue moving forward.

How will your church engage with the work of Covenant Kids Congo this year? Learn more about ways you can partner with us by emailing covenantkidscongo@covchurch.org.

Responding to Other Disasters

In 2021, multiple crises drew the world's attention. Over the summer a crippling second wave of Covid-19 swept through India, Nepal, and other parts of Asia, leaving many ill, suffering the loss of loved ones, and dealing with the isolation of quarantines. In August, when a 7.2 earthquake rocked Haiti, the world watched as yet another catastrophe struck the long-suffering island nation. Covenanters responded with compassion and generosity to these tragedies, allowing Covenant World Relief and Development to send more than \$150,000 to partners on the ground bringing immediate relief in the form of food and medical supplies to those directly impacted.

While these disasters dominated the headlines, CWRD joined with our network of partners around the world to respond to lesser publicized but equally devastating crises. Last year our partners compassionately acted in the face of disaster by responding to the critical health needs of



(LEFT) HAILEAB RECEIVES A VACCINE IN ETHIOPIA;
(BELOW) FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN THAILAND



internally displaced people suffering from the civil war in the Tigray region of Ethiopia; traversing water-logged roads to get food and supplies to people stranded by flooding in Thailand; caring for the needs of families who lost their homes to wildfires in Nepal; and providing aid to victims of violent outbreaks in such places as Myanmar and Gaza.

These crises may not have garnered the most media coverage, but they deeply impacted many families and individuals. Through the generosity of churches and individuals, last year CWRD joined our partners serving in the midst of crisis with more than \$200,000 of relief aid. Consider responding to crisis together with CWRD at giving.covchurch.org/priorities-detail/international-disaster-response.