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# COVENANTKIDS

## Congo

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**World Vision**

- » Democratic Republic of the Congo
- » Ledia Area Program in Gemena

Sponsorship reporting covers September 2017 through June 2018  
WASH reporting covers September 2017 through March 2018

Prepared November 2018

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LEDIA AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>SPONSORSHIP</b>	
<b>CHILD AND MOTHER SURVIVAL.....</b>	<b>PAGE 3</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.....</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<i>A GRANDMOTHER'S JOY.....</i>	<b>PAGE 6</b>
<b>SPONSORSHIP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>
<i>CITIZENS LEARN TO ADVOCATE</i>	
<i>AND REALIZE CHANGE.....</i>	<b>PAGE 9</b>
<b>WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE</b>	
<b>WASH SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH 2018.....</b>	<b>PAGE 10</b>
<b>WASH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 11</b>
<b>THANK YOU.....</b>	<b>PAGE 14</b>

# LEDIA AREA PROGRAM

It is our joy to be part of God's work together in the Ledia Area Program (AP) in Gemena, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

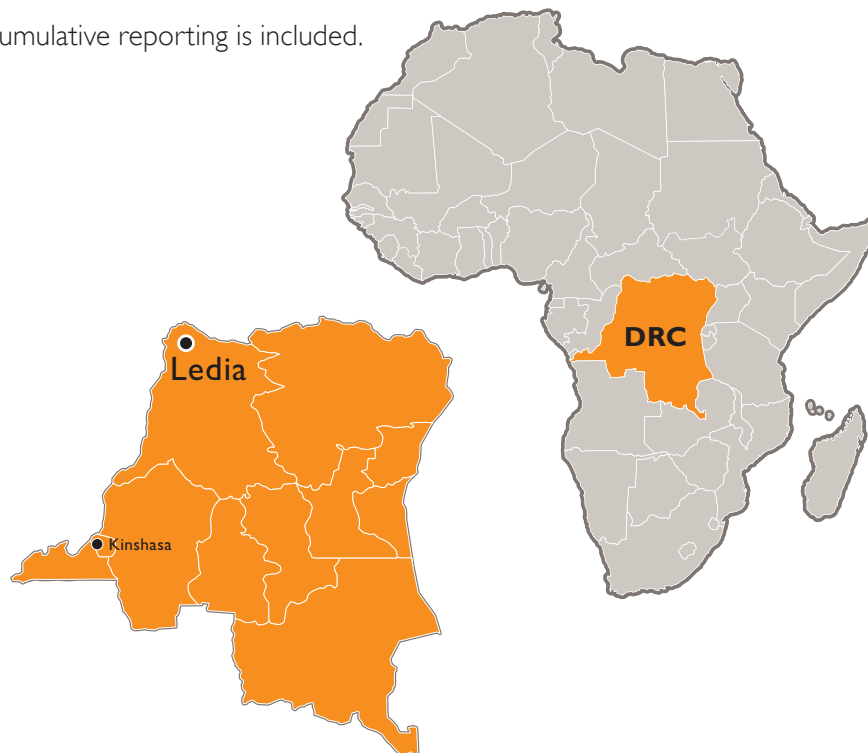
Fiscal year 2018 began by celebrating World Vision's Annual Day of Prayer on October 2, 2017. The theme for fiscal 2018 has been: "Together—One Mind One Voice," inspired by Romans 15:5-6 (NIV).

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Nearly 300 people, including more than 80 children, participated in the annual celebration. Participants had the opportunity to thank God for His work in Gemena through the program, to seek God's direction, and to dedicate the new fiscal year to God.

The following pages describe progress in Ledia during the first part of fiscal 2018. The sponsorship portion of this report covers September 2017 through June 2018, and the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) portion covers September 2017 through March 2018.

Where it is feasible, cumulative reporting is included.



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

World Vision carries out development activities by supporting, facilitating, and working alongside community members, local and national agencies, local churches, community based organizations, and other non-government organizations. Such a collaborative approach is a means of fostering national, local, and community ownership in the work being accomplished, which further ensures the work's long-term impact and sustainability.

# SPONSORSHIP

## CHILD AND MOTHER SURVIVAL

Reporting period: September 2017 through June 2018

(Fiscal 2018, Quarters 1, 2, and 3)

Among the highlights during this reporting period, sponsorship activities continued to ensure households with malnourished children were supported with farming tools. The number of women who gained awareness of the importance of good nutrition grew by more than sevenfold to reach 13,973. Pregnant women and those who had recently given birth were supported with training in nutrition and with personal home visits.

### CHILD AND MOTHER SURVIVAL

ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	First Three Years Oct 2012 to Sept 2015	Fiscal 2016 (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)	Fiscal 2017 (Oct 2016 to Sept 2017)	Fiscal 2018 Q1, Q2, and Q3 (Oct 2017 to June 2018)	TOTAL Since Project Start
Number of malnourished children who were supported with care and food in nutrition centers	1,282	855	192	610	2,939
Number of orphans and vulnerable children who received healthcare services	237	568	390	0	1,195
Number of community members who received training to teach pregnant women in prevention efforts to avoid HIV transmission from mother to infant	624	197	368	0	1,189
Number of households with malnourished children who were supported with farming tools to be used for home gardens or other income generating activities	100	825	30	90	1,045
Number of vaccinations administered to children, partially due to the <i>Extended Program for Immunization</i> , which helps to ensure adequate refrigeration for vaccine storage and transport	29,189	85,587	65,534	19,867	200,177
Number of pregnant and lactating women who received training in nutrition and a well-balanced diet for their children	237	225	0	650	1,112
Number of women who gained awareness of the importance of good nutrition	627	950	0	12,396	13,973
Number of home visits, conducted by trained volunteers, to women who were pregnant or had recently given birth	0	0	0	2,182	2,182

# SPONSORSHIP

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reporting period: September 2017 through June 2018  
(Fiscal 2018, Quarters 1, 2, and 3)

Key activities that promoted economic development this reporting period included training sessions for farmers in sustainable agricultural practices, how to mitigate the impact of severe weather on agricultural livelihoods, and improved animal husbandry techniques. Other progress involved the training of 200 people in the savings group project model.

***Savings groups** are a successful approach—a response to the challenges facing individuals who lack access to affordable credit or financial services. Savings groups encourage financial savings, foster trust and care among their members, and offer a means to access small loans, all of which help to ensure household resiliency.*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	First Three Years Oct 2012 to Sept 2015	Fiscal 2016 (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)	Fiscal 2017 (Oct 2016 to Sept 2017)	Fiscal 2018 Q1, Q2, and Q3 (Oct 2017 to June 2018)	TOTAL Since Project Start
Number of small-scale farmers trained in new techniques and provided with seeds and tools	875	700	100	0	1,675
Number of farmers trained in nutrition and the importance of a balanced diet	875	1,398	882	0	3,155
Households trained in income generating activities and provided with support to start a small business	250	140	146	0	536
Number of people who gained awareness of changes in climate and its impact on livelihoods	0	0	0	675	675
Number of farmers trained in sustainable agricultural practices that emphasize conservation and preserving the environment	0	0	0	675	675
Number of farmers trained in animal husbandry techniques	0	0	0	300	300
Number of partners (community based organizations) trained in organizational capacity building	0	0	0	23	23
Number of people trained in the savings group project model	0	0	0	200	200

# SPONSORSHIP

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Reporting period: September 2017 through June 2018  
(Fiscal 2018, Quarters 1, 2, and 3)

The civil rights and protection of children were at the center of community empowerment activities this reporting period. Children became more involved in their own safety and well-being due to their involvement in the child parliament—a total of 200 children already participate. Adults did their part by learning about the importance of birth registration. Without this vital documentation, children are not accounted for in government registries and can lose their access to basic civil rights. Finally, the number of registered children who were monitored for well-being totaled 12,417.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT					
ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	First Three Years Oct 2012 to Sept 2015	Fiscal 2016 (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)	Fiscal 2017 (Oct 2016 to Sept 2017)	Fiscal 2018 Q1, Q2, and Q3 (Oct 2017 to June 2018)	TOTAL Since Project Start
Number of desks procured for Gemena schools	700	0	0	80	780
Number of child parliament members who received training in children's civil rights	0	0	100	100	200
Number of community members who gained awareness of the importance of birth registration	100	0	0	17,694	17,794
Number of community members who participated in the Ledia Area Program planning workshops	0	0	0	141	141
Number of registered children who were monitored for selected areas of child-well-being	0	0	0	12,417	12,417
Number of people (partners and community volunteers) who received training in recognizing the signs of child abuse and neglect	0	0	0	51	51

### A GRANDMOTHER'S JOY



At 60 years old, Patience Penze is the primary caregiver for her granddaughter, Sisca. She remembers when Sisca was 3 years old—she was thin and well below a healthy weight for her age.

Patience is forever grateful for the community volunteers who detected Sisca's need for nutritional rehabilitation, and provided opportunities for Patience to participate in Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/Hearth), a program model to rehabilitate and prevent malnutrition in young children.

Through PD/Hearth, Patience has learned new ways to ensure Sisca has the proper nourishment she needs at her young age. Patience has participated in classes and cooking demonstrations, along with other parents and caregivers, where they've learned the best ways to cook local foods like cowpea seeds, cassava leaves, and green vegetables. They've learned the benefits of consuming locally available fruits such as pineapple, papayas, and oranges, and their importance in a child's diet.

PD/Hearth emphasizes getting the most nutritional value from readily available foods, all in an effort to better ensure the essential dietary needs of young children are met, so they can grow strong and healthy.

Today, at age 4, Sisca is healed. She is healthy, she eats much more than before, and plays with her friends.

Patience is now giving back. She is a local PD/Hearth committee member, and is helping other vulnerable children in her community.

*PD/Hearth is an internationally recognized program model to rehabilitate and prevent malnutrition in young children.*

*Positive Deviance: In almost every poverty-stricken area, one can usually still find impoverished families that have well-nourished children. These are known as positive deviants.*

*Community health volunteers identify these families and observe their practices using the Positive Deviance Inquiry survey, and share these effective practices with the rest of the community through Hearth sessions. It is proven that it is easier to change behaviors and attitudes in a community if promoted practices are culturally sensitive and accepted (rather than introducing foreign practices).*

Noteworthy: In 2018, over a three-month period (January to March), 150 caregivers participated in three PD/Hearth sessions in Gemena to care for children suffering from malnutrition. A total of 30 malnourished children between ages 6 to 36 months participated. Fifteen of them were rehabilitated and gained nearly a half pound.

# SPONSORSHIP

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### INNOVATION / LESSONS LEARNED

*Fiscal 2018, Q2* World Vision staff members recognize the value of organizing quarterly learning and reflection forums that involve all local partners.

### HOW DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN THIS PROGRAM?

*Fiscal 2018, Q1* We thank God for His provision, and the commitment of sponsors to World Vision ministry through the Ledia Program. God has been working in this program through World Vision's increase in its sponsorship funding commitment. Thanks to that, the program is able to increase its intervention in the community and impact more lives.

### QUOTES FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

*Fiscal 2018, Q1* "My name is Faustin. I thank my God for having healed my child, Desiré, from malnutrition through the work [of] the community volunteers, achieved in the Positive Deviance Hearth [program], with the World Vision support. Thank you..."

*Fiscal 2018, Q2* "I blessed the Lord for having inspired World Vision to set up the Positive Deviance [Hearth program] foyer approach in our community. This approach [is] taking care of cases of malnutrition through local foods, [and] has allowed me to learn how to prepare a balanced diet to cure and prevent my children from malnutrition. My child suffered from malnutrition, and I participated in various culinary demonstration sessions that allowed me to give my child a balanced diet, now, he is cured of malnutrition. I thank God, a sustainable solution is put in place in our community by World Vision with the sponsors' support to face this disease."

—Mama Mapasa

### DESCRIBE HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROGRAM. HOW HAVE THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM?

*Fiscal 2018, Q1* Parents and caregivers of malnourished children contributed local food and other necessary items to supplement the PD/Hearth training sessions. The food provisions supported cooking demonstrations and the vital learning of those who care for children who are malnourished and require nutritional rehabilitation.

*Fiscal 2018, Q2* Community health workers are committed to increasing community awareness of the PD/Hearth approach, and have formed local committees to actively respond to the needs of underweight children in their communities. Additionally, they help to manage and monitor malnourished children.



# SPONSORSHIP

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### BRIEFLY DESCRIBE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM.

*Fiscal 2018, Q1* The program promotes Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)—World Vision’s community-based advocacy approach. Engaging in the CVA approach has resulted in community members, public service providers in the health sector, and decision makers working together to analyze problems around access to quality, primary healthcare services. As a result, community members are now conducting the monitoring of standards and tracking scorecards in the health sector. Public and private service providers are being held more accountable for the quality of their services.

*Fiscal 2018, Q2* After being trained on the standards of health through the CVA approach, community facilitators discovered several areas in need of improvement at their health center, one of which was the provision of appropriate beds for the sick.

After three months, community facilitators observed a significant improvement in beds, as well as other areas. (See story on next page for more information.)



*Photo left: A makeshift bed in the health center does not meet the standards created by the Ministry of Health.*

*Photo right: As a result of CVA efforts, beds at the health center now meet the required standard.*

Citizen Voice and Action is a methodology that equips church and community leaders and other citizens to hold local government accountable to enforce policies and provide promised community services that protect children and families from harm.

### **CITIZENS LEARN TO ADVOCATE AND REALIZE CHANGE**

Kpawenu, 45, is married and the mother of 10 children. She and her family live in Gemena 3. She has seen, first hand, how Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) has made an impact in her community.

“I am very happy to see how World Vision supports, through its advocacy, the Citizen Voice and Action approach,” she says.

Earlier this year, a team of community members were trained in the CVA approach. The CVA group asked Kpawenu and other community members to collect information on the quality of care and services offered at the local health center. The information was used to compare the current level of care with specific standards established by the Ministry of Health.

The findings were shared, discussed, and evaluated during a meeting, which involved community members, service providers, policy makers, and the provincial Ministry of Health.

The efforts revealed a number of areas that were not in compliance with the standards set by the Ministry of Health. As a result, an action plan and recommendations were created to improve the quality of care and services at the health center.

Kpawenu said, “Three months after this assessment, we observed a great change in our health center. Now, we have a childbirth bed, a source of light, water tank, hygienic [sanitation] facilities, and medicines are available.

“I thank my God for the strength that he has given to this advocacy team, but also to World Vision and the sponsors for their support to the program. I thank also our care providers and the Minister of Health who have improved our access to quality health care. Our wish is that this ongoing work [will take place] also in other communities.”



*Photo left: A birthing bed at the health center before CVA was implemented.*

*Photo right: Kpawenu stands next to a new birthing bed, which is one of multiple improvements at the health center. The health center is now in compliance with the health standards established by the Ministry of Health, due to the advocacy efforts of citizens implementing the CVA approach, with the help of Kpawenu and other community members.*

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Reporting period: September 2017 through March 2018  
(Fiscal 2018, Quarters 1 and 2)

## WATER

- The Third Mechanized System**  
 We are happy to report the drilling of the borehole for the final mechanized system is now complete. Additionally, the water tower has been placed in its final location, and the metal structure to house the solar panels is also complete. (The panels will power a submersible pump located inside the borehole, allowing for water to be pumped from the source to the water tank.) Water kiosks also were constructed and will serve as the main distribution points for families to access clean tap water. In the second half of FY18, we anticipate the arrival and installation of the submersible pump.
- World Water Day**  
 In late March, 988 adults and children engaged in interactive sessions to learn simple ways to treat and clean contaminated water, avoiding the spread of cholera. Water treatment messages (and displays) were shared through theatrical performances, student community rallies, and mass campaigns.

## SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Mass Hygiene Campaigns**  
 As a result of CLTS training and mass hygiene campaigns provided during the first half of FY18, families learned the importance of safe sanitation and to practice good hygiene. Already, using lessons learned from training and campaigns, 800 households have constructed latrines and hand-washing facilities. And communities are closer to becoming declared a “Clean Village”—a national model that includes requirements such as regular use of household latrines, and washing hands before meals and after latrine use.

*In the table below, the first column refers to achievements that occurred during the first half of fiscal year 2018 (October 2017 to March 2018), and the second column refers to the target goal set for the entire fiscal year.*

OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS	FY18 Semiannual Achieved	FY18 Annual Target	Life-of-Program Target (FY18-FY20)
<b>OUTCOME: Access to Safe Water</b>			
People who gained access to a safe drinking water source in communities	-	17,500	52,500
Taps installed from successful water supply systems in communities	-	35	105
Nonfunctioning water points rehabilitated	-	5	10
Schools and health centers with a safe drinking water source installed	-	9	23
<b>OUTCOME: Access to Sanitation</b>			
Number of people gaining access to household sanitation	4,800	24,000	72,000
Number of household sanitation facilities constructed	800	4,000	12,000
Improved, sex-separated sanitation facilities built at schools and health centers	-	72	216
<b>OUTCOME: Improved Hygiene Practices</b>			
People who benefited from hygiene behavior-change promotion in communities	9,453	24,000	72,000
Households that gained access to hand-washing facilities	800	4,000	12,000
Schools and Health centers that gained access to hand-washing facilities	-	14	38
<b>OUTCOME: Improved Community Capacity for Sustainability</b>			
WASH committees formed or reactivated with a financing system for maintenance and repair	-	5	15
People trained in repair, maintenance, and construction of WASH facilities	-	50	150
Faith leaders who participated in hygiene, sanitation, or behavior-change programming	6	40	120

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### INNOVATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

**Innovation** In Gemena, there are three main centers where girls and women of childbearing age participate in training to learn skills such as knitting and sewing. These centers are led by churches, and facilitators often encourage participants to freely share thoughts or concerns. After many conversations and observations of health issues with participants, facilitators learned some of the young ladies were reusing old clothes during menstruation, which caused infections. To solve the problem, the facilitators determined to learn and teach participants to construct tampons from locally available materials.

Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision helped provide training and materials. Trainees included facilitators from the social centers, representatives from church committees serving mothers, midwives at health centers, schoolteachers, and government representatives. Participants learned of proper menstrual hygiene management and how to make tampons. They also completed action plans and committed to training others at their respective organizations. A total of 30 people (17 women and 13 men) completed the training.

Additionally, our church partner CEUM (Covenant Church of Congo) formed a special committee to determine possible income-generating activities. Proceeds will be shared with the social centers, helping to secure the needed tools and sewing machines to produce low-cost menstrual hygiene management kits. The low-cost kits will then be available for purchase by women and girls throughout Gemena.

The program will monitor tampon production and revenue from sales, making sure girls and women are able to practice healthy menstrual hygiene management.

**Lessons Learned** A key lesson learned this reporting period is that of the importance of collaboration to ensure sustainable WASH. In the first half of FY18, several community advocacy events were led by CVA groups. These groups work to ensure communities are equipped to thrive, including having ongoing access to WASH.

For example, during this reporting period, an assessment of 22 communities and two schools showed WASH facilities did not comply with required standards. In the schools, the ratio of students to each latrine far exceeded that of the World Health Organization standard—at least one toilet for every 25 girls, and one toilet and one urinal for every 50 boys. Also, in communities, while water points were nearby, and met the distance requirement of having clean water within a 30-minute round-trip walk from their homes, families were unable to obtain water due to charges by the local company responsible for water distribution. Families resorted to drawing water from rivers located 1,000 meters (.6 miles) away.



*Participants learn to construct tampons during menstrual hygiene management training—a training made possible because of your support of Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision.*

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### ***Lessons Learned continued***

CVA groups took action, calling a meeting with government representatives, service providers, and community members, to work together to resolve WASH gaps. To initiate discussions, community members presented results of noncompliance to standards and overall WASH evaluation in two schools and two neighborhoods. By the close of the meeting, a formal action plan was created with all parties to begin closing WASH gaps in communities and schools.

The meeting was led by a team of 20 CVA facilitators from various organizations. Also, 35 community members (11 women, 20 men, and four children), five government representatives (the minister of Energy and Environment, Budget minister, advisor of the governor of the South Ubangi province, provincial assembly spokesman, and mayor of the city of Gemena) were among the attendees.

### **HOW DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN THIS PROGRAM?**

By God's amazing grace, CVA groups were able to coordinate a meeting of more than 40 key WASH stakeholders, have preparatory meetings for facilitators, and conduct follow-up activities and face-to-face meetings with government leaders. Oftentimes, it is difficult to coordinate a meeting or activities due to varied work schedules of participants.

Also, of the 35 community members in attendance, five were church leaders. These leaders are respected in their communities and are trusted to look to the well-being of all people. Their willingness to participate in meetings and provide spiritual insight to best reach families serves as an example for community members to follow and value WASH in communities.

### **DESCRIBE HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROGRAM. HOW HAVE THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM?**

For World Water Day, students voluntarily organized a motorized caravan to go from village to village and share the importance of protecting water sources from contaminants, ways to determine the drinkability of water, and how to properly store and conserve water.

Community members participating in CVA training learned to advocate for safe and adequate WASH services. During this reporting period, 35 trained community members joined together to face government officials and other key WASH stakeholders, presenting the need for adequate WASH services. They engaged in discussions and provided suggestions on ways to close gaps in WASH services.

Community-Led Total Sanitation is a methodology for mobilizing communities to completely eliminate open defecation. Communities are guided to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of open defecation, and are empowered to take action to build basic sanitation facilities. CLTS focuses on the behavioral change needed to ensure real and sustainable improvements—investing in community mobilization instead of hardware, and shifting the focus from toilet construction for individual households to ensuring sustainable WASH solutions. When a community engages in CLTS, it is taking steps toward becoming a “Clean Village”.

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

## BRIEFLY DESCRIBE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM.

Our WASH program supports the nationally endorsed “Clean Village” model, working closely with communities to obtain certification by providing CLTS training, hygiene education, and where needed, water infrastructure. As families adopt good sanitation and hygiene practices and villages obtain adequate water supply for families, villages are well on their way to obtaining Clean Village certification.

“I did not know the measures for toilet care and the importance of handwashing after being in the toilet,” shared 47-year-old Antoinette, mother of seven (pictured below). “... My children were getting sick regularly because of this bad environment, especially my first two daughters. I was [at] the hospital three times a month and beyond, which made me poor because of the need for money each time.

“Then two members of the Clean Village committee came to educate me about latrines and hand-washing stations. I built a latrine, and I installed a hand-washing station. I [also] do the maintenance of my latrine every morning, and there are no more flies or bad smells. We respect the key moments of handwashing (before eating, before breastfeeding the baby, before preparing food, and after changing the baby’s nappy). [And] I use the soap every time I wash my hands.

“Thank you to World Vision for forming the Village Assaini committee, for the lessons learned from them, and God bless it. And may God continue to bless the sponsors who support our children.”



*Photo left: Nine-year-old Ruth leaves the clean latrine that is maintained daily by her mother, Antoinette. Photo right: Antoinette is joined by her two daughters and four grandchildren outside their home, which is kept tidy because of lessons learned from the Clean Village committee formed by World Vision.*

# THANK YOU

Thank you for your faithfulness and your prayers as we follow God's call, and strive to respond with compassion to the needs of citizens in one of the most vulnerable, impoverished areas in our world.

Your gifts are a blessing for the children you sponsor, their families, and their community. Our partnership with you, as brothers and sisters in Christ, gives us the privilege of reflecting God's love to children and families in this region. We are deeply grateful for your support of Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision.



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## COVENANT KIDS Congo

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The Evangelical Covenant Church



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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. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.