

COVENANTKIDS

Congo

powered by

World Vision



The Evangelical Covenant Church

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Evangelical Covenant Church
8303 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631-2941

World Vision
powered by



COVENANTKIDS

Congo

Dear Friends,

In October 2012, the first Covenant church participated in a Hope Sunday, the initial sponsorship invitation in our partnership with World Vision and the Covenant Church in Congo. Of the children sponsored within the first year of the partnership, over half are still sponsored today. We recently passed our initial sponsorship goal of 10,000 children sponsored and continue to add new sponsorships each month. Amazing! I am continually encouraged by the level of commitment to this partnership we see among our Covenant sisters and brothers in both the United States and Canada. Thank you, thank you for engaging in this transformative work with us.

Every year, we receive two main updates from the World Vision field staff in the Democratic Republic of Congo. From these reports, we are able to pull stories and statistics to share with our sponsors, donors, and church partners. I hope you will find this update informational and inspirational!



Together,

Pastor Lyndsey Watson

COVENANT KIDS CONGO
MINISTRY SPECIALIST

CKC INITIATIVES



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

When Constantine (pictured right) and her family recently moved to Gemena, they did not have a shower or toilet in their home. For a while a neighbor allowed them to use his toilet, but that became inconvenient. They attended Community-Led Total Sanitation meetings, a program that engages the community in recognizing areas where open defecation occurs and taking action to become totally free of open defecation. This includes helping households to construct their own latrines. Constantine and her husband learned how to build a latrine and were trained to sprinkle ash inside the latrine after each use. They also learned to wash their hands regularly with soap after using the latrine, before and after eating, and before breastfeeding.

Programs like this are helping to keep families in Gemena and Karawa healthy, empowering them to maintain their dignity and pride.



Chosen Sponsorships through CKC

In FY22, almost 500 children were sponsored in Ledia (Gemena) and Karawa. We hope to see an additional 500 children sponsored this year.

Chosen is a new sponsorship invitation that puts the power to choose in a child's hands. Sign up to have a child choose you as their sponsor! In 2023, Chosen Sundays will be hosted in January, February, March, June, July, and August. ***If your church would like to participate in Chosen, contact covenantkidscongo@covchurch.org.***

Savings for Transformation

Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision works with Congolese families to establish savings groups, helping them gain financial knowledge and determine ways to wisely invest their funds. In Karawa, 689 families (including 519 women) formed 30 saving groups after participating in Savings for Transformation. They have already saved 5,002,500 Congolese francs (equivalent to \$2,381 USD).

Since the beginning of the partnership, 11,736 families have joined 511 savings groups in Ledia (Gemena). In the last year alone, 1,345 families joined 55 new groups.

Savings Groups, also known as Self-Help Groups, are essentially community banking. Men and women in vulnerable communities set up groups which then enable them to save money together in small amounts and lend to each other when needs arise, such as family members' illness, children's education, and falling income due to natural disasters, like droughts.



COVENANT KIDS CONGO BY THE NUMBERS*



CHILDREN

469 children participated in reading clubs in Karawa with 315 children improving their reading skills, learning to identify letters and recognize words.

20,824 children participated in spiritual nurture activities led by trained faith leaders in Ledia as part of our children protection program.

FAMILIES

60,255 children from birth up to five years old were monitored for healthy growth through our mother and child health programs.

COMMUNITIES

5,702 smallholder farmers in our economic empowerment program completed the Biblical Empowered Worldview training, learning about self-worth and their ability to be agents of change, and gaining confidence to run their businesses and lead their families.

24,726 people have access to household latrines in Ledia (Gemena), and 35 households have materials to build latrines in Karawa. Latrine use prevents open defecation, water contamination, and deadly diseases.

* FY2022 SEMIANNUAL REPORT (OCTOBER 2021 THROUGH MARCH 2022), PREPARED OCTOBER 2022



FAITH COVENANT CHURCH, WHEATON, MN

The Global 6K

\$50 equals clean water for LIFE for one person.

Six kilometers is the average distance someone in the Democratic Republic of Congo has to walk for clean water. Since 2021, 6,810 people have gained access to clean water in Ledia (Gemena) and Karawa—this was made possible through invitations like the Global 6K and Team World Vision.

This year, we would like to see 100 Covenant teams participate in the Global 6K. A team can be anywhere from two to more than 200 people!

To sign up or learn more, go to covchurch.org/6K.



EDUCATION IN LEDIA & KARAWA

"My name is Ndiwa (not pictured), and I am 10 years old and in the third grade. Since I started going to school, my classrooms have never had benches or seats to sit on. We all just sit on the floor and it is crowded. This year, my classroom has 96 kids. Because there are so many kids, it's very hard for me to see and hear the teacher, so I wasn't learning the lessons. The principal of our school sent some other kids and me to a community reading club because we couldn't read. At the club, there are kids from different schools. I learned all 26 letters of the alphabet and began to identify words.

Today, I can read a story in Lingala (the local language) and I understand what I'm reading. All of us kids like the reading club. Every Saturday morning, we look forward to singing beautiful songs about the letters of the alphabet and reading together. It's a lot of fun!"

After-school reading clubs are one component of our Unlock Literacy project, which includes teacher training, community action (like reading clubs), and the development of local, relevant, and grade-appropriate reading materials.

When girls and boys have quality primary education, they gain the opportunity to improve their communication skills, develop critical thinking, and receive the foundational requirements to continue their studies to later obtain higher-paying jobs. Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision is teaming up with school administrators, teachers, community leaders, and parents to provide children in Ledia and Karawa with quality education.



How is your church celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Covenant Kids Congo?

Churches across the denomination are invited to host a Celebration Sunday to highlight the impact of the partnership. To learn more and sign up to host a Celebration Sunday, scan below. Participating churches will receive a Celebration Sunday Kit in the mail.



CHOOSE A DATE AND ORDER YOUR CELEBRATION SUNDAY KIT!
COVCHURCH.ORG/COVENANTKIDSCONGO

Learn more at CovChurch.org/CovenantKidsCongo

Contact Us: **773-442-6578**
Follow Us: **@covkidscongo**
CovenantKidsCongo@CovChurch.org