



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022



Ukraine Update

According to the United Nations, the war in Ukraine has caused the fastest and largest displacement of people in Europe since WWII. On April 26, 2022, UNHCR spokesperson Shabia Mantoo reported that 5 million Ukrainian refugees have fled into neighboring countries, and 7.7 million have been internally displaced within Ukraine. The number of refugees is projected to grow to more than 8 million. By the end of May, Covenanters had responded with over \$800,000 in donations to the CWRD Ukraine response. These funds are being used to

provide food, hygiene kits, transportation, trauma counselling, housing, medical care, and referrals to additional services.

Like the 25 million refugees from other conflicts throughout the world, Ukrainians who have fled the invasion of their country will need long-term assistance. Through our global partners, CWRD continues to assist refugees from countries such as Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, and Ethiopia. And we intend to stand with the people of Ukraine long-term. Thank you for joining us in this ongoing effort.

PARTNER UPDATE

Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika in Kenya

For several years now, Kenya has been experiencing drought conditions that have led to crop shortages and put the region in a situation of food insecurity. This spring, as war broke out in Ukraine, the result has been an acute food crisis as wheat prices spiked and inflation soared. More and more families in Kenya and other places around the world are at risk of simply not having sufficient food.

One of those families is that of Scholar Rueben. As her husband struggled with alcohol abuse, Scholar bore the impossible challenge of providing for her three young children in a critical situation. When she heard about the work of Jitokeze and their self-help group (SHG) ministry model, Scholar took the initiative to form a group in her own village and invited Jitokeze to guide them.

For Scholar, participation in the Jitokeze SHG started small: she received a loan of 500 Kenyan shillings (about \$5 USD) she used to buy five kilograms of sugar to sell. She then reinvested the profits in her business by increasing her stock of sugar and adding other basic household items like soap, salt, and cooking oil to her shop's inventory.

Eventually, Scholar and her flourishing SHG also participated in Jitokeze's animal husbandry program. Scholar received three



chickens and a sheep that she raised and multiplied. She eventually sold the chickens, raising 8,000 shillings, which she used to buy another sheep.

The additional sources of income have helped Scholar provide for her family in ways that once seemed impossible. Jitokeze's holistic approach has also contributed to reconciliation in Scholar's relationship with her husband and family.

"Because of your great compassion, you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take."

NEHEMIAH 9:19, NIV



CKC UPDATE Sarah's Story

"I received training on small business management and savings. Thanks to Covenant Kids Congo, I received eight cans of palm oil, two bags of salt, and 10 bags of sugar to help me grow my small business. In these difficult times, it is impossible to see another organization doing what you are doing to benefit the most vulnerable children. May God bless you for this gesture that gives us hope."

One of the goals of Covenant Kids Congo is to improve livelihoods for vulnerable families in the northwest region of DR Congo through increased food security and better income-generation opportunities. This includes improved access to financial services. Sarah (42) is a mother of six children and a Covenant Kids Congo participant. She is directly benefiting from the program efforts.

World Vision offers training on Savings for Transformation to help families and communities improve their livelihoods and ensure child well-being. Savings groups are member-owned and comprised of a small number of people who save together in a safe, convenient, and flexible way. They use a simple, transparent method to accumulate and convert small amounts of cash into savings that can then be lent to members as credit.

To learn more about how you can participate in the work of CKC, contact Lyndsey Watson at covenantkidscongo@covchurch.org.

PARTNER UPDATE

Covenant Social Service in India

Riddhi Sharad Savalkar is three and a half years old and is a member of the Korku tribe in the Bhondilava village of Melghat. Her father is a daily wage laborer who earns about \$2 a day when he can get work. But employment opportunities are sporadic, and Riddhi's family faced tremendous financial crisis. She became malnourished. When she was enrolled with Covenant Social Service, she weighed less than 20 pounds and was prone to illnesses.

Through Covenant Social Service, Riddhi started receiving nutritious meals, including fruits and milk. The medical doctors regularly checked on her during the medical camps.

Her minor illnesses were treated for free. Her health began to improve, and gradually Riddhi started gaining weight. Riddhi's mother is being trained in sewing skills which will enable her to earn as an additional income for her family. She is learning about childcare, nutrition, and healthcare so she can better care for Riddhi. CSS made dry ration kits available to the family, which helped them survive during the lockdown when her father had no job at all.

Today Riddhi is healthy and active. Her parents are very grateful to CSS for the multiple help provided to them in the times of difficulties.

A Second Year of FREE

The FREE initiative, the Covenant's anti-sex trafficking partnership, was launched in January 2021 via a virtual event. Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, in one chaotic year the Covenant has raised over \$100,000 in support of FREE and our domestic and international partners to combat the evil of sex trafficking. We are so grateful for your generosity!

Because of your generous donations, we have been able to award grants to our partners, coming alongside them in their holistic and transformational work. Through your giving, we continue to work together with our amazing partners to see the imago Dei empowered and dignified in the lives of sex trafficking survivors.

As we enter year two of the FREE initiative, we hope to raise \$300,000 to fund the good work of our partners on the ground. To continue your support of these efforts to combat this evil, please do so at giving.covchurch.org/free.



Covenant World Relief
and Development

PARTNERS IN TRANSFORMATION



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Learn more and give at covchurch.org/cwrd.