

COVENANT KIDS

Congo

powered by

World Vision®



Dear Friends,

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside the children and families of Gemena and Karawa, DR Congo (Ledia, Ngemelina, and Karawa Area Programs). Our partnership with World Vision remains strong, and together we are partnering in the transformation of longstanding community challenges into hope and opportunity through the hard work and perseverance of participating children and families.

This newsletter provides statistics and stories for Fiscal Year 2022. Each year, we receive two main updates from the World Vision field staff in the Democratic Republic of Congo—a semiannual report and an annual report. We recently received our FY2022 Annual Report, covering the months of October 2021 through September 2022. I am so encouraged to read these updates and pray you will be as well. Thank you for your role in our partnership and for your ongoing commitment to the people of DR Congo.

Together,



Pastor Lyndsey Watson

COVENANT KIDS CONGO
MINISTRY SPECIALIST



The Evangelical Covenant Church

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Ndepana, La Grace's father, meets with a community volunteer

COVENANT KIDS CONGO

Engagement

There are a number of opportunities for individuals and churches to engage with the Covenant Kids Congo partnership including Global 6K, Team World Vision, Sponsorship, and Celebration Sunday.

To learn more contact
covenantkidscongo@covchurch.org.

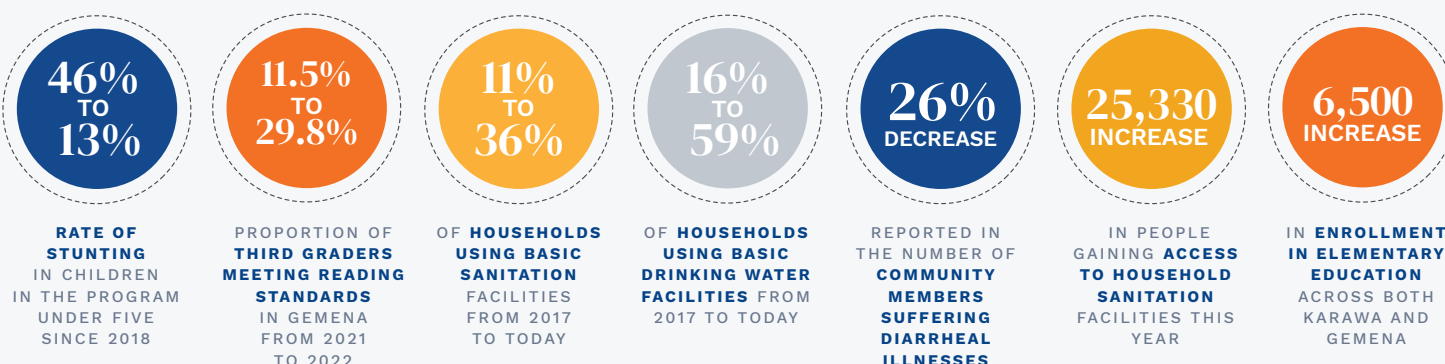
COMBATING MALNUTRITION BY EMPOWERING FAMILIES

Malnutrition is a major issue throughout DR Congo. When the Karawa Area Program began in 2021, malnourishment was identified as one of the top challenges facing the community. For as long as anyone can remember, children in Karawa have been dying of malnutrition. We have seen much progress in the area of malnutrition in Gemena and are prayerful as we begin to hear stories of transformation in Karawa.

La Grace was only three months old when her mother died. It became difficult for her father, Ndepana, to support her older brother and a new baby, while also working. La Grace soon became malnourished, and her father was worried. He recalls, "She was losing weight from day to day and all her hair had fallen out."

Last year, a World Vision community volunteer looked in on the vulnerable family, and it became clear that La Grace, now a toddler, was struggling. The volunteer connected them with the Karawa Area Program office. World Vision gave Ndepana four packs of soap, sugar, and salt—enough to provide for his family and a little extra,

COVENANT KIDS BY THE NUMBERS**



** All statistics taken from the Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021 through September 2022) Annual Report prepared in April 2023.

Families in Gemena celebrate their children's graduation from the Positive Deviance Hearth nutrition program. Many of these children faced life-threatening malnutrition but now are in good health thanks to their parents' newfound nutritional know-how and income-generating opportunities facilitated by the initiatives.



which he sold to start a small peanut-growing business. La Grace was also enrolled in Positive Deviance Hearth (PD Hearth), a feeding and education program that teaches parents how to fight malnutrition using nutritious local foods.

Today, La Grace is a healthy two-year-old. “I thank World Vision for providing items to start income-generating activities and coaching to parents on improving the health of the malnourished children in our community,” says her happy father.

In addition to implementing programs like PD Hearth, providing families with direct nutritional needs is often the jumpstart they need to provide for their family long into the future. In our program in Gemena,

we have seen significant progress in improving the nutritional status of children.

Stunting is identified when a child's height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median. Last year, evaluations indicated a 33% decrease in stunting in children under five since 2018. One significant factor was the involvement of households in savings groups and income-generating activities. This increased families' earnings and enabled them to invest in their family's nutritional health. Praise God!

World Vision's economic empowerment efforts are making big changes for families in Gemena and Karawa; however, nine in 10 parents report they

still struggle to provide for their children. Many of these families have requested access to additional credit. **Join us in praying for the capacity to fulfill their desire to create and grow income-generating enterprises.**

Paul Carlson Partnership, another ministry of Serve Globally, is also working to address severe acute malnutrition in Karawa and the surrounding areas. To learn more or give directly to this need, scan here.



IN KARAWA
PARTICIPATED IN
UNLOCK LITERACY
**TEACHER
EDUCATION**



IN GEMENA
WERE **TRAINED
IN BUSINESS/
ENTREPRENEURIAL
SKILLS**



UNDER FIVE
IN GEMENA
ATTENDED
**GROWTH
MONITORING
ACTIVITIES**



IN GEMENA
**RECEIVED
PRENATAL CARE**
FROM HEALTH
FACILITIES



IN GEMENA WERE
SUPPORTED
THROUGH **INCOME
GENERATION
ACTIVITIES**
OF THEIR
CAREGIVERS IN
568 SAVINGS
GROUPS



**PARTICIPATED IN
JESUS: THE SOURCE
OF LIVING WATER,**
WHICH TEACHES
HEALTHFUL
WASH PRACTICES
THROUGH STUDYING
THE BIBLE

PAUL CARLSON PARTNERSHIP KARAWA COFFEE

The Evangelical Covenant Church has been engaged in mission and partnership in the DRC for more than 85 years—long before our Covenant Kids Congo partnership began in 2012. Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP), a legacy of martyred Covenant missionary Dr. Paul Carlson, is active throughout and beyond the region where Covenant Kids Congo partners with World Vision. Many of the families of CKC-sponsored children in Karawa also benefit from the work of PCP.

PCP has three main ministry areas: medical programs, infrastructure, and economic development. The Karawa Coffee Project was launched in an effort to reduce extreme poverty, enhance food security, and build the economy through the revitalization of coffee production and export in Karawa, DR Congo. The Karawa Coffee Project is now fully owned by Congolese coffee producers, who are selling their coffee locally and globally. **We encourage you to learn more and consider buying coffee for yourself or as a gift!**



For more information
and to order, visit
paulcarlson.org/coffee.

FOCUS ON CHILD PROTECTION

Every boy and girl deserves a childhood free from violence and exploitation—to be nurtured to realize their God-given potential. A recent survey in Gemena revealed that 39% of children experience sexual violence and 29% are involved in child labor. Our partnership is fighting this in a number of ways, including equipping communities to identify and support vulnerable children and address the root causes of violence. We are happy to report that the 126 young former sex-workers rehabilitated through vocational training in 2021 continue to learn trades such as sewing and hairdressing in 10 training centers. In addition, community members formed 23 child protection and advocacy groups (20 in Gemena and three in Karawa).

As an initiative of Covenant World Relief and Development, Covenant Kids Congo engages in the fight against sex trafficking and human trafficking, which is just one of many ways the Covenant is engaging in this conversation. The FREE anti-sex trafficking initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church empowers churches to engage in the fight against sex trafficking both domestically and globally. To join us in prayer or learn how you can help break the cycle, visit covchurch.org/FREE.



GEMENA NEW HEALTH CENTER

The Ngbandala Health Center began building a new clinic in FY2022! For more than 20 years, the clinic's staff labored in a small facility, struggling to see patients and engage with the community due to cramped quarters. They searched for another location but were unable to find anything until recently. When a plot became available, World Vision helped the community mobilize government funding to purchase the land, and local faith leaders rallied the community to raise support for construction. The new health clinic (pictured) will provide a safe space to treat patients and educate community members.

In many parts of DR Congo, families often lack access to basic healthcare, resulting in preventable illnesses, chronic health conditions, and even death. Health centers and clinics like this are an important part of ensuring kids and families get a healthy start.

Learn more at CovChurch.org/CovenantKidsCongo

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