

COVENANTKIDS

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SUMMER 2023 UPDATE



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

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 Pro-

gram office. World Vision gave Ndepana four packs of soap, sugar, and salt—enough to provide for his family and a little extra, 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

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

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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.**



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.

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