

COVENANT KIDS

Congo

powered by

World Vision®



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued partnership with Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision.

In November, I had the opportunity to travel to Karawa, DR Congo, as part of a delegation invited by Covenant Church of Congo to celebrate 100 years of the gospel in Karawa. We were joined by multiple global personnel and thousands of Congolese Covenanters from across the region. Words cannot express how wonderful it was to celebrate with our sisters and brothers in Congo.

While the main purpose of our visit was to celebrate God at work through the church, I was also able to meet with World Vision staff at the headquarters in Kinshasa as well as the program staff for Gemena (Ledia/Ngemelina) and Karawa—truly a highlight of my trip. Please continue to pray for this team, their families, and the families they serve. Because of their efforts and your continued partnership,

amazing things are happening!

Just before our trip, we received the semiannual report from the field staff in DR Congo on the first six months of FY2023. During this time frame, Covenant Kids Congo supported the Ledia/Ngemelina and Karawa area programs (APs) to integrate their child sponsorship programming into community development activities. This increases efficiency across programs and enables us to reach the most vulnerable children in the area.

Our water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming helped more than 16,000 children access handwashing facilities in schools, improving hygiene and reducing the spread of disease. Children's health is improving as well, and we are making continued strides toward economic empowerment. The number of families involved in savings groups, micro-lending, and income-generating activities is encouraging!

I hope this update encourages you and leads you to consider how you might continue engaging in our partnership in the coming year—perhaps by hosting a Global 6K for your family, neighborhood, or church. Or maybe it's hosting a Celebration Sunday at your church or a letter-writing party in your home. We hope you will consider connecting in some way.

Thank you again for your prayers and partnership. Your faithful support is providing improved health, education, access to clean water and safe sanitation, economic empowerment, hope, and a tangible expression of God's love to thousands of children and families in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Merci Mingi,



Pastor Lyndsey Watson

COVENANT KIDS CONGO
MINISTRY SPECIALIST



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Impact Story



Life for Yollande and her three children was never easy, but when her husband died four years ago, everything became worse. Yollande remembered, “Everything seemed to be difficult—finding food for my children was very challenging and my children had to stop studying. We lived only with the help of my pastor.”

Yollande’s pastor introduced her to Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision and the Savings for Transformation program. He had attended the training and knew Yollande and her children would benefit from being part of a savings group. She recalls, “I seized the opportunity.”

Yollande began by saving about the equivalent of \$2 each week. When her savings reached \$20, she was able to apply for a loan from her savings group. The \$435 loan she received enabled her to start a restaurant, pay for her child’s school fees, and support her pregnant daughter. “Thanks to the savings, I do not have any more worries about money or my family care, because I continue to save and take care of my family properly,” Yolland said. “I thank World Vision because the savings came to wipe my tears as a widow.”

There are numerous stories like Yollande and her family! We thank God for the opportunity to come alongside families as they are empowered to dream and realize those dreams.

One of the best ways to improve the life of a child is to promote the flourishing of their family and community. In the first six months of FY23, the area programs in Gemena and Karawa continued to integrate their child sponsorship program into community development activities with the help of community volunteers and local partners.

When we participate in sponsorship, children, their families, and the greater community will benefit from interventions in areas such as clean water, education, healthcare, food resources, and economic development. A relationship is formed with your individual child(ren), and donations are pooled toward critical community needs for transformational development.

DID YOU KNOW?



Gemena (Ledia AP) is currently the only Area Program in DRC that participates in Chosen.

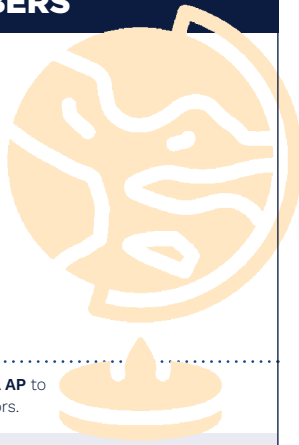
Chosen is the new sponsorship initiative where the child chooses their sponsor. In 2024, Karawa will be added as a Chosen location and we’re inviting Canadian Covenant churches to be the first to participate!

In 2024, a number of churches are scheduled to host a Chosen invitation at their church. These dates include January 28, February 18, March 10, March 24, June 2, July 21, and August 18. If your church would like to participate, please contact lyndsey.watson@covchurch.org.

GEMENA AND KARAWA IN NUMBERS

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH WAS WORLD VISION'S **first** DENOMINATIONAL PARTNER.

THE PROGRAM IN GEMENA (LEDIA/ NGEMELINA) IS WORLD VISION'S **largest** AREA PROGRAM WORLDWIDE.



Did you know? The program in Gemena has two names: the **Ledia AP** to United States sponsors and the **Ngemelina AP** to Canadian sponsors.

AP?

STANDS FOR **AREA PROGRAM***

AP IS WORLD VISION'S ACRONYM FOR A **DISTINCT GEOGRAPHICAL AREA** WHERE THEY STRATEGICALLY **PARTNER WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS** TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN THROUGH MULTIPLE SECTOR PROJECTS **AIMED AT THE ROOT CAUSES OF ISSUES THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT CHILDREN.**

*Formerly called ADP (area development program)

GEMENA

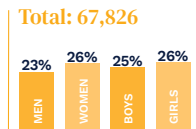
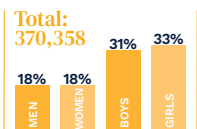
PROGRAM START DATE
OCTOBER 2011
SPONSORSHIP START DATE
OCTOBER 2012
APPROXIMATE CLOSING DATE
SEPTEMBER 2029

Important Dates

KARAWA

PROGRAM START DATE
OCTOBER 2020
SPONSORSHIP START DATE
JUNE 2021
APPROXIMATE CLOSING DATE
SEPTEMBER 2035

Populations

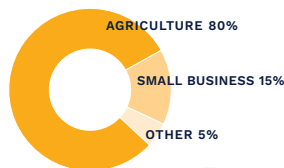
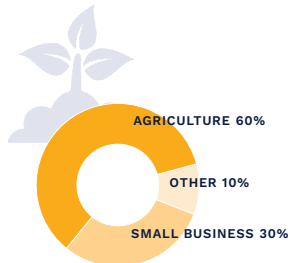


13,974 CHILDREN REGISTERED WITH **US** SPONSORS
300 CHILDREN REGISTERED WITH **CANADIAN** SPONSORS

Registration Numbers

3,000 CHILDREN REGISTERED WITH **US** SPONSORS
500 CHILDREN REGISTERED WITH **CANADIAN** SPONSORS

Main Activities of the Population



Regional Languages: LINGALA, NGBAKA, FRENCH



Productive and Resilient Livelihoods

Ending cycles of poverty is at the heart of World Vision's approach to helping the most vulnerable families lift themselves out of poverty for good. **To achieve the goal of ending intergenerational poverty, livelihoods work is foundational.**

live-li-hood /'lɪvɪ,(h)ʊd/ (noun) a means of securing the necessities of life

Families in Gemena and Karawa continue to strive toward economic empowerment through productive and resilient livelihoods, providing education, healthcare, food, clothing, and other essential needs to nearly 8,000 vulnerable children in the program!

In Gemena, 30 tons of seeds were distributed to 432 families for their crops and the Karawa Urban Committee received wheelbarrows, carts, spades, axes, and other tools to help fight the growing erosion in their city. Savings in Transformation groups are also contributing to increased economic stability for families. In the first six months of FY23 (this reporting period), 78 savings groups in Karawa, coached by 35 trained field agents, saved a total of \$17,462 and provided \$4,763 in microcredit to 77 households to invest in income-generating activities. The savings programs in Karawa are just getting started, while the programs in Gemena have been ongoing for years. In Gemena, 6,709 savings group members, over 60% of whom are women, received financial education training in partnership with VisionFund, the next level of microloan access. Through VisionFund larger loans are available.

We are incredibly encouraged by this report! These numbers represent real women and men, moms and dads, who are being empowered to lift themselves out of poverty and create a safe and sustainable livelihood and income for their families.

Desks and Dreams

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

The children at Bokpasi primary school are excited to receive new desks! “For several years, our school did not have benches for students, and this prevented us from writing well in [our] notebooks. Many students stood on the floor. I thank World Vision for this activity,” said 11-year-old Grace, who lives in Karawa AP.

Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision continues to work with families and local partners to improve access to education. Enrollment of elementary students increased by 2,250 in Gemena (Ledja/Ngemelina APs) and 293 students in Karawa during the reporting period. Many of the newly enrolled students were girls, a promising sign that attitudes toward educating girls are shifting—thanks to parents, church leaders, and community members raising awareness in their communities.

In Gemena, 50 church leaders and 30 parent committees promoted the importance of education to 5,641 parents. In Karawa, seven faith leaders and 20 parent committee members trained 890 parents on parenting practices, children’s rights, and the importance of education.

While education is clearly a top priority, it also remains a great need. While a plethora of students are enrolled (sometimes more than 120 students in a classroom), thousands more are not. Due to large class sizes, teachers often do not have the capacity to follow up with students individually, which can decrease the level of learning students receive in class. In 2022, reading comprehension for third graders in Gemena was 29.8%. In Karawa, it was only 1.9%.

Learning basic literacy and numeracy skills is incredibly important and can unlock opportunities for children and adults in DR Congo. World Vision’s Unlock Literacy program aims to ensure children in the early grades of primary school learn to read so they can become active, fluent readers with lifelong literacy skills. This program is currently being implemented in both Gemena and Karawa.

Join us in praying for teachers, parents, and students as they engage with this program.



During this Reporting Period

572 parents and caregivers in Gemena and Karawa attended learning sessions on Unlock Literacy, World Vision’s program model for teaching foundational literacy skills to six- to nine-year-olds. The sessions train parents to read with their children and engage in their children’s education at home, school, and in the community.

268 teachers in Gemena and Karawa attended training sessions, where they were equipped with strategies and tools to make learning fun, creative, and child-centered.

5,500 locally relevant reading materials were developed and distributed to more than 30 community reading clubs in Gemena and Karawa.

137 community literacy facilitators attended Unlock Literacy community action sessions.

35 reading club facilitators in Gemena were trained in the Youth Ready project model, which helps young people develop life skills such as decision-making, self-management, resilience, communication, and participation in local development projects.

DID YOU KNOW?

Covenant Kids Congo is under the umbrella of **Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD)**. CWRD partners in a variety of types of community development projects around world, including both formal and informal education opportunities for children in five countries with eight partners. For more information about partnering with CWRD to provide funding for programs like this and more, visit covchurch.org/cwrd.

Learn more at CovChurch.org/CovenantKidsCongo

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