



COVENANTKIDS

Congo

POWERED BY World Vision®

- » Democratic Republic of the Congo
- » Ledia Area Development Program in Gemena

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“We are grateful for the work that God is doing through World Vision by providing us safe water. May God bless all donors and World Vision staff.”
—Mama Kodenu, community member

LEDIA AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Your gifts are a blessing for the children you sponsor, their families, and their community. Our partnership with you, as brothers and sisters in Christ, gives us the privilege of reflecting God's love to children and families in this region. It is our joy to be part of God's work together.

We are deeply grateful for your support of the Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision partnership. This partnership supports a specific community called the Ledia Area Development Program (ADP) in Gemena, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This report describes progress in the Ledia ADP from October 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. In addition, for interventions where it is feasible, cumulative reporting is included.

Mama Komigo holds her son, Michael. She is grateful beyond relief that he is alive and healthy. Michael nearly died of malnutrition. Not unlike many mothers in the Gemena area, Mama Komigo did not know the signs and symptoms of malnutrition. As a result, Michael was not diagnosed and did not receive treatment.

It was a neighbor who was able to recognize that Michael was suffering from malnutrition.

Mama Komigo was able to get treatment started for Michael quickly. After about two months of treatment, he was cured. And after taking improved food preparation and nutrition training, Mama Komigo is now confident that she will be able to prepare nutritious foods, so Michael can grow up healthy and strong.



SPONSORSHIP

CHILD AND MOTHER SURVIVAL

Activities from October 2015 through June 2016

In an effort to **prevent malnutrition** and **support improved nutrition**, training sessions were offered this reporting period. Experts from the Ministry of Health, the National Nutrition Program, and World Vision staff collaborated to provide and conduct the trainings:

- 50 community health workers and nutritionists were equipped with knowledge and skills to monitor and track childhood malnutrition.
- 10 nutritionists were trained on the integrated treatment and care of acute malnutrition.

To further **promote health**, the following activities took place:

- 484 malnourished children were supported at nutritional centers and the referral hospital. The project funded food purchase and related training activities.
- 255 orphans and vulnerable children were supported with healthcare. The project funded medical care of the children through community-based organizations and the Ministry of Health.
- 1,000 couples were sensitized in aspects of family planning and early marriage. Sensitization was led by trained nurses and community health workers.

Cumulative Activities from October 2012 through June 2016

ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	THROUGH FISCAL 2015	FISCAL 2016 QTRS ONE & TWO	FISCAL 2016 QTR THREE	FISCAL 2016 TOTAL	TOTAL
Households with malnourished children supported with agricultural tools and assorted seeds for home gardening	100	350	225	575	675
Malnourished children supported with care and food in nutrition centers	1,282	135	349	484	1,766
Orphans and vulnerable children supported with health care	237	130	125	255	492
Children immunized due to Extended Program for Immunization and an adequate means to refrigerate vaccines for prolonged storage and during transport	29,189	54,275	23,950	78,225	107,414
Schoolchildren and teachers trained in improved sanitation and hygiene practices, including behavioral change practices like handwashing with soap before eating and after using the toilet	541	0	16,048	16,048	16,589

SPONSORSHIP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Activities from October 2015 through June 2016

In an effort to **support sustainable farming, ensure access to enough food,** and **promote improved nutrition**, the following activities took place during this reporting period:

Supporting Farmers

With a focus on sustainable practices, a total of 350 small-holder farmers received training in crop production, animal husbandry, fish farming, the importance of a balanced diet, and improved food preparation. The training sessions were a joint effort involving technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, experts from the National Nutrition Program, and World Vision staff.

- The farmers learned improved techniques (e. g. use of high-yielding and adapted seed stocks, use of optimum seed rate and planting timelines, and pest and nutrient management) for growing corn, peanuts, cow peas, cassava, sweet potatoes, eggplant, okra, spinach, tomatoes, and fruit trees.
- The farmers were provided with assorted seed packs, consisting of 440 pounds of corn (sufficient to plant nearly 20 acres of land), 130 pounds of cow pea (sufficient to plant about seven acres of land) and 20,000 cassava cuttings (sufficient to plant nearly 20 acres of land).
- The farmers received various farm tools, including 350 hoes and 350 machetes.

Supporting Conservation and Erosion Control

- 160 fast-growing tree species were planted. The tree species consisted of adapted indigenous trees, which will form the framework for a new ecosystem that will emerge.

Supporting Household Gardens for Families

A total of 150 vulnerable households, representing six farming associations, received seeds and agricultural inputs to use and share, including the following:

- Two and a half pounds each of eggplant, okra, spinach, tomato, and nightshade vegetable seeds
- 120 watering cans, 120 shovels, 120 rakes, and 120 wheelbarrows

To **develop the capacity of small business owners** the following activities took place during this reporting period:

Developing Income Generating Activities

49 households (headed primarily by women) received training and support for various income generating activities.

- The participants were trained on soap making, bread baking, and other income generating activities.
- The participants received training on finance and business development.
- The households were provided with grants to help start small businesses.

SPONSORSHIP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Activities from October 2015 through June 2016

Developing Savings Groups

- 16 saving groups were formed. Members received training on mobilization, organization, and handling group finances. These savings groups, supported by Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision, are a discipleship and economic empowerment ministry of the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM).
- 43 women were trained to be trainers of saving groups.
- 106 women were trained as trainer replicators to support the formation of new saving groups.

Cumulative Activities from October 2012 through June 2016

ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	THROUGH FISCAL 2015	FISCAL 2016 QTRS ONE & TWO	FISCAL 2016 QTR THREE	FISCAL 2016 TOTAL	TOTAL
Small farmers trained in new techniques and provided with seeds and tools	875	350	0	350	1,225
Farmers trained on the importance of balanced diet	875	350	1,048	1,398	2,273
Households supported to start home gardens	105	150	0	150	255
Women supported with inputs to start small businesses	250	49	0	49	299

Savings Groups

The introduction of savings groups is a response to the challenges facing individuals who lack access to credit or financial services at affordable rates. Savings groups are a widely successful approach. Not only do they encourage financial savings, they foster trust and care among their members, and offer a means to access small loans.

SPONSORSHIP

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Activities from October 2015 through June 2016

To **further engage community members in advocacy, social justice, and child protection efforts**, the following activities took place during this reporting period:

Advancing Advocacy

- 50 community members (35 men and 15 women) were trained in *Citizen Voice and Action*, which equips individuals to engage with their local and national government agencies to protect and promote the rights and well-being of their community. (Please see description below.)

Developing Community Capacity

- 100 members of community-based organizations (86 men and 14 women) received training to improve collaboration, communication, and integration among their various organizations.
- 727 members of community-based organizations and faith-based organizations (374 men and 353 women) participated in training sessions to grow the local capacity for a peace-building initiative.
- 100 officials (72 men and 28 women) were trained to recognize and prevent child abuse.
- A Gemena-based prosecutor was trained in the handling and prosecuting of child abuse cases.
- 50 community social workers (35 men and 15 women) were trained to provide support and psychosocial care for individuals who have been sexually abused.

Citizen Voice and Action is a methodology that equips church and community leaders and members to hold local government accountable to enforce policies and provide promised community services that protect children and families from harm.

To **advance improvements in education**, the following activities took place during this reporting period:

- Master trainers from the Ministry of Education and World Vision staff joined efforts to train 190 primary school teachers (122 men and 68 women) on the new national curriculum and teaching methods.

SPONSORSHIP

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Activities from October 2015 through June 2016

To continue to **foster partnerships with local churches**, the following activities took place during this reporting period:

- 100 church leaders participated in *Channels of Hope* training. (Please see description below.)
- A Bible camp was organized for 202 children (77 boys and 125 girls), where the children learned about God's presence and love of neighbors.
- Due to an absence of microfinance institutions in the area, World Vision worked in partnership with local churches to manage grants provided to 49 households.
- World Vision collaborated with the local Catholic Church to support 480 vulnerable individuals living with HIV or AIDS. Grants were provided to these individuals, and many have started small businesses selling chilled beverages such as bottled water and soft drinks. The church has further supported these entrepreneurs by housing a deep freezer, where beverages can be stored and preserved.

Cumulative Activities from October 2012 through June 2016

ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	THROUGH FISCAL 2015	FISCAL 2016 QTRS ONE & TWO	FISCAL 2016 QTR THREE	FISCAL 2016 TOTAL	TOTAL
Children attending Bible camps	3,437	0	202	202	3,639

Channels of Hope has been used successfully by World Vision in Africa since 2003. Faith leaders wrestle with Scripture to better understand their role as followers of Christ to combat deeply held cultural beliefs that have a negative impact on their communities. *Channels of Hope* is a powerful discipleship tool, enabling pastors to better understand their own sin while being reminded of God's redemptive and powerful grace and forgiveness.

The program is designed to move the heart, inform the mind, and engage the hands of local churches as they become leaders in their communities, addressing concerns such as HIV and AIDS, gender inequality, child protection, and maternal and child health.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPACT STORY



Photo left: Mama Mado Mongbanza carries her garden produce. Photo right: Mama Mado Mongbanza at home with several of her family members.

A mother's anxious burden is lifted

Mama Mado Mongbanza, mother of seven, lives in Gemena. For years, poverty was both a hardship and humiliation for her family. Her children could not attend school regularly because the family was not able to consistently afford the school fees. There were times her children would be chased out of the school due to lack of payment.

Adding to her burden, Mama Mado Mongbanza feared for her children's health and proper development. She says she was

unable to ensure her children would have enough to eat or receive the healthcare services they needed.

Then her husband was without a job. The family continued to fall deeper into poverty, until a life-changing opportunity presented itself.

Mama Mado Mongbanza discovered she could participate in a training program: a small gardening venture in Gemena that allows women to earn enough

income to send their children to school, ensure the provision of healthcare services, and provide enough nourishing food for their households.

Mama Mado Mongbanza said, "Thanks to this training supported by World Vision, I put into practice the knowledge and I earn money from my small garden." With a big smile she adds, "Now, I am able to afford my children's school expenses"

"Thank you very much World Vision and partners (Evangelical Covenant Church and local churches). Thanks to their support my children are healthy and go to the school." —Mama Mado Mongbanza

SPONSORSHIP

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INNOVATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

Innovation Saving groups participants put to use the knowledge, information, and skills they acquired during training sessions to set up a self-help and education fund. The fund was created to assist savings group members in their efforts to start small businesses so they can provide for their children and families.

Lessons Learned Ensuring that each project partner is involved in all aspects of the project life cycle (design, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, etc.) has been integral and continuous throughout the project life cycle. This has been a success, as non-participation and lack of ownership were detected earlier and planned for at the beginning of the program.

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN THIS PROGRAM?

When program staff members meet challenges or difficulties, they gather together with partners for prayer. They have noticed the way God is at work responding to their prayers.

One significant example involves the process of obtaining registered birth certificates for children.

Because a birth certificate is essential for children to access their social, educational, and legal rights, and because many Congolese children do not have this critical legal document, program staff members continue to work toward each and every child having a birth certificate. However, especially vulnerable families cannot afford the documents for their children.

Program staff is thankful to report that the official source for registered birth certificates has significantly lowered the fee. Given the fee reduction, and the help of local churches, more than 4,000 children have obtained registered birth certification. Praise God.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM.

More children are being treated for malnutrition and more children are surviving. The program has helped community members, caregivers, parents, and healthcare workers better recognize the signs and symptoms of malnutrition and to learn proper and timely treatment and care.

As noted earlier in this report, the Ministry of Health, experts from the National Nutrition Program, and World Vision staff collaborated to provide training sessions for 50 community health workers and nutritionists, equipping them with knowledge and skills to monitor and track childhood malnutrition. In addition, 10 nutritionists were trained on the integrated treatment and care of acute malnutrition.

Prior to 2014, a group of 350 mothers reported to have lost one or more children per year to malnutrition. Since the program started, not one of the 350 mothers have lost a child to malnutrition.

SPONSORSHIP

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DESCRIBE HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROGRAM. HOW HAVE THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM?

The board of directors for the program is comprised of community members, and includes people from three churches. The board takes a lead in making decisions concerning the program.

The program has not had to pay for labor to construct an elementary school because community members are volunteering their time and labor to build the school. The work of these volunteers speaks to the level of engagement and commitment the community has for the program.

Community members contributed to the digging of a well.

Regular meetings are held each month where program staff, partners, and community members can reflect on program progress, challenges, and areas for improvement.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

WASH activities through January 2017

A total of **24,340 people have access to clean water** as of January 2017. The two completed water systems provide water for 16,043 people. In addition, 6,388 people access water from Suzia springs, and 1,909 people access water from Mayi ya Poto.

In an ongoing effort to **complete the third water system**, drilling was attempted a second time. Unfortunately, like the first drilling, adequate water was not found.

- New options for the third water system are currently being considered by the technical team, and community members are engaged in the planning process. For now, a third drilling was temporarily put on hold, and a decision was made to conduct a feasibility study. The study revealed a possible plan: to draw water from the two completed water systems (CECU and CELPA) to support the eight water kiosks of the planned third system (CEUM). Additional considerations and options are continuing to be pursued.
- Construction is completed for the eight CEUM kiosks.

WASH activities from October 2015 through June 2016

Sanitation and hygiene activities were conducted in the three water-system areas: CECU, CELPA, and CEUM.

- More than 16,980 people received training in improved hygiene practices such as handwashing with soap before eating and after using the toilet, safe refuse disposal, environmental cleaning, sun-drying clothes on clotheslines instead of placing on the ground, washing and drying dishes on raised platforms, and more.
- 250 households built their own latrines.

The **water management committees**, comprised of members from the three churches, received further training to strengthen their capacity for fee collection. An effective fee collection plan is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water systems.

The three churches and three water systems:

- CECU: Community of Churches of Christ in Ubangi (completed water system)
- CELPA: Free African Pentecostal Churches Community (completed water system)
- CEUM: Community of Churches in Ubangi and Mongala, also known as the Covenant Church of Congo (developing water system)

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

IMPACT STORY



Photo left: Mama Sandra at her home with her children. Photo right: Mama Sandra gets water from the kiosk near her home.

Clean water improves health

Mama Sandra, mother of five, said, “My children suffered for a long time because of the bad quality of water ... and it obliged us to bring them every time to the health center.” Regular visits to the health center, she says, were an incredible drain on her family’s resources.

Now, clean, safe water flows continuously in her community—

only a short walk (about a fourth the length of a football field) from her home. And Mama Sandra’s children no longer need regular visits to the health center to treat water-related sickness.

“Today, thanks to the mechanized system [provided] by World Vision and partners for us, we now have safe drinking water,” said Mama Sandra. “All my

children are healthy. I do not spend money to bring them to the health center because of the waterborne disease, because we access safe water.”

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

IMPACT STORY



Photo left: Mama YuYu gets water from the kiosk near her home. Photo right: Mama YuYu at her home with her children.

Water access adds unexpected benefits

A nearby water kiosk holds more than the usual health, household, and education-related benefits for Mama YuYu and her family of seven.

Mama YuYu lives in Gemena, and has trained for and earned the rank of water kiosk officer in her community. Her title means she is paid to collect water-user fees.

As people come to the kiosk to draw water, Mama YuYu ensures proper payments and contributions are collected. The money is used to cover management, maintenance, and

repairs, all of which help to ensure the kiosk will continue to operate successfully for the long term.

With her earnings, Mama YuYu says life has significantly improved for her and her family. She can now provide adequate food and nourishment for her growing children. And she is able to send all her children to school.

"I suffered for a long time, traveling long distances from village to village, looking for something to sell to feed my children, and what I earned was not enough to fulfill the need.

Now as I am a water kiosk officer of one of the kiosks settled in my district, my life changes," said Mama YuYu.

And of course, access to safe water has helped her children avoid water-related illnesses. She said her children no longer have bouts of stomach pains, and added, "I thank World Vision and its partners for giving water in our district. This contributed to the reduction of the number of the waterborne diseases and infant mortality."

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INNOVATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

A door-to-door approach was used to identify the most vulnerable households concerning water, which proved to be a good method. It resulted in 80 vulnerable households receiving access to safe water at no cost—households that otherwise would not have received water access because they could not afford it.

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN THIS PROGRAM?

We see God at work in a vote that was passed through the parliament to privatize the water sector. With the change to privatization, our WASH work in Gemena is expected to go more smoothly and to gain better momentum.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM.

Because access to safe water is closer to people's homes, there has been considerable change in people's lives.

Mothers and girls spend less time each day collecting water, and now have time for other important things such as household chores, caring for children, and earning family income.

Children have improved their personal hygiene practices. They take showers regularly. At school, children continue to practice handwashing after using the latrine, and they carry those behaviors on to their home lives. They arrive to school clean and on time.

DESCRIBE HOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROGRAM. HOW HAVE THEY WORKED TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM?

Through the local church, water committees have been established. The water committees, comprised of community members, manage the water systems.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your faithfulness and your prayers as we follow God's call, and strive to respond with compassion to the needs of citizens in one of the most vulnerable, impoverished areas in our world.



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The Evangelical Covenant Church



P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716
www.worldvision.org



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.