



COVENANTKIDS

Congo

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World Vision®

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

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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 Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision. This partnership supports a specific community initiative called the Ledia Area Development Program (ADP) in Gemena, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The following pages describe progress in the Ledia ADP from January 1 through June 30, 2017.

Where it is feasible, cumulative reporting is included.



SPONSORSHIP

CHILD AND MOTHER SURVIVAL

Reporting period: January through June 2017

(Fiscal 2017, Quarters 2 and 3)

The program works on a number of levels to promote and ensure improved health for infants, children, pregnant women, and mothers. Implementing the *Extended Program for Immunization* has proved successful in reaching more children, due to the ability to refrigerate and store temperature-sensitive vaccines. By June 2017, more than 180,000 vaccinations were administered to children.

CHILD AND MOTHER SURVIVAL						
Ledia ADP: Sponsorship accomplishments through June 2017 (Through Fiscal 2017, Quarter 3)						
ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	Oct 2012 through Sept 2015	TOTAL Fiscal 2016 (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)	Q1 Fiscal 2017 (Oct-Dec 2016)	TOTAL through Dec 2016	Q2 and Q3 Fiscal 2017 (Jan-June 2017)	TOTAL through June 2017
Malnourished children supported with care and food in nutrition centers	1,282	855	0	2,137	192	2,329
Orphans and vulnerable children supported with healthcare	237	568	90	895	300	1,195
Number of vaccinations administered to children, partially due to the <i>Extended Program for Immunization</i> , which helps to ensure adequate refrigeration for vaccine storage and transport	29,189	85,587	17,039	131,815	48,495	180,310
Community members trained to educate pregnant women in prevention efforts to avoid HIV transmission from mother to infant	624	197	158	979	210	1,189

In Ledia, vaccinations are recorded by the Ministry of Health and then reported to World Vision staff. The Ministry of Health numbers represent the number of vaccinations administered, not the number of children who received vaccinations. Through a complex process of communication, translation, and reporting, the Ministry of Health numbers were mistakenly misrepresented in a recent donor report. We reported 180,310 children received vaccinations, when in reality 180,310 vaccinations were administered. Thank you for your patience and grace as we carefully and thoughtfully strive to continue to provide accurate reporting.

SPONSORSHIP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reporting period: January through June 2017
(Fiscal 2017, Quarters 2 and 3)

In an effort to support sustainable farming, ensure access to sufficient food, and promote improved nutrition, the program continues to focus on empowering small farmers and home gardeners. In addition, the program works to protect the rights of land owners, farmers, and entrepreneurs by educating them on the law and government regulations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT						
Ledia ADP: Sponsorship accomplishments through June 2017 (Through Fiscal 2017, Quarter 3)						
ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	Oct 2012 through Sept 2015	TOTAL Fiscal 2016 (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)	Q1 Fiscal 2017 (Oct-Dec 2016)	TOTAL through Dec 2016	Q2 and Q3 Fiscal 2017 (Jan-June 2017)	TOTAL through June 2017
Small farmers trained in new techniques and provided with seeds and tools	875	700	0	1,575	0	1,575
Farmers trained on the importance of a balanced diet	875	1,398	0	2,273	0	2,273
Households supported to start home gardens	105	150	0	255	100	355
Women trained in cooking nutritious meals using local agricultural produce	375	358	350	1,083	470	1,553
Households trained in income generating activities and provided with support to start a small business	250	140	146	536	0	536
Community members trained on property rights, land ownership laws, forest regulations, and business law	0	0	80	80	4,400	4,480

SPONSORSHIP

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Reporting period: January through June 2017
(Fiscal 2017, Quarters 2 and 3)

To further engage community members in advocacy, social justice, and child protection efforts, the program continues to focus on training. An example of one positive outcome from child advocacy is described in more detail on page 7.

Christian teachings continued this reporting period through Bible camps for children, training Sunday School teachers, and Channels of Hope trainings.

Ledia ADP: Sponsorship accomplishments through June 2017 (Through Fiscal 2017, Quarter 3)						
ACTIVITY / OUTPUT	Oct 2012 through Sept 2015	TOTAL Fiscal 2016 (Oct 2015 to Sept 2016)	Q1 Fiscal 2017 (Oct-Dec 2016)	TOTAL through Dec 2016	Q2 and Q3 Fiscal 2017 (Jan-June 2017)	TOTAL through June 2017
Children attended Bible camps	3,437	202	0	3,639	210	3,849
National test fees paid for vulnerable primary schoolchildren	100	295	0	395	0	395
Sunday school teachers trained in teaching methodology	86	55	0	141	102	243
Church leaders trained in Channels of Hope program	41	204	0	245	100	345
Parents sensitized on gender bias and the importance for both girls and boys to receive an education	n/a	2,100	0	2,100	0	2,100
Public officials trained in child protection	0	50	110	160	0	160

Channels of Hope has been used successfully by World Vision in Africa since 2003. Faith leaders study Scripture, are reminded of their important role as followers of Christ, and learn to advocate against deeply held cultural beliefs that harm their communities. *Channels of Hope* is a powerful discipleship tool, and teaches pastors and congregations to focus on God's redemptive, 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 compassionate leaders in their communities and serve those most vulnerable—such as individuals suffering from the negative impacts of HIV and AIDS, gender inequality, lack of child protection, and insufficient access to maternal and child healthcare.

FROM TRAGEDY TO HOPE

When Albertine suddenly became the sole provider for her two young granddaughters, both girls were suffering from malnutrition. Albertine did her best to bring them back to good health by caring for them and feeding them nourishing foods. Despite her efforts, the youngest of her granddaughters died.

Grieving and fearful, Albertine saw that her other granddaughter continued to struggle. It was at this time that Albertine was introduced to Maguy, a nutritionist with FOFAD, a community-based organization working in partnership with World Vision. “Maguy was screening children suffering from malnutrition in our neighborhood,” Albertine said.

Maguy recommended Albertine take her granddaughter to the closest health center to be treated for malnutrition. It took three weeks of treatment, and finally, the granddaughter’s health improved.

Meanwhile, the program taught Albertine about nutrition and how to prepare the most nourishing meals with locally available foods. Albertine said, “To maintain the health status of my granddaughter and my entire household, I learned how to prepare and provide a balanced diet for my family. I learned how to [create a] home garden and produce vegetables...”

Learning these lessons has benefited the entire household, including three sponsored children who live with Albertine.

“I thank my God for the support that World Vision and Covenant churches provided to my family and our community through FOFAD. Without them, I would have lost my granddaughter like her young sister.”



Albertine shows the cassava leaves, corn flour, and vegetables that she will use to prepare a nourishing meal for her family.

“I thank my God for the support that World Vision and Covenant churches provided to my family and our community ... ”

—Albertine, Gemena, DRC

SPONSORSHIP

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INNOVATION

A successful, low-cost program, PD/Hearth, was recently adopted and adapted for Ledia's context and culture. The program draws on the community's local skills and talents to prevent and fight against child malnutrition. Essentially, families gather around "the hearth" to learn from one another about how to best nourish their children using locally available foods. Mothers drive this program, and cooking demonstrations are a regular part of the program. Often, World Vision staff members help lead the demonstrations, and supplement what the mothers share with additional nutrition information.

PD/Hearth involves the local Ministry of Health and other local partners, and progress is monitored by community health volunteers. This low-cost approach is known to produce tangible results.

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN THIS PROGRAM?

During this period, God has brought together people and organizations—many with different views and approaches—to achieve common objectives for the well-being of children. The mobilization and engagement of community members, provincial government officials, local churches, community organizations, and local institutions has been a blessing in the fight against chronic malnutrition for children five years and younger.

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

Community members contributed significantly to the work during this reporting period, striving to carry out activities in their respective areas—health and nutrition, economic development, and education and child protection. For example, community members pooled their resources, and together they contributed approximately 30 percent of the overall budget for a construction project comprised of six classrooms, an administrative office, and one block of six latrines at Demongawi Primary School.

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

Traditionally in Ledia, children's voices have not been recognized as valuable, plus the local culture has provided very little protection and respect for children's rights. Program interventions have aimed to change this. Today, children are participating in the child parliament of Gemena. Their voices are being heard and significant changes are taking place. The young parliamentarians are learning to advocate for the protection of children in Gemena and the South Ubangi province.

For example, after discovering various abuses committed against children, child parliamentarians met with the president of the Provincial Assembly to request a provincial edict protecting the South Ubangi child. The provincial assembly accepted the request. Now, the children and government officials are working together to ensure a draft of the edict is submitted and published.

In another example, parliamentarian children found that due to a country-wide economic crisis, many parents did not have the means to pay for their children's grade six final school exams. Understanding the importance of the exam as a means to graduation, the young advocates scheduled a meeting with the Ministry of Education. They advocated for all children to participate in the final exam, regardless of their family's ability to pay, and the Ministry of Education granted their request.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

WASH SUMMARY THROUGH JUNE 2017

The number of people with access to clean water has grown to **37,234**.

The number of water taps (faucets) has grown to **84**.

Dates	TOTAL THROUGH MARCH 2017	FISCAL 2017, QTR 3 (APRIL TO JUNE 2017)	TOTAL THROUGH JUNE 2017
Number of people with access to clean water	28,234	9,000	37,234
Number of water taps (faucets)	66	18	84

UPDATE ON THE THIRD MECHANIZED SYSTEM

The anticipated drilling date of summer 2017 became unrealistic as ongoing challenges persisted—challenges related to difficult geological conditions and specialized equipment required for the work. The drilling is now scheduled for completion by March 2018. The borehole is expected to be between 223 and 260 feet deep.



Léontine is a wife and mother living in the Ledia ADP. She and her family are grateful for the program's teaching of safe sanitation practices, and for guidance on how to build a latrine using locally available materials.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

INNOVATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

Innovation Our church partner, CEUM (Covenant Church of Congo), has agreed to comply with World Vision's financial practice of inviting competitive bids when labor and materials are expected to exceed a cost of \$5,000. The complex and time-consuming process of requesting and reviewing bids has been somewhat of a challenge for the church. At the same time, the process has been an inspiration and encouragement to local entrepreneurs as they hone their technical capacities.

Lessons Learned During this quarter, our staff discovered several powerful local authorities had interfered with the financial management of multiple water committees. To rectify this corruption and restore community-level leadership roles and responsibilities, World Vision implemented a plan—a working structure that protects water committees through improved accountability, legal regulations, and notarial status at the level of the Ministry of Justice.

HOW DO YOU SEE GOD WORKING IN THIS PROGRAM?

Reverend Mbewa, pastor of CEUM, said work on the Bokonzo water system has been surrounded with prayers. When the work first began, a prayer was led by the vice-president of the 51st CEUM (Evangelical Community of Ubangi and Mongala), also known as the Covenant Church of Congo. And daily prayers continued—the vice-president prayed each day before the technicians started working.

For a community that commonly practices traditional sacrificial rituals, practicing prayer instead was a new approach. The community and the workers sought God in the center of this work, and they felt blessed by the absence of accidents along the way.

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

From the beginning to the end of the Bokonzo water system construction, the community rallied. For example, when no road was in place to transport construction materials, community members took it upon themselves to ensure a workable road was in place so CEUM and World Vision could deliver building materials to the construction site. In addition, community members dug trenches for the pipes.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

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

The Bokonzo system has produced enormous improvements in the lives of children and families in Ledia. Changes in the Munzabana family are an example of how the blessing of water is improving so many lives throughout the community.

Before the Bokonzo water system was completed, Mrs. Munzabana and her children would walk more than half a mile to wash in the river. Along the route, particular dangers were a constant threat, including the risks of rape and accidents. But now, with access to water closer to home, Mrs. Munzabana and her husband built a shower. The whole family is benefiting. Without the long walk to the river, the children can arrive to school on time, clean and ready to learn. Family members have decreased their exposure to risks associated with the walking route. And replacing contaminated water with clean, safe water provides the family with multiple health benefits.



(Photo left) Despite the dangerous walking route and contaminated water, the river was the Munzabana family's source for water before the program provided access to clean water closer to their home.



(Photo right) Mrs. Munzabana stands near the shower stall she and her husband built for their family.

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



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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.