

10 KILOMETERS TO CLINIC

Congo Clinic Experience!

Visit us in the display area to get a 10-minute check-up and learn about healthcare in Congo.

PAUL  CARLSON
PARTNERSHIP
50 YEARS OF SERVING CONGO

5 KILOMETERS TO CLINIC

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DAWILI

You have just walked 10km (6 miles) to the closest clinic. It was a difficult journey. Your fever and chills made it even harder to reach help.

You reach the clinic and find they are out of malaria medication. The nurse running the clinic hands an order for medication to your brother, who has walked with you. As your brother leaves to find the medicine, the nurse reminds him to bring water and food. The clinic does not provide them.



You have had malaria before and know that you will live if your brother finds the medicine quickly. You also know what will happen if he can't, because you have lost many friends this way. At age 55, you are one of the oldest people in your village.

Malaria is one of the top 5 killers in Congo, even though bed nets are provided to everyone. It, and many of the other common infectious diseases, are treatable when medicine is available. The 108 clinics in Ubangi are much closer to most villages than the 5 hospitals. Stocking these clinics means faster treatment and saved lives.



MARIE

Even at midday, it's dark in the clinic as your family helps carry you inside. You have been in labor for two days. You are worried for the baby's life, and your own.



Your family rushes in and out, carrying water from a stream 2km away and bringing firewood to help sterilize the equipment the nurse needs.

Many of your friends have died this way. What will happen to your other children if you die too? You have heard that this clinic's nurse just attended a class to help mothers. You pray this will make a difference.

Delivering a baby in Congo is 400 times more dangerous than in the U.S., and most women have many children. 7% of babies born here die at birth. PCP Medical Ambassadors teach Congolese nurses how to save many of these mothers and babies, and how to teach others the same techniques.



JULIENNE

You have five children, three are living. And one is gravely ill. You've walked hours in the jungle heat to reach a clinic, carrying your sick toddler, your baby on your back, and bedding for your child.

You and your daughter work hard to grow food for your family, but it's never enough. You spend your remaining time retrieving water. The closest water source is kilometers away, and it is dirty and contaminated. Your child has been malnourished for a long time, and he doesn't have the energy to fight this parasite from the water.

Though the clinic is often out of medicine, the nurse tells you they just received a shipment and can help. Your little boy will be safe.

20% of children in Congo die by the age of five. The top causes of death in children are asphyxia, malaria, malnutrition, respiratory infections, and diarrhea—all treatable when medicine is available. When clinics are equipped to help, these little ones can be saved. With trained staff, agriculture and clean water programs increase well-being.

