



# Service Projects 2011—Congo

## **Microcredit in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The formation of Microcredit and Savings Projects among the women of The Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo (CDCC) is a source of hope in an otherwise dim existence. The projects allow people to live in “dignified poverty” rather than hopeless destitution. These loans create change.

The first is through offering loans to people in the community so that they can start a business or make a needed investment. These loans are then paid back with interest. The interest then becomes income to women who have invested with the group and is the second way that the project helps people financially. As individuals demonstrate their ability to repay the loans and interest, they are able to borrow again and subsequent loans may be larger because they have proven themselves trustworthy.

The Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo is seeking start-up funds to expand the network of microcredit and savings projects to involve more women in locations where groups have already started and to begin groups in the more remote communities. Funds would be used to grant initial loans.



## **Soap-Making in the Republic of Congo**

The Eglise des Disciples du Christ au Congo (EDCC), in the capital city of Brazzaville has found that many women church members did not attend school and now live in severe poverty without any source of income. There also are many widows with complete responsibility for their children.

To address this need, EDCC has a Women’s Soap Making project that provides a small income for those involved. The project has been successful and other women would like to get involved in the soap making project. The women at EDCC churches outside of Brazzaville would like the opportunity to learn to make soap and to have access to the materials to create their own business. The women in Brazzaville are also seeking a marketplace to sell more soap and involve more women.

Gifts made to this project will be used for expansion of the project. Funds will be used for additional start-up materials and molds for new groups. The original group in Brazzaville would also like to purchase a small piece of land and build a small building to store their materials.



Send your check (payable to Global Ministries) to:

Global Ministries, Office for Resource Development, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

\*Please note on the gift your project preference and the WWW 2011 Congo journey.

More information is available at [www.DisciplesWomen.org](http://www.DisciplesWomen.org)

