

# Strengthening Health Systems in the DRC

APPUI AU SYSTÈME DE SANTÉ EN RDC | ASSR

## FAMILY PLANNING AND FINANCIAL SECURITY

As the mist cleared in the early morning hours, Marie-Louise left the house to begin her day in the market in Kananga, the provincial capital of Kasai-Central. The smoked fish she bought and sold daily supported her family. Thanks to the partnership between the DRC's Ministry of Health and the ASSP project, the precursor to the ASSR project, Marie-Louise was able to devote her time to her small business.

After learning about the benefits of family planning at their local health center, Marie-Louise and François, her husband, decided to try the implant method. The couple was thrilled with the results. Not only has the spacing of their children's births had a positive impact on Marie-Louise's health, it also provided her with the energy to continue bringing in a paycheck and saving money.

With the money that the couple saved by preventing back-to-back pregnancies, the couple purchased a plot of land and constructed the family's first home. As a family planning convert, François eagerly embraced the role of community champion for contraceptive methods. Knowing that family planning is a joint decision, François helped to educate the community, especially men, about the advantages of planning for their families.

Marie-Louise and François are parents committed to the health of their five children. They know how important it is to work together to build their future. The project played a major role in their family's success.



Marie-Louise and François

## ABOUT THE ASSR PROJECT

Funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through UK Aid, IMA World Health is part of a consortium that includes SANRU, Pathfinder International and BAO Systems that is improving access to critical, quality health services in 50 health zones in the DRC. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the project reduces mortality and morbidity of women, adolescents, children and newborns and improves community resilience by strengthening health systems. In French, ASSR stands for Appui au Système de Santé en RDC, which translates to Health Systems Support in the DRC.



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