



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORY

HOW A FAMILY LISTENS TO LECTURE POUR LA VIE RADIO LESSONS AT HOME IN KINSHASA

ACCELERE! I helps reduce barriers to education for primary age school children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It's almost 5:40pm in Ngiri Ngiri Commune in Kinshasa. Today is the rebroadcasting of a multi-grade Degre Moyen lesson on Radio 50. Awam Rugengano, a Grade 4 student, made sure that the solar radio he received from the ACCELERE! I project was tuned in correctly before the lesson started. His mother, Maman Aisha Kafita Rugengano, and his sister Safi Rugengano, a Grade 6 student, joined him to listen to the lesson.

A lesson in Lingala. Given that Kinshasa is the largest French speaking city in Africa, many children and families use French as their first language to communicate and interact. However, many parents in Kinshasa want their children to also be fluent in Lingala, and appreciate that ACCELERE! I's Lecture pour la vie interactive radio lessons are national languages. The radio program helps children maintain what they acquired in school before closure due to COVID-19, and also prepares them for the new school year. When asked to recite a few words in Lingala, Awam said without hesitation: "Mbote, ndenge nini!" (Hello, how are you doing?) – Maman Aisha smiled and nodded with appreciation.

Interactive lesson for multiple family members. Although in different grades, both Awam and his sister Safi followed the instructions on the radio with focused attention. Awam and Safi sang, repeated sentences, clapped and practiced their writing. The sound of a bell and timer provided helpful indicators to the students on when the lesson would pause and it was time to write or answer a question. Both Safi and Awam were engaged and followed the lessons with ease. They mentioned their favorite character on Lecture pour la vie is Minzoto because she is a beautiful singer.

Family Facilitator. Despite her daily duties, Maman Aisha said that she and her children have been following the lessons since the beginning of the broadcasts, and she is very pleased with the positive changes she sees in her children thanks to the radio lessons. She also noted that the guidance provided by the radio lessons to facilitators like herself help her support her children as they listen. She witnessed particular growth in her children's writing skills. Maman Aisha helps review her children's writing so that they learn from the activity. She added that, just after Lecture pour la vie, the family also listens to local news in Lingala to further help her children improve their fluency skills. She is very pleased with the reading and writing lessons and added, "It would be great if ACCELERE! I could also do math programs on the radio!"

ACCELERE! I is broadcasting over 100 radio lessons in Kiswahili, Lingala and Ciluba in the provinces of Kinshasa, North Kivu, Haut Katanga and Kasai Central. Lecture pour la vie began airing the radio lessons in June 2020. Now that schools are re-opening in the DRC, lessons continue to air in the evening to strengthen children's literacy skills.



@ Accelerer! I

Awam, Grade 4, is focused while he carefully repeats the sentences during Lecture pour la vie radio lessons on Radio 50



@ Accelerer! I

Maman Aisha oversees Safi, Grade 6, and Awam, Grade 4, during their writing exercises during the Lecture pour la vie radio lessons