



# USAID | DR CONGO

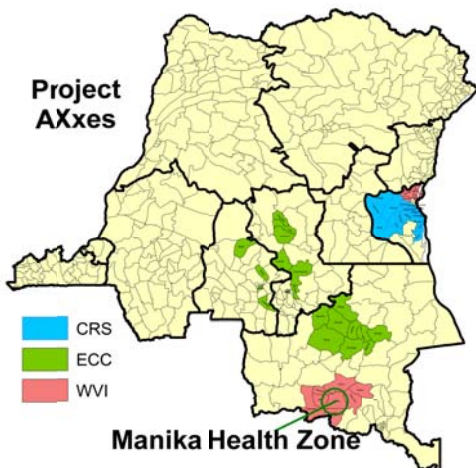
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## SUCCESS STORY

### REFERRAL TO THE HOSPITAL SAVED MY LIFE!



Ilunga and her twin babies during postnatal clinic at Mwangeji Hospital.



Ilunga Ngoie, 28, began attending antenatal care at the Manika Reference Health Center when she was 22 weeks pregnant. She completed the usual examinations, screening and assessments to ensure that her health and the health of the unborn child were good. She also participated in education sessions geared towards promoting health, self-care and birth preparedness.

*“This was my first pregnancy. When I first arrived at the health center, I was also vaccinated. The next visit I was told that I had twins. The nurse advised me to come to the center anytime if I was not feeling well. Since I live far from the center, I discussed this with my husband and we decided that I should move in with my mother-in-law who lives just next to the health center.*”

Project AXxes is reducing maternal and infant mortality through high impact interventions for antenatal care, and with close follow-up with skilled birth attendants. The availability and correct use of iron, Fansidar, mosquito nets, vaccines (tetanus toxoid), oxytocin, Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor (AMTSL), partographs and antibiotics are all part of that approach. Important messages on birth preparedness, recognition of danger signs, and safe birthing are also provided as well as basic education on nutrition, breastfeeding, use of mosquito nets, family planning and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

*When I started feeling contractions, labor was at first normal but then stopped. The nurse checked me and said it was not a good sign. She referred me to Mwangeji hospital where they discovered that the position of the babies was abnormal. The midwives used several obstetric maneuvers which enable me to deliver normally.”*

Manika Health Center and Mwangeji Reference Hospital are located in semi-urban Manika health zone. Project AXxes has increased accessibility to these Government-owned facilities. They are now stocked with essential drugs, receive regular training and supervision, and have the tools, equipment and medical supplies that they need.

*I had complications but quick referral to the hospital saved my life and the life of my unborn twin babies. I am very happy to have twins, a girl and a boy. I thank the nurse who referred me to the hospital. If there was no reference, childbirth would have been difficult for me. The health center staff referral to the hospital saved my life!*