

## THANKSGIVING!

We are so **grateful** to each of you, for walking with us so faithfully & generously through one of the worst years our world has seen for generations.

**THANK YOU** for all the ways you have contributed to the survival of the least of these, to reviving our hopes & lives!

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## FARMS FLOURISHING: Our 2020 Success Stories

In the midst of COVID shut-down starvation, there is yet hope: our farms in Kinshasa & Kivu provinces.

### Munene Village, S. Kivu



This is joyous harvest day in Munene, a village just outside Uvira (S. Kivu). For years the women have struggled to farm in the forest where guerrilla fighters have attacked, raped, & sometimes killed them.

Thanks to the Mother's Day J&J CaringCrowd fundraiser and other generous gifts, 100 women of Munene now have 2 farm plots close to home which they work cooperatively to cultivate food for their families, & are joyously rebuilding their lives, thanks to you!



Each woman has her pile of cassava. Above some have peeled theirs; then come soaking, drying, pounding to flour: let's eat!

## Kinshasa

FEBA's farm is outside the city in Kinshasa province. This year we have added hectares & some needed facilities & developed our small animal husbandry.



You might ask: why does a farm need a swimming pool? Actually, this is a dual-purpose water reservoir, to help irrigate the market garden in dry season, & to soak cassava roots. After peeling, this staple food requires a 3-day immersion, before the roots are thoroughly dried on the racks visible behind the pool. (This pool replaces a hole in the ground lined with plastic... – you can see what an improvement it is!)



Our flourishing chicken flock now has a secure pen & we have added ducks (more resilient than rabbits).



## Sewing Success - under Stress

Despite the 6 month shut-down, FEBA's sewing school has done it again! The 9 young women who were doing their final internship in March, returned in Sept. to pick up where they left off, got back into practice (none had any way to work at home), & aced the state exams to earn their tailor certificates. They come out at the top every time!

But graduation had to be delayed. One of the young women lost her father just at the time of the exams, & his family came to take all the property, leaving the widow & her children with nothing. (He came from a matriarchal tribe, & the property belongs to his sister; inheritance is through the female line. In theory, his wife & her children should be cared for by her family but the widow has no remaining family.) The whole community rallied around their bereaved & destitute friend.

Graduation will be this month! Listen: Can you hear the shouts of joy & gratitude?! **You** have provided the sewing machines which each delighted graduate will receive.

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## POLITICS & ECONOMICS

In Jan. 2019 the Democratic Republic of Congo had its first peaceful transfer of power since 1960. President Felix Tshisekedi was sworn in, leading a coalition government including a majority of Parliament still loyal to the previous ruler Joseph Kabila. Over these two years, President Tshisekedi has struggled to initiate much needed reforms, including such things as free primary school. The coalition partners have resisted & success has been limited. In Nov. 2020 the president carried out a series of consultations with a wide range of political & other leading figures.

In early December it was announced that the agreement with Kabila's party was dissolved, & all government members were invited to join the "Sacred Union" to work together for the people of Congo. After some tense days & struggles in Parliament, a majority of the deputies (equivalent of the US House) have affirmed that they will withdraw from Kabila's super-party & work with the "Sacred Union." There is a curfew, & tensions continue in various places, but the future is hopeful!

The economic situation continues very grim. In east & central Congo there are more displaced persons than in any other country in the world, & many are starving. Death stalks the oldest & youngest - & many in between. Also violence continues in eastern Congo, especially in Goma, where our partners' Community Charity School is.

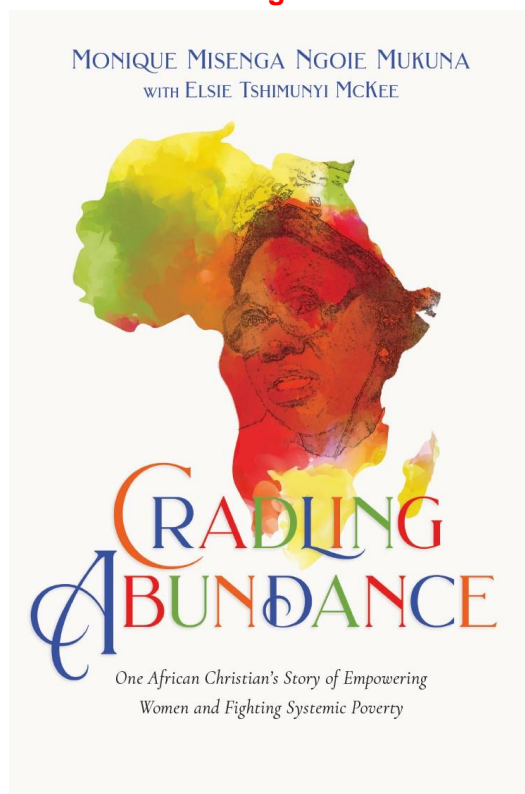
Everywhere people are hungry, sick, & dying.

But our partners DO NOT GIVE UP!!!

And we must not fail them!

## Maman Monique's Book!

Coming soon.



<https://www.ivpress.com/cradling-abundance>

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## CONTRIBUTE OR GET INVOLVED

Contribute: Donate securely via Stripe at [www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/donate](http://www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/donate) or on FEBA, Inc., on Facebook.

Please designate "Sewing School" or "Goma School" or "Women's Center Orphans" or "Farm Needs," or "Sustaining Gift" to support ongoing work.

Checks payable to Woman, Cradle of Abundance can be mailed to the following address:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance  
attn: John McGlaughlin, Treasurer  
9 Lytle St.  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Volunteer: Contact Cheryl Ciaranca, Community Outreach Coordinator, at [cciaranca@gmail.com](mailto:cciaranca@gmail.com) or 215.292.3290 to discuss ways to partner with Woman Cradle of Abundance.