



CARITAS AUSTRALIA  
**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

Unite Against Poverty this Lent

# IRENE'S STORY

Democratic Republic  
of the Congo

PRIMARY (F TO 2)

PHOTO STORYBOOK

Photos: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia





Irene lives with her family in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).





Irene has two children. One is 3 years old, and the other is 7.





Like most families in the DRC, Irene's family experiences poverty. This means they don't have enough money to have everything they need.





Irene's family used to sleep on the ground because they didn't have enough money to buy a mat to sleep on.





One day, Irene heard about a special program run by Caritas. This program helps young people learn new skills so they can earn money.





Irene joined a sewing class. She learnt how to make clothes and was given a sewing machine.





After six months of learning, Irene started her own sewing business. She now makes clothes to sell.





Irene is very proud of her hard work. She uses the money to buy things her family needs.





Irene also learnt farming skills through the Caritas program. She can now grow food to feed her family.





Irene can now send her son, niece and nephews to school.  
Irene says, “I can take care of everyone at home.”





Irene also likes to share her skills with other women, teaching them to sew too! She says, “Now, we can take care of ourselves.”





Thanks to the Caritas program, Irene has been able to change her life. She helps her family and her whole village too!



# Questions

1. What made life hard for Irene and her family?
2. What new skills did Irene learn?
3. How did Caritas help?
4. How is Irene helping others?
5. How will you share Irene's story with others?