



## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE



### FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

**154,000 PEOPLE** (64% female, 36% male) were engaged in food security programs in FY20-21.

**18,455 FARMERS** trained in sustainable agriculture.

**630,000 PEOPLE** increased food security in the last 10 years.

**210,000 PEOPLE** improved farming practices in the last 10 years.

### Who is World Renew?

World Renew is a faith-based international development and humanitarian organization, working since 1962 to address the root causes and impacts of poverty, disaster, and injustice. With a USD \$34 million budget in 2020, we worked with 64 local partners in 19 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Americas, bringing permanent, sustainable change to vulnerable communities and working towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We provide consultation, technical assistance, and financial support to build the capacity of our partners as they implement programs that integrate agriculture and food security, health, economic opportunities, peacebuilding and justice, disaster response and preparedness, and gender equality. As an industry leader in prioritizing local ownership of programs, World Renew uses Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methodologies so communities can identify challenges, evaluate their assets, and generate their own solutions.

### Our Food Security and Agriculture Work

World Renew has spent more than 40 years working through local partners in food security and agricultural development, promoting agriculture practices such as conservation agriculture to improve yields among small-holder farmers. Farmers are trained on crop and production system diversification, post-harvest management, improved seeds, integrated pest management, crop and livestock systems, farmer-managed natural regeneration, improving water usage, and irrigation. Linkages between farmers and local markets are improved, cooperatives are established, and value addition for crops is promoted. Our connection to local faith leaders enables greater community adoption, and our long-term presence in communities builds trust, which increases behavior change in the adoption of new techniques and innovation. We seek to mainstream gender equality by addressing inequities, power, access, and control dynamics. Programs are contextualized through PLA assessments, ensuring communities are involved in tailoring programs that are designed for sustainability and local ownership.

### Key Programming Approaches

- **Conservation Agriculture:** CA is a way of farming that focuses on a set of three interlinked principles: minimized soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and crop diversification and rotation which improves soil moisture, fertility, and yields despite drought or inconsistent rainfall. We contextualize CA to address challenges and ensure local viability, such as integrating agroforestry or incorporating equity in shifting gender roles.
- **Lead Farmers:** Using peer-level learning, sustainable agriculture is promoted through trained local farmers who champion new methods in their

communities. These “lead farmers” pilot practices through demonstration plots and participate in farmer field schools, teaching farmer groups and participating in farmer exchange visits.

- **Improved access to land, resources, and inputs:** We engage with women and youth and advocate for land rights, break down legal and socio-cultural barriers which limit access to land, and use village savings and loan associations to improve purchasing power. For example, we help increase access to land among smallholder farmers through a “land bank” strategy where families are sold land at affordable prices and then learn to improve production.
- **Gender approach:** Women’s priorities are consistently addressed, ensuring access and control of resources, increased participation in decisionmaking, and empowerment of women and girls.

## Our Food Security and Agriculture Expertise

World Renew’s agricultural expertise exists in its staff and local partner organizations, who often hold advanced degrees in food security and agricultural programming with decades of experience in sustainable land management, recovery and restoration of degraded land, and conservation agriculture. As a founding member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) and partner of Growing Hope Globally (GHG), World Renew advocates for increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) in support of small scale farmers.

Through our programs, we engage with local Ministries of Agriculture, building linkages wherever possible with academic institutions and the private sector. Our programs have been funded by CFGB, GHG, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the EU, and USAID. Networks have been fostered with national and local governments and other stakeholders to lobby for official support, integration, and to roll out key practices in government policies, supporting implementation plans and budgeting as needed. For example, in Kenya, World Renew founded the Conservation Agriculture Hub which has collaborated with national and international agricultural research organizations (KALRO, ICRAF), academic institutions (Egerton University), county governments, and other INGOs (Tear Fund UK, Dorcas

Aid Netherlands, Food for the Hungry USA, Transform Aid International Australia).

## Evidence of Impact

From 2012-2017, World Renew and our partners implemented a CAD \$7 million GAC-funded project in Bangladesh, Honduras, Mali, Mozambique, and Tanzania to enhance livelihood security for vulnerable households. The program achieved increased agricultural production, increased engagement of household members, especially women, in profitable small-scale enterprises, improved governance among local community groups, and strengthened performance in the planning and management of food security initiatives. Crop yields increased as a result of the training, including: soil fertility management, improved seed, small-scale irrigation, post-harvest crop management, animal husbandry, and adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties. Eighty-nine percent of farmers reported increased yields, with 98 percent of farmers adopting at least one sustainable agriculture method.

## Best Practices and Innovations

- **Program integration:** The integration of programming allows various needs to be addressed contextually. For example, food and nutrition interventions often include a livelihood or savings component, multi-purpose trees, and clean water interventions which diminish chronic malnutrition, and holistic development which transforms communities.
- **Peacebuilding and Justice Programs:** Land rights programs for marginalized populations have included helping women gain titles to land in East Africa, working with farmers to produce and save their own seed so they control their seed supply, and working with farmers and herders on land rights conflicts in West Africa.
- **Leadership development and training** is integrated so that communities can organize and advocate for themselves even after a project has ended. Training targets youth and women to ensure their inclusion in decision-making processes. Local committees are formed to manage collective community resources after projects have ended.

