



## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# HEALTH & NUTRITION



### HEALTH AND NUTRITION SNAPSHOT

In 2019 and 2020, World Renew reached **140,000 HOUSEHOLDS**, formed **1,700 COMMUNITY GROUPS**, and worked with more than **2,400 COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS**.

**1,700,000 CHILDREN** benefited from health interventions in the last decade.

**150,000 WOMEN** were trained to prevent child stunting in the first 1,000 days of life.

### 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 work with 64 local partners and have a long-term presence 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 Health & Nutrition Work

World Renew has worked in partnership with local organizations and communities in health for more than 40 years, focusing on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH), including reduced child stunting by promoting health during the first 1,000 days of life (pregnancy until age 2). This includes preventing infectious diseases like malaria, HIV and AIDS, empowering widows, orphans, and vulnerable children, improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In the last five years, World Renew has delivered more than 120 health programs worldwide, linking food security and livelihoods initiatives to health outcomes. We have extensive experience building partner capacity in promoting care-seeking behavior, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, designing for social behavior change communication, training community health volunteers (CHVs), and improving linkages with clinics.

### Key Programming Approaches

- **Timed and Targeted Counseling (TTC):** CHVs deliver TTC to families regarding the first 1,000 days of life, sharing best practices for human development stages, assessing the family's application of the practices, and determining tailored solutions. TTC teaches the importance of ante- and post-natal care (ANC/PNC), and identification of warning signs.
- **Community Groups:** Health groups are formed and trained for targeted interventions, such as pregnant or lactating women in MNCH programs, adolescents in SRHR programs, or existing savings groups are used as platforms for health interventions. These groups use a peer education model for collaborative learning and knowledge sharing.

- **Community Health Volunteers:** CHVs are trained in health themes and act as liaisons delivering community trainings, TTC, and offering referrals for complications. CHVs ensure community ownership and continuation of health initiatives beyond the project life cycle.
- **Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC):** Programs are designed with simple health messages, identifying social norms, and the positive or negative consequences of behaviors to address barriers to behavioral change. SBCC addresses the key determinants that affect health behaviors in MNCH, WASH, and HIV and AIDS.

## Our Health & Nutrition Expertise

World Renew has technical expertise in community organization, training CHVs, participatory methodologies, SBCC, barrier analysis, and collaborating with government health institutes, clinics, and health care providers. World Renew implemented three USAID-funded child survival grants (2004-2015) in Bangladesh and India, and a USAID-funded malaria reduction program in Malawi (2007-2012). Global Affairs Canada-funded MNCH grants (2011-2015) in Bangladesh and Malawi, an adolescent SRHR grant in Nigeria and Senegal (2013-2017), and a health and nutrition grant in Kenya with support from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) and the University of Manitoba. Currently, World Renew is implementing a 6-year nutrition program in Bangladesh funded by GAC through CFGB. Since 2015, World Renew has been implementing a 10-year, USD \$1.5 million MNCH grant funded by a private donor in eight countries, which pilots new initiatives and builds the capacity of local partners to access additional funding and grow in scale. World Renew conducted research on social capital with the International Center for Diarrhoeal Diseases in Bangladesh, and has presented abstracts at Global Health Conferences (2013, 2014), Christian Connections for International Health (2017, 2020), and at the American Public Health Conference (2015). World Renew's work with the USAID Malaria Communities program was featured in two publications from USAID's MNCH initiative. Additionally, World Renew's people's institution model was chosen as one of five promising practices in health in Bangladesh, published by the John Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, Save the Children, and USAID.

## Evidence of Impact

World Renew, in partnership with Anglican Development Services and the University of Manitoba, implemented a USD \$1.67 million, GAC-funded MNCH grant from 2012 to 2015 in Kenya. Over three years, 8,795 women of reproductive age, 7,105 children under age five, 1,076 pregnant women, 6,000 lactating women, and 509 postpartum women were reached. The project increased facility-based births, improved maternal and child nutrition and diet diversity, increased breastfeeding and immunization rates, and increased the treatment of childhood diseases. The program's research was featured in the Canadian Journal of Public Health in 2017 and a Ph.D. dissertation.

## Best Practices and Innovations

- **People's Institutions:** PIs are a community organizing structure used in Bangladesh, which promote high participation, ownership, and capacity. PIs access and connect with existing structures, such as health and government clinics, school committees, and government agencies. PIs advocate for good health, oversee CHVs, and partner with the government in local health campaigns such as immunizations, ANC and PNC visits, and breastfeeding counseling.
- **Holistic, integrated health programs:** World Renew combines agriculture, livelihoods, justice, community development, and spiritual transformation components contextually. For example, teaching about nutrition while promoting gardening and growing diversified, nutrient-dense crops.
- **Adolescent Health and Rights:** Adolescent groups provide youth, particularly girls, a fun and interactive platform to learn about their health and rights in a safe environment and to discuss subjects that are often taboo, like SRHR. Meanwhile, parents and community and religious leaders are sensitized to understanding and supporting adolescent rights. This combination helps girls have the courage to reject early or forced marriage and unwanted sexual advances, and understand menstruation, reproduction, and STIs.

