

## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE



### ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE SNAPSHOT

**13 COUNTRIES** are promoting creation care, restoration and climate change practices

Peoples Institutions in Bangladesh have disaster response & adaptation plans for **14,000 PEOPLE**

**416 ACRES** of forest has been regenerated in Jharkhand, India using FMNR since 2019

**125 CONGREGATIONS** from **23 DENOMINATIONS** participate in the Climate Witness Project.

### 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 in 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 funding to build the capacity of our partners as they implement programs that integrate food security, health, economic opportunities, peacebuilding and justice, disaster response and preparedness, and gender equality. As an industry leader in local ownership of programs, we use Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methodologies so communities can identify challenges, evaluate their assets, and generate their own solutions.

### Our Environment & Climate Change Work

World Renew recognizes the deep need for environmental stewardship and conservation to combat the changing climate and its impact in the developing world, as well as to development projects in all sectors. We take a **Climate Justice** approach, which treats climate change and environmental degradation as a social justice issue because it exacerbates poverty and inequality disproportionately in marginalized communities. As a faith-based organization, we use **Creation Care** theology in faith communities worldwide, using religious texts and study groups to emphasize humanity's role in sustainable stewardship of the earth. We aim to increase the technical capacity of staff and partners in climate change mitigation and adaptation, advocate for sustainable long-term environmental change through policies, and increase advocacy capacity on climate justice issues. We promote climate-smart agriculture, conservation agriculture, environmental restoration, disaster preparedness, and values of stewardship to address the causes and impacts of climate change. Our programs use environmental impact assessments in planning processes, and increase locally-led community resilience and women-led capacity to adapt to environmental changes. World Renew also addresses the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, and works to align our climate justice work with our gender work.

### Key Programming Approaches

- **Conservation Agriculture (CA):** In climate-impacted areas we promote CA farming practices of minimal soil disturbance, covering the soil with mulch or cover crops, crop rotation, and interassociation. Farmers using CA produce more consistent yields and improve soil fertility for future generations. The use of soil coverage reduces weeds, and as weeding

is often done by women this reduces women's workloads and provides more time for other productive activities.

- **Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR):** This low-cost land restoration approach plants and restores trees, shrubs and vegetation in degraded farming areas. It reduces land degradation, soil infertility and erosion, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity, while improving the soil's ability to retain moisture and making the land more resilient to climate extremes.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** Community resilience is built through proactive and preventative awareness raising of local disaster risks. Then, when a climate disaster like a flood or drought hits, the impacts are mitigated, the recovery is faster and people's livelihoods can bounce back.
- **Advocacy, Education & Awareness Creation:** Through campaigns, movement building, training, curriculum development, exchange visits to other countries and church visits in North America, we are creating greater awareness of local, regional and global creation care and climate change issues and use this to inspire greater action and impact. [Check out this video to learn more!](#)

## Our Expertise in Environment and Climate Change

In the 1990s, World Renew developed its first Environmental Policy and created a taskforce to enhance environmental assessment tools and develop trainings. The Creation Stewardship Toolkit was created and included participatory approaches to environmental screening tools of physical works (road building, latrines, waste management, WASH) supported with monitoring tools, risk assessments, and national and international policy documents. The toolkit has been used by NGOs and academic institutions worldwide and is instrumental in building capacity of PLA approaches in environmental management. We collaborate closely with global networks, including ACT Alliance - Climate Justice, Micah Global Network, Lausanne Creation Care Network, and the Washington Interfaith Environment and Energy Working Group. World Renew is mobilizing actions of governments, private sector and civil

society to address climate change. Together, actors are advocating for decisive action to limit global warming, building resilience and the adaptive capacity of communities to climate induced changes and disasters.

## Evidence of Impact

World Renew and local partner Diaconia Nacional implemented a €290,000 aquaponics project from 2019-2021 funded by the European Union in the dry corridor of Honduras. This project trained 531 people in aquaponics, constructed 100 aquaponic systems, and produced a technical manual for the management of aquaponics systems. Food security and livelihoods were sustained as 98% of participating families, most of them headed by women, produced and consumed fish and vegetables consistently during and after the project. The project proved that aquaponics is a successful climate change adaptation and a climate resilient small-scale food production system for communities facing water and food scarcity due to droughts. Families produced 33 pounds of fish every four months and 19 pounds of vegetables per month, enabling them to consume fish and vegetables at least three times a week, and the aquaponics system became the main source of vegetables and fish for 80% of families.

## Best Practices & Innovations

- **The Climate Witness Project** by World Renew and the Office of Social Justice walks with individuals and organizations to learn about climate change, better steward resources, and engage with public officials about climate policies that benefit the earth, vulnerable people, and future generations. Climate Witness members advocate with lawmakers and move public policy to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement, including committing to a major drop in global emissions and fossil fuels use. The project also works locally to reduce our carbon footprint, including installing solar panels in Philadelphia with \$20,000 from the State of Pennsylvania.
- **Creation care video learning series** puts the spotlight on how World Renew is promoting climate change adaptation in [Bangladesh](#), [Kenya](#) and [Tanzania](#). Promoting floating gardens, CA and drought resistant crops has improved livelihoods, health, biodiversity and ecosystem protection.

