



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

GENDER EQUALITY



GENDER EQUALITY SNAPSHOT

In a 2018 GAC-funded, Sustainable Livelihoods project across **FOUR COUNTRIES**:

4,438 WOMEN were trained and supported to serve in community leadership positions.

22,393 PEOPLE (40% male, 60% female) participated in gender equality training.

Participants who believe women should influence community decision-making increased from a baseline of 45 percent to a **71 PERCENT** endline.

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 Gender Work

Gender justice and the empowerment of women and girls has been a central theme of World Renew's programming and institutional culture since the early 1980s, with gender being formally added as a strategic priority area in 1999. Our gender justice programs address the root causes of inequality including the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), advocating for women's land rights, prevention of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and early pregnancies, women's economic empowerment, trauma healing and psychosocial support for survivors of violence, maternal and newborn child health (MNCH), and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). We are increasingly working towards an intersectional approach, acknowledging the overlap of factors which lead to discrimination and tailoring our programs according to a diverse group of needs. Gender transformative programs address the root causes of inequalities and seek to actively challenge gender norms, promote positions of social and political influence for women in communities, and address power inequities between women, men, girls, and boys.

Key Programming Approaches

- **Women and Girls in Decision-making:** It is essential to increase participation of women and girls in household and community decision-making, including finances, health (MNCH/SRHR), education and marriage, and access and control of resources.

- **Engaging Men and Boys:** Men and boys are engaged wherever possible, sensitizing them on the value and rights of women, sharing domestic responsibilities, including women and girls in decision-making, and respecting and lifting women's voices.
- **Gender Mainstreaming:** World Renew works to integrate gender in all sectoral programs including health, agriculture and economic empowerment, integrating gender equality perspectives and themes wherever possible.

Our Gender Expertise

Internally, World Renew prioritized gender equality by forming an in-house gender working group in 2001, which was mandated to encourage gender transformative practices across the organization and to address existing and emerging gender issues. Our programs integrate gender from design to evaluation, and build partner capacity and engage governments in gender advocacy wherever possible. World Renew is active in international gender policy and advocacy through UNWOMEN, Women Deliver, Act Alliance, Ontario Council for International Cooperation, Cooperation Canada, and CanWaCH, and has applied for consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). World Renew is actively working in partnership with several Canadian agencies to showcase the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls as well as running campaigns on gender inequality issues such as GBV. Numerous institutional and foundation-funded grants have contributed to our gender justice efforts, including a CAD \$7.1 million Global Affairs Canada sustainable livelihoods grant, USAID funded programs on HIV, and agricultural programs through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Evidence of Impact

World Renew implemented *Protecting Adolescent Health and Rights*, a 4-year, CAD \$2.3 million, GAC-funded SRHR project in Nigeria and Senegal to enhance the health and rights, security, and life skills of adolescents, aged 10 to 24, particularly adolescent girls and out-of-school adolescents. The project

increased SRHR knowledge for 9,278 youth (6,799 girls) who participated in 702 adolescent health groups. Participants acquired knowledge about SRHR, their physical development, HIV and AIDS, and STIs. The activities supported youth to make healthier decisions, evidenced by a 21 percent increase in youth who sought treatment for STI symptoms. The project increased the ability of parents, school administrators, and community leaders to recognize the rights of girls to reject CEFM and unwanted sexual advances. The project established 186 neighborhood councils/parents groups (NC/PG) and 153 youth action groups that promoted health messages and advocated for protection of girl's rights. There was an increase in the percent of NC/PGs that engaged in community advocacy and in the ability of community leaders to identify, discuss, and respond to sexual abuse.

Best Practices and Innovations

- **Social Behavior Change Analysis:** This effort impacts the mindset and behavior of women, girls, men, and boys across sectors, including attitudes about shared domestic labor, women's participation in household and community decision-making, and supporting women and girl's access to basic resources.
- **Faith- and Values-Based Approach:** World Renew's niche as a Christian organization allows it to reach faith leaders, churches and communities with faith- and values-based teachings, tools, and curricula emphasizing gender equality and the rights of women. Religious leaders are influential in shaping community opinions and their support and contributions heighten the success of gender interventions. This has proven effective in both Christian and other religious contexts.

