



## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# CAPACITY STRENGTHENING



### CAPACITY STRENGTHENING SNAPSHOT

We are strengthening capacity with over **1,500 COMMUNITIES** and **59 PARTNERS** in **19 COUNTRIES**.

### 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 \$45.6 million budget in 2023, we work with 67 local partners and have a long-term presence in 19 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Americas, bringing permanent, sustainable change in vulnerable communities and working towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We provide consultation, technical assistance, and financial support to strengthen 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 methodologies so communities can identify challenges, evaluate assets, and generate their own solutions.

### Our Capacity-Strengthening Work

World Renew believes local organizations are the strongest development actors and that international NGOs can best partner with local NGOs to build their capacities. Capacity development is an approach, a process, and an outcome, enabling co-creation of initiatives by partners and communities. Organizational capacity strengthening efforts date back to the

1970s when World Renew developed a Skill Rating Scale to assess and support our partner's strengths in technical, financial, managerial, governance, and holistic ministry. Today, capacity strengthening for partners and communities is a key aspect of our work, where partners define and monitor their own capacity growth based on eight key areas: **Community Transformation, Financial Management, Organizational Structure, Program Management, Faith Connections to Development, Competent Leadership, Adherence to Core Humanitarian Standards, and Organizational Growth**. We provide tailored consultative monitoring and evaluation and many partnerships span decades, enabling some partners to grow from small informal initiatives to registered NGOs with boards, full-time staff, and quality programs. Our faith component in measuring capacity is unique among INGOs, and this pioneer approach was recognized in our contributions to the development of UNICEF's global standards for community engagement in 2020.

### Key Programming Approaches

- **Organizational Development for Community Development:** In all programs we strengthen the capacity of local partners, equipping them to carry out locally-driven programs with the communities at the forefront of discovering their own solutions.
- **Authentic Partnership:** Partnerships are based on shared goals, values, respect, and mutual accountability. Partners define their own areas of growth through participatory processes, and Memoranda of Understanding indicate shared responsibility for measuring progress.
- **Gender approach:** Women's participation and priorities are central to our efforts, ensuring access to and control of resources, increased decision-making, and the empowerment of women and girls.

- **Self-Assessments and Continuous Learning:** Partners and communities assess themselves using World Renew’s capacity assessment tools and then develop formal action plans outlining steps, responsibilities, and timelines and regularly measure progress. By owning the process, capacity strengthening becomes a key development approach.
- **Values-based approach:** Through participatory processes, community members assess how local perspectives and norms help or hinder their development goals. This holistic approach results in sustainable, long-term outcomes that benefit communities long after our programs end.

## Our Expertise in Capacity Strengthening

With over 50 years of experience working with local partners and communities in developing capacity, our success has been recognized by donors and academics. In 1995, our capacity strengthening approach was recognized as a best practice by USAID and Global Excellence in Management, published in *“Partnering to build and measure organizational capacity: lessons from NGOs around the world.”* Other publications describing our approach include *“Toward Authentic Partnership: How North-South NGO Partnerships Contribute To Development,”* by Roland Hoksbergen, PhD Economics, 2002; *“Lessons from the Ground: A collection of case studies”* by Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) (USA), 2014; and *“When Helping Heals: Is it possible to work in international development without hurting those we are trying to help?”* by R. Hoksbergen, Calvin College Press, 2017. JHSPH and Save the Children Bangladesh documented five case studies under the Health Research Challenge for Impact project, one of which highlighted our approach. We prioritize the continual learning and professional development of staff in capacity strengthening as foundational for our work and have been recognized by Global Affairs Canada, Growing Hope Globally, and USAID.

## Evidence of Impact

World Renew has worked with the Church of Uganda Nebbi Diocese since 1993, strengthening its capacity in organizational growth, grant management, and Core Humanitarian Standard adherence. Nebbi staff attended the Timothy Leadership and Truth Centered Transformation training, and Project Management

for Development Professionals (PMD Pro). Nebbi has since grown its ability to run sustainable and effective projects. It secured a grant from World Concern to implement the One Village Transformed project (2017-2020) addressing food security and livelihoods. Our recent partner evaluation revealed capacity strengthening through self-help groups and Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) on advocacy, networking, resource mobilization and conflict management tools enable participants to identify and address local issues. The 5 CLAs in Greater Kucwiny Subcounty lobbied for the construction of a school to alleviate their children travelling long distances, a Borehole to easily access clean and safe water, and repair a bridge to improve road access so agricultural products can reach more markets. This has reduced gender-based violence, increased crop production, and enhanced children’s performance as they have sufficient nutritious food and parents can meet their school requirements.

## Best Practices and Innovations

- **Measuring Capacity:** Measuring capacity areas and developing plans together to improve helps partners and communities track progress and results in communities that thrive and take true ownership over programs. Partners and community members are vitally central to this participatory process.
- **Evidence Based Training Manuals:** World Renew has developed interactive manuals for partners on strengthening capacity in the formation and management of sustainable CLAs, created from 8-10 VSLA groups. CLAs are platforms for advocacy and advancing local development priorities, and the manuals are used in several countries, disseminated through cross border learning and exchange visits.
- **People’s Institutions (PI)** are a three-tiered community organizing structure that World Renew developed in Bangladesh and India. PIs promote participation and ownership of members to impact decisions and resources in their communities. Through PIs, marginalized groups work with local government officials to raise their voices, engage in community decision-making, and advocate for services. PIs build the capacity of members to access and connect with existing structures such as health, government and school committees and agencies to impact decisions, resources and services.

