



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE



FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

IN FY23,

- **110,421 PEOPLE** (62% female) engaged in food security programs
- **20,584 FARMERS** trained in sustainable agriculture

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS,

- **509,000 PEOPLE** increased food security
- **191,700 PEOPLE** improved farming practices

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 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 strengthen 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 Food Security and Agriculture Work

World Renew has spent over 40 years working through local partners in food security and agricultural development, promoting agriculture practices like Conservation Agriculture (CA) to improve yields for small-holder farmers. Farmers are trained in crop and production system diversification, post-harvest management, improved seeds, integrated pest management, crop and livestock systems, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, and 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 for the adoption of new techniques and innovative methods. We seek to mainstream gender by addressing inequities, power, access and control dynamics. Programs are contextualized through PLA assessments, ensuring communities are involved in tailoring programs 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: minimal 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 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 in demonstration plots and participate in Farmer Field Schools, teaching farmer groups and participating in 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, tools, and use Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to improve purchasing power. For example, increasing access to land for smallholder farmers through a “Land Bank” strategy where families are sold land at affordable prices and trained to improve production.

- **Gender approach:** Women’s priorities are at the center of our efforts, ensuring access and control of resources, increased decision making, 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, many of whom hold advanced degrees in food security and agricultural programming with decades of expertise on sustainable land management, recovery and restoration of degraded land, and conservation agriculture. World Renew is a founding member of Growing Hope Globally (GHG) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), leading campaigns to advocate the Canadian government for increased Official Development Assistance in support of small-scale farmers. Through our programs we engage with local Ministries of Agriculture, building linkages wherever possible with academic institutions or the private sector. 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 roll out of key practices in government policies, supporting implementation plans and budgeting as needed. For example, in Kenya, World Renew founded the CA Hub which collaborates with national and international agricultural research organizations (Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization and the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry), 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

In Kenya, World Renew and our partner Anglican Development Services Central Rift are implementing a \$500,000 USD, USAID-funded project “Conservation Agriculture Plus” (2021-2024) which is increasing the capacity of local partners to lead food security and poverty reduction programs for 3,000 smallholder farmers, increasing their agricultural production of nutritious foods using CA and their profitable economic livelihoods, especially for women and youth. To date, 2,259 farmers are farmer field school facilitators, mentors or in farmer groups, and 520 farmers have received business marketing training, are in VSLAs and forming Cluster Level Associations, and have increased produce sales. This is a continuation of the CFGB and GAC funded \$18 million CAD Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture (SUCA) Project (2015-2020) which improved food security and livelihoods for 19,000 farmers in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, implemented by World Renew, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Tearfund Canada, and 11 local partners. This project trained farmers in CA using trained government extension officers and mentor farmers, which is associated with improved yields, crop diversity, soil fertility, low-water production, and reduced costs and workload. In both projects, CA information sharing through farmer-to-farmer learning, extension services, model learning farms, field days and exchange visits proves vital to improved food security.

Best Practices and Innovations

- **Program integration:** The integration of programs allows various needs to be addressed, 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:** Land rights programs include helping women gain land titles in East Africa, supporting farmers to produce and save their own seed to control their seed supply, and working with farmers and herders on land rights conflicts in West Africa.
- **Leadership development** is integrated so communities can organize and advocate for themselves, training youth and women to ensure their inclusion in decision-making. Committees are formed to manage collective community resources after projects end.

