



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

GENDER JUSTICE & SOCIAL INCLUSION



GENDER SNAPSHOT - FY23:

2,238 WOMEN are actively involved in joint-decision making at the community level

3,607 MOTHERS are teaching, learning, and/or practicing positive MNCH behaviors.

3,738 WOMEN are managing income generating activities and learning entrepreneurship

4,358 PEOPLE reached in 16 Days of Activism Initiatives on GBV prevention worldwide

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 to 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 (PLA) methodologies so communities can identify challenges, evaluate their assets, and generate their own solutions.

Our Gender Justice & Social Inclusion Work

Gender justice, social inclusion and the empowerment of women and girls has been central in our programming and culture since the 1980's, with gender equality as a strategic priority since 1999. Our gender transformative approach addresses the root causes of inequalities by challenging gender norms and promoting the social, economic and political influence of women, at the household, community and societal level. We respond to global challenges including the gendered impacts of climate change and other humanitarian crises, addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and unpaid care work. Our holistic approach builds the capacity of staff and partners in gender-responsive budgeting, documentation and sharing lessons learned in various platforms. Our programs include preventing GBV and child, early and forced marriages (CEFM), enhancing women's land rights, advocacy and legal aid, women's economic empowerment, trauma healing for survivors of abuse and violence, maternal and newborn child health (MNCH) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programming. Programs also ensure women's representation and contribution to community decision-making and leadership structures, while encouraging men and boys to advocate for the rights of women and girls. Programs in all sectors aim to mainstream gender equality and conduct gender needs assessments. Using an intersectional approach, we acknowledge the overlap of identities facing discrimination and tailor programs to diverse needs, particularly for persons with disabilities, the elderly, adolescents, displaced people, ethnic minorities, and female-headed households (FHH).

Key Programming Approaches

- **Equality and Non-Discrimination:** We promote human rights and non-discrimination so men and women in all their intersectionalities benefit equally and injustices are not perpetuated, using the principle of Do No Harm.

- **Participation and Empowerment:** We further the rights of women and girls as essential agents of change for sustainability of programming and building just and peaceful communities, with men and boys championing equal participation and decision-making.
- **Holistic Approach:** Gender inequalities at the individual, household, community and society levels are interdependent, requiring our holistic and transformative approach.
- **Elimination of GBV:** Programs address GBV, CEFM, and practices that undermine the dignity of women and girls and their rights to protection from physical or psychological harm through prevention and supporting survivors to access services and resources.
- **Access to SRHR:** World Renew uses a values-driven approach to encourage and sustain healthy practices in SRHR, enabling individuals and families to make informed decisions and access SRHR services, information, and contraception.

Our Gender Justice and Social Inclusion Expertise

World Renew prioritizes gender equality through an in-house Community of Practice and Gender Working Group to encourage gender transformative practices across the organization, address existing and emerging gender issues. To maximize our impact, World Renew collaborates with other actors at the global, national and grassroots level, including ACT Alliance Global Network, UN Commission on the Status of Women, and membership organizations such as OCIC, Cooperation Canada, and CanWaCH, with whom we have developed publications and hosted learning and advocacy events, on issues of GBV, MNCH and women's equality, and sat on external working groups. World Renew developed a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Manual inclusive of our faith-based approaches to equip local partners and staff with tools to strengthen our programs. Institutional and foundation grants have funded gender justice, including a \$7.1 million Global Affairs Canada (GAC) sustainable women's livelihoods grant (2012-2018), USAID funded HIV programs, and Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) funded agriculture programs.

Evidence of Impact

From 2020-2023, World Renew implemented the CAD \$3.34 million Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development (HERD) Food Security Initiative for COVID-19 Affected Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, funded by GAC through CFGB, reaching 15,340 people (2,957w, 5,080g, 2,321m, 4,982b, 48% from FHH). As a nexus project in Nigeria and Madagascar, in addition to gender-sensitive food security and economic livelihoods initiatives, the project aimed to increase participation in decision-making by women affected by COVID-19, conflict, climate change, and drought. This was achieved by increasing the voice and confidence of women, increasing awareness of gender equality in the food system, and increasing awareness of SGBV, including survivor-centered response and prevention. As a result, in Nigeria, 100% of women and 92.3% of men surveyed demonstrated increased awareness of gender inequities, GBV, referral mechanisms and local food systems.

Best Practices and Innovations

- **Social Behavior Change Analysis:** This impacts the mindsets and behaviors of women, girls, men and boys across sectors, including attitudes on shared domestic labor, women's participation in household and community decision making, and supporting women and girls' access to basic needs.
- **Faith and Values Based Approach:** Our Christian identity helps us reach faith leaders, churches and communities with faith and values-based teachings, tools and curriculums on gender equality and the rights of women as image bearers of God.
- **Choices, Voices, Promises (CVP):** In Bangladesh, USAID MOMENTUM funded a Very Young Adolescent (VYAs, age 10-14) gender and health pilot program. CVP enables VYAs (M/F) to learn about SRHR and challenge gender norms that lead to CEFM/teen pregnancies. Parents and community members learn to advocate for and support their children's gender equality rights. 301 VYAs (155F), 240 parents, and 113 community leaders were trained in this approach.
- **Safeguarding:** We maintain safeguarding systems to protect women and girls from harm, deliver safe programming and enable community complaint mechanisms and survivor-centered referrals.

