



Livelihoods and Building Resilience in Africa

Overcoming Hunger and Poverty

Supporting families on the road out of hunger and poverty often starts with a conversation. CWS engages families and community leaders to understand their challenges and identify the tools, training and resources they need to thrive. Then, we collaborate with trusted local partners and communities to fill those gaps in meaningful and sustainable ways.

Whether it's launching small businesses, expanding home gardens, accessing clean water or improving sanitation, CWS tailors solutions that address each community's unique needs. We also help connect families to schools, health clinics and markets—ensuring that progress made today can be sustained tomorrow.



Better Harvests, Stronger Communities

Farming is more than just a livelihood—it's a lifeline. Each harvest directly determines whether a family has enough to eat, enough to sell, and enough income to cover essential needs like school fees and healthcare. CWS supports farmers by helping them improve the quality and quantity of their harvests.

CWS creates safe, supportive spaces for farmers to experiment with new planting techniques—giving them a risk-free way to discover what works best in their specific climate and soil conditions. Agricultural experts guide these demonstration gardens and also visit farmers in their homes, offering personalized advice to strengthen their practices. To promote crop diversity and reduce the impact of any single failed harvest, we supply seeds for a variety of resilient crops. We also host hands-on workshops where farmers learn to produce their own organic fertilizers and natural pesticides, helping ensure their crops grow healthier and more efficiently.

These improvements mean more food on the table, more income in the household and greater stability for entire communities.

New Livelihoods, Greater Resilience

Economic diversity is essential for resilience. When families rely on more than one source of income, they're better equipped to handle setbacks like poor harvests, illness or natural disasters. That's why CWS supports individuals and families in starting or expanding small businesses tailored to their skills and local market opportunities. In some cases, this may involve raising livestock such as chickens, pigs or bees. In others, it might mean opening a small shop, providing transport services using motorcycles or boats or offering services like tailoring, weaving or hairdressing.

CWS not only helps participants get started with small grants or equipment, but also ensures they have the training needed to succeed.

We offer vocational courses in areas like sewing and cell phone repair, while also teaching practical business skills such as bookkeeping, budgeting and marketing. To support long-term growth, we connect entrepreneurs to savings groups and microfinance options so they can access the capital they need to sustain and grow their enterprises. These efforts help families move beyond survival, toward stability and economic independence.

Success in Action

"I have five modern beehives, with two that have been colonized. I harvested honey from one of them, which I sold to African Beekeepers Limited, a buyer introduced to us by CWS. I received \$33.50. I used \$2 to help pay laborers to weed my 2.5-acre maize farm. I bought food with \$3 and saved \$28.50. I am planning to invest by buying goats once the prices lower. My family includes four children and a wife, and we all felt so good when we received the money."

— ANGELEKORI KALE FROM WEST POKOT COUNTY, KENYA participates in a CWS program to help families start beekeeping businesses.

By focusing on sustainable livelihoods and resilient communities, CWS helps families not just survive—but thrive. With each skill learned and each harvest improved, families take another step forward on the path to self-reliance and lasting change.



SPOTLIGHT

**For more information, contact
Diane Lindsey at dlindsey@cwsafrica.org**