



## Advancing Gender Justice in Africa

### About CWS

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization dedicated to transforming communities through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. CWS envisions a world where everyone has food, voice, and a safe place to call home.

### Gender Justice Approach in Africa

CWS recognizes gender justice as a fundamental right for women, girls, and populations affected by gender inequality. Guided by global commitments such as Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, CWS works to:

- Promote the voice and agency of women, girls, and populations with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)
- Support the economic empowerment of women and girls
- Partner with women-led and refugee-led organizations to support survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)

CWS's gender justice programming in Africa is locally designed, context-specific, and delivered in partnership with local organizations and communities.



## Program Highlights in Africa

### Kenya & South Africa (2014–2020)

- Collaborated with faith leaders, SOGIESC organizations, and immigrant communities to build dialogue on the protection needs of diverse SOGIESC populations.
- Developed resources and safe spaces for forced migrants with diverse SOGIESC to maintain connections with their faith traditions.
- Engaged over 1,000 religious and community leaders, leading to more inclusive language and practices in faith spaces.
- Built a network of faith leaders advocating for SOGIESC rights and partnered with health centers to provide safe, comprehensive HIV and sexual and reproductive health services.
- Supported income generation among refugees with diverse SOGIESC in Nairobi.

### Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda (2023)

- Partnered with Farming System Kenya and local agricultural research organizations to support 5,012 smallholder farmers (60% women).
- Organized farmers into groups for training in sweet potato farming, beekeeping, and livestock management.
- Empowered women as Lead Farmers, providing training in good agricultural practices, marketing skills, and peer learning.
- Established a standardized extension model, enabling ongoing access to technical resources and extension services after project completion.

### Egypt (2022–Ongoing)

- In collaboration with St. Andrews Refugee Services (StARS), CWS supports community-led GBV prevention and response for refugees, particularly women and girls fleeing conflict in Sudan.
- Trained GBV focal points in local organizations to provide holistic case management, psychosocial support, and increase access to services.
- Provided wrap-around services including economic reintegration, safe shelter, cash assistance, protection, and legal counseling.
- Extended GBV prevention and response into schools, training teachers and counselors to respond to GBV disclosures and establishing 'peace clubs' as safe spaces for students.



## Impact

CWS's gender justice work in Africa has:

- Created safer, more inclusive communities for women, girls, and SOGIESC populations
- Strengthened economic resilience and food security among women smallholder farmers
- Improved access to health, psychosocial, and legal services for survivors of GBV
- Fostered partnerships with local organizations, faith leaders, and government agencies to sustain progress toward gender justice

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