



CWS Africa: 2025 Overview

Building resilience through community-led solutions

In 2025, Church World Service operates programs across five countries in Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The organization's work spans multiple sectors, including Food Security and Livelihoods, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience, Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction, Refugee Assistance, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection and Refugee Resettlement.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Since 2020, CWS has reached over 25,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya and Tanzania. These programs aim to improve food security and promote economic empowerment by providing improved livestock breeds, modern beekeeping equipment, sweet potato production inputs and standardized extension services. Farmers are trained in improved crop and livestock management, marketing and financial literacy.

These interventions have strengthened household income and food security, improved educational outcomes for children and promoted gender equity. Between 2020 and 2025, 5,996 farmers organized into 201 groups have participated, receiving 10,000 improved chickens, 1,500 goats, 1,000 beehives, and inputs for 96 acres of sweet potatoes and 100 refugee vegetable plots.

Mwanga Project: Kenya and Tanzania

The Mwanga Project operates in Kitui, West Pokot, Tana Delta, Kasulu and Tabora. It strengthens livelihoods through poultry, goats, pigs, beekeeping and vegetable production while also promoting market access, savings groups and climate-resilient farming. *Funded by Alongside Hope, Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*

Grow Hope (Matumaini) Project: Marsabit, Kenya

Running from October 2024 to September 2027, the Matumaini Project works with 990 participants in Laisamis, Marsabit. Activities include kitchen gardening, Village Savings and Loan Associations, beadwork, beekeeping, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, pasture establishment, environmental conservation and water access for agriculture. *Funded by Canadian Foodgrains Bank and The Myers Foundation.*

WEZESHA Project: Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania

Since 2021, the Wezesha Project has supported 1,710 households, representing 9,465 refugees, to address food insecurity, malnutrition and income challenges. Refugees engage in sustainable vegetable production, environmental conservation and nutrition education, allowing families to diversify diets and earn income through surplus sales. *Funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.*

New Program: Democratic Republic of Congo

CWS plans to implement a new project in Kazumba Territoire, Kasai Central that integrates food security, peacebuilding and gender equity (triple nexus). To date, CAD 750,000 thousand is secured for emergency food relief and an anticipated additional 750,000 over three years (2025–2028) to be secured, to implement triple nexus programming, along with US\$350,000 in agriculture and livestock support. *Funded by Canadian Foodgrains Bank and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.*

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

CWS implements climate-smart agricultural technologies in Kitui, Kenya including drought-tolerant and nutritious crops, soil and water conservation practices, and modern beekeeping integrated with environmental conservation. The program also promotes financial resilience through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), engaging over 800 savings groups holding a cumulative total of USD 640,000. These initiatives are designed to enhance gender equity, improve livelihoods, and reduce climate-induced migration.

Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction

CWS responds to populations affected by drought and floods in Marsabit and Tana River counties in Kenya. In these regions, the program reached an estimated 17,540 households, serving approximately 112,058 people. Standardized food baskets include maize flour, beans, cooking oil, salt, and Corn Soya Blend, adjusted according to household size.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

CWS supports sustainable, climate-resilient communities through sand dams for water conservation and the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices.

WASH and Food Security for Climate Resilience: West Pokot, Kenya

In West Pokot, CWS supports climate-resilient communities through sand dams, climate-smart farming, and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). These efforts improve nutrition, sanitation, and household income through financial literacy, VSLAs, and small business training.

WASH Emergency Response: Uganda

From July–December 2025, CWS is running a six-month emergency WASH project for newly settled refugees. The program aims to reduce the latrine-to-person ratio from 1:107 to 1:50, double handwashing access and provide hygiene education to 80% of new arrivals. Key interventions include 1,360 latrines (160 for persons with special needs), 1,360 handwashing systems, four 10,000-liter storage tanks, 2,500 reusable menstrual hygiene kits and water deliveries. The project emphasizes skills transfer, refugee participation and coordination with relief actors to ensure long-term sustainability.

Protection

CWS supports protection for vulnerable groups and fosters safe environments for displaced people across Africa. From refugees to members of the LGBTQ+ community, CWS works toward a world where all people can thrive and live in safety.

The Safe Space Program strengthens alliances among faith groups, LGBTQI+ civil society organizations, and immigrant communities. It encourages dialogue on LGBTQI+ protection, develops resources addressing the specific needs of LGBTQI+ forced migrants, and cultivates safe spaces for community members to maintain connections to their faith traditions.

Refugee Resettlement

Since 1990, CWS has administered the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) Africa through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). RSC Africa operates in 49 sub-Saharan countries from its Nairobi headquarters, with sub-offices in Pretoria, South Africa and Kasulu, Tanzania.

RSC Africa assists the U.S. government by processing refugee applicants for possible resettlement. Activities include applicant interviews, biographical data collection, and cultural orientation. Approved refugees receive medical clearances, travel arrangements, and reception support. Specialized units focus on unaccompanied minors, protection-sensitive cases, interpreters, and program integrity.

Funding Partners

CWS Africa's programs are supported by multiple partners, including Alongside Hope, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Arcus Foundation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Myers Foundation and the U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

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