



**RURAL
WOMEN
IN ACTION**

ACWW in 2020

Summary of the 2020 Annual Report & Accounts
of the Associated Country Women of the World

THANK YOU!

All over the world, the 2020 presented unique challenges to women in rural and non-urban communities. It has not been easy for any of us. We rely on hundreds of thousands of individuals. Those who choose to donate to us, fundraise for us, remember us in their wills. Those who stand with rural women as campaigners, activists, and those who seek to amplify the voices of those who are not heard. Thank you for your generosity, your determination, and your compassion.



ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The Board of Trustees was elected at the 29th Triennial World Conference, and the list below includes changes in 2020:

World President
Deputy World President
Secretary
Treasurer
- Acting Treasurer
Chairman, Communications & Marketing Committee
Chairman, Projects Committee
- Chairman, Projects Committee
Chairman, United Nations Committee
Area President, Canada
Area President, Caribbean, Central & South America
Area President, Central & South Asia
- Acting Area President, Central & South Asia
Area President, East, West and Central Africa
Area President, Europe
Area President, South East Asia & the Far East
Area President, Southern Africa
- Area President, Southern Africa
Area President, South Pacific
Area President, United States of America

Magdie de Kock (South Africa)
Alison Burnett (Scotland)
Christine Reaburn (Canada)
Ruth Cargill (Australia) Resigned June 2020
Alison Burnett Acting from June 2020
Sheila Needham (Canada)
Maybel Moyo (Zimbabwe) Deceased June 2020
Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland) Co-opted June 2020
Marie Kenny (Canada)
Linda Hoy (Canada)
Irene Hinds (Trinidad & Tobago)
Sr. Lucas Arul Seeli (India) Removed June 2020
Magdie de Kock Acting from June 2020
Irene Chinje (Cameroon)
Afrodita Roman (Romania)
Norjanah Razali (Malaysia)
Anphia Grobler (South Africa) Resigned October 2019
Dr Marina Muller (Namibia) Co-opted October 2019
Gail Commens (Australia)
Bonnie Teeples

COVID-19 and its impact on ACWW

The impact of COVID-19 on ACWW's membership has been assessed via three global surveys, the results of which have been shared with UNESCO. The so-called 'lockdown' has increased rural isolation and made access to food and banking facilities even more of an issue for our members globally, particularly so as public transport has been curtailed. Additionally, the forced cancellation of meetings for

member societies and support groups has resulted in a fall in membership income and donations.

The Board has taken steps to draw down some of the reserves in order to meet commitments for the year, and Central Office staff have drastically reduced expenditure across the organisation to mitigate the impact of reduced donations, and to keep ACWW as active

as possible during these trying times.

Central Office was closed from 17 March 2020 until May 2021, and all staff worked from home throughout the national lockdown in the UK. Mrs Jessica Green resigned during lockdown as she moved to another city and took up employment there. In September 2020 Mr Rowan McKinnon was recruited as Office Administrator in her place.

Central Office IT System

In June 2019 it was agreed by the Finance and Membership Committee and the Board that the Policy and Communications Manager should be tasked with establishing a case for refreshing ACWW's IT setup and bringing a proposal in early 2020 to the Board. This would include the outsourcing of IT support and switching to a Cloud-based system, relieving him of the additional in-house workload of full-time IT support and Server maintenance.

In February 2020, the business case for what was needed was prepared, quotes from 5 suppliers were received, and all was ready to recommend Cloudserve as the preferred vendor at the forthcoming meeting of the Board. When

COVID-19 required Central Office to close in March 2020, staff were unable to work from home because of the existing setup. The Board therefore authorised the plan as presented, and Cloudserve were engaged as Cloud and support supplier. New machines were ordered, and the Policy & Communications Manager worked for 10 days straight with Cloudserve and Harlequin to set up the new system. 11 days after the office closed, with the CEO, he delivered the new machines, and training notes, to each member of ACWW staff at home. By day 12 Central Office was operational, with all staff working from home on new machines and with fully-secure, compliant and user-friendly systems.

Office Rent and Lease

In March 2020, we negotiated with our landlords for 50% reduction in rent for 3 months, saving in the region of £7,500. When discussed with the former treasurer, World President and CEO, it was agreed we should extend our lease at Parkhall, and remain in the current office at the end of the initial 3 years, which ended on 27 September 2020. Our initial lease included an annual 5% increase in rent, with a 5% increase per annum in service charge. We successfully negotiated an additional 3 year lease, with a fixed rate of £52,885.82 – thus no annual increase for the length of the term, and a drop in the service charge increase from 5% to 3%. This will save ACWW a minimum of £5,400 per year over the term of the lease, plus of course removes all the costs of sourcing a new office, setting it up, and moving.



Membership, Conferences & Activities

In 2019 there were 440 Member Societies (445 in 2018) and 1,427 Individual Members, in 82 countries throughout the world. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on rural women, the Board decided that no member societies would be lapsed for non-payment of membership fees in 2020. The number of Life Members has declined since no new Life Members have been added since 1997. However, many Life Members pay a current membership fee and are included in the Individual Member category.

ACWW has an organisational structure for members to meet and, at least once every three years, hold a specially convened Area Conference in each of the nine Areas.

There are formal and informal partnerships to enable representation at meetings recognising the varying costs of travel involved. Full reports of Area Conferences are presented by the Area Presidents to the Triennial World Conference. The World President and other officers attended Area Conferences where appropriate,

however, a number of Area Conferences were postponed in 2020 and the World President was in lockdown in South Africa. Each member society is encouraged to send a triennial report of work to be published and distributed at the next Triennial World Conference.

Several of the rescheduled Area Conferences from 2020 were held in 2021 using digital means, in many cases facilitating wider attendance than normal, though with an understandable feeling among attendees that they want to get back to normal!

Contacts

In pre-Pandemic years, the World President and other Board members would travel to carry out extension work and give presentations to member societies, speaking at meetings and conferences throughout the world.

Because of COVID-19, no local or international travel took place on ACWW business from March 2020 to the end of the year. In its place, there was a rapid learning of videoconferencing tools which facilitated local and international meetings and ensured the Board, members and Central Office were able to maintain contact.

ACWW worked with Member Societies and like-minded NGOs to ensure our agenda continued to be progressed, and that we were offering whatever support possible to members.

Partnership

In 2020 ACWW continued its collaborations with organisations to reach as wide an audience as possible. Our partnership with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control continued, and we strengthened relationships with UN agencies, being elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

Local Activities

ACWW Project Funding was temporarily paused in 2020, reflecting the reality of global lockdowns and COVID-19's impact. The Women Empowered Fund continued to receive generous support, and we were delighted to be able to start funding projects again later in the year.

Advocacy

Digital engagement at the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women and High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was effective, though no substitute for in-person attendance. A letter written by ACWW to the UN was co-signed by 185 organisations in 35 countries, representing more than 11.95 million women globally - our points were taken and the issues raised reflected in the final document published by the UN.

Sharing Knowledge

We remain committed to a '2-way street' of knowledge exchange and information sharing, which has proved critical in 2020.

New Projects Funded in 2020

Education and Capacity Building

- 1077 India **Financial literacy for Tribal Community Women**
Children Watch, India
- 1079 Tanzania **Jikwamue Social Enterprise Hub**
Partner: UWWK Umoja wa wawezeshaji K100, Tanzania
- 1084 Uganda **Promoting Girl's Education**
CINTA Foundation Uganda (CFU), Uganda

Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing

- 1078 Tanzania **Sustainable Farming Practices for Economic Growth**
GREPO Green Global Promotion Organization, Tanzania
- 1079 Uganda **Health and Sanitation Awareness Raising for Disabled Communities**
Partner: Kasese District Women with Disabilities (KADIWOD), Uganda

Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

- 1070 India **Value Addition Opportunities for Female Farmers**
Partner: Success Trust, India
- 1072 India **Increased Economic Opportunities for Female Farmers**
Partner: WEEDS Women's Education and Employment Development Society, India
- 1082 Malawi **Economic Opportunities through Agribusiness**
Partner: TIDEF Tingathe Development Forum, Malawi
- 1089 Uganda **Goats for Empowerment**
Partner: Pallisa Children's Concern Project (PCCP), Uganda

Income Generation and Livelihood

- 1075 Kenya **Essential Life Skills for Young Mothers**
Partner: CIFORD Community Initiatives for Rural Development, Kenya
- 1080 India **Goat farming to Support Dalit Arunthathiar Women**
Partner: ROSED Rural Organization for Social Education and Development, India
- 1085 Uganda **Tailoring training for Women living with HIV/AIDS**
Partner: Efforts Integrated Development Foundation (EITEDEF), Uganda
- 1087 Uganda **Income Generation for Female Headed Households**
Partner: Kitabu Integrate Development Association (KIDA), Uganda
- 1090 India **Vocational Training for Economic Independence**
Paramedical Educational Trust, India

Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy

- 1071 India **Safe Water for Tribal Communities**
Partner: SWEET Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust, India
- 1074 Philippines **El Niño Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project**
Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development Foundation (WAND), Philippines
- 1076 India **Erussi and Ndhew Community Water Projects**
CUWEDE Community Uplift and Welfare Development, Uganda
- 1088 Tanzania **Mabuye Village Water Project**
Partner: Kagera Woman and Aids Organisation (KWAO), Tanzania

Maternal and Reproductive Health

- 1073 Ghana **Midwifery Skills for Community Health Workers**
Partner: MamaCare, Ghana
- 1083 Uganda **Improving Rural Girl's Menstrual Sanitation and Hygiene**
Partner: YWFT Youth with a Focus Teso, Uganda
- 1086 India **Safe Menstrual Health Management for Tribal Communities**
Partner: Institute of Research and Development for the Rural Poor Trust (IRDRP), India
- 1091 India **Sexual and Productive Health and Rights Education for Adolescent Girls**
Partner: Society for Women's Education and Awareness Development (SWEAD), India

Statement of Financial Activities 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income:				
Donations, membership and legacies	121,007	98,342	219,349	450,799
Investment income	67,209	-	67,209	69,942
Charitable activities	3,877	-	3,877	296,052
Total Income:	192,093	98,342	290,435	816,793
Expenditure:				
Raising Funds:				
Investment management costs	10,716	-	10,716	8,514
Charitable Activities*:				
Project Activities	83,992	135,146	219,138	269,728
Education	53,306	-	53,306	44,417
Outreach	44,422	-	44,422	44,417
Information and Research	88,843	-	88,843	88,835
United Nations Representation	44,422	-	44,422	44,417
Conference Preparation				405,509
Total Expenditure:	325,701	135,146	460,847	905,837
* Project figures Actual, others an apportionment of staff time allocation				
Net (expenditure) / income	(133,608)	(36,804)	(170,412)	(89,044)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) before other gains	(133,608)	(36,804)	(170,412)	(89,044)
(Loss) / Gains on investment assets	162,868	-	162,868	249,730
Net movement in funds	29,260	(36,804)	(7,544)	160,686
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2020	2,528,954	407,806	2,936,760	2,776,074
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2019	2,558,214	371,002	2,929,216	2,936,760

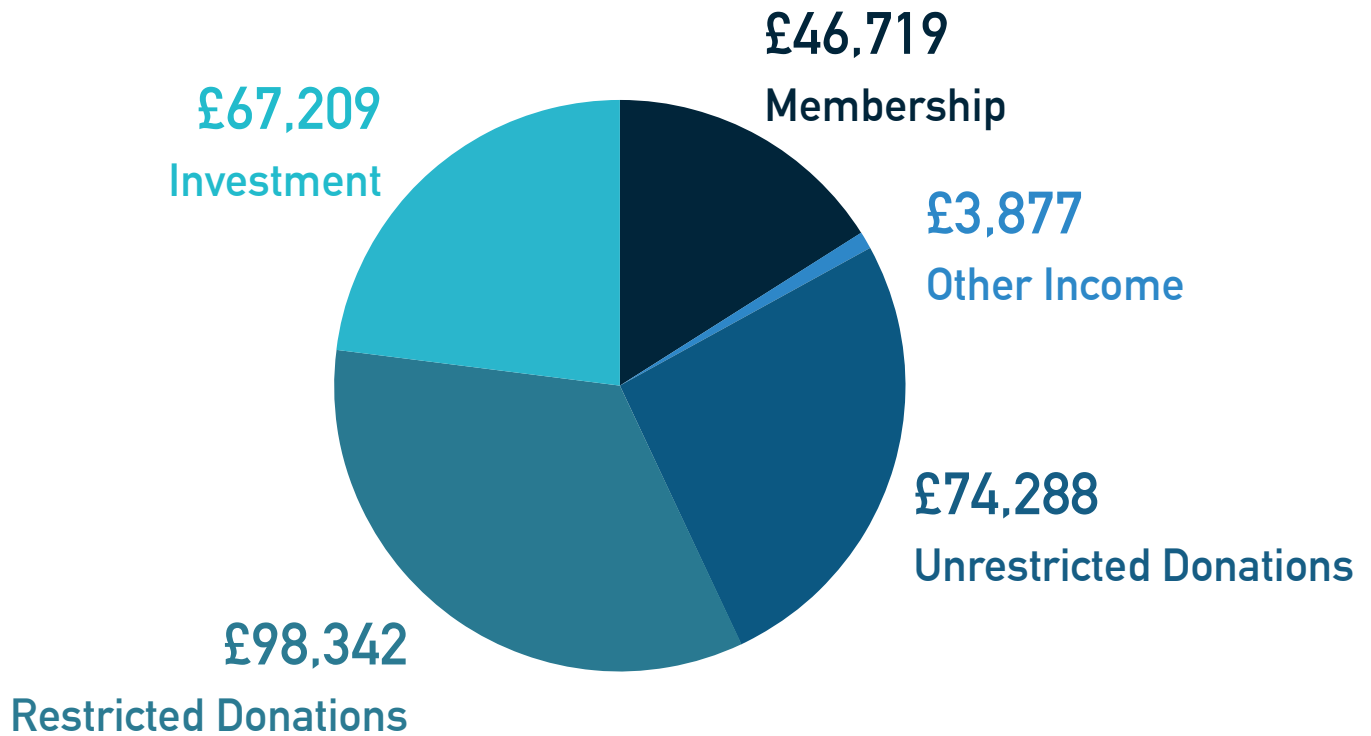
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The financial statements were approved and signed on behalf of the Board by Alison Burnett (Acting Treasurer) and Magdie de Kock (World President).

The full Statement of Financial Activities and Annual Report can be found at www.acww.org.uk

Income & Expenditure

Our net income for charitable activity was £290,435



We spent £460,847 on charitable activity

