



Associated Country
Women of the World

ACWW in 2021

*A Summary of the 2021 Annual Report and Accounts of
the Associated Country Women of the World*

The photo above shows female farmers from Project 1057, Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming; Supporting Vegetable Gardens in Zimbabwe. Ntengwe empowers grassroots women's leadership through community-based initiatives focused on rural women as the driving force for change. Photo courtesy of Ntengwe for Community Development

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ACWW in 2021

Associated Country Women of the World 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).

Who we are

The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to bring rural women and their organisations all over the world together, addressing the challenges they faced because of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and lack of standing in political processes.



Our Objectives

ACWW's objectives are the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, and the advancement of education for women in both rural and non-rural areas worldwide, to empower women and improve the quality of life.

Our Mission

The charity aims, through its membership and networks of rural and non-rural women, by cooperation and understanding, to empower its members and rural women worldwide, creating opportunities for women to exercise more power.

We believe women will be empowered when they are able to make better decisions and change their own lives. In order to do this, they need to be better informed, be part of an enabling environment and have the necessary tools in order to carry out the changes they want.

ACWW's mission is to bring these conditions about through partnership, advocacy, sharing of knowledge and local activities.

Representative Democracy

The Triennial World Conference is the highest legislative body of ACWW, establishing policy and electing the Board of Trustees. The Constitution, Rules and Bye Laws govern the workings of the organisation, with Board Members entrusted to act within them, and on behalf of members for the best interests of the organisation and its members.

COVID-19 and ACWW

Digital Meetings

For a second year, ACWW's membership, Board, and staff were impacted by global Covid-19 Pandemic. Face to face meetings continued to be replaced with video teleconferencing, and ACWW's Committee meetings were held in line with their normal schedules - though with an additional meeting of the Finance and Membership Committee.

Reflecting the ease of digital communication, and the need to address issues as they arose, the Executive Committee held 5 meetings rather than the usual 3, and the Board met 3 times instead of once.

Alongside the Specified Committees, there were two meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection, also held digitally.

Central Office

National lockdowns in the UK had dominated 2020, but in 2021 the country entered a third lockdown on 6 January, and ongoing restrictions affected the next six months to varying degrees.

Staff worked from home throughout the period, returning to the office when safe and legal to do so. Significant adjustments were made to the office including one-way systems, social distancing, restrictions on the number of people in each part of the building, and increased cleaning procedures.

We are grateful that though several staff did contract Covid-19 in 2021, no one was seriously ill, and everyone returned to work in due course.

Our staff developed a range of new resources, and spent a significant amount of time working to support members around the world. This included safe and effective use of digital technologies to join ACWW meetings, and even their own member society meetings.

Communications

Almost as soon as the lockdowns began, ACWW's World President and Central Office team started to explore options for members to stay in touch.

The World President hosted regular "Afternoon Tea" sessions on Zoom, welcoming members to her kitchen with a pot of tea and a slice of a homemade treat... and recipe cards were circulated with the registration so members could create similar delights.

An ACWW Quiz hosted by the World President and the Executive Director proved very popular, and was repeated for different regions and time zones.

Membersip & Conferences

In 2020 there were 440 Member Societies 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 or 2021.

The number of Life Members has declined since no new Life Members have been added since 1997. However, many Life Members voluntarily pay a current membership fee and are included in the Individual Member category.

We normally work to a 3-year cycle, and the 29th Triennial World Conference took place in April 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. The 30th Triennial World Conference was scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2022. Covid-19 put this in jeopardy, and the Board considered what steps should be taken if there was a need to postpone this event.

In line with the Constitution, the Board called a Special World Conference to be held digitally 17-23 April 2021, to consider a single resolution to delay the Triennial World Conference by one year. Notices were sent to all member societies and individual members by email and post, and Conference sessions were repeated in different time zones to ensure maximum participation.

There were six sessions held at which more than 150 people join in via Zoom, and more than 2,200 people watched on Facebook. As Magdie de Kock, World President said *'This has been an historic week for ACWW, and I am honoured to have had you with us for this unique event.'*

"In light of the unprecedented uncertainties of 2021, specifically in respect of the global Covid-19 Pandemic, it is resolved to:

i) Reschedule the 30th Triennial World Conference from May 2022 to May 2023, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In order for this to be enacted, the following Constitutional Amendment is required:

The following section of Clause 11.1.1, "...Triennial World Conferences must be held at intervals of not more than 42 months" be suspended, and the following text be inserted: "...Triennial World Conferences must be held at intervals of not more than 52 months"

ii) The amendment in i) above be rescinded at the close of the 30th Triennial World Conference"

The total number of votes received in favour of the Resolution was 300, votes received against the Resolution 4. The percentage of votes cast in favour was 98.6%, with the resolution adopted.

Area Conferences

In every 3 year cycle, ACWW's Area Presidents organise an Area Conference to ensure that their members can come together and share their experiences, feedback, concerns, and create opportunities for learning from each other.

Covid-19 had an inevitable impact on planning during this Triennium, and almost every Area Conference had to be re-scheduled.

The following Area Conferences took place in 2021:

South Pacific – held digitally 8 March

Southern Africa – held in person 7-9 June
Howick, Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa

Canada – held digitally 6-7 July

United States of America – held digitally 2 August

Caribbean, Central & South America – 2 November

The following were re-scheduled to 2022:
Europe, East, West and Central Africa, South East Asia & the Far East, and Central & South Asia.

organisations to ensure action to secure meaningful, quality education for all young people. The advancement of education is a pathway to the relief of poverty and the relief of sickness and preservation of health.

ACWW commits to being an anti-racist organisation, and aims to equip all members to address racism within their own communities and collaborate to ensure that the voices of women of colour and indigenous communities are heard. We will work with peers to redress racial inequalities and leverage our partnerships to ensure positive joint working, promoting, sharing, and learning from best practice wherever possible to encourage greater accountability and advocate for meaningful change.

Remembering the resolution passed by our Membership in 1947 and the more than 20 resolutions and recommendations that have followed, ACWW reaffirms its support for the principles underlying the establishment of the United Nations, and to supporting the UN and its Member States in strengthening global governance and representation. This includes realising the success of the 2030 Agenda, amplifying the voices of rural women through UN processes and with UN agencies, and calling for reform to address the inadequacies of existing mechanisms.

Our work is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights, and we work on behalf of those left furthest behind. ACWW stands against discrimination in all its forms, and works towards gender equality, accessibility, global citizenship, solidarity with those facing discrimination, and sustainable development.

ACWW's development programme for improved quality of life and the empowerment of rural women relies on funding local women-led delivery partners. This ensures that local voices are reflected in project design, implementation, and outcome assessment. We will continue this work, doing everything we can to ensure we are supporting the growth of relevant local capacity with a sustained and positive impact.

We are incredibly proud of our diverse network of women's organisations globally, and the women-led development projects we have supported over the past 50 years. We recognise that there is always more to be done to strengthen, empower, and build capacity within our network, lessons we can learn, and new voices to bring forward. ACWW's Board is elected by our membership, and geographic representation remains critical to bringing forward the priorities of rural women.

In 2019, the Board adopted 'Our Diversity is our Strength' as the Triennial theme, and today we reiterate this commitment, as we move towards marking the centenary of our Association, and ensuring that we, and our members, continue to be Rural Women in Action."

Adopted by ACWW's Board of Trustees, August 2021

A renewed Statement of Ethics for ACWW

"The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to bring rural women and their organisations all over the world together, and in so doing address the challenges they faced because of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and their lack of standing in political processes.

ACWW's membership spans 82 countries, and since 1947 we have passed more than 180 policy resolutions by popular vote. The key concept behind each of these is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity, and this continues to be our driving priority.

Rural women are the backbone of families, of communities, of nations, of global food systems. They bear the burden of conflict, they go unheard in legislation, and remain largely unprotected and unsupported. ACWW exists to change that, and challenge international processes and policies that perpetuate these inequalities.

Reaffirming the earliest statements leading to the formation of our organisation and the words of our founders, ACWW calls for co-operation among women's

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through local activities

Since the 1970s, ACWW has funded small projects in grassroots communities, led by local women's organisations. In 2021, the Projects Committee met in February and October to award new grants.

Donations received for projects totalled £67,107

27 new projects were funded

Total spent on projects 2021 totalled £255,477

There were two members of staff, working a combined 7 days per week, whose sole job was to administer the project application process, deal with applicants, grantees and donors on behalf of the Committee.

The cost of overheads was to be applied to projects work as recommended by the auditors and restricted funds applied in this respect. Initial evaluation is carried out by these Central Office staff, who prepare a 'longlist' of eligible projects from the applications received. This list is then considered by the Projects Committee Chairman who shortlists the applications to be considered by the Projects Committee at one of their biannual meetings. The recommendations from the Committee are then considered by the Board or Executive, whichever meets first.

Projects primarily benefit rural women and children. These women tend to be strong activists in their own communities but would not normally have access to external funds. Grassroots organisations tend to have expert knowledge of their own communities and realities, and are supported where possible so that their communities can benefit from this knowledge.



ACWW recognises its project partners as experts and teachers, rather than beneficiaries. ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations.

When an organisation applies for funding from ACWW, we apply checks to ensure that donations are used responsibly. Reporting and evaluation allow us to measure the impact of funding and, where applicable, ensure longevity and increasing independence. It is intended to resume evaluation visits once the Covid-19 pandemic allows.

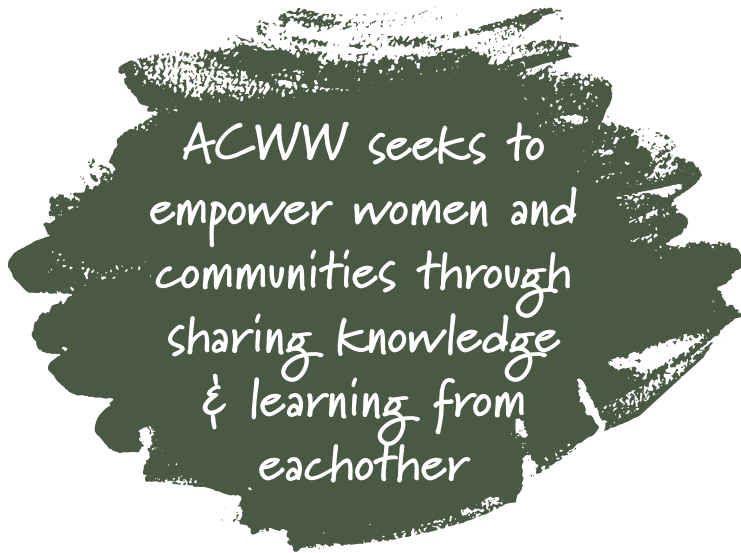
Materials with indicative projects for each of the Women Empowered Fund "pots" were provided to donors and supporters via email and were shared on ACWW's social media channels and website. Donors are given project profiles, progress and final reports for their interest in response to priority focus areas supported. Case studies and project reports are published in *The Countrywoman* and in the annual Projects Newsletter, showing that lives of women are being improved.



Projects Funded in 2021



Project & Organisation	Country	WE Fund Pot
Intercropping for Increased Small-scale Farming Youth and women for Social and Economic Empowerment (YWSEE)	Uganda	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Go Girls Project Youth and Women for Opportunities Uganda (YWOU)	Uganda	Education and Capacity Building
Improving Access to Water for Marginalised Communities Youth Active in Community Development (YACODO)	Malawi	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, & Energy
Kitchen Gardens for Community Growth Vaigai Mahalir Iyakkam (VMI)	India	Income Generation and Livelihood
Sustainable Water for Sikata Village Star Awake CBO (SAC)	Kenya	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, & Energy
Nutrition for Life Rural Empowerment Women Organization (REWO)	Uganda	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Improved Maternal Health through Ambassador Programme Rural Aid Foundation	Uganda	Maternal and Reproductive Health
Ogongo Dispensary Water Project Ogongo Dispensary	Kenya	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, & Energy
Building Resilience through Climate Smart Agriculture Iseguri Initiative	Ghana	Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Development
Gender Equality Through the Prevention and Eradication of FGM Hope Foundation for African Women	Kenya	Maternal and Reproductive Health
Climate Smart Agriculture through Greenhouse Production Hohoe Sankofa Women Co-operative Food Farmers and Marketing Society Limited	Ghana	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Value Added Crops Babuyirana Women Group	Uganda	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Seeds of Change Association for Human Integrated Massive Social Action (AHIMSA)	India	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Rural School Empowerment Project (RUSEE) Safeplan Uganda	Uganda	Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Development
Empowerment through Vocational Skill Training Give Them Hope, Inc	Liberia	Education and Capacity Building
Seed grants for Sustainable Farming Education Communication and Development Trust	India	Education and Capacity Building
A Step in a New Direction Women for Life Development Initiative (WOLIDEVE)	Uganda	Income Generation and Livelihood
Nutrition Education and Food Production for Yanadi Tribal Women Village Reconstruction and Development Society (VRDS)	India	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Goats for the Goals Vasantham Pengal Sanfam (VPS)	India	Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Development
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Tanzanian Youth Reaching the Unreached Tanzania (RUT)	Tanzania	Maternal and Reproductive Health
Agricultural Skills for Nachampama Women Kashitu Development Organization (KWDO)	Zambia	Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Development
Economic Empowerment of Women through Climate-Smart Agriculture Grass-root Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW)	Ghana	Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Development
Community Well for Better Health and Hygiene Gitaru Marigu Development Group (GMDG)	Kenya	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, & Energy
Economic Empowerment for the Olmarurui Woman Elite Community Development Empowerment Programme (ECODEP)	Kenya	Income Generation and Livelihood
Improved Skills in Poultry Production Courage Women Group (CWG)	Ghana	Income Generation and Livelihood
Health Assessment & Education in Rural Communities Buddha Outcast Social Society (BOSS)	India	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Handloom Weaving for Sustainable Income Association for the Social Educational and Charitable Activities for Poor Communities	India	Education and Capacity Building



ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through sharing knowledge & learning from each other

ACWW publishes *The Countrywoman* magazine which is circulated globally to our Members and supporters. We use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of an issue, 3 are planted in its place. We are proud to work with a local, family-owned printer in the UK called Polstead Press. During 2019, all magazines from 2011 onwards were added to the website as an accessible digital archive. The Board approved a request from the East, West and Central Africa Area Conference that *The Countrywoman* be made available as a digital download especially for areas where postal systems were unreliable.



committed to sustainable printing and distribution

A consultation was undertaken to ascertain how the membership felt about transitioning to a digital-only magazine, versus continuing to receive a printed and posted magazine. This consultation towards the end of 2020 utilised all communications channels to reach as many members and members of member societies as possible, including those only reachable by post. From the few responses received, it was clear that the membership overwhelmingly wants the paper version to continue, at least twice per year.

Issue 1 in 2021 was printed, issues 2 and 3 were digital and issue 4 was printed. This was a cost saving measure reflecting the vast increase in postal charges and a response to the survey of members. Print costs are competitively low as printed by a small family business in a rural location. To increase interest, the Board decided to vary the way the digital magazine is distributed, by doing shorter newsletter style emails, more often. This was kept under review and very good feedback was received from members at the Southern Africa Area Conference.

United Nations Decade of **FAMILY FARMING** 2019-2028



The Finance and Membership Committee under the Chairmanship of Acting Treasurer Alison Burnett discussed how to increase membership and income. The discussion focused on the role of ACWW Supporters Groups active in some countries, their primary aim being to spread information about ACWW out to people and gain new members.

During 2021, the Board invited representatives of ACWW supporters' groups from across England, Australia and Canada to speak to them about how and what they did to raise awareness and funds for ACWW, and how similar schemes could be adopted across the world in the future. This form of consultation was much appreciated by the Board.

The Board agreed to a proposal from the Agriculture Committee, which changed the name of the committee to "Food and Agriculture Committee" to be more reflective of the scope of the work of the committee and potential future activities, and bringing it into line with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Decade of Family Farming supported by ACWW.

From November 2021 Zoom meetings were organised to discuss the Decade of Family Farming's core premise that family farms are the key to solving the problem of hunger in the world. Women play a leading role in food security, especially in times of the global pandemic, and these forums listened and learned from the voice of rural women.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through partnership



Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to better connect and support women and communities worldwide. The relationship with rural women's organisations has grown from membership covering 18 countries in 1929 to 82 countries in 2020. Through its member societies, ACWW amplifies the voices of more than 9 million women.

In pre-Pandemic years, the World President, Area Presidents, other Board members and some staff would travel to carry out extension work and give presentations to member societies, speaking at meetings and conferences throughout the world. However, no local or international travel took place on ACWW business from March 2020 to the end of the year, nor in much of 2021. In its place, there was a rapid deployment of videoconferencing tools which facilitated local and international meetings and ensured the Board, members and Central Office were able to maintain contact.

In 2021 ACWW maintained its relationships with UN agencies and is proud of the fact that it has held consultative status at the United Nations for so many years.

ACWW's partnership with Global Action on Rabies Control (GARC) continued by offering free awareness raising online training to ACWW members. Members were encouraged to take up this excellent source of information about how to recognise the disease, what to do in an emergency and how to prevent it.

Many member societies work with local partners and they were encouraged to send in reports of work to Central Office so they could be acknowledged and used for reporting to UN agencies, building up a picture of rural women in action and sharing through our media channels.



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

NGO
MAJOR GROUP

Continued partnership with the NGO Major Group at ECOSOC contributed to our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.



Economic and Social Council

Special consultative status (1947)



Food & Agriculture Organisation

Consultative status (1948)



UNESCO

Consultative status (1949) and Official NGO Partner

Women Walk the World events were severely curtailed again this year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, however, some members found ingenious ways of marking the occasion, raising awareness and, where possible, funds, to help support women and communities worldwide. This event brings together women in fellowship, a core function of ACWW.

Area Presidents continued to email newsletters to keep in touch with their members and the World President also sent regular newsletters.



CEDAW

In June 2021 ACWW gave evidence at the UK CEDAW People's Tribunal about the actions of the UK government relating to rural women, and the experiences of our members in the UK (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland). This involved our Advocacy Director Nick Newland submitting a background policy briefing, then a sworn evidence statement, and giving evidence 'on the stand' (via digital platform) and cross-examination by 4 barristers. Our testimony was well received and included input from the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales, as well as several Institutes and individuals around the country. This tribunal followed the 2019 examination of the UK government at CEDAW, where we also gave evidence based on feedback from our membership.

Later, in October 2021, our Advocacy Director attended a consultation on CEDAW held by the UK Government Equalities Office (GEO) and gave input based on feedback from our members, research, and expertise on rural women in the UK. We were thanked by the GEO and further discussions have taken place.

The United Nations Committee Chairman Marie Kenny reported that Canada is facing many issues of discrimination in schools and she is speaking with the Minister of Education about having the ACWW booklet on CEDAW distributed to schools.

FAO & Civil Society

In October 2021 the FAO contacted ACWW and carried out an unscheduled and short notice review of our Consultative Status. They told us they are in the process of reducing the number of NGOs holding status by around 12% due to pressure from member governments.

We made the case for ACWW maintaining our status: The work undertaken over the past 3 years that aligned with the FAO was presented by our Advocacy Director, and after internal discussion, very positive outcomes were reported:

- ACWW will continue to hold Consultative Status
- FAO is maintaining rural women as a priority focus
- Impressed by ACWW's work with UNESCO, FAO would like us to work with them to revise their Civil Society processes and organise a forum.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through advocacy

65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The annual UN Commission on the Status of Women was held in a digital format in 2021 for the second time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. More than 20,000 participants from around the world attended civil society sessions over the two weeks. Around 40 ACWW members registered to attend 58 sessions. ACWW's Advocacy Director was heavily involved in the negotiations on the Zero Draft and then Agreed Conclusions, working to influence the UK government and others through lobbying, negotiation, and inputting during consultations. The results were strong for Rural Women, more so than the past 2 years.

ACWW hosted an official CSW Parallel Event on 18 March 2021, 'Rural Women's Role in Global Citizenship', which was chaired by World President Magdie de Kock. Guest speakers included H.E. Hans Wesseling, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO and Gill Naylor, National President of ACWW Member Society Rural Women New Zealand; joined by ACWW UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny, Area President for East, West, and Central Africa Irene Chinje, and Advocacy Director Nick Newland. The event was attended by 200 people, and was watched more than 1500 people online via our Facebook and YouTube pages.

World President Magdie de Kock also appeared as a guest speaker at a Parallel Event hosted by the UK Civil Society Women's Alliance, titled 'The Last Young Woman Post Covid'; this was well attended and live-streamed by ACWW, and watched by around 1000 people.

Our official Statement to the 65th Session of the Commission was submitted, with support from 28 other international NGOs who hold Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council like ACWW. These included new organisations engaging with ACWW for the first time, including one in Brazil, one in Zimbabwe, and groups like the World Organization of the Scout Movement and Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas.

In December 2020 at the International Conference of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO, ACWW was elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. This group of 10 represents the more than 400 NGOs who hold status with the UN agency.

All but three nations who are member states of the UN participate at UNESCO, the exceptions being the USA, Israel and Lichtenstein. Our engagement with UNESCO in 2021 led to productive policy discussions throughout the year, and led to partnerships in 2022 that will be reported in the account for that year.

Almost exactly a year after our election, our Advocacy Director organised the 12th International Forum of NGOs, titled “Achieving Global Citizenship”. This event was held digitally on 6-7 December 2021, and included high-level speakers from the US, Australia, India, Japan, Poland, Brazil, and Zimbabwe. Nick Newland chaired the Forum and secured the participation of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The Director-General of UNESCO also attended the Forum digitally alongside many ACWW members.

unesco

NGO liaison comité UNESCO
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Achieving Global Citizenship

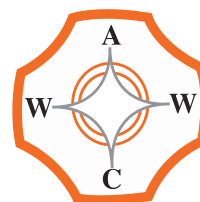
12th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO

Online Event
6-7 December 2021

Since 2012, UNESCO has been developing the concept of Global Citizenship. Recognizing the divergences of interpretation that do not yet allow a universally recognized definition or any legal status, UNESCO has moved towards a pragmatic approach to global citizenship through education. This Forum brings forward the voices and experiences of NGOs around the world as we collectively seek to achieve Global Citizenship, particularly in light of the educational and societal impacts of COVID-19

Guest Speakers include:
H.E. Ban Ki-moon (Former Secretary-General of the United Nations); **Ginggaer Shankar** (Musician & Activist); **Professor Everjorce Win** (The Shine Campaign); **Brian Rusch** (Rotary Club for Global Action); **Claire Mahon** (Global Human Rights Group); **Daniel Perrell** (Coalition for the UN We Need); **Tharindra Arumapperuma** (Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation); **Yasmin Knight** (Business and Professional Women International); **Marcela Browne** (Argentinian Campaign for the Right to Education); **Rind Allhage** (SDG7 Youth Constituency); **Mariana Montag** (Architect & Activist); **Dr Natacha Razava** (Architect & Activist); **Pascal Valentin Houenou** (Institut Afrique Monde) & **Monika Froehler** (Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens).

To register to attend please visit www.ngo-unesco.net



Since 2016 ACWW has been active in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, under the global banner of ‘Orange the World’. Efforts to raise awareness have seen statements, videos, posters, and other resources produced and shared with members in more than 80 countries.

In 2020, the UN identified a ‘Shadow Pandemic’ of gender-based violence accompanying the impact of Covid-19. As families all over the world were subject to lockdown, so the prevalence of domestic violence increased. Now, more than ever, the campaign to raise awareness from 16 to 365 Days is critically important. During ACWW’s Orange the World campaign in 2019 more than 63,550 people saw ACWW’s materials online and more than 850 people actively shared these materials on their Facebook pages. This is a fantastic reach for these resources, and the reach of ACWW’s campaign was significantly increased in 2021, possibly reflecting the increased level of digital literacy amongst the membership in light of Covid-19 and greater reliance on computer-based communication.

In December 2021, ACWW co-hosted a Webinar with UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Advocacy Director Nick Newland spoke at the webinar, which specifically addressed violence against women and girls in the Asia Pacific region, with feedback and input from our members in the area. The invitation to co-host this event was a direct result of ACWW holding an elected position on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

Financial Review

The financial Appeal to Secure ACWW for Future Generations, as recommended by the Finance & Membership Committee, was posted to all members as a personal letter from World President Magdie de Kock and Deputy World President and Acting Treasurer, Alison Burnett. The Appeal raised additional donations of around £21,000.

The continuing pandemic and the impact on donations caused the budget for 2021 to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. ACWW's investments managed by Close Brothers were scrutinised by the Acting Treasurer and found to have held up well under the circumstances. Staff implemented a series of cost-cutting measures, some of which were specific to the Covid-19 period, whilst others will be sustained longterm. ACWW continued to benefit from the reduced rate of rent negotiated in 2020, whilst further money was saved by submitting the quarterly electronic VAT return in-house for the first time in years. Most of the staff were multi-tasking to save outside costs, and this included providing training for colleagues and Board Members when necessary. Although the revised budget showed a deficit, it was not reasonable to reduce expenditure any further, so attention was turned to increasing income.

Income from Pennies for Friendship (PFF) was double the budget figure for the first quarter of the year and a legacy of £54,000 had helped considerably. For the first time in many years, the income for unrestricted funds was greater than that restricted to projects.

The 29th Triennial World Conference had voted to have a separate chairman for Agriculture on the Board, which will have additional cost implications from 2023. Not having face to face Board and Committee meetings in 2020 and 2021 resulted in considerable savings. The Board decided that all committee meetings were to be held digitally to the end of the Triennium, with the Board meeting in person annually when that became possible.

The Board decided in October 2021 that the three-year membership discount should cease to apply from the renewal year 2022. The Board identified that there was a need to develop sustainable income and not rely on the membership to maintain the organisation financially long-term. In addition to current donations and membership fees, member societies had an important role in responding to surveys and giving their time to promoting ACWW. There was an intention to approach outside bodies for funding to cover core costs.

All the work of Central Office is directed to the charitable activities of ACWW. The direct funding of projects in developing countries and their evaluation and administration necessarily incur support costs. Two administrators, (one full-time and one part-time equalling 7-day equivalent) have their work solely directed towards all aspects of projects administration.

Unrestricted funds cover the costs of maintenance of an information network and production of the magazine, writing and designing artwork for all publicity materials in-house, sustaining the international membership organisation with Board and Committee activities and extension work, representation at the United Nations and related advocacy activities to ensure our consultative status is secure and our advocacy effective. Thus, expenditure is apportioned towards charitable activities which are Projects, Education, Outreach, Information and Research, United Nations Representation and Conference Preparation.

The Board review arrangements with Auditors every few years and decided that after more than two decades, it was time for a change. The audit was put out to tender and four quotes obtained. Appleby & Wood were appointed as auditors at the October 2021 Board meeting. Azets, formerly Wilkins Kennedy, were thanked for their work over the years.

Reserves policy

ACWW seeks to maintain 36 months' worth of normal income and expenditure in order to meet the requirements of a triennium. That includes:

To provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work. That is, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of *The Countrywoman* magazine for all members, education, outreach and projects, Board and governance expenditure, maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all of the above - this requires in the region of £550,000 per year. Projects are paid for from restricted funds received to the Women Empowered Fund and expenditure commitments are generally made in the spring and the autumn each year.

Membership fee income currently yields around £45,000 per year and is relatively stable although there is a slight downward trend. Income from investments has been maintained in recent years but is subject to the volatility of the investment market. Legacies are an important source of income but cannot be budgeted for.

To provide a level of funding for unexpected opportunities.

To provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. Recent years have seen the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation which necessitated investment in computer equipment for all Board members, staff training and changes to working procedures in order to keep members' data secure and ACWW compliant.

If closure seemed a likely outcome, there are currently 7 members of staff, five of whom have been employed by ACWW for over two years and would have full redundancy rights.

Statement of Financial Activities for Year ended 31 December 2021

Associated Country Women of the World

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income:				
Donations, membership and legacies	232,235	1,412	233,647	219,349
Investment income	78,602	-	78,602	67,209
Charitable activities	468	65,695	66,163	3,877
Total Income:	311,305	67,107	378,412	290,435
Expenditure:				
Raising Funds:				
Investment management costs	10,637		10,637	10,716
Charitable activities:				
Project activities	154,398	101,079	255,477	219,138
Education	57,627		57,627	53,306
Outreach	52,301		52,301	44,422
Information and research	97,896		97,896	88,843
United Nations representation	28,747		28,747	44,422
Conference preparation	-		-	-
Total Expenditure:	401,606	101,079	502,685	460,847
Net income / (expenditure):	(90,301)	(33,972)	(124,273)	(170,412)
Transfer between funds	62,831	(62,831)	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) before other gains:	(27,470)	(96,803)	(124,273)	(170,412)
(Loss)/Gains on investment assets	139,948	-	139,948	162,868
Net movement in funds	112,478	(96,803)	15,675	(7,544)
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2021	2,558,214	371,002	2,929,216	2,936,760
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2021	2,670,692	274,199	2,944,891	2,929,216

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

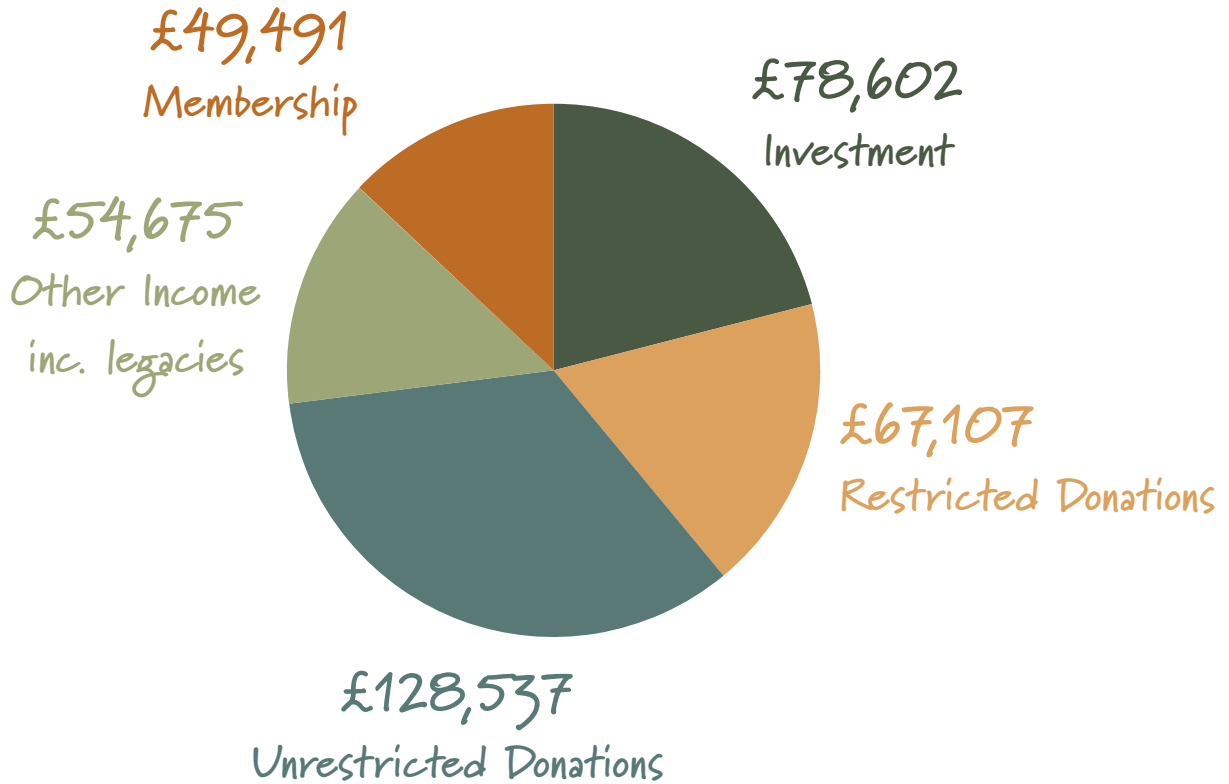
The financial statements were approved and signed on behalf of the Board by Alison Burnett (Acting Treasurer) and Magdie de Kock (World President).

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

Auditors were Appleby and Wood

Associated Country Women of the World Income & Expenditure

Net income for charitable activities was £378,356



Net expenditure for charitable activities was £502,685

