

rural
women
in action

Associated Country
Women of the World

Every additional year
of primary school
increases girls'
eventual wages by
10-20%

It also encourages
them to marry later
and have fewer
children, and leaves
them less vulnerable
to violence.

39% of rural girls
attend secondary
school. This is far
fewer than rural boys
at 45%, urban girls
at 59% and urban
boys at 60%

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



ACWW Education & Community Development Project Snapshot

ACWW believes that sustainable change requires building networks of rural women and promoting women-led empowerment projects.

We have a long history of providing support to education and capacity building projects which have enabled women to come together and share skills; build entrepreneurship activities for increased income and financial independence; develop financial literacy; establish community-led savings and loan schemes; and creating life-long learning opportunities.

Rural women have faced systemic barriers to education due to traditional patriarchal cultural norms, conflict, and a lack of practical access to schooling.

UN Women have identified that globally, two-thirds of illiterate adults are women. This means that a high proportion of rural women face struggles in completing basic education, resulting in reduced income potential, poorer health, and nutrition outcomes for their families, reduced decision-making ability and community participation. By investing in Education and Community Development, ACWW seeks to change this reality for rural women.

A Case Study from ACWW Project 1104 in Liberia

ACWW project 1104, Empowerment through Vocational Skill Training takes place in Nimba County, Liberia and is delivered with local partner Give Them Home.

Globally, equitable access to education faced huge challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing attention to the challenges already being faced by rural communities to access education and development opportunities.

Many lost access to schools and those in rural areas lacked the connectivity to be able to continue their education online. For those who had recently finished or were coming to the end of their education, the path before them suddenly slipped away.

In Liberia, ACWW funded a project delivered by Give Them Hope which aims to equip rural women and girls with vocational training and economic empowerment to overcome the impacts of Covid-19.

The project began in 2021 and provides 75 women and girls with vocational skills and a mindset change to boost confidence, overcome the hardship and economic challenges posed by the pandemic, the aftermath of 15 years of civil conflict and the well-known challenges of rurality.

The project will provide skills that can be translated into small local business initiatives and self-employment to create an income platform for these girls and women. Further small business training and financial management skills will also be provided.

Building confidence and capability with these young women places them in a stronger position within society, and contributes to building equality of status and rights with men in their community. The project will promote gender equality, reduce gender-based violence, and strengthen women and girls' economic growth.

Ms L's Story

"In January 2022, I was selected to benefit from the training. I eagerly joined because I had no other means of income except selling small portions of rice that I grow from my farm.

The new skills have not only increased my income, my social and community status has risen. Yes indeed, my empowerment through the vocational skill training has greatly promoted and placed me on equal pale with men in the community. Thank you for empowering me to reach my full potential.

"The elderly men and key decision makers of the community gather at my house everyday to buy bread in the morning and to discuss major community issues - and they ask for my advice on key issues in our community."

Participant's names have been changed to protect their privacy and safety.

rural
women
in action

Associated Country
Women of the World



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

Associated Country
Women of the World

ACWW | The Foundry
17-19 Oval Way | London SE11 5RR
Registered Charity CIO NO:1174798

www.acww.org.uk
office@acww.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7799 3875