

Triennial Report of Work Associated Country Women of the World 2019-2023

rural
women
in action

Associated Country
Women of the World





Welcome from the World President



My dear Friends,

This Triennial Report of Work details the activities of the Associated Country Women of the World and its Member Societies in the period between the 29th Triennial World Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in April 2019 and the delayed 30th Triennial World Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2023.

One of the biggest factors of note in this period has been, without doubt, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The global lockdowns that affected us all personally also meant that for the first time in living memory ACWW's Board of Trustees were required to call a Special World Conference and follow the Constitutional process to extend the time between Triennial World Conferences by an additional year. This is of course a temporary provision, and we look forward to celebrating the 31st Triennial World Conference in April 2026.

In extending this Triennium, the Board of Trustees and our Committee members were asked to serve for an additional year. They did so without complaint and their continued and committed service to our Association has shone through; I would like to take this opportunity to extend my, and your, thanks to them all.

It has been a Triennium of change and we have faced many challenges alongside Covid-19. As well as the pandemic, many of our Member Societies have been affected by continued and increasingly severe climate-related disasters. Local conflicts, civil wars, invasions and occupations have impacted on members in several countries, and the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence has seen rates of domestic and intimate partner violence reach higher levels globally than ever before.

In 2022 the Board of Trustees agreed a new strategic plan for 2022-2026 and this has seen some internal changes and new approaches, as well as recommending certain Constitutional changes to the 30th Triennial World Conference for decisions by our Membership. As with any such process these changes have not all been plain sailing, but the vast majority of our membership have recognised the need for modernisation whilst holding our focus on the original aims, objectives, and goals of our Association as we approach our Centenary.

It has been my honour to serve as World President since 2019, and I hope you will find this document useful as a reference, guide, and celebration of all that the Associated Country Women of the World stands for.

Magdie de Kock
ACWW World President 2019-2023



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Associated Country Women of the World

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ACWW Board of Trustees 2019-2023

World President	Mrs Magdie de Kock (South Africa)
Deputy World President and Chairman of the Food & Agriculture Committee	Mrs Alison Burnett (Scotland)
Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance & Membership Committee	Mrs Alison Burnett (Scotland) *
Secretary and Chairman of the Triennial World Conference Committee	Mrs Christine Reaburn (Canada)
Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman	Mrs Sheila Needham (Canada)
Projects Committee Chairman	Mrs Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland) **
United Nations Committee Chairman	Mrs Marie Kenny (Canada)
Canada Area President	Ms Linda Hoy (Canada)
Caribbean, Central & South America Area President	Ms Irene Hinds (Trinidad & Tobago)
Central & South Asia Area President	Mrs Magdie de Kock ***
East, West, and Central Africa Area President	Ms Irene Chinje (Cameroon)
Europe Area President	Ms Afrodita Roman (Romania)
South East Asia & the Far East Area President	Mrs Norjanah Razali (Malaysia)
South Pacific Area President	Mrs Gail Commens (Australia)
Southern Africa Area President	Dr Marina Muller (Namibia) ****
United States of America Area President	Mrs Bonnie Teeples

* The elected Treasurer resigned in June 2020, and the Board of Trustees nominated the Deputy World President to cover the responsibilities of this role until the end of the 2019-2023 Triennium.

** The elected Chairman of the Projects Committee passed away in July 2020, and the Board of Trustees co-opted Mrs Edwina Marr to complete the rest of the 2019-2023 Triennium.

*** The elected Area President for Central & South Asia was removed from the Board of Trustees in July 2020, and the Board of Trustees nominated the World President to cover the responsibilities of this role until the end of the 2019-2023 Triennium.

**** The elected Area President for Southern Africa resigned in October 2019, and the Board of Trustees co-opted Dr Marina Muller to complete the rest of the 2019-2023 Triennium.

Central Office Staff

Executive Director	Ms Tish Collins, BA (Hons) MSc
Advocacy Director & Chief Privacy Officer	Mr Nick Newland, MA CIPM FHEA FRSA
Finance Manager	Ms Yvette Dyer, BA (Hons)
Project Grants Officer	Ms Jenny Sellers, MA
Office Administrator	Ms Casey Daudelin, MA
Finance Assistant	Ms Funmi Omolabi, BA (Hons)
PA to the Executive Director	Ms Rebecca Ramsey, BA MMus

Central Office Staff who also served during the 2019-2023 Triennium:

Mrs Jessica Green (*Office Administrator*), Mr Rowan McKinnon (*Office Administrator*), Ms Iga Jażdżewska (*Office Administrator*); Mrs Sue Williams (*Finance Manager*); Ms Sydney Salter (*Communications & Engagement Officer*); Ms Viktoria Dimitrova (*Projects Administrator*); Ms Fleur Boya (*Advocacy Researcher*).

ACWW Board of Trustees 2019-2023



Mrs Magdie de Kock
World President



Mrs Alison Burnett
Deputy World President



Mrs Christine Reaburn
Secretary & Triennial
World Conference
Committee Chairman



Mrs Sheila Needham
Communications &
Marketing Committee
Chairman



Mrs Edwina Marr
Projects Committee
Chairman



Mrs Marie Kenny
United Nations
Committee Chairman



Ms Linda Hoy
Area President:
Canada



Ms Irene Hinds
Area President:
Caribbean, Central &
South America



Ms Irene Chinje
Area President:
East, West, and Central
Africa



Ms Afrodita Roman
Area President:
Europe



Mrs Norjanah Razali
Area President: South
East Asia and the Far East



Mrs Gail Commens
Area President:
South Pacific



Dr Marina Muller
Area President:
Southern Africa



Mrs Bonnie Teeples
Area President:
United States of America

World President's Report

Mrs Magdie de Kock

In preparing my report of the 2019-2023 Triennium I wanted to express my feelings of the honour I felt having been elected World President of this impressive organisation. Well aware I was only the next link in a long chain of dedicated women who have served as World President of ACWW, I had pledged to carry this torch and to represent the ACWW membership. I could never imagine the obstacles, challenges and difficulties that awaited me in my term in office, leading a worldwide organisation and almost 9 million members during unprecedented times!

I have done my best for the legacy of my predecessors, and also for the future of ACWW. I am pleased and proud to have moved forward with the Board and the Membership, celebrating the actions of rural women whilst finding inspiration in our theme for the triennium: Our Strength is our Diversity!

I wanted to share experiences of the global pandemic and how this affected the day-to-day working of ACWW, its Board and Central Office. Before and after lockdowns, I had details of a host of meetings I attended, to share with you. The Board summit in February 2022 and the inspiring Strategic Plan taking us to 2026 were major achievements of the triennium and deserve more than a cursory glance. Looking up from my keyboard I realised I had written over 7,000 words and which spread over 17 pages. Sadly, that was far too long for this publication which seeks to give an overview of the work carried out by ACWW in the 'Triennium'.

This report is thus a summary of the actions and activities I undertook as World President, inevitably meaning I will not mention every meeting, every conversation, every member I had the opportunity to meet. I would like to thank each of you for your support and encouragement, the personal notes, the smiling faces on Zoom calls, the engagement with activities and meetings, and your continued participation with ACWW.

During this Triennium it was clear that I was going to have to embrace the unknown, and explore unfamiliar routes to lead our organisation forward. It was a relief to know that I was not to do this on my own. I was surrounded by the dedicated members of the Board, flanked by well informed, reliable and responsible members of Staff and a loyal and supportive Membership. I was extremely grateful to my back-up team at home – my children and my dear husband, Johan, who has always encouraged me to be involved in voluntary work and who always supports, guides and protects me in all aspects of my life.

Our Strength is our Diversity

Having adopted our Triennial Theme at the first Board Meeting immediately after the Conference in Melbourne, it seemed fitting to start the Triennium with visits to Member Societies in my own country of South Africa - known as the Rainbow Nation. These visits included all 9 provinces, attending Annual Congresses. From my home, the next stop was to ACWW's Central Office in London which - both figuratively and digitally - has become a second home to me during this Presidency.

An initial visit to spend time working with the staff also afforded the opportunity to attend the General Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes in England, as well as visiting with several Institutes.



Putting the W into ACWW... visiting Canada's capital city of Ottawa during the International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO, jointly hosted by ACWW and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in Canada in November 2022.

Engagement with the National Federation of Women's Institutes in England and Wales (NFWI) would continue as a theme throughout the Triennium. I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with General Secretary Melissa Green and Head of Public Affairs Emma Holland-Lindsay - indeed, in 2022 we were delighted to welcome Emma as a speaker at a Forum organised by ACWW with UNESCO, where she highlighted the fantastic work done by the WI with their Plastic Soup campaign on clearing our ocean of pollution.

I spent much of 2019 getting fully acquainted with the global work of ACWW, engaging with our Board Members, and laying the groundwork for a busy 2020. In October 2019 we addressed updates in data protection processes, ensuring that ACWW remained compliant with legal obligations in England where we are registered as a Charity, but also safeguarding our members in all countries. Following best practice, we adopted a "highest standard" approach, so rather than accepting that some governments require lower levels of data protection, we work to the most stringent and protect our membership equally.

Covid-19

2020 dawned upon the world as any other year and I looked forward in anticipation to building on ACWW's accomplishments of 2019. Like everyone, I started to hear rumours and news reports of a new illness, but felt determined that we would carry on as best we could. On 2 March 2022 I departed for London to attend meetings of the ACWW Committees and the Executive, to be followed by flying to New York and attending the 65th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). I would then head to Kolkata, India for the Country Women's Association of India's Golden Jubilee Celebration and the ACWW Area Conference in Central and South Asia. This was not to be!

In between filming videos for ACWW's membership and meeting with Member Societies in the UK, we were also keenly watching updates on the news and liaising with UN agencies for updates and advice about Covid-19, until it was declared a Pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2022. As global lockdowns began to be announced, our meetings were all cancelled and Board and Committee members returned home swiftly. With support from the staff, and after a series of Zoom calls with the Deputy World President, I convened the first ever online Board Meeting in ACWW's history.

Alongside organising new ways to engage with our Membership, including 'Afternoon Tea with the World President' and other online meetings, I was pleased to attend events organised by our Members around the world through a variety of digital platforms. I am pleased to say that whilst the restrictions of Covid-19 have lifted, we continued such meetings with Members throughout the Triennium - more than 3,000 people attended these sessions live online and on social media channels. I have had to become used to filming videos, giving live updates online, preparing statements for television (sometimes with simultaneous interpretation in my earpiece, which is quite unnerving!), and using every platform possible to reach our membership and ensure I could also hear their voices. Alongside this, I took the opportunity to enrol in several online courses to improve my skills and technical literacy, critical as we explored what has become the "new normal"!

Elsewhere in this document you will read more about the specific actions of ACWW in its advocacy activities during Covid-19, but one of the lessons that became clear to me as we returned to in-person meetings and I finally had the opportunity to attend the United Nations for the first time in 2023 was that for our work to be truly effective in the modern world we must have a high level of digital ability, and use it to advocate for our members, but also take the opportunity for in-person representation and engagement when possible. These approaches are parallel, with both remaining crucial.

Reflecting the ease of digital communication, and the need to address issues as they arose, the Executive Committee held five meetings rather than the usual three, and the Board met three times instead of once. Alongside the specified Committees, there were two digital meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection.

As 2020 gave way to 2021, ACWW continued to adapt and on International Women's Day, 8 March, Area President Gail Commens hosted ACWW's first ever online Area Conference, with technical support from Central Office. Other Area Presidents soon followed suit, and we saw many Member Societies and Individual Members engage in these meetings for the first time as the obstacles of travel and expense had been removed. Indeed, it was this that inspired the hybrid Area Conference in East, West and Central Africa held in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2022. At this Conference we saw a 50/50 mix of in-person and online participants in a region that was struggling with a new outbreak - this time Ebola, in Uganda.



Examples of a recipe card and invitation to Afternoon Tea with the World President

2021 Special World Conference

With the continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was becoming clear to me that we would not be able to hold our 30th Triennial World Conference in 2022. The Board discussed the matter and there was only one option – to postpone the conference. It was our hope that by 2023 Covid-related travel restrictions would be lifted and it would be possible for our members to travel to Kuala Lumpur to attend. The Triennial World Conference Committee as well as the Hostess Society and its Chairman, Her Majesty Queen Azizah of Malaysia were consulted and agreed. To postpone the conference past the 42 months mandated in the Constitution would require an amendment, and thus we were required to call a Special World Conference to be held online. This was another first for ACWW - and presented significant challenges of its own.

The Board followed the requirements of the Constitution, and issued a 90-day notification to the Membership, and set the Conference for April 2021. Our Central Office staff played a major role in organising the event, and over 7 days we conducted Conference sessions virtually, repeated multiple times a day to reach as many time zones and regions as possible. We were pleased to have more than 2,000 participants from more than 50 countries attending, and I was pleased to know that around 5,000 people viewed sessions via our Facebook page and website on “catch-up” during the week.

I was grateful to have the support of Deputy World President Alison Burnett and Chairman of the Triennial World Conference Committee Christine Reaburn as they participated in every session (often at very early or late hours!), as well as Tish Collins and Nick Newland from the office who were online throughout, and the Board Members who attended.

After the week of sessions, the votes on the motion proposed by the Board to temporarily amend the Constitution and allow for an additional year between Conferences passed with overwhelming support. All Board and Committee members were asked to extend their terms of service, and the 30th Triennial World Conference was duly rescheduled from 17-25 May 2023 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Amplifying the voices of our members

Whilst I haven't listed every meeting and conference in this report, it is important to highlight that such engagements fall into two broad categories - meeting with our Members and hearing about their lives, experiences, and challenges; and then those meetings with governments, other organisations, and bodies which provide me the opportunity to represent our Members and advocate for their needs.

ACWW's long history of engagement with the United Nations is one example of this, and in this Triennium I have prioritised amplifying the voices of our members at the highest level.

A breakthrough came in when I received an invitation to represent ACWW at the 3rd Eurasian Women's Forum in St Petersburg, Russia in October 2021. The Forum opened its doors to more than 1,500 delegates from over 110 countries. Grass roots organisers, women's groups, international NGOs, politicians, diplomats and world leaders gathered to address challenges within the country and development of a women's agenda. Following the Forum, I travelled to Moscow where I met with Senator Alexei Mayorov, Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Agriculture and Food Policy and Environmental Management. The meeting was held at the Senate building, and included the Deputy Speaker of the Social Politics Committee; this afforded me the opportunity to raise concerns about the Russian government's participation in, and reporting on, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women - and report back to our member society, the Women's Union of Russia. I had the pleasure of meeting with the President of the



Finally at CSW! Joined by Michelle Harris-Genge from the Canadian Government Delegation and ACWW UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny at the United Nations in New York, March 2023

WUR, Mrs Ekaterina Lakhova, and ACWW member Helena Bashun who serves as advisor to the Chair. I was very well received, and we had a productive meeting. I was given the opportunity to film a short video discussion with Mrs Lakhova, and to re-connect with this long-standing ACWW member society.

ACWW's efforts to ensure our members are heard on the international stage continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. I had the pleasure of chairing an official Parallel Event in an online format for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2021, titled “Rural Women in Global Citizenship”, which we saw as an opportunity to follow up on our participation in the UNESCO NGO Forum on Global Citizenship in December 2020.

In 2022 we planned to attend CSW in person for the first time this Triennium, but it was not to be. Two members of Central Office Staff and I contracted Covid-19, meaning that travel was not possible, and I self-isolated in a hotel room for the next 10 days. This did not prevent us serving ACWW as we set plans in motion, taking our participation virtual and ensuring the voices of our members were heard despite the unfortunate circumstances. Throughout my isolation, Tish Collins delivered medicine, fresh fruit, and nutritious food to my hotel room every day – a gesture I’ll never forget!

Our chance to attend CSW in person finally came in 2023, where I was privileged to participate in some of the 2000+ events taking place in New York around the Commission’s activities. The greatest honour was leading ACWW’s delegation which, for the first time, included grassroots members from Mongolia and Kenya along with our UN Committee Members and the Chairman Marie Kenny, and senior staff.

The priority theme at this year’s event was “*Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*”. Part of ACWW’s celebration of International Women’s Day on 8 March was hosting an event to emphasise the role of “Rural Women as Agents of Change: Less Talk and More Action”. This event included participation from the Honourable Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education and Early Years and Minister responsible for the Status of Women from Prince Edward Island, Canada, as well as Mrs June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner from Australia.

The same day, I had the rare opportunity to extend my greetings to our members on International Women’s Day with a video clip filmed with the backdrop of countries’ flags surrounding the impressive headquarters of the United Nations.

Bringing the voices of our members to the United Nations, surrounded by representatives from more than 190 countries also meant that we hosted events including a hybrid session titled “Rural Youth for Action: Reviewing CSW62” which looked back at the outcomes of the Rural Women priority theme from 2018, and I was delighted to watch as four impressive young women from Canada, Kenya, the United Kingdom and the United States of America shared their experiences.

Looking back to July 2021, I had been invited to represent ACWW as a Panellist during a session of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), with the topic of “Holistic and Intersectional approaches to peace at the heart of achieving sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) in a Post-COVID era”. I was pleased to have the opportunity to conclude my statement with a firm pledge from ACWW:

“When we speak at HLPF, we often think in terms of governments and civil society, or even governments versus civil society. This is not my intention. Our calls to action are not combative; they are based in the same commitment to the 2030 Agenda that the Member States of the United Nations have made. Today I recommit ACWW to amplifying the voices of rural women, of older women, of indigenous women, of young women, and of all those women in non-urban communities who cannot be heard above the din of chaos or the silence of global inaction”.



Rural Women as Agents of Change: Tugrug Uugan-Erdene from ACWW Member Society Sain-Tus Bridge Development NGO; June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner from Australia; ACWW UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny; ACWW member Judith Juma from the Social Justice League, Kenya; and ACWW Advocacy Director, Nick Newland - at CSW in New York, March 2023



With ACWW Member Agnes Siteya and the beautiful traditional Maasai beaded necklace she presented to me at the East, West, and Central Africa Area Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2022

Participation and Representation

The greatest memories of this Triennium will always be the positives. Spending time with Member Societies in their own communities, meeting Individual Members, hearing the stories of lives dedicated to the empowerment of women and the realities of life in rural communities around the world. Whilst certainly not exhaustive, just a few of the many opportunities I had to participate in meetings of our membership are included here.

In 2020, whilst travel restrictions were lifted, I was able to visit to Cape Town, South Africa, and attend Annual meetings of the Women's Agricultural societies of the Free State and Cape provinces. As noted earlier, I participated in as many online meetings as possible with organisations all over the world, including in Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, across the UK, and many other countries.

In 2021 I had the pleasure of attending the Southern Africa Area Conference, hosted by Area President Dr Marina Muller - in fact it turned out to be the only Area Conference I was to attend in person in 2021! Later in the year I attended Annual Congresses of the Free State Women's Agricultural Union and Mpumalanga Women's Agricultural Union, and was honoured to attend the AGM of the South African Agricultural Women's Union in Pretoria in October.

By 2022 with things beginning to slowly return to normal, I was pleased to visit Hanover Queens WI and the West Kent Federation of WIs in the UK, as well as travelling to the Area Conference for South East Asia and the Far East hosted in Kuching, Sarawak. Also on the agenda was the Annual Congress of the Overvaal Women's Agricultural Union, as well as combining the the Bi-Annual Conference of my own Member Society, Die Dameskring, with an interview for national radio in South Africa. I had originally intended to attend the European Area Conference in Scotland, but due to Covid-19 it had been repeatedly rescheduled; when it was finally able to happen it sadly clashed with my obligation to attend meetings with the National Master Farm Homemakers Guild in Kentucky, USA, as well as the 2022 General Meeting of the Country Women's Council, and the USA Area Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. I had the honour of being awarded the "Traveller's Award" by the Governor of Arkansas, Asa Hutchinson. Meaningful and productive meetings followed and a decision was taken for the next USA Area meeting to be an ACWW USA Area Conference to be in line with all the other ACWW Areas. At the same time, I was represented by Deputy World President Alison Burnett at the European Area Conference, and sent a video welcome to the event.

On 9 December 2022 I conducted the online Area Conference of Central and South Asia. After limited contact with members from this Area, the Executive Director succeeded to arrange the Conference and 40 invited Members participated in the event. I was impressed by the high level of engagement of the members, and Societies were keen to report on their activities over the last 3 years.

In December 2020, ACWW was elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and began to take a leadership role in the civil society activities at UNESCO. The mandate for this activity goes back to the earliest days of ACWW's membership-enacted Resolutions, when in 1947 we passed the "Support for UNESCO" resolution. Part of this participation was the opportunity to co-host one of the International Forums of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO, which we duly did in November 2022. Titled "Mobilising NGOs for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the Ocean Decade", this event was chaired by our Advocacy Director Nick Newland, and involved participation from ACWW members in person and online, including a speaker from the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales. It was a very successful event hosted at the Musuem of Nature in Ottawa, Canada and networking resulted in many valuable connections with role players and decision makers, securing possibilities for future endeavours of ACWW.



*The President & The Governor
Meeting with Governor Asa Hutchinson at the
State Capitol building, Little Rock, Arkansas in
September 2022*



2022 Board Summit

In February 2022 I travelled to the UK to meet with the Board and senior members of staff for our first in-person meeting since 2019. For five days we gathered in a remote farmhouse in Suffolk, avoiding the crowds of London, and saving money on hotels.

At this meeting we agreed that, as mandated by our election at the Triennial World Conference to manage and lead ACWW, we were responsible for continuing the work of our predecessors who started building ACWW more than 90 years ago. All Board Members took part in the Summit, with some joining via Zoom as they were unable to travel, and with all discussions repeated before votes taken to ensure that everyone was on the same page despite the challenges of time zones. It was clear our organisation needed a new strategy to sustain its future in a fast-moving world. Data for the last thirty years was analysed, showing many years of gradual decline brought to a head by the Covid pandemic. Whilst our reserves remained healthy, annual income was insufficient for long-term sustainability.

The Board agreed that doing nothing was not an option, and we took unanimous decisions to implement changes to our operational strategy, whilst keeping our focus on the aims and objectives that have been the core of ACWW's work for more than 90 years. The outcomes of the Summit were that there would need to be some structural changes within our day-to-day operations, allowed for in the Constitution, as well as some Resolutions proposed to the membership at the Triennial World Conference.

Following the Board meeting, the Deputy World President and I went to Central Office to participate in Zoom meetings with past World Presidents as well as Committee members as I wanted them to be the first to receive the exciting news of the new strategy approved by the Board. Their overwhelmingly positive response and support meant a lot to me. Over three days, Zoom meetings with Committee members took place informing them about the new strategy. It included a new approach to interconnected projects and advocacy and the creation of the ACWW Coordinators scheme to support the work of Area Presidents. A new fund, the Rural Women in Action Fund, would bring ACWW fundraising in line with the lessons we've learned about international development which is vital for ensuring sustainability and legal compliance.

Throughout 2022 the scheduled meetings of the Board and Specified Committees continued and regular meetings with new ACWW Coordinators took place. ACWW was very well on its way to successful implementation of the new strategy. Members were invited to regular Question and Answer Zoom meetings where concerns and questions were addressed. I received letters from a few concerned members to which I responded personally, clarifying the answers. Letters and messages from a significantly larger number of members, congratulating the Board on the new strategy, were much appreciated and their support encouraged me to continue with the new approach moving ACWW forward – never compromising the core values of ACWW as held in the Constitution, and in our hearts.



The end of a long day:

The final day of the ACWW Board Summit in February 2022. Sadly, it was not possible for all members to attend in person, so the whole week was facilitated as a hybrid meeting with sessions changing through timezones.

Here with some of the participants; Marina Muller, Alison Burnett, Afrodita Roman, Irene Chinje, and Bonnie Teeples.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Very soon we will be gathering in Kuala Lumpur at the 30th Triennial World Conference where matters of importance and relevance will be discussed to ensure that ACWW will be secured for future generations. For the first time ever, we will be offering a hybrid format, with all business sessions available to watch online.

I recall very well the excitement with which I left Australia having received the highest expression of trust from the membership, elected as the 17th World President of ACWW. I sincerely meant what I said in my introductory speech:

"I am most grateful for this opportunity to represent our incredible organisation as your World President. I am humbled because of the title that I am being honoured with, but more so because of the calibre of the people I am to represent. To have the privilege to serve this organization, comprised of volunteers that do such important work with so much dedication, is truly what makes this honour so meaningful to me".

Reflecting on an eventful and extended Triennium, I was honoured to be World President for this period. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Deputy World President and other Board Members for their support and dedicated way in which they served our association. I am most grateful to my husband who has always supported me and created a safe and secure environment at home, allowing me to fulfil my ACWW duties with passion.

ACWW's successes during this term, are testament to the skill, commitment, and professionalism of the Executive Director and our ACWW staff, and they deserve my sincere appreciation.

At the end of an unprecedented term, filled with challenges, but even more opportunities, and celebrating the Strength of our Diversity, I wish to express my trust, my respect and my gratitude to you, my beloved ACWW Members!

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

Magdie de Kock - World President, 2019-2023

Central Office Report

Ms Tish Collins, Executive Director

When we began this Triennium with our first meeting of the new Board, held immediately after the Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia, I don't think any of us could possibly have predicted even a fraction of what lay before us. I am pleased to report that despite the significant challenges, ACWW has weathered the storm and ends the Triennium in a stronger and more sustainable position than it began. It has not been easy, and there will always be elements where we can identify improvements as we move forward, and we are certainly not complacent. However, I believe we stand to begin our 2023-2026 Triennium with positivity and with a more sustainable future ahead of us. For clarity, separate reports on the impact of ACWW's Projects and Advocacy work are included later in this document.

We began the 2019-2022 (as it was at that point) with a newly ratified Constitution, and many new Board members serving either for the first time, or for the first time in new positions. After the Board meeting held in Melbourne, Central Office began the work of preparing to support Members in their promotion and action towards the new Resolutions adopted, as well as supporting Board members in their activities. The first Board meeting had appointed new members to the six Specified Committees, and those Members who had volunteered were duly informed.

At the start of the Triennium, the standard was for the Specified Committees to meet twice a year except for the Finance & Membership and the Executive Committees which meet thrice, with some members participating via videoconferencing. Decisions are reached on a majority vote basis (unless specified otherwise by the Constitution) but are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees or Executive, whichever meets first, who also operate on a majority vote basis. Each Triennium specified committees complete a review of their policy papers to be approved at the following Board meeting, to ensure they are robust and meet the governance and developing needs of the Charity.

The newly elected World President, Mrs Magdie de Kock, and Executive Director are in frequent and regular contact. The majority of contact is carried out via Microsoft Teams, with the World President based in South Africa. The Executive Director and Central Office staff in London carry on the day-to-day administration of the organisation ensuring compliance with statutory and charity requirements, financial and membership record keeping, projects administration and publications including *The Countrywoman* magazine, research and information to support and administer the work of the specified committees and Board, as well as conducting advocacy work and other ACWW activities.

Email communications are used between committee meetings, as the elected members are spread geographically, and each Board member has a dedicated ACWW email address in compliance with data protection regulations and to facilitate continuity Triennium to Triennium. Digital literacy among Board Members proved to be a challenge during the Triennium, particularly in light of the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, in-house training and continued technical support from Central Office assisted Board Members in navigating the worst of the difficulties.

Covid-19

It is hard to present the traditional Triennial Report without first focusing on the impacts of Covid-19 on Central Office, as well as the organisation more broadly. For the whole of the extended 2019-2023 Triennium, Central Office was located at Ao4 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, a rented property. In line with government restrictions, Central Office was closed and staff worked from home from 17 March 2020 as the UK went into lockdown. The office opened again between September and October until London went into another phase of lockdown. Towards the end of 2020, UK Covid-19 restrictions were tightened once again and became stricter in January 2021. The staff were generally working from home and coping well in trying circumstances. When restrictions for London were lifted in May 2021 most staff members returned to work in Central Office and the Executive Director ensured adherence to all appropriate Covid restrictions; social distancing, sanitisation and enhanced cleaning were in place when staff were in the Office. Temporary arrangements were in place for the two part-timers to work on a hybrid basis when the workload allowed.

In June 2019 it was agreed by the Finance and Membership Committee and the Board that the then 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, ACWW staff were unable to work from home because of the existing setup. The Board therefore authorised the plan as presented by the Policy & Communications Manager, 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 (our main membership database) to set up the new system. 11 days after the office closed, with the Executive

Director, 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.

The impact of Covid-19 on ACWW's membership has been addressed via three surveys, the results of which have been shared with the 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 strains of working from home and trying to maintain full working capacity, often with limited or shared access to the internet, childcare responsibilities, limited space, and complications of data protection and ensuring good practice was maintained certainly had an impact on the staff. Throughout the period there were undoubtedly some elements of work affected by the reality, with some letters or emails being missed, and difficulties with dealing with postage further complicating the situation when staff were unable to access the delivery address. During the period of Covid-19's direct impact on Central Office, several members of staff were taken ill with the virus, and the conditions also contributed to some staff moving out of London, and thus ACWW, or retiring earlier than perhaps initially planned.

Despite these major obstacles, I am proud of the continued hard work of our staff and their commitment to ACWW. Examples often included working through the night to facilitate Zoom meetings, Area Conferences, and the Special World Conference, working across weekends to ensure major pieces of work were delivered on time, and almost all members of staff being required to offer elements of tech support to ACWW members around the world as they came to terms with a "new normal". The constant support of the World President has been greatly appreciated, and despite the significant issues being addressed at times, staff morale generally remained high.

Central Office

In March 2020, we negotiated with our landlords for a 50% reduction in rent for 3 months during the Covid lockdown, saving in the region of £7,500. When discussed with the former treasurer, World President and Executive Director, it was agreed that we should try and extend our lease at Parkhall, and remain in the current office at the end of the initial 3 year lease. 27 September 2020 was the date for our first lease period came to an end, and we negotiated with Workspace Group Ltd, our landlords. Our initial lease included an annual 5% increase in rent, with a 5% increase per annum in service charge. We successfully secured an additional 3 year lease at Parkhall, with a fixed rate of £52,885.82 – thus no annual increase for the length of the 3 year term, and a drop in the service charge increase from 5% to 3%. This will save ACWW a minimum of £5,400 per annum over the term of the lease, plus of course removes all the costs of sourcing a new office, setting it up, and moving - and avoids any increase.

When we first moved to Parkhall, it had seemed to be the perfect space for ACWW. These premises enabled the charity to have offices and to accommodate Board and Committee meetings as well as the ability to hold an extensive archive and conduct workshops for up to 50 people (the opportunity for which we had taken advantage of several times). However, over time, it became clear that the Landlord's approach to periodic maintenance was problematic, and in 2020 (after the lease had been signed), a leak appeared in the roof. This got worse, and the Landlords refused to take meaningful action; the Advocacy Director had endless meetings with Workspace, repeatedly presenting evidence of negligence, and negotiating in the best interests of ACWW. In September 2022, work finally began to replace the entire roof over the "A" block at Parkhall, including ACWW's office in Ao4. This work was carried out below the most basic standards, and on 7

September 2022 ACWW Central Office was majorly flooded overnight when the contractors stripped back the roof, leaving it exposed to heavy rain overnight. Thousands of pounds of damage was caused to ACWW property, and when we arrived the next morning we found water running through live electrics, gushing water still coming in to the property, and the floor beginning to lift.

The Advocacy Director immediately secured alternate accommodation for ACWW across 2 other units at Parkhall; the staff being relocated to one unit, with the archive and majority of our property to another. He also secured a full admission of liability from Workspace, and ACWW has paid no rent, service charge, or utilities charges for any of the units at Parkhall between 7 September and the publication of this report on 22 April 2023.

The following 7 months saw ACWW remain unable to use our office as the landlords and their contractors continued to deliver negligent and sub-standard repairs. By January 2023 a thick layer of black mold had taken over much of Ao4, and we brought in an independent health and safety inspector to assess the office. His recommendation was that given the standard of work being carried out, he could not see that the office would be useable before our lease was due to finish in September 2023. In addition, all soft furnishings, paper, and anything without a hard surface that could be professionally cleaned that had remained in Ao4 would need to be disposed of to ensure safety.

Roofing repairs were due to have been completed by 31 December 2022, and were finally completed 18 April 2023, but Ao4 remains unsafe and uninhabitable. In January 2023 the Board directed the Executive Director to secure alternate accommodation for ACWW Central Office and a proposal to move to The Foundry, near Vauxhall, London, was approved in March 2023.

The new office space is smaller than at AO4, but is in a recently refurbished building maintained by The Ethical Property Company, which requires tenants to work in either gender or human rights fields. We are familiar with several of the other tenants, and they speak well of the landlords. Operating costs are comparable with the current situation, and of course are assisted by the extended period of not paying any rent at Parkhall.

The cost of moving will be largely covered by the compensation negotiated by the Advocacy Director from Workspace, as well as the donation of office supplies like desks and large, secure cupboards for the archive from the previous tenants in the unit we will occupy, the Prisoners' Education Trust. The move will be conducted immediately after the Triennial World Conference, and from 19 June 2023, ACWW will be located at:

The Foundry, 17-19 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR, UK

Central Office Staff

As part of a review in the Autumn of 2021, some staff job titles were updated to reflect current workloads, and better align with equivalent jobs within the sector.

During the Triennium, Finance Manager Sue Williams retired on health grounds and did not return to the office after the Covid lockdowns. Yvette Dyer joined us in 2022, replacing Sue. Office Administrator Jessica Green moved out of London during Covid, and was replaced by Rowan McKinnon who left after 6 months, when Iga Jażdżewska started with us. Having previously applied for the UK Civil Service during Covid, Iga was offered a 'Fast Stream' position around 7 months after starting with us. Casey Daudelin started with ACWW in September 2022. Shortly after the 2019 Triennial World Conference our Projects Administrator Viktoria Dimitrova left ACWW to move to Brussels and take up a new role with another organisation, having been with us for 3 years. She was replaced by Jenny Sellers, now the Project Grants Officer. In 2022 Fleur Boya spent 6 months with us as Advocacy Researcher, a role that was not continued after review. Having completed the Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM) qualification in 2019, Nick Newland was asked to take on the role of Chief Privacy Officer in addition to his position as Advocacy Director. In April 2023, having completed her Masters degree, Sydney Salter left ACWW to pursue other opportunities. A replacement will be recruited after the Triennial World Conference.

Resolutions & Recommendations

In 2019, the membership passed a significant number of Policy Resolutions at the Triennial World Conference for action by ACWW and its members. These covered a broad spectrum of topics important to rural women, and included certain Constitutional changes. One of the challenges identified with the number of Resolutions passed is that it can have a detrimental affect with limited resources.

The following Resolutions were adopted in 2019:

Registration of Old Landfills

Protection of Shared Marine Environment, Sustainable Coral Reefs, and Fish Stocks

Use of Plastics

Action on Climate Change

Pollinator Protection

Elimination of Dog Mediated Rabies

Iron Deficiency

Gender Sensitive Health Care

Health and Nutrition for Women with Emphasis on Environmental Health

Q or Query Fever

Textiles and Clothes Workers

Domestic Violence

Safe and Secure Access to Toilet Facilities for All

Adoption of the New Constitution

Adoption of Bye Laws, Standing Orders, and Rules of Procedure

Membership Subscriptions

Chairman of the Agriculture Committee

Strategic Planning

As with all international Non-Governmental Organisations, ACWW operates in accordance with a strategic plan. In 2019 the Board adopted a strategic plan for the Triennium which set out priorities and tasks for the Board, Committees, and Central Office staff. This included a commitment to the UN Decade of Family Farming, to be led by the Agriculture Committee, continued advocacy work led by the UN Committee Chairman and the Advocacy Director, and establishing a partnership with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control in line with the policy resolution passed in Melbourne. The majority of activities forecast were aimed at addressing Resolutions passed in 2019, along with intending to strengthen ACWW's sustainability.

The impact of Covid-19 on ACWW, and the reality of challenges for ACWW's members across the world triggered a significant review of the strategic plan in 2022, with the Board instructing senior staff to evaluate data for the past 30 years and present the results, so that Trustees could have an informed debate on the best way forward and seek to find a new, innovative, and sustainable pathway for the Association. This sort of review is not only good practice, but is important for good governance and oversight from the Board of Trustees. In February 2022 the Board adopted a new strategy for 2022-2026, titled "Rural Women in Action".

As part of the preparation for the new strategic plan, Board Members spoke with many of their members to try and assess the biggest challenges, and alongside the communications consultation mentioned below, also looked at what they considered “good practice” examples of support for ACWW internationally.

This included, in 2021, inviting representatives of ACWW Supporters’ groups from across the UK, Australia, and Canada to speak to them about how and what they did to raise awareness and funds for ACWW, and get their input on how similar schemes could be adapted and adopted globally in the future - the direct inspiration for the

Coordinator’s scheme. This form of consultation and input from members was very much appreciated by the Board, and represented a necessary way of working given the limited responses to both the Global Survey of the Living Conditions of Rural Women (less than 3,000 responses from ACWW members worldwide), and *The Countrywoman* consultation (less than 30 responses globally).

Indeed, increasing the depth and diversity of engagement was one of the driving factors behind the new strategic plan, as well as addressing both shrinking membership of ACWW and of its members.

There has been much discussion of the new strategy in this document and previous publications, but it is important to note that the key elements of ACWW remain unchanged: Who we are, our objectives, our mission, and our representative democratic process.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 with ACWW. This included providing training sessions when necessary to support members.

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.

ACWW's website received two major 'facelifts' during the Triennium, both carried out in-house. The website continues to be updated regularly, and has significant resources for members, including new ways to raise money and donate.

With the adoption of the new strategic plan, a complete rebrand was conducted, also in-house and at no cost. This included a revised logo, the sixth or seventh in ACWW's history. This was necessary with the adoption of the Rural Women in Action Fund replacing Pennies for Friendship, as it is a legal obligation for charities to ensure that their fundraising is always legal, transparent, honest, and respectful. An important element of this is being able to differentiate all materials produced by ACWW which might encourage donations to a fund that no longer exists, and all new materials which are "up to date".

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.

The Countrywoman Magazine

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.

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 very few responses received, it was clear that the membership wants the paper version to continue, at least twice per year.

Covid-19 caused inevitable issues with printing the magazine as printers were closed, and postal services were stressed to their limits. The cost of posted distribution also increased significantly during the Triennium, and so the Board tried various approaches, mixing print and digital distribution, as well as offering 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. There is no perfect solution which will please all members, but *The Countrywoman* is safe and will continue to be an important part of ACWW's communications going forward for many years to come, whatever the format. We always welcome input and articles from members, and especially updates from Member Societies.

Area Conferences

In every Triennium, 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:

Canada:	6-7 July 2021, Online
Caribbean, Central & South America:	2 November 2021 (Online)
Central & South Asia:	9 December 2022 (Online)
East, West, & Central Africa:	8-10 November 2022 (Hybrid, Nairobi, Kenya)
Europe:	19-23 September 2022 (Glasgow, Scotland)
South East Asia & the Far East:	4-7 July 2022 (Kuching, Sarawak)
Southern Africa:	7-9 June 2021 (Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa)
South Pacific:	8 March 2021 (Online)
United States of America:	2 August 2021 (Online)

Projects

Later in this Triennial Report of Work there is a detailed Projects Impact Report, but it is important to note certain key points here.

In this Triennium, 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 ACWW.

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.

With the adoption of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, it was decided to fund fewer projects, but with a larger level of investment per project (with an overall spend at a consistent level to previous years). In addition, adding capacity-building modules to the core project builds sustainability in the partner organisation and the local community. It also provides a pathway for ACWW to work with relevant partners who can provide expertise, training, and, where appropriate, direct funding.

New pilot projects for the Rural Women in Action programme were selected in 2022, with initial scoping visits carried out in two cases (Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea and Rundu, Namibia). These visits are necessary to protect potential investment, assess suitability for project implementation, community safeguarding and partner reporting and identify challenges that the potential projects will face. Pilot projects will enter their next phase in 2023, and be reported in the forthcoming annual report and, in due course, Triennial Report of Work.

Membership

At the end of 2019 we had 440 Member Societies. At the end of 2022, we were down to 318 Member Societies - showing a significant drop over the Triennium. Whilst it is usual to have some annual attrition, here we are seeing 3 years' worth of drop in one figure, but also seeing the impact of Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis on rural organisations. We have been informed by many societies that they are not renewing membership because they can no longer afford it, are no longer meeting themselves, or their groups have ceased to exist completely. One Member Society decided to leave ACWW because they were unhappy with the new Strategic Plan and logo.

However, we did welcome 24 new Member Societies in the Triennium, and 134 new Individual Members.

There are currently 286 Life Members. 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.

Committee Members

Our thanks go to those who served an extended Triennium on ACWW Committees:

Communications & Marketing

Agatha Bianca Bogdan, Moira Hammond, Kerry Smith

Finance & Membership

Jo Ellen Almond, Pamela Brown, Elizabeth Christian

Food & Agriculture

Gail Bradley, Donna Jebb, Stephanie Jerabek,
Donna Miller, Elizabeth Neale

Projects

Michaela Caluser, Margaretha Erasmus,
Patricia Madden

Triennial World Conference

Marie Bradbery, Vanda Gagiano, Christine King,
Dato Hamimah Abdul Karimn,
Datin Ong Cheng Imm

United Nations

Margaret Broome, Anne Innes, Hania White

ACWW's Statement of Ethics

Adopted by the Board, August 2021

“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 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 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.”



Treasurer's Report

Mrs Alison Burnett – Acting Treasurer

At the start of this Triennium, Ms Ruth Cargill of Australia was elected to serve as the Treasurer, and Chairman of the Finance and Membership Committee. Sadly, after just over one year in position, Ms Cargill resigned for personal reasons in June 2020. At this stage the Board of Trustees decided that former Treasurer, and Deputy World President Alison Burnett should take on the role as Acting Treasurer for the remainder of the Triennium, particularly in light of the continually developing Covid-19 situation.

The official Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019 were audited in 2020. However, for the first time ever this had to be conducted completely remotely due to Covid lockdown protocols in the UK; this was a first for ACWW, but also for the auditors, Wilkins-Kennedy. An extremely trying period, the process was frustrated by sickness, and limited access to paper records in the office.

We would like to draw attention to a misallocation made by the auditors in the 2019 accounts, which led to a substantial amount of Conference income being allocated to donations. This makes it appear as if there was a loss on the 29th Triennial World Conference, when in fact there was a modest surplus. The corrected figures are shown (highlighted with the previously published error) in the Triennial Estimates published at the 30th Triennial World Conference. We sincerely apologise for any concern this may have caused, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to correct the error now.

In 2020 the Board launched a financial Appeal to Secure ACWW for Future Generations, as recommended by the Finance and Membership Committee. A letter was posted to all members as a personal message from World President Magdie de Kock and Deputy World President and Acting Treasurer, Alison Burnett. The Appeal raised additional donations of around £21,000 - significantly lower than was hoped for.

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. In late 2021 Close Brothers were instructed to re-strategise our investments for higher return, whilst keeping within our 'medium risk' category, and ethical investment policy.

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.

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.

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.

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. This happened for the first time since October 2019 in February 2022 when the Board held a summit meeting to evaluate ACWW's position, and how best to move forward. The third in-person Board meeting of the extended Triennium took place in January 2023. Online Board meetings were frequent.

The Board Summit in February 2022 established that ACWW faced the following challenges:

- Decreasing income over the last 30 years
- High turnover of individual members, and member societies shrinking
- Limited ability for impact assessment of action on Resolutions and Recommendations
- Limited impact of projects due to low investment
- Limited scope for achieving effective systemic change
- Misunderstanding about the connection of advocacy and projects, further confused by restricted funds
- Overextension caused by diverse and abundant Resolutions ("spreading ourselves too thin")
- Historic prioritisation of stability over the realisation of objectives

For some years, ACWW has had restricted and unrestricted funds. Restricted projects funds were used for project grants only, initially excluding even the direct associated project costs and more recently including delivery costs

associated directly with projects. Unrestricted funds (“Pennies for Friendship”) funded every other element of ACWW’s work and maintenance.

Further confusion existed over the actual use of, meaning, and even name of “Pennies for Friendship”, and this was felt to be unhelpful.

This model has proven to be unsustainable in the modern world, and leads to further confusion about the nature of international development work. The Board therefore decided to establish a new “Rural Women in Action Fund” which would unite all funding for ACWW, from projects to advocacy to education and awareness-raising, with the belief that supporters will come to understand how vital it is that all of these elements are connected and cohesive.

Aware that change can always be worrying for members, the Board made a firm commitment to maintaining the current overall level of funding for ACWW projects, whilst adopting a new model for project development which has been published widely.

We have already seen this bear fruit, with donors supporting the new Fund, and expressing enthusiasm for the sustainability measures put in place. There have undoubtedly also been concerns raised by some members, and we have held more than 40 meetings since March 2022 with members to explain and discuss the changes, as well as answer questions and concerns.

The Board recognises that whilst our members continue to give generously, they are suffering the impacts of global challenges (as you can read in the Member reports later in this publication). We therefore need to diversify our sources of income, and seek out strategic partnerships to help deliver Projects, fund our core work, and advance our advocacy work. Partnerships will be considered at global, national, and local levels. All partnerships will be built in line with ACWW’s established policies and the Statement of Ethics adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2021.

I am pleased to bring forward two examples of this partnership work from this Triennium here.

Case Study: UNESCO

In examining opportunities for strategic partnership, ACWW considered UNESCO’s biennial Participation Programme. Advocacy Director Nick Newland and Project Grants Officer Jenny Sellers prepared a grant application to UNESCO in support of a new project to be carried out in partnership with long-time ACWW member society Sain Tus Development Bridge (you may remember their Poly Tunnel project or work making felt boots!).

After submitting the 30 page form, the proposal, and securing letters of support from the Mongolian government and UK National Commission for UNESCO, we were delighted to hear 4 months later that ACWW had been awarded \$14,000 US for the project - enough to cover all its costs. This will take place in August 2023.

This project is community building and local advocacy for 300 women survivors of domestic violence from 16 Indigenous ethnic groups. A women’s empowerment summit will be held in Khovd Province, bringing all these women together for training including:

- Rabies Educator Certificate
- Community safeguarding workshop
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights class
- Introduction to Financial Literacy class
- Introduction to Human Rights and Citizenship

In addition, they will have the opportunity to share their personal experiences, get legal assistance in cases of domestic violence, and create new networks of mutually-supporting local women. We are grateful to UNESCO for this support.

Case Study: Shopify

In October 2021 our Advocacy Director established a partnership with the Canadian e-commerce company Shopify and Tracy Ridler, who was heading the “Build Native” programme which supported Indigenous entrepreneurs. After several months of discussions, in February 2022 Shopify donated \$25,000 to ACWW in support of our advocacy work, and planned to engage with our new projects - contributing training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Sadly, with the post-Covid downturn in the tech industry, the Build Native programme lost its place at Shopify and they have not been able to make further financial contribution to ACWW. Ms Ridler has provided input in ACWW programming, drawing on her own background as a proud Tsimshian woman, from the Kitsumkalum First Nation in Canada.

Whilst this will not be an on-going partnership, it is an example of a case-specific opportunity for financial support and no-cost expert input in our work.



Building Blocks of Sustainability
Tracy Ridler at the UNHQ in Bangkok, 2022

Reserves Policy

The Board 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, projects and advocacy on behalf of rural women including cooperation 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.

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' events like Covid-19 can have a drastic impact.

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

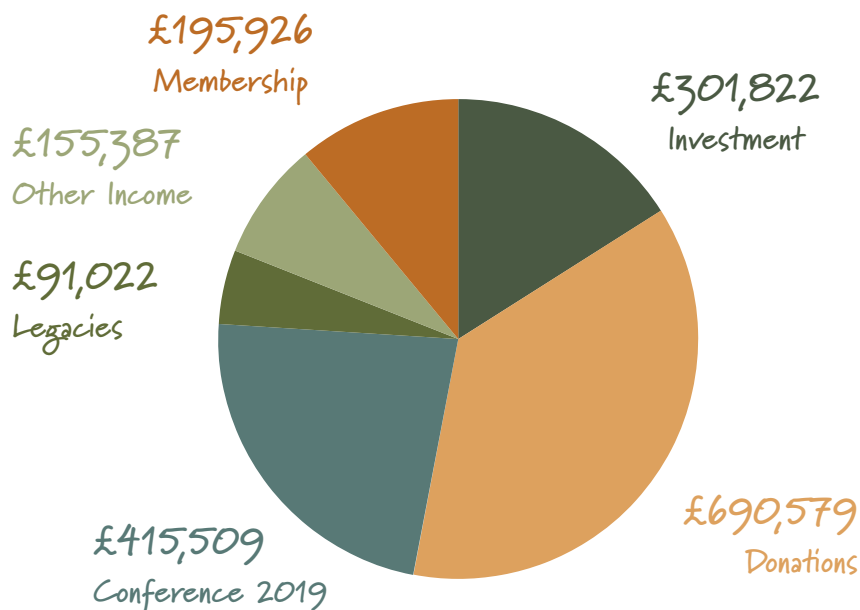
The Committee

I would like to thank the members of the Finance and Membership Committee who have served an extended term - Pamela Brown (Northern Ireland), Jo Ellen Almond (United States of America), and Elizabeth Christian (England). The journey has not been an easy one, but as the Committee stands down for the last time, I know we all thank those who served for their hard work and commitment to ACWW.

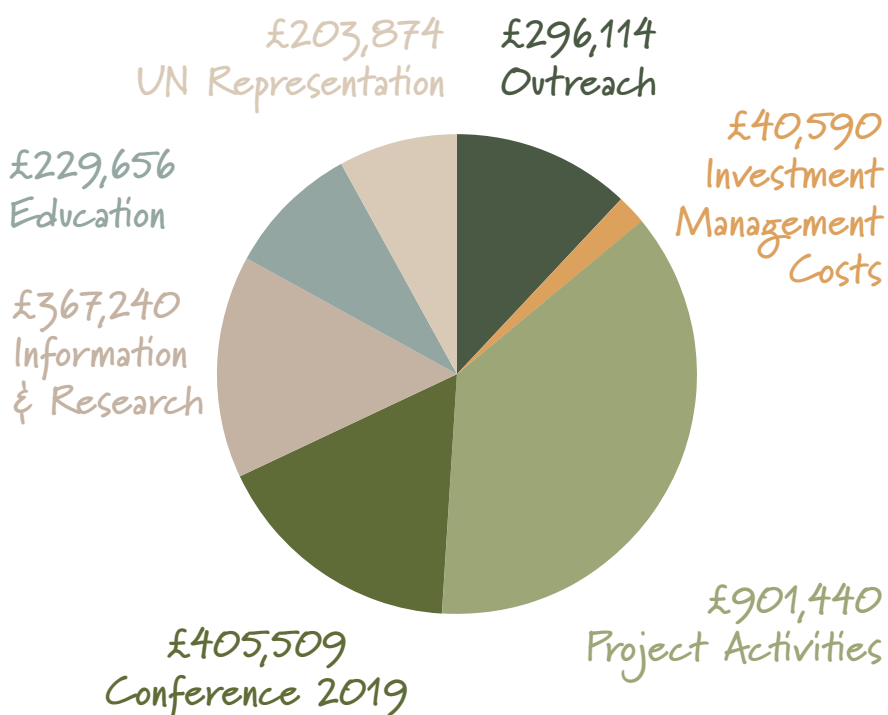
For myself, this will be my last term on the Board, but ACWW will always be close to my heart - and my dog ACE (named for ACWW) will keep me company!

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

Income for charitable activities 2019-2022 was £1,850,245



Expenditure for charitable activities 2019-2022 was £2,444,423



Communications & Marketing Committee Report

Mrs Sheila Needham

The 2019–2023 period raised significant challenges for our Committee. I want to start this report by thanking the members of the Communications and Marketing Committee for their innovative thinking, resilience, and patience as ACWW worked to navigate a rapidly changing world, made even more complex by the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

During this Triennium, the Committee began by reviewing the policy paper, to prioritise attracting new members and take a more proactive approach to marketing. It also discussed the implications of data protection regulations on communications, and the complexities of navigating safe communication with a rural and ageing membership. One unfortunate victim of the very stringent regulations in the UK was the Friendship Links Scheme, which the Committee realised could not be continued under modern data protection regulations.

When the Pandemic hit, the existing plans of the Communications and Marketing Committee were largely scuppered. The global reduction of postal services and member societies understandably turning inward to provide help and support to their own members meant that the Committee had to take a pragmatic view of *The Countrywoman*, and our digital communications platforms. This led to stopping the production of a printed magazine for the year 2020, to resume on the basis of 2 issues a year, and relying on digital communications for more regular, up-to-date newsletters.

In observation of International Women's Day 2020, members contributed to the crafting of a banner that illustrated the ongoing fight for women's rights, remembering the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The 25 panels represent the handiwork of members from all over the world, and was meant to be a collaboration between the Communications and Marketing Committee and the United Nations Committee, who would take it to the UN for the Commission on the Status of Women. Sadly, this was not possible as Covid-19 caused CSW to be cancelled for in-person attendance. However, ACWW communications pressed on, working with the UN committee to ensure that members could participate in the first ever digital CSW, and our banner was published in our online communications, and is on display at this Triennial World Conference.

While many of the ideas of this triennium's Communications and Marketing Committee had to be delayed, shifted, or changed, the Committee showed resilience and adaptability. With the help of a qualified staff, we were able to navigate the complexities of data protection regulations, a global Pandemic, and changing expectations around consent and communications.

I want to thank the committee members, Agatha Bianca Bogdan and Kerry Smith for their tireless support of ACWW and their work to help streamline ACWW's communications. I also want to thank Sydney Salter for her work as the editor of *The Countrywoman* Magazine, and in helping us to better understand the complexities of modern digital communications. I'd also like to thank Nick Newland, who overhauled the ACWW website twice this triennium, based on the feedback of ACWW members all over the world, creating a website which is more user-friendly than it has ever been.

I would like to end by acknowledging one member of the Communications and Marketing Committee who is no longer with us. Moira Hammond was a long-time supporter of ACWW, and her passion for the work knew no bounds. She was tireless in her pursuit that everyone she met should know about ACWW, and we are grateful that ACWW featured among the many causes she dedicated her life to. Moira sat on the Communications and Marketing Committee for 5 years, and throughout this time contributed to the effective communication of our message. Drawing on her experience 'in the field,' she contributed to a deeper understanding of how ACWW's messaging was perceived at a grassroots level. I only wish she were with us to experience the global network of Coordinators who are doing the very same thing for their corner of the world that she did for her area of Suffolk.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



Food & Agriculture Committee

Mrs Alison Burnett

The Committee started the Triennium by a different name, the Agriculture Committee. The name was changed in February 2021 to the Food and Agriculture Committee when the Committee passed a Recommendation to the Board, which was accepted in line with the Constitution, so as to be more reflective of the scope of its remit, and to broaden the potential for future work within rural communities.

From the beginning of the Triennium, the Committee focused on ways to ensure that ACWW was at the forefront of the UN Decade of Family Farming, to ensure that the role of Rural Women in global food systems did not go unacknowledged. From these discussions, a series of forums were organised. The Food and Agriculture Forums gave clear insight into the lived realities of rural women globally, and were a key platform for women to make their voices heard, and for helping ACWW better understand how it can support its members.

The forums were at first helped by the global Pandemic which saw Committee meetings go virtual and many of the planned activities of the Committee delayed or cancelled. This gave space and capacity for a more strategic focus on the Forums.

As the committee, like the organisation as a whole, began to feel the strain of the Pandemic, they discussed the impact of global lockdown measures on food security, which led to more discussions on the issue of food sovereignty – that is the right of people to produce and eat their own, culturally appropriate and healthy food. This was discussed as a way to improve resilience and autonomy in rural communities and can further help those in urban and non-rural communities be better connected to the sources of their food. This issue became the focus of the committee and was the priority that drove them through the next big challenge they came to – the reinvigoration of ACWW in early 2022.

In February 2022, the Committee's work shifted to securing its place in the new structure of ACWW, and its focus, in line with the Board of Trustees' was to ensure that food security, sovereignty, and agriculture remained a priority, as it is for so many rural women and communities globally. It has produced a leaflet educating members about the role of women in food systems, and explaining the topic of food security, and the challenges that members face in maintaining access to safe, affordable, quality food. This issue has always been, and remains, a top priority for ACWW.

This leaflet represents the legacy of the work of the Food and Agriculture Committee, and their desire that every member should be aware of the topic of Food Sovereignty, and has the knowledge and skills to provide food for themselves and their families, increasing their resilience, and further cementing the place of Rural Women in global food systems.

I would like to thank the Committee Members who gave continued effort and service over the extended Triennium; Gail Bradley (England), Donna Jebb (Canada), Stephanie Jerabek (United States of America), Donna Miller (Jamaica) and Elizabeth Neale (England).

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

Cabbages on a warm day
Salem Horticultural Farmers Association - Rundu, Namibia



Projects Committee Report

Mrs Edwina Marr

The Committee members for the 2019- 2023 Triennium were Mrs Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland), Mrs Snoekie Erasmus (South Africa), Mrs Mihaela Caluser (Romania) and Ms. Patricia Madden (Ireland). Sadly, in July 2020, Projects Committee Chairman, Ms. Mabel Moyo from Zimbabwe, passed away after a long-term illness. As Edwina Marr was elected Vice-Chair during the October 2019 Committee meeting, she was co-opted as Chair of the Projects Committee by the Board in 2020.

The past four years have been both eventful and successful with many amazing projects receiving funding. However, it has not been a Triennium without difficulties, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the committee members were only able to meet in person once and that all following Committee meetings were held virtually. The March 2020 meeting was postponed until the following September where March and September applications were assessed together. All following committee meetings were held virtually, and the committee was even able to meet for annual Christmas get-togethers each year on Zoom. Despite the challenges brought about by Covid-19, the move to virtual meetings was a great success for the committee.

Over the course of the Triennium, the ACWW funded 83 projects from 16 countries. These projects have spanned the globe, from clusters of projects across East Africa in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania where we have had the highest density of projects, to projects reaching women in some of the most remote regions of the world such as Khovd in the far west of Mongolia and the highlands of Papua New Guinea. All projects were funded from the Women Empowered Fund established during the previous triennium. The core funding areas of the Women Empowered Fund were Education and Capacity Building, Maternal and Reproductive Health, Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development, Income Generation and Livelihoods, Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy, and Nutrition, Good Health, and Wellbeing.

The Committee recommended a total spending of £344,728 from the WE Fund between 2019 and 2023 with an average allocation of £4,153 per grant. At the end of the Triennium there was a total of £3,902 left in the WE Fund and £18,432 in the General Projects Fund. These remaining funds will be allocated to the Monitoring and Evaluation fund.

Due to the challenges of travel and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff and projects participants, we were unable to conduct monitoring visits during much of this past Triennium. This has unfortunately meant that no projects funded during the 2019-2023 triennium have yet been evaluated in-person. However, we have received some excellent progress and monitoring reports illustrating the many successes and achievements of ACWW funded projects over the past four years. In the few months after the Melbourne conference, and before the drastic impact of the Pandemic in March 2020, five projects funded during the previous triennium were evaluated. We hope that the new Triennium will bring many opportunities for increased monitoring of our projects on the ground – it is an important part of the projects cycle, and critical for safeguarding investment and learning lessons for future projects.

Thanks to all the hard work of the Projects Committee for their valuable insight, time and energy given at each funding meeting to ensure that projects funded this Triennium reflect the priorities of ACWW. This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

Clean Water and Promoting Girls' Education

Participants from ACWW projects in Tamil Nadu, India and Kayunga District, Uganda



Rest well, Maybel

A tribute to our departed friend

On 6 July 2020, ACWW Central Office received the very sad news that Mrs Maybel Moyo, our Projects Chairman elected at the 29th Triennial World Conference, had passed away.

Many of you around the world will have met Maybel at some time or other, and we know of her many strong friendships built with ACWW members over her long service. Prior to being elected as Projects Chairman, Maybel served two terms on ACWW's Board as Area President for Southern Africa.

World President Magdie de Kock made a public statement on 6 July, which was published online:

"It is with genuine grief and heartfelt sadness that we today mark the passing of Mrs Maybel Moyo, ACWW's Projects Chairman and former Area President for Southern Africa. A dedicated and passionate advocate for women's education, empowerment, and independence, Maybel was committed to improving the lives of women in her own community, in Zimbabwe, in Southern Africa, and globally. Her health had suffered in recent years, and she passed peacefully on Friday 3 July 2020.

The Board and Central Office staff of ACWW are united in sadness today, as we mourn the loss of one of our own. Never seen without a smile, and never without a kind word, Maybel was an inspiration and the best example of humanity. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her, and all our lives are poorer without her.

We are without the proper words to describe just how special Maybel was, and how much we will miss her.

*Rest well, Maybel
1947-2020*

Wherever she went, Maybel engaged people with her smile, her honesty, and a disarming wink. Whether sitting in a Board meeting, undertaking her own work in Zimbabwe, or monitoring an ACWW project in the field, she was willing to go the extra (often literal) mile to get the job done.

Depending on where you see her name, Mrs Moyo might be called 'Maybel' or 'Mabel'... she herself explained this to Executive Director Tish Collins when she started at ACWW. It came from her mother, who named her 'Maybel', but she always felt more comfortable with the simpler 'Mabel'. We have traditionally used the first spelling, as formal documents required it and wanted to provide consistency. However she was known to you, we know you will miss her.

The following is an excerpt from a tribute written by Everjoice Win, an activist in Zimbabwe. She writes about Maybel and the women she worked with paving the way for the modern feminist movement in Zimbabwe.

"Mabel Moyo, Bertha Jambaya, Betty Mtero, Lydia Chikwavaire, Agnes Kanogoiwa, Constance Mabusela, Emma Mahlunge and my late mother, Ediel Mawarire belong to that generation of activists who would be lost in today's development-speak. Raise your left hand if you had never heard these names till today. Raise both if you had come across them and dismissed them as 'those knitting and baking traditional women!' It is ok. Let us help you. The most important thing for you to know, if you are a young feminist in Zimbabwe or any other country for that matter, today, you are walking along paths that were cleared for you by these women and the movements they built over decades. Thank them for where you and I are today, the freedoms we take for granted and the ease with which we claim our rights. Change does not magically happen. There are people, women, who fought hard and gave their whole lives to ensure that you and me, would not experience the hardships they faced."

A fitting tribute to one of ACWW's most accomplished members, we are pleased to share a portion of it here.

One of the stand-out memories of Maybel's presence came at the 28th Triennial World Conference in Warwick,



England in 2016. Called to the stage to deliver the Area Report for Southern Africa, Maybel was escorted by the entire Southern Africa delegation to the stage singing the traditional anthem *Shosholoz*, a song reflecting the hard work of mining, and which has become famous around the world for its connections with the struggle for equality. Maybel was a champion in this struggle, and we will all remember her with love.

ACWW's Advocacy Director Nick Newland remembers *"When I took leave to attend the East, West and Central Africa Area Conference as a volunteer in 2018, I had the pleasure of working closely with Maybel who was attending in the stead of the World President, and supporting Irene Chinje in her first Area Conference. Watching these two incredible leaders, women who reduced the arrogant and chauvenistic male Minister to silence then an apology with nothing but a glare, who invested so much in their communities, spending time with them as they did what ACWW is supposed to do - was such an honour. I will never forget the time spent together, and often think of Maybel when I reflect on the importance of our work."*

Maybel - from ACWW members worldwide, the Board, and Central Office Staff, we say goodbye with a tear, and a commitment to continue the work you strived for always.

Maybel Moyo served on ACWW's Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2020.

Triennial World Conference Committee Report

Mrs Christine Reaburn

The two most significant elements of this report revolve around the reality that you are reading it at the Triennial World Conference, and that this Conference is one year later than originally planned. It has not been an easy Triennium, but I am sure that you will agree that the results are worth it as we come together once again in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

I think that we all left Melbourne, Australia in April 2019 with the same energy and excitement as we looked towards the Triennium ahead and the next Conference. H.M. Queen Azizah's Hostess Society, the Women's Institutes of Pahang, had given a great impression of what to look forward to, and a warmly welcoming invitation.

Less than a year later, we found ourselves having to discuss the reality of our options, delaying publication of information about the 30th Triennial World Conference as we were not sure whether any of the arrangements we had already made would survive the impact of Covid-19. Throughout this period, the Triennial World Conference Committee gave careful consideration to the safety of our delegates first, followed by the practicalities of international travel.

At this stage I would like to give my thanks to our Committee members, Marie Bradbery (Australia), Vanda Gagiano (South Africa), and Christine King (Australia), as well as the tireless representative of the Hostess Society, Dato Hamimah Abdul Karim, and her colleague Datin Ong Cheng Imm. They have all given not only the normal amount of time and effort required by the process, but served an additional year, and coped admirably with the challenges of finding meeting times that accommodate from Australia (10 hours ahead of London) and Malaysia (8 hours ahead) to Canada (4 hours behind).

The true results of the Committee's efforts will be seen live at the Conference, but I would like to highlight a couple of the specific challenges faced in this Triennium. For the first time since the Second World War it was necessary to delay the Conference, and with the local impacts of Covid-19, the permanent closure of the original venue. Changing hotels, dealing with the increased costs, and a reduced supply chain, whilst keeping the registration fee unchanged for members has not been easy, and I am grateful to the Executive Director Tish Collins and Advocacy Director Nick Newland who have worked on preparing the programme and technical arrangements for the Conference throughout. It is important also to note the kind support of Natalya Shamsuar and the Multimedia University for their support on site, and throughout the event.

Finally, I must thank Her Majesty Queen Azizah of Malaysia for hosting the 30th Triennial World Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



*Site Visit - January 2022
World President Magdie de Kock at the Conference venue, and with
Deputy World President Alison Burnett and Executive Director Tish
Collins at the W.I. Pahang Needlework Centre.*

United Nations Committee Report

Mrs Marie Kenny

The 2019-2023 provided ACWW with unprecedented challenges, but also with some incredible opportunities to advance our cause and bring forward the voices of our members at the international level. When we started the Triennium, I was delighted to greet three wonderful colleagues who have become the most solid of teams. They are Margaret Broom (Northern Ireland), who agreed to serve as Deputy Chairman; Anne Innes (Canada) and Hania White (also from Canada).

From our first meeting we held ACWW's aims and objectives in our hearts and set to work with energy; each member working hard in their own right to help achieve our Committee's goals as set out in the Board's strategic plan, and of course we updated this when the new strategic plan was agreed by the Board in February 2022. The UN Committee have worked hard to ensure all information was distributed in their areas as well as their focused area of work; Anne has led the charge with the resolution on rabies; Hania has focused on women's health issues and access to information regarding cancer treatment access global as she herself faced her own cancer journey. Margaret has been working with women in the European Area in addition to her role as President of her own society. The vast majority of our Committee Meetings were facilitated via Zoom.



The final meeting of the UN Committee, chaired by Marie Kenny in New York during CSW67 - March, 2023

I am so pleased with the progress of our advocacy work at this point, and I feel we have much to report and to celebrate as our term comes to an end, indeed an end to an era as we recently held the last ever United Nations Committee meetings. Poignantly, we had the opportunity to do this in New York, during the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women as each of the Committee Members were able to attend at their own expense, and we shared important experiences as well as seeing ACWW advocacy in action. Four years ago, I set down three critical topics for action. They were; Communication, Retaining our Consultative Status with the UN, and broadening engagement with our UN work.

The Covid-19 pandemic certainly offered challenges, but also gave us the opportunity to reach new people, and hear new voices. We never slowed down, indeed we moved forward at lightning speed to ensure we were communicating the issues our members faced, especially the shadow pandemic of domestic violence and addressing rural communication gaps due to the lack of infrastructure to name just a couple. We have opened areas of communication with our global partners as well as giving opportunities for our Society and Individual Members to engage with UN processes as never before. We have facilitated online access to the Commission on the Status of Women, and collaborated with UNESCO on the International Forum of NGOs which was held in Ottawa, Canada - focused on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the Ocean Decade, and presented in French and English throughout; many ACWW members participated online. The gifted staff of ACWW have developed numerous promotional materials, information flyers, PowerPoints and booklets to communicate the Advocacy work.

When we began the term, ACWW had just been informed by UNESCO that we were at risk of losing our Consultative Status due to a lack of sufficient engagement with the programmatic work of the agency. This is a slippery state, and many national governments are pushing to reduce the number of NGOs like ACWW who have status with the UN. Each of you have a personal experience on the value of this coveted position and the critical need for ACWW to maintain its status with the UN. I am pleased to report that ACWW now holds a prestigious and respected position within UNESCO, and is recognised as a global leader in protecting the human rights of our own society members, as well as giving a needed supportive voice to others. This has taken a huge amount of work behind the scenes, working with the UN and other NGOs, listening, mapping and assessing opportunities for action - and then taking this action when it will have the greatest impact.

The third Goal we set was engagement: We have increased our engagement by bringing forward expert voices from our Membership and staff, worked with progressive governmental partners to secure global spaces for the voices of our members, and engaged with our membership by listening to their issues, conducting surveys and taking appropriate action to achieve the best outcome for all, focusing our work on all women and girls without bias to age, colour, race, region, or religion. I believe the new strategy which includes the role of ACWW Coordinators will enhance the goal of engagement of our society members which we have so desperately tried to accomplish under our area of communication. The Engagement role is a two-way street, sharing what ACWW is all about with members, and non-members of ACWW as well as engaging governments, legislators, and policy makers as part of the conversation.

We have done well and we will pass the well-lit torch on with a sense of gratitude and accomplishment.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



Canada Area Report

Mrs Linda Hoy – Area President

The unexpected occurrence of Covid-19 hit us in March 2020. The ACWW Board of Trustees had met in October 2019 in London, UK for intense training which included data protection. As a Trustee of ACWW we must work to amplify the voice of rural women and girls.

Three words this Triennium that I have incorporated into my letters of greetings to all societies in Canada have been Diversity, Strength and Success. “Our Diversity is Our Strength” was chosen as the Triennial theme. We used it in July 2021 when our planned Area Conference had to be moved from an in-person format to a virtual one. Originally it was planned for 2020 in British Columbia and then to Newfoundland & Labrador in 2021 alongside the Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada Convention.

Diversity in our organization is one of our assets because we are from different cultures and backgrounds. Many organizations appear to recognize the fact that diversity fosters ideas and learning. Some have even established strategies to recruit volunteers from different cultures and backgrounds. Others promote diversity in their annual reports and advertising campaigns but take one look at the ACWW Countrywoman magazine. You will find women of all cultures, ages and backgrounds. In Canada, we have Societies comprised of Women’s Institutes, the National Farmers Union and a Francophone organization Les Cercles de fermieres du Quebec. Each is different but all support the work of ACWW and rural women.

Strength lies in the organization that has a dynamic and diverse leadership team. During this triennium, the member societies have shown their leadership skills. Each leader has brought her strengths. They may be skills related to collaboration, communication, and creativity or values of loyalty, empathy, compassion and sensitivity. These skills and strengths are not taught in a classroom but learned through day-to-day experiences, multitasking and problem solving.

The strength most often noticed in a woman leader, is her ability to build a team. I have witnessed how the leaders in our societies are attuned to the individual members of their team, and are able to assess strengths and weaknesses, quickly identify real talent, utilize individual differences, blend people in a collaborative fashion, and continually shape and re-shape a team to achieve optimal team “chemistry” and performance.

The recipe for success during Covid was the resilience of our members to meet the challenges with an optimistic outlook. They kept contact with their members through telephone, skype and zoom. We heard of many who started a new craft or hobby which they all said helped with the loneliness and isolation. Due to the length of the pandemic, we lost some members through death and branches felt the need to close. While others took the opportunity to hold workshops through Zoom which attracted new members.

My new project was to clear an overgrown area into a memorial garden with lots of pollinator plants. This was from the resolution passed at the 29th Triennial World Conference. Pollinator Protection (2019) “Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and research institutes to continue to identify and reduce specific drivers of insect pollinator decline, develop agricultural pollinator-friendly practices, and promote greater public awareness of the role of insect pollination in global food production.”

Now I can sit and listen to the birds in the trees and enjoy the bees and butterflies as they flutter from flower to flower. I look forward to meeting the members in the next triennium to hear more about how they managed through the pandemic.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

Caribbean, Central and South America Area Report

Mrs Irene Hinds – Area President

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be sharing a short report as ACWW Area President Caribbean, Central and South America.

I wish to sincerely thank the Societies in the Caribbean, Central and South America for having elected me into office.

In spite of a major pandemic closing us down for almost 2 whole years called Covid-19 during the term of office I was able to achieve the following

1. Meetings

Attend 1 in person Board Meeting in London and several online Board Meetings.

Held at least one in person meetings with the Societies of Grenada, Guyana and several in persons meetings with Trinidad and Tobago.

Other meetings were held online via Zoom

We were also able to host a successful on line Area Conference

2. Communication

Active group communication

3. Projects/Workshops

Membership drive

Walkabouts, lectures and workshops “Life after COVID 19”

Celebrations of Women Walk the World and International Women’s Day

Celebrations of International Womens Day

Stop the spread of Domestic Violence as a Health Issue.

Senior Citizens Activity Centres

“How to use less plastic”

“Legal Aid Clinic”

In closing I wish to sincerely thank the Member Societies in the Caribbean Central and South America for their support, calls and participation during this term.

I wish to also thank Members of the Board and Staff of ACWW for all their support.

We the member Societies of the Caribbean, Central and South America pledge our continued support for ACWW in amplifying the voices of Women..

Looking forward to this new Triennium.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



Central & South Asia Area Report

Mrs Magdie de Kock - Acting Area President

ACWW's Central and South Asia Area includes 5 countries; Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. 35 Member societies are actively involved in various community activities, including development projects, of which some have received grants from ACWW.

In June 2020 it was discovered that ACWW's Area President for Central and South Asia had caused a serious data breach which had affected members in the Area. This was duly investigated and reported to the Information Commissioner's Office in the UK in line with legal obligations and ACWW's data protection policies. Persons concerned were notified of the breach and the appropriate actions taken. Sadly, because of the serious nature of this breach it brought ACWW into disrepute and had to be taken seriously under the Constitution. The Board of Trustees considered that the best way to continue the work of ACWW in this circumstance, was for Sister Arul Lucas Seeli to be removed from the Board of Trustees by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board on 2 July 2020. It was of course a very difficult and emotional proceeding. Sister Seeli was in full cooperation and agreement with the process throughout. Sister Seeli was thanked for her dedication to ACWW and her understanding that this was a necessary procedure to protect our organisation legally.

At the Board meeting on 2 July, 2020, it was decided by the Board of Trustees that the World President should cover the responsibilities of the Area President for Central and South Asia for the remainder of the 2019-2022 Triennium. The rationale being: Regarding Central and South Asia, there was a need to safeguard ACWW and soothe any upset caused by the data breach, as well as continuing to work with the Country Women's Association of India to host the re-scheduled Area Conference. In this Area there is an informal tradition of rotating the Area Presidency through the different countries and this would need to be clarified at the Area Conference. Therefore, there was no obvious person, other than the World President, with sufficient authority to take on the responsibilities from Sr Seeli.

From the onset, I found it challenging to keep in contact with the societies of this vast Area, as the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic resulted in many branches temporarily or permanently closing down their activities. I distributed regular Newsletters but unfortunately received very poor response from the members.

Travel restrictions had prevented the Area Conference planned for March 2020, taking place and we had hoped to be able to reschedule an in-person Conference. After many unsuccessful attempts to contact members of this Area, the Executive Director Tish Collins arranged an online Area Conference and members of all affiliated Societies, as well as Individual Members were invited to participate in the event. On 9 December 2022, assisted by Central Office Staff, I conducted an online Area Conference for Central and South Asia. I was impressed by the high level of engagement of the 40 online participants and many Member Societies were keen to report on their activities for the last 3 years.

The keynote speaker at the event was a member from Sri Lanka, Tharindra Arumapperuma. Her theme was: "Intergenerational cooperation for women's empowerment in Central and South Asia". Ms Arumapperuma is an experienced young advocate, who delivered an insightful and interesting speech and related extremely well with her audience.

At the Conference, members were informed about the Constitutional procedure to be followed by the Board to co-opt an Area President for the next term as nobody was nominated for the position – even after the second call out.

My Message of Goodwill was published in the Communication publication of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Country Women's Association of India which took place on 17 March 2023 – an event which was postponed for a period of two years.

With the commencement of a new term and a new Area President in office, I am looking forward to the qualitative and quantitative development of rural communities in this Area and their contributions to the work of ACWW.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

Report compiled by Magdie de Kock,
ACWW World President and Acting Area President for Central and South Asia Area, 2020-2023

East, West, and Central Africa Area Report

Mrs Irene Chinje – Area President

The East, West and Central Africa has had a long, tedious, sad, and very challenging journey. I am so glad we're still able to be a part of the greater ACWW.

When Covid came in 2020 we all knew there was going to be lots of setbacks and restrictions but really didn't think of the impact on our Area. This has caused us a big loss in our traditional membership. We are still grateful, as this brought us lots of new memberships with new dynamism. For the many lapsed members, our doors are wide open for your return. It takes just for me to say we could have been more supportive of each other if our communication was active. Let's think of the women we have supported for this while as society members, the impact on their lives and adding their voices to the wider world. Think again and stand up for them.

Our lack of communication continues to be a drawback to the growth of ACWW and joining the long walk. Let's move into the new year of our Association with great determination to overcome this inhibition. To the societies that have stood out I say thank you as I plead you keep this up and support our new Area President. The art of communication is a language for true leadership, keep that going.

With the innovation of society Coordinators, it's the best way for each society to keep abreast with the latest information and notify their societies. To those still lagging, I will urge you all to do your nominations and follow the trend.

Our Area Conference in Nairobi was a great success. This was an opportunity for us all to meet our World President and staff who are working tirelessly to get things moving with all the great success stories we get. Those who couldn't and didn't join online, please start preparations to be a part of the next, there's plenty of time if you start planning now you sure will be there in person and make your voice heard. Thanks so much to our efficient and capable World President, and our hardworking and selfless staff. To our host society the East African Women's League who made it all happen - we say a big thank you.

Our Area has worked hard, and we have been responsible for innovation. In the last Triennium, we passed a Resolution to the Board asking for *The Countrywoman* magazine to be made available online - and this is now the case for all members. At the recent Area Conference we passed a new Resolution to the Board asking them to consider a programme for encouraging younger members in joining ACWW and making this financially viable. We must never stray away from our responsibilities for leadership and participation - we must ensure that our voices are heard and take every opportunity for a seat at the table.

We are now all packed, ready for the World Conference. This is our decision-making forum. Those who are about to make it, you're all welcome. Those who can't, make sure you get the online link to be a part. Let this be a new start for us with determination and commitment to be an active member.

It's been my honour and gratitude working with you as your Area President for the last seven years. Please let's all give our new Area President all the support and encouragement especially with responding to mail and all other forms of communication. I wish you all the best and great deliberations. This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



Dynamic leadership - Present and Future
World President Magdie de Kock at the Area Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2022, along with leaders from Member Societies old and new. Above are four of the inspiring young women delegates who attended the Area Conference.



Europe Area Report

Mrs Afrodita Roman – Area President

During the pandemic, the countries did as their governments asked, believing that if people took those necessary steps, we would get on top of the virus and life would be back to normal, at least by Autumn 2020. Unfortunately, it wasn't the case, so from my point of view as Area President, during the Pandemic, I was prevented from doing the extension work - visiting societies, meeting and talking with members, promoting ACWW. The only few visits were in UK (2019, 20221), Sibiu (2021) and some events in my hometown (Women Walk the World 2020 and 2021, 16 Days of Activism 2021 in Romania, and International Rural Women's Day).

Whilst we have had to make changes to our behaviour, during 2020, communities have tried to come together to support each other and many of us have learnt new communication skills on Zoom, Skype, etc.

The pandemic has had deep negative effects on women affected by domestic violence. Isolation during the pandemic has worsened psychological conditions of victims, increased medical expenses and limited access to social and legal assistance, making beneficiaries even more vulnerable. Greater awareness, access to available programs, and educating victims and aggressors about domestic violence is necessary to prevent and stop its effects during a pandemic.

Meantime, I realised that on the big picture, members are coming along little by little, but here is the way our member societies managed to be resilient and how they faced their own challenges:

In order to remain positive, members continued to plan possible events, even if they have had to be postponed - so was even the Area Conference in Glasgow!

- some have had regular 'Zoom' meetings and news have been reported
- collected items for women less fortunate than themselves, so they haven't stopped from thinking of all those in need
- phone calls were made by the societies to see how members were faring and to urge them to ask for help if needed
- to keep brain engaged, a Newsletter was created for the members (using a template on computer) with stories about gardens, quizzes and anagrams, Easter eggs for grandchildren to colour etc.
- online contests for essay writing and drawing was organised
- Women Walk the World events were organised by some societies
- in the absence of the usual party for 2021, members created a 'meeting in a bag' for each member, with a card and inside a teabag, an anagram puzzle, a chocolate bar and a letter
- members in Iceland, have planned online conferences
- a Pantomime performance by a WI drama group, in England.

In the rural areas of Romania, the activity has remained sporadic, the most active members were the sickest and the younger ones didn't really get involved, women met more at church, wearing masks, and being upset (for losing dear ones, but especially spouses...). Their life is the same, simple women are strong and brave, they work as before the pandemic. Rural women can be an example of diligence, optimism, and courage, even more in challenging times.

Pandemic had also impacted the children, especially in rural areas where modern communication technology gets through with difficulty. Rural women had to deal with the online school and face issues that increased the proportion of functionally-illiterate children, or even led to school dropout:

- children could learn by taking "turn shifts" between them, with the only cell phone they had; many times the children were asked to work in the household, in the field, look after the animals, to the detriment of learning.
- Rural women also have neglected themselves and their health having to look after their children and help them with school chores/homework, etc.

We now look forward to a gradual return to a more normal life when we will once again be able to meet in person. This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



Southern Africa Area Report

Dr Marina Muller – Area President

Several organisations had members who attended the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia. During this reporting period Southern Africa experienced not only the Covid-19 Pandemic but also severe droughts. Many organisations lost members or family, either dying from Covid or by struggling to make ends meet when the economic restraints and bankruptcies forced them to downscale their lifestyles. Energy loadshedding also hampered South African businesses. Members lost their jobs and are really struggling to survive.

We lost several societies in the area who just not could afford membership fees or could not function as in the past. Those who could carried on often benefitted from learning how to use technology to meet and communicate in the fast-changing world. In our Area we do not have the best internet connections, so many organisations struggled attending meetings and conferences online. It may be the way to go, but we learnt that members need better telecommunication as well as personal interaction and attention to thrive.

Sadly, we lost three past Area Presidents during this time, namely Mrs Anna Boshoff, Dr Semane Molotlegi (Mmemogolo) and Mrs. Maybel Moyo. May they rest in peace and their legacy be honoured and always inspire every member in the Area. Past Presidents of societies also passed away in this period and they will be missed where they played a crucial role.

These were dire times but as an Area President I was astounded by the resilience and hardiness of the societies' members. Members reached out to each other in their own organisations and in the Area by assisting with financial help, blankets, toys, food parcels, gifts, discarded spectacle frames as well as sunglasses for the people with Albinism, sanitary towels, handmade masks and treats for the elderly, health workers at hospitals and clinics and farmers' wives. They gave what they could to lessen the burden of others.

An old age home got a frail care facility; eco bricks were produced with recycled plastics to leave the world a better place. A manual Morals for Minors were translated in order to establish values in a practical and creative way in children for the good of family life.

One organisation celebrated their 90th birthday at the end of the pandemic in 2021 and another had a gala dinner in 2022 to celebrate their 52nd birthday and honoured their club's veterans. Another society celebrated their 70th birthday in 2022.

In 2022 I conducted a scoping visit with ACWW's Projects Grant Officer Jenny Sellers and Advocacy Director Nick Newaland to the a women's agronomic group who are growing vegetables. In the north of Namibia to investigate the possibility of being a pilot project to be funded by ACWW's new Rural Women in Action Fund. The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), will be able to assist with skills and knowledge and monitoring the project. The photos below come from this community.

We were fortunate to have had an actual Area Conference in June 2021 at Howick, Kwa-Zulu/Natal, South Africa hosted by the FWI of KwaZulu/Natal with the theme 'Diversity is our Strength'. Some organisations could not attend but those who did experienced this special get-together were very blessed with a choir performance, excellent speakers and information about ACWW.

'If we are not strong enough to hold onto the power that comes our way, it might as well pass us by. We need to be strong enough to hold the content that we encounter. We need to build ourselves, our families, friends, colleagues, fellow members and all those that we care about into cups, vessels that are strong enough, which can hold the full power that life has to offer.'



South Pacific Area Report

Mrs Gail Commens – Area President

It is with pleasure, and a little sadness, that I present my final report as South Pacific Area President.

The past four years have been a challenge to us all in the South Pacific with massive measles outbreaks in the Islands and the Covid-19 Pandemic throughout the world. On top of these horrific pandemics Australia has gone through droughts, fires and floods and New Zealand has had massive flooding and land slips. The Islands suffered badly with Covid as many could not obtain the vaccinations and others were afraid of the vaccine. Tonga had a massive volcano eruption and Tsunami that absolutely devastated the country.

I visited Papua New Guinea in 2019 to organise our Area Conference and to visit member Societies there. Because of Covid the decision had to be made in 2020 to cancel Papua New Guinea as the conference venue and it was eventually held in March 2021, in Junee NSW, and was the first ever ACWW Area Conference held online!

I attended the Rural Women New Zealand's Summit and RWNZ Woman of the Year in 2019 and congratulate them on this excellent competition. I also visited Women in Agriculture & Business, South Australia and CWA South Australia in 2019 and CWA NSW State Conference.

Late 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 saw fires and floods devastate much of Australia. CWA members, though many being affected themselves, came to the rescue volunteering in many ways in many areas. I made and delivered food from CWA's to fire fighters in 2020, was on duty at the Evacuation Centre in Wagga Wagga for fire victims and then another ten days at Moree for flood victims in 2023.

Zoom became the tool of communication these past three years with ACWW Board and Team meetings, to NSW CWA, VIC CWA, WABSA and CWASA during their on-line International Days. I was guest speaker, in person, for International Women's Day at Guyra and Junee and at CWA NSW Conference and 2022.

Though Covid made travel to the Islands impossible and made us isolate and not meet regularly, all Societies and members still stayed true to ACWW and were still able to raise funds for ACWW. Members just get in and do what needs to be done when trouble and disasters hit. I am so very proud of all those in the South Pacific Area who do so much for so many.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.

*Visiting Papua New Guinea
Women and children in a rural village in the Eastern Highlands
After 90 days of drought, the rains arrived 10 minutes after this photo was taken!*



United States of America Area Report

Mrs Bonnie Teeples – Area President

This Triennium has certainly had its share of issues for ACWW and the USA Area! Who could have imagined as we left Melbourne, Australia so excited to go forward and share what we had learned at the Triennial World Conference with others, that in just a few months the world would become infected with a horrible virus as it has, and a few short months after that time the world would shut down! How grateful we are for technology that allowed us to carry on at least a portion of ACWW's work.

The meetings, conferences and visits I have had with the member Societies in the USA after reopening from Covid-19 have been uplifting. I have learned so much from speaking with the members and hearing how they 'weathered the storm.' Many reported that as hard as dealing with Covid restrictions had been for their societies, the result of having to learn new ways of communication with members has been a benefit overall. Most reported that they had a hard time collecting donations for ACWW as they were not meeting in person, and it has been hard to get back to the level of donations they once received. Also evident from talking with members is the increase in members taking care of each other through sharing, as well as taking more time for one-on-one communication with others. Most members reported that after the initial shock of the shutdown, they used the slower pace of life to reach out to family and others in their societies and communities more often. But many also say nothing beats FACE to FACE meetings and communication!

Country Women's Council held their conference this year in North Little Rock, Arkansas and were very excited to host World President Magdie De Kock. Members enjoyed meeting the World President and were treated to hearing her speak several times during the conference. Her messages were upbeat, informational, and instructive.

Members from the Southwest FCE society researched and wrote an informational workshop on Rabies. It has been used for several of the state societies and the National umbrella society conferences. After their two-day conference this small society hosted a bazaar at the civic center. This year they hosted a Rabies Clinic just outside the Civic Center. Arrangements were made to have veterinarians attend who did a free health check and free microchipping of all dogs attending. Through donations the clinic was able to give the free rabies vaccine to 106 dogs with some money left over for future clinics.

After restrictions were lifted and life resumed to somewhat normal, I was able to attend a few Society Conferences and had the opportunity to speak to the attendees and visit individual members at each of them. Visiting individuals and small groups of members helps me understand how to better serve the members in my area. It has become increasingly clear to me that many members do not understand the relationship between their society and ACWW. Some of the new ACWW produced presentations and the new small Strategic Plan booklets along with the new Rural Woman in Action fund leaflets have been especially useful for handouts for these discussions. The opportunity to speak to the groups has also given me time to share ACWW's Strategic Plan 2022-2026, educate members, get feedback, and hopefully, help them understand the need for change.

Change is always hard, but when that change involves a beloved organization, it can be hard to accept and even harder to understand. Changes in funding for projects seemed to be a big stumbling block for some of the members. Members like to feel that the money they are donating is 'making a direct difference' in the lives of others. Members can be assured that with the Rural Women in Action Fund, and the partners ACWW will have in working with the projects, their donations will make a difference and a more sustainable change in the lives of those project participants.

The Coordinator meetings and contacts are proving to be a benefit to the area and to ACWW. Feedback and questions from the Coordinators are also showing a gap in communication between ACWW and societies and the Area President and societies. I know that the more Coordinators we get, and the more concise communication we have with them will prove to be a boon to ACWW and the membership.

As we come to the end of the Triennium, I am grateful for all we have learned, things we have come to understand and the ways we have grown as an organization. I am excited about the changes going forward and believe it will help ACWW members, and membership, be strengthened and grow.

This report is respectfully submitted for approval.



Top: Country Women's Council Meeting in September 2023 with national leaders and the World President



Presenting a cheque from South West Family and Community Education to a local rabies clinic in support of ACWW's resolution

ACWW Projects Impact Report 2019-2023

Jenny Sellers - ACWW Project Grants Officer

In 2020, ACWW published an article in Issue 3 of *The Countrywoman*, which looked at the impact of Covid-19 and lockdowns on ACWW's projects. In the years since, we have received more insight into the continuing impact on grassroots organisations, and so felt it important to expand on this original article.

In October 2019, we funded 18 projects, of which almost all were either swiftly disrupted or paused due to the impact of Covid-19. Strict lockdowns or curfews were soon seen across almost all countries where our projects were located, with the exception of Tanzania which, unlike its neighbours in East Africa, had not implemented measures to control the virus, and Mongolia where the proximity to China meant that border closures were swift and thorough back in January 2020. The Sain Tus Center was able to continue their project, "Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion" throughout this Pandemic and completed a successful project in September 2020.

The main adjustment that ongoing projects had to make was to halt their planned activities. In areas that saw lower rates of infection, some projects were able to begin conducting activities in the summer months of 2020, after the first wave of infections slowed down. In Tamil Nadu, Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) were able to restart conducting project activities for "Safe Drinking Water for Families of Low Caste Arunthathiyar and Dalits", albeit with significant changes to their operation. Project staff at WORD were able to meet with project participants, in much smaller groups than before, practicing safe hygiene thorough hand-washing and mask-wearing to slow the spread of Covid.

Many organisations have had to change the direction of their focus from conducting the activities of their planned projects to more short-term relief, addressing the needs in their communities. One such organisation is the Organisation for Community Development who provided food supplies and hygiene materials to the families participating in their project, "Skill Development for Young Mukkuvar Women", in Tamil Nadu, India.

With lockdowns restricting freedom of movement in many areas, participants working on agricultural projects struggled to tend to their crops. The participants of ACDIPE's project in Uganda, "Improved Nutrition for Women Living with HIV/AIDS" experienced multiple setbacks including a difficult rainy season and no ability to visit and tend to the crops.

The strict lockdown measures in many countries disproportionately affected the most vulnerable members of communities. Employment in rural areas is often very precarious compared to urban areas. Many members of rural communities work as agricultural labourers or daily-wagers with uncertain incomes. With opportunities for work cut during lockdown, shortages of food and other essentials were exacerbated. The effect of lockdown on national and local economies had a disastrous impact on already vulnerable populations.

One impact of lockdown measures mentioned by almost all our partner organisations was an increase in instances and risk of sexual assault and domestic violence. Strict lockdown measures and curfews, alongside lost livelihoods and uncertain futures increased tensions in many rural communities, lead to aggression from police forces and family members alike. As we know, instances of violence against women are exacerbated by poverty and challenging circumstances. Voluntary Efforts for Community Health (VECH) in Uganda found that more women were resorting to sex work in order to earn income to provide for their children. The availability of contraception during this crisis created a further cause for concern among our project partners in Uganda, risking the safety of community members and the success of HIV/AIDS projects that have been generating so much positive change in these communities.

In rural areas where literacy rates are low and many members of the community do not have access to radios or TV, rural people are left with little understanding about the virus and the risk of how it spreads. For many of our partner organisations currently unable to conduct the project activities they had planned, sensitisation around the topic of Covid-19 and good hygiene practices are currently top priority.

Grassroots organisations have had to adapt to a post-Covid world. Dakou Delayno, the Coordinator for Literacy for Rural Women in Togo, says that from now on all community projects will have to incorporate health and hygiene education into their activities alongside the project's literacy education aims. While this results in a more holistic approach to carrying out activities which is a great benefit, it will also further stretch the limited funds and resources of small grassroots organisations like SADA.

When asked how the future looked, many of our project partner organisations were worried about the impact of Covid-19 on education and the opportunities for young people. The Organisation for Community Development in India, believes that the impact of Covid-19 will increase the rate of school dropouts, furthering the gap between girls and boys in terms of education outcomes and employment opportunities. Common across the Project Coordinators that I spoke to is a great need for funding in order to rebuild their communities and organisations.

In the almost three years since this article was first published, the impact of Covid has become clearer. In many ways life has returned to how it was before, no longer restricted by lockdown measures and we are free to move around, seek employment and once again access education. However, for many people, the impact of Covid and the lockdowns needed to halt its spread have had long term impacts. Recent funding rounds have seen applicant organisations proposing projects which aim to bring financial stability to those who lost reliable incomes during the pandemic, or water and sanitation projects to ensure that rural communities have systems in place in the future to provide reliable access to clean water and sanitation.

While the pandemic saw higher cases and deaths resulting from Covid-19 in urban areas, rural communities often saw lower rates of infection and death, where the restrictions had been more effective. Voice for Change in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea found that the pandemic greatly affected their ability to provide their usual legal and welfare support services to their community. Women were unable to access the centre, which provides support to survivors of domestic violence, due to travel restrictions. These secondary impacts of the pandemic have arguably caused longer lasting impacts on the lives of rural women, and we will likely continue to see the fallout from this for years to come. ACWW is committed to working hard to fund innovative ways of working towards the empowerment of rural women everywhere.

At ACWW we made changes to our grant management process during the pandemic to give our grantees the flexibility needed to complete project activities in difficult circumstances. Many projects with a planned implementation period of 12 months had to extend their timelines, amend their proposed activities, or even shift focus all together. Flexibility in project timelines and strong communication with programme coordinators allowed us to support the projects with ensuring successful outcomes.

The challenges of the Women Empowered Fund, and looking forward

The Women Empowered Fund was established in 2018 as a more sustainable and long term response to the Projects Committee 40th Anniversary Appeal which had not gained the fundraising response that was hoped for. A new style of fundraising for ACWW, the WE Fund was a restricted fund solely for the purpose of projects funding and money raised through this fund was spent directly on grants, monitoring and evaluation, and the associated costs of grant making. Funds raised by members were used to “replenish the pots” of the WE Fund to continue the grant making cycle.

The WE Fund has been a success over the past 5 years, and we have funded some fantastic projects through the fund. The fund has allowed ACWW to support over 80 projects in the last 4 years alone in the 6 focus areas Education and Capacity Building; Nutrition, Good Health, and Wellbeing; Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development; Income Generation and Livelihood; Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy; and Maternal and Reproductive Health.

However, the Fund has not been without its challenges. The most important being the sheer number of projects which were being funded each year. For a small grant making organisation, ACWW does not have the capacity to adequately monitor and have effective oversight of between 20 and 30 projects funded a year. The challenges caused by Covid-19 really brought this in to focus for us when project timelines had to be extended from the usual 12-month activity period due to delays in project activities. This meant that rather than a clear process of one round of projects ending as a new funding round started, ongoing projects were overlapping each other. To further complicate the issue, travel restrictions and safety measures for the wellbeing of projects participants of staff meant we were unable to conduct monitoring visits during much of this past Triennium. This illustrated the unsustainability of funding so many projects each year, added to which was the limited impact of funding at the very small amounts of money invested in each project.

In response to these challenges the Board, with support and advice from Central Office Staff, proposed a new fund and approach to funding to mitigate many of these issues. In 2022 the Rural Women in Action Fund was opened with the intention of creating a more comprehensive and intersecting approach to ACWW funding. The new Fund is a truly exciting opportunity to put into practice all that we have learned over the past 5 years of the WE Fund, the challenges encountered during Covid-19, more than 40 years of development projects, and a chance to address the everchanging landscape of grant funding. It has already received positive feedback from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and co-funding from UNESCO. More and more we are seeing innovative grant making, which is flexible, open, and responsive to the specific needs of the grantee organisations. The Rural Women in Action Fund is ACWW’s exciting answer to this. Grant making that, we believe, truly responds to the needs of rural women’s organisation to lift up and amplify the voices of rural women.

Jenny joined ACWW in 2019 and holds an MA in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, and a BA in International Development from the University of Leeds. She is ACWW’s Safeguarding Lead and has spent the past decade working for local, in-country NGOs and international development organisations.

ACWW Projects Impact Report 2019-2023

For most of the 2019-2023 Triennium, ACWW's Projects were funded from the Women Empowered Fund (WE Fund). The Impact Report presented here therefore reflects on those six areas of funding.

Education & Capacity Building

Rural women have historically faced systemic barriers to education due to traditional patriarchal cultural norms, conflict, and a lack of practical access to schooling. Sadly, this continues to be the situation in many countries today. 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. Without access to school, many women also struggle to access training and development opportunities to gain skills which enable them to earn decent wages through productive work. That is why this area of ACWW's projects covers both access to education and capacity building. These projects are focused on literacy for adults and children, vocational training, leadership development and community development.

The impact of Covid-19 has been extremely detrimental for girls' access to education across the world and we have seen the impact of this through our project funding in the past few years. "After School Education for Rural Children" run by Community Action for Rural Development in India is a project, funded in late 2022, which aims to bridge the gap to quality education that is experienced by rural children. For two years during the pandemic many children in India had no meaningful access to education and rural children with little access to technology risk being left behind without projects like this which will provide additional classes and support to those who need it the most.

Over the past Triennium, ACWW has funded 15 Education and Capacity Building projects reaching over 1,540 people across seven countries. One project which achieved great success is "Literacy for Rural Women" in Togo, funded in 2019, and implemented by Synergie d'Actions pour un Développement Approprié. The project supported 55 women farmers in accessing adult literacy classes. The project aimed to contribute to the improved social status of rural women through adult education and increase the leadership capacity of rural women. Over the course of 12 months participants attended literacy and numeracy classes, joined reading clubs, and took examinations to assess their progress. By the end of the project, there was an 80% success rate for graduation for both literacy and numeracy, and 75% of the participants continued learning once the activities had ended. As a result of their new literacy abilities, women in the community were chosen to read out loud in church services and have become more visible within community discussions. The increased community involvement of the participants was quickly apparent to the project coordinator as there was greater openness of discussion of previously "taboo" subjects such as women's rights to land, education and inclusion, and violence against women within the community.



Education
and Capacity
Building

15 Projects
1,540 Participants
£78,526 total Grants

Nutrition, Good Health, and Wellbeing

Rural women make up over a quarter of the world's population but continue to face disproportionate barriers to quality, affordable, and accessible health care. This includes a lack of access to comprehensive health information and education, affordable health services and medication, and local healthcare centres, hospitals, and services.

Women have historically suffered a lower standard of medical care, and interventions have often focused predominantly on maternal and reproductive health, thus ignoring the wide range of other health issues that impact women and girls in rural areas. Without access to affordable, accessible, and nutritious food, women are unable to keep themselves and their families healthy. Inaccessibility of nutritious food for children risks higher rates of malnutrition, leading to higher bills for intervention or medication for families on low incomes.

The theme behind this area of projects focuses on the importance of good nutrition and health to wellbeing and quality of life; a preventative measure to reduce ill health. In the past Triennium, ACWW has funded 14 projects out of the **Nutrition, Good Health, and Wellbeing** pot. These projects range from nutrition education for rural women, assistance to grow and maintain kitchen gardens to support family nutrition, training and development for healthcare workers and mental health education for students.

In 2021 Youth and Women for Social and Economic Empowerment started the project “**Intercropping for Increased Small-scale Farming**” which aims to support 40 rural farmers set up productive fruit gardens to provide abundant food for home consumption while also providing support to set up small agribusinesses to market surplus crops. All the women were involved in pineapple and banana farming methods as an alternative method of food production, and as an income generation tool have been able to diversify their livelihoods.



These nutrition-focused agriculture projects are established on a smaller scale than those funded through the **Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development** pot of the WE Fund. They are often more focused on household food security and nutrition than generating profit from crops at market. However, as with the project above, such projects have more impact and are more likely to be more sustainable in the long term if they also generate an income for the household.

In 2022, “**Economic Empowerment for Single Mothers through Training in Agriculture and Nutrition**” was funded with this purpose. 200 single mothers were trained in improved agricultural methods, vegetable production, family nutrition and the importance of a balanced diet. They were supported with basic farm tools, plus inputs such as seeds and boxes to save seed for the future. Where some participants faced challenges attending sessions due to their care commitments, project officers visited them in their homes and provided training. This meant that all participants were able to complete training despite the challenges they face as single mothers. The project partner was Ndiwami Integrated Rescue Project.

Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

Food and agriculture production systems across the world are facing unprecedented challenges in the face of climate change. Without significant action, this will lead to unpredictable growing seasons, failed crops, reduced soil health, loss of biodiversity, and increased hunger and food insecurity. Small-scale subsistence farmers in Africa, Asia, and South America are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and increased risk of draught leading to poorer harvests and reduced income. People living in rural areas rely overwhelmingly on agriculture as their primary source of income. Women make up 43% of agricultural employment across low-income countries - fulfilling vital roles in the management of natural resources and food production.¹ Despite their vital role in the global food system, rural women face disproportionate challenges compared to rural men; they are more likely to be food-insecure, lack access to land, resources and market information, and tend to have less decision-making power.

Over the last Triennium, ACWW has funded 17 Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development projects. However, taking into consideration all of the agriculture-adjacent projects funded under Education, Livelihoods and Nutrition, ACWW overwhelmingly funds agriculture-related projects, illustrating the significance of agriculture funding for rural women and grassroots organisations.

In 2019, ACWW funded the project “Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming; Supporting Vegetable Gardens” in Zimbabwe implemented by Ntengwe for Community Development, which succeeded in improving the conditions of food insecure women-led households through the construction of a water pipeline and an irrigation system. 360 households achieved year-round access to water, which increased food security and household incomes, reducing poverty by 60%. During the implementation of the project, progress was stalled due to Covid-19 and lockdown measures. The majority of installation works, and training sessions had been completed, but to keep momentum going and reduce the impact of these restrictions on the participants, Ntengwe for Community Development proceeded to moved to virtual project support. Attending one-to-one or small group support sessions on WhatsApp, the women adjusted quickly to virtual learning which alleviated stress and isolation during the challenging time. The support given by Ntengwe, and the participant’s ability to adjust to virtual learning and support created a sense of ownership and responsibility among the women to carry on without face-to-face meetings. Participants were fully committed, and still are as they continuously engage in climate-smart agriculture, which led to the sustainability of the project.

In addition to ensuring food security for a household or community and generating a source of income, access to land and the ability to grow can also be a tool for community cohesion. In Western Uganda, Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment began the project “Promoting Food Security and Regenerative Farming for Refugee Women and Young Farmers” in 2022. The project directly targets 50 women and young refugee farmers in the Nakivale refugee settlement and aims to lessen the impact of refugee settlements on rural poor communities, where sharing access to limited resources can cause strain and discord within a community. The participants in the project have access to small pieces of land provided to them by the government of Uganda. The participants of this project are having a regenerative impact on the land, farming through permaculture principles and improving food security, soil health, and building resilience to the effects of climate change by growing indigenous crops, planting forest gardens, and utilising the concept of water harvesting.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/reduce-rural-poverty/our-work/women-in-agriculture/en/>



Sustainable
Agriculture,
Training &
Development

7 Projects

1,820 Participants

£77,289 total Grants

Income Generation and Livelihood

Women living in rural areas have a higher probability of being employed than their urban counterparts. However, they face high levels of informal employment and the jobs available in rural areas often lack elements that are considered critical for decent and productive work. Informal employment often keeps women inside the home doing piece-work or puts women at risk of injury and harm working manual jobs for daily wages. Many of the Income Generation and Livelihood projects that are funded by ACWW help to support women out of precarious employment such as brick making or other labouring roles and into decent, productive, and autonomous skilled work.

Income Generation and Livelihood projects are focused on supporting women to earn secure and sustainable incomes through vocational training courses, business management skills and training, and financial support through approaches such as village savings and loan associations (VSLA), revolving funds, and microloans.



There has been an increased feminization of farming, as male populations migrate into urban areas for work. These women are often also suffering impacts of health issues such as HIV/AIDS, and/or are affected by local, national, or regional conflict. This leaves little time for women’s participation in rural business activities, which would provide additional income and resources.²

By supporting women’s agricultural enterprises, ACWW has enabled women to gain decent employment and sustainable sources of income. A project funded in 2021, “Value Added Crops”, run by Babuyirana Womens Group in Uganda provided participants with training to make various maize and peanut snacks and peanut paste which can be marketed; increasing the income they would otherwise have earned selling raw produce. This higher profit also meant that participants were able to increase the inputs used during the growing season to improve yield.

“Improved Skills in Poultry Production” implemented by Courage Womens Group in 2021, supported women in increasing the market value of their produce through training and upskilling. By supporting 20 members of a women’s poultry farmers association who raise indigenous breeds in adopting the use of technologies and improved practices, productivity was increased, and rates of loss decreased. Members of the association were training in improved feeding practices and improved poultry management such as appropriate housing practices, provision of vaccinations, and predator control. By the end of the project, members had expanded trade in poultry products, resulting in a sustainable increase in incomes.

² https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms_153116.pdf

Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy

Many of the communities where we work lack the infrastructure and services needed to provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water, as well as safe and inclusive sanitation options. We often use the acronym “WASH” for “water, sanitation and hygiene”. In contexts where WASH services are available, they are often threatened by poor management, insufficient financing and poor governance, climate change, ecosystem degradation, pollution, and a growing demand for water resources.

Without access or the infrastructure needed to provide clean water, communities are at risk of consuming contaminated water and thus contracting communicable diseases. When water is not easily accessible within the community, or better still piped into the home, women and children bear the burden of fetching water for their families. This responsibility costs women time and energy, shortening the time available each day to spend with their children, complete household tasks, gain employment and partake in leisure activities. When the responsibility of collecting water is put on children, time is taken away from their education and childhood.

A sustainable approach to WASH is vital to ensure continued access to water and sanitation for rural communities on the front line of climate change. Poor management of WASH facilities can be avoided by inclusion of the community at all levels of planning and implementation of a WASH project. In all WASH projects funded by ACWW, community participation is vital through community planning committees, maintenance training, and hygiene education initiatives.

Over the past Triennium, ACWW has funded 13 Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy projects, the vast majority of which have involved creating sustainable and accessible sources of clean water for rural communities which has benefited over 46,000 members of rural communities. ACWW ensures that the water projects we fund are sustainable through three basic principles;

- a) projects must always ensure that there is a water and sanitation or maintenance committee, elected to maintain the water system and conduct small repairs,
- b) charge a small, affordable fee for community members to provide funds for the maintenance of the water system,
- c) include community education on water, sanitation and hygiene to prevent the spread of communicable diseases within rural communities.



Sustainable
Water,
Sanitation &
Energy

13 Projects

46,498 Beneficiaries

£58,779 total Grants

Maternal and Reproductive Health

Maternal and Reproductive Health funding covers a range of projects including sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) education in schools, access to appropriate and sensitive SRHR services for adolescent women, training for maternal healthcare workers, and awareness raising around practices such as female genital mutilation. The impact of poor maternal and reproductive health, particularly in rural areas with little access to health services, has a profound effect on the lives of women and girls. Without access to accurate and accessible information and education on reproductive processes, women and girls are unable to plan their families and less able to advocate for their choices. Over the past Triennium, ACWW has funded 10 projects in Maternal and Reproductive Health which has brought change to the lives of over 9,300 women.



One project that has made a huge impact within its community is “Introducing an Alternative Rite of Passage to Combat Female Genital Mutilation” in Tanzania, run by Empowerment of Marginalised Communities (EMAC) in the Simaniro District of Tanzania. The aim of the project was to introduce an alternative rite of passage among nomadic Maasai communities to fight against female genital mutilation (FGM). Over the project period EMAC trained adolescent peer educators and community elders, including birth attendants who traditionally carry out the practice, in the harms and consequences of the practice. This multigenerational approach raised awareness of the issue within the community, and ensured that an alternative rite of passage could be accepted and practiced at community level as a safe way to transition a young girl from childhood to womanhood.

EMAC also trained young Maasai men on the sexual and reproductive effects of FGM. According to tradition, young Maasai men must marry a circumcised woman, but after the training, many of the participants declared that they would fight against this tradition now that they had a better understanding of the harms of FGM. Over the project period, EMAC organised four alternative rite of passage celebrations for the young women in the community. These events were attended by young Maasai men, community leaders and elders and other community members. By the end of the project, all 15 traditional birth attendants had received training, and none continued to practice FGM. Instead, they are now educating other traditional birth attendants on effects of FGM and other entrepreneurship skills that they can apply in life to sustain an income.

In 2020, MamaCare Ghana began the project “Midwifery Skills for Community Health Workers”. Over the 12 months of the project cycle MamaCare Ghana provided quality and comprehensive midwifery training for 15 community health workers. As is sadly common in regions where health services are infrequent and funding low, these community health workers were practicing maternal care within their communities but lacked some of the training they greatly needed to provide quality care to their communities. The training workshops have increased the number of skilled birth attendants in the sub-district of Northeast Gonja by 30%. This increase in skilled birth attendants will lead to reduced rates of maternal mortality and increased health outcomes for pregnant women and their babies in the community. In a region with a midwife to patient ratio of 1:2100 most women do not get to see a midwife during their pregnancy. Through this project, women in Northeast Gonja are now likely to be seen by a healthcare professional trained in midwifery during their pregnancy.

ACWW Advocacy Impact Report 2019-2023

Nick Newland – ACWW Advocacy Director

When it was founded in 1929, ACWW's primary aim and responsibility was to represent the world's rural women, and ensure that their voices were heard by those who take decisions which impact every day and every element of their lives. Though the world has changed a lot since then, advocacy remains a huge part of what we do on a daily basis. There is sometimes some objection to the word "advocacy", but it is what we do - arguing for an important cause, and bring forward our members' voices on these critically important issues.

This Triennium has been a challenge for all of the obvious reasons, and some which may be less apparent. When the Pandemic hit in 2020, many intergovernmental processes moved online, and in some cases this meant we were able to involve more of our members in things like the UN Commission on the Status of Women. However, this also provided an opportunity for those governments who don't like to hear from their grassroots citizens, or NGOs who represent them, to block access and limit the time and space for civil society organisations like ACWW. We tackled this challenge head on, and did our best to ensure our members were being heard - and we will continue to do so.

ACWW and the United Nations



ACWW has maintained Special Consultative Status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council since 1947. This provides the opportunity for ACWW to attend the Commissions and processes of ECOSOC, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

At HLPF in 2019, ACWW gave formal responses to the Voluntary National Reviews from the governments of Lesotho and New Zealand at the UN, directly delivering statements from our Member Societies in this review process of the Sustainable Development Goals. With input from members from the East, West, and Central Africa Area, ACWW also provided detailed input into the response to the reviews from Cameroon and Uganda.

In 2020, 2021, and 2022, ACWW partnered with the NGO Major Group at the UN to author the Executive Summaries of the collective NGO statements to HLPF. This gave us the opportunity to ensure that gender equality, and the voices of rural women were placed at the centre of the agenda in each of these documents.

We do not attend HLPF in person every year, but decide whether attendance offers "value for money" based on

the Member States under review, and whether we have effective input from our membership in those countries. We did not attend in-person in 2020, 2021, or 2022.

The Food & Agriculture Organisation of the UN



In October 2019 ACWW was present at the General Council of the FAO when it voted to adopt a specific thematic focus on Rural Women under the new Director-General. This was an important step forward, and paired well with the recently adopted Decade of Family Farming (2019-2029).

ACWW committed to support the Decade, and many of our projects feed information back to the reporting process for the annual reports on Food Security produced by the FAO.

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

This partnership was followed up, including meetings with regional office leads on Gender and Rural Women in Bangkok (for the Asia-Pacific region), Rome (for Europe), Papua New Guinea, and Nairobi (for East Africa). Relationships with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation were being strengthened and whilst in Nairobi for the East, West & Central Africa Area Conference the team engaged with FAO officials locally especially around our projects relating to climate smart agriculture.

This included the Advocacy Director meeting with Ambassador Carla Elisa Luís Mucavi, the FAO Representative to Kenya's regional UN Headquarters, following discussions with the Ambassador in her role as the FAO Representative in New York. This is a positive step forward, and coincided with ACWW being asked to participate in high-level consultations with FAO Headquarters on the status of food security for women in rural communities, and our involvement in climate-smart agricultural projects.

Partnerships

Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to better connect and support women and communities worldwide.

Advocacy partnerships with other women's groups like Soroptimist International, Zonta International, organisations like Solar Cookers International and those who work in rural communities but not specifically on rural women, or who need expert input, allow us to reach wider audiences and engage with governments at multiple levels. During the 2019-2023 Triennium, ACWW wrote statements to the UN co-signed by the following organisations:

Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas
Campanha Latino-Americana pelo Direito à Educação
Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore
Center for Integrated Rural and Child Development
Commonwealth Medical Trust
Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de
Folklore ed d'Arts Traditionnels
European Student's Union
Institute of Cultural Affairs International
Institute for International Womens Rights Manitoba
International Alliance of Women
International Association for Public Participation
Australasia International Association for the Exchange of
Students for Technical Experience
International Federation of Business and Professional
Women
Make Mothers Matter
Mothers' Union
National Association of Women's Organisations
National Council of Women's Organizations Indonesia
New Humanity
Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
Red Dot Foundation
Rozaria Memorial Trust
Scottish Women's Convention
Solar Cookers International
Soroptimist International
Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland
Training for Women Network
Wales Assembly of Women
Widow's Rights International
Widows through Peace and Democracy
Women for Water Partnership
Women's Union of Russia
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Organization of the Scout Movement
Zonta International

In February 2020 ACWW sent a letter to the UK Permanent Mission at the United Nations to call for action to safeguard specific language in human rights negotiations. This letter was signed by 185 organisations from 35 countries, representing more than 11.95 million women globally. Our ability to forge partnerships is crucial to our work around the world and makes our collective voice much stronger.



Other partnerships established in this Triennium included a technical agreement with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to provide zero-cost, certified training for women in rural communities to tackle rabies, and an agreement with the Canadian e-commerce company Shopify, resulting in technical input on income generation and CAD \$25,000 of direct donation towards advocacy work.



From 16 to 365: Orange the World

Since 2016 ACWW has marked the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, also known as "Orange the World". Efforts to raise awareness have included statements, videos, posters, and other resources produced and shared with members in more than 80 countries, and members organising events globally. 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 2020, possibly reflecting the increased level of digital literacy amongst the membership in light of Covid-19 and greater reliance on computer-based communication. In this Triennium, more than 150,000 people engaged with ACWW's campaign to "Orange the World".

Government Meetings

During this Triennium, ACWW's Board Members and Staff have held advocacy meetings with representatives from the governments of: Angola, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, France, Lesotho, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

Commission on the Status of Women

Each year, the United Nations convenes the Commission on the Status of Women at its Headquarters in New York. This is a two week gathering of governments, UN bodies, and civil society organisations and NGOs like ACWW to discuss women's rights and agree new standards for action.

Civil Society organisations are able to host Parallel Events relating to the theme of each year's session, and Member States (governments) host Side Events.

CSW64 - 2020

2020 was due to be a Review Year, marking 25 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 5 years since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, and several other anniversaries. In the end the main conference was not able to take place because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, but there was a series of negotiations which started in February and which aimed to agree a Political Declaration on behalf of all governments.

CSW65 - 2021

CSW was held in a digital format this year, with more than 20,000 participants from around the world attending 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 in 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.

CSW66 - 2022

ACWW hosted 4 Parallel Events, which focused on the rights of Indigenous women, women living in rural and remote communities, and economic empowerment. These events were viewed online by more than 2000 people.

We were also pleased to partner with the Government of Canada to host a Side Event at CSW this year, the first time ACWW has ever had this honour. The title was "Rural Economic Empowerment and Financial Independence Post Covid-19". Guest speakers included the Honourable Natalie Jameson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, and the Status of Women, of Prince Edward Island, Canada, as well as Indigenous Canadian women Tracy Ridler, Zaffia Laplante and ACWW members from New Zealand.

CSW67 - 2023

Attending CSW in person for the first time since Covid-19 caused the last-minute cancellation of CSW64, ACWW's delegation was larger than normal: World President Magdie de Kock and UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny were joined by grass-roots ACWW members from Mongolia and Kenya who spoke at several events, as well as members of the UN Committee who attended at their own expense. For the sixth year, Nick Newland advised the UK Government Equalities Office on the inclusion of women from rural, remote and coastal communities in the Agreed Conclusions, with an additional emphasis for the inclusion of older women, widows, and Indigenous women and girls in all their diversity.

This year's session of CSW was particularly important for ACWW as the review theme was 'Empowerment of Rural Women', and which looked back at the Agreed Conclusions of CSW's 2018 priority theme. We are pleased to report that several sections of text that ACWW contributed to the Agreed Conclusions in 2018 are now considered "agreed language" and were included in this year's outcome.



Deep in discussion

ACWW member Judith Juma presented during a meeting hosted by UK Member of Parliament Bell Ribeiro-Addy at CSW67 in 2023

Northern Ireland at the UN in 2023

ACWW UN Committee Member and President of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland Margaret Broome with the UK Ambassador to the United Nations, Dame Barbara Woodward at the UK Permanent Mission.

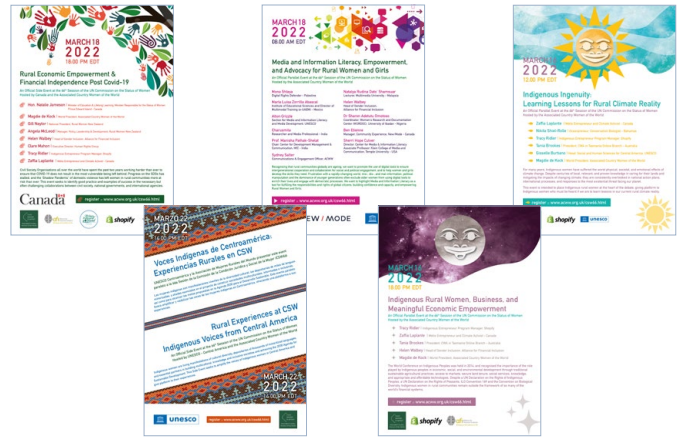


Canada



Flying the flag for ACWW

World President Magdie de Kock flanked by Executive Director Tish Collins and Jenny Sellers at UN Headquarters for CSW67 - March 2023.



Posters for ACWW's five events at CSW65 in 2022

These events included ACWW's first ever Government Side Event as a co-host, and first event presented in Spanish (with English simultaneous interpretation)

At CSW in 2023 ACWW's Advocacy Director co-chaired a UK Government Side Event looking at safe navigation of a digital world. We also hosted two Parallel Events; one titled "Rural Women as Agents of Change: Less Talk and More Action". This event included participation from the Honourable Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education and Early Years and Minister responsible for the Status of Women from Prince Edward Island, Canada, as well as Mrs June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner from Australia. The second was our first Youth Panel, chaired by Project Grants Officer Jenny Sellers, joined by young ACWW members Judith Juma (Kenya), Dr Elisabeth Kelly (USA), and disability advocate Kirstie Stage (UK).

The UN provides us the opportunity to hold governments to account and ensure that you are heard at the international level. Such advocacy and consultation bring potential benefits on a global scale, not restricted to ACWW membership.



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

between ACWW, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Ottawa Tourism and UNESCO and NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

Coming just 18 months after the warning that lack of participation threatened our Consultative Status at UNESCO, this was a great achievement.



2022-2032 | DÉCENNIE INTERNATIONALE DES
langues autochtones



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

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.

In December 2022, Nick Newland was elected as the President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for a 2 year term. Since election, Nick has strengthened partnership with the National Commissions for UNESCO, building on existing relationships, and in October 2023 will chair the Liaison Committee's first Forum of the mandate, with a working title of "Changing Mentalities for Gender Equality". This position places ACWW at the decision-making table within UNESCO, and includes opportunities to direct the agenda of both civil society partnership but also engage with governments at a high level through the Executive Board of UNESCO and Non-Governmental Partnership Committee. ACWW is currently being considered for an upgrade in its Partnership status at UNESCO - updates will be reported in due course!

In November 2021, ACWW co-hosted the 13th International Forum of NGOs, titled "Mobilising NGOs for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the Ocean Decade". This event was held in a hybrid format, and hosted in Ottawa, Canada - a joint partnership



World President Magdie de Kock with Ms Roda Muse, Secretary General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Mr James Bridge, Secretary General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO at the ACWW-hosted 13th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO.

The Forum was co-chaired by ACWW Advocacy Director Nick Newland and new ACWW member Dr Teresa Kennedy. This photo was taken just before Emma Holland-Lindsay of the National Federation of Women's Institutes gave her presentation on the WI's 'End Plastic Soup' campaign. This is just one of the ways ACWW ensured its members were being heard on an international stage in the 2019-2023 Triennium.



CEDAW: The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Every four or five years, each government which has signed and ratified CEDAW is examined by the Committee for compliance. This is a legally binding obligation and governments are held to account by the Committee. In 2019, ACWW had the opportunity to participate in the 72nd Session of CEDAW, and specifically the examination of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK). ACWW held a consultation with Member Societies and Individual Members in the UK, and based on this prepared a written statement reflecting the reality of life for rural women in all four nations of the UK. On the strength of this, ACWW was also asked to give evidence directly to the Committee, which involved 10 minutes of verbal presentation. When the Committee published its Concluding Observations, there was a strong statement finding the UK in breach of the Convention, and some specific recommendations on rural women.

In June 2021 ACWW's Advocacy Director gave evidence at the UK CEDAW People's Tribunal, giving input to the legal 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 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.

Later, in October, the 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 towards the UK's next examination by the Committee.

More detail of our Advocacy work can be found on the website at www.acww.org.uk

Resources

ACWW's website is full of resources designed for members to be able to use in their own local advocacy and activism.

All attendees at the Triennial World Conference will receive copies of some key texts so they are better informed about their own human rights. These include CEDAW, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants.



Reports & Updates from ACWW Member Societies

As has been well noted, the last 4 years have seen extraordinary challenges for Member Societies all over the world. From the Covid-19 Pandemic to economic turmoil, ongoing conflicts and wars, and climate-related disasters, this Triennium has nevertheless been a period of resilience for rural communities. The challenges of the Triennium were a catalyst to ACWW to examine how it can better support its Members, and these reports make it clear that, while Member Societies are active and dedicated in their own communities, we can be so much stronger together.

Unfortunately, exponential growth is not the dominant trend. Member Societies consistently report ageing membership as the reason for declining numbers in their own membership. Some have seen growth despite the challenges of the last few years, and attribute this growth to innovative community engagement, opportunities for learning together, and intergenerational collaboration.

In 2023, rather than publish the traditional reports which vary in detail and length, we have grouped input from Member Societies thematically.

Give Them Hope, Liberia

When asked why their member society had experienced huge growth, despite the challenges of the Pandemic, Member Society Give Them Hope Liberia said that ACWW's support in vocational skills training for their members had made a massive difference locally, and brought new members into the organisation.

The photo above shows Give Them Hope's ACWW Project participants

“The increase in our membership is due to a concentrated effort to instil positivity, enthusiasm, and increased knowledge of best practices for marketing our organization. We strive to accentuate the positive rather than the negative!

Covid was a major challenge as Illinois was completely shut down for over a year and was very slow to open up since then. However, IAHC members made creative choices such as using Zoom video conferencing, phone calls, other options online, meeting safely in parks, back yards, restaurants, banquet rooms, and even museums. What was most impressive was many of our members adapted and learned to use technology when previously they did not know how! Our members continued to invite others to join our organization.

The Pandemic did not stop the needs of the community and it did not stop the members of IAHC from giving their time, talents or dollars to deserving individuals and organizations. IAHC WON and so did the community - local and international!”

Illinois Association for Home and
Community Education, United States of America

“[Our growth is attributed to] greater awareness of what CWA of NSW is doing in the community, State and abroad. We are attracting younger women now who are realising we carry out a lot of advocacy work. Our association is incorporated under an Act of Parliament so we have a voice in government circles at each level – local, State and Federal.”

Country Women’s Association of New South Wales Inc.,
Australia

WAU Overvaal’s theme for 2022 and 2023 is “Redesign Your Story”. WAU Overvaal is making an effort to cherish the past but to actively embrace the future.

Women’s Agricultural Union Overvaal,
South Africa

Action on ACWW Resolutions

At every Triennial World Conference our Member Societies vote on the Resolutions and Recommendations they wish to adopt, and act on for the next three (or 4!) years. Despite the huge challenges of this extended Triennium, our Members have reported huge impact on many of the Resolutions passed in 2019. This includes...



“The adoption of agro-ecological methods and sustainable agriculture show that a change to more sustainable farming is possible and economically viable – and as such present an alternative to achieve sustainable change of the agriculture sector and if well-organized cooperatives can access enough and sustainable finance for bulking and collective marketing and invest in value addition linked to agro-ecologic production, then they can increase incomes for the family farmers/members in a sustainable, agro-ecological way and spur economic transformation of their communities in terms of decent jobs, incomes and other alternative livelihood opportunities linked to their farms.

We work with 500 smallholder farmers to improve production of key crops like maize, banana, white potato, beans and orange flesh sweet potato”

Kynejojo Association of Women Development Actors,
Uganda

“We have formed new Women’s Self-Help Groups in our target area for rural women and they have shown interest in associating with ACWW. Our members are feeling that they are part of a bigger organization with a good motive to support the most disadvantaged women in the world. Poor and marginalized women are showing solidarity with other women who are suffering or are rejected. In this context they found their little contribution will make a lot of change in the lives of others.”

Women’s Education & Employment Development Society,
India

Since its foundation, ACWW has concerned itself with the sharing of sustainable agricultural practices and planning for a sustainable future. At the 1936 Triennial Conference in Washington, one of the speakers quoted Benjamin Kidd:

“Women’s eyes always look to the future because they are the mothers of the next generation. If women would participate more fully and more universally in world affairs, we would plan for the future more than we do now.”

ACWW knows that Rural Women are uniquely positioned to address the issues of Food Sovereignty and Food Security, and indeed, already have the skills and knowledge to do so. Collaboration allows us to harness these skills and knowledge and share with others until every community, every family, and every person has access to food.

“Sarawak W.I runs a kitchen program called “Healthy, Cheery, Safe” for which the objectives are to improve knowledge and skills on production, selection, preparation and intake of healthy foods as well as on special diet for people in need and improving knowledge and skills in food safety and kitchen waste management towards inculcating the habit of recycling and reducing food waste. Home grown and backyard edible gardening are encouraged and supported for housewives to be self sufficient of fresh vegetables and fruits.

We are publishing a recipe book on Sarawak healthy traditional cuisine through cooking competitions based on local food items and ingredients.”

Sarawak Federation of Women’s Institutes,
Malaysia

“Some branches have undertaken activities around these issues. These include recycling and repurposing articles at craft meetings, understanding bush foods and their uses, planting vegetables to be self-sufficient. We are currently looking at the issue of use by dates on packaging and what does it mean to our food wastage.”

Country Women’s Association in Tasmania,
Australia

“We are working on improving food storage in our community to ensure sustainability and reduce post-harvest waste. Women in the community are beginning to work with small amounts of food processing, mostly drying and packaging.”

Women’s Empowerment Enterprise Network,
Cameroon

“WAU launched a food project sponsored by OJA! Soya farms. They dry the Soya beans through a special process to deliver a new affordable, tasty and high protein product. Many introduction workshops were held throughout the region with great success.”

Women’s Agricultural Union Overvaal,
South Africa

“We provide assistance and help for producers putting them in direct contact with customers living in the city. In many cases demand is bigger than produce on offer - because of the changing conditions and drought due to climate change agricultural production is facing difficulties.”

Kiskunsag Association of Women,
Hungary

*Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming: Supporting Vegetable Gardens in Zimbabwe
Ntengwe for Community Development (NCD) Ntengwe Hwange District, Zimbabwe*

“CWA of NSW has been working on the following issues relating to food safety, sovereignty, and provision:

- Advocating for more scientific research into fruit fly management and increased funding for coordination of fruit fly management in regional communities (fruit fly destroys many crops)
- Advocating for the provision of rainfall, real time water flow and river heights data along flood-prone river systems and their tributaries for residents and communities in these areas
- Lobbying the Government to develop a decarbonising roadmap for NSW enabling residents, businesses and industry to be resilient and sustainable in a decarbonising world
- Opposing introduction of a new Property Tax that will severely impact on farmers
- Lobbying local Land Services to make available stock numbers collected from Stock returns to assist agricultural businesses with future planning
- Opposing large solar-farm projects on prime agricultural land to protect food and fibre productivity
- Insisting on correct labelling of all foods, food products, clothing, medicines and imported products such as flowers that includes country of origin as well as ingredients, packaging etc.”

Country Women’s Association of New South Wales,
Australia

“We provide preventive health education on nutrition food consumption for women, girls and children for better body growth, We encourage both growing of safe and health food as well as eating food organically grow.”

Women Economic and Social Services,
Tanzania



Rurality is often associated with a lack of medical facilities, including urgent and primary care. Women have historically suffered a lower standard of medical care, their complaints often being dismissed as generic “female problems”, or their pain not taken seriously.

Women’s healthcare needs go beyond crucial maternal and reproductive services. Rural women suffer particularly from a lack of access to appropriate and affordable healthcare. This includes health and nutrition education, mental healthcare, and provision for women as they age.

“The state organization (SCFCL) prepares and supplies short education lessons for clubs to use at monthly meetings to educate their members. Some of the topics are:

- Guidelines for Successful Container Vegetable Gardening
- Hydrating: How and When to do it
- Let’s Keep Our Bees Buzzing
- Proper Handwashing and Sanitizing
- The Basics of Raised Bed Gardening
- Understanding Breast Cancer
- Understanding High Blood Pressure
- Understanding the “New” Nutrition Facts Label.

Local clubs may select lessons that are geared toward the needs of their communities and reach areas of interest far beyond what SCFCL can supply. Many of the issues ACWW has recommended over the years are some of the same topics of interest that clubs use to educate their members at monthly meetings. We make every effort to encourage members to read ACWW’s resolutions and recommendations and support efforts to make changes at local, state and national levels with respect to issues voted on at Triennial Conferences.”

South Carolina Family and Community Leaders,
United States of America

“A number of Breast Cancer Awareness talks were held in rural and urban areas within Sarawak. We also worked on teenage pregnancy issues, running prevention programmes and talks were held in urban and rural areas in collaboration with Sarawak State Government. We facilitated talks and programmes for senior citizens and also classes on how to take care of sick aging family. We organised a talk on rabies preventions in rural areas in helping the government to cope up with the issue.”

Sarawak Federation of Women’s Institutes,
Malaysia

“We promote the production of iron rich beans (NARO BEAN 1), the new beans compliment other strategies that currently address iron deficiency impacting mainly on women, children and infants.”

Kyenjojo Association of Women Development Actors,
Uganda



“Health care in rural communities is an ongoing concern in Western Australia due to isolation and distances to be travelled to receive care, decreasing numbers of GPs in rural and city communities, waiting times for specialist appointments. This year a Petition was delivered to our State Government through Parliament regarding the cost of Ambulance services dependant on rural volunteers.”

CWA of Western Australia,
Australia

“We encourage women to attend ante-natal care clinics during pregnancy and ensure all under five children and breastfeeding mothers attend mother and child clinics. For mothers we also encourage enrolment for modern family planning methods and contraceptives and child spacing in pregnancy and child bearing. We also educate rural women in the villages on drinking safe clean water, construction and use of decent toilets and other sanitation facilities for hygiene protection against preventable water borne disease and contamination from faeces when there is no water for hand washing.”

Women Economic and Social Services,
Tanzania

“We have some workshops on healthcare, supported by a dietitian trained in holistic nutrition. The general topic was basics of female health and holistic balance. We also had meetings with our beneficiaries, explaining the importance of vaccination, especially during the pandemic.”

The Woman of the Third Millennium,
Romania

“Sain Tus Development Bridge are currently running a health awareness initiative aimed at reducing disease rates in rural communities.”

Sain Tus Development Bridge,
Mongolia

“We support the cancer association’s mobile clinic that visits rural areas to test women for cancer. NWS transport patients for treatment to the city. “

Namibian Women’s Society,
Namibia



Midwifery Skills for Community Health Workers. MamaCare - Ghana - Volta Region, Ghana

“CWA of NSW have been working on health matters in rural communities, including:

- Advocating for women suffering endometriosis to access diagnostic and medical treatment under the Medicare system
- Advocating for improved obstetric services and care in NSW, especially in Rural and regional areas.
- Advocating for inclusion of spectacle lenses in the Medicare Rebate Scheme for school-age children with eye problems pertaining to dyslexia
- Advocating to both state and Federal Government to address the current crisis in the provision of primary health services due to shortage of doctors and medical practitioners in rural and remote areas
- Advocating for greater funding to establish women’s refuges in rural areas
- Advocating for mandatory establishment of specialist domestic violence teams in all police command districts and that all domestic violence operatives receive specialised training in both handling situations and what services are available to those caught up in domestic violence
- Lobbying Government for additional funding to health services in rural areas and urge for immediate action for better aged care
- Advocating for face-to-face psychiatric services to all areas, particularly rural and remote locations”

Country Women’s Association of New South Wales,
Australia

“Women’s Union of Russia worked to promote health by informing and educating women about healthcare. We held forums, roundtables, and webinars to different issues of this topic including:

- Health of women of All Ages
- Women’s Health – peoples health
- Say No to Drugs
- The golden Age of the third age 50+
- Territory of a healthy way of life

We also facilitated for mobile teams of doctors come to a village to inspect citizens: women and children. Regional branches of the WUR make arrangements with medical people (many of them are members of the WUR).”

Women’s Union of Russia,
Russia

“Branches of WAU Mpumalanga took part in a nationwide project to send boxes of groceries and personal necessities to women in drought-stricken areas. More than 2000 boxes were distributed. During the Covid-19 pandemic, planned WAU projects were cancelled. New unplanned projects arose when the members of WAU jump in to provide machine made masks for hospitals and doctor’s rooms. They also knitted and crocheted comfort blankets to sympathize with members that lost loved ones. WAU Mpumalanga submitted a resolution during the SA Congress to urge local municipalities to improve water and sanitation in rural residential areas where people live in dire circumstances that are life-threatening. The resolution was successful. We are following up on this matter.”

Women’s Agricultural Union Mpumalanga,
South Africa

One member's Quest to Raise Awareness of Iron Deficiency

Jane Chapman, Illinois Association for Home & Community Education, USA

When I returned to the USA and had a meeting with the IAHCE State Board I encouraged the Directors to promote these two resolutions. The Family and Community Issues director, Eleanor Gregory, jumped right on it and had material ready about both resolutions to go out to every county in our state by our August meetings when we as a board travel the state.

One of the District Directors, Janel Kassing, on the board created a hand out about iron deficiency that she presented as a lesson at a mini-district meeting in October. She used material I had plus did research for further information about iron deficiency. Janel's handout really got me thinking that we needed a symbolic figure to speak on behalf of iron deficiency! That is when FeFe originated!

A brain storming session was held with my granddaughter, Lily, my grandson, Jonah, my local County 4-H coordinator, and the secretary of our county U of I Extension office. Our first outcome from the session was to use a fish as our symbol rather than the talking broccoli that was first suggested! We wanted a food that is high in iron content to be the symbol. Jonah and Lily both came up with Fe since it is the chemical symbol for iron. Lily was asked to come up with a drawing for FeFe and that is how FeFe was created.

Janel Kassing, an IAHCE board member, had told me about writing a book using information about the ingredients used in a recipe and I thought why not a book about FeFe. I asked Janel to write the booklet using the information we had on iron deficiency. The booklet is given out whenever I do a presentation on iron deficiency to all attending.

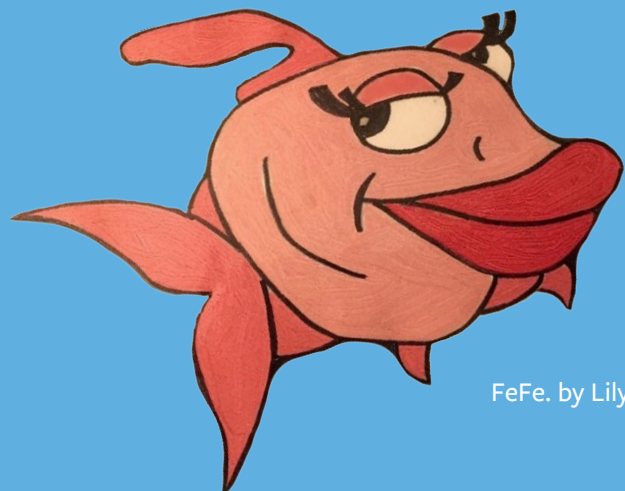
During my term of office as president of the IAHCE I saw numerous articles in the county newsletters on iron deficiency. The material presented to the counties by the Family and Community Issues director, Eleanor Gregory, was used by many of the counties throughout the state. A display board was created that was used at many health fairs, NVON conference, CWC conference, the IAHCE District workshops held throughout the state, and our own IAHCE state conference.

At the September 2021 conference of the CWC/ACWW a presentation by Caitlin Mellendorf, a U of I Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator, did a presentation on "Food Choices to Reduce Iron Deficiency". She even featured FeFe in the presentation!

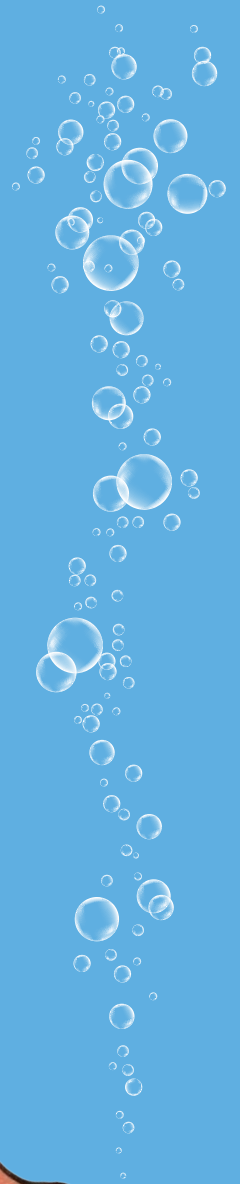
Iron Deficiency bingo was created as a way to allow people to become more familiar with iron deficiency terminology. Janel Kassing's handout was presented to about fifty people who returned to their counties and used it for a lesson. I personally have created a power point presentation on the subject.

This just about summarizes what we have done in the state of Illinois to promote the resolution on iron deficiency. We feel we have reached a lot of people and have made them aware of this little diagnosed issue that many people have and is so simple to remedy in most cases.

As you can see, the opportunities to engage with policy resolutions and advocacy really are boundless. Congratulations to Jane, Jonah and Lily for this really imaginative and fun way of interesting people in Iron Deficiency!



FeFe. by Lily



Environmental Conservation & Pollinator Protection



“We have been actively involved in reduction of the use of plastics in our operational area. A number of awareness and training programmes were organized for the target group people to sensitize them on the bad effects of plastic on the environment. Women self-help group members are trained in paper bag and cloth bag preparation to increase the availability of alternative packing materials for plastics We have been active in environment protection.

We planted tree saplings in the public places with the support of our Self-Help Group members. Watershed activities are conducted in few villages with the support of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to increase the per-capita availability of water in the area.”

**Women’s Education and Employment Development Society,
India**

“We have some long term all-Russia projects: “For clean House, clean Country, clean Planet”, “Clean city”, “Collect paper-save a tree”, “For separate waste collection”, “Environmental care as a spiritual family bond” and others.”

**Women’s Union of Russia,
Russia**

“We implement Interventions on building farm resilience, such as trainings in soil and water conservation, agronomy, integrated pest and disease management, soil feeding, post-harvest handling and storage were much adopted by farmers. We train farmers to employ tactics such as trenches for water conservation, composting plant teas and the biological pest and disease control.”

**Kyenjojo Association of Women Development Actors,
Uganda**

“We sew handbags from used plastic bags and old jeans.”

**Sarawak Federation of Women’s Institutes,
Malaysia**



“We sensitize all people in rural areas on harmful effects of plastics to environment, landscapes, forest areas and close to water bodies because plastics are pollutants when littered and has never rotten and therefore when ingested by animals, fishes and birds they stuck in the stomach and die gradually.”

Women Economic and Social Services, Tanzania

“We are currently working on “BEE-Cause Pollinators Feed the World” project with the objective to educate and inform members about the importance of pollinators and how we can be better stewards of the pollinators’ role in the world’s food supply chain. SCFCL can make a major impact with education and implementation of workshops, home gardens, flower beds and LOTS of other areas to help make members and others aware of the crisis with pollinators.”

**South Carolina Family and Community Leaders,
United States of America**

“We organise our members to assist with a clean-a-thon monthly in our closest town.”

**Police Mother’s Associations,
Papua New Guinea**

“Part of the OHCE Resource Management goal is environmental protection. Members volunteer to organize and participate in replanting trees, special collections and recycling events for old electronics and other hazardous items that can’t be taken to landfills, and other environmental related projects that teach individuals how to reduce energy usage and fresh water consumption.”

**Oklahoma Home and Community Education,
United States of America**

“We as a provincial organisation have a wetland that we work to protect and conserve.”

**Rural Women New Zealand Southland Interprovincial,
New Zealand**

“Currently doing a Project in Common that runs for three years on the pollinator resolution passed in 2019 entitled “Bee-cause Pollinators Feed the World”. Funds are being collected to buy bee hives and bee production equipment to be sent to developing countries.”

**National Volunteer Outreach Network,
United States of America**

“We have excellent, knowledgeable and well trained leaders. Our programs are current and relevant to our needs. We completed a three year program on Pollinators last year.”

**Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association,
United States of America**

“The members enthusiastically embraced The President of Overvaal’s project: “Leave the world a better place”, by recycling plastic and producing eco bricks. Many different school holiday workshops were held to educate and uplift the children.

**Women’s Agricultural Union Overvaal,
South Africa**

The impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic were felt all over the world. Never have we experienced a global shutdown of the kind that began in early 2020. Rural communities, already experiencing the negative effects of isolation, were particularly affected.

One member from Australia said, *“I feel that members who live and work in rural and remote areas of our state may have had a different Covid experience in many ways, from our city-based members. For some it was interesting, frustrating and satisfying. Many felt their life was out of control and wondered if it would ever be back to normal.”* You can read more of her story below.

It is clear that the Covid-19 Pandemic has irrevocably changed our world, in both good and bad ways. Better digital connectivity is a wonderful tool for addressing the effects of isolation, but our members know all too well that it is no replacement for face to face interaction. Digital connection must not allow a reduction in investment in infrastructure for rural communities, which allows them to connect with each other and vital services.

“The Covid pandemic was the main challenge of the last 4 years and unfortunately it had a negative effect. Many of our traditional activities could no longer take place, many members of the association withdrew. Fortunately, starting from last year, new members joined.”

The Woman of the Third Millennium,
Romania

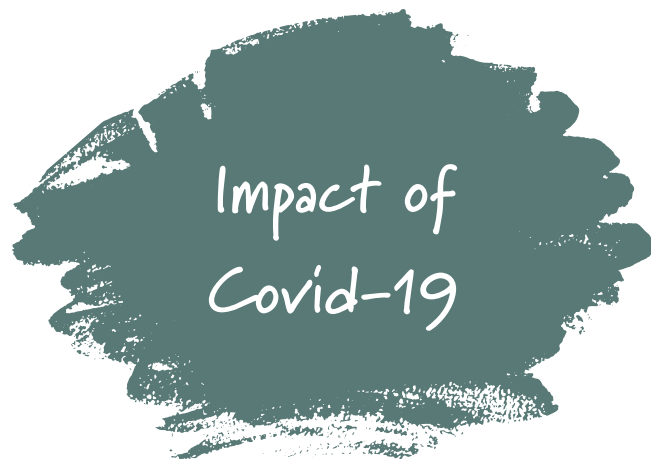
“Covid-19 affected our NGO from January-June 2021 because of banning of gathering and therefore we stopped travelling to rural areas and worked from homes for all of us because our offices were closed.

We had no funds to empower our fellow women in rural areas to provide health education on Covid-19, nor were we able to distribute protective and preventive materials against infection and transmission for lack of social distancing protocol”

Women Economic and Social Services,
Tanzania

“Steadily decreasing membership was already a challenge, but Covid made it worse. With so many Covid restrictions in place, OHCE as an organization struggled to keep members interested and participating. With few meetings being held on a regular basis, breakdowns in communications were frequent leaving members feeling disconnected from the organization. There was no good substitute for the face to face interaction OHCE members needed to stay involved and invested in OHCE. Thankfully, we are returning to the normal way of meeting together, and attendance has increased significantly.”

Oklahoma Home and Community Education,
United States of America



“The Covid pandemic created the opportunity for WAU Overvaal, the regions and branches to become computer literate and skilled in the various social media platforms. The society has also gone paperless. The pandemic did not prevent congresses, conferences and branch meetings from taking place and wider audiences were reached. Members encouraged each other and were creative in their use of WhatsApp, Facebook and YouTube.”

Women’s Agricultural Union Overvaal,
South Africa

“Covid has adversely affected our economy like every other country. Covid has restricted our freedom in terms of movement. Gender-based violence has also escalated during this period. Fear of Covid restricted people from visiting hospitals for treatment resulting in death.”

Police Mothers Association,
Papua New Guinea

“Covid was the main challenge, WIs tried hard to keep in touch with their members using different methods i.e. Zoom but this was not suitable for all. Starting meeting up as soon as possible firstly outside in groups of six. Some members didn’t want to re-join as had got out of the habit of going to meetings.”

Berkshire Federation of Women’s Institutes,
England

“Our local and state organizations make every effort to use whatever method of communication available. SCFCL took extra steps to have meetings by teleconferencing and Zoom. Many of our members have cell phones but not smart phones. At the beginning of 2020 members were taking care of family members, just trying to find ways to do daily shopping without getting, contracting or spreading Covid-19. Grocery stores have slowly made available phone shopping, online shopping and even home delivery for the really sick or recuperating from lengthy hospital stays.”

South Carolina Family and Community Leaders,
United States of America

“It has been a great inspiration and motivation, especially having to operate in a vacuum of two solid years of hard and soft lockdown where we could not hold formal sittings but only virtually with individual members whom we sought advice from in order to be effective and not to let the organisation collapse too far.

Having to operate an environment which can tend to be amazingly confusing bearing in mind its traditional politics amongst the bigger picture of the political landscape, socio-economic ills within an ethnic based populace, which should be embraced as such with the diversity of our members across the country having leaved its healthiest noticeable and ever evolving nation.

However, the up and downs were part of such journey within which, taught us most valuable lesson of loving each other, believing in ourselves, staying strong, never give up spirit, being kind, staying humble, and most importantly, keep on smiling, in pursuant of mobilising women to grow this organisation and living our motto beyond reasonable doubt.”

**Bafokeng Women’s Club,
South Africa**

“Covid impacted members ability to meet and hold events. Some are still reluctant to meet but we are slowly starting to see activities increase. Our fundraising came to a stand still and our ability to donate articles and money was interrupted.

Because of inactivity members lost the ability to fundraise to support any of our projects, scholarships, emergencies etc. Unfortunately ACWW took the biggest hit as we couldn’t support our sister groups in the South Pacific. The awareness of ACWW is starting to increase due to the work being done for the upcoming World Conference.”

**Country Women’s Association in Tasmania,
Australia**

“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, planned WAU projects were cancelled. New unplanned projects arise when the members of WAU jump in to provide machine made masks to hospitals and doctors rooms. They also knitted and crochet comfort blankets to sympathize with members that lost loved ones.”

**Women’s Agricultural Union Mpumalanga,
South Africa**

“Due to Covid-19, SFWI had to limit our physical activities and engagement with our members especially those from rural areas. However, we managed to overcome this by utilising online video conferencing through Zoom/Google Meet. We are proud to announce that our members from rural areas were able to learn using online apps to engage with SFWI.”

**Sarawak Federation of Women’s Institutes,
Malaysia**

“A few months before COVID arrived, my daughter who is a key worker on their farm, wife, mother, machinery operator, planner, accountant etc. etc. received a bad knock to her knee whilst drafting sheep in the sheep yards. Eventually it was agreed that surgery was the best option for recovery, an appointment was made at a city hospital and she was listed for surgery. Due to Covid restrictions she was released very quickly after surgery to travel home (a three to four hour trip) with her husband driving and her leg stretched across the back seat of the vehicle. After having to stop at a few roadblocks due to the decision that regional Western Australia would be divided to stop the likely spread of Covid, the remainder of the trip was painful and she was glad to get home to her own bed.

Boarding schools had opened for the year, and students were settling in nicely until it was decided that most education institutions would be closed. Boarders were sent home and learning would take place online. Sadly our youngest grandson who had just started as a boarder was not a fan of being away from home or of having to be schooled online and did not settle in well. He was very happy to be brought home! The changing face of boarding school over the past few years has had a very unsettling effect on many students.

A family meeting was held to consider who would be available to carry out the work requiring to be done on their dryland isolated property and it was agreed that they would not employ workers but keep safe by doing all of the work required themselves. Luckily the knee responded well to an exercise bike!

Western Australia has a very large fly-in/fly-out workforce and there has been a real shortage of labour in the metropolitan area over the past four years. Staff shortages occurred in most industries, especially Aged Care and Medical roles.

Access to professional services such as banking and financial advisors, as well as difficulty in obtaining medical appointments is still occurring. There is an ongoing housing shortage in the metropolitan area due to lack of tradesmen/tradeswomen.

Harvest 2022 was heading towards being the largest wheat harvest ever experienced in Western Australia. Once again farms were facing a critical shortage of skilled labour. Back to the family – it was agreed Mum would drive one header, daughter-in-law the other, eldest son would drive the semi loads into the upgraded Cooperative Bulk Handling facility in town. Dad would be the checker of fences, water points, sheep and cows, and chaser bin operator until boarding son came home for Christmas. I suspect food service may have been a little haphazard at times.”

**Anne Gething
State President, Country Women’s Association
of Western Australia Inc.,
Australia**



Ongoing Challenges

Now that much of the world has reopened and begun to adapt to a “new normal”, there remain ongoing inequalities and challenges faced by rural communities all over the world. Economic instability, ongoing conflict, isolation, climate-related disaster, and poor infrastructure still impact our members, so ACWW will continue to work to address these through amplifying the voices of our members at key policy-making platforms, and by funding grassroots community development projects.

Here you can read more about the challenges faced by ACWW members in reaching their areas, along with what keeps people from engaging with our work.

To call back to the first page of this report, we hope that seeing these challenges will remind us that we are all working towards the same goals, united in a desire to improve the living conditions of rural women, and we all face similar challenges.

The ACWW network was founded to facilitate a unified voice and collaborative work, and we hope that reading these stories will inspire us all to meet them with the resilience and innovation that Rural Women are known for.

“Our Federation holds a conference annually and this provides the ideal opportunity to update our members on the ongoing work of ACWW. Each institute is encouraged to appoint an International Officer who will pass on information to members at grassroots level concerning the great work done by ACWW, providing updates on how their donations are making such a difference in other women’s lives throughout the world.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we have been able to contribute a considerable sum each year to ACWW. Understandably, donations were down during the ‘Covid years’ but as things return to near normal, we hope to keep providing assistance for improving the lives of the women and children in greatest need.

‘Women Involved in family, friendship and community’ is the Federation’s motto – Women Involved in making a real difference to the lives of women and their families not just in Northern Ireland but through ACWW, worldwide.

Federation of Women’s Institutes of Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland

“Our greatest challenge has been the ongoing conflict which has displaced a lot of our members and the insecurity makes it more difficult to carry out activities in the rural areas. We now carry out projects in the rural areas but rely on the group leaders for reports, which means we aren’t sure of the execution and cannot guarantee sustainability. WEEN has found it very difficult to get members to donate, which can be attributed to their mentality. They feel they don’t have enough. It goes same with their dues. The situation is sometimes hard explaining the need to give your widows mite because most of these members are really poor. The economic situation too does not help as they most often can’t sell their products at a good price. We have been doing a lot of sensitisation but the present state of the governance and the crisis is not helpful. Hopefully those more empowered will realise the need to support and start contributing.”

Women’s Empowerment Enterprise Network,
Cameroon

“At club and state meetings we collected for Pennies for Friends (now Rural Women in Action Fund). Due to the lock downs of Covid-19, SCFCL members were not having club or state meetings so these funds weren’t collected. Now that we are slowly increasing our attendance at meetings, it seems like our members want to get back to the way our meetings were before the lock downs of Covid-19. Our members have been very generous over the years supporting ACWW on the international level, National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) on the national level and SCFCL on the state level but most important in each local community where we live and raise our families. We would have not lasted for over 100 years without the support of our dedicated members.”

South Carolina Family and Community Leaders,
United States of America

“Our members are aging out and it is harder to get younger people interested in these types of organizations. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Oregon FCE has sponsored monthly Zoom lessons given to FCE members and Friends of FCE, across the United States.

We feel donations have gone down because of not meeting in person, the financial crisis of record inflation, and a difficult time surviving day-to-day financially.”

Oregon Family and Community Education,
United States of America

“Our members are aging and unable to participate as they once did. One of our biggest challenges is attracting younger women to continue to support MAFCE. Our giving has declined just as our membership has. We need to make a greater effort to educate and inform our members about the importance of giving to ACWW and supporting women around the world.”

Missouri Family and Community Education,
United States of America



*Economic Empowerment for the Olmarurui Woman
Elite Community Development Empowerment Programme; Thika, Kenya*

“One challenge is communication with the older segment of our membership who do not do Zoom or use any form of social media. The lack of being able to physically be in contact with members, the lack of socialization with each other, not being able to enjoy each other and learn through programs offered by our organization”

**National Volunteer Outreach Network,
United States of America**

“Our current challenges are limited funding base, weakness in communication and advocacy skills, low dissemination of KAWODA achievements despite significant program results, and inadequate infrastructure to support programme growth and expansion needs”

**Kyenjojo Association of Women Development Actors,
Uganda**

“Donations have dropped significantly from almost \$7,700 in 2020 to just under \$1,000 in 2022. Inflation leading to significantly rising costs in the USA has impacted donations. But the forced cancellation or postponement of OHCE conferences, CWC conferences, and the delayed ACWW Triennial World Conference has played a role in the decrease. With these conference cancellations and postponements, focus on ACWW was diminished. It has been difficult to keep ACWW and its resolutions familiar and relevant to OHCE members. OHCE needs to better inform our members about the mission of ACWW and the relationship all OHCE members have with ACWW. As a result, possibly members will better understand that ACWW is a voice for change in the circumstances of rural women both abroad and at home. With a better understanding, members may be encouraged to donate individually and/or organize and participate in Women Walk the World events to raise money for additional donations to ACWW.”

**Oklahoma Home and Community Education,
United States of America**

“Our society has had major challenges, at the same time we have had to cope with the pandemic. These include severe drought, two catastrophic bushfire seasons that affected not only NSW but our neighbouring states of Victoria and Queensland and over 12 months of equally catastrophic flooding caused by torrential rains accompanied by severe winds. Severe flooding and savage bushfires left many areas with no homes, sanitation services and no clean water. This has meant immediate action to support our communities in many different ways such as financially, emergency shelter, bedding, food, heating etc. We are still experiencing outbreaks of Covid across the State. Covid has seen the tragic deaths of many frail, aged, and chronically ill patients; loss of income, closure of many businesses including vital services to our regional and remote areas, lack of adequate educational and health services, major strain on existing health and education providers and shortages of essential goods. As a State that imports many manufactured goods including food products and clothing, white goods and technical equipment, the border closures have caused major shortages that include shortages of essential treatments for diabetes and bacterial infections as well as electronic components, building supplies, and transport infrastructure. We are the most populated area of an island nation, far removed from the EU and we support our Pacific neighbours in many different ways.”

**Country Women’s Association of New South Wales,
Australia**

“Our major challenges are lack of funds for projects targeting rural women and lack of donors to fund for running costs including salaries and office accommodation rent. So our NGO is project-based because our programs are not 50% financed for activities.”

**Women Economic and Social Services,
Tanzania**

ACWW Funded Projects 2019-2023

In chronological order by Funding Meeting

September 2019

Project: 1050
Title: Skills Training towards a Brighter Future for Widows

Partner: Nari Unnayan Sangstha
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Barishal District, Bangladesh
Participants: 150 rural women
Grant: £7,024

Project: 1051
Title: Agricultural Training for Improved Food Security and Nutrition
Partner: Shape Lives International
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Volta Region, Ghana
Participants: 200 rural women farmers
Grant: £8,288

Project: 1052
Title: Mental Health Awareness in Rural India
Partner: Community Action for Rural Development
WE Fund Pot: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 4,000 high school, and college students
Grant: £3,534

Project: 1053
Title: Skill Development for Young Mukkuvar Women
Partner: Organisation for Community Development
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 45 young Mukkuvar women
Grant: £4,259

Project: 1054
Title: Safe Drinking Water for Families of Low Caste Arunthathiyar and Dalits
Partner: Women's Organisation for Rural Development
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 3,300 women
Grant: £4,259

Project: 1055
Title: Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion
Partner: Sain Tus Development Bridge
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Khovd Province, Mongolia
Participants: 40 women from female-headed households
Grant: £4,171

Project: 1056
Title: Literacy for Rural Women in Togo
Partner: Synergie d'Actions pour un Développement Approprié

WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Lome, Togo
Participants: 60 rural women farmers
Grant: £4,199

Project: 1057
Title: Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming; Supporting Vegetable Gardens
Partner: Ntengwe for Community Development
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Ntengwe Hwange District, Zimbabwe
Participants: 60 rural women farmers
Grant: £4,308

Project: 1058
Title: Conservation Agriculture for Tribal Women
Partner: Grameena Mahila Samstha
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Andhra Pradesh, India
Participants: 20 Yandhi tribal women
Grant: £2,445

Project: 1059
Title: Improving Access to Safe Water for Rural Women in Kisiwa
Partner: Ufanisi Women Group
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
Location: Bungoma County, Kenya
Participants: 800 rural women
Grant: £3,876

Project: 1060
Title: Beekeeping for Economic Empowerment
Partner: Universal Farmers Association
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Bong County, Liberia
Participants: 25 rural women farmers
Grant: £2,736

Project: 1061
Title: Economic Opportunities for Women Living with HIV/AIDS
Partner: Youth for Positive Change
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Zomba District, Malawi
Participants: 50 adolescent mothers and sex workers
Grant: £3,156

Project: 1062
Title: Introducing an Alternative Rite of Passage to Combat Female Genital Mutilation
Partner: Empowerment of Marginalised Communities
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Simaniro District, Tanzania
Participants: 110 high school students
Grant: £4,666

Project: 1063
Title: Empowering Women with Business Training and Skill Building
Partner: Tanzania People Development Organization
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Mara Region, Tanzania
Participants: 105 young marginalised women
Grant: £3,069

Project: 1064
Title: Income Generation through Training and Cooperation
Partner: Tanzania Women Social Economic Development & Human Rights Org.
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Nyankumbu Geita District, Tanzania
Participants: 100 women and girls
Grant: £2,997

Project: 1065
Title: Improved Nutrition for Women Living with HIV/AIDS
Partner: Action for Disadvantaged People
WE Fund Pot: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Wakiso District, Uganda
Participants: 25 women & children living with HIV/AIDS
Grant: £2,509

Project: 1066
Title: Installing Solar Lighting Facilities to Improve Maternal and Infant Healthcare
Partner: Kiwanyi Health Centre
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Iganga District, Uganda
Participants: 830 pregnant mothers and midwives
Grant: £2,456

Project: 1067
Title: Drought Mitigation through Alternative Water Management
Partner: Voluntary Efforts for Community Health
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
Location: Mukono District, Uganda
Participants: 420 grandmothers and grandchildren
Grant: £3,077

Project: 1068
Title: Mushroom Farming and Agribusiness Development
Partner: Kisumu Disabled Self-help Group
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Kisumu County, Kenya
Participants: 30 women with disabilities
Grant: £4,376

September 2020

Project: 1069 [CANCELLED]

Project: 1070
Title: Value Addition Opportunities for Female Farmers
Partner: Success Trust
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Tamil Nadu, India

Participants: 40 female farmers.
Grant: £6,039

Project: 1071
Title: Safe Water for Tribal Communities
Partner: Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation, & Energy
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 1,600 community members from Irual and Aadhiayan tribal villages Dalit communities
Grant: £4,984

Project: 1072
Title: Increased Economic Opportunities for Female Farmers
Partner: Women's Education and Employment Development Society
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 105 from female headed households
Grant: £4,469

Project: 1073
Title: Midwifery Skills for Community Health Workers
Partner: MamaCare Ghana
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Volta Region, Ghana
Participants: 15 Community Health Workers
Grant: £3,767

Project: 1074
Title: El Niño Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development Foundation
Partner: Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Location: Mindanao, Philippines
Participants: 700 rural women and their families
Grant: £8,199

Project: 1075
Title: Essential Life Skills for Young Mothers
Partner: Community Initiatives for Rural Development
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Meru County, Kenya
Participants: 520 young and adolescent mothers
Grant: £3,748

Project: 1076
Title: Erussi and Ndhew Community Water Projects
Partner: CUWEDE COD LAB
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Location: Nebbi District, Uganda
Participants: 2,900 from five villages.
Grant: £2,798

Project: 1077
Title: Financial literacy for Tribal Community Women
Partner: Children Watch
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 100 Irula tribal women, recently released from bonded labour
Grant: £2,739

Project: 1078
Title: Sustainable Farming Practices for Economic Growth
Partner: Green Global Promotion Organization
WE Fund Pot: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Musoma District, Tanzania
Participants: 30 rural women farmers and their children
Grant: £2,817

Project: 1079
Title: Health and Sanitation Awareness Raising for Disabled Communities
Partner: KADIWOD Kasese District Women with Disabilities
WE Fund Pot: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Kasese, Uganda
Participants: 200 women and girls living with disabilities
Grant: £3,583

Project: 1080
Title: Goat farming for Dalit Arunthathiar Women
Partner: Rural Organization for Social Education and Development
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 30 members of Dalit scavenging communities
Grant: £3,583

Project: 1081
Title: Jikwamue Social Enterprise Hub
Partner: Umoja wa wawezeshaji KIOO
WE Fund Pot: General Projects Fund
Location: Kigoma, Tanzania
Participants: 200 young women and girls
Grant: £3,800

Project: 1082
Title: Economic Opportunities through Agribusiness
Partner: Tingathe Development Forum
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.
Location: Nkhotakota, Malawi
Participants: 50 rural women
Grant: £2,795

Project: 1083
Title: Improving Rural Girl's Menstrual Sanitation and Hygiene
Partner: Youth with a Focus Teso
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Soroti, Uganda
Participants: 600 including schoolgirls, school drop-outs and community stakeholders.
Grant: £2,838

Project: 1084
Title: Promoting Girl's Education
Partner: CINTA Foundation Uganda (CFU)
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Kayunga District, Uganda
Participants: 100 primary school children in grade 6 & 7
Grant: £2,769

Project: 1085
Title: Tailoring training for Women living with HIV/AIDS
Partner: Efforts Integrated Development Foundation

WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Kampala, Uganda
Participants: 50 young women living with HIV/AIDS
Grant: £2,985

Project: 1086
Title: Safe Menstrual Health Management for Tribal Communities
Partner: Institute of Research and Development for the Rural Poor Trust
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 20 rural tribal women
Grant: £3,681

Project: 1087
Title: Income Generation for Female Headed Households
Partner: Kitabu Integrate Development Association
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Kasese, Uganda
Participants: 52 women from female headed households
Grant: £3,458

Project: 1088
Title: Mabuye Village Water Project
Partner: Kagera Woman and Aids Organisation
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Location: Mabuye village, Missenyi Dist. Kagera, Tanzania
Participants: 4,280 community members from Mabuye
Grant: £3,740

Project: 1089
Title: Goats for Empowerment
Partner: Pallisa Children's Concern Project
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.
Location: Budaka District, Uganda
Participants: 100 women & girls, female-headed households
Grant: £2,928

Project: 1090
Title: Vocational Training for Economic Independence
Partner: Paramedical Educational Trust
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 60 women and young girls
Grant: £1,764

Project: 1091
Title: Sexual and Productive Health and Rights Education for Adolescent Girls
Partner: Society for Women's Education and Awareness Development
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 950 adolescent girls
Grant: £2,724

Project: 1091
Title: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Education for Adolescent Girls
Partner: Society for Women's Education and Awareness Development
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: Tamil Nadu, India

Participants: 950 adolescent girls
Grant: £2,724

February 2021

Project: 1092
Title: Handloom Weaving for Sustainable Income Generation
Partner: Association for the Social Educational and Charitable Activities for the Poor Communities
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Andhra Pradesh, India
Participants: 40 rural women
Grant: £4,012

Project: 1093
Title: Health Assessment & Education in Rural Communities
Partner: Buddha Outcast Social Society
WE Fund Pot: Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 2,500 adolescent girls and young women
Grant: £2,385

Project: 1094
Title: Improved Skills in Poultry Production
Partner: Courage Women Group
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Volta Region, Ghana
Participants: 20 local indigenous women
Grant: £2,503

Project: 1095
Title: Economic Empowerment for the Olmarurui Woman
Partner: Elite Community Development Empowerment Programme
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Thika, Kenya
Participants: 200 Maasai Women
Grant: £3,427

Project: 1096
Title: Community Well for Better Health and Hygiene
Partner: Gitaru Marigu Development Group
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Location: Kisii, Kenya
Participants: 5,000 rural community members
Grant: £4,112

Project: 1097
Title: Economic Empowerment of Women Farmers through Climate-Smart Agriculture
Partner: Grass-root Rural Opportunities for Women
WE Fund Pot: General Projects Fund
Location: Volta Region, Ghana
Participants: 30 women small-holders
Grant: £2,782

Project: 1098
Title: Agricultural Skills for Nachampama Women
Partner: Kashitu Development Organization
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Luapula Province, Zambia
Participants: 250 women farmers
Grant: £2,958

Project: 1099
Title: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Tanzanian Youth
Partner: Reaching the Unreached Tanzania
WE Fund Pot: Maternal and Reproductive Health
Location: The Dodoma & Iringa regions, Tanzania
Participants: 2,000 adolescent girls and young women
Grant: £3,893

Project: 1100
Title: Goats for the Goals
Partner: Vasantham Pengal Sanfam
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 100 women from self-help groups
Grant: £3,194

Project: 1101
Title: Nutrition Education and Food Production for Yanadi Tribal Women
Partner: Village Reconstruction and Development Society
WE Fund Pot: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Andhra Pradesh, India
Participants: 40 women from Yanadi tribal communities
Grant: £2,078

Project: 1102
Title: A Step in a New Direction
Partner: Women for Life Development Initiative
WE Fund Pot: General Project Fund
Location: Wakiso District, Uganda
Participants: 90 rural women
Grant: £2,215

October 2021

Project: 1103
Title: Seed grants for Sustainable Farming
Partner: Education Communication & Dev. Trust
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 44 women farmers
Grant: £6,763

Project: 1104
Title: Empowerment through Vocational Skill Training
Partner: Give Them Hope
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Nimba County, Liberia
Participants: 75 adolescent girls and young women
Grant: £8,116

Project: 1105
Title: Rural School Empowerment Project
Partner: Safeplan Uganda
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Dev.
Location: Masindi, Uganda
Participants: 75 adolescent girls and young women
Grant: £8,116

Project: 1106 [CANCELLED]

Project: 1107
Title: Seeds of Change
Partner: Association for Human Integrated Massive Social Action

WE Fund Pot:	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing	Partner:	Star Awake CBO
Location:	Tamil Nadu, India	WE Fund Pot:	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Participants:	30 small-scale female farmers	Location:	Bungoma County, Kenya
Grant:	£2,615	Participants:	250 community members
Project:	1108	Grant:	£4,018
Title:	Value Added Crops	Project:	1116
Partner:	Babuyirana Women Group	Title:	Kitchen Gardens for Community Growth
WE Fund Pot:	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing	Partner:	Vaigai Mahalir Iyakkam
Location:	Kamwenge, Uganda	WE Fund Pot:	Income Generation and Livelihood
Participants:	43 women's group members	Location:	Tamil Nadu, India
Grant:	£3,001	Participants:	25 rural women
Project:	1109	Grant:	£2,952
Title:	Climate Smart Agriculture through Greenhouse Production	Project:	1117
Partner:	Hohoe Sankofa Women Co-operative Food Farmers	Title:	Improving Access to Water for Marginalised Communities
WE Fund Pot:	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing	Partner:	Youth Active in Community Development
Location:	Volta Region, Ghana	WE Fund Pot:	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Participants:	30 women's cooperative members	Location:	Blantyre Rural South Ward, Malaw
Grant:	£2,897	Participants:	13,000 rural community members
Project:	1110	Grant:	£4,989
Title:	Gender Equality Through the Prevention and Eradication of FGM	Project:	1118
Partner:	Hope Foundation for African Women	Title:	Go Girls Project
WE Fund Pot:	Maternal and Reproductive Health	Partner:	Youth and Women for Opportunities Uganda
Location:	Nyamira County, Kenya	WE Fund Pot:	Education and Capacity Building
Participants:	65 members of the Abagusii community	Location:	Serere District, Uganda
Grant:	£4,964	Participants:	30 adolescent girls and young women
Project:	1111	Grant:	£4,974
Title:	Building Resilience through Climate Smart Agriculture	Project:	1119
Partner:	Iseguri Initiative	Title:	Intercropping for Increased Small-scale Farming
WE Fund Pot:	Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.	Partner:	Youth and Women for Social and Economic Empowerment
Location:	Oti Region, Ghana	WE Fund Pot:	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Participants:	100 small-holder women's collective members	Location:	Wakiso District, Uganda
Grant:	£3,636	Participants:	31 Rural Women farmers
Project:	1112	Grant:	£2,085
Title:	Ogongo Dispensary Water Project	April 2022	
Partner:	Ogongo Dispensary	Project:	1120
WE Fund Pot:	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy	Title:	Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Domestic Violence
Location:	Migori County, Kenya	Partner:	Sain Tus Development Bridge
Participants:	5,500 health centre users	WE Fund Pot:	General Projects Fund
Grant:	£2,704	Location:	Khov Region, Mongolia
Project:	1113	Participants:	100 survivors of domestic violence
Title:	Improved Maternal Health through Ambassador Programme	Grant:	£5,236
Partner:	Rural Aid Foundation	Project:	1121
WE Fund Pot:	Maternal and Reproductive Health	Title:	Improving Rural Women's Access to Safe Water
Location:	Kibaale District, Uganda	Partner:	Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative
Participants:	1,250 adolescent girls and young women	WE Fund Pot:	Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Grant:	£4,964	Location:	Kasese District, Uganda
Project:	1114	Participants:	110 rural women
Title:	Nutrition for Life	Grant:	£2,227
Partner:	Rural Empowerment Women Organization	Project:	1122
WE Fund Pot:	Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing	Title:	Improving Awareness, Access and Utilization of Friendly, Responsive and Inclusive Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights
Location:	Kasese District, Uganda	Partner:	Heart for Girls Initiative
Participants:	110 new mothers, and babies	WE Fund Pot:	Maternal and Reproductive Health
Grant:	£2,866	Location:	Kayunga District, Uganda
Project:	1115		
Title:	Sustainable Water for Sikata Village		

Participants: 2,000 adolescent girls and young women
Grant: £2,285

Project: 1123
Title: ICT Training Hub for Women's Empowerment
Partner: Muwanga Development Association
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Kiboga District, Uganda
Participants: 100 young women and parents
Grant: £3,814

Project: 1124
Title: Economic Empowerment for Single Mothers through Training in Agriculture and Nutrition
Partner: Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project
WE Fund Pot: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
Location: Buganda District, Uganda
Participants: 200 single mothers
Grant: £4,982

Project: 1125
Title: Weaving Skills for Disabled Women & Girls
Partner: United for Future Mothers Organisation
WE Fund Pot: General Projects Fund
Location: Kamwenge District, Uganda
Participants: 35 women with disabilities
Grant: £3,215

Project: 1126
Title: Promoting Food Security and Regenerative Farming for Refugee Women & Youth Farmers
Partner: Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment
WE Fund Pot: General Projects Fund
Location: Mubende District, Uganda
Participants: 50 members of the Nakivale refugee settlement
Grant: £4,989

Project: 1127
Title: Empowering Vulnerable Women and Girls
Partner: Youth with A Focus Teso
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.
Location: Soroti District, Uganda
Participants: 100 young women and girls from the Karamojong communities
Grant: £3,398

December 2022

Project: 1128
Title: Agricultural Products Processing
Partner: Synergie d'Actions pour un Développement Approprié
WE Fund Pot: Income Generation and Livelihood
Location: Lome, Togo
Participants: 30 rural women
Grant: £8,324

Project: 1129
Title: After School Education for Rural Children
Partner: Community Action for Rural Development
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 300 school children
Grant: £7,893

Project: 1130
Title: Vocational Training for Sustainable Livelihoods
Partner: Community Concerns Uganda
WE Fund Pot: Education and Capacity Building
Location: Jinja and Mayuge Districts, Uganda
Participants: 100 young out-of-school mothers
Grant: £9,974

Project: 1131
Title: Entrepreneurship Training Programme for Unemployed Rural Women
Partner: Heritage Charity Foundation
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.
Location: Bono District, Uganda
Participants: 100 unemployed rural women
Grant: £8,399

Project: 1132
Title: Ensuring Seed Security through Community Seed Banks
Partner: Ntengwe for Community Development
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.
Location: Ntengwe Hwange District, Zimbabwe
Participants: 150 rural women farmers
Grant: £9,873

Project: 1133
Title: Accessible Drinking Water for Fisher Folk
Partner: Organisation for Community Development
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
Location: Tamil Nadu, India
Participants: 240 women in Mukkuvar Coastal Community
Grant: £9,044

Project: 1134
Title: Draught Impacts and Mitigation Strategies
Partner: Voice for Change
WE Fund Pot: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Dev.
Location: Jiwaka Province, Papua New Guinea
Participants: 500 rural women farmers
Grant: £5,700

ACWW Member Societies in 2023

Canada

Alberta Women's Institutes	Canada	National Farmers Union	Canada
British Columbia Women's Institute	Canada	New Brunswick Women's Institute	Canada
Eastern Ontario Women's Institute	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes	Canada
Federated Women's Insitutes of Ontario	Canada	Prince Edward Island Women's Institute	Canada
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada	Canada	Quebec Women's Institutes	Canada
Langley Willoughby Women's Community Institute	Canada	Rivers Women's Institute	Canada
Les Cercles De Fermieres Du Quebec	Canada	Southern Ontario Support	Canada
Manitoba Women's Institute	Canada	Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia	Canada

Caribbean, Central, and South America

Grenada Homemakers Association Birch Grove	Grenada	Jamaica Federation of Women	Jamaica
Guyana Federation of Women's Institutes	Guyana	Trinidad & Tobago Federation of Women's Institutes	Trinidad and Tobago

Central and South Asia

All Pakistan Women's Association	Pakistan	Samunnat Nepal	Nepal
Association for the Social Education and Charitable Activities for the Poor Communities	India	Saraswathi	India
Bangladesh Mahila Samity	Bangladesh	Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association	India
Bethany Ministries	India	Sarojini Naidu Rural Welfare and Educational Trust	India
Community Action for Rural Development	India	Satata Development Society	Bangladesh
Country Women's Association of India	India	Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust	India
Digambarpur Angkar	India	Society of Daughters Mary Immaculate	India
Disabled Women Development Organisation	Bangladesh	Success Trust	India
Education Communication and Development Trust	India	Tamil Nadu Women's Collective	India
Gorkha Womens Association	India	Village Reconstruction and Development Society	India
Indian National Commission	India	Village Social Association	Bangladesh
Lanka Mahila Samiti Training Centre	Sri Lanka	Women Empowerment And Environmental Development Organisation	Bangladesh
Nari Unnayan Sangstha	Bangladesh	Women's Education & Employment Development Society	India
Nest	Sri Lanka	Women's Organisation for Rural Development	India
Omalur Block Women Welfare Uplift Organization	India		
Organisation For Community Development	India		
People's Association for Community Health Education (PACHE) Trust	India		

East, West, and Central Africa

African Research And Training	Ethiopia	Reach Out Cameroon	Cameroon
Biwon Women Association	Cameroon	Safeplan Uganda	Uganda
Centre for Development Studies	Ghana	Saint Ann Foundation	Uganda
Changing Mentalities & Empowering Groups	Cameroon	Synergie d'Actions pour un Developpement Approprié	Togo
Community Concerns Uganda	Uganda	The Trust of Daughters of Mary Immaculate	Tanzania
Development for Humanity	Uganda	Vocational Agency For Wisdom	Cameroon
East Africa Women's League	Kenya	Women Economic and Social Services	Tanzania
Efforts Integrated Development Foundation	Uganda	Women Rights Initiative	Uganda
Environment Liaison Centre	Kenya	Women's Empowerment Enterprise Network	Cameroon
Fonge Women's Group	Cameroon	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Sierra Leone
Give them Hope Inc	Liberia	Yes Empowerment Services	Uganda
Heritage Charity Foundation	Ghana		
In Need Home	Uganda		
Kenya Water for Health Organisation	Kenya		
Kyenjojo Assoc. of Women Development Actors	Uganda		
Mambi Women's Group	Cameroon		

Europe

Abberley WI	England	Four Marks Afternoon Women's Institute	England
Aberdeenshire SWRI	Scotland	Giggleswick Women's Institute	England
Aberporth WI	Wales	Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes	Wales
Africa Now	England	Glenisla Scottish Women's Institute	Scotland
Allerton WI	England	Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Allithwaite & Cartmel WI	England	Gracehill & Galgorm W.I.	Northern Ireland
Amantia Association	Albania	Guernsey Island Federation of Women's Institutes	Guernsey
Aperfield Women's Institute	England	Gwent Federation of Women's Institutes	Wales
Arnside & Arnside Knott Women's Institute	England	Hampshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Aspull and Haigh WI	England	Hatch Beauchamp Women's Institute	England
Association of Agricultural Journalists	Serbia	Heath Charnock Women's Institute	England
Association of Estea Meteras	Greece	Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Avon Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Hertfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Ayton Branch Scottish Women's Institutes	Scotland	Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation of WIs	England
Ballyclare Women's Institute	Northern Ireland	Ightham Women's Institute	England
Ballygrainey Women's Institutes	Northern Ireland	Institutul Femeilor	Romania
Ballymun Guild Irish Countrywomen's Association	Ireland	Intermediate Technology Development Group	England
Bearsted & Thurnham Women's Institute	England	Irish Countrywomen's Association	Ireland
Beckley Women's Institute	England	Isle of Ely Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Bedfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Jersey Federation of Women's Institutes	Channel Islands
Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Kingston Women's Institute	England
Binegar Women's Institute	England	Kiskunság Association of Women	Hungary
Bisley WI	England	Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK	Netherlands
Botley Women's Institute	England	Kventilagasamband Islands	Iceland
Brockham Evening WI	England	Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Landfrauenverband Hessen Ev	Germany
Burnt Cakes Women's Institute	England	Langley Women's Institute	England
Caerleon Women's Institute	Wales	Largie Scottish Women's Institute	Scotland
Cambridge Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs	England
Catsfield Women's Institute	England	Lincolnshire North Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Cavan Guild Irish Countrywomen's Association	Ireland	Lincolnshire South Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Ceredigion Federation of Women's Institutes	Wales	Littleton & Harestock Women's Institute	England
Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Llanfairfechan Women's Institute	Wales
Chislehurst Women's Institute	England	Llantilio Crossenny Women's Institute	Wales
Cleeve by Goring Women's Institute	England	Lundie Women's Institute	Scotland
Clwyd-Denbigh Federation of Women's Institutes	Wales	Lyghe Women's Institute	England
Corbridge Women's Institute	England	Marden Women's Institute	England
Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes	England	MARTA Centre	Latvia
Cortachy Scottish Women's Institutes	Scotland	Middlesex Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Cove & Farnborough Women's Institute	England	Moira Women's Institute	Northern Ireland
Cowplain Women's Institute	England	Nateby & Wharton Women's Institute	England
Crawley Down Afternoon WI	England	National Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Crook WI	England	Norfolk Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Cumbria-Cumberland Federation of WIs	England	Norges Bygdekvinnelag	Norway
Cumbria-Westmorland Federation of WIs	England	Norges Kvinne Og Familieforbund	Norway
Dalston WI	England	North Yorkshire West Federation of WIs	England
Derbyshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Northamptonshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Devon Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Nottinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Dunmow WI	England	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Durham County Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
E-Quality	Netherlands	Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Earl Stonham Women's Institute	England	Pembrokeshire Federation of Women's Institutes	Wales
East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Ponther Women's Institute	Wales
East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Pontllanfraith WI	Wales
English Cultural Centre of Vitebsk	Belarus	Rathfriland Women's Institute	Northern Ireland
Farningham Women's Institute	England	Riksförbundet Hem och Samhälle	Sweden
Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Saaniku Village Development Society	Estonia
Findern and Friends Women's Institute	England	Schweizerischer Landfrauen-Verband	Switzerland
Flamborough Women's Institute	England	Scottish Women's Institutes	Scotland

Selborne WI	England	The Farleighs WI	England
Shedfield Women's Institute	England	The Woman of the Third Millennium	Romania
Shiskine Women's Institute	Scotland	Titchfield Abbey Women's Institute	England
Shoreham Beach Women's Institute	England	Vrouwen Van Nu (Nbvp)	Netherlands
Shropshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Warlingham Evening Women's Institute	England
Sidlesham Women's Institute	England	Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Sir Gar Carmarthenshire Federation of WIs	Wales	West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Somerset County Federation of Women's Institutes	England	West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes	England
South Street Women's Institute	England	West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institute	England	Wicklow Federation I.C.A.	Ireland
Steeple Ashton Women's Institute	England	Wig & District Women's Institute	Wales
Stoke Road Sisters Women's Institute	England	Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Storth Women's Institute	England	Women in Development	England
Suffolk East Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Women's Association from Sibiu-County	Romania
Suffolk West Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Women's Union of Russia	Russian Federation
Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Wookey Hole WI	England
Sway WI	England	Worcestershire Federation of Women's Institutes	England
Teesside Federation of Women's Institutes	England	Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association	England
Templepatrick Women's Institute	Northern Ireland		

South East Asia and the Far East

Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development (WAND) Foundation	Philippines	National Association of Women's Institutes of Peninsular Malaysia	Malaysia
Brunei Women's Institute	Brunei	Sarawak Federation of Women's Institutes	Malaysia
Foundation For Empowerment of Rural Women	Mongolia	PERWARI	Indonesia
Sabah Nurses Association	Malaysia	Guild of Catholic Nurses of Malaysia	Malaysia
Women's Institute of Pahang Malaysia	Malaysia	Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO	Mongolia

South Pacific

Alola Foundation	East Timor	CWA of NSW Enngonia Branch	Australia
Aloua Ma'a Tonga Association	Tonga	CWA of NSW Euberta Branch	Australia
Change 4 Life Foundation PNG inc.	Papua New Guinea	CWA of NSW Eurongilly Branch	Australia
Christmas Island Women's Association	Australia	CWA of NSW Exeter Branch	Australia
Country Women's Association in Tasmania Inc	Australia	CWA of NSW Gilgandra Evening Branch	Australia
Country Women's Association of New South Wales	Australia	CWA of NSW Gollan Branch	Australia
Country Women's Association of the Northern Territory Inc.	Australia	CWA of NSW Goulburn Branch	Australia
Country Women's Association of Western Australia	Australia	CWA of NSW Goulburn Evening Branch	Australia
CWA Gisborne Day Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Grafton Branch	Australia
CWA Lisarow-Ourimbah Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Gundagai Branch	Australia
CWA North Star Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Gunnedah Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Bangalow Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Hillston Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Belconnen Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Hume Group	Australia
CWA of NSW Bellarwi Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Jamberoo Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Bellingen Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Jerangle Peak View Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Belmont Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Jindera Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Bermagui and District Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Kurrajong Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Berridale Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Kyogle Evening Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Berry Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Leura Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Bowral Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Macksville	Australia
CWA of NSW Bungendore Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Maitland City Evening Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Burren Junction Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Manilla Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Canberra Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Medowie Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Canberra Evening Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Milton District Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Carcoar-Mandurama Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Morisset Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Cooma Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Moruya Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Dorriggo Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Moss Vale Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Dubbo Evening Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Mudgee Evening Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW East Maitland Branch	Australia	CWA of NSW Narooma Branch	Australia
		CWA of NSW Narrandera Branch	Australia

CWA of NSW Narromine Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Nathalia Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Nelson Bay Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Nhill/Twilight Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Northumberland Group	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Pascoe Vale Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Nowra Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Ringwood Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Old Bonalbo Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Romsey Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Orange Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Thoona Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Oura Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Warrnambool Night Owls	Australia
CWA of NSW Pambula-Merimbula	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Webbcona Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Park Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Woorayl Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Pleasant Hills Branch	Australia	CWA of Victoria Inc. Yarrawonga & Border Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Port Macquarie Branch	Australia	CWA of Western Australia Dunsborough Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Rankins Springs Branch	Australia	CWA of Western Australia Kwinana & Districts	Australia
CWA of NSW Richmond Branch	Australia	CWA of Western Australia Manjimup Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Sawtell Branch	Australia	El-Bethel 24 Hr Interchurch Prayer Network	Papua New Guinea
CWA of NSW Singleton Branch	Australia	Kiribati Irekenrao Women's Organisation	Kiribati
CWA of NSW Southern Highlands Evening Branch	Australia	Kuk Women's Empowering Association	Papua New Guinea
CWA of NSW Tarago Branch	Australia	Mubalu Women of Hope Federation	Papua New Guinea
CWA of NSW Tarcutta Branch	Australia	Papua New Guinea Women's Association of NSW	Australia
CWA of NSW Terrigal Evening Branch	Australia	Police Mothers Association	Papua New Guinea
CWA of NSW Toongabbie Branch	Australia	Queensland Country Women's Association	Australia
CWA of NSW Umina Beach	Australia	QCWA Atholwood Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Ungarie Branch	Australia	QCWA Beerwah Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Walgett Branch	Australia	QCWA Capricornia Division	Australia
CWA of NSW Wallamba Branch	Australia	QCWA Coolangatta Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Wellington Branch	Australia	QCWA Eumundi Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Willala Branch	Australia	QCWA Palmwoods Branch	Australia
CWA of NSW Woy Woy Branch	Australia	Rural Women New Zealand	New Zealand
CWA of NSW Yarrahapinni Branch	Australia	Rural Women New Zealand Rimaniui Branch	New Zealand
CWA of Papua New Guinea Boroko Branch	Papua New Guinea	RWNZ South Canterbury Branch	New Zealand
CWA of Papua New Guinea Giligili Branch	Papua New Guinea	Rural Women New Zealand Southland Interprovincial	New Zealand
CWA of the NT Groote Eylandt Branch	Australia	Rural Women New Zealand Taranaki Area Branch	New Zealand
CWA of Victoria Inc. Alphington Branch	Australia	Solomon Islands Rural Women's Assoc's & Groups	Solomon Islands
CWA of Victoria Inc. Barnawartha Branch	Australia	South Australian Country Women's Association	Australia
CWA of Victoria Inc. Bayside Branch	Australia	The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.	Australia
CWA of Victoria Inc. Boroondara Branch	Australia	Voice for Change	Papua New Guinea
CWA of Victoria Inc. Bundalaguah Branch	Australia	Women in Agriculture and Business Cunliffe Branch	Australia
CWA of Victoria Inc. Central Highlands Branch	Australia	WAB Lochaber Branch	Australia
CWA of Victoria Inc. Corowa Branch	Australia	WAB of South Australia Inc	Australia
CWA of Victoria Inc. Cranbourne Branch	Australia	WAB Padthaway Branch	Australia
CWA of Victoria Inc. Meeniyah Branch	Australia	WAB Wirrega Branch	Australia

Southern Africa

Bafokeng Women's Club	South Africa	Ntengwe for Community Development	Zimbabwe
Boiteko Women's Association	Lesotho	Programme for Vulnerable Children & Women	Zambia
Die Dameskring	South Africa	South African Union of Homemakers Clubs	South Africa
Edna Publications	Senegal	South African Women's Agricultural Union	South Africa
Francistown Women's Institute	Botswana	Trust of Daughters of Mary Immaculate & Collaborators	Zambia
Free State Women's Agricultural Union	South Africa	Women's Agricultural Union (VLU) Mpumalanga	South Africa
Kwazulu-Natal Federation of Women's Institutes	South Africa	Women's Agricultural Union North	South Africa
Namibian Women's Society	Namibia	Women's Agricultural Union Overvaal	South Africa
North West Women's Agricultural Union	South Africa		

United States of America

Alabama Homemakers and Community Leaders	United States of America	Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs	United States of America
Arizona Family and Community Education	United States of America	Illinois Association for Home & Community Education	United States of America
Arkansas Extension Homemaker Association	United States of America	Indiana Extension Homemakers Association	United States of America
Colorado State Master Farm Homemakers Guild	United States of America	Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild	United States of America
Country Women's Council	United States of America	Kansas Association for Family & Community Education	United States of America
Florida Association of Home & Community Educators	United States of America	Kansas National Master Farm Homemakers Guild	United States of America

Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association	United States of America	North Carolina Extension and Community Association, Inc	United States of America
Kentucky Master Farm Homemakers Guild	United States of America	North Dakota Family & Community Education	United States of America
Maryland Association for Family and Community Education	United States of America	Ohio Homemakers & Community Education	United States of America
Media Report to Women	United States of America	Oklahoma Home and Community Education	United States of America
Michigan Community Education Outreach	United States of America	Oregon Association for Family and Community Education	United States of America
Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association	United States of America	Shelby County Extension Homemakers Association	United States of America
Mississippi Family & Community Education	United States of America	South Carolina Family and Community Leaders	United States of America
Missouri Family and Community Education	United States of America	Washington State Home & Community Educators	United States of America
National Association for Family and Community Education	United States of America	West Virginia Community Outreach Educational Service	United States of America
National Master Farm Homemakers Guild	United States of America	Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education	United States of America
National Volunteer Outreach Network Inc.	United States of America	Woman's National Farm & Garden Inc	United States of America
New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family	United States of America		



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