



**RURAL
WOMEN
IN ACTION**

ACWW in 2019

Summary of the 2019 Annual Report & Accounts
of the Associated Country Women of the World

1929

ACWW is founded,
born from the International
Council of Women

ACWW becomes a Charitable
Incorporated Organisation with
CIO number 1174798

2017

2019

The Membership of ACWW ratify
the Constitution adopted on
22 September 2017 at the 29th
Triennial World Conference in
Melbourne, Australia in
May 2019



International Reach

ACWW has members in 84 countries

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



Board of Trustees

The new Board of Trustees was elected in April 2019 at the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia. They were:



World President
Magdie de Kock (South Africa)



Deputy World President
Alison Burnett (Scotland)



Secretary
Christine Rearburn (Canada)



Treasurer
Ruth Cargill (Australia)*



Communications & Marketing
Committee Chairman
Sheila Needham (Canada)



Projects Committee
Chairman
Maybel Moyo (Zimbabwe)**



United Nations Committee
Chairman
Marie Kenny (Canada)



Area President:
Canada
Linda Hoy (Canada)



Area President: Caribbean,
Central & South America
Irene Hinds (Trinidad & Tobago)



Area President:
Central & South Asia
Sr. Lucas Arul Seeli (India)***



Area President:
East, West, and Central Africa
Irene Chinje (Cameroon)



Area President:
Europe
Afrodita Roman (Romania)



Area President:
South East Asia & the Far East
Norjanah Razali (Malaysia)



Area President:
Southern Africa
Anphia Grobler (South Africa)§



Area President:
South Pacific
Gail Commens (Australia)



Area President:
United States of America
Bonnie Teeples



Projects Committee Chairman
(June 2020-)
Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland)



Area President: Southern
Africa (October 2019 -)
Dr Marina Muller (Namibia)

* Ruth Cargill resigned in June 2020, and Deputy World President Alison Burnett is now Acting Treasurer
** Maybel Moyo passed away in June 2020, and Edwina Marr of Northern Ireland was co-opted to complete the Triennium
*** Sr. Lucas Arul Seeli was removed from the Board in June 2020, and World President Magdie de Kock is acting Area President
§ Anphia Grobler resigned in October 2019, and Dr Marina Muller of Namibia was co-opted to complete the Triennium



The highlight of the year was the 29th Triennial World Conference held in May. This was a marvellous gathering of 560 delegates over six days in Melbourne. In addition to the resolutions passed, talks were heard, friendships were formed and it was a great opportunity to learn from each other and share knowledge.

The Triennial Report of Work included reports from all members of the Board and Committees and from over 80 member societies.

Held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the 29th Triennial World Conference was hosted by The Countrywomen's Association of Victoria, Inc. and supported by the Victoria State Government. The Board and Staff would

like to again extend their thanks to all those who volunteered and worked hard to ensure the Conference was a great success.

We were pleased that delegates had the opportunity to experience a taste of Aboriginal culture with a Welcome to Country, and a session on traditional foods and cooking techniques. Other Concurrent Sessions which proved very popular were the 'ACWW and the UN' talk which gave insight into exactly how ACWW uses the mechanisms of the United Nations to hold governments to account, and the 'Q&A' with the World President and CEO which allowed members the chance to ask any questions they had face to face.

Before the Conference opened, there were two days of leadership training for all candidates standing for election to the Board of Trustees. Whilst there were many familiar faces, this was also a fantastic opportunity for those standing for the first time to get a deeper understanding of ACWW's 'behind the scenes' working methods, and the obligations of a Charity Trustee in UK law. Amid two days of hard work, there was also a lot of fun and laughter!

Central Office

Located at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, the Central Office premises continues to serve ACWW well with multiple events held on site, as well housing the extensive archive and being the main place of work for ACWW's staff.

During 2019, there were staff changes at Central Office. Mrs Monica Tomlins' time as Office Assistant came to an end in September 2019, and Projects Administrator Ms Viktoria Dimitrova left in October 2019 to pursue a Postgraduate Degree. Mrs Susan Williams joined ACWW as Finance Manager in September 2019, and Ms Jenny Sellers joined as Projects Administrator in the same month, facilitating a handover from Viktoria before she left. Other staff remained in post throughout the year.



Of course the 29th Triennial World Conference also saw the retirement of ACWW's leadership team. World President Ruth Shanks A.M. stepped down after 8 years in post, and is pictured here with outgoing Deputy World President Margaret Yetman (2013-2019), Treasurer Heather Brennan (2016-2019), Secretary Henrietta Schoeman (2013-2019), and outgoing Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee Magdie de Kock (2013-2019). Of course Magdie de Kock was elected as the new World President and was handed the badge of office on the last day of the Triennial World Conference.

On the right you can see the standing ovation Ruth rightly received after chairing her final session of the Conference, one of Plenary Sessions when Ruth was joined by her travelling companion, and the new World President, Magdie de Kock.

After the Conference, Ruth's portrait was added to the wall of past World Presidents on display at Central Office.



New Policy Resolutions

At the 29th Triennial World Conference ACWW Members voted to adopt new policy Resolutions:

Registration of Old Landfills: Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge the governments of all countries to map and register the presence of old landfill sites. The register should record the presence of dangerous substances (if known) and the risk of future leakage. In addition, we urge each country to develop a strategy for the rehabilitation of these sites.

Protection of Shared Marine Environment, Sustainable Coral Reefs, and Fish Stocks: Be it resolved that Member societies of the ACWW request their Governments and Industries to take urgent action, as appropriate, to ensure the wise use and protection of the shared marine environment, to protect the sustainability of coral reefs and fish stocks for future generations.

Use of Plastics: Be it resolved that ACWW calls on all governments to regulate the use of plastics in packaging and manufacturing processes to reduce the impact of discarded plastic on the environment.

Action on Climate Change: Be it resolved that all ACWW member societies support the historic Paris Climate Agreement 2015 by taking action at local, national and international level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help build resilience within their communities to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Pollinator Protection: 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.

Elimination of Dog Mediated Rabies: Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World member societies support rabies education globally and support 'Zero by 30'. This initiative of the World Health Organisation, World Organisation for Animal Health, Food and Agriculture Organisation and Global Alliance for Rabies Control seeks to eliminate dog mediated rabies by 2030 through: rabies education programs on bite prevention, expanding dog rabies vaccination coverage to stop transmission, improving access to post exposure prophylaxis and by lobbying governments to provide the funds to achieve this.

Iron Deficiency: Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and health organizations to continue financing and supporting the research needed to eliminate the world-wide incidence of iron deficiency.

Gender Sensitive Health Care: Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organizations urge their governments to strive for gender sensitive health care by carrying out a gender analysis on all health policies as they are developed and before they are implemented.

Health and Nutrition for Women with Emphasis on Environmental Health: Be it resolved that ACWW gives high priority to programs relating to health and nutrition for rural women including provision of clean water, training in sanitation, hygiene and waste disposal which are of paramount importance to vulnerable rural communities. Where possible member societies should promote work with Governments and other non-governmental agencies in unison to achieve measurable improvements in malnutrition and environmental health for rural women.

Q or Query Fever: Be it resolved that ACWW Member Societies advocate to governments in their respective regions that increased funding be made available to: a) educate medical practitioners and alert all communities about the identification, treatment and prevention of Q fever, and b) if not already in place, implement a scheme to subsidise vaccination programs to prevent Q fever in high risk areas.

Textiles and Clothes: Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations put pressure upon all textile, footwear and apparel companies and manufacturers to ensure fair pay and working conditions, as suggested by current International Labour Organisation conventions and recommendations, for all their women workers.

Domestic Violence: Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge the governments of all countries and their agents to develop and implement strategies for the prevention of domestic violence.

Safe and Secure Access to Toilet Facilities for All: Be it resolved that ACWW and their members aim to raise the standard of living of rural women and their families by putting specific emphasis to Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goal for water and sanitation, by including special and appropriate sanitary facilities for people with disabilities, serious illnesses and the elderly.

Adoption of the New Constitution: Be it resolved that the constitution of the Associated Country Women of the World Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1174798, approved by the Charity Commission in September 2017, be formally adopted.

Adoption of Bye Laws, Standing Orders, and Rules of Procedure: Be it resolved that the Bye Laws, Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure be ratified and approved as amended and in line with the new Constitution.

Membership Subscriptions: Be it resolved that the membership subscription for Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 increase to: Category 1 £110, Category 2 £69, Category 3 £55, Category 4 £37, Category 5 Individual £27, Category 5 Individuals for 3 years £68 (currently £65).

Chairman of the Agriculture Committee: Be it resolved that the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee be a singular position on the Board and Executive.

Advocacy

Today rural women continue to face challenges that are interconnected, from the way climate change affects food growth and distribution, to the legal implications of governments weakening human rights treaties. So many of the issues identified by members in 1929 remain, and this is largely because governmental systems and ideas remain the same. We need to see systematic change to address these systemic problems, with the realisation that rural women are crucial to the lives of all humanity and must therefore be included in global, national, and local dialogues.

Over the past three years ACWW has used a series of different surveys to gather information on the reality of life for rural women, and our members all over the world. These are critically important, as it means we are collecting data - and the UN has identified a 'data gap' concerning rural women and therefore they are not counted or represented when governments take policy decisions. Gathering data about the living conditions of rural women means we can contribute to policy conversations at national and international levels, and make sure our members have evidence to support their own lobbying. These surveys are circulated by email and are promoted on our website and social media channels.

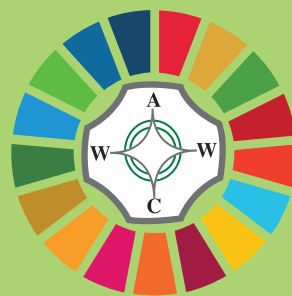
Each year, the United Nations convenes the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its Headquarters in New York. This is a two week gathering of governments, UN bodies, and civil society organisations and NGOs like ACWW - gather together to discuss women's rights and agree new standards for action. At CSW in 2019 ACWW, along with hundreds of other women's organisations around the world, told the Commission and its 193 member states that the social protection systems in place for women are woefully lacking. While the Covid-19 pandemic is a global disaster, a strong civil society that advocates for the most vulnerable members of communities can help to mitigate the impact of these disasters by holding governments to account and seeking a better future. As ever, ACWW is committed to amplifying the voices of Rural Women to achieve this goal.



International Forum on Rural Women

2131
responses

94
countries



ACWW continues in its commitment to the SDGs

ACWW
presented
responses
at HLPF

Watch on our
website!

Working with
Member Societies,
ACWW gave formal
responses at the UN
to the governments
of Lesotho and New
Zealand, and co-
authored the
response to
Cameroon.

ACWW gave evidence in Geneva at
the Convention on the Elimination of
Discrimination Against Women, provided
by Members, and holding the UK
Government to account



Every 4-5 years, each government which has signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is examined by the Committee for compliance. This is a legally binding obligation and governments are held to account by the Committee; they are required to make a report, then NGOs have the opportunity to give evidence - a crucial chance to ensure that voices are heard without government interference. 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 commentary and recommendations on rural women.

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The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was launched by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The dates for the campaign were chosen for the specific UN Observances that already fell in that time period - namely, 25 November,

the International Day Against Violence Against Women, 29 November, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, 1 December, World AIDS Day, and 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

Orange the World

63,550
global reach

ACWW's online resources were viewed by a huge number of people during the campaign

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 we look forward to increasing this engagement in 2020.



ACWW knows that rural women face worse food insecurity than their male or urban counterparts; restricted access to financial resources; less access to education and productive technology; highest global rates of poverty; high rates of domestic violence; and lack of control over productive land. ACWW has pledged to support the UN Decade of Family Farming, joining the global campaign to ensure that rural women are empowered to improve global food systems, making sure you always have good, nutritious food on your plate, and global hunger is eradicated.



Towards the end of the year and putting into play the strapline of ACWW: Rural Women in Action, a pack of resources was produced for members including '100 ways you can make a difference'. These were produced in an attractive physical form of booklets, posters and stickers and are also available as a download from ACWW's website.

Partnership

Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to further its aims connecting and supporting women and communities worldwide. The relationship with rural women's organisations has grown from membership covering 18 countries in 1929 to 84 countries in 2019. Through its member societies, ACWW gives voice internationally to over 9 million women.

In light of the Resolution passed on Dog Mediated Rabies, ACWW established a working relationship with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) in 2019, facilitating free training on Community Rabies Care for members.

In line with ACWW policy objectives, partnerships were established beyond our Consultative Status: UNESCO

NGO Liaison Committee; UK Civil Society Women's Alliance; Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CCNGO); UNESCO Steering Committee on the Forum on Global Citizenship; Informal actions with Soroptimist International, Zonta International, and other NGOs; Women's Major Group at the United Nations; and the NGO Major Group at the United Nations.

These partnerships have seen continued development into 2020 / 2021.



ACWW Projects Approved 2019

Projects by WE Fund Pot



Income Generation and Livelihood

Project	Country	Partner Organisation	Project Title
1064	Tanzania	Tanzania Women Social Economic Development and Human Rights Organization (TWSEDHRO)	Income Generation through Training and Cooperation
1061	Malawi	Youth for Positive Change (YOPOC)	Economic Opportunities for Women Living with HIV/AIDS
1060	Liberia	Universal Farmers Association INC (UFA)	Beekeeping for Economic Empowerment
1050	Bangladesh	Nari Unnayan Sangstha (NUS)	Skill Development for Young Mukkuvar Women
1040	Tanzania	Women Social Economic Development Organization	Skills Training towards a Brighter Future for Widows

Maternal and Reproductive Health

1066	Uganda	Kiwanyi Health Centre NGO (KHC)	Installing Solar Lighting Facilities to Improve Maternal and Infant Healthcare
1062	Tanzania	Empowerment of Marginalised Communities (EMAC)	Introducing an Alternative Rite of Passage to Combat Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania

Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

1068	Kenya	Kisumu Disabled Self-help Group (KIDSEG)	Mushroom Farming and Agribusiness Development
1058	India	Grameena Mahila Samstha (GMS)	Conservation Agriculture for Tribal Women
1057	Zimbabwe	Ntengwe for Community Development (NCD)	Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming; Supporting Vegetable Gardens in Zimbabwe

Education and Capacity Building

1063	Tanzania	Tanzania People Development Organization (TADEPO)	Empowering Women with Business Training and Skill Building
1055	Mongolia	Sain Tus Center NGO (STC)	Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion
1056	Togo	SADA [Synergie d'Actions pour un Développement Approprié]	Literacy for Rural Women in Togo

Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing

1065	Uganda	Action for Disadvantaged People (ACDIPE)	Improved Nutrition for Women Living with HIV/AIDS
1052	India	Community Action for Rural Development (CARD)	Mental Health Awareness in Rural India
1051	Ghana	Shape Lives International (SLI)	Agricultural Training for Improved Food Security and Nutrition

Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy

1059	Kenya	UWG Ufanisi Women Group	Improving Access to Safe Water for Rural Women in Kisiwa
1067	Uganda	Voluntary Efforts for Community Health (VECH)	Drought Mitigation through Alternative Water Management
1054	India	Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)	Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion

Statement of Financial Activities 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Connected Charities £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income:					
Donations, membership and legacies	242,529	197,927	10,343	450,799	495,885
Investment income	69,942	-	-	69,942	76,034
Charitable activities	296,052	-	-	296,052	438
Total Income:	608,523	197,927	10,343	816,793	572,357
Expenditure:					
Raising Funds:					
Investment management costs	8,514	-	-	8,514	8,985
Charitable Activities:					
Projects	99,443	170,285	-	269,728	204,665
Education	41,685	-	2,732	44,417	46,780
Outreach	44,417	-	-	44,417	46,780
Information and Research	88,835	-	-	88,835	93,559
United Nations Representation	44,417	-	-	44,417	46,780
Conference Preparation	402,374	3,135	-	405,509	146,186
Total Expenditure:	729,685	173,420	2,732	905,837	593,735
Net (expenditure) / income	(121,162)	24,507	7,611	(89,044)	(21,378)
Transfers between funds	94,391	(94,391)	-	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) before other gains	(26,771)	(69,884)	7,611	(89,044)	(21,378)
(Loss) / Gains on investment assets	249,730	-	-	249,730	(120,185)
Net movement in funds	222,959	(69,884)	7,611	160,686	(141,563)
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2019	2,305,995	276,415	193,664	2,776,074	2,917,637
Balances transferred in from previous connected charities	-	201,275	(201,275)	-	-
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2019	2,528,954	407,806	-	2,936,760	2,776,074

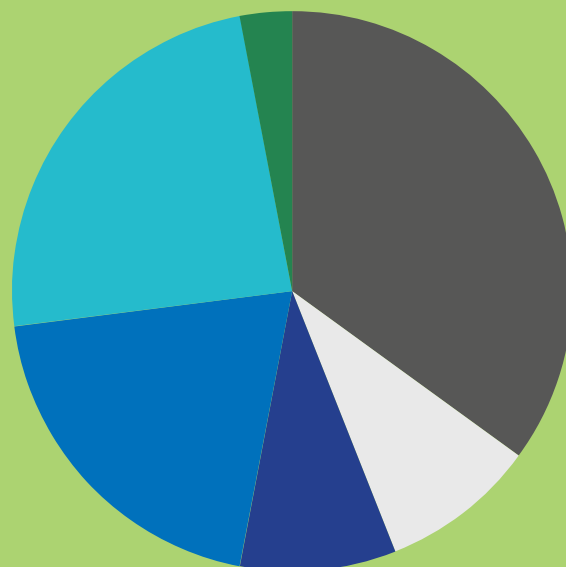
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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

Income & Expenditure

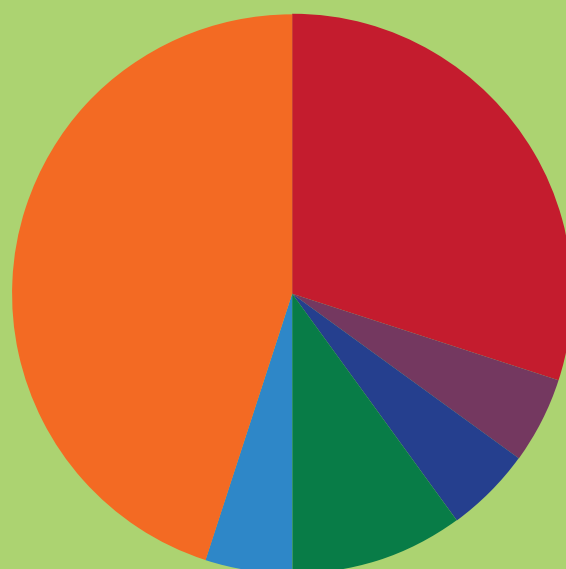
INCOME 2019

- Membership Dues - 8.5%
- Donations (Unrestricted) - 19.5%
- Donations (Restricted) - 24%
- Legacies - 3%
- Investment Income - 9%
- Conference Income - 36%



HOW RESOURCES WERE USED 2019

- Project Activities - 30%
- Education - 5%
- Outreach - 5%
- Information & Research - 10%
- UN Representation - 5%
- Conference Preparation - 45%



Notes on resource use 2019

Project Activities

The project administrators work solely on projects and handle all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the Projects Committee and communicating with donors. The Board decided in 2019 that restricted funds should cover just the direct salary costs of the projects administrators, amounts allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation (these form the Staff and Direct Costs). All the resources expended supporting Project activities including a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, payments out, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation and generation of forms and postage are shown in the Support Costs column and were expended from unrestricted funds.

Education

Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates.

Outreach Activities

Includes outreach and extension work by members of the Board and key staff plus resources associated with promoting the charity and administering committees.

Information and Research

Includes the costs of producing The Countrywoman magazine, the annual report, production of information, publicity leaflets, designing and maintaining the website, time and postage distributing publicity materials, responding to enquiries, administering committees. The unit print costs of The Magazine and other materials have reduced substantially over recent years thanks to negotiating and sourcing by the Policy and Communications Manager. The costs of postage have risen considerably due to a general increase of postal charges.

United Nations

Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the United Nations Committee. In June a new UN and Advocacy budget was approved to increase the impact of such work.

Conference Preparation

Actual Conference income and expenditure are reported in the 2019 accounts.

COVID-19

Although this is the Trustees Annual Report from 2019, it was written in 2020 with the experience of the global pandemic of Covid-19 which impacted the UK in March 2020. The impact 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 Board has taken steps to drawn down some of the reserves in order to meet commitments for the year.