

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ISSUE 1 - 2019



EXIT



NEW POLICY RESOLUTIONS

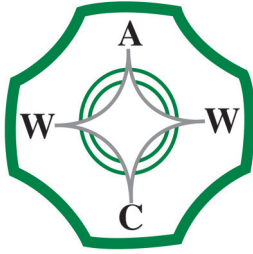
INTRODUCING OUR FIRST PROJECTS
SUPPORTED BY THE WE FUND!

ORANGE THE WORLD

CIO No. 1174798

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The Countrywoman Issue 1 - 2019

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The Countrywoman is the official quarterly magazine of ACWW, and was named by Mrs Alfred Watt MBE, the First President of ACWW in 1933.

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Please note that we welcome submissions for *The Countrywoman*, particularly from first time contributors or those in areas not recently featured. Due to ACWW's strategic advocacy policy, articles may be printed in the most appropriate issue, not necessarily the most immediate. We welcome contributions throughout the year.

The Editor's decision on acceptance and inclusion is final.

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MEMBERSHIP

As you are aware, all Society and Individual Memberships are due in January. Please ensure that you are fully paid-up in good time, particularly if you attending the Triennial World Conference in April 2019.

COVER IMAGE

East, West, & Central Africa Area President Irene Chinje at her first Area Conference with Francesca Romana Bilak and Esther Kinahairwe from the Hostess Society, and by Southern Africa Area President Maybel Moyo, representing the World President.

MAKING YOUR MAGAZINE SUSTAINABLE

We deliver The Countrywoman in an envelope rather than a plastic wrapper. This is because we use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of this issue, three are planted in its place. This is part of ACWW's commitment to a healthier planet, and Sustainable Development Goal 12.



DEAR FRIENDS...

A message from World President Ruth Shanks A.M.

As I write this letter to *The Countrywoman*, the weather is very warm and looks as though it may storm shortly. The rain would be welcome, without the damage. I noticed on the news that there are snow storms in Northern America, so I hope all is well with everyone there. It really shows that this world is a wonderful, diverse planet and to try and tame it is a vexing problem.

As this is my final letter to our magazine and to you the members, I find it difficult to put pen to paper. As I think back over the last Triennium, and in fact the last two, I cannot believe how well ACWW has coped with this world that is changing so fast, and it is difficult to keep up with these changes. We have had to make shifts within ACWW to accommodate social media, the internet, GDPR, improvements in travel, more natural disasters, terrorism and just the day to day changes involved in our own lives.

We, the members of the current Board and also the members of the previous Board, have worked very hard to achieve many things for ACWW, including becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which gives Member Societies and individual members legal protection if anything goes awry. It also validates the cause of the organisation and the manner in which we conduct ourselves, including management of finances, transparency and reporting the work of the Association. The acceptance of the plan to adopt a new Constitution to enable this was one of the resolutions that was passed at the 2016 World Conference in Warwick, England and this was achieved only by the voluntary work of the Ad Hoc Constitution Committee and also our CEO, Ms Tish Collins. The members of this committee were Mrs Jenny Mitchell (the Chairman), Mrs Elizabeth Warden, Mrs Ros Cooper and HRH Princess Azizah. The amount of time each of these ladies contributed was tremendous, so a big thank you to you all.

The work of the Specified Committees continues to be a big part of ACWW and again, all the members of these committees give entirely of themselves and at their own expense, a thank you also to these ladies. It would be wonderful at sometime in the future to have enough funds to be able to provide more opportunities for members to feel part of the organisation

for those who cannot afford to travel to London twice a year. We have been able to make use of Skype meetings and this will obviously be used more in the future.

One of the most important achievements has been getting our voice heard and known around the world, and our work with the United Nations has again come to the fore. We are being consulted in a variety of ways, and this has resulted in the voice of rural women being heard.

I must also express my heartfelt thanks to the members of staff, those who have left us and those who are with us now. The office is a very happy, friendly place to be and all members of the staff are more than happy to assist with any enquiries or requests by Executive, Board and members. As we are all away from the office, it is wonderful to know that we have hands-on staff who can deal with the organisation whilst we are away.

To all members of the current Executive and Board, I thank you very much for your contribution to our wonderful Association. We have had some highs and lows, but we have worked well together. I wish you well for the future.

To all those standing for office, thank you for putting yourself forward for a position. It augers well that there are so many members who are willing to give of their time to work with the "Women of the World".

As I travelled around the world, there were many amazing moments and experiences, there were many tear-jerking experiences, and all of these will stay in my memory for ever. There were great opportunities but, of course, there were difficult times and decisions to make. I am sure that not everyone was pleased all the time, however, that is the responsibility of the position.

I have met so many wonderful ladies in many corners of the world who are doing great things for their communities without expecting anything in return. Thank you one and all.

Last but not least, a big thank you to the members of my family, who have suffered my absence, in good times and bad, and are looking forward to my returning to the fold (I think)!!

I am looking forward to the Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia in April where we will celebrate 90 years of ACWW. I am hoping to see many familiar faces and also some new ones as well, so that we can set the direction for the coming decade, to take us to our Centenary in 2029.

My thought for this final letter is:

"Keep on keeping on working to improve, not only rural women, but women wherever they may be in this wonderful world of ours."



Ruth Shanks, A.M.
ACWW World President



Ruth Shanks, A.M. was elected ACWW World President in 2013 at the 27th Triennial World Conference in Chennai, India, and re-elected at the 28th Triennial World Conference University of Warwick in 2016. The photos above are her most recent, and first, official portraits as World President.

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Tish Collins, Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the new Year, a Triennial World Conference year and the one in which we celebrate ACWW's 90 years as an organisation.

We take the foundation from 1929 although the name Associated Country Women of the World was adopted later in 1933 at the World Conference. This and many more facts, extracts of important and insightful speeches and wonderful archive pictures can be found in the new history book being launched at the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne. It will be a satisfyingly heavy coffee table book which should fit into your case once you have handed over your contributions to the Conference competitions and charity gifts. For those worrying about airline weight allowances, it should be around 1kg!

Following the 28th Triennial Conference's approval to change the constitution of our charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, this was approved by the Charity Commission of England and Wales in September 2017. Official steps to wind up Charity 290367 and transfer all assets to CIO 1174798 were taken at the Executive Committee in November 2018 when the documents were signed. Notice was also given at Warwick of the intention to wind up and transfer the assets of the three associated charities, the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund, the ACWW Nutrition Education Fund and the Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund. The small outstanding balances on these funds were no longer earning interest and the assets will be transferred to ACWW and used for the same purposes going forward until they are depleted.

I am pleased to say we have a new Office Assistant, Monica Tomlins and a new Office Administrator, Jessica Bailey who joined the team in December. Monica has a background as a chef and many years in retail customer service whilst Jess is a recent Master's graduate in music who has also been working lately in a retail environment. Sydney Salter has changed role from Office Administrator to a new job title United Nations and Agriculture Engagement Administrator. Although a bit of a mouthful it shows that she has responsibilities as administrator to the UN and Agriculture Committees, and will work with the Projects team on our donor engagement whilst continuing to use her skills for the social media aspect of advocacy.

The Countrywoman 2019-1

Manisha Vora retired in October and Rebecca Ramsey is now the Finance Administrator. I am pleased we were able to give existing staff the opportunity to apply for vacant posts as they had built up a level of expertise and understanding of all things ACWW. This is a wonderful and complex organisation that runs on a three-year cycle, so it can take some time to appreciate the many, many layers.

As we head towards the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, we will be saying goodbye to many members of our current Board. Over the past three years these ladies have become a familiar and welcome presence at Central Office, and we wish them well in their future endeavours. By the time the next magazine is published, we'll be introducing you to the new Board and Committees, and will include an overview of the Central Office staff, showing you who is responsible for what and who to contact when you need to. Our team is a dynamic and energetic one, dedicated to the work of ACWW and committed to achieving its aims in the most professional way possible.

Our membership is passionate, and we are always so grateful for your enthusiasm and kindness, and of course your generous support and donations. We are constantly striving to find new ways to engage with, and support, our membership in their advocacy and campaigning, their work on the Resolutions and Recommendations, and will continue to welcome feedback on what is working, and where we can do better. Looking ahead to the new Triennium, I wish you all well and look forward to seeing many of you in Melbourne.

Tish Collins
Chief Executive Officer



The World President, Deputy World President and Treasurer sign the official vesting documents in November 2018.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the last issue of *The Countrywoman* in this Triennium, and my first full cycle as its Editor. I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles, photographs, ideas, and other items to these eleven issues.

My thanks must also go to all of you who have sent encouraging messages, kind feedback, and positive and constructive critique. I am constantly striving to make this magazine better, and more reflective of our membership. If you have any thoughts or want to have some input, please do not hesitate to email me at nick@acww.org.uk or get in touch via Central Office.

With the coming of the new Triennium, we will also be launching our new website. This site will have massive improvements over the current one, with improved interactivity and simplified navigation and accessibility.

As the 29th Triennial World Conference sits in April this year, we will be slightly delaying the publication of Issue 2 of *The Countrywoman* for 2019. We want to ensure that we can give you the most up-to-date information, which will include introducing the new Board who will be elected in Melbourne. The next magazine will also feature a campaign pack on those new policy resolutions which are adopted by the membership, so you can dive right in and start campaigning on these important issues.

We are well aware that the postal systems in every country vary in their quality and efficiency, and that it often takes quite a while for the magazine to reach you. We do produce it as far in advance as possible, and work hard with our printer and distribution partners to try and maximise the speed with which it gets to you. Please bear with us.

Thank you to all of you, the readers, our Membership. Thank you to Magde de Kock, the outgoing Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee, as well as Committee members Marie O'Toole (Ireland) and Moira Hammond (England). I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and look forward to writing to you all after the Triennial World Conference in Melbourne.

Nick Newland - Editor

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Heather Brennan, Finance & Membership Committee Chairman

As this is being written, 2018 is coming to a close and, so too, the triennium. It has been a busy couple of years continuing the trend of good housekeeping begun by my predecessor in the previous triennium. Our internal systems have been overhauled, streamlined and given a good health check by our auditors to ensure ACWW is fit for purpose and compliant with charity, data protection and other financial regulations. Whilst most of this has been internal, changes introduced to the way donations are encouraged for funding projects will have been much more visible to members. In a nutshell, projects are now approved for grants out of actual funds held, not paid for from unrestricted funds in the hope that future donations will cover them. This is a much more sustainable and transparent model. As with all change, some will embrace it readily having heard the rationale, some will wait to be convinced, and some are naturally change-averse.

There have been many approaches over the years. Some will remember the Water for All and the Women Feed the World Campaigns, or the Projects 40th Anniversary Appeal and now we have the Women Empowered or WE Fund. The aim is to fund grass root projects that empower women locally – this has not changed.

The focus is on empowering women in the fields of 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 – this has not changed.

The fact is that projects are empowering women as they are designed by the women themselves, not written for them by ACWW or dictated by ACWW – this has not changed.

The ACWW Board is elected by you, the membership, to act in the best interests of the organisation and its members. It has access to a wide range of information and duty bound to act within legal and policy constraints. Thank you for your support. Pennies for Friendship remains at the heart of ACWW enabling the designing and publishing of the magazine and website, most advocacy activities, extension work amongst the membership and keeping the organisation running. Some of our global advocacy work and efforts around the global survey were paid for from special donations and a legacy.

All voting member societies sign a commitment to support ACWW with donations to Pennies for Friendship over and above their membership fee. 2018 year-end figures have not been finalised but it looks like we all need to give more attention to encouraging general donations in 2019 and the new triennium.

As I retire at the end of this Triennium, I thank you all for your support and hard work for this great Association, and wish my successor well - I will remain committed to our common cause and look forward to seeing you all at future World Conferences.

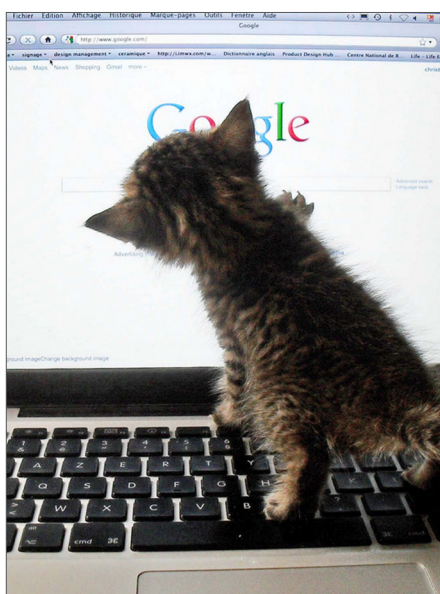
Memberships

Don't forget that all membership fees are due in January, and that members who have not paid by 31 March will be lapsed. Please also remember that to hold votes at the Triennial World Conference in April 2019, your society must be fully paid up and active.

To pay online, simply visit our website and follow the 'Support Us' link. These rates are shown below:

Category 1 Societies	£105
Category 2 Societies	£64
Category 3 Societies	£53
Category 4 Societies	£35
Category 5 Individual	£25 (£65/3 yrs)

**Membership Kitty says:
Don't forget you can pay
online!**



MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account:
Associated Country Women of the World

Account Number:
01244108

Sort Code:
56-00-33

Bank:
NatWest Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London
United Kingdom, SW1H 0HP

Branch:
Westminster

Swift Code:
NWB KGB 2L

IBAN:
GB67NWBK56003301244108

If you are sending a bank transfer, please use your name or membership number as a reference. Please don't send cash in the post!



LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Bequests are incredibly valuable to the work ACWW does – not just for the women and communities who benefit from projects and the connections made globally through our work now – but to women and communities to come. Such legacies enable ACWW to continue to deliver a broad vision of seeing generations of women empowered through the relief of poverty and sickness, the protection and preservation of health and the advancement of education.

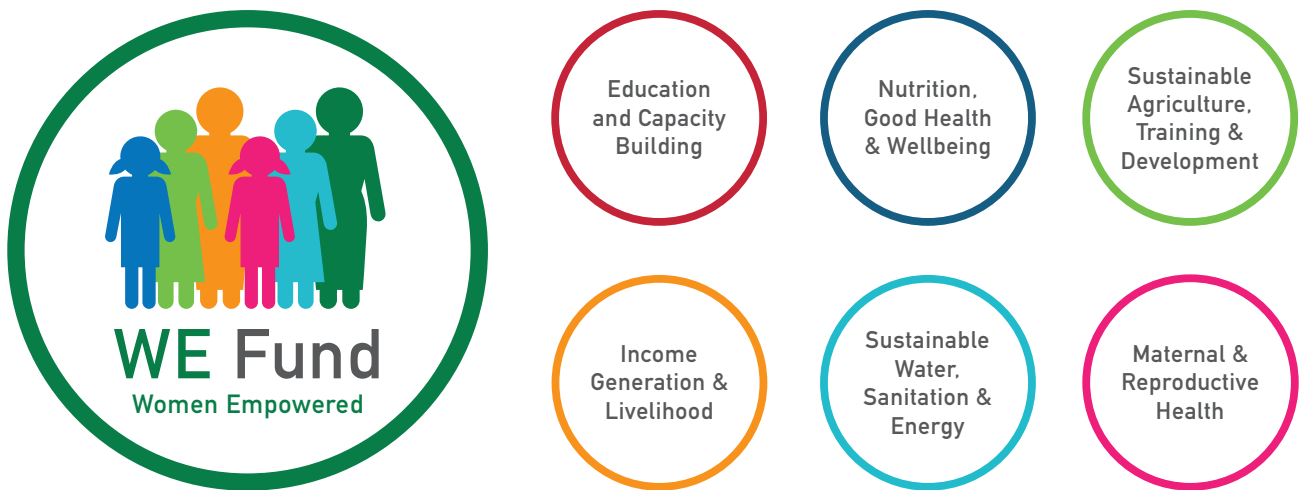
You can be assured that your gift will make a genuine difference to our work. To find out more please email tish.c@acww.org.uk to receive a Bequest Information Pack.

ACWW PROJECTS FOCUS

We are delighted to introduce ACWW's new Projects

At the November meeting of the ACWW Projects Committee, 12 applications from Member Societies and 9 applications from non-Member organisations were considered for possible funding. The successful short-list was sent to the Executive Committee for ratification, and has now become the first batch of projects to be funded from the Women Empowered Fund. We are very pleased to introduce these new Projects, and give you an overview of them as exemplars of the type of projects funded from each of the WE Fund pots.

As with previous examples, all ACWW Projects are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, and intended to further their success and achievement. We include both the SDG labels, and the specific reporting indicators and targets which are relevant to each project to show our members what their donations support, and why they are important. SDG 5, Gender Equality, is actively incorporated and targeted in every ACWW project that is approved for funding.



PROJECT 1042: Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness

Country: India

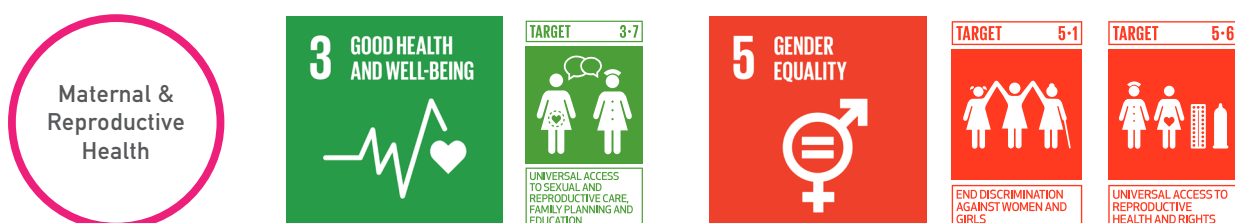
Society: PACHE Trust - People's Association for Community Health Education

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 2,520

Since 2005, the Indian Government has been providing sexual and reproductive health education to its 250 million adolescents through the Adolescents Education Programme. This project specifically targets those who have not had access to the Programme because they have left school. Rural girls are 20% less likely to stay in school than their urban counterparts. Once they have left school, often because of early marriage, they are twice as likely to give birth aged between 15 and 19.

PACHE Trust has been working on sexual and reproductive health awareness programmes with ACWW since 1999 and their commitment and expertise on these issues have made them a valuable partner in complimenting the Indian government's efforts to spread awareness on these issues to as many women and adolescents as possible.

Project 1042's target area is the Chellampatti and Vadipatti Blocks Madurai district, Tamil Nadu. The project reaches 2,520 beneficiaries within the target area and 30 volunteers will undergo two three-day trainings on sexual and reproductive health before they go back to the different communities and pass on that knowledge. Several programmes will run simultaneously, from sensitisation on sexual and reproductive health for women and adolescents to trainings on gender rights and leadership skills. The project activity plan includes also a gender sensitisation programme for male youths and spiritual leaders, which is crucial if such a project is to reach its goals within a strongly patriarchal society.



PROJECT 1044: Improved Access to Water in Villuparam District

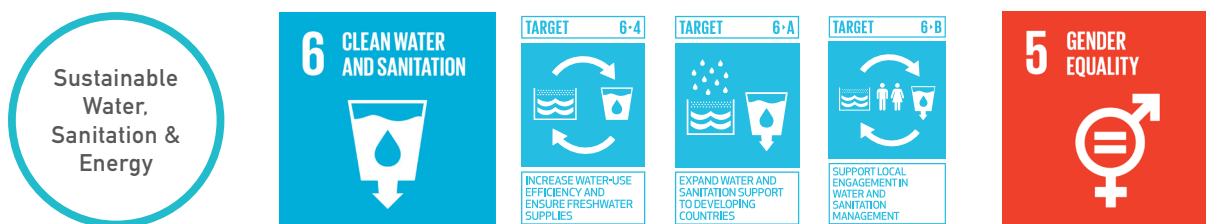
Country: India

Society: SWEET - Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 6,625

The implementing organisation works with Irula and Aadhiyan tribal communities in Mailam and Vanur Blocks of Villupuram and based on their needs, a water project proposal was submitted to ACWW and has now been approved. Within the caste system, these two communities stand even lower than the Dalits. They do not own land and their traditional livelihood, which is hunting, has been banned because of endangered species in the area. The members of these communities are not allowed to get water from public drinking water sources and they are forced to fetch it from open water sources which are often unsafe.

Project 1044 will provide 4 borewells fitted with hand pumps in Paathirapuliyur, Pombur, Veedur, and Siruvai villages. There is also scope to extend the water supply to more locations through pipelines. The locals have expressed their willingness to provide food for the skilled labour if they accept it (which is unlikely due to the caste factor in play). They will be provided with tool kits and trained for the basic maintenance of the pumps. After the end of the project implementation period, the sources will be handed over to the local government in case any major repairs are required.



If you like the look of these projects, please support the Women Empowered Fund. Visit our website, and take a look at the Projects Fund and read all about how the process works. By donating to the WE Fund you will enable more projects to be funded in the year ahead.

PROJECT 1045: Education for Life

Country: Papua New Guinea

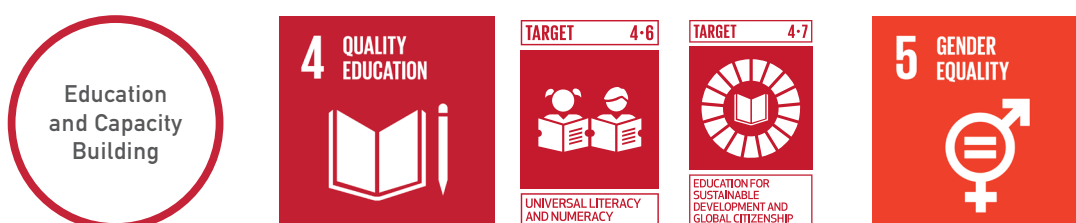
Society: MWHF - Mubalu Women of Hope Federation

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 150

The low level of literacy in Papua New Guinea is a serious impediment for the country's development. 37% of the country's population are illiterate and most of them live in rural areas. The mountainous terrain further compounds the challenge to source learning materials to the most remote areas. 80% of Mubalu Women of Hope Federation members are illiterate and Project 1050 will give an opportunity to 150 of them to go through 6 months' training on basic literacy and numeracy.

Following the completion of the main activity, the beneficiaries will go through a month-long sewing programme and a week-long financial literacy training. By the end of the implementation period, the first group of beneficiaries will be able to read, write, and work with numbers. It is intended that this will help them find a job and improve the budget planning within their households. Further to this, they will be able to make their own clothes, which will have a positive effect on their family finances.

The Provincial Government Department of Western Highlands has made a commitment to provide financial support for the sustainability of the project once the ACWW funding period has been completed.



PROJECT 1046: Organic Cultivation of Indigenous Millets

Country: India

Society: GVN - Grama Valar Nirai

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 40

Until about 50 years ago the people of India regularly ate a variety of millets. In the 1960s, the Green Revolution – a national programme that led to the widespread use of high yielding crop varieties, irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides – led to a dramatic increase in food grain production in India. However, it also focused on two main crops – rice and wheat – both of which have low water efficiency. Millets started to be seen as “food for the poor”, whilst their nutritional value and their suitability for the Indian soil and climate were forgotten. Even though India is the world leader in terms of production of millets, the share of millets in total grain production dropped from 40 to 20 percent in the past 50 years.

It is within this agricultural context that GVN submitted a proposal for a project which will train 40 women farmers in sustainable and organic millet cultivation, soil and water management, weed management and the production and application of herbal pesticides, crop tonics and compost. The beneficiaries will be taken on several study trips and will be introduced to efficient growing techniques. The project will have a 12 month implementation period and by the end of it, 10 of the beneficiaries will have developed their skills and knowledge enough to become trainers within their communities. They will take on the responsibility to work for the project's sustainability and will also look after the seed banks established in their communities during the project.



PROJECT 1047: Walking on Eggshells

Country: Kenya

Society: ELWOFOD - Eldoret Women for Development

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 50

In Kenya, women offenders represent only about 18% of the prison population annually and account for less than 4% of the violent crimes. Most of them come from poor backgrounds with low social status, from broken families, and are illiterate. They are more likely to commit non-violent offences often linked to their financial situation. Once charged, they cannot afford to pay for fines or bail, and after release, more than 60% of them are rearrested within three years. ELWOFOD believe that the scarcity of ex-prisoners' re-integration programmes within the country, as well as the social stigma against them, are the key reasons for this high percentage. When prisoners are released back into society, they feel as if they are “walking on eggshells” and are often prone to repeating their past mistakes.

ELWOFOD, with the financial support of ACWW, will implement Project 1047 which seeks to promote progressive re-integration of 50 women ex-prisoners in their communities through small-scale agriculture training. The project will provide farm inputs and training for the beneficiaries who will grow vegetables in sacks. This organic farming technology uses little space and is water efficient. Each sack can support up to 20 vegetable seedlings for a period of 3 years of harvesting before replanting.

The implementing organisation is co-operating with the Ministry of Agriculture to create a marketing platform in Eldoret where the beneficiaries will be able to showcase and sell the surplus of their product. Each woman will develop 10 “sack-gardens” and the group's long-term plan is to start a small cooperative for women ex-prisoners once their profits start growing.



PROJECT 1048: Beekeeping for Sustainable Income

Country: Kenya

Society: SBSSHG - Slow But Sure Self Help Group

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 162

Beekeeping offers large potential in providing sustainable livelihoods to many small-scale farmers with minimal investment. As an agricultural enterprise, beekeeping does not require land ownership or rental and can be started with equipment and tools that are easily sourced locally.

Throughout the project, SBSSHG will train 42 of its members in beekeeping and with their help, will build 20 bee hives in Tangakona Village, Busia. An additional 4 groups of 30 marginalised women each will be included in the projects through apiculture training sessions.

The implementing organisation will work with local government and the Ministry of Agriculture for technical guidance and marketing. A percentage from the group's income will be put back into the project and the implementing organisation will use this income to introduce beekeeping in other villages in their area.



PROJECT 1049: Sanitary Facilities for Improved Menstrual Hygiene

Country: Uganda

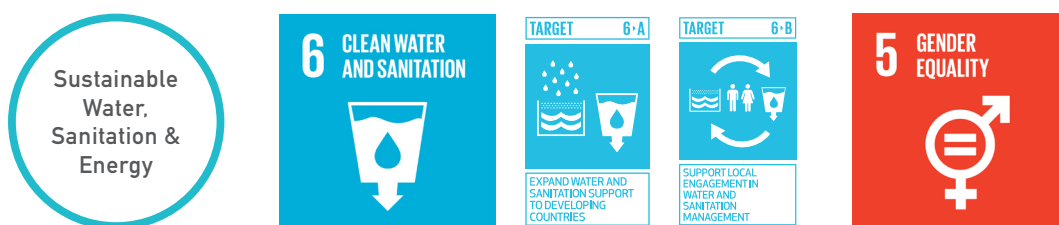
Society: CCUg - Community Concerns Uganda

Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 765

A survey conducted by CCUg in 2017 among 1102 pupils in 18 schools in Jinja and Mayuge districts of Uganda, revealed that 41.6% of adolescent girls missed on average 3.1 schooling days due to menstruation each month. The major causes of absenteeism included stigma and discrimination associated with menstruation (43.5%) and lack of a place to clean themselves in privacy (34.2%). Out of the 18 schools, 15 did not have washrooms.

Therefore, Project 1049 has two main activities. It will provide three rural schools with two washrooms each and will organise an awareness campaign and seminars on menstrual hygiene for the 750 girls there. The second activity will also aim to normalise menstruation and battle the social stigma against it through education and conversation with the students and their teachers.

Sanitation Committees will be formed within the school in order to ensure the proper maintenance of the washrooms. It will discuss and agree on a monthly amount paid by the girls' parents for maintenance and the purchase of soap. Baseline and endline surveys will be conducted by CCUg and shared with ACWW to assess the impact of sanitary facilities on menstrual health management among adolescent girls in the three rural schools.



If you would like to know more about the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, visit the SDG Knowledge Platform at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

ACWW Projects Update

Progress Report from Project 1026

Women Empowerment Through Skill Training Programme Pakistan: Public Welfare Foundation

The constitution of Pakistan specifically mentions human working conditions and equal employment opportunities regardless of sex, and since 2010 there have been a number of regulations introduced to fight against all forms of harassment and discrimination against women.

Despite the well-established Pakistani laws on equal employment, the statistics speak for themselves and only just under 25% of the Pakistani workforce is female. This figure shows quite an improvement since the data collected in 1990 when only 12.5% of the Pakistanis is work were women¹. Yet, it is also symptomatic of deeply ingrained and strictly observed social norms which tend to consider women as unfit for any occupation outside of their households. Public Welfare Foundation wants to challenge these social norms by giving 50 women the opportunity to considerably improve their employability and strengthen their position in their families and communities through basic literacy and vocational training in Narowal, Pakistan.

The beneficiaries of the project are 25 young girls, plus 10 married women, 10 widowed women, and 5 divorcees. Public Welfare Foundation report that the project has been going as per the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan and the group has now achieved the following:

- Equipped the training centre with sewing machines and materials
- Hired a qualified instructor
- Organised training on basic literacy, numeracy, human and civil rights education, and basic health awareness
- Sewing training
- PWF found work for 7 of the project beneficiaries in a nearby garments factory, 12 work at the ACWW-funded PWF stitching unit, and 6 women work from their homes. PFW reports that the average monthly income across the group is 5,000 INR (£55 Sterling), whilst before the training many of them were unemployed or if employed, earned between 1,000 – 2,000 INR per month

The project was monitored by an ACWW partner organisation in Pakistan and the report identified challenges, such as difficulty in keeping proper financial and cash records and failure to inform ACWW about a change in budget plans. The group submitted their progress report two months after the visit and they had amended their practices according to the advice of the project evaluator. All receipts and vouchers were submitted together with a detailed financial statement. All vouchers for cash allowances to the beneficiaries, the trainer, and the organisation's staff were in place as well. Further to this, the group had submitted a request to re-purpose an amount which was initially budgeted for an embroidery machine, to be used for the purchase of an UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply).

Pakistan has had a persistent problem with electricity shortages. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency report on the country's energy sector, more than half of the population still resides in rural areas and among the rural population, only half have access to electricity². The ones who have access to electricity, tend to experience regular power failures³. In such cases the beneficiaries can only use the manual sewing machines and they believe an UPS would be of greater value to their work than the embroidery machine initially budgeted in their application. This request was well-presented and was approved by the Projects Committee Chairman. The group has now entered the final stage of their project.

Overall, the PWF seems to have overcome the challenges identified by the resource person. They report that the beneficiaries feel empowered and more able to shoulder family responsibilities alongside their husbands as opposed to being dependent on them.

ACWW will continue to carefully evaluate this project and look forward to bringing you the Final Report in due course.



THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



1 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TL.F.CACT.FE.ZS?locations=PK>

2 http://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2018/Apr/IRENA_RRA_Pakistan_2018.pdf

3 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1275116> - "In the last five years, Pakistan has taken a hit of Rs145 billion per annum from system losses in the grid due to inefficient transmission and distribution"



CASE STUDY

Mrs Imran* is 35-years old and a mother of 4. Her husband is prone to substance abuse which makes it difficult for him to keep a job. She works as a sweeper on daily wages of 100 INR (£1). She has a second job as a reed weaver where she makes 50 INR per day. This income makes it difficult for her to provide for her family and her two sons and daughters are not attending school as she cannot afford to pay for it.

On joining the Vocational Training programme, she was eager for the literacy training because people would find it more difficult to cheat her. She also learned how to make various clothing items. The human and civil rights education introduced her to a different argument about what place women should hold within a society, whilst the basic health education made her more confident when handling some of her children's illnesses. She believes that it is now her duty to pass on this knowledge to her daughters and the women around her.

After she completed her training and started working at the PWF garments office, she now makes 200 INR per day, an increase of 33%. She hopes that she will be able to further double her daily income, allowing for a better standard of living for her family. She shared her enthusiasm to work with motivated women, who all earn independently of their husbands. She believes that though she has left her original jobs, she will soon be able to send her children to school, giving them better opportunities than her in the future.

* Participant names are changed to protect their privacy

Final Report from Project 1029

Agricultural Training for Food Security Bangladesh: WEEDO

WEEDO submitted their Final Report seven months after the submission of their Progress Report and on schedule with their approved Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan. The project has successfully achieved its aim of introducing and actively involving one hundred women in home gardening as a stable source of income and improved nutrition for their families. Furthermore, the report emphasises the strengthened agency of the women beneficiaries within the household.

Home gardening training is popular and widely accepted by both men and women largely because it does not contest existing socially constructed gender roles. Nevertheless, several studies¹ and the impact assessment of project 1029 show clear signs of increased control of women over food supplies and income. This in turn leads to gains in women's self-confidence and their role in the community, as their agricultural skills are being recognised.

Project Outputs

The group tells us that at the time of the reporting, all volunteers and project coordinators were trained in agricultural techniques and to be able to pass on this knowledge to all beneficiaries. Further to this, 100% of the families chosen to take part in the project attended the trainings and are now aware of the potential of their vacant land and the employment opportunity it holds for the women in their households.

All beneficiaries were trained in cost-effective and environment-friendly organic techniques to grow their produce. The use of high-quality seeds, organic manure, and herbal pesticides is now widely preferred amongst all of them.

A learning and sharing visit was organised where the 22 participants gained knowledge and experience on vermicomposting, medicinal gardening, seeds preservation, liquid fertilizer, EMO (Effective Micro Organism) preparation, and organic pesticide preparation. All these techniques were then passed on to their fellow farmers. WEEDO coordinated 12 progress review meetings where the farmers were advised on possible solutions for issues and their progress was assessed according to the project M&E plan.

The Countrywoman 2019-1

Project Outcomes

- 75% of the beneficiary families are now able to produce enough vegetables for sale after consumption. This is an increase of 5% to the figure provided in their Progress Report and indicates a gradual improvement of the beneficiaries' yield over time
- 20% of the farmers who took part in the project training are now actively offering advice on various vegetable-growing techniques to their neighbour farmers
- Due to increased competence in preserving seeds for the following season, the same percentage of farmers are also selling them to neighbours and friends, but not yet at the local market
- 80% of the beneficiaries have reported using compost and 20% rely on traditional manure. The beneficiaries use locally available resources for the compost and their organically grown produce is in high demand.

WEEDO is encouraging all beneficiaries to maintain a good relationship with development stakeholders on union, district and *upazilla*² level.

The 5 volunteers which were trained at the initial stage of the project were chosen from within the community and they will provide continued support to all beneficiaries. They will also act in an important role at the point where the farmers would want to create co-operatives in future.

In conclusion, WEEDO assesses this project as a successful one. They believe that the main strengths of their project were:

- Strong community involvement in the project design
- High level of participation and involvement of all women beneficiaries
- The engagement of local volunteers facilitated the relationship between the implementing organisation and the beneficiaries
- Women oversaw the management of their produce and the income from it

The group believes that this project has high sustainability prospects. Currently, the income for the beneficiaries is still low and the group is hoping to be able to guide all beneficiaries towards duck and goat rearing in addition to the vegetable gardens which would allow for a wider profit margin.



THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



1 <https://agricultureandfoodsecurity.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40066-015-0044-2>
<https://agricultureandfoodsecurity.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2048-7010-2-8>
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12571-014-0408-7>

2 *upazilla* - An administrative region of Bangladesh

ACWW IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Looking at the Sustainability of ACWW Projects 3 years post-completion

You will often read within these pages that ACWW projects must be 'sustainable', or that we are constantly working to see more sustainable outputs and outcomes from our projects. We wanted to show you what this means in the real world, away from the shiny SDG labels. This is a case study from Uganda, showing just how important this long-term impact is.

TORUWU: Training of Rural Women in Uganda, Kikajjo Village, Wakiso District

Situated about an hour south-west from central Kampala, TORUWU sits on a hill surrounded by forest and small-holdings. In 2012, ACWW funded a surface well for the Kikajjo village (Project 920). Following a local consultant's advice, several changes, including the use of new UPVC piping, were submitted for consideration, and a second phase of funding was approved.

The second phase became Project 964, and the two phases combined were funded with a total of £5,754. The well is 14m deep, and cement reinforced for safety and security. An electrically-powered submersible pump and large central distribution reservoir were installed to guarantee constant provision of water.

In their Final Report, submitted in April 2015, TORUWU informed ACWW that 22 households and a school with 600 children had drinking water supplied as a result of the project. All beneficiaries had taken part in a sanitation workshop and households had started developing vegetable gardens. The group also made a commitment to maintain the achievements of project 964 for at least 15 years.

It was with this promise in mind ACWW project evaluator Sr. Viji, a member of the Projects Committee, visited TORUWU in September 2018. Visiting the group's office, she was satisfied with the level of accountability and reported that TORUWU does not have a paid management structure and four out of the five people who work for the organisation are women. The organisation's office has three rooms and is very well-arranged. One of the rooms is used for their community wine business, whilst another serves as a classroom for tailoring and computer training.

Sr. Viji spoke to several beneficiaries, including the community pastor and a teacher from the school. All of them were satisfied with the project implemented by TORUWU and felt that the organisation's work has changed their lives for the better. Since the submission of their Final Report

for project 964 in April 2015, the group has expanded their network to reach 53 families, where each family has on average 7 members. Further to this, with the profit from other projects, including wine production for income generation, the group was able to start building a second school to accommodate the larger number of children, and to extend provision to older children.

The vastly increased number of water beneficiaries is, of course, a very positive outcome. However, the water source and its impacts go much further. TORUWU are also running the following schemes:

- Physiotherapy sessions for 32 children every Thursday
- Opportunities for the mothers of school children to work in sponsored kiosk shops selling products from TORUWU and providing an income opportunity
- A small school for vulnerable children (150), along with a Nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes
- The new school is being built supported by input from Brazilian volunteer architect Mariana Montag to create a gender-sensitive, safe environment for school children
- Additional income generation opportunities for local mothers supported by TORUWU include mushroom growing, soap making, juice making, sewing craft bags and producing local handycrafts
- School brass band of 30 children who rehearse twice a week and play for school graduations and other local events
- The UPVC pipes are reliable, with no repairs needed 3 years after installed
- Seedlings are grown on site, then distributed to water users and local volunteers as a source of food and income

The water tank has been maintained according to plan and the community pay their users' fees on regular basis. However, these fees proved insufficient to cover all maintenance costs for the system and TORUWU had to find a way to cover the outstanding balance. It is regarding this that in her report, Sr. Viji recommends that TORUWU transfers all responsibility for the source maintenance to the community.

2015 FINAL REPORT BENEFICIARIES

22 Households (average 7 people)
600 School children

3 YEARS POST-COMPLETION

53 Households (average 7 people)
600 School children (soon to expand)
Chicken farm (750 chicks per cycle)

OTHER PROJECT IMPACT

Training and employment opportunities for local women, giving parents the chance to earn. This is crucial in an area with 80% unemployment

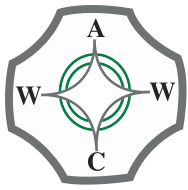


Photographs: Sr. Viji (right) with Sophie and Augustine from TORUWU and East, West, and Central Africa Area President Irene Chinje

One of the household water outputs

A kiosk shop run by TORUWU as an income generation opportunity for local mothers





#WeAreACWW

Competitions for Melbourne 2019



We know that one of the most popular side activities of any Triennial Conference are the competitions that bring all our members together in celebrating their connection with ACWW, and of course give the opportunity to show off their craft or photographic talents.

For the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne in April 2019, there will be two main competitions; the #WeAreACWW Photographic Competition, and the Tree Competition.

#WeAreACWW is the 'hashtag', or label, we use online to tag our posts on social media and forums, it unites our members and their interests and allows people to search the whole of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for posts that relate to ACWW. Some of you may remember that at the last conference in Warwick, we decorated large letters and presented them on the stage for all to see.

To enter the photographic competition, you will need to submit a photograph that meets the following requirements:

Subject: #WeAreACWW - any photo that features this hashtag and which demonstrates the relationship you or your society have with ACWW

Format: Must be your original work
Image printed on plain, matt or glossy paper
High resolution (at least 300dpi)
Printed 6" x 4" (15cm x 10cm) OR
Printed 10" x 8" (25cm x 20cm)

Submit: Bring to the Competitions stall in the Registration Area when you register, or as soon as possible thereafter.

ACWW has always had a close relationship with trees. Whether it has been planting them as part of projects work, or the use of the 'tree of life' in older logos or promotional materials, the tree reflects us putting down roots, building a community and the renewal of the passing seasons.

Our second competition is to use the theme of trees in making a beautiful tissue holder for the tissue travel packs size 11cm x 5cm x 3cm (4,5" x 2,5" x 1,2")

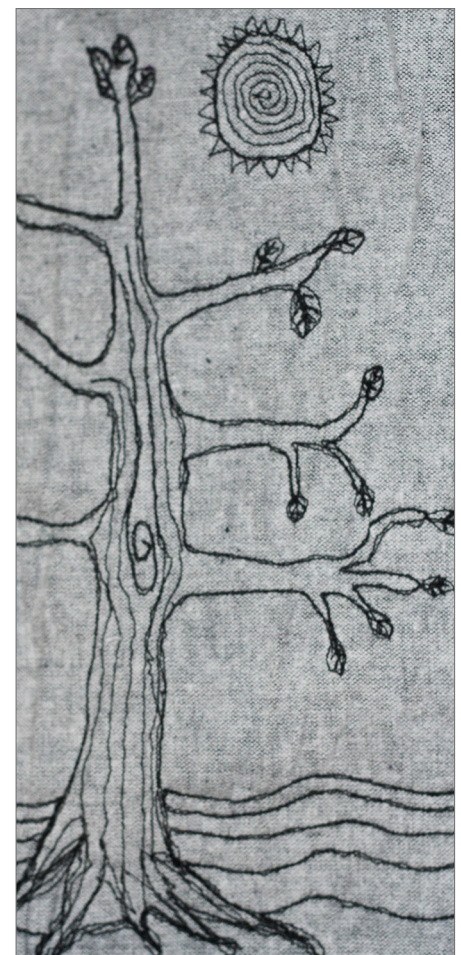
Make a tissue holder or a purse depicting the theme of "Trees" using the technique of quilting. It can be done by hand or sewn with a machine.

Fasteners like buttons or zippers may be used but it should be easy to open. The tissue holder should be lined. Be creative!

Submit: Bring to the Competitions stall in the Registration Area when you register, or as soon as possible thereafter.

For both competitions, please ensure that you remember to comply with the following:

- 1) You include your name, society and country on the back of the piece
- 2) You agree to allow ACWW free use of the image, or images of your artwork for promotion and publicity



CONFERENCE CHARITY DRIVE 2019

How you can make a difference when coming to Melbourne in April

By their very nature, ACWW members have always been keen to contribute to worthy causes, and make a difference at the international level. Traditionally, we also organise a major charity drive at each Triennial World Conference, collecting items which can have a positive impact and make a difference in the local community.

In 2016, the warm clothes, including hats, scarves and coats, filled 6 packing containers and around 40 sacks. They were donated to a local women's shelter to help women who had suffered domestic violence and other issues which had forced them out of their homes. Hygiene packs, sweets and toys were also gathered and added to the donation, which we delivered by truck the day after the Conference ended.

For the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia, we are asking attendees to donate items for babies which will be distributed locally to support families in need. We have put together a list of ideas here, but please bring along whatever you think will be useful to a baby or new mother.

Items will be collected during Registration at the Conference Venue. Please ensure that if you are bringing multiple small items, they are in some kind of reusable (non plastic) bag to keep them together.

Thank you in advance for your support. It really makes a huge difference, and is a great way of thanking our host community for making us welcome during the Conference.

The Triennial Conference Committee

Baby clothes like one-piece outfits, short or long-sleeved

Knitted caps and gloves
Baby toiletries like gentle shampoo

Cotton or towel clothes

Baby bottles (new)

Cotton swabs or cotton wool

Washcloths and towels

Waterproof crib liners

Receiving blankets





INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A public statement from the Associated Country Women of the World

In every city and town, every rural village, and every community in the world, there are women of all ages suffering the physical, emotional and psychological impact of gender-based violence. Whilst this is tolerated, accepted or ignored, we will never be able to achieve the stronger, more stable communities that the world desperately needs, and which almost every nation on earth declares are their objective. As long as women and girls are subjected to violence, manipulation, control and subjugation, and as long as the world stands by and accepts these abuses, we will never achieve the 2030 Agenda.

It is well established that gender-based violence is, unless challenged, passed from generation to generation. This challenge must be effective, embedded in education and positivity, and immediate. Our children must grow up with a basic understanding of equality. This must extend beyond girls and boys, women and men, and fully encompass the reality of our modern world. Rural women continue to be isolated from full and fair implementation of laws protecting them, and are often far from the societal changes their urban counterparts are beginning to see. With the forthcoming Commission on the Status of Women focusing on implementation of social protection systems, we remind all parties that rural women must be prioritised and involved in the creation of these systems and laws.

Our local, national and international laws must be strong and, where necessary, strengthened. Moreover, they must be enforced fairly and equally, with those who have suffered from gender-based violence protected from re-victimisation. Support and treatment programmes for those who have survived violence must be better funded, and expanded to make their impact an accessible reality. The voices of survivors must be heard, and amplified. Whilst we must dedicate educational efforts to protect our younger generations and encourage their safe and enlightened growth, we must not forget those women already caught in the mire of violence or those who may have escaped, but bear the physical and psychological scars of their experiences.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is hugely important, but it is crucial that we use this period as a springboard for genuine change in the year ahead. Since October 2017, the #MeToo movement has seen many millions of women globally come forward and report either current, ongoing, or historical accounts of sexual harassment, abuse, intimidation, and violence. Though digital platforms have raised awareness of this campaign to unprecedented levels, and at a speed never before seen, the reality is that many are still in a position that stops them from speaking out. Situational threats, societal shame, the fear of judgement or continued danger, and perhaps most critically, isolation, mean that women around the world cannot escape their situation, nor speak out for themselves. We must use our power, voice, and privilege to help raise the voice of those women not being heard.

Over the next 16 days, ACWW will be joining with colleagues all over the world in campaigning to end gender-based violence. Each of us, whether individuals, civil society actors, or governments, must take responsibility for change. Do not tolerate the status quo in your community. Speak out for change, and for a final end to gender-based violence.

Ruth Shanks AM
ACWW World President

NOTES

UN Women - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

#16Days Campaign - <https://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/>

16 Days - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>

Associated Country Women of the World

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info@acww.org.uk | www.acww.org.uk | www.ifrw.org.uk

ORANGE THE WORLD 2018

16 Days of Global Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

For the second year, we marked the 16 Days of Global Activism against Gender-Based Violence with an awareness raising campaign, shared with members around the world.

One month before the campaign began, we sent all members a digital campaign pack with posters, statements, flyers and a public statement from the World President. This pack was well received, and we have heard back from several members who have used these resources to organise activities, and we are delighted to bring you this report from UN Committee member Pat Twiss:



This photograph of five women wearing orange was taken at a large Christmas lunch for Members of CWA of Western Australia, Margaret River, Western Australia. I used all the copies of the Orange the World posters we were given at the committee meeting on the table with ACWW information, as well as the cards about the rural survey, that I was able to give a short talk about. My only hope is that some of them did the survey as all the ACWW information was taken home.

I wore orange for 16 Days and got some words across on what we do and support at two other functions. I was pleased that the 16 Days were discussed on the radio with some informative speakers so the campaign reached across Australia.

On the 10th December I attended a UNAAWA Human Rights Day Event in Perth to celebrate 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The panel of speakers discussed Human Rights in Australia and we discovered we are lacking in some areas. Too many young men, and now women, are in prison; the growing number of indigenous children in foster care; Homelessness numbers are rising; refugees and migrants lack services; we struggle with insufficient diversity, and inclusion in the workplace for women. Difficulties with home ownership due to the predominance of part time work or lack of, also affect many of our citizens. Though no solutions were found at the meeting, some good case studies came from the audience, and we will continue to strive to improve.

Statements and Action Points issued 2018:

International Day Statement

Don't just stand there

Do not remain silent

Do not ignore it

Do not excuse it

Listen

Amplify

World AIDS Day

Protect

Not just at home

Not just the obvious

Survivors not Victims

Self Determination

Rural Women

Women do not stand alone

#HearMeToo

Please visit our website and see the Advocacy page to download these resources



#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS

90 YEARS OF OPPORTUNITIES

Celebrating the Associated Country Women of the World

We are delighted to announce that ACWW's latest history book, '90 Years of Opportunities' will be launched at the Triennial World Conference in April 2019.

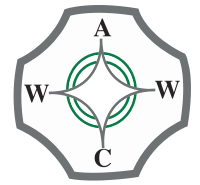
A substantial production, this book will include an overview of ACWW's 90 year history, as well as a particular focus and update covering the 15 years since the last history book was published. A combination of written history and visual reflection, we are delighted that the book includes interviews with Past World Presidents Lyndsay Mundy, Ellen McLean, Hilda Stewart, Ursula Goh and May Kidd, as well as current World President Ruth Shanks AM.



If you would like to pre-order the new ACWW History Book, please contact Central Office at info@acww.org.uk or by calling +44 (0)20 7799 3875.

Not only will your copy be posted the day of publication in April 2019, your copy will be signed by the author and World President Ruth Shanks AM.

FOCUS ON ACWW Membership



ACWW is a worldwide network of individuals and women-led societies, joined in their passion for empowering women. This network provides friendship, collaboration, and organisation.

Together, we can give voice to the issues facing rural women, influencing policy at national and international levels. Together, we can fund grassroots, women-led projects in developing countries, empowering rural women to make positive and sustainable progress in their communities.

By becoming an Individual ACWW member, you become part of a framework that allows rural women to connect their voices, so that the issues they face and the solutions they raise are heard and acknowledged by national and international policy-makers and legislators. You are also entitled to your own copy of this magazine, and to serve on one of the ACWW Committees.

As an ACWW Society member, you can shape and influence ACWW policy. Our policies are proposed and adopted by our membership by popular vote at Triennial World Conference. These policies then shape the direction of our resources, advocacy, and funding.

With a network that reaches into the rural corners of the world, ACWW is uniquely able to unite women who would otherwise never meet. With our Friendship Links program, World Conferences, and publications, we seek to unite women in friendship and understanding. We believe that cooperation across geographic and socio-economic lines is crucially important. International collaboration is motivated by individual recognition that peace and progress are most readily achieved when people are united by kindness and informed understanding.

Membership Dues

Don't forget that all membership fees are due in January, and that members who have not paid by 31 March will be lapsed. Please also remember that to hold votes at the Triennial World Conference in April 2019, your society must be fully paid up and active.

To pay online, simply visit our website and follow the 'Support Us' link. These rates are shown below:

Category 1 Societies	£105
Category 2 Societies	£64
Category 3 Societies	£53
Category 4 Societies	£35
Category 5 Individual	£25 (£65/3 yrs)

Don't forget you can pay online!

Types of Membership

ACWW has 6 Categories of membership*:

Category 1: Large organisations of 500 or more women members

Category 2: Smaller organisations with a minimum of 100 women members

Category 3: Umbrella organisations

Category 4: Groups interested in the work of ACWW

Category 5: Individuals

Category 6: Members of the Board of Trustees

*full requirements available on request



RESOLUTIONS TO THE 29th TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

The following Resolutions have been accepted for consideration in Melbourne in April 2019. If approved, they will become active policies of ACWW and all Member Societies shall have a responsibility to promote their successful implementation.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

1. 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

Mover: ACWW Board of Trustees

Supporting Statement:

The fees were last changed in 2016. If passed by the necessary majority, these fee changes would come into effect from 1 January 2020.

The Constitution states in Clause 10.8.1 Membership Fees: *'Members are required to pay reasonable membership fees to ACWW, as determined by the members by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting. The annual contribution shall be a contribution towards the funds of ACWW in sterling.'*

Clause 12.2 (c) regarding the Business of General Meetings, one obligation is *'deciding the membership dues for the next Triennium'*. See also Bye Law 13 f: Business of General Meeting at Triennial World Conferences states *'decide the amounts of the membership dues'*.

Bye Law 1 states *'Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 Societies shall contribute annually towards the funds of ACWW a sum in sterling as determined by the Triennial World Conference, to include The Countrywoman magazine'*. Further: *'Annual dues shall be notified to Member Societies in writing and shall become due on 1 January in each financial year (see Bye-Law 3) and be payable in full no later than 31st March in each year'*. And *'Category 5 Individuals shall contribute annually a sum as determined by the Triennial World Conference to include The Countrywoman magazine'*.

Bye law 2 states *'Cheques in any currency other than sterling should include sufficient to cover bank charges and exchange rate fluctuations. This applies to all rates of dues. Other forms of payment may also incur bank/handling charges and the amount sent should be sufficient to cover these charges'*.

2. Chairman of the Agriculture Committee

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

Mover: ACWW Board of Trustees

Supporting Statement:

The Agriculture Committee has proved itself to be a viable specified committee. It was deemed appropriate by the Agriculture Committee and the Board in March 2018 that a chairman with knowledge or experience of agriculture should be elected for this committee, without having to double up in the role of Deputy President. If passed by the necessary majority, this would come into effect from the 30th Triennial Conference in 2022.

3. Role of the Deputy World President

Be it resolved that the Deputy World President's position be eliminated.

Mover: ACWW Board of Trustees

Supporting Statement:

In light of the resolution above adopted by the Board in March 2018 the role of Deputy President was deemed to be unnecessary. If passed by the necessary majority, this would come into effect from the 30th Triennial Conference in 2022.

4. 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.

Mover: ACWW Board of Trustees

Supporting Statement:

The 28th Triennial World Conference adopted a resolution on constitutional change with the intention of updating ACWW charity 290367 as a charitable incorporated organisation. This process and new constitution was approved by the Charity Commission of England and Wales in September 2017 and ACWW was registered as the new CIO registration number 1174798. This resolution will formally adopt the new constitution.

5. 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.

Mover: ACWW Board of Trustees

Supporting Statement:

These documents have been updated by the Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2018, to be in line with the ACWW CIO Constitution 1174798.

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

6. 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.

Mover: Norges Kvinne Og Familieforbund, Norway

Supporting Statement:

Today our knowledge of waste disposal, both industrial and domestic, is considerably greater than in the past. Modern landfill sites are strictly controlled by international regulations. Our concern is for historical sites, which may have been sealed and forgotten, without recording their locations or contents. In the long term, these forgotten disposal sites can be the source of poisonous gases and other environmental pollutants. An excavation of an unknown site could trigger an environmental disaster. We know that barrels of mercury, for example, as well as other dangerous substances, have been buried in landfills. In time, these barrels will deteriorate and leak their pollutants into the soil and ground water. It is therefore important to begin registration in the hope of avoiding this. Old landfills are also a source of greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide, which contribute to global warming. A registration and mapping of these sites will also contribute to future development plans.

7. 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.

Mover: Country Women's Association of Western Australia Inc, Australia

Supporting Statement:

Oceans, along with coastal and marine resources, play an essential role in human well-being and social and economic development worldwide. They are particularly crucial for people where economies are based on limited and vulnerable natural resources. Oceans can provide food security, livelihoods and are a vital part of the economy. They also have an important cultural meaning for many communities. For these reasons, fisheries must be maintained at a sustainable level. There are many threats to our shared marine environment, including overfishing, drifting nets, pollution, and climate change.

8. 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.

Mover: Scottish Women's Institutes, Scotland

Supporting Statement:

The most recent study completed in 2010 estimates that 8 million tonnes of plastic went into our oceans. The international study calculated that 192 Nations produced 275 million tonnes of plastic waste with the largest being produced by China followed by Indonesia, The Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam (source: Wilcox.C., Commonwealth Scientific Research Organisation quoted in Australia News Science (2017);

Every 11 years the amount of plastic produced doubles according to Dr. Wilcox from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation who was involved in the 2010 study. At the United Nations in December 2017 a UN agreement for specific, internationally-agreed goals to tackle plastic waste in our oceans was rejected by the US. Several countries including China and India also refused a reduction in targets and time-scale. The UN resolution is not legally binding.

9. 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.

Mover: Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes, England and Wales

Seconder: Women in Agriculture & Business of South Australia, Australia

Supporting Statement:

The Paris Climate Agreement 2015 sets out a global action plan to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to below 2°C. Climate change is affecting everyone. ACWW actively participated at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development from which the Rio Declaration on Climate Change emerged. The 1992 UN Conference agreed to create the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to hold regular COP (Conference of the Parties) meetings. The Paris Agreement was signed at COP21. A resolution on Global Warming, was passed at the 1992 20th Triennial Conference, it is time to reconnect and take action.

10. 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.

Mover: Country Women's Council, USA

Seconder: 2nd Florida Association for Home and Community Education, USA

Supporting Statement:

Pollination is the process of transferring pollen from the male to female reproductive organs in plants to set seed and produce offspring. As the primary agent for pollination, insect pollinators, both wild and managed, are responsible for producing 35% of the food products that humans consume on any given day. In a world of changing environmental conditions, ever-increasing herbicide and pesticide usage, and continuing reduction of natural habitats, these pollinators are experiencing significant population declines. When nature's pollinators go unprotected and uncared for, the world's food supply is directly impacted. Source: Convention for Biological Diversity; Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United States Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency.

11. 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.

Mover: Südtiroler Bäuerinnenorganisation, Italy

Seconder: Vrouwen van Nu, The Netherlands

Supporting Statement:

Women represent on average 68 % of the work force in clothing industries, 45 % in textiles, (or up to 90% in some countries where leather and footwear are included in textile data). Informal home-based work, long working hours, low wages, safety concerns, combining family responsibilities, and poor maternity protection, make it difficult for women to improve themselves through promotion and education. Source: Wages and working hours in the textiles, clothing, leather and footwear industries, Issues paper for discussion at the Global Dialogue Forum on Wages and Working Hours in the Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear Industries (TCLF), Geneva, 23 – 25 September 2014, ILO (www.ilo.org). p.12:27: women in workforce TCLF industries; p.12:28: working conditions; p. 19:47: wages; p. 20: ILO standards: Hours of Work Convention 1919; and, Points of Consensus.

12. 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.

Mover: Norges Kvinne Og Familieforbund, Norway

Supporting Statement:

Girls and women are the main victims of domestic violence and there is an increase in the number of cases all over the world. To ensure women's rights and their ability to achieve gender equality, we must combat the acceptance of violence within the family and other close relationships. To ensure an effective initiative and to raise awareness amongst politicians, police and others, including the health and aid agencies, it is necessary for each country to develop a strategic plan of action. The use of the words 'domestic violence' is to define the setting, the place and relationships in which this violence takes place as well as the people who are involved, that is people of all genders and ages who have a close, often familial, relationship to each other and who at some point live under the same roof.

13. 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.

Mover: Country Women's Council, USA

Seconder: Illinois Association for Home and Community Education, USA

Supporting Statement:

“Without proper iron levels, children’s cognitive development is affected. Pregnancies are at greater risk for premature births, and babies have a greater difficulty bonding with mothers,” according to the World Health Organization, Manju Reddy, the Doris A. Adams Endowed Chair in Food Science and Human Nutrition. Iron deficiency is the most common micronutrient deficiency worldwide and leads to microcytic anaemia, decreased capacity for work, as well as impaired immune and endocrine function. 2 billion people – over 30% of the world’s population – are anaemic due to iron deficiency, affecting not only the underdeveloped countries of the world but the industrialised countries as well! Iron deficiency affects more people than any other condition, constituting a public health condition of epidemic proportion. Sources: World Health Organization, Iowa State University, Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine, U. S. National Library of Medicine – Biotechnology Institute

14. Gender Sensitive Health Care

Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organizations urge their governments to strive for gender sensitive health care.

Mover: Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK, The Netherlands

Seconder: 2nd Florida Association for Home and Community Education, USA

Supporting Statement:

It is common knowledge that nowadays heart failure is among the highest cause of female deaths. But many of these deaths could have been avoided by gender sensitive health care. Every man, woman and child should have the same access to health care. But health care should be gender sensitive, because male and female bodies don’t function in the same way and accordingly should not be treated as equal.

Sources: <http://theconversation.com/women-have-heart-attacks-too-but-their-symptoms-are-often-dismissed-as-something-else-76083>. Heart attacks claim the lives of 3.3 million women every year, and many women die from other heart-related conditions. In the United States, nearly 290,000 women died from heart disease in 2013 – that’s about one in every four female deaths. In Australia, a recent report found over 31,000 women died from heart disease every year, far more than the 12,000 women who died from common forms of cancer, including breast cancer. And while more men than women are admitted to Australian hospitals every year for heart disease, the numbers who die are equal between the sexes. This is because heart disease is less recognised in women than in men, due to its uncommon symptoms and the fact women are less likely to seek help quickly. A recent Australian study also found women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are 25% more likely to suffer a heart attack than their male counterparts.

Amendment proposed by Rural Women New Zealand, New Zealand

‘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.’

15. 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.

Mover: Lanka Mahila Samiti, Sri Lanka

Supporting Statement:

Regarding the issues of health and nutrition including supply of clean water, training in sanitation, hygiene and waste disposal; Governments and non-government organizations have over the years intervened in this area with mixed results. We have to continue with the momentum generated by these efforts, so that we achieve the ultimate objective of overcoming malnutrition, ensuring that health services provided by the Governments reach the most vulnerable and intervening in education and training community volunteers addressing poverty conditions prevailing in rural communities. The more we are able to increase the knowledge of rural women on nutrition, the better the results will be achieved. Rural women have less access to resources as well as available health services. Imparting knowledge to improve the local diet through health education programs would help. Distribution of food rations and supply of meals alone while salutary, would not overcome this vicious cycle of poor nutrition. Source: ACC/SCN-appointed Commission on the Nutrition Challenges of the 21st Century.

**There are 3 further resolutions
on the following page**

16. 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.

Mover: Country Women's Association of Victoria, Australia

Supporting Statement:

Each year 59,000 people die from rabies. 40% of these deaths are children of poor and vulnerable populations living in remote locations. Vaccinating dogs is the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people. 'Zero by 30' will focus on improving access to post exposure prophylaxis for bite victims, education and expanding dog vaccinations to reduce the risk of exposure to humans.

17. 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.

Mover: Country Women's Association of New South Wales, Australia

Supporting Statement:

Q fever, also called query fever, is a bacterial infection caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*. The bacteria are most commonly found in cattle, sheep, and goats around the world. Humans typically get Q fever when they breathe in dust that was contaminated by infected animals.

The prevalence and impacts of Q fever are much wider than just those seen in an Australian context. It is a worldwide disease that has a presence in all countries, except New Zealand. It is particularly prevalent in animal agriculture industries. Humans are usually infected by contaminated aerosols from domestic animals, particularly after contact with fluids from birthing female animals known to carry the disease. There are also recent indicators that ticks may spread the disease from animal to animal.

Q fever is not confined to people working in livestock industries. We know that it can be contracted by people living near abattoirs, sale yards, and working with cats, dogs, and wildlife. Q Fever is a truly debilitating disease. It impacts farmers, meat workers and those in regular contact with farm animals. Q Fever-related costs to the community are substantial. Estimated medical costs in Australia alone stand at around \$3,800 for each case of Q Fever diagnosed and \$20,500 per patient for those that end up with issues such as endocarditis with valve replacement surgery.

18. 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.

Mover: Queensland Country Women's Association, Australia

Supporting Statement:

Toileting is not simply about waste management and sanitation. It involves dignity, inclusion, empowerment, social interaction and many cases lowering risks of poverty. There are many people in the world who do not have access to appropriate sanitary facilities because they are elderly, have an illness or have a disability.

One billion people in the world experience some form of disability, this equates to 15% of the world's population. Of this 15% most live in developing countries and between 110 and 190 million are defined as having a significant disability. Lack of access to safe water and appropriate sanitation can increase the risk of poverty for people with disabilities.

These resolutions will be presented to Voting Member Societies at the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia between the 4th and 10th of April 2019. If adopted by popular vote, they will become official policy of the Associated Country Women of the World.

SOCIETY FOCUS

We catch up with Members globally

GALLONS OF SUPPORT



This photo was submitted by Dianne Louttit of Kippen Scottish Women's Institute, and shows her counting the contents of the gallon bottle of loose change which she has donated to ACWW.

We are always so grateful for the support of individual members, and love to thank them in writing, especially when we can include a photograph!



Photographs: Dr Semane Bonolo Molotlegi, HM Queen Mother of the Royal Bafokeng Nation opens the event (*above*). Youngest delegate Ms Gabby Bester is introduced (*above right*). The delegates at the 6th Annual Awakening Conference (*below*).



AWAKENING IN MAGALIESBURG

The 6th Annual Awakening Conference of the Bafokeng Women's Club was held at De Hoek Country Hotel, Magaliesburg, South Africa on Saturday, 15th September 2018.

The theme of the conference was "I Did It my way", which tied in with the slogan of the movement: "Feel Empowered - Feel Inspired - Join the Movement".

67 women between the ages of 16 to 72 years attended this year, the youngest being 16, Ms Gabby Bester pictured below. The speakers, Ms Tracy Going, Ms Zanele Hlatshwayo, and Ms Mmathabo Mooa, shared their personal journeys and demonstrated how they conquered difficult situations through relying on their inner strength which embodied the theme. The conference was a resounding success!



NEW STAFF!

Jessica Bailey
Office Administrator



Welcome to ACWW!

Thank you very much, I have been made to feel very welcome!

What did you do before you came to ACWW? Where are you from?

I am originally from a tiny village in Devon. I have fond memories of rural village life, where I would join in all the activities that took place like the church choir, various craft groups such as wool spinning, Christmas crafts and 'knit and natter'. I have just finished my Masters studying Historical Musicology, and come to ACWW from various part-time jobs, including working in a second-hand record shop.

What exactly is your job at ACWW?

I am the new Office Administrator at Central Office. I have been dealing with memberships to start with - as renewals are due on 1 January there has been an obvious influx since I began at Central Office in early December.

What do you do in your time off to relax?

I am a singer and enjoy singing with my local church choir, and other London-based choirs. I also have many crafty hobbies, but especially enjoy knitting and baking. My fiancé and I have many joint hobbies, we enjoy going to the cricket, wine making and hill walking.

What are you most excited about at ACWW, or what made you apply for the job?

I loved the idea of working for a charity, especially one focusing on rural women and their empowerment. This is also a very different work environment to what I am used to, and I am finding it suits me a lot better!

THE DMI IN JUBA (Part 1)

The Mangateen IDP Camp in South Sudan and the Sisters of peace

The Republic of South Sudan was formed when it gained independence from Sudan in 2011. The capital city is Juba, which sits in the south of the country, not far from borders with Democratic Republic of the Congo (the former Zaire) and Uganda.

Following the independence of Sudan in 1956, a series of internal conflicts led to a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and the creation of the Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan. The conflicts ensured that Sudan, along with many countries in the 'Great Lakes' region of East-Central Africa, has struggled with refugee and Internally Displaced Person crises over the past 30 years.

South Sudan continues to face difficulties, and is currently ranked as the most at risk country on the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index, and the third lowest in the UN World Happiness Report. A civil war in South Sudan erupted in 2013, with more than 400,000 deaths and major atrocities reported by both sides. Political divides soon turned to ethnic conflicts, and more than 4 million people have been displaced. Of these, around 1.8 million are internally displaced, with another 2.5 million fleeing to neighbouring countries like Uganda and Sudan. Though tentative peace accords are now in place, the country continues to be dangerous, delicate, and complicated.

Since 2012, ACWW Member Society, Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI), have been working in South Sudan to offer peace a chance; they are supporting the local populace, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and UN and NGO efforts to stabilise the country.

In September 2018, ACWW Policy & Communications Manager Nick Newland, whilst on leave in Uganda, was invited by Sr. Viji, Projects Committee member and former Central and South Asia Area President, to visit the DMI staff in Juba and see the work they are doing. The rest of this article is his account, and will be continued in the next issue.

"After about an hour flying from Entebbe, Uganda to Juba, I was struck by just how empty much of South Sudan's countryside seemed to be. The red dust of Uganda was replaced by the tawny sand and scrub of the desert, the humidity lower, but temperature significantly higher. After my arrival at the 'airport' facilities in Juba, I was met by Sr. Maila, and we drove straight to the Mangateen IDP Camp. As we travelled to the camp, she gave me a briefing on the situation.

The majority of NGOs left the area in 2016 when violence once again flared, but the DMI decided to stay and help as much as possible. Their intention is to strengthen IDPs beyond survival, including education and nutrition, peace and reconciliation, and sensitising the whole community to prevention of gender-based violence and the need to protect young girls.

As we arrived at Mangateen, I was shocked by the conditions, and more so when I was told that the current situation was a drastic improvement over even a few months earlier. Our first stop was at one of the training rooms used by the 'health promoters'. A combination of wooden batons and mud, similar to wattle and daub, and the ubiquitous tarpaulins (mainly UNICEF and UNHCR, with a smattering of other UN agencies) form the walls of most structures in the camp, whilst others are more modern field tents.

The 8 Health Promotion workers have been in the camp for at least 3 years each, and are civilian residents of the camp. They have received rudimentary training from the DMI and are supported in their efforts to help those around them. Carrying a very basic first aid kit of painkillers, a few biscuits, and rehydration solution, the Promoters are crucial in identifying those most in need, and signposting them to the medical team in the camp. When asked what their biggest challenges were, I was told*: *"the children are suffering, with no hospital, no water, and no treatment. There is no food; mosquitoes and flies are everywhere. Malaria is a big problem"*. Another Promoter added *"We try to help pregnant mothers, and can carry them to the hospital. Lactating mothers need more support"*. All of the Promoters are keen for more training so they can help people, and explained how important the work of the DMI is to their survival. The final comment from a Promoter left me rattled: *"People are rotting, and first aid is not enough. However many tents there are, there are always more people coming. The shelter is improving, but paracetamol and biscuits will not keep people alive"*.

There is a separate medical camp nearby, but with very limited space and facilities, so whenever possible people are cared for at the 'hospital' tents within Mangateen. The lack of typhoid vaccinations, complicated by contaminated water, extremely limited toilet facilities, and restricted options for maintaining personal hygiene, all create a potential crisis on a daily basis.

The conditions are perfect for Cholera, the threat of which grows when you consider that there is a constant flow of new arrivals at this and other camps in the region. Around 15-20,000 people are currently being registered by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), and this number is fairly consistent.

The medical facilities in Mangateen are limited; the Primary Health Care Centre sees 80-100 outpatients per day, and can care for 2-3 inpatients. Many are wounded victims of violence, who are cared for and discharged as quickly as possible, allowing them to return to their families. Around 650 cases a week are treated for mosquito-related illnesses, including 350 with Malaria. There are 8-10 staff rotating in and out of the Centre, including a mental health specialist, and those who work in pre-natal and reproductive specialities. There are 4 clinic Health Officers and 1 Doctor, but there are plans to build a minor surgery unit soon. While hospital-attended deaths are minimal, the doctors are concerned with those who don't seek or receive treatment. Waste management for the Centre is divided into a 'placenta pit', a burnable pit, and an un-burnable pit. There are no facilities for removal of this waste.

Our next stop was the school that the DMI have constructed to offer educational opportunities. As we arrive, there was a meeting of the Peace and Reconciliation Committee taking place. This group of 30 women take responsibility for raising awareness of the issues facing women in the camp, and bringing people together to act in peace rather than violence. They promote trauma healing, emotional freedom, access to counselling and support for the peace building process. There is a focus on resolving family conflict, training on how to protect from Cholera, and teaching bread-making skills.

The Committee is clear when asked about the issues they face. Though the DMI provide food for the children in the mornings, the lack of evening meals are a problem. The heat frays tempers, so ensuring that there is confidence in one's family will help maintain peace. Women have to raise the children, and face many more challenges than the men. Those who have lost husbands in conflict must contend with additional difficulties. The leadership role of women is crucial, especially when it comes to nutrition, community leadership,

* Names have been omitted at the request of the Sisters



Health Promoters: Dr. Sr. Paschal (r) with nurse Mr Justine (l) and six of the 8 Health Promotion Workers at the Mangateen Camp



Limited Water: The two large white tanks in the centre of the image are the sole source of water for the majority of people at Mangateen

and avoiding early marriage. This is a real problem, one that not only puts women at risk of early pregnancy, but forces them to drop out of school and so limits their options for the future. I was hugely impressed by the fortitude and strength of these women who face these most horrific situations on a daily basis.

The school spaces host different groups throughout the day. The students range from very little to young adults, arranged not by age but level. This means that the students progress through a standardised, if limited, curriculum from Primary 1 to Primary 5, with efforts now being made to expand this up to Primary 8 and allow some to leave the camp to take classes elsewhere if they can be facilitated. The youngest students come in the morning, and are fed to ensure at least one nutritious meal per day. The older students come in the afternoon. All of the 11 teachers are local, and are deeply committed to the opportunity for survival and change that education gives their students.

Studying in English (the second language of South Sudan, after the local 'Juba Arabic' dialect), the students learn maths, English, and other subjects dictated by age. Crucially they also study the development and history of their country, and a mixture of perspectives on peace, peace-building and reconciliation.

The classes are mixed, with boys and girls studying together. In one of the afternoon classes, there were 8 young men, and one woman. I asked how she felt about studying in this group, and she responded: *"I am 21 and have five children, also in the school, and I think that being together in classes with men and women is important so everyone respects each other"*. The men in the room agreed and offered a round of applause.

The teacher in the class was wearing a T-shirt with a slogan promoting hand-washing. I asked about it, and was told that given the lack of safe water, washing hands with ash was an acceptable alternative.



Life Advice: One of the many posters offering people sensible, practical guidance. They are distributed around the camp and are all aimed at furthering the peace development programme.

The challenges of life in Mangateen are both brutal and starkly obvious. A huge number of recent arrivals are currently housed in a warehouse in the north east corner of the site. Whereas the UNICEF and UNHCR tents will hold 9 families each, this warehouse is an open space with people cooking, eating, sleeping, and defecating in the same area. Children play, somehow oblivious to the chaos around them, the only visible sign of their reality are the bloated stomachs of malnourishment. Every woman in sight is busy. Busy trying to keep her tiny segment of personal space tidy. Busy tending to children. Busy washing clothes, or preparing to cook, or staking out subtle little markers that delineate areas for specific purposes. I emphasise this because there is a distinct contrast with the men in the camp. Whilst some are hard at work reinforcing shelters, studying, or teaching in the school, there are so many men who seem to just be waiting. There is no clarity on exactly what it is they are waiting for, but their activity is far less focussed than that of the women. It is no surprise that it

is the men at the root of conflict both outside and within the camp. Indeed, the Mangateen camp was established as an offshoot of a larger local camp after clan-based conflict broke out there.

After a hot day in the camp, we visited the DMI compound where the Sisters live. The basic facilities have been made 'home' by these incredibly dedicated women, aged just 18 to 45. I was treated to a delicious meal, cooked by the Sisters, and we all sat to eat together. After being interrogated about my visual similarity to Santa Claus(!), the evening was spent telling me stories of their experiences. I can honestly say that I have never met a more focussed group of people, passionate about their work and its important role in changing the lives of those around them for the better. The Sisters have twice had their compound raided at gunpoint in the last two years and, apart from a short period of trauma counselling for those most affected by this, they have again returned to their work and efforts to help the people of South Sudan build a safer, more peaceful, future."



Thank you to everyone who has already helped us raise more than £34,720 since the launch of the WE Fund. The figures shown here are after the deductions made for new projects funded from the WE Fund in November 2018.

