

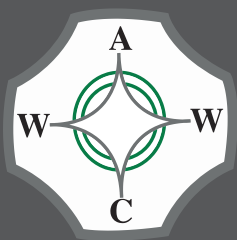
THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ISSUE 3 - 2019

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

This year we dedicate our cover to those Refugee, IDP, and Stateless women who have no choice but to Walk the World

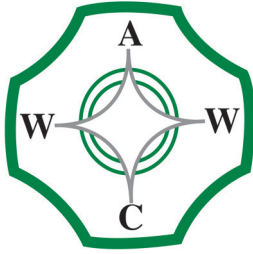


CIO No. 1174798

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A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road
London SE21 8EN

Member Action Focus on Refugees
Women Walk the World
Introducing ACWW's Kitchen Table



Associated Country Women of the World
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The Countrywoman Issue 3 - 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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COVER IMAGE

In recognition of the International Day of Refugees and decades of ACWW policy on displaced persons, refugees, and women affected by conflict, we dedicate the cover of this issue to those women who are forced to Walk the World

MEMBERSHIP

As you are aware, all Society and Individual Memberships were due in January. Please ensure that you are fully paid-up in good time, and why not consider renewing now for next year? Just contact Central Office!

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.



MY DEAR FRIENDS...

A message from World President Magdie de Kock



With the release of this message, I have been in the privileged position to represent our organization and its members as World President for only three months and I am aware of the fact that I find myself facing great challenges and responsibilities. However, I am also aware of the fact that I am only the next link in a long chain of dedicated women who have served as World Presidents of ACWW and I honour every former World President's legacy and her dreams for ACWW.

An Anonymous writer once wrote:
"Little girls with dreams become women with vision".

I too, was once a little girl with a dream... When I was a little girl, I loved to help my mother collecting money for the Red Cross. Our spot was in front of the pharmacy on the corner of the high street of our small village. Almost every Saturday morning we drove from our farm to take up our shift – Mother with the little tin box and I with the paper tags and the pins... for every donation dropped in the box, I handed out the tag indicating that a donation was made. I loved standing there, imagining how every coin will be used to help the Red Cross to assist people in need. I was imagining how hundreds of girls just like me, helping their mothers collecting money to change the circumstances of people all over the world...

...and here I am today; being one of millions of women with a vision, being part of ACWW- an organisation of women with vision.

Even though voluntary work is important, and can have a major impact on people's lives, it comes with a great responsibility. Within ACWW this responsibility is not the task of a single person. Therefore I believe, it is only in the diversity of our membership that the strength of ACWW is to be found.

I was in London recently to attend the first Executive Committee meeting of this Triennium and also to work with the Staff at Central Office to familiarize myself with their duties and also my role in the new position. I was impressed by the CEO and the Staff with their capacity to work

hard, and their dedication and passion for ACWW. Their support and assistance reflected just how much they care about ACWW and the membership.

The meetings with the Executive Committee were fruitful and positive. The Committee Chairmen also met with their administrators and made progress on action plans for the Triennium. I have no doubt that we will see many positive outcomes from these meetings in the coming months.

Whilst being in the UK, I was honoured to attend the Annual Meeting of the National Federations of Women's Institutes of England and Wales. I stood in awe listening to the Anthems being sung by such a large gathering of WI members. To attend the meeting of the WI of Bradley Stoke was to be reminded of almost the same way in which my very own WAU branch is being conducted – with one exception – I was treated to a very traditional English Cream Tea! The day before I returned home, I addressed the friendly members of the Hampshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

As a guideline to my tenure as World President I'd like to stress the importance of being open and inclusive, working towards unity while respecting and protecting diversity. We have come far with strong leadership and dedicated members and Staff, but we still have much to do:

- To be prepared to reach our mission, we need to grow in membership. I encourage you to invite your peers and young professional friends to join but also help to keep existing members engaged, involved and more actively participating in the many opportunities ACWW has to offer.
- To be prepared to focus on our financial stability. With a solid financial foundation, we can provide more information and assistance for rural women to take action.
- To be prepared to build the reputation of ACWW. It will happen with the strategic focus of a dedicated, professional force from our Board members and the loyalty and active involvement of our membership.

The last three months have been a whirlwind having assumed the duties of World President, but I have been amazed at the outpouring of support from our members in nudging me along.

I am ready to get underway and work with you to make 2019 a year of accomplishments. It is my belief that with our strength being our diversity, we will improve retention and attract new members. It will also enable each of us to give more, grow more, and reignite passion for our work within ACWW.

Maya Angelou said: "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour".

Be inspired by the ACWW theme for this triennium: "**Our Diversity is our Strength**". Remember the changes that ACWW has achieved around the world, and far we still have to go. We are, and must remain, Rural Women in Action.

With warm regards

Magdie de Kock
ACWW World President

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Tish Collins, Chief Executive Officer

As ever when I sit down to write this message for *The Countrywoman*, my first thought is "what a busy few months it has been!". The last issue came to you fresh from the Triennial World Conference, and since then Central Office has been going through a process of updating, renewing, and reinvigorating all things ACWW.

We were delighted to welcome the World President and newly-elected members of the Executive Committee for their first meetings of the Triennium. For some this was a return to Central Office, having served on the Board or Committees in other capacities, and for some it was the first time coming to the London headquarters. After a very productive day of round table discussions, the Committee Chairmen spent time with their specific administrators and worked on action plans and preparation for the first full round of Committee meetings in October.

There was a wonderful buzz of energy and enthusiasm during this week of meetings, with the Finance and Membership Committee also meeting for the first time. With each of the Committee Chairmen there was the opportunity for them to be briefed on the recent history and current status of work in their focus area, and to discuss how they saw the work of their Committees moving forward. Already some exciting ideas are in place, and will be progressed over the next year with the input and work of the Committee members.

Alongside these strategic processes, there have been more mundane activities. The Finance and Membership Committee agreed that a newly-proposed contract should be adopted for the Central Office printer and photocopier; this new machine will be more energy efficient, environmentally friendly, and save a significant amount of money each year. Things like this are always under review and are just part of the process for fiscal responsibility and management. In a similar vein, new donation portals and systems have been agreed for the new website when it launches later this year. They will help to streamline financial transactions coming via online platforms.

In terms of reinvigorating, many of you will have already noticed an increase in the tempo of social media posting and in the scope of what is being sent out. Working collaboratively across the office, our staff are responding to feedback from members



and the Board. One of the most positive innovations has been the creation of a new Facebook group, 'ACWW's Kitchen Table', which many of you have already joined. You can read more about this forum for discussion on page 8 of this issue of *The Countrywoman*.

Following on from feedback about the Global Survey of the Living Conditions of Rural Women, we have also started rolling out several new consultations, surveys, and polls to gather opinions and data from you, the membership. The overwhelming message from members at the Triennial World Conference was that our advocacy work with the UN was crucial. For this to be successful, we need your input and responses. If you aren't already signed up, please contact Central Office to be added to the email mailing list: It is this list that we send the World President's E-Newsletter, and our online consultations and updates. Simply email Jessica at info@acww.org.uk and ask to be added to the list.

Whilst on the subject of Jessica, some of you may have wondered about her recent change of name (Bailey to Green) when contacting Central Office. Jessica got married in May, and was then away for some annual leave, and her honeymoon!

As part of our ongoing review process, we are investigating postage methods for *The Countrywoman* and, as agreed by the outgoing Board, this issue is being trialled in digital format for the East, West and Central Africa Area due to limitations of the postal systems there. We look forward to the feedback, and will keep you updated!

Tish Collins, CEO

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Countrywoman magazine has been a cornerstone of ACWW's communications profile since it was first published, and we are always looking for new ways to reach our membership. For the first time, this issue of the magazine is being sent to all members in the East, West, and Central Africa Area in a digital format alongside the usual paper copies being posted worldwide. The Area Conference held in Kampala, Uganda, in September 2018 passed a resolution to the Board requesting digital distribution as the postal services in their countries meant that they rarely received the magazine at all, and when they did, it was very late. We are pleased to be testing this method with this issue, and its success will no doubt be discussed at the next meeting of the Communications and Marketing Committee in October 2019.

We are also experimenting with other digital methods of communication intended to support our members and their efforts in advocacy and awareness raising. You can read more about ACWW's Kitchen Table elsewhere in the magazine, and hopefully those who were at the Triennial World Conference in Melbourne will see some of their suggestions for engagement coming to life. We always welcome your input and appreciate you taking the time to contact Central Office.

On that note, please allow me the more-than-once-a-year reminder that if you have moved house, changed your name, or your society has changed officers who should be receiving the magazine, you need to tell Central Office! We want to ensure that you get your copies of the magazine, but for at least 50% of the people who contact us to say they don't receive it, we have outdated information. We are also working to resolve some issues with magazines reaching members in Nova Scotia, Canada, and will continue to do our best to improve the system.

The next issue will feature reports from the High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Part 2 of the report from South Sudan to complete the previously published article.

As ever, please send your contributions to me by emailing nick@acww.org.uk. I hope you will enjoy this issue, and I look forward to writing soon with more updates from this new Triennium.

Nick Newland - Editor

FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Ruth Cargill, Treasurer and Finance & Membership Committee Chairman

The Finance and Membership Committee met for the first time this triennium in June. The committee members are: Jo Almond (USA), Pamela Brown (UK), Liz Christian (UK) and myself. It was great to meet the members of the committee who will work with me over the coming three years to oversee the Association's finances. As we are all new to this committee, this meeting gave us the opportunity to review the issues that were being looked at by the previous committee, so that we know what still needs to be dealt with and start to gain an understanding of ACWW's current financial position and budgetary needs.

The aims for the coming Triennium are:

- income growth
- maintaining and increasing membership
- improve financial communication

In the last issue I encouraged you to think about who, individuals or societies, you should be encouraging to join ACWW. How are you going with that? At the Triennial World Conference we were shown a comparison of membership numbers from 2016 to 2019 in table form. For those who find graphs easier, there are two graphs shown. Category 4 is in both graphs as a point of comparison.

At a first glance it looks like there has been amazing growth in category 4 members. However, many of these are individual branches of larger societies that were previously subscription only members, and this is no longer an option. There are still around 50 of these who need to transfer to category 4, if that's your branch or institute, can I encourage you to follow this up now.

Five to ten of each of Category 1, 2 & 3 societies lapsed last year. Mostly this is not because they have decided to no longer be members, but because renewing membership was overlooked, often due to a change in office bearer. If your society is an ACWW member, are the details for when membership is due known centrally and not just by the person currently responsible for paying and distributing information from ACWW? One of the main reason societies stop being members of ACWW is that office bearers change and the information isn't passed on. What are you doing to ensure succession planning for ACWW involvement within your society?

The third graph on this page is one that was shown at conference. It shows the restricted income and expenditure from 2010-2018, essentially these are the projects funds. This graph tells both a happy and sad tale. The happy side is that we are no longer spending more on projects than we are receiving, and this is a

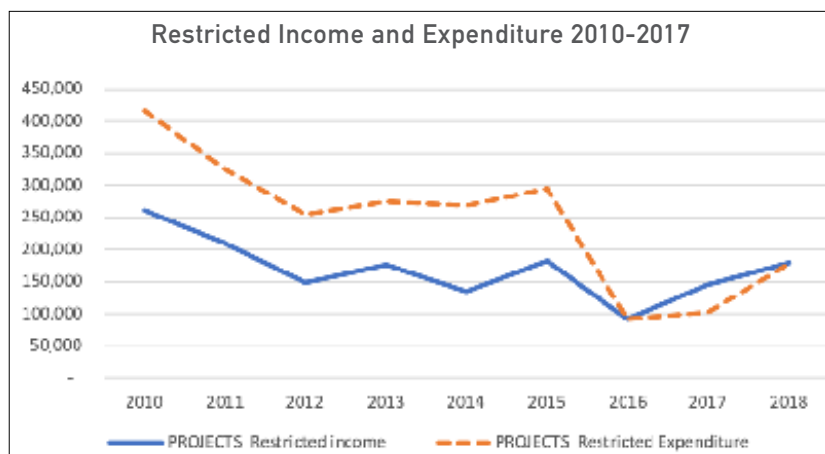
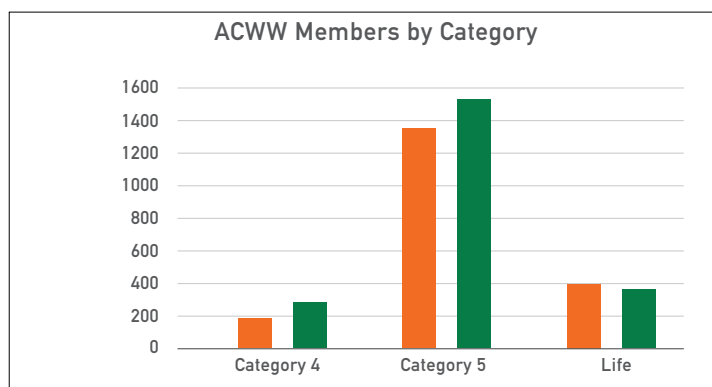
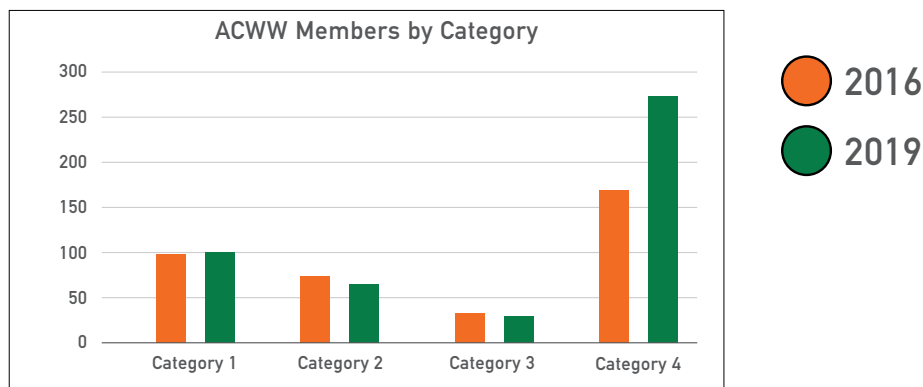
good place for us to be. The sad part is that the spending on projects in 2018 was less than half what it was in 2010.

Projects are only one aspect of the work of ACWW, over the past couple of years we have started to increase our advocacy work, particularly through the UN, to a level it has been previously. The advocacy aspects were part of ACWW before projects existed. If we are going to continue to do this work, as I believe we should, then we are also going to need more funds to enable ACWW to continue to be a voice for women worldwide.

In Australia, there are almost 58,000 registered charities, this does not include the myriad of crowdfunding options now available. There is always someone asking for money for something. ACWW can always use more funds both empowering and enabling funds, so that the impact we can have both on national and international policy and in the well-being of rural women and their communities can continue to grow. As one of the committee members said:

"We need to increase income to do more."

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Life
2016	99	74	34	170	1311	386
2019	103	67	30	277	1483	345



CAMEROON ANGLOPHONE CRISIS

Area President Irene Chinje reports from East, West, and Central Africa

In October 2016, Lawyers and Teachers in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon staged a peaceful protest. They decried, *inter alia*, the overwhelming and systematic marginalization, oppression and suppression of Anglophone (English speaking) Cameroonians leading to the gradual erosion of their Anglophone identity. The intended peaceful protest met with untold flagrant, brutal human rights abuses and aberrations from the government forces. The brutality led to loss of human lives, destruction of properties, raping of students, maiming, arbitrary arrest and detentions and disruption of the educational and health systems.

The security situation and living conditions in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon continues to deteriorate. This situation has subjected about 1.3 million people, including around 850,000 women and children to humanitarian assistance. About 550,000 of these people, half of whom are women and children, are internally displaced. Abduction, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and recruitment into armed groups, imposed lockdowns, or ghost-town days are affecting people's freedom of movement and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Freedom of speech and association has been curtailed, including civil society space. The crisis has crippled the country economically, politically and socially, paving the way for Cameroon to miss achieving the SDGs and African Union Aspiration 3063.

Government has bridled access to national and international human rights and humanitarian organisations, there has been widespread impunity for violations carried out by security forces. Thousands of people lack access or have reduced access to basic services such as healthcare and safe drinking water, and livelihoods have been destroyed. More than 65% of health facilities in the affected regions are not functioning. Many children last stepped foot in a classroom three years ago due to a ban on education by non-state armed groups and attacks. Over 80% of schools have been closed, affecting more than 600,000 children. At least 74 schools have been destroyed, while students, teachers and school personnel have been exposed to violence, abduction and intimidation. Since 2018, more than 300 students and teachers have been

kidnapped and subsequently released after traumatic experiences. Some have been killed, others maimed for violation of the ban on education.

Women who bear the brunt in a crisis situation have, alongside children, been at the forefront of the Cameroon Anglophone crisis, staging lamentation campaigns, providing humanitarian assistance and advocating for dialogue and an end to the crisis. One such women's group is South West North West Women's Task Force (SNWOT), a coalition of women leaders with over 150 individual members who represent themselves and women's organizations of the Southwest and Northwest regions and some focal points in Yaoundé and Douala. The task force is apolitical and guided by the principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence and confidentiality, with the goal for women to devise effective strategies for meaningful peace through dialogue and for women's effective and equal participation in terminating the prevailing Anglophone Crisis and return life to normality in the crisis-racked Northwest and Southwest Regions.

Women-led NGOs like Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED); ACWW Members Mambi Women's group, Changing Mentality (Chameg) and a host of others have mobilized and trained internally displaced women and girls on income generating activities and the need to prevent and counter violent extremism and SGBV.

All initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis have completely excluded women, thereby undermining all commitments and instruments that Cameroon has signed in favour of women in peace and security. Even the development of the first National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security has not oriented the conflict parties. This exclusion has been typified in the side-lining of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family in the creation of the National Committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). The DDR equally relegates Civil Society Organisations to partners if needed and not active participants to effectively monitor and evaluate the effective implementation of the process considering the different needs of female and male ex-combatants. Even the ongoing dialogue

talks in Geneva have not included women, though we are a critical majority and represent 52%.

Women's groups in Cameroon have come together to make the following recommendations:

- a prompt, independent, and impartial investigation of allegations of human rights abuses and prosecution of those responsible;
- accountability and responsibility of those in leadership for violations committed by security forces under their command;
- the need to speed up implementation of the National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 (2000) and prioritize women's meaningful participation in efforts to find a peaceful solution, including in local mediation processes;
- Women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) should be supported in their work providing basic response services at the local level, as well as in leadership roles in humanitarian, peace and security processes and initiatives;
- in order to avoid further deterioration, the international community should urgently fund humanitarian assistance that is gender and age-sensitive, including non-discriminatory medical and psychosocial support for survivors of SGBV, and adheres to humanitarian principles.

Submitted for information to all ACWW members by Irene Chinje, Area President for East, West, and Central Africa
July 2019

WE FUND UPDATE

The Women Empowered Fund is working!

As you know, the Women Empowered Fund (known as the 'WE Fund') was launched in 2018 as a new way of funding ACWW's development projects. As donations come in to each of the 'Focal Area Pots', we update the bars on our chart so that supporters can see the amounts raised. These Focal Areas come from ACWW's charitable aims and objectives, and the traditional streams of ACWW project funding. Rather than the model of project "adoption" that was used latterly, the WE Fund ensures that projects are funded sustainably and that the pots do not have to be re-filled with retrospective donations.



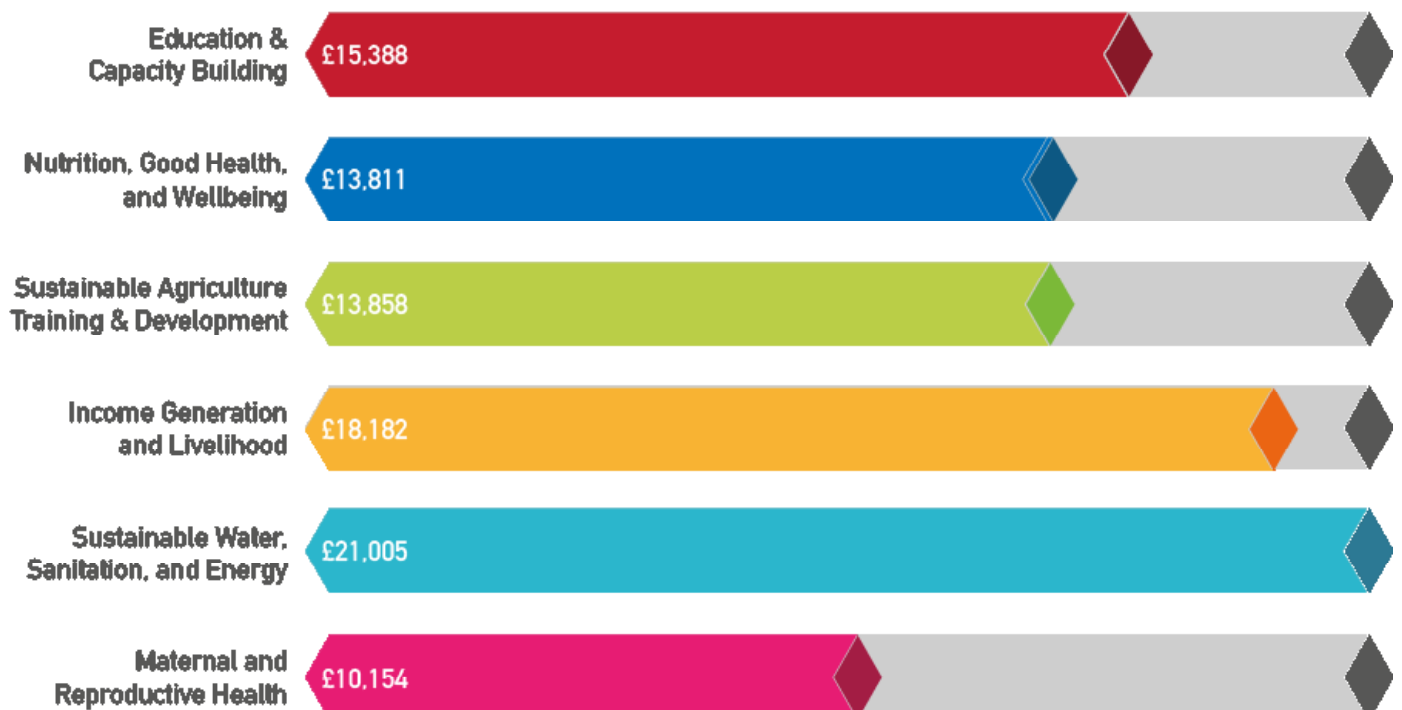
The November 2018 meeting of the Projects Committee recommended 7 new projects for funding from the WE Fund, and these were approved by the Board. As they were funded, money was taken out of each of the respective WE Fund pots. When we originally set out the plan for the WE Fund, we suggested an initial target of raising £20,000 per pot to give ACWW a significant amount of money to fund from.

The graph shows the totals available so far for distribution at the October 2019 Committee meeting. We are delighted to announce that as of 3 July 2019, the Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy focus area stood at £21,005! The next meeting of the Projects Committee will take place in October, and the next issue of The Countrywoman magazine will give more detail of the next round of projects being funded.

ACWW is so grateful for the hard work of everyone who raises money to support Projects, and who have so generously engaged with the Women Empowered Fund since its launch. To give an idea of the scale of support, between 13 May and 3 July, ACWW received a fantastic £24,376 in donations to the WE Fund. Thank you to all who have contributed!



Women Empowered Fund Totals as of 3 July 2019



ACWW's KITCHEN TABLE

We invite you to pull up a chair, and join the conversation!

Anyone reading this magazine can tell you that ACWW's strength is the incredible, diverse, inspiring, and impressive membership around the world. At Central Office, many hours have been spent since the Triennial World Conference digesting feedback and conversations had with members. It is this feedback process, and the success of the Conference group on Facebook that has led us to launch ACWW's Kitchen Table.

This is envisaged as an opportunity for you to 'pull up a chair' and tell us about your experience and expectations, how ACWW is doing, and how we can do things better. As well as asking questions for ACWW to answer, it also allows us to ask questions and get instant feedback, much like a focus group on all things ACWW.

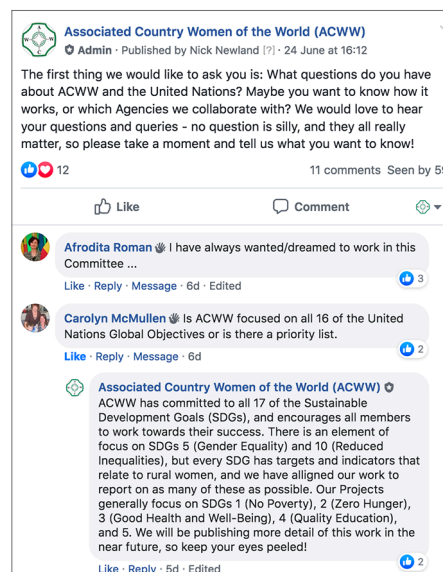
It is really important that every member knows that their contribution is valued and respected, and that we want to hear all opinions. We think this group is a helpful additional channel for input from our members and the initial success supports this. However, we are also committed to those members who do not use or like social media and will continue to distribute information and consultations by email, and through this magazine, The Countrywoman. The critical thing is for us to hear from you, through whichever channel works best.

As you may have seen, World President Magdie de Kock has sent out several E-Newsletters since taking office in April, and we have had very positive responses to these messages. One included a video on the importance of data collection, and talking about the gap in information relating to rural women.

Building on the data gathered by the Global Survey last year, we are working to ensure that the voices of our members are heard loud and clear, and as widely as possible. We have taken the feedback we have received on board, and are working on various ways to reach out to you, our members, as effectively as possible.

If you would like to join ACWW's Kitchen Table, please search on Facebook. When you click to join, it will ask you three questions (don't worry, these are easy to answer!). Whilst we are keen to hear from as many people as possible, we also want to ensure that it is ACWW members who inform our work and not the wider internet as a whole!

On the page you will find a range of questions, suggestions, and polls - posed by ACWW and other members. You can see some examples on this page from existing posts. As for your involvement, we heartily encourage you to pull up a chair and join the conversation!



Example posts from ACWW's Kitchen Table



ACWW's Kitchen Table

Pull up a chair, and
join the conversation

YOU TELL US!

Let us know what works best for you

ACWW is now producing more resources than ever before to support members in their advocacy efforts. We have circulated these resources by printing them in *The Countrywoman* magazine, making them available for download on the ACWW website, by emailing them to everyone on our mailing list, and by posting and sharing them on social media.

Now we need your input on what works best for you and would be most convenient in supporting your campaigning to improve the lives of women in your community.

On this page you can see some examples of recently created infographics and posters, as well as a guide to writing lobbying letters to send your local law- and policy-makers.

Below are several options that we are suggesting. We are hoping that you will contact Central Office and tell us what would be most useful, or if you have additional ideas. We would love to hear from you, and this is your chance to influence how we work with our members.

Option 1

Digital resources on our website and sent by email for you to print yourself

Option 2

Print posters and post them with *The Countrywoman* magazine for you to use

Option 3

Produce a bound or stapled booklet with graphics and information to be sent on request, so you can read and copy from there

Option 4

Produce a bound or stapled booklet with graphics and information to be sent to every member, so you can read and copy from there

Option 5

Print posters and infographics inside the magazine for you to pull out or photocopy

To contact us, please:

Email info@acww.org.uk

Or write to ACWW Central Office,
A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road,
London SE21 8EN.

You can also join ACWW's Kitchen Table on Facebook and take the poll there.

RURAL WOMEN IN ACTION

You Can Help!

Limit Chemical Use on Your Property
Any synthetic chemical used outdoors has the potential to effect pollinators. Even chemicals that aren't obviously toxic can have negative secondary effects on pollinator health and resilience. Try natural alternatives before resorting to powerful chemicals.

Plant a Pollinator Garden
Plant native flowering plants that bloom throughout the growing season. Make sure that there are areas for nesting and water available.

Foster Relationships
with your local apary or beekeepers association, and if you must use insecticides on your farm, let them know! Try to limit insecticide use to still, overcast days.

Educate
yourself and others on the causes of pollinator decline, especially urban sprawl and habitat loss due to land use

https://www.acww.org.uk/pollinators/resources-and-subjects/what-are-pollinators-and-why-do-we-need-them
https://www.acww.org.uk/pollinators/resources-and-subjects/what-are-pollinators-and-why-do-we-need-them
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CID N° 1174796 A1922-14

RURAL WOMEN IN ACTION

80% of plastic pollution in the ocean comes from land sources

Most plastic waste breaks down into microplastics, making cleanups more difficult

Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck of plastic is dumped into our oceans

These microplastics are then ingested by baby fish, leading to early death for the fish and falling fishstocks.

https://www.acww.org.uk/pollinators/resources-and-subjects/what-are-pollinators-and-why-do-we-need-them
https://www.acww.org.uk/pollinators/resources-and-subjects/what-are-pollinators-and-why-do-we-need-them
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CID N° 1174796 A1922-14

RURAL WOMEN IN ACTION

The Human Contribution to Climate Change

Certain gases in the atmosphere block heat from escaping. Long-lived gases that remain semi-permanently in the atmosphere and do not respond physically or chemically to changes in temperature are described as "forcing" climate change.

Carbon Dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has increased by a third since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, directly related to human activities like deforestation, industry, and burning fossil fuels. Carbon Dioxide is one gas that, at current levels, keeps heat from escaping the earth's surface.

Methane is a gas produced by decomposition in landfills, agricultural practices like rice cultivation, and manure management associated with livestock. Though Methane is far less abundant in the atmosphere, it is a more active greenhouse gas than even Carbon Dioxide.

Nitrous Oxide is produced by the use of commercial and organic fertilisers, fossil fuel combustion, and biomass burning.

As you can see below, the scientific community agrees: the earth's surface is warming and the effects are potentially devastating. Communities must be made aware of the unique impacts of climate change on their specific area and ensure that they are resilient.

A World of Agreement: Temperatures are Rising
Global Temperature Anomaly (°C)

NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies
Berkeley Earth
Japanese Meteorological Agency
NOAA National Climatic Data Center
Met Office Hadley Centre/Climatic Research Unit

https://climate.nasa.gov/system/external_resources/details/original/1730_world_of_agreement_2018.jpg
https://climate.nasa.gov/system/external_resources/details/original/1730_world_of_agreement_2018.jpg

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CID N° 1174796 A1922-14

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DO YOU USE FACEBOOK?

Help us make sure you see our posts

You may have noticed that, over the last year, we have put a lot of effort into making sure that the resources we produce are posted regularly to Facebook. This is not to say that we are producing things only for Facebook, as many of the resources are also sent out by email, available on the website, and included with *The Countrywoman* magazine.

The reason we do this is that Facebook is a great way to spread ACWW's message to people it might not otherwise reach. However, Facebook is very clever, and wants to make organisations pay to ensure that people see their posts. This is why you might go days or weeks without seeing anything from ACWW, even though we post most days.

ACWW has a very high "organic reach" (this means that we do not pay to boost our posts) but we have noticed that Facebook isn't showing people our posts, so that things we expected to be very popular are not reaching as many people as we thought they would. However, you can help us with this!

A very easy way to spread ACWW's message is to share our posts. The post will perform even better if you share it with a caption like "I'm so proud to be part of this organisation" or "This is an important issue we all need to work on."

It also helps tremendously if you like and comment on the posts you do see - Facebook will show you more of the things you actually engage with as part of their user experience, which is why you tend to see the same sort of things popping up all the time.

Lastly, do visit the page regularly and scroll through liking and commenting and sharing - this will ensure that you see more of what we're producing.

Please do stay in touch, and don't forget to join the Kitchen Table group!

MEMBER ACTION FOCUS: REFUGEES

Looking at the work of our members around the world

On 20 June, the world marked the International Day of Refugees. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018 - the highest level that UNHCR has seen in its almost 70 years.

As part of marking this important day, and reflecting ACWW's policies on action in support of refugees and victims of war, Sydney Salter wrote to ACWW Member Societies to ask whether they undertook any work in their communities to assist and support refugees and victims of conflict. We are pleased to be able to print four stories from our Member Societies here, as well as two stories gathered by the new Chairman of the UN Committee, Marie Kenny in Canada.

Member Linda Roberts in Australia remembers her time in England

"After the war in Vietnam, England settled groups of refugees and Manchester offered support for 20 families in our district, Blackley. The council provided a number of council houses and approached several organizations to take responsibility for a family each. I was a teacher with family liaison responsibilities at our school and when singled out by our principal as the person to spearhead the family allocated to the school, got our Parent and Teacher group (PTA) involved. We scrubbed and painted the house and collected furniture to make it habitable using our own resources, op shop buys, and a little of our association funds.

Three classrooms were given over to become a Centre for the families to learn English and the children learnt here as well, until they were ready to enter main stream classrooms. 'My' family consisted of mum, dad, and 3 boys. They settled well and became hard working members of our community. They remained my friends and would visit me and I them, right until I left England in 1992 (usually with yummy food gifts!) Every year the group would provide a celebration in school to share information and food from their homeland. To me, it worked because a structure was put in place to address many multifaceted aspects including welcome, home provision, income source, education and integration into our community."

Mambi Women's Group supports IDPs in Cameroon

"I come from an area in Africa where there is war. It started over 3 years ago with a crisis which was not properly handled. People are fleeing from some affected areas to those not yet affected. I visited some homes where these people were living. Men, women, children, and pregnant women all together, living 14- 15 people all in one room. I gathered food items like corn, beans, rice and other items like old dresses and soap. I assembled these Refugees and gave them these things.

I told some members of parliament about these Refugees and also told some Mayors in my area. They then assigned me some women to help settle the refugees. They came from 6 villages. The first time we had more than 300 refugees to work with. The second time, there were more than 200. The MPs supported with money and food items. We used the money to buy more food, ingredients, and clothes to share with them. This time the Christians in my church gathered money and clothes etc. and we took these to the Refugees as well.

The number of women we're helping keeps on increasing every day. Some are school children so we are still trying to figure out how they can go to school after being out for close to three years now. They have started fleeing to other areas for safety but more are still coming in from other areas."

ACWW Member Society Passage Christelijk mandates action for Refugees

Passage, together with other national organisations, have created this manifesto for working with refugees and call on their members and government to:

- Design and implement training and education, focused on gender and cultural sensitivity, for all professionals and volunteers working with refugees, both in- and outside the shelters.
- Improve the chain of cooperation and communication
- Realise an independent residence permit for all female refugees
- Provide fast and free of charge, easily accessible information and care in order to deal with traumas.
- Create (financial) space for thorough investigation reports about women and girls in the refugee shelters
- Translate Resolution 1325 and national Action Plan 1325 to local level in cooperation with female refugees
- Involve women's organizations at local level with policy and product development regarding the care of female refugees

Passage have also worked with an organisation in Greece which supports primarily women refugees.

UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny interviewed Faridah Chishiti about her experience of helping refugees in Prince Edward Island, Canada

“During the Afghan crisis, Muslim Society of Prince Edward Island (PEI) got involved with sponsoring refugees. MSPEI co-sponsored a few families in collaboration with the church organization as we were not a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) organization at that time. (A Sponsorship Agreement Holder is an incorporated organization that has signed an agreement with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to resettle refugees from abroad through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees programme.)

I was asked to coordinate this as I had previous experience in the settlement of Kosovo families in the early 1990s. Once I had the full information about the families, I formed a committee of a few women and started organizing activities. We raised funds through yard sales, fundraising dinners, and in-kind donations from the local community. I furnished the apartment with beds, furniture, clothes, household things and other accessories. Through e-mails the response from the community was very positive. For my work with refugees I was awarded a national citizenship award in 2005 by Government of Canada. We have sponsored many refugees from Libya, Iraq, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Somalia.

I learned the plight of these refugees from the internet, newspapers and TV news. I found how resilient they were in their survival in refugee camps. After listening to their horror stories I realized they were not happy in leaving their homeland and coming to a completely new cultural

environment. It takes a long time to adjust to settling in a new country. One family would not live in a basement apartment as in their opinion it was like a prison. We had to gain their trust but it was very hard for them to trust their sponsors. The question always came “Why are you doing this for total strangers?”.

One has to take into consideration that these families are migrating to a new country where they do not even speak the language and they are leaving behind their own freedom and comfort just because of power hungry politicians and leaders. One thing I learned was never to discuss their miseries unless they opened their heart, once they gained confidence in the sponsors, it was a different story.

One has to consider all aspects of migrating families and make sure that there are some community members of their country as they will be lonely without their loved ones. They need to be comfortable and have a shoulder to cry upon which makes the adjustment period tolerable.

This is a human catastrophe, a violation of human rights in their own country where they were born and raised, spent their life time and now they are uprooted and exposed to a completely new cultural environment, especially for those who held status in their homeland. They feel impotent and helpless as men are the breadwinners and they cannot provide the basic livelihood for their families. Their qualifications are not recognized, they cannot work in their own profession and have to do menial or odd jobs, which is below their dignity. This causes mental anguish and problems in the family at home. They miss family visits, which were a feature of daily life in their homeland. In Canadian culture you only visit on weekends, and by calling first. The refugee families feel guests are a blessing, and miss that aspect of community life.



One aspect I believe is overlooked is the specific case of single mothers and raped women who have suffered trauma and seen death with their own eyes. These files should be expedited and their cases taken up specially by UNHCR.”

What is the UNHCR?

UNHCR is the UN Agency responsible for assisting and supporting refugees. They seek to ensure that migration management meets the needs of refugees and they coordinate settlement with receiving countries. However, they rely heavily on the work of local organisations like the Muslim Society of PEI.

ACWW Member organisations are specially equipped to support refugees, as the network already in place can serve as a community for these transplanted families. Rural women understand the issue of loneliness and isolation, and while rural areas might not be a hub for refugee settlement, rural women can support the networks that are already in place and ensure that their governments have created and are maintaining policy that looks after the needs of refugees, especially refugee women.

ACWW Policies on Refugees

Women and Peace, 2004

That ACWW Member Societies urge their governments and the United Nations, through the ACWW United Nations Committee, to give serious consideration to the impact of war and conflict on innocent women and children and to ensure that all other means of reconciliation are exhausted before resorting to war.

Women and Children in War-Torn Areas, 1995

That the ACWW representatives to the United Nations express our concerns at the atrocities being perpetuated against women and children in war-torn areas.

Women as Victims of Conflict, 2013

Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World and its member organisations urge their governments to act, not only adopt, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Refugees, 2016

ACWW calls for all governments affected by the current refugee crisis impacting Africa, Europe and Asia to afford such compassion, humanity and assistance as is necessary to those refugees who find themselves in this situation.

Women in Refugee Camps and Shelters, 2016

Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge their governments to take action to stop the increasing worldwide sexual abuse of women and children in refugee camps and shelters.

Faridah helped the Fazli family settle in, and this is Sara Fazli's story:

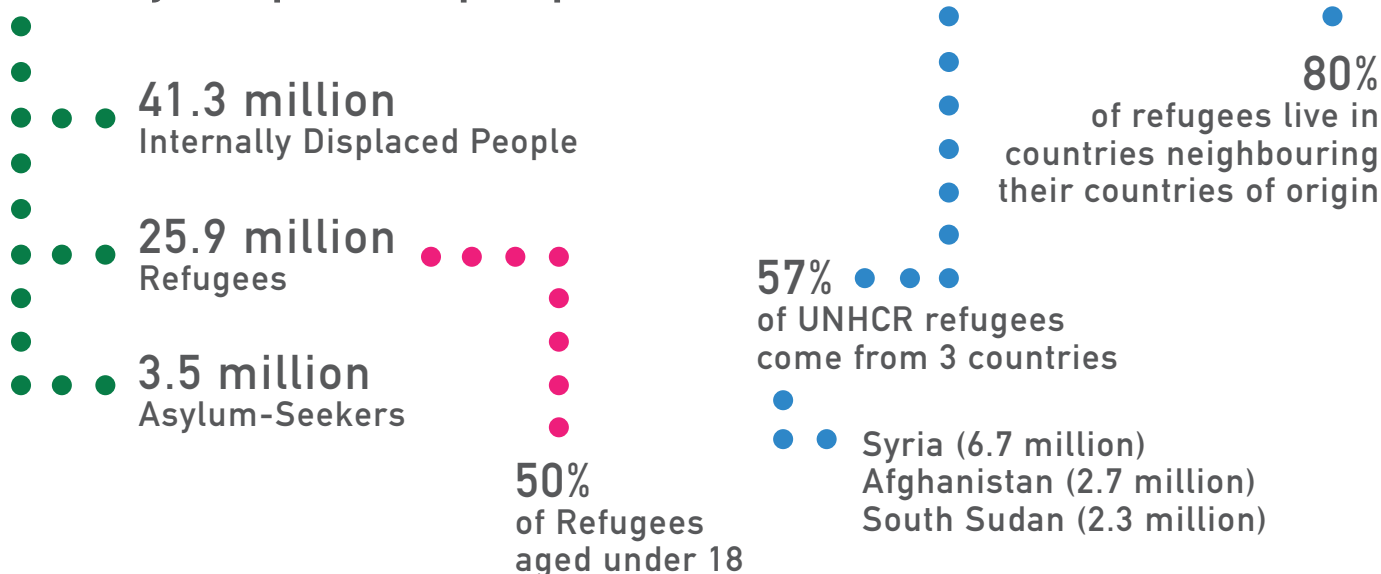
After leaving my country I first went to Pakistan, where I received a warm welcome and the people were friendly and helpful. Then I went to Tashkent and later on to Turkey. My impression was not that good as people were not friendly and hospitable. I had a hard time in adjusting as there were many restrictions. Since I have come to Canada, I am very happy and relaxed as my sponsors were very kind and accommodating.

Our sponsor women are emotional and they understand problems better than men. The community was very cooperative and they fulfilled our needs. It is very hard to explain as to how I feel when my half of the family is still in camps and suffering. We live in a combined family system. I will be happy only when we are all together. Even though I feel as I am in heaven but I still suffer the pain of loneliness.

When thinking of other refugees, one should understand the culture of the families. Refugees should have access to needed resources (such as medical, travel etc.) required by the refugee application process while staying/living in the cities/ or country. There is extra cost of exit visa, so settling in a new country can have financial implications for refugees.



70.8 million - the highest figure in 70 years forcibly displaced people worldwide



I AM A REFUGEE MYSELF!

Maha Asfour-Ghiz, Prince Edward Island, Canada

In the course of my overseas work alongside various churches in Lebanon, the civil war broke in the neighbouring country of Syria, in 2011. A massive influx of Syrians crossed the borders seeking refuge in Lebanon (up to 1.5 million in 2019). The churches were among many local institutes who came to the aid in response to the dire needs of refugees. In 2014, our involvement with refugees took a new turn. I was moved by the overwhelming needs of thousands of unschooled Syrian children. I felt a calling to do something about it and put my educational background to use. I started a non-formal curriculum in partnership with our local church. Today it is well into its fifth year.

Work with refugees has broadened my worldview and made me realise all the more how much we, as humans, are volatile. We are so connected and dependent on one another for our survival. How much the decisions of the few has a ripple effect on a global scale! Regardless of our race or socio-economic status all humans have the same needs. As the common Arabic saying puts it, *"We are all born in nine months!"*

Personally, work with refugees holds a profound meaning. Everything I do screams: *"Hey fellow humans don't worry we are together in it, we are one: I AM A REFUGEE MYSELF!"*

I am a daughter of a Palestinian refugee. I do understand the humiliation of being called, "A Refugee", of being stateless, of hearing the people scream in my face, *"Go back to your home land!"* I dreaded the question, *"Where do you come from?"*. I was ashamed to identify myself as a Palestinian refugee. I was cognisant of my Palestinian accent so people would not recognize me!

The irony is that Palestinians were, and still are, despised by the Arabs themselves. I only found my dignity and sense of belonging when I emigrated to Canada in 1990. Big Thank You Canada!

I want the World to remember:
"Once people abandon their homeland, they lose their dignity, their sense of belonging. People and their lands are one! Open your hearts, open your homes, it could be YOU one day, needing a place to take refuge in."

Sincerely,
Maha Asfour-Ghiz
A Canadian Citizen



Maha's story

In 1948, my father William Asfour (a Catholic) fled his home land, Haifa, Palestine, along with his six siblings. He first took refuge in Lebanon, got married to my mother, Wedad Khoury who is half Lebanese and half Syrian. They settled in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

I lived my childhood and early adult years between Saudi Arabia my birthplace, and Lebanon where I received my education in boarding schools. In 1990, I along with my family, landed as immigrants in Montreal. My documents held the status: Stateless!

In 1995, I returned to Lebanon, with my husband Michael Ghiz, a native of PEI, this time as a Christian missionary. In 1995, Michael and I returned to PEI, along with our four children.

WEEN EMPOWERS WOMEN

We meet the Women's Enterprise Empowerment Network, Cameroon

Women's Empowerment Enterprise Network (WEEN) in Cameroon has been working to provide women with opportunities for income generation for many years. Below you'll find 3 stories from women trained by WEEN. As you read, bear in mind the Anglophone Crisis currently underway in Cameroon. This crisis is an undeclared and unpublicised post-colonial civil war which has produced 530,000 Internally Displaced Persons. This is the context in which WEEN is still working to empower women, whose skills will be vital when the time comes for recovery.

Hamada Adamu

"I was born in 1993 to a family of thirteen children. My father is a polygamist. I live in Santa Njong a little village in the North West Region of Cameroon.

I met Mummy Irene through her late mother, Mama Martina who had a shop in the Santa market and we used to meet her there. My mother was a friend to Mama Martina and on Saturdays we always went to the market and we will go spend time helping in the shop. I was in secondary school in Santa and so Mama Martina introduced me to Mummy Irene. Coming from such a large family my father could not provide for all of us and so I got to know Mummy Irene who started taking care of me, providing some of my basic needs. When my father wanted me to leave school because he could no longer pay my fees, Mama Martina told Mummy Irene who said she will tell her Organisation to help me. That's when I came to know of the Organisation, the Women's Empowerment Enterprise Network (WEEN). They took over paying my fees until I left form five. I wanted to train in dressmaking and WEEN continued to pay for my training as an apprentice in Santa. I have gained the skill to sew various fashion designers' clothes, especially those used by the Bororo women.

Since my completion I have not been able to get started as WEEN promised to get me a machine. The machine was bought but has not been delivered as a result of the Crisis that has been going on for four years. If I had a machine I would be able to get more income and improve my welfare. I am able to sew clothes for women in my community but this does not give me much income because I am still with my Madame who trained me but if I have a place of my



own I will make the money for myself. WEEN has helped me in all my training and if the crisis was not on they were going to set up a workshop for me. I hope they will still be able to do this when the crisis comes to an end. WEEN also told me that with all the training I would have to train one needy youth for free so that I can then help someone in the community gain the skill which she too will pass on. I am very grateful for this and happy because that is the only way I can say thank you for my education and training."

Mrs Bouba Ruth Lum Asongwe

"I am 52 years old. I am a holder of BSc in Bio-Chemistry, HND in marketing and a Higher Diploma in project planning and management. WEEN is an association in my country Cameroon which works to empower women economically through training, skill development, improved nutrition, agriculture and mentoring. I came to know about this association through the founder Miss Irene Chinje. She is my mentor who has always encouraged me to expand on my cake business. I was through this encouraged to join the association WEEN which brings together women from all walks of life especially women from the grassroots to build and help them to grow in their activities so as to be independent.

Through this structure, I have grown in my cake business which has helped me support my husband take care of the home, pay fees for the children and reach out to needy extended family members and the community. Due to the current crisis in the Anglophone regions of our

country things have slowed down as I am unable to carry out my business normally. I have benefited from workshops, seminars and trainings organised by WEEN, in starting up a business, the taxes required, the importance of legalising any business, and most importantly reinvesting profit.

My cake business has had a big impact on my community as many people now can readily get a cake for their different festivities and many young girls are attracted to learn cake decorating. It helps keep them occupied and avoid idleness. I would plead with ACWW members to help WEEN assist her members to boost their businesses. Most of us need expansion and we are lacking in packaging which limits our market."



Want to see your Society here?

You can always send articles, updates, and reports to us! Just email editor@acww.org.uk

Lemberg Evodia Cheuchu

"I am from the North West Region of Cameroon. I am a holder of an advanced level certificate. I am 30 years old and single. I met Miss Irene Chinje while I was working for her sister as a cook. Being a nutritionist she came always to help teach me different menus and how best to present them. She then introduced me to WEEN, where I came to meet many others learning to improve on their status and become independent.

Today I work as her personal secretary and I still have time to do my small business because she encourages me to set up something as an aside. I do plantain chips, chin chin, coated groundnuts just to name a few. Through WEEN, I come in contact with many women who buy my products and when they have festivities, I do in bulk and supply which gives me more income that I can use for expansion and to help my parents and younger siblings.

The business has been of great help to me because with the crisis in the anglophone regions of Cameroon I have been able to take two of my sisters to live with me in Yaoundé and continue their education. This would not have been possible without this small business. The business has a positive impact where I live because some women have approached me to learn one thing or the other and I try to pass on this skill to them to help them also to improve of their quality of life.



Through WEEN, I have participated at trainings, workshops and seminars organised by WEEN and also by their partners. I have represented WEEN at trade fairs to expose some of its products and also saw a lot to help me grow my business. My greatest challenge is packaging. This has made it difficult to get my products into supermarkets and elsewhere. I usually sell them only in small stores around and the turn over is not fast so makes the business slow. I will be grateful if ACWW can help WEEN assist many of us step up our activities by helping with packaging."

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Women in Agriculture and Business of South Australia

Women in Agriculture and Business (WAB) of South Australia successfully applied for a grant from the Adelaide White Ribbon Breakfast Committee to hold 4 events in regional areas of South Australia to raise awareness of domestic violence and encourage shared responsibility. Women in Agriculture and Business, a support and communication network for rural women with 15 Branches throughout South Australia hosted 4 White Ribbon Events in Kimba-Clare-Keith and Naracoorte during October aligning with their 2018-19 theme of "Being a Good Neighbour".

Kimba was able to hold their WAB event in conjunction with a 'Health and Wellness Weekend' organised within that broadacre cropping region which was severely suffering from seasonal drought conditions. The White Ribbon Events focusing on Domestic Violence (DV) fits well with one of the organisation aims and objectives 'to encourage and foster the ability of women to take a shared responsibility for the community in which we live – from local to world level'. The White Ribbon Events brought to communities the raw details of victim experiences as well as valuable information on support services available in our regional areas.

Keynote speaker Ivan Phillips of Port Lincoln spoke of his family experience with domestic violence. He is an advocate for awareness and prevention of domestic violence and was the 2016 SA White Ribbon Ambassador of the year and has won an Impact Top 25 award for the most influential people in the social sector of Australia. Ivan, who spoke at all 4 events, is a self-confessed Iron Butt Motorcycle junky who has ridden around Australia 3 times and crossed the Nullabor 13 times on his trusty steed as part of his work as a White Ribbon Ambassador. Ivan is the founder of the "Riding Free of DV" charity for Domestic Violence sufferers on Eyre Peninsula.

A Victim of DV at each event shared their personal journeys – firstly their different experiences with DV and then their various paths to recovery. Attendees were moved by these disturbing accounts of DV and in awe of the courage of these survivors and their resilience and perseverance in creating new lives for themselves and in some cases their families.

Speakers from SA Police, Church support Groups, Lions Club, Emergency Services and Health Services personnel provided valuable information on support services available in our regional areas, increasing our knowledge and assisting us to offer support within our communities. All speakers shared their individual experiences in their various employment roles dealing with domestic violence within their regions.

Many of the attendees to the 4 events were representatives from a wide variety of groups and organisations and are actively sharing the useful resources provided at each event and championing community awareness of the escalating issue of DV. The purpose of WAB organising these events was to become aware of the increasing issue of domestic violence within our communities and regions, be informed of available support services and gain confidence in offering support to victims.



Photograph:
Keynote speaker and
White Ribbon advocate
on Domestic Violence,
Ivan Phillips of Port
Lincoln, Australia

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

We report on your efforts, and why it matters

April 29 each year is 'ACWW Day'. It stands as a day for women all over the world to share information and tell people about the work of the Associated Country Women of the World. It is on this day that we celebrate Women Walk the World.

As it was initially conceived of, women would rise at dawn in their country and walk for an hour, so that as the sun came up all over the world, there would be 24 hours of women raising awareness of ACWW.

Different groups mark Women Walk the World in different ways. Some gather in their hundreds and set off on a grand adventure (you may remember the cover photo from Issue 3 of 2016, with WI Pahang, Malaysia, who walked a vast distance including through caves and mountains!), whilst others adjust to reflect local realities and 'tour' a local car park, recreation room, or care home. In any case, these efforts help to increase awareness of ACWW and unite women in their passion for our important cause.

This year, whilst celebrating and acknowledging all who are working to spread the word of ACWW, we also recognise the millions of women around the world who are forced to walk, forced away from their homes and families, forced to leave their communities and countries, because of violence, aggression, and war. Each day 37,000 people are forced to leave home because of a conflict or persecution. More than half of this number will be women.

This year we dedicate our cover to those Refugee, Internally Displaced, and Stateless women who have no choice but to Walk the World. Please take a moment to remember our Member Societies in Cameroon who are suffering through an undeclared and unacknowledged civil war. Take a moment to think of those young women ACWW members who are working to support Internally Displaced Persons in camps in South Sudan, focussing on their education, safety, and protection from gender-based violence. Take a moment to remember each of the policy resolutions that you, the membership, have passed which relate to women as victims of conflict. As you do so, consider how much stronger this makes our message of women standing together to tackle issues worldwide.



Angus Federation of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) preparing to walk round Cortachy estate, the home of Lord and Lady Airlie. Thanks to Sine Robertson for sending this in.



These two photos were sent by Martha Alle of the Vanderburgh County Extension Homemakers who held their first Women Walk the World this year. Martha says "We had 54 people register for the event. We asked them to pay \$10 to participate. Our course was less than a mile but they could walk it as many times as they wished during the session. We had perfect weather - it was sunny and warm with a gentle breeze. We provided refreshments and a few attendance prizes. We challenged participants to fill water bottles with dimes to support the zero hunger initiatives. As an incentive to fill the water bottles, we gave away \$500 of gift certificates (donated) but only those bringing bottles were eligible to win them, and seventeen people accepted the challenge. We have plans to do it again in 2020 and hope for even more participation."



Diane Giddins sent this from Mullumbimby branch, Country Women's Association NSW, Australia. 7 members, 6 children and a dog walked through Heritage Park in Mullumbimby before returning to the CWA Rooms where members served a delicious morning tea. Members were instrumental in planting trees in Heritage Park to transform it from a horse paddock to the present leafy park on the bank of the Brunswick River. This was the first time they had participated in Women Walk the World in the small Far North Coast town, known locally as "the biggest little town in Australia".



Wootton WI from Northamptonshire Federation in the UK sent this photo of their walk, one of two fundraising events they hold each year.

Pound Hill WI in Crawley, West Sussex, UK went for a lovely walk on ACWW Day. 5 members enjoyed the countryside, and walked across beautiful fields filled with rapeseed, cows, and horses. The birds were singing and the sun showed its face every now and then as the ladies walked approximately 3 miles.



"The ladies from the Ards, Rowallane and Scrabo Areas of Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland, who took part in the recent Women Walk the World event.

The ladies braved storm Hannah to walk in the Crawfordsburn Country Park and definitely earned their coffee at the end.

Even though the weather wasn't good, we enjoyed the exercise and the company."

Thanks to Agnes Black for sending this through to us!

Yeovil Wraxhill WI from Somerset Federation in the UK enjoyed a lovely walk followed by a delicious tea, raising £275. A happy day was had by all!

Ceredigion Federation of W.I's four individual walks in April supported Women Walk the World. WI ladies gathered together for one of our walks within the lovely seaside village of New Quay in the county of Ceredigion. You can see Glyn (one of our member's husbands) who acted as their surprise guide (as Gill his wife was poorly). He had a very appreciative group of ladies who learnt so much from his knowledge about New Quay! They raised over £250 for Pennies for Friendship.





Here is a photo from the Rural Women New Zealand Greater Waikato Area effort to Walk the World held on the 4 May. The women there walked 163.4km and raised \$180.30 NZD. Thanks to National President Fiona Gower for sending this in. Below is another quick snap taken with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, wearing the peach jacket and Women Walk the World rosette.



Ockbrook and Borrowash WI sent this photo in: We are only a small WI in Derbyshire, but come what may we annually support Walk the World and this year was no different except the sun was shining as we set off from Borrowash village to Elvaston Castle where we pick up more ladies who aren't quite up to walking the overall 8 miles. Then the obligatory photo call, taken by some unsuspecting chap out enjoying the scenery, who was so taken by our enthusiasm he donated a fiver to the cause and was educated in the work of ACWW. The final stage saw us trudge over the fields, trying to avoid some mean looking cows with very big horns to arrive at the pub at Thulston in need of sustenance and a rest. After a decent break, still talking and laughing we do the return journey. A JOB WELL DONE FOR ANOTHER YEAR - not really, because we will be seen supporting events held by our Derbyshire ACWW team because we love what ACWW do and achieve and are proud to be a part of this organisation.



Once again the happy group from Springville-Island Women's institute in beautiful Nova Scotia, Canada join together to Walk the World. We hope our contribution makes a difference and brings joy to other women around the world. Sincerely, Rose Gillis
 Front row: Corinne Johnson
 Middle row: Paula Cassidy, Diane Wright, Joanne Smith, Debbie White
 Back Row: Past World President of ACWW, Dr Ellen McLean, Diane MacLeod, Rose Gillis

Crawley Down Evening WI combined Women Walk the World event with a Coffee morning. On a glorious sunny day 9 members set off at 9.30am for a four mile walk around a local mill lake. A little later other members walked from either their own houses or drove to a friends house and they walked together. With much hilarity the two groups tried to guess the combined step total.

We all paid a fee to see who could guess the Step Total - 20p a go or 6 guesses for £1. Our combined paces came to 113,220 and the winning guess fell only 2108 paces short. We organised a raffle as well as coffee and of course cake. A good time was had by all and we raised £112 for ACWW. We really achieved our objective as the whole event involved 23 of our members not just our regular walkers.





This year 8 members of the Bendigo Northern Group walked around the Bendigo Marketplace Shopping Centre and handed out magazines while collecting donations. At our Display table we had Countrywomen magazines along with CWA information. The prizes in our Day Raffle were appropriate to the subject of 'water' being a decorated watering can and a Hydro Pak.

From left to right are Ayron Teed, Harcourt Branch, behind Ayron is Leanne Mooney, Golden Night Branch, Bev Sutherland, Bendigo Branch, Janet Filby, Secretary Bendigo Branch, Joyce Clarkson, Bendigo Branch, Gwenda Athans, Secretary Kangaroo Flat Branch, Lyn Griffin, President Campbell's Forest Branch and Marilyn Tangey, Group President Bendigo Northern Group and member of Bendigo Branch.

Members of Four Marks (Afternoon) WI and Four Marks Foxes WI taken on Monday 29th April when they walked for 3 miles and took in the glories of the bluebells in Old Down Woods. They raised £60 for ACWW towards the WE Fund pot supported by Hampshire.



On a cool but bright morning, 9 ladies and a dog, from Risley WI gathered at 'The Risley Park'. Although rain was forecast, they set off in good spirits and, after walking for over 3 miles across fields, over stiles and up and down hills, they finally arrived back without having seen any rain, for a well deserved and much appreciated lunch. £238 was given in donations to ACWW.



Norfolk Federation WI's ACWW Representative Brenda Packman sent us this photo, saying: "For the first time in the five years that we have been taking part, Rockland St Mary and District WI actually walked ON 29th April - and it was nice, fine day! We chose a route nearer home this time so that some of our non-walking members could easily join us for lunch. We were accompanied by a friendly non WI member with 4 feet. (Cheating!). We met up with other members for lunch at Highway Nurseries. When we counted the 'Pennies', the total will top £40.00. A good start to our new Women Empowered Fund focus: Education and Capacity Building.



Upper Nidderdale WI took part on April 29th, walking in woodland near Pateley Bridge raising £50 for the WE Fund.



6 ladies (and a dog) braved the elements to walk from Powderham Farm Shop to Starcross Sailing Club and back over the hill via Powderham Belvedere to Kenton. A short distance, but as we braced the cold East wind, it felt like an achievement!



CWA Nelson Bay Evening Branch completed their Women Walk the World event today, and Janet Mackintosh sent us this photo: "We were fortunate that the rain held off long enough for us to complete a walk from the hall down to the local beach and back. The walk was followed by a very welcoming soup and damper lunch, and cakes and tea. There was a brief talk about the work that ACWW does around the world as well as recent efforts by CWA members and friends at the Sydney Royal Easter Show tea rooms. Members, guests, visiting members from Nelson Bay Branch, and junior members, all enjoyed a lovely meeting of friendship."

Val Durnall sent this fantastic photo of the more than 120 Worcestershire Federation Members who walked alongside the River Severn raised £310.67p to go to ACWW Funds. She writes: "I know that so many Members enjoyed the day that we are planning next years event. I am also attaching a photograph of the group at the start of our walk."



Vermilion County Home and Community Education held their 3rd annual Women Walk the World at Heron County Park Boardwalk near Danville, Illinois, USA. The history of the park and ACWW projects in India were discussed. This is where our Pennies for Friendship help other women. Some walked the 950 foot-long, handicapped accessible, floating walkway and 2 climbed the 30 foot observation tower. Binoculars and a bird book were available for bird watching. The day was cool and breezy but it was still a great picnic lunch. Eleven people attended.

Queensland Country Women's Association Howard Branch in Australia joined with the members of QCWA Urangan Branch & QCWA Pialba Point Vernon Branch at Arkara Tea Gardens at Hervey Bay for a wonderful friendly lunch. Branch President Mrs Angela Stephensen sent us this: "International Officer Ms Gabriel de Beaulieu gave us an interesting talk on ACWW. We then walked around the world. Our Treasurer Mrs Irene Hamilton had brought her globe and the ladies walked and joked their way around it. We were joined by our Division President Ms Tamara Stephensen. All of our ladies had a wonderful time together, some were new members and were very surprised to hear of some of the items needed in this day age such as the birthing kits and sanitary napkins".



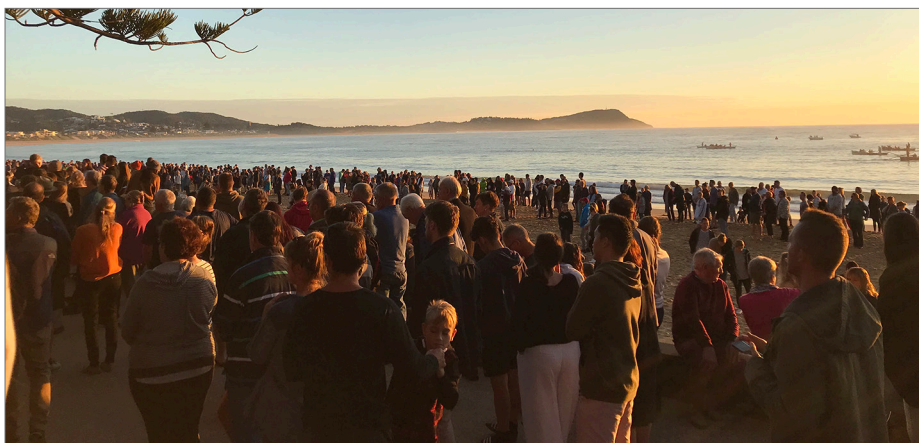


Pauline O'Hare sent this photo in: "Boxgrove WI is a small group of 20 members, and 8 walked and climbed up to the Halnaker Windmill from the Boxgrove Village Hall on a beautiful sunny day, along the way we also incorporated a litter picking exercise. The route we walked is an ancient track that follows the route of Stane Street, the London to Chichester Roman road. There's a feeling of stepping back in time as you pass through a wonderful tunnel of trees. A path then turns off north up to the hill top. This iconic Sussex landmark, perched on Halnaker Hill and visible from a wide surrounding area, is well worth the climb to admire close up. The windmill is also a Grade 2 listed building. The wildflower-rich chalk grassland at the hilltop is a great spot to get away from it all and enjoy fine views of the coast across a patchwork of woods and farmland.

The top of Halnaker Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument as it is the location of a Neolithic earthwork structure known as a 'causewayed enclosure'. This scheduling includes the WW2 radio direction-finding structure. Work to restore the windmill is nearing completion. The first phase was completed in 2017. During this period, the tile-hung façade was completely replaced and extensive repair work carried out to the cap and balcony.

Rhonda Widdows sent us this photo, saying: "Bellarwi Country Women's Association in New South Wales, Australia held our Women Walk the World on the 29th April 2019 with members walking from 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Eleven members attended and those that were able walked around the park, members not able to make the distance walked around a globe of the world. On the morning we collected \$152.00 with a couple of more donations to come.

We had a picnic morning tea and all enjoyed a lovely morning with plenty of laughter and chatter.



Terrigal Evening Branch NSW, Australia incorporated their ACWW walk with our local Anzac Day parade on Thursday 25 April. The crowd was enormous, the sunrise glorious, and the service very moving. Branch Secretary Linda Roberts says: "10 of us walked a kilometre each and raised A\$25 for pennies, then we breakfasted together back at the hall."



Did your group Walk the World?

You can always send articles, updates, and reports to us! Just email editor@acww.org.uk

Before next year's Women Walk the World we will be sending out an activity pack to all members, and would love to see your results.

Don't forget, if you want to win the cover photo competition, we need a 'Portrait' photo, the same shape as the cover!



Old Catton Evening and Sprowston WI report that: "12 of us took part in a country walk 11 in the photos as one lady never likes her photo taken! The walk was 3.5 miles, honing a circular walk. The weather was dry and sunny and the walk took us along rivers, fields, and climbing over many stiles. We really enjoyed the absolutely stunning Norfolk countryside".

Thank you to everyone who sent in their photos and stories of Women Walk the World 2019, and who committed their time and efforts. It is great to see dedication to ACWW from all corners of the earth and we look forward to seeing even more next year!

WEARING GRANDMA'S MAGIC JACKET

Long-term ACWW member Christine Pikett tells us a little more...

I went to my first ACWW conference in Melbourne in 1962 as a member of the delegation from the Country Girls Club of New Zealand. As the youngest affiliated group attending, we received more attention than we had expected. There were pictures in the newspapers and a lovely afternoon tea with the World President Mrs Geerda van Beekhoff. I found the scope of remits and resolutions, and the discussions a real education, especially those concerning human trafficking and slavery.

However, I found it was very inspiring and was determined that this would not be my last ACWW conference. Marriage and family followed, and I was thrilled when in 1995 the 21st Triennial Conference was held in Christchurch, and I was there as a member of the WDF. In 1998 the conference was held in South Africa, where I had always wanted to go. The venue for a truly unforgettable conference was the Pretoria University Campus.

One of our delegates Ruihi Waldron won a machine embroidered waistcoat, it was a prize in the main raffle. She felt she would not wear it enough to do justice to the quality of the workmanship, so later on I bought it from her and we gave the money to Pennies for Friendship. I just loved it, and it became "Grandma's Magic Jacket".

When my little grandchildren became tired or upset, I would put on the magic jacket, we would have a cuddle and look for all the animals, birds and flowers until the peace was restored.

It has since been to Turku, Hot Springs, Warwick and Melbourne, and has been admired by so many of our members. I hope its creator reads this, and knows that it is still loved, and that it will continue to go to conferences for as long as I am able to.

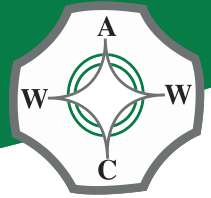
Christine Pikett
Makarau Branch
RWNZ

Notes: The Women's Division of Federated Farmers became Rural Women New Zealand in 1999. The Country Club Girls Club joined the New Zealand Young Farmers Club in the 1970's.



ACWW PROJECTS UPDATE

Progress Report from Project 1044



India - Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust (SWEET) Improved Access to Water in Villupuram District

The main beneficiaries of this project are the Irula Tribal people, who are in one of the lowest castes in India, considered untouchable by even the Dalits. They are under-represented in local government, and have limited access to resources. They are prohibited from accessing public drinking facilities so must fetch water from contaminated sources which causes illness. The only water sources available at the start of the project were an open well and a small pond with contaminated water. The burden of fetching water falls on women and girls, so they suffer additionally when the water sources are far away or unsafe.

Other beneficiaries include Aadhiyan Tribal people and Dalit people living in the Mailam and Vanur blocks of the Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu.

SWEET has provided 4 borewells fitted with hand pumps, which allows the communities to have access to clean water. This started with a geological survey to determine the best place for the wells, which was followed by construction. They will offer training and toolkits so that the beneficiaries can provide basic maintenance and major repairs will be carried out by the local government, with whom they have a maintenance agreement. These borewells directly benefit the entire community, which is made up of 2400 women, 1050 girl children, 2300 men, and 875 boys. Now, in addition to having clean, safe water, women will not have to walk as far to collect it, which will allow them to participate more in community life

SWEET will also be running an awareness campaign which will train the users of the borewell in sanitation and hygiene.

Water projects are very simple in their concept, inputs, and programme, but they can be transformative for communities, giving them potential for improved health, better sanitation, and better school attendance among children.



A geologist surveys the land to find water under the surface



Digging the Borewell



Installing the hand pump



Sustainable Water. Sanitation & Energy



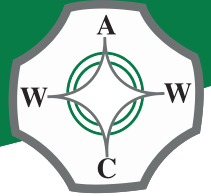
Project beneficiaries test out the new pumps

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



ACWW PROJECTS UPDATE

Final Report from Project 1037



India - Success Trust Cultivation of Indigenous Rice among Women Farmers

In India, non-organic cultivation is proving unsustainable, with crop yields decreasing yearly and the inputs required increasing exponentially with each cycle. While organic farming has been on the rise over the past 10 years, indeed, India leads the world in number of organic producers, significant challenges still exist, like low crop yields, pest control, and hybrid and non-native seeds that are designed to respond to chemical fertilizers.

Success Trust sought to address these issues among 40 women farmers from 5 villages in Tamil Nadu. These women were interested in using organic farming methods with indigenous rice varieties because the market value of these is high and the farming methods better preserve their land. Native seed varieties are also more resilient to local climate conditions, which should provide more consistent produce.

To begin, the women underwent a 2-day introduction to the project to prepare them for further training and inspire confidence in the process of organic cultivation using indigenous rice varieties. Having internalised the spirit of the project, the women had 5 days of intensive training during which they learned about organic farming methods and different types of indigenous seeds. They also received training on making herbal pesticides and crop tonics using locally available resources. To wrap up their training, the women were taken to a local farm being run by an experienced organic farmer. Here, they saw the techniques they had been taught in action, and were inspired by the sustainability and productivity of this pioneer farm.

Following the completion of their training, the women were provided with 25 kilos each of short and long-term growing rice seeds, a bag of vermicompost, and containers. They report good yields on their short-term crops, and work together to address possible issues. A 2-day refresher course was organised where the 40 women were given ideas about how to increase the value of their produce and ensure sustainability.

These 40 women will now pass their knowledge on to 40 other women, and this passing on of knowledge will be monitored by Success Trust for 3 rounds so that 120 women in this area will receive training on organic cultivation of indigenous seed varieties.

In the future, Success Trust hopes to help these farmers work together, form a seed bank, and share resources so that they will eventually be able to hull, process and package their own produce. One of the challenges presented in organic farming is that, when sold in their villages, the farmers cannot charge more for their produce than the non-organic produce it is sold alongside. In order to get a better price, they have to take it to the organic farm produce market but don't have the means to transport it there. Success Trust addressed this by facilitating transportation, which resulted in 133% increase on returns for the beneficiaries. They are also actively lobbying their local government to ensure that fairer prices are established on all organically grown products.



1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



CASE STUDIES

PROJECT 1037

Shenbagavalli and her husband live in Narangiyanpatti village with 2 children, one boy and one girl. They are small-scale farmers who have one acre of land to cultivate, and this is their main source of income.

Shenbagavalli underwent training, farm experience, and follow up training with this ACWW project implemented by Success Trust in her village and 4 other villages. She cultivated Mappilai Samba (one of the many indigenous rice varieties in her land), using the seeds, and skills gained during her training. She did well in soil and water conservation methods, land preparation, levelling, transplantation, and using cattle waste compost and vermin compost. She had a good harvest of paddy (rice before husking) from her cultivation using the training, supplies, and support offered during the project.

She is now a model farmer in her village and she has plans to sustain and strengthen indigenous rice cultivation in their lands in the coming years. She also motivates other women farmers to take up indigenous rice cultivation.

She thanks ACWW and Success Trust for their support and partnership in getting Mappillai Samba paddy bags in to her house!



"My name is Anjalai and I live in the village of Perambur, Pudukottai district. I am married, living with my husband, and we have 2 children, a girl and a boy. They are grown up children. Our family occupation is agriculture and we eke our livelihoods out of cultivation of lands we have in our village. We have 2 acres of lands to cultivate. We irrigate the crops using the bore wells.

I am happy to become a beneficiary of the project funded by ACWW. I took the opportunity that they provided me to take part in this project 'organic indigenous rice cultivation' using indigenous rice varieties. I underwent 2 days project introduction, 5 days intensive training, exposure and 2 days follow up and refresher training continually.

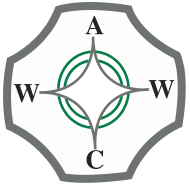
Under this project I cultivated Khichdi Samba rice variety with the containers to produce and apply organic farm inputs including pesticides and insecticides using local materials and cattle wastes.

I have good harvest out of Khichdi Samba and I am able to motivate others to take up and cultivate Khichdi Samba. The entire family is happy to consume this rice variety in their day to day menu, and I've also distributed this rice to cook and taste. This motivated more women farmers to join in this project and request Success Trust to enrol their names in the project.

I am happy to now work with Success Trust as a volunteer. I also cultivate vegetables (indigenous variety) in our land using the techniques and methods that this project has given to me during the year.

I thank ACWW and Success Trust for their support that they have rendered during the project period, thank you!"





ACWW Focus on

Women as Agents of Peace

As an organisation existing for more than 90 years, ACWW has seen Rural Women through some of history's most devastating wars, conflicts, and grievous breaches of human rights. While much of the world rallied around calls for war and retaliation, ACWW called for peace.

Knowing that women and children bear the burden of the impact of conflict, and that communities are only ever negatively affected by war and its inevitable impact on civilian affairs, ACWW sought to pressure governments to pursue peace through talks, economic pressure, and compromise. Recognising that conflicts arise, ACWW has, and will continue to, entreat governments not to be bound by nationalism or prejudice, but to pursue peace as both the aim and the process.

Today, ACWW recognises the United Nations as the primary force for uniting governments around the world to pursue peace. As an NGO in Consultative Status, ACWW has the opportunity to be a voice for those most impacted by conflict and war, and continue the call for peace everywhere.

Peace is not passive. Peace is an active effort to listen, to understand, and to collaborate. Peace is the goal, and peace is the pathway.

"It is recommended that ACWW work towards interesting women to assume their responsibilities as

informed and active citizens
of their own countries and of the world"

ACWW Resolution Citizenship -Women's Responsibilities 1953



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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' was launched at the Triennial World Conference in April 2019.

A substantial production, this book includes 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 immediate past World President Ruth Shanks AM.

£20
plus Postage & Packing

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

Please let us know if you would like a copy signed by the author.



"Work with refugees has broadened my worldview
and made me realise all the more how much we,
as humans, are volatile.

We are so connected and dependent on one another
for our survival. How much the decisions of the few
has a ripple effect on a global scale!

Regardless of our race or socio-economic status all
humans have the same needs.

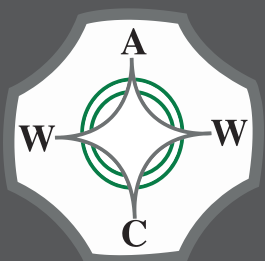
As the common Arabic saying puts it,
"We are all born in nine months!"

Personally, work with refugees holds a profound
meaning. Everything I do screams:

*"Hey fellow humans don't worry
we are together in it, we are one:*

I AM A REFUGEE MYSELF!"

Maha Asfour-Ghiz,
Prince Edward Island, Canada



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