

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

England & Wales · Charity number 1174798

Details

Other names ACWW

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-09-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Foundry
17 Oval Way
London
SE11 5RR

Phone 02077993875

Email office@acww.org.uk

Website www.acww.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) the relief of poverty (2) the relief of sickness and the protection and preservation of health and (3) the advancement of education; in particular amongst rural women and their communities.

Activities: ACWW objects are the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness and the protection and preservation of health and the advancement of education through advocacy at the United Nations and associated agencies, partnership working, learning from each other and funding small scale woman to woman projects to empower women and their communities worldwide. An association of member societies and individuals

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Botswana
- Brunei
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Canada
- East Timor
- Estonia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guernsey
- Guyana
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Jersey
- Kenya
- Latvia
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Namibia
- Netherlands
- New Zealand

- Nigeria
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Romania
- Rwanda
- Scotland
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad And Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£240,411	£572,429	-	-
2023-12-31	£747,131	£1,207,919	£1,976,320	7
2022-12-31	£370,352	£625,476	-	-
2021-12-31	£378,412	£502,685	-	-
2020-12-31	£290,435	£460,847	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Angela Cassels		2023-05-24
Anne Marie Innes		2023-05-24
Arachchige Tharindra Ruwanmali Arumapperuma		2023-05-24
Bonnie Teeples		2023-05-24
Judith Awuor Juma		2024-08-27
Marie Kenny		2023-05-24
Uugan-Erdene Tugrug		2024-08-27
Vanda Gagiano		2023-05-24

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

England & Wales - Charity number 1174798

Accounts

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1174798
(Formerly Charity Registration Number 290367)**

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES in 2024

Trustee and World President	Mrs Magdie de Kock	South Africa
Trustee and Deputy World President	Ms Irene Chinje (until July 2024)	Cameroon
	Ms Judith Juma (from October 2024)	Kenya
Trustee and Treasurer	Mrs Angela Cassels	Scotland
Trustee and Secretary	Mrs Vanda Gagiano	South Africa
Trustee and Board Lead Advocacy	Dr Elizabeth Ann S Kelly	England
Trustee and Board Lead Community Transformation & Projects	Mrs Edwina Marr	Northern Ireland
Trustee and Board Lead Knowledge Sharing & Local Activities	Mrs Anne Innes	Canada
Trustee and Board Lead Partnerships	Ms Claire Mahon	New Zealand
Trustee and Area President Canada	Mrs Marie Kenny	Canada
Trustee and Area President Caribbean, Central & South America	Ms Irene Hinds	Trinidad & Tobago
Trustee and Area President Central & South Asia	Ms Tharindra Arumapperuma	Sri Lanka
Trustee and Area President East, West & Central Africa	Mrs Clare Jethwa	Kenya
Trustee and Area President Europe	Mrs Afrodita Roman	Romania
Trustee and Area President South East Asia & the Far East	Mrs Cora Sayre (until June 2024)	Philippines
	Ms Tugrug Uugan-Erdene (from August 2024)	Mongolia
Trustee and Area President South Pacific	Mrs Lyn Braico (until October 2024)	Australia
Trustee and Area President Southern Africa	Dr Marina Muller	Namibia
Trustee and Area President United States of America	Mrs Bonnie Teeples	United States of America

Executive Director Ms Tish Collins

Charity Registration Number 1174798

Principal Office
The Foundry
17 Oval Way
London SE11 5RR

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
57 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0HP

Lloyds Bank
Westminster House
4 Dean Stanley Street
London SW1P 3HU

Investment Manager

TrinityBridge (formerly known as)
Close Asset Management Limited
10 Crown Place
London EC2A 4FT

Auditor

SCC Chartered Accountants
17 College Street
Armagh
BT61 9BT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Associated Country Women of the World ('the Charity' or ACWW) present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Vision and Mission

Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to bring together rural women and their organisations from all over the world, and in so doing address the challenges they faced as a result of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and their lack of access to political processes.

Reaffirming the earliest statements from our founders, ACWW calls for co-operation among women's organisations to ensure action to secure meaningful, quality education for all young people. The advancement of education is a pathway to the relief of poverty and the relief of sickness and preservation of health. Our work is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights, and we work on behalf of those who experience intersecting injustices and inequality. ACWW stands against discrimination in all its forms, and works towards gender equality, accessibility, global citizenship, solidarity with those facing discrimination, and sustainable development.

Structure, Governance, and Management

ACWW is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1174798. It is governed by a constitution revised and confirmed by the Charity Commission on 22 September 2017 and confirmed, with updates approved by the Charity Commission, by voting delegates at the 30th Triennial World Conference in May 2023. Formerly ACWW was registered as an unincorporated charity, registration number 290367.

The Charity consists of independent organisations and individuals affiliated to it as fee-paying Members which are associated for achieving shared objectives. ACWW's membership currently spans 57 countries. The key concept behind each of these shared objectives is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity. There are four categories of society membership which are differentiated by the size and nature of the applicant organisation. Categories govern membership fees and voting rights at the Triennial World Conference; there are also Individual Members and a special Category for elected members of the Board, (who are Individual Members), for the duration of their being in post.

The Triennial World Conference is the highest legislative body of ACWW, it establishes policy and all matters concerning the Constitution and elects the Board of Trustees. The Board elected for the 2023-2026 triennium included representatives from fifteen countries.

In 2023, the Board adopted 'Sustainable Growth for the Future' as the Triennial theme and as we move towards marking the centenary of our Association, we continue to amplify the voices of our Members, who are Rural Women in Action.

Board of Trustees

The administration of ACWW is vested in an elected Board of Trustees and the World President is the Chairman of the Board. The Board employ an Executive Director who is responsible for Central Office staff who take on the day-to-day work whilst the Board have a more strategic role, deciding the charity's priorities and future plans.

Board Structure and Working Methods

Since the foundation of ACWW, the organisation has grown and changed in its practices to best reflect the realities of its time. In the past, models have included a Council, and various Areas have been formed, adjusted, or re-framed. Committees have come and gone, or had their mandates and titles changed to best suit the prevailing situation. Having carefully examined more than 30 years of data and discussed the strengths and challenges of the 2019-2023 Triennium to date, ACWW's Board of Trustees concluded that the organisation's

existing structure and working methods needed to be revised to best suit the reality of the current global situation.

ACWW restructured the working methods of the Board. Inspired by the successful introduction of ACWW Coordinators and conscious of the inadequacies of the old Specified Committee structure, following the Triennial World Conference in May 2023. Eight Working Groups, each led by a Board Member, and comprising of Board Members and relevant staff, were established to focus on the following priorities: Advocacy, Budget & Finance, Community Transformation & Projects, Knowledge Sharing & Local Activities, Membership, Partnerships, Safeguarding & Data Protection, and Triennial World Conference. These Working Groups align with our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, with the aim of achieving a more collaborative style of work. Working Group meetings are facilitated online by staff administrators based at Central Office in London, generally meet a minimum of three times a year then report back to the Board who meet minimum of four times a year.

In 2024 the Board of Trustees met online five times and all Working Groups also met online. In September 2023, the Board decided not to have in-person meetings for 2024 to save on costs.

The World President and Executive Director are in frequent and regular contact. The Executive Director and Central Office staff in London carry on the day-to-day administration of the organization, ensuring compliance with statutory and charity requirements, financial and membership record keeping, projects administration, advocacy, writing and design of publications including *The Countrywoman* magazine, drafting statements and policy documents, research and information to support and administer the work of the Working Groups and Board.

2022-2026 Strategic Plan – ‘Rural Women in Action’

ACWW has continued to operate under the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, with many of the changes trialled in the previous 18 months settling in to becoming a ‘new normal’. Closer cooperation between Board Members, and the development of Working Groups within the Board ensure clearer progress and better monitoring of ACWW’s action towards its objectives. Respect for ACWW’s long history, combined with a forward-looking vision for the success of the organisation provide us with a stable basis for progress as we approach our Centenary.

Data Protection

All Board and Staff Members use dedicated computers provided by ACWW, with training provided by Central Office staff, and supported when necessary, by ACWW’s external IT supplier. Meetings are held via Microsoft Teams, and the use of encrypted document storage has increased ACWW’s security and compliance. The Chief Privacy Officer (a senior member of staff) works with the Board Lead on Safeguarding and Data Protection, as well as staff, the Safeguarding and Data Protection Working Group, and the Board, to keep policy and implementation up to date. In late 2024 an updated Data Protection Policy was prepared for approval by the Board, due to be presented in February 2025. There were no data protection breaches to report in 2024.

Volunteer Roles

Trustees and Coordinators alike are volunteers who contribute considerable time and energy to furthering the aims of the Charity. As activities are carried out across over 50 countries, it is hard to accurately quantify the number of volunteer hours. Based on meetings and other engagement with members throughout the year it is estimated that Coordinators combined spent at least 200 days supporting the Charity.

ACWW Coordinators

The ACWW Coordinator Programme was launched in February 2022 and progress was made in 2023 to further improve and strengthen its structure and purpose. This programme is designed to receive nominations from ACWW Member Societies for individuals to act as a liaison between the Member Society and ACWW centrally. The intended impact of this programme is to support the work of Area Presidents and ensure ACWW is able to reach to the grassroots of our extensive membership. In 2024 there were 11 new Coordinators approved by the Board, bringing the total to 56 Coordinators. Some of the new Coordinators were approved to fill a vacancy when a Coordinator stepped down from the role in their society, so while there were 11 new Coordinators, many replaced open positions. There were 10 Coordinators’ meetings during the year, where ideas were shared, training took place, and explanations were given. Coordinators were given access to resources like presentations, speaker’s notes, bespoke flyers, posters, and pop-up banner designs, and documentation to help explain the work of ACWW. In November, Area Coordinator Meetings were introduced, where Coordinators met

with their Area President and other Coordinators in their Area to discuss topics and issues of local relevance and collaborated on ACWW initiatives. This has supported increased consistency in ACWW's messaging globally and provided useful feedback on innovation for generating grassroots engagement with ACWW's work. Coordinators views and opinions also inform the Board, support the role of Area Presidents and our wider advocacy work.

Central Office

Central Office rents offices at The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR. The Foundry is a serviced workspace that provides tenancy for social justice and human rights organisations. ACWW Central Office is benefitting from being in close proximity to these NGOs and like-minded organisations, as there are learning and collaborating opportunities. Ms Zahara Vawda joined the team in July 2024 as part-time Digital Communications Officer.

Risk Management

The Trustees reviewed the risks faced by the Charity and confirm that systems are in place to manage those risks and accompanying procedures are strengthened as appropriate. As a substantial part of the Charity's income derives from membership fees, strategies to increase membership numbers and retention continue to be addressed.

Investments and Investment policy are regularly reviewed with investment managers to avoid unnecessary losses and maintain capital whilst increasing income. Falling membership and rising costs continue to impact the Charity's bottom line and the Board continues to explore measures to increase income and reduce costs. The Board agreed at the December 2024 Board meeting to invest in needed staff to help expand, diversify and increase our income sources and agreed to the recruitment of a Development Manager and an additional Communications Officer. The Board maintained sufficient financial reserves for project commitments and 24 months', operational commitments in line with current reserves policy.

IT Security, disaster recovery, and data breach risks were considered in the recruitment of a new external IT service provider to provide managed IT and Cyber Security Services. Significant mitigation steps have been taken as part of the on-boarding of Unizen planned in early 2025 that should lower our operational risks in these categories.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy of ACWW is to seek to maintain 24 months' worth of unrestricted reserves in order to meet the normal operational expenditure requirements of our core work. That is, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of *The Countrywoman* magazine for members, education, outreach and projects, Board and governance expenditure, maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all the above – this requires in the region of £ 650,000 per year. There is also a requirement to provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income.

The overall market value showed a gain of £58,068 at the end of the year from the Close Brothers portfolio, compared with a net investment gain of £82,458 the previous year from the combined CAF and Close Brothers portfolio. Given the volatile economic market, our portfolio was resilient and performed well to maintain value.

Investment Policy and objectives including any social, environmental or ethical policies

The policy continued to encompass the retention of the organisation's capital reserves and to raise funds towards operating expenses. Funds invested were managed on a 'medium risk' strategy through the holding of a range of different types of assets. Restrictions continued whereby investments in armaments, negative environmental impact, oppressive regimes, pornography are disallowed and there is no additional investment in tobacco products.

Core purpose – empowerment of women

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Local Activities, Advocacy, Partnership, Learning from each other and Sharing of Knowledge. We believe that to address systemic issues, we must see systematic change. Development projects which empower women in their local communities can only succeed when local, national, and international processes recognise the human rights and needs of rural women. Our objectives continue to be the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness and protection and preservation of health, and the advancement of education.

In line with the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, published on our website, we will continue to strengthen ACWW's network of women's organisations globally by building capacity, facilitating cooperation, and working with like-minded external partners to achieve our objectives. ACWW will continue to use its Consultative Status with the United Nations and its Agencies to amplify the voices of rural women and highlight the issues they raise at the international level.

ACWW has always facilitated the sharing of knowledge between Members. We remain committed to this and, where appropriate, will use digital options to broaden these efforts. Area Conferences, and the Triennial World Conference, along with support for meetings, seminars, webinars, and training programmes will further build capacity within our membership. Additionally, every Member Society is encouraged to nominate an ACWW Coordinator, to share knowledge from within their society and promote ACWW's work, ensuring the two-way nature of our network thrives and acting as a support mechanism for Area Presidents.

Membership and Conferences

ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its Member Societies, Individual Members and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) worldwide. There are active memberships in 57 countries. As of 31 December 2024, there were 288 active Member Societies (a 3.9% increase from the previous year) of which 28 are new society members. There were 605 Individual Members (a 16% drop from the previous year) of which 38 were new Individual Members. The number of life members has reduced since none have been added since 1997. Efforts continue being made to stimulate interest in ACWW by providing Coordinators with attractive resources to use in local presentations and Board Members, especially Area Presidents are following up local contacts and reconnecting with Member Societies who lapsed in the past four years. The aim in reconnecting with lapsed Member Societies is to increase memberships and also learn how to incentivise organisations to continue membership.

ACWW works in three-year cycles in relation to our World Conferences, with Area Conferences held within the triennium. South Pacific Area held an in-person conference in September which was well attended. The other eight Areas will hold their conferences in 2025.

Community Transformation and Grassroots Projects

Our new strategy has seen the launch of a new programme of development projects focusing on: Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Women's Health and Education and Community Development, ensuring greater community-led solutions and long-term impact for women most at risk of being left behind. Since 1977 ACWW has funded small-scale grassroots projects, led by local women's organisations. The new strategy of grant-making under the Rural Women in Action (RWIA) Fund is a continuation of this legacy that builds on the lessons learned through the Women Empowered (WE) Fund (2018-2022) and over the past four decades of project funding. Greater emphasis is now put on the sustainability of each project, long-term impact on the community as a whole, and building the capacity and resilience of the grantee organisation. Whilst the medium and long-term impacts have not yet been proven, initial results are positive, and we have seen a greater connection between project output and advocacy impact.

In 2024, three grants from the Rural Women in Action Fund were awarded to three grantee organisations. Other project payments included the second instalments for previously agreed grants. The details of these are listed below.

Donors are provided with information on all new funded projects on the ACWW website and in *The Countrywoman* magazine, along with project profiles and summaries of reports produced throughout the year.

Projects are paid for from Project funds (balance of any restricted funds from WE Fund projects and unrestricted funds donated to the RWIA Fund). Following a review of RWIA Fund projects, it was agreed in April 2025 by the Community Transformation and Projects Working Group and approved by the Board, to adjust the budget allocations (and apply this retrospectively) to facilitate more effective use of Project funds. ACWW grant making will have an annual budget commitment of up to £15,000 each for three core projects consisting of up to £10,000 direct grant funding and up to £5,000 for capacity building. Monitoring and evaluation by ACWW staff will occur at the end of each project with a discretionary budget of up to £7,000. Once a project is approved, 75% of the

project grant total is sent to the Project Awardee, with the final 25% sent subject to satisfactory progress reports (usually 6 months into the project).

An evaluation visit took place in 2024 for projects in Ghana, Uganda and Kenya which were WE Fund projects approved between 2021 and 2022 and successfully completed between 2021 and 2024.

Grants awarded

Grants awarded in 2024

RWIAF002: Empowerment of Marginalized Communities (EMAC), Tanzania.

Project title: Towards Health Equity: Empower Women through Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services

RWIAF003: Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD), India

Project title: Sustainable Cultivation of Vegetable & Greens by 50 Dalit Women Farmers

RWIAF004: Reaching the Unreached (RUT), Tanzania.

Project title: Promote Girls' Education Inclusion in Alignment with the Tanzania 2022 School Dropout Re-entry Guideline Initiative

Grants awarded in 2023 with funding instalments sent in 2024

RWIAF001: Geopolitical Alliance of Women, Ukraine.

Project title: Planting the Seeds of Peace. Criteria: Education and Community Development.

Grants awarded in 2022 with funding instalments sent in 2024

1130 Community Concerns Uganda, Uganda. Project title: Vocational Training for Sustainable Livelihoods. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building

Project Case studies

RWIAF001 Planting the Seeds of Peace – Geopolitical Alliance of Women, Ukraine and Romania

The project was created to help 200 children studying in the Ukrainian educational space at the Uruguay Grammar School in Bucharest, Romania, to recover from the stress caused by the war in Ukraine through a practical and conscious approach to agriculture and horticulture. The children learned about growing plants, soil restoration and climate change. The practice of gardening has been proven to be a very therapeutic tool for those who have suffered trauma, it has been found to reduce stress, anxiety and depression and to improve psychological wellbeing. Over 12 months the children developed knowledge on germinating and sowing seeds, caring for seedlings and transplanting outside in dedicated growing areas around the school site. The key outcome of the project is that the children developed an interest in the environment around them, keeping the natural environment clear of litter, and interest in healthy diets and eating food that they had grown. The project was funded in December 2023 with a grant of £7,146.

RWIAF002 Towards Health Equity: Empower Women through Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services – Empowerment of Marginalized Communities (EMAC), Tanzania. Through a behaviour change approach, EMAC strives to empower vulnerable women and young girls to make informed choices about their sexual reproductive health, and address gender-based violence such as female genital mutilation (FGM), aiming to create a supportive and informed community. The project has three main aims: To increase awareness of both FGM and gender-based violence through community engagement, to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services and to improve psychosocial support services. The project was funded in June 2024 with a grant of £8,346.

RWIAF003 Sustainable Cultivation of Vegetable & Greens by 50 Dalit Women Farmers – Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD), India. The aim of this project is to build the capacity of 50 Dalit Arunthathiyar women farmers (with access to a quarter of an acre of land) through training in sustainable horticulture methods, practices using indigenous vegetables and greens cultivation to make a good harvest that will improve the cultivation of their small plots of land and provide a sustainable livelihood, increase nutrition of family members and improve the village environment. The project activities are going as per plans. The farmers are happy and confident in their cultivation. They are implementing the methods that were taught at the trainings and orientations. The project was funded in June 2024 with a grant of £7,444.

RWIAF004 Promote Girls' Education Inclusion in Alignment with the Tanzania 2022 School Dropout Re-entry Guideline Initiative – Reaching the Unreached (RUT), Tanzania. This project addresses the challenge of school dropouts due to adolescent pregnancy and truancy in Kondoa district. It aims to facilitate the re-entry of these girls into the education system and provide alternative pathways, including vocational education and skills training. The project will conduct monthly awareness-raising campaigns to encourage school re-entry for out-of-school girls in Kondoa District. It will implement a School and Community Partnership strategy to identify dropouts and facilitate their return to education. The vocational education and skills training for beneficiaries will act as an alternative pathway for those less likely to respond well to their return to formal education and will be supported by financial literacy training, access to start-up capital, and loans including local government interest-free loans available for women and girls. By tackling these barriers, the project seeks to empower adolescent girls and young women, improve their educational and economic opportunities, and contribute to overall community development. The project was funded in December 2024 with a grant of £9,410.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL):

In September 2024, a MEL trip was conducted by the Projects Manager and the Advocacy Director to Ghana, Uganda and Kenya. For each organisation visited, interviews were conducted with staff involved in the project including the Director and Project Manager where possible. Site visits then took place to evaluate the projects and interviews were conducted with beneficiaries. All projects were found to have been completed successfully and showed signs of sustainability. Detailed reports will be shared on the website and via our social media channels. The following organisations were visited and evaluated:

Project 1111: Iseguri Initiative, Ghana funded in 2021.

Project 1130: Community Concerns Uganda funded in 2022.

Project 1127: Youth with a Focus Teso, Uganda funded in 2022.

Project 1126: Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment, Kenya funded in 2022.

Project 1095: Elite Community Development Empowerment Programme, Kenya funded in 2021.

Communication with Members

ACWW communicates with the public using our website, social media channels, and with statements. Our website also offers the opportunity for people to join a mailing list and so receive newsletters from the World President, Area Presidents, and Central Office.

In 2024, there were challenges with staffing levels which meant only one issue of *The Countrywoman* magazine was circulated to Members, though a significant increase in the number of digital newsletters and communications followed with the recruitment of a one day per week Digital Communications Officer. It is intended to return to two printed copies of the magazine in 2025 and plans for recruitment of a four day per week Communications Officer in the first half of 2025 will also improve communications.

Print costs for *The Countrywoman* magazine remain competitively low as printed by a small family business in a rural location in the UK. However, the greatest and ever-increasing cost is the global postage and distribution. Production of other printed materials supplied to Members upon request is sourced at competitive rates from digital print suppliers in the UK, Europe, and other locations as appropriate to the end destination.

Advocacy

The amplification of our Members' voices has been a crucial part of ACWW's mission since foundation in 1929. A major element of our centrally-organised advocacy work continues to be engagement with the United Nations and its Agencies and Organisations, where we hold Associate Status or have the opportunity to make intervention. Whilst some specific highlights of our advocacy work are shown below, the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan calls for advocacy and projects to be much more closely aligned, with our projects informing our advocacy work, and our advocacy seeking to strengthen the impact of our projects.

In late 2024 a new Advocacy Strategy was developed, aligned with ACWW's Strategic Plan and intended to make our advocacy work more impactful and more measurable. A central element of this Strategy is to support our Members in their own local, national, and regional advocacy, and help build capacity for action. The Advocacy Strategy has three themes for activity: Education and Community Development; Climate-Smart Agriculture; and Rural Women's Health. Detailed goals and outcomes are included, and cross-cutting goals of 'Building a stronger global network of rural women', 'Collaborative partnerships to promote the interests of rural women and girls',

‘Evidence-based advocacy’, and ‘Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Flexibility’ ensure a responsive and more structured approach.

Global awareness days like International Women’s Day (8 March), the International Day of Rural Women (15 October) and campaigns such as the 16 Days of Global Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November-10 December) are used as ‘hook’ days for awareness raising and advocacy actions.

Reflecting financial prudence and constraints, ACWW’s delegation to the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2024 was reduced to Board Lead for Advocacy Dr Elizabeth Ann Kelly, and Advocacy Director Nick Newland. ACWW hosted a Side Event with Canada on the theme of ‘Understanding Barriers to Access: Language, Culture, and Reality’ with participation of Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education and Early Years, and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, from Prince Edward Island, Canada; Tugrug Uugan-Erdene, Director of Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO in Mongolia; Tracy Ridler, Senior First Nations Engagement Consultant from British Columbia, Canada; Nasifa Ahmadi, Afghan Graduate Teaching Associate in Law at Buckinghamshire New University in the United Kingdom; and Svitlana Salamatova of the Geopolitical Alliance of Women in Ukraine. This event focused on the importance of location and language when considering the acceleration of gender equality, empowerment, financial inclusion, and social protection systems. Other in-person meetings were held with ACWW members from several countries also attending CSW, and our delegation took an active role in regular briefings with the UK government during the Session.

The United Nations Civil Society Conference was held in Nairobi Kenya in May 2024 and was attended by ACWW’s Area President for East, West, and Central Africa Clare Jethwa, and ACWW Coordinator Judith Juma. Advocacy Director Nick Newland also attended, with his participation sponsored by UNESCO in his role as President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. This Civil Society Conference focused on preparations for the United Nations Pact for the Future and highlighted the significant challenges in the progress of the 2030 Agenda, and the shrinking space for civil society participation in UN processes and decision making.

ACWW’s joint podcast with UNESCO, ‘Leadership for Equality’, launched in March 2024. The first episode featured ACWW World President Magdie de Kock, along with UNESCO Deputy Director-General for Social and Human Services, Gabriela Ramos and Dr Roise Agoi, Secretary-General of the Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO. 6 episodes were published in 2024, with topics including ‘Pathways to Leadership’, ‘Women Thought Leaders’, ‘Women for Social Change’, ‘Women in Sport’, and ‘Women in Diplomacy and Politics’. Guests included ACWW members from Kenya, South Africa, the UK, and Mongolia, as well as the Ambassador of the European Union to UNESCO and the OECD; the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia; the Icelandic Ambassador to UNESCO and the OECD; the US Special Representative for Racial Equality and Justice; and the Mexican Ambassador to UNESCO. Other guests joined episodes from Kenya, Brazil, India, the USA, Rwanda, and France. A showcase episode on Rural Women is planned for International Women’s Day 2025 with ACWW Members and rural women from around the world, including Uganda, Romania, Tuvalu and St. Lucia.

Partnerships

In 2024 ACWW continued to use its official partnership status with UN organizations such as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) to amplify the voices of its Members. This included Board Members participating in online webinars hosted by FAO addressing the living conditions of rural women in Europe and Central Asia, and the participation of the World President, Board Lead for Advocacy and Executive Director in the 15th International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO on the theme of “Transforming Mentalities”. ACWW members and Board Members also attended and took the floor during UNESCO NGO Forums on “Artificial Intelligence and Youth”, and “African Leadership, Experience, and Expertise in the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development”.

In October 2024, ACWW was recognised by UNESCO for the continued partnership and activities addressing the priorities of rural women, with the Consultative partnership status being upgraded to Associate status. This particularly related to jointly-delivered programmes such as the ‘Leadership for Equality’ podcast on women’s leadership co-hosted by ACWW and UNESCO, and the ‘Planting the Seeds of Peace’ programme with Ukrainian refugee women teachers in Romania, which was co-funded by ACWW and UNESCO. This new status is granted for a period of 8 years before it will be reviewed for renewal.

In December 2024 ACWW was elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee at the International Conference of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO, offering a platform to continue the amplification of the voices of rural women and ACWW Members in the activities of the Committee, and the programme of UNESCO's Secretariat. This followed a term (2022-2024) where ACWW Advocacy Director Nick Newland had been elected as President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, and a previous term (2020-2022) where ACWW was elected to serve on the Committee.

The Board Working Group on Partnerships recommended to the Board that ACWW establish a knowledge partnership with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) with a goal of highlighting the needs of rural women in the fields of financial inclusion and access to services. Initial steps in 2024 were positive, with meetings planned for early 2025 to further develop an initiative. The Working Group on Partnerships also recommended ACWW seek Consultative Status with the Commonwealth and preparations have begun for submission of this application.

Financial Review 2024

Income from donations and legacies declined from the previous year by 15% (from £231,334 to £197,050). This impacted on our ability to invest in appropriate staff and limited the capacity of existing staff to implement strategies to boost engagement and fundraising with Members and wider stakeholders. This issue will be addressed as a priority in 2025. There was an increase of 20% (from £34,766 to £42,111) in income from membership subscriptions which is due to a combination of new rates that came into effect in 2024 and an increase in membership numbers.

General expenditure outside of TWC costs was kept to similar levels as 2023, with cost savings measures such as only virtual and no face-to-face board meetings held in 2024. This, in addition to a close and tight rein on other costs helped to meet the ongoing cost of living increase in the challenging economic situation.

ACWW investments managed by Close Brothers were found to have held up well, yielding a gain of £58,068.

Overall expenditure exceeded income and hence movement in funds was a loss of £273,951 (2023: loss of £378,330).

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on

Date: 12 August 2025

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magdie de Kock', written over a light blue grid background.

Mrs Magdie de Kock
World President

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Associated Country Women of the World (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as of 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to general data protection regulations, employment law and health and safety regulations. We also considered those laws that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements.

We evaluated the trustees incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We communicated the identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the auditors included, but were not limited to:

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- In addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments and assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of management bias.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities> . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Sean G. Cavanagh (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of SCC Chartered Accountants Ltd

12 August 2025
Date

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
17 College Street
Armagh
BT61 9BT

SCC Chartered Accountants Ltd is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	197,050	-	197,050	231,334	-	231,334
Charitable activities	3	188	-	188	448,037	-	448,037
Investments		<u>43,173</u>	-	<u>43,173</u>	<u>67,760</u>	-	<u>67,760</u>
Total income		<u>240,411</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,411</u>	<u>747,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>747,131</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	11,936	-	11,936	10,186	-	10,186
Charitable activities	5	<u>522,960</u>	<u>37,533</u>	<u>560,493</u>	<u>1,112,624</u>	<u>85,109</u>	<u>1,197,733</u>
Total expenditure		<u>534,896</u>	<u>37,533</u>	<u>572,429</u>	<u>1,122,810</u>	<u>85,109</u>	<u>1,207,919</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>58,068</u>	=	<u>58,068</u>	<u>82,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,458</u>
Transfers		21,817	(21,817)	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(214,600)	(59,350)	(273,951)	(293,221)	(85,109)	(378,330)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		<u>1,775,766</u>	<u>200,554</u>	<u>1,976,320</u>	<u>2,068,988</u>	<u>285,663</u>	<u>2,354,651</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		<u>1,561,166</u>	<u>141,204</u>	<u>1,702,370</u>	<u>1,775,766</u>	<u>200,554</u>	<u>1,976,320</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity No. 1174798

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		5,979		9,764
Investments	7		<u>1,676,814</u>		<u>1,883,233</u>
			1,682,793		1,892,997
Current assets					
Debtors	8	21,146		28,224	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>68,649</u>		<u>140,354</u>	
		89,795		168,578	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(51,547)</u>		<u>(85,255)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>38,248</u>		<u>83,323</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			1,721,041		1,976,320
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		(18,671)		-
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>1,702,370</u>		<u>1,976,320</u>
Net assets			<u>1,702,370</u>		<u>1,976,320</u>
The funds of the					
Restricted income funds	12		141,204		200,554
Unrestricted funds	13		<u>1,561,166</u>		<u>1,775,766</u>
			<u>1,702,370</u>		<u>1,976,320</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 12 August..... 2025..... and signed on their behalf by:



Angela Cassels
Honorary Treasurer



Magdie de Kock
World President

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	14		(114,877)		(436,819)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets			-	(7,364)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets			-	1,250	
Investment income received		<u>43,172</u>		<u>67,760</u>	
Net cash generated from investing activities			43,172		61,645
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(71,705)		(375,174)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			<u>140,354</u>		<u>515,528</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>68,649</u>		<u>140,354</u>

The notes on pages 20 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Charity information

Associated Country Women of the World is a registered charity in England. The registered address is The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR. The charity registration number is 1174798.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Associated Country Women of the World meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of ACWW. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Charity has a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income including donations and grants, membership subscriptions and legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made and the amount involved can be quantified.

Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis, using dates of payment for dividends, and daily accrual for interest.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs are allocated or apportioned to applicable expenditure headings. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories noted on the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example, time spent, per capita or floor area.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the Trustee's Annual Report.

Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved by the trustees and agreed with the beneficiary. Grants where the beneficiary has not been informed or has to meet certain conditions before the grant is released are not accrued but are noted as financial commitments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	5 years straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later).

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and financial institutions. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in more than a year from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financial transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. A defined contribution pension scheme is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial activities when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in other creditors as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

1.9 Debtors and Creditors Receivable / Payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.10 Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances stated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

1.11 Funds Accounting

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Income from membership, donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	147,967	166,540
Legacies receivable	1,043	30,028
Membership subscriptions	42,111	34,766
Other general grants	<u>5,929</u>	-
	<u>197,050</u>	<u>231,334</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Sale of goods						
Conference income	75	-	75	399,800	-	399,800
Other income	<u>113</u>	-	<u>113</u>	<u>48,237</u>	-	<u>48,237</u>
Total	<u>188</u>	-	<u>188</u>	<u>448,037</u>	-	<u>448,037</u>

4 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Investment management	<u>11,936</u>	<u>10,186</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Staff and Direct Costs 2024 £	Support Costs 2024 £	Total 2024	Staff and Direct Costs 2023 £	Support Costs 2023 £
Charitable activities:					
Project Activities	120,810	26,834	147,644	156,303	19,744
Education	46,800	15,080	61,880	75,372	12,722
Outreach	103,136	21,401	124,537	149,787	15,877
Information & Research	68,454	16,633	85,087	122,871	24,833
United Nations Representation	68,903	16,633	85,536	122,920	12,722
Conference Preparation	<u>41,505</u>	<u>14,304</u>	<u>55,809</u>	<u>468,706</u>	<u>15,877</u>
	<u>449,608</u>	<u>110,885</u>	<u>560,493</u>	<u>1,095,959</u>	<u>101,775</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5	Expenditure on charitable activities	(continued)	
	Analysis of expenditure by fund		
	Unrestricted funds	522,960	1,112,624
	Restricted funds	<u>37,533</u>	<u>85,109</u>
		<u>560,493</u>	<u>1,197,733</u>

This table represents an apportionment of resources expended on each of the charitable activities. It is comprised of staff and direct costs, and support costs for a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation, generation of forms and postage.

Project activities: The project administrators work on projects and handle all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the previous Projects Committee and the Community Transformation & Projects Working Group and communicating with donors. Restricted funds shown cover the direct costs allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation. Support costs were expended from unrestricted funds in 2024.

Education: Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates and some targeted advocacy work.

Outreach: Includes outreach and extension work by members of the Board and key staff, plus resources associated with promoting the charity.

Information and research: Includes the costs of producing The Countrywoman magazine, the annual report, production of information, advocacy materials, publicity leaflets, designing and maintaining the website, time and postage distributing publicity materials, responding to enquiries, administering Working Groups and maintenance of the archive.

United Nations representation: Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the former United Nations Committee and the Advocacy Working Group.

Conference Preparation: Includes costs of conference planning by staff and the TWC Working Group.

The basis of allocation of staff and support costs was reviewed and updated to reflect the time spent on each charitable activity by the Executive Director and other members of staff of the charity. Support costs shown above include an apportionment of governance costs, except in the case of Project activities.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5.1 Governance Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration – for audit	14,169	8,796
- for other services	-	1,066
Legal and professional	3,181	3,349
Trustee indemnity insurance	749	344
Other governance	<u>516</u>	<u>1,032</u>
	<u>18,615</u>	<u>14,587</u>

5.2 Staff Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	288,433	319,686
Social security costs	33,698	35,161
Other pension costs	21,987	18,016
Other costs	-	<u>4,223</u>
	<u>344,118</u>	<u>377,086</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£70,001 to £80,000	1	1
£80,001 to £90,000	1	1

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees, who received no remuneration or other financial benefits during the year (2023: nil) and the Executive Director, Advocacy Director and Finance Manager whose emoluments totalled £206,555 (2023: £209,134).

The Trustees were reimbursed a total of £9,459 for travelling and accommodation expenses (2023: £51,640).

The Charity employed on average 7 staff during the year at Central Office (2023:7)

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6	Tangible fixed assets		Fixtures and fittings
			£
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2024		59,873
	Additions		-
	Disposals		-
	At 31 December 2023		<u>59,873</u>
	Depreciation and impairment		
	At 1 January 2024		50,109
	Depreciation charged in the year		3,786
	Eliminated in respect of disposals		-
	At 31 December 2024		<u>53,894</u>
	Carrying amount		
	At 31 December 2024		<u>5,979</u>
	At 31 December 2023		<u>9,764</u>
7	Investments		£
	At 1 January 2024		1,883,233
	Additions		228,032
	Net investment gains		58,069
	Disposal proceeds		<u>(492,520)</u>
	At 31 December 2024		<u>1,676,814</u>
	Analysis of investments:	2024	2023
	Fixed interest securities – UK	185,160	294,550
	Equity – UK	375,746	465,774
	Equity – overseas	862,904	708,551
	Commodities	61,966	48,616
	Property	40,860	52,140
	Alternatives	82,890	250,234
	Cash	<u>67,288</u>	<u>63,367</u>
	Total	<u>1,676,814</u>	<u>1,883,233</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	3,281	17,972
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>17,865</u>	<u>10,252</u>
	<u>21,146</u>	<u>28,224</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Other taxation and social security		5,316	5,316
Deferred income	11	24,330	47,059
Other creditors		2,199	9,202
Project commitments		10,997	13,230
Accruals		<u>8,705</u>	<u>10,448</u>
		<u>51,547</u>	<u>85,255</u>

The Community Transformation and Projects Working Group met towards the end of 2023 and grants approved by the Board were paid in 2024. Grant commitments include second instalments due to projects approved in 2024, subject to a satisfactory interim report and any first instalments not yet sent where applicable and funds held for capacity building element of awarded projects.

10 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Deferred income	11	18,671	-

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11 Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other deferred income	<u>43,001</u>	<u>47,059</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income is included within		
Deferred income due within the year	24,330	13,130
Deferred income due after one year	<u>18,671</u>	<u>33,929</u>
	<u>43,001</u>	<u>47,059</u>

Deferred income due after one year relates to any membership dues for 2026 onwards

12 Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2024	Transfers	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Project Funds	57,216	-	-	(37,533)	19,683
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	20,000	-	20,488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	46,162	-	(20,000)	-	26,162
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	8,240	-	-	-	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	<u>88,448</u>	<u>(21,817)</u>	=	=	<u>66,631</u>
	<u>200,554</u>	<u>(21,817)</u>	=	<u>(37,533)</u>	<u>141,204</u>

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the specific terms of the Charity appeal, both of which are binding on the Trustees.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12 Restricted funds

(continued)

The Project funds represent balance of the WE Fund which was closed to donations in June 2022. The balance beyond commitments to WE Fund projects finishing up in 2023 will be spent on project monitoring and evaluation activities. The Strategic Plan 2022-2026 specifies the type of projects to be funded from the Rural Women in Action Fund which is an unrestricted fund.

Agreement was reached in 2021 to transfer £21,817 from the Nutrition Educational Funds (NEFT) to Unrestricted funds to support Projects. This is reflected here to update that record which was missed in previous accounts.

Decision has been taken to use part of the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund (£20,000), to sponsor a limited number of Members' registration fees and travel to attend the Triennial World Conference 2026. Information on this will be announced in 2025 and there will be an application process for members to be able to access this support. There has also been a call for funds to support sponsorship costs.

Restricted funds – prior year

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2023
		£	£	£
Project Funds	142,325	-	(85,109)	57,216
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	46,162	-	-	46,162
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	8,240	-	-	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	<u>88,448</u>	-	-	<u>88,448</u>
	<u>285,663</u>	-	<u>(85,109)</u>	<u>200,554</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	1,480,004	239,424	(522,416)	26,483	58,068	1,281,563
Designated funds						
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation & Maintenance Fund	113,069	-	-	-	-	113,069
IFRW Fund	33,309	-	-	-	-	33,309
South Pacific Support Fund	<u>29,055</u>	<u>987</u>	<u>(12,480)</u>	<u>(4,666)</u>	-	<u>12,896</u>
Total	<u>1,775,766</u>	<u>240,411</u>	<u>(534,896)</u>	<u>21,817</u>	<u>58,068</u>	<u>1,561,166</u>

£4,666 was transferred from South Pacific Support Fund to Unrestricted fund in line with information given by the then SP Area President.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the specific terms of the Charity appeal, both of which are binding on the Trustees.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13 Unrestricted funds (continued)

Previous year

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	1,764,293	718,076	(1,084,823)	82,458	1,480,004
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation & Maintenance Fund	142,569	-	(29,500)	-	113,069
IFRW Fund	41,796	-	(8,487)	-	33,309
South Pacific Support Fund	-	<u>29,055</u>	-	-	<u>29,055</u>
Total	<u>2,068,988</u>	<u>747,131</u>	<u>(1,122,810)</u>	<u>82,458</u>	<u>1,775,766</u>

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

The Margaret Pollock Fund, set up with the proceeds of a substantial legacy received in 1994, has been designated by the Trustees as a capital fund for the time being. The income accruing to this fund is available for general purposes.

The Conference Contingency Fund was provided by the 1992 conference host society to offset unusual costs of future conferences, to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund was set up in 2019 by transferring the historic Relocation Fund (residue), the Leasehold Sink Fund of 1 January 1999, the Equipment Reserve Fund and Building Maintenance Fund (residue) from general unrestricted funds.

The IFRW Fund relates to the International Forum for Rural Women and the Global Survey of Rural Women set up in the year from legacy income received in 2018, 2019 and a specific donation. The intention is that the survey should be reviewed and repeated on a triennial basis for the foreseeable future. The balance will be spent on the continuing costs of surveys and data analysis.

The South Pacific Support Fund relates to the balance from funds raised by members in the area transferred to Central Office, to support specific activities for the area.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14 Cash generated from operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deficit for the year	(273,989)	(378,330)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(43,172)	(67,760)
Gain on disposal of investments	(58,069)	(82,458)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,786	4,904
Movements in working capital:		
Increase in investments	264,480	425,059
Decrease in debtors	7,124	27,397
(Decrease) in creditors	(10,978)	(12,012)
(Decrease) in deferred income	<u>(4,059)</u>	<u>(353,619)</u>
Cash absorbed by operations	<u>(114,877)</u>	<u>(436,819)</u>

15 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

England & Wales - Charity number 1174798

Accounts

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1174798
(Formerly Charity Registration Number 290367)**

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES in 2023

Outgoing Trustees in place January to 25 May 2023

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

Elected at 30th Triennial World Conference from 25 May 2023

Trustee and World President	Mrs Magdie de Kock	South Africa
Trustee and Deputy World President	Ms Irene Chinje	Cameroon
Trustee and Treasurer	Mrs Angela Cassels	Scotland
Trustee and Secretary	Mrs Vanda Gagiano	South Africa
Trustee and Board Lead Advocacy	Dr Elizabeth Ann S Kelly	England
Trustee and Board Lead Community Transformation & Projects	Mrs Edwina Marr	Northern Ireland
Trustee and Board Lead Knowledge Sharing & Local Activities	Mrs Anne Innes	Canada
Trustee and Board Lead Partnerships	Ms Claire Mahon	New Zealand
Trustee and Area President Canada	Mrs Marie Kenny	Canada
Trustee and Area President Caribbean, Central & South America	Ms Irene Hinds	Trinidad & Tobago
Trustee and Area President Central & South Asia	Ms Tharindra Arumapperuma	Sri Lanka
Trustee and Area President East, West & Central Africa	Mrs Clare Jethwa	Kenya
Trustee and Area President Europe	Mrs Afrodita Roman	Romania
Trustee and Area President South East Asia & the Far East	Mrs Cora Sayre	Philippines
Trustee and Area President South Pacific	Mrs Lyn Braico	Australia
Trustee and Area President Southern Africa	Dr Marina Muller	Namibia
Trustee and Area President United States of America	Mrs Bonnie Teeples	United States of America

Executive Director	Ms Tish Collins
Charity Registration Number	1174798 (formerly 290367)
Principal Office	The Foundry 17 Oval Way London SE11 5RR
Banker	National Westminster Bank plc 57 Victoria Street London SW1H 0HP
Investment Manager	Close Asset Management Limited 10 Primrose Square London EC2 2BY
Auditor	SCC Chartered Accountants 17 College Street Armagh BT61 9BT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Associated Country Women of the World ('the Charity' or ACWW) present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Vision and Mission

The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to bring together rural women and their organisations from all over the world, and in so doing address the challenges they faced as a result of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and their lack of access to political processes.

Reaffirming the earliest statements from our founders, ACWW calls for co-operation among women's organisations to ensure action to secure meaningful, quality education for all young people. The advancement of education is a pathway to the relief of poverty and the relief of sickness and preservation of health. Our work is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights, and we work on behalf of those who experience intersecting injustices and inequality. ACWW stands against discrimination in all its forms, and works towards gender equality, accessibility, global citizenship, solidarity with those facing discrimination, and sustainable development. The full ethics statement re-adopted by the incoming Board in 2023 is available to read or download from our website.

Structure, Governance, and Management

ACWW is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1174798. It is governed by a constitution revised and confirmed by the Charity Commission on 22 September 2017 and confirmed, with updates approved by the Charity Commission, by voting delegates at the 30th Triennial World Conference in May 2023. Formerly ACWW was registered as an unincorporated charity, registration number 290367.

The Charity consists of independent organisations and individuals affiliated to it as fee-paying members which are associated for achieving shared objectives. ACWW's membership currently spans 57 countries, and since 1947 we have passed more than 180 policy resolutions by popular vote. The key concept behind each of these is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity. There are four categories of society membership which are differentiated by the size and nature of the applicant organisation. Categories govern membership fees and voting rights at the Triennial World Conference; there are also individual members and a special Category for elected members of the Board, (who are individual members), for the duration of their being in post.

The Triennial World Conference is the highest legislative body of ACWW, it establishes policy and all matters concerning the Constitution and elects the Board of Trustees. The Board elected for the 2023-2026 triennium included representatives from fifteen countries.

In 2023, the Board adopted 'Sustainable Growth for the Future' as the Triennial theme and as we move towards marking the centenary of our Association, we continue to amplify the voices of our members, who are Rural Women in Action.

Board of Trustees

The administration of ACWW is vested in an elected Board of Trustees and the World President is the Chairman of the Board. The Board employ an Executive Director who is responsible for Central Office staff who take on the day-to-day work whilst the Board have a more strategic role, deciding the charity's priorities and future plans.

Board Structure and Working Methods

Since the foundation of ACWW, the organisation has grown and changed in its practices to best reflect the realities of its time. In the past, models have included a Council, and various Areas have been formed, adjusted, or re-framed. Committees have come and gone, or had their mandates and titles changed to best suit the prevailing situation. Having carefully examined more than 30 years of data and discussed the strengths and

challenges of the 2019-2023 Triennium to date, ACWW's Board of Trustees concluded that the organisation's existing structure and working methods needed to be revised to best suit the reality of the current global situation.

Inspired by the successful introduction of ACWW Coordinators and conscious of the inadequacies of the old Specified Committee structure, following the Triennial World Conference in May 2023, ACWW restructured the working methods of the Board. Eight Working Groups, each led by a Board Member, and comprising of Board Members and relevant staff, focus on the following priorities: Advocacy, Budget & Finance, Community Transformation & Projects, Knowledge Sharing & Local Activities, Membership, Partnerships, Safeguarding & Data Protection, and Triennial World Conference. These Working Groups align with our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, with the aim of achieving a more collaborative style of work. Working Group meetings are facilitated online by staff administrators based at Central Office in London, generally meet a minimum of three times a year then report back to the Board who meet four times a year.

The Specified Committees which were previously named in the Constitution ceased to function at the conclusion of the 2019-2023 Triennium, in line with the decision to revoke the delegation of powers by the Board of Trustees taken in February 2022, as allowed for in the Constitution. This also entailed updating the Bye Laws and Standing Orders relating to the Specified and Ad Hoc Committees for the new Triennium.

As noted above, new Working Groups were established at the start of the 2023-2026 Triennium. Given the nature of these changes, the resolution from the outgoing Board recommended that the Board of Trustees elected in 2023 should establish what they believe to be the best Board titles and responsibilities for ACWW's immediate future, enacting these changes through the Standing Orders as allowed for in the 2017 Constitution.

The outgoing Board met in person immediately before the 30th Triennial World Conference (held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17-25 May 2023) and the Incoming Board met for 5 days of training and induction before leaving Malaysia in May 2023. The Board met online in September, and a further in-person meeting took place in November 2023 in London. All Working Groups have met online, and the plan is not to have in-person meetings for 2024 to save on costs.

The World President and Executive Director are in frequent and regular contact. The Executive Director and Central Office staff in London carry on the day-to-day administration of the organization, ensuring compliance with statutory and charity requirements, financial and membership record keeping, projects administration, advocacy, writing and design of publications including *The Countrywoman* magazine, drafting statements and policy documents, research and information to support and administer the work of the Working Groups and Board.

2022-2026 Strategic Plan – 'Rural Women in Action'

2023 was the first full year of operation under the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The 30th Triennial World Conference held in May 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia endorsed the plan and necessary constitutional amendments (see details in the Memberships and Conference section below).

The Board are fully aware that any changes can feel strange and challenging. It is important to remember that ACWW has never stood still, and though many think "we have always done" this or that, the reality is that ACWW has always had to move with the times. Whether this was the "Million Member Fund" becoming "Pennies for Friendship" which became the "Rural Women in Action Fund"; or starting to fund projects in 1977 which were then reformed and reframed severally over the years to the current Projects programme; there has always been forward progress, and we are excited to continue this in 2023 and beyond.

Data Protection

All Board and Staff Members use dedicated laptop computers provided by ACWW, with training provided by Central Office staff, and supported when necessary by ACWW's external IT supplier. Meetings are held via Microsoft Teams, and the use of encrypted document storage has increased ACWW's security and compliance. The Chief Privacy Officer (a senior member of staff) works with the Board Lead on Safeguarding and Data Protection, as well as staff, the Safeguarding and Data Protection Working Group, and the Board, to keep policy and implementation up to date.

Volunteer Roles

Trustees and Coordinators alike are volunteers who contribute considerable time and energy to furthering the aims of the Charity. As activities are carried out across over 57 countries, it has not been possible to quantify the number of volunteer hours. At conference time, in addition to the local volunteer Hostess Society or Coordinating Committee, many volunteers come forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what become great social occasions and opportunities to forge friendships with people from different cultures and countries. During the Triennial World Conference, more than 60 volunteers provided invaluable support for ACWW to deliver a successful conference.

ACWW Coordinators

The ACWW Coordinator Programme was launched in February 2022 and progress was made in 2023 to further improve and strengthen its structure and purpose. This programme is designed to receive nominations from ACWW member societies for individuals to act as a liaison between the member society and ACWW centrally. The intended impact of this programme is to support the work of Area Presidents and ensure ACWW is able to reach to the grassroots of our extensive membership. In 2023 there were 20 new Coordinators approved by the Board, bringing the total to 54 Coordinators. There were 6 Coordinators' meetings during the year, where ideas were shared, training took place, and clarifications were given. Coordinators were given access to resources like presentations, speaker's notes, bespoke flyers, posters, and pop-up banner designs, and documentation to help explain the work of ACWW. This has supported increased consistency in ACWW's messaging globally and provided useful feedback on innovation for generating grassroots engagement with ACWW's work. Coordinators views and opinions also inform the Board, support the role of Area Presidents and our wider advocacy work.

Central Office

Central Office relocated to rented offices at The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR in July 2023 following months of occupying temporary space as the premises at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN had become unfit for use due to flood damage. ACWW had moved into A04 Parkhall in September 2017. The Foundry is a serviced workspace that provides tenancy for social justice and human rights organisations. ACWW Central Office is benefitting from being in close proximity to these NGOs and like-minded organisations, as there are learning and collaborating opportunities.

Staff

There were some staff changes in the year: Ms Sydney Salter moved on from ACWW in April 2023, having been with the organisation six and a half years. Ms Casey Daudelin was promoted from Office Administrator to Membership Engagement Officer in September 2023. Finance Manager Ms Yvette Dyer left in August 2023 to take up employment elsewhere and Ms Uju Maduforo was welcomed to the post in October 2023. Mrs Oluwafunmilayo Omolabi, Finance Assistant, left to take up alternative employment in June and Rebecca Ramsey was reassigned from PA to Executive Director to the post of Finance Officer in September 2023.

Risk Management

The Trustees reviewed the risks faced by the Charity and confirm that systems are in place to manage those risks and accompanying procedures are strengthened as appropriate. As a substantial part of the Charity's income derives from membership fees, strategies to increase membership numbers and retention continue to be addressed.

Investments and Investment policy are regularly reviewed with investment managers to avoid unnecessary losses and maintain capital whilst increasing income. Falling membership and rising costs continue to impact the Charity's bottom line and the Board continues to explore measures to increase income and reduce costs. The Board agreed at the November 2023 Board meeting to invest in needed staff for Fundraising and Communications Officer posts to help expand, diversify and increase our income sources. The Board maintained sufficient financial reserves for project commitments and 36 months operational commitments in line with current reserves policy.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy of ACWW is to seek to maintain 36 months' worth of normal income and expenditure to meet the requirements of a triennium, which includes providing a level of working capital that protects the

continuity of our core work. That is, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of *The Countrywoman* magazine for members, education, outreach and projects, Board and governance expenditure, maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all the above – this requires in the region of £ 550,000 per year. There is also a requirement to provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income.

Following the notice from Investment Fund Services Limited of the closure of the CAF Fixed Income account, the majority of the funds were transferred and reinvested in our Close Brothers fund. The overall market value showed a profit of £82,458 over the year, compared with a net investment loss of £335,116 the previous year from the combined CAF and Close Brothers portfolio. The Board explored the possibilities of outside funding with plans to implement achieving growth in 2024. Legacies are an important source of income which cannot be budgeted for, but we were pleased to receive funds from one legacy in 2023.

Investment Policy and objectives including any social, environmental or ethical policies

The policy continued to encompass the retention of the organisation’s capital reserves and to raise funds towards operating expenses. Funds invested were managed on a ‘medium risk’ strategy through the holding of a range of different types of assets. Restrictions continued whereby investments in armaments, negative environmental impact, oppressive regimes, pornography are disallowed and there is no additional investment in tobacco products.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Local Activities, Advocacy, Partnership, Learning from each other and Sharing of Knowledge

We believe that to address systemic issues, we must see systematic change. Development projects which empower women in their local communities can only succeed when local, national, and international processes recognise the human rights and needs of rural women. Our objectives continue to be the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness and protection and preservation of health, and the advancement of education. In line with the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, published on our website, we will continue to strengthen ACWW’s network of women’s organisations globally by building capacity, facilitating cooperation, and working with like-minded external partners to achieve our objectives. ACWW will continue to use its Consultative Status with the United Nations and its Agencies to amplify the voices of rural women and highlight the issues they raise at the international level.

ACWW has always facilitated the sharing of knowledge between Members. We remain committed to this and, where appropriate, will use digital options to broaden these efforts. Area Conferences, and the Triennial World Conference, along with support for meetings, seminars, webinars, and training programmes will further build capacity within our membership. Additionally, every Member Society is encouraged to nominate an ACWW Coordinator, to share knowledge from within their society and promote ACWW’s work, ensuring the two-way nature of our network thrives and acting as a support mechanism for Area Presidents.

Membership and Conferences

ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) worldwide. There are active memberships in 57 countries. As at 31 December 2023 there were 276 active Member Societies (a 12% drop from the previous year) of which 8 are new society members. There were 724 Individual Members (a 36% drop from the previous year) of which 45 were new individual members. The number of Life Members has declined since none have been added since 1997. The decline in membership is due in part to societies losing contact during the global pandemic, individuals and societies not informing ACWW about changing contact details and the financial insecurity which is affecting societies across the globe. Efforts are being made to stimulate interest in ACWW by providing Coordinators with attractive resources to use in local presentations and Board members, especially Area Presidents are following up local contacts and those lapsed in the last year.

All Areas held an in-person, virtual or hybrid Area Conference within the triennium, but none were held in 2023.

ACWW works in three-year cycles in relation to our World Conferences. Due to the impact of the global pandemic from Covid-19, the Special World Conference convened in 2021, postponed the 30th Triennial World Conference from 2022 and this took place instead from 17th to 23rd May 2023, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

30th TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

The 31st Triennial World Conference was a vibrant event superbly hosted by the Women's Institute Pahang, in the capital of Malaysia. The 453 in-person participants were treated to many examples of Malaysian culture, cuisine and hospitality. A further 70 attended online. We were very honoured that the conference was opened by HM King Abdullah with attendant protocols and musical accompaniment – a new experience for ACWW. Past Area President HM Queen Azizah delivered a warm, heartfelt welcome speech and the Prince Regent presented a keynote address on the topic of the environment. The Hostess Society were gracious and thoughtful throughout and had catered for all needs, despite the change of date and venue. The successful collaboration with the Multi Media University resulted in not only the sessions being filmed but also the social events, and there was a daily bulletin online and on national television.

There were many resolutions on constitutional matters to update the governing document in line with the 2022-26 Strategic Plan. These are reproduced in the 2023 Constitution available on the website. The audited accounts for the final year of the triennium were added to the website as soon as confirmed by the auditor as draft figures were presented at the Conference.

The 30th Triennial World Conference passed the following policy resolutions:

Establishment of Rural Women's Employment Action Plans: That ACWW urges all governments to address the particular needs of rural women by working with women's representative groups to establish, implement and regularly monitor a Women's Employment Action Plan which ensures access to training and education; fair, equitable and safe employment practices; working conditions and remuneration; access to resources such as finance, materials, technology, and land/property and; including but not limited to, advice on career, business and entrepreneurship.

Addressing Food Waste: Be it resolved that ACWW facilitates both action and advocacy on the issue of food waste, recognising that food waste occurs throughout the global food supply chain, and that coordinated action is required to mitigate food loss and wastage at every stage.

Rural Gender Impact Analysis: That the Associated Country Women of the World urge Governments to apply both a Rural impact Analysis and Gender Impact Analysis when considering plans, policies and programmes to ensure the intersectionality of being women and living rurally are taken into account in order to reduce the adverse impact of proposed plans, policies and programmes on rural communities.

Constitution: There were several resolutions passed relating to the Constitution which is now known as the '2023 Constitution' and is available to members via the Website.

- Some of the resolutions corrected typos, inconsistencies or changes in title and some concerned the ending of Specified Committees and the introduction of ACWW Coordinators which enable greater involvement from the membership.
- The Special World Conference held in 2021 passed a Constitutional Amendment allowing the interval between Triennial World Conferences to increase to 52 months, considering the uncertainty surrounding the Global Pandemic, and a resolution was passed to reinstate the 42 months clause.
- Whilst the resolution *Objects: After "The objects of ACWW are" add "the empowerment of rural women and their communities, through"* was passed, the placement of the words 'rural women and their communities' was not accepted by the Charity Commission, who wanted the phrase moved to the end of the sentence. Therefore, the Board intend to move this at the 31st Triennial World Conference.
- Confidentiality of Board proceedings, the process for proxy voting and unique Lead Delegates for Triennial World Conferences, were also approved.
- Due to the soaring costs of postage the following resolution was passed: *Bye-Law 4: The Countrywoman: Revise to read: The Countrywoman is the official magazine of ACWW, published regularly and is included in the membership dues, except to Life Members of twenty years' standing (see Bye Law 1.3). The format of the magazine shall be determined by the Board and adjusted as is assessed to be the most relevant and responsible at the time.*

- Membership Rates: *To update membership fees for all members in the 2023-2026 Triennium to the following rates: for memberships relating to the year 2024 onwards. Category 1: £130, Category 2: £76, Category 3: £61, Category 4: £41 and Category 5: £30.*

Community Transformation and Grassroots Projects

Our new strategy has seen the launch of a new programme of development projects focusing on: Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Women’s Health and Education and Community Development, ensuring greater community-led solutions and long-term impact for women most at risk of being left behind. Since 1977 ACWW has funded small-scale grassroots projects, led by local women’s organisations. The new strategy of grant-making under the Rural Women in Action (RWIA) Fund is a continuation of this legacy that builds on the lessons learned through the Women Empowered (WE) Fund (2018-2022) and over the past four decades of project funding. Greater emphasis is now put on the sustainability of each project, long-term impact on the community as a whole, and building the capacity and resilience of the grantee organisation. Whilst the medium and long-term impacts have not yet been proven, initial results are positive and we have seen a greater connection between project output and advocacy impact.

In 2023, the first grants for the Rural Women in Action Fund were awarded to two grantee organisations, along with the final batch of grants for the WE Fund projects which had been approved for funding at the end of 2022. Other project payments included the second instalments for previously agreed grants. The details of these are listed below.

Donors are provided with information on all new funded projects on the ACWW website and in *The Countrywoman* magazine, along with project profiles and summaries of reports produced throughout the year.

Projects are paid for from unrestricted funds donated to the RWIA Fund. ACWW grant making has an annual budget of £75,000 which funds three core projects of £10,000 and allows an additional £15,000 per project for capacity building of the grantee organisation plus a monitoring & evaluation (M&E) budget for ACWW staff to evaluate the projects. Once approved, 75% of the project grant total is sent to the project awardee, with the final 25% sent subject to satisfactory progress reports (usually 6 months into the project). No evaluation visits took place in the year as focus was put on managing and embedding the new project structure under the new strategy. Evaluation visits are planned for 2024.

Grants awarded

Grants awarded in 2023 with funding instalments sent in 2024

RWIAF001: Geopolitical Alliance of Women, Ukraine.

Project title: Planting the Seeds of Peace. Criteria: Education and Community Development.

Grants awarded in 2023 with funding instalments sent in 2023

Pilot project: Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO, Mongolia.

Project title: Women’s Empowerment Summit, Mongolia.

Grants awarded in 2022 with funding instalments sent in 2023

1120 Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO, Mongolia. Project title: Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Domestic Violence. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building

1121 Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative, Uganda. Project title: Improving Rural Women's Access to Safe Water. Criteria: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy

1122 Heart for Girls Initiative, Uganda. Project title: Improving Awareness, Access and Utilization of Friendly, Responsive, and Inclusive Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) Services. Criteria: Maternal and Reproductive Health

1123 Muwanga Development Association, Uganda. Project title: ICT Training Hub for Women’s Empowerment. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building

- 1124 Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project, Uganda. Project title: Economic Empowerment for Single Mothers through Training in Agriculture and Nutrition. Criteria: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
- 1125 United for Future Mothers Organisation, Uganda. Project title: Weaving Skills for Disabled Women and Girls. Criteria: Income Generation and Livelihood
- 1126 Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment, Uganda. Project title: Promoting Food Security and Regenerative Farming for Refugee Women and Young Farmers. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1127 Youth with a Focus Teso, Uganda. Project title: Empowering Vulnerable Women and Girls. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1129 Community Action for Rural Development, India. Project title: After School Education for Rural Children. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building
- 1130 Community Concerns Uganda, Uganda. Project title: Vocational Training for Sustainable Livelihoods. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building
- 1131 Heritage Charity Foundation, Ghana. Project title Entrepreneurship Training Programme for Unemployed Rural Women. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1132 Ntengwe for Community Development, Zimbabwe. Project title: Ensuring Seed Security through Community Seed Banks. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1133 Organisation for Community Development, India. Project title: Accessible Drinking Water for Fisher Folk. Criteria: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
- 1134 Voice for Change, Papua New Guinea. Project title: Drought Impacts and Mitigation Strategies. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

Grants awarded in prior to 2022 with grant instalments in 2023

- 1111 Iseguri Initiative, Ghana. Project title: Building Resilience through Climate Smart Agriculture. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1107 Association for Human Integrated Massive Social Action, India. Project title: Seeds of Change. Criteria: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
- 1090 Paramedical Educational Trust, India. Project title: Vocational Training for Economic Independence. Criteria: Income Generation and Livelihoods
- 1080 Rural Organization for Social Education and Development, India. Project title: Goat Farming to Support Dalit Arunthathiar Women. Criteria: Income Generation and Livelihoods.

Project Case studies

Women's Empowerment Summit, Mongolia. A co-designed project between ACWW and Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO part-funded by the UNESCO Participation Programme. In 2022, ACWW in collaboration with Sain Tus applied for a UNESCO Participation Programme grant to facilitate a two-and-a-half-day workshop in Khovd Province, Western Mongolia. The Summit involved 323 nomadic herdswomen, from 16 Indigenous ethnic groups, as well as 5 men. All the women are survivors of domestic violence and living in the most fragile of circumstances. Our objective was to support these women in building their resilience and capacity, with indigenous women participating as community leaders, sharing knowledge, learning from each other, and developing their advocacy skills. We also wanted to build the capacity of Sain Tus to deliver their annual programmes. The programme expanded on the impact of a previous domestic violence project, enabling women from nomadic communities to participate. With two and a half days of training workshops, presentations, small group work, and data collection surveys, the Summit was tailored to the specific needs of participants, whilst

aligning with ACWW's strategic focus on Indigenous communities, women's health, community transformation, grassroots projects and advocacy, and meet our commitment to numerous of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Project 1132 Ensuring Seed Security through Community Seed Banks – Ntengwe for Community Development, Zimbabwe. Ntengwe for Community Development is a long-time member of ACWW and this was their second project that has received funding. Ntengwe works with grassroots women, youth and indigenous peoples to improve gender equality and empower all women and girls within the contexts of climate change, policy, and women's economic empowerment. This project was designed to support community seed banks as a sustainable way to improve access to high-value seeds, creating viable community-based businesses and maintaining biodiversity, as well as contribute to farmer-led adaptation to climate change, and indirectly enhance household income diversification, community climate-smart seed systems and gender outcomes in three wards in Hwange district, Zimbabwe. The project reached over 1,000 beneficiaries improving food security by 60% and enhancing crop yields among participant farmers by 70% using improved seed system interventions.

Communication with Members

ACWW communicates with the public using our website, social media channels, and with statements. Our website also offers the opportunity for people to join a mailing list and so receive newsletters from Central Office and the World President. Members receive *The Countrywoman* Magazine, as well as digital newsletters from the World President and Area Presidents. These communications are distributed by ACWW Central Office.

In 2023 the World President added to her regular newsletters with live webinars and updates for Members, several in the form of 'Afternoon Tea with the World President' and also with briefings ahead of the Triennial World Conference. These were duplicated for different time zones. Several videos were published to mark significant days, such as the International Day of Rural Women.

With the departure of ACWW's Communications Officer in April 2023, and with the Triennial World Conference and new Triennium dominating staff time, there was a reduction in the regularity of social media posting and external communication, which continued throughout the year. Recruitment for a new Communications Officer is to be prioritised in 2024.

ACWW publishes *The Countrywoman* magazine which is circulated globally to our Members and supporters. We use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. In 2023, only one printed copy of the magazine was produced, with online updates and newsletters intended to address the gap. This was not an intentional choice, but a reality of reduced Central Office staffing. In 2024, ACWW will return to producing two printed editions per year. Print costs remain competitively low as printed by a small family business in a rural location in the UK. However, the greatest and ever-increasing cost is the global postage and distribution.

Advocacy

The amplification of our members' voices has been a crucial part of ACWW's mission since foundation in 1929. A major element of our centrally-organised advocacy work continues to be engagement with the United Nations and its Agencies and Organisations, where we hold Consultative Status or have the opportunity to make intervention. Whilst some specific highlights of our advocacy work are shown below, the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan calls for advocacy and projects to be much more closely aligned, with our projects informing our advocacy work, and our advocacy seeking to strengthen the impact of our projects.

ACWW has continued to use global campaigns such as the 16 Days of Global Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November-10 December each year) and international days like International Women's Day (8 March) and International Day of Rural Women (15 October) as 'hook' days for advocacy and raising awareness of our work.

In March 2023, ACWW attended the 67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), with a delegation including World President Magdie de Kock, UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny, Executive Director Tish Collins and Advocacy Director Nick Newland. Several Board and ACWW Committee members also attended at their own expense, along with two sponsored Member attendees; Judith Juma from the Social Justice League in Kenya, and Tugrug Uugan-Erdene from Sain Tus Development Bridge in Mongolia.

During CSW, ACWW hosted four events to highlight our work and influence policy-makers. ‘Rural Youth for Action’ was an online event focused on reviewing implementation of the previously Agreed Conclusions which focused on rural women. ‘Rural Women as Agents of Change’ included ACWW members from Kenya and Mongolia as well as Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning & the Status of Women, from Prince Edward Island, Canada. ‘The Ocean, Indigenous Languages, and Rural Communities’ followed up on ACWW’s hosting of the 13th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO in November 2022. ‘Rural Women’s Role in Natural Resource Governance’ examined rural women’s participation in the UN Decade of Family Farming, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, and Ocean Decade. Audiences in person in New York included Ministers, Government delegation members, and senior leadership from UNESCO and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, as well as significant numbers of rural women from more than twenty countries in person and online.

In October 2023, ACWW agreed with UNESCO to launch a new podcast project in March 2024. This project will focus on women’s leadership and be co-hosted and co-funded by ACWW and UNESCO, with guests from around the world. A small investment was made in equipment to support recording content for the podcast, allowing for field interviews with ACWW members and other women leaders. This collaboration further built upon ACWW’s efforts to strengthen the relationship with UNESCO, which included funding the ACWW project in Mongolia noted above, and the election of ACWW Advocacy Director Nick Newland as President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

As part of ACWW’s Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, we have the right to designate representation at UN Headquarters and Offices. In 2023, ACWW designated Trustee and Board Lead for Partnerships Claire Mahon to the UN Office in Geneva to facilitate representation to the Human Rights Council; World President Magdie de Kock, UN Chairman (until retirement of this role) Marie Kenny, Executive Director Tish Collins, and Advocacy Director Nick Newland were designated at UN Headquarters in New York.

In late 2023 it was agreed that a formal Advocacy Strategy would be built in 2024 to consolidate efforts and results and allow ACWW to focus on implementing the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan with Central Office-led, Board-led, and Member-led advocacy globally.

Partnerships

In late 2022, given the geographic distribution of ACWW Board Members, it was decided to hold the January 2023 Board Meeting in Ottawa, Canada. As part of negotiations around the forthcoming 2026 Triennial World Conference, Air Canada confirmed an 18% discount for flights for Board Members for this meeting, and in addition discount codes for members attending the 2026 Conference of at least 10%, with carbon offsetting included.

As noted above, funding for a Women’s Empowerment Summit was secured from UNESCO following submission of a funding application compiled by Central Office Staff. In November 2023 ACWW was awarded the prestigious Incredible Impacts Award by ICCA and Best Cities acknowledging the success of the Summit in Mongolia.

Financial Review 2023

Income from donations and legacies held firm, showing a slight uplift helped by the legacy received. Income from charitable activities was boosted as expected by sales from registrations to attend the Triennial World Conference. The fees were sufficient to cover the direct costs of the Conference.

The impact of the ongoing costs of living crisis contributed to an overall increase in expenditure. This was seen in costs such as logistics for the Triennial World Conference, rent and overheads for which cost saving measures were applied wherever possible.

ACWW investments managed by Close Brothers were found to have held up well, yielding a gain of £82,458. Given the decline in the capital value of the CAF Fixed Interest Account and its subsequent disposal, the move to reinvesting in Close Brothers proved beneficial.

Overall expenditure exceeded income and hence movement in funds was a loss of £378,330 (2022: loss of £590,240). Plans are in motion to diversify and boost income sources with dedicated fundraising and communications.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on

Date: 27 August 2024

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Mrs Magdie de Kock
World President

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Associated Country Women of the World (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and - have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities> . This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Sean G. Cavanagh (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of SCC Chartered Accountants Ltd

27/08/2024
Date

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
17 College Street
Armagh
BT61 9BT

SCC Chartered Accountants Ltd is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	231,334	-	231,334	198,936	-	198,936
Charitable activities	3	448,037	-	448,037	10,810	74,537	85,347
Investments		<u>67,760</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,760</u>	<u>86,069</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,069</u>
Total income		<u>747,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>747,131</u>	<u>295,815</u>	<u>74,537</u>	<u>370,352</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	10,186	-	10,186	10,720	-	10,720
Charitable activities	5	<u>1,112,624</u>	<u>85,109</u>	<u>1,197,733</u>	<u>551,683</u>	<u>63,073</u>	<u>614,756</u>
Total expenditure		<u>1,122,810</u>	<u>85,109</u>	<u>1,207,919</u>	<u>562,403</u>	<u>63,073</u>	<u>625,476</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>82,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,458</u>	<u>(335,116)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(335,116)</u>
Net expenditure and movement in funds		(293,221)	(85,109)	(378,330)	(601,704)	11,464	(590,240)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>2,068,988</u>	<u>285,663</u>	<u>2,354,651</u>	<u>2,670,692</u>	<u>274,199</u>	<u>2,944,891</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		<u>1,775,766</u>	<u>200,554</u>	<u>1,976,320</u>	<u>2,068,988</u>	<u>285,663</u>	<u>2,354,651</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 20 to 29 form part of these financial statements

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity No. 1174798

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		9,764		8,554
Investments	7		<u>1,883,233</u>		<u>2,225,834</u>
			1,892,997		2,234,388
Current assets					
Debtors	8	28,224		55,621	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>140,354</u>		<u>515,528</u>	
		168,578		571,149	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(85,255)</u>		<u>(423,131)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>83,323</u>		<u>148,018</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			1,976,320		2,382,406
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		-		(27,755)
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>1,976,320</u>		<u>2,354,651</u>
Net assets			<u>1,976,320</u>		<u>2,354,651</u>
The funds of the					
Restricted income funds	12		200,554		285,663
Unrestricted funds	13		<u>1,775,766</u>		<u>2,068,988</u>
			<u>1,976,320</u>		<u>2,354,651</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on ...27 August..... ..2024..... and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Angela Cassels
Honorary Treasurer



.....
Magdie de Kock
World President

The notes on pages 20 to 29 form part of these financial statements

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations			(519,278)		21,738
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,364)		-	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		1,250		-	
Proceeds from disposal of investments		82,458		210,546	
Investment income received		<u>67,760</u>		<u>86,069</u>	
Net cash generated from investing activities			144,104		296,615
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(375,174)		318,353
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			<u>515,528</u>		<u>197,175</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>140,354</u>		<u>515,528</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issues on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Associated Country Women of the World meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of ACWW. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Charity has a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income including donations and grants, membership subscriptions and legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made and the amount involved can be quantified.

Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis, using dates of payment for dividends, and daily accrual for interest.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.4 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. All expenses including support costs are allocated or apportioned to applicable expenditure headings. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories noted on the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, other are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example, time spent, per capita or floor area.

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the Trustee's Annual Report.

Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved by the trustees and agreed with the beneficiary. Grants where the beneficiary has not been informed or has to meet certain conditions before the grant is released are not accrued but are noted as financial commitments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	5 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later).

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.7 Debtors and Creditors Receivable / Payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Foreign Currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances stated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

1.9 Funds Accounting

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

2 Income from membership, donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Donations and gifts	166,540	151,638
Legacies receivable	30,028	11,598
Membership subscriptions	<u>34,766</u>	<u>35,700</u>
	<u>231,334</u>	<u>198,936</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Sale of goods						
Conference income	399,800	-	399,800	-	-	-
Other income	48,237	-	48,237	10,810	74,537	87,347
Total	<u>418,982</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>448,037</u>	<u>10,810</u>	<u>74,537</u>	<u>85,347</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Investment management	<u>10,186</u>	<u>10,720</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Staff and Direct Costs 2023 £	Support Costs 2023 £	Total 2023	Staff and Direct Costs 2022 £	Support Costs 2022 £
Charitable activities:					
Project Activities	156,303	19,744	176,045	120,878	36,219
Education	75,372	12,722	88,094	58,504	15,802
Outreach	149,787	15,877	165,664	108,302	46,671
Information & Research	122,871	24,833	147,704	71,480	20,186
United Nations Representation	122,920	12,722	135,642	73,136	13,152
Conference Preparation	468,706	15,877	484,583	49,310	1,116
- Direct costs (389,360)					
- Staff costs (79,346)					
	<u>1,095,959</u>	<u>101,775</u>	<u>1,197,732</u>	<u>481,611</u>	<u>133,145</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds			1,112,624		551,683
Restricted funds			<u>85,109</u>		<u>63,073</u>
			<u>1,197,733</u>		<u>614,756</u>

This table represents an apportionment of resources expended on each of the charitable activities. It is comprised of staff and direct costs, and support costs for a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation, generation of forms and postage.

Project activities: The project administrators work on projects and handle all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the previous Projects Committee and the Community Transformation & Projects Working Group and communicating with donors. Restricted funds shown cover the direct costs allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation. Support costs were expended from unrestricted funds in 2023.

Education: Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates and some targeted advocacy work.

Outreach: Includes outreach and extension work by members of the Board and key staff, plus resources associated with promoting the charity.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

(continued)

Information and research: Includes the costs of producing The Countrywoman magazine, the annual report, production of information, advocacy materials, publicity leaflets, designing and maintaining the website, time and postage distributing publicity materials, responding to enquiries, administering Working Groups and maintenance of the archive.

United Nations representation: Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the former United Nations Committee and the Advocacy Working Group.

Conference Preparation: ***The Triennial World Conference budget is set for estimated income from registration to sufficiently cover direct costs. Income from registration fees for the Conference totalled £399,800, compared with direct costs related to the Conference of £389,360, resulting in net Conference surplus of £10,440***

The basis of allocation of staff and support costs was reviewed and updated to reflect the time spent on each charitable activity by the Executive Director and other members of staff of the charity. Support costs shown above include an apportionment of governance costs, except in the case of Project activities.

5.1 Governance Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration – for audit	8,796	6,580
- for other services	1,066	750
Legal and professional	3,349	2,717
Trustee indemnity insurance	344	1,021
Other governance	<u>1,032</u>	<u>504</u>
	<u>14,587</u>	<u>11,572</u>

5.2 Staff Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	319,686	282,128
Social security costs	35,161	25,881
Other pension costs	18,016	12,877
Other costs	<u>4,223</u>	<u>2,128</u>
	<u>377,086</u>	<u>323,014</u>

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees, who received no remuneration or other financial benefits during the year (2022: nil) and the Executive Director, Advocacy Director and Finance Manager whose emoluments totalled £209,134 (2022: £171,747).

The Trustees were reimbursed a total of £51,640 for travelling and accommodation expenses (2022: £47,505).

The Charity employed on average 7 staff during the year at Central Office (2022:8) There were 2 employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 (2022: 2).

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6	Tangible fixed assets	
		Fixtures and fittings
		£
	Cost	
	At 1 January 2023	55,060
	Additions	7,364
	Disposals	<u>(2,551)</u>
	At 31 December 2023	<u>59,873</u>
	Depreciation and impairment	
	At 1 January 2023	46,506
	Depreciation charged in the year	4,904
	Eliminated in respect of disposals	<u>(1,301)</u>
	At 31 December 2023	<u>50,109</u>
	Carrying amount	
	At 31 December 2023	<u>9,764</u>
	At 31 December 2022	<u>8,554</u>
7	Investments	£
	At 1 January 2023	2,225,834
	Additions	595,543
	Net investment gains	82,458
	Disposal proceeds	<u>(1,020,602)</u>
	At 31 December 2023	<u>1,883,233</u>
	Analysis of investments:	
		2023
		2022
	Fixed interest securities – UK	294,550
	Equity – UK	465,774
	Equity – overseas	708,551
	Commodities	48,616
	Property	52,140
	Alternatives	250,234
	Cash	63,367
	CAF Income Fund	-
	Capital Account Balance	9,120
	Total	<u>1,883,233</u>
		<u>2,225,834</u>

CAF closed its Fixed Income Fund accounts in 2023 and majority of the funds were added to investments with Close Brothers.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	17,972	14,044
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>10,252</u>	<u>41,577</u>
	<u>28,224</u>	<u>55,621</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Other taxation and social security		5,316	8,716
Deferred income	11	47,059	372,923
Other creditors		9,202	7,038
Project commitments		13,230	14,287
Accruals and deferred income		<u>10,448</u>	<u>20,167</u>
		<u>85,255</u>	<u>423,131</u>

The Projects Committee met towards the end of 2022 and grants approved by the Board were paid in 2023. Grant commitments include second instalments due to projects approved in 2023, subject to a satisfactory interim report and any first instalments not yet sent where applicable.

10 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Deferred income	11	-	<u>27,755</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 Deferred income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other deferred income	<u>47,059</u>	<u>400,678</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income is included within		
Deferred income including TWC income due within the year	13,130	372,923
Deferred income due after one year	<u>33,929</u>	<u>27,755</u>
	<u>47,059</u>	<u>400,678</u>

£355,615 of deferred income in 2022 related to Triennial World Conference. All other deferred income relate to membership subscriptions.

12 Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2023
		£	£	£
Project Funds	142,325	-	(85,109)	57,216
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	46,162	-	-	46,162
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	8,240	-	-	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	88,448	-	-	88,448
	<u>285,663</u>	=	<u>(85,109)</u>	<u>200,554</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Restricted funds (continued)

Restricted funds – prior year

	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£
Project Funds	132,278	73,120	(63,073)	142,325
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	44,745	1,417	-	46,162
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	8,240	-	-	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	88,448	-	-	88,448
	<u>274,199</u>	<u>74,537</u>	<u>(63,073)</u>	<u>285,663</u>

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the specific terms of the Charity appeal, both of which are binding on the Trustees.

The Project funds represent balance of the WE Fund which was closed to donations in June 2022. The balance beyond commitments to WE Fund projects finishing up in 2023 will be spent on project monitoring and evaluation activities. The Strategic Plan 2022-2026 specifies the type of projects to be funded from the Rural Women in Action Fund which is an unrestricted fund.

13 Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	1,764,293	718,076	(1,084,823)	82,458	1,480,004
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation & Maintenance Fund	142,569	-	(29,500)	-	113,069
IFRW Fund	41,796	-	(8,487)	-	33,309
South Pacific Support Fund	-	29,055	-	-	29,055
Total	<u>2,068,988</u>	<u>747,131</u>	<u>(1,122,810)</u>	<u>82,458</u>	<u>1,775,766</u>

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13 Unrestricted funds (continued)

Previous year

	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	2,372,901	287,475	(560,967)	(335,116)	1,764,293
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation & Maintenance Fund	142,569	-	-	-	142,569
IFRW Fund	34,892	8,340	(1,436)	-	41,796
Total	<u>2,670,692</u>	<u>295,815</u>	<u>(562,403)</u>	<u>(335,116)</u>	<u>2,068,988</u>

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

The Margaret Pollock Fund, set up with the proceeds of a substantial legacy received in 1994, has been designated by the Trustees as a capital fund for the time being. The income accruing to this fund is available for general purposes.

The Conference Contingency Fund was provided by the 1992 conference host society to offset unusual costs of future conferences, to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund was set up in 2019 by transferring the historic Relocation Fund (residue), the Leasehold Sink Fund of 1 January 1999, the Equipment Reserve Fund and Building Maintenance Fund (residue) from general unrestricted funds.

The IFRW Fund relates to the International Forum for Rural Women and the Global Survey of Rural Women set up in the year from legacy income received in 2018, 2019 and a specific donation. The intention is that the survey should be reviewed and repeated on a triennial basis for the foreseeable future. The balance will be spent on the continuing costs of surveys and data analysis.

The South Pacific Support Fund relates to the balance from funds raised by members in the area transferred to Central Office, to support specific activities for the area.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

England & Wales - Charity number 1174798

Accounts

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

**Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1174798
(Formerly Charity Registration Number 290367)**

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Members of the Board of Trustees in 2022

Elected at 29th Triennial World Conference 9 April 2019 includes changes in 2020

World President	Mrs Magdie de Kock	South Africa
Deputy World President / Chairman Food & Agriculture Committee	Mrs Alison Burnett	Scotland
Secretary / Chairman Triennial World Conference Committee	Mrs Christine Reaburn	Canada
Treasurer / Chairman Finance & Membership Committee	Miss Ruth Cargill (resigned June 2020)	Australia
	Mrs Alison Burnett (Acting)	
Chairman Communications & Marketing Committee	Mrs Sheila Needham	Canada
Chairman Projects Committee	Mrs Maybel Moyo (deceased June 2020)	Zimbabwe
	Mrs Edwina Marr (coopted June 2020)	Northern Ireland
Chairman United Nations Committee	Mrs Marie Kenny	Canada
Area President Canada	Mrs Linda Hoy	Canada
Area President Caribbean, Central & South America	Mrs Irene Hinds	Trinidad & Tobago
Area President Central & South Asia	Sr Lucas Arul Seeli (removed June 2020)	India
	Mrs Magdie de Kock (Acting from June 2020)	
Area President East, West and Central Africa	Ms Irene Chinje	Cameroon
Area President Europe	Mrs Afrodita Roman	Romania
Area President South East Asia & the Far East	Mrs Norjanah Razali	Malaysia
Area President Southern Africa	Mrs Anphia Grobler (Resigned October 2019)	South Africa
	Dr Marina Muller (co-opted October 2019)	Namibia
Area President South Pacific	Mrs Gail Commens	Australia
Area President United States of America	Mrs Bonnie Teeples	United States of America

Chief Executive Officer
(Executive Director from March 2022)

Ms Tish Collins

Charity Registration Number

1174798 (formerly 290367)

Principal Office

A04 Parkhall
40 Martell Road
London SE21 8EN

Banker

National Westminster Bank plc
57 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0HP

Investment Manager

Close Asset Management Limited
10 Primrose Square
London EC2 2BY

Auditor

Appleby & Wood (London) Limited
40 The Lock Building
72 High Street
London E15 2QB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Associated Country Women of the World ('the Charity' or ACWW) present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1174798. It is governed by a constitution revised and confirmed by the Charity Commission on 22 September 2017 and confirmed by voting delegates at the 29th Triennial World Conference in May 2019. Formerly ACWW was registered as an unincorporated charity, registration number 290367.

Vision and Mission: The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to bring together rural women and their organisations from all over the world, and in so doing address the challenges they faced as a result of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and their lack of access to political processes.

Reaffirming the earliest statements from our founders, ACWW calls for co-operation among women's organisations to ensure action to secure meaningful, quality education for all young people. The advancement of education is a pathway to the relief of poverty and the relief of sickness and preservation of health. Our work is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights, and we work on behalf of those who experience intersecting injustices and inequality. ACWW stands against discrimination in all its forms, and works towards gender equality, accessibility, global citizenship, solidarity with those facing discrimination, and sustainable development. The full ethics statement adopted by the Board in 2021 is available to read or download from our website.

The Charity consists of independent organisations and individuals affiliated to it as fee paying members which are associated for achieving shared objectives. Rural Women are the backbone of families, communities, and nations, but they suffer the worst impacts of climate change and conflict, go unheard in legislation, and remain unprotected and unsupported. Associated Country Women of the World exists to change that.

ACWW's membership spans 82 countries, and since 1947 we have passed more than 180 policy resolutions by popular vote. The key concept behind each of these is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity. There are four categories of society membership which are differentiated by the size and nature of the applicant organisation. Categories govern membership fees and voting rights at the Triennial World Conference; there are also individual members and a special Category for elected members of the Board for the duration of their being in post.

The Triennial World Conference is the highest legislative body of ACWW, it establishes policy and all matters concerning the Constitution and elects the Board of Trustees. The Board elected for the 2019-2022 triennium included representatives from thirteen countries. Because of the global pandemic, following the Special World Conference held over 7 days from 17 April 2021, this term of office was extended until May 2023.

Board of Trustees

The administration of ACWW is vested in a Board of Trustees and the World President is the Chairman of the Board. The day-to-day management of ACWW is delegated to the Executive Committee made up of the World President and the six specified Committee Chairmen, who employ Central Office staff in London, including an Executive Director. As noted in the Annual Report of 2020 and 2021, some changes to the Board of Trustees elected in 2019 had occurred – no further changes were made in 2022.

ACWW organises its work on policy objectives through six specified committees: Food & Agriculture, Communications & Marketing, Finance & Membership, Projects, Triennial World Conference and United Nations. Committee meetings are facilitated online by staff administrators based at Central Office in London. In 2019, the Board adopted 'Our Diversity is our Strength' as the Triennial theme, and reiterated as we move towards marking the centenary of our Association, and ensuring that we, and our members, continue to be Rural Women in Action.

The year 2022 was the third year impacted by the global pandemic of Covid-19 and face-to-face meetings were largely replaced with video teleconferencing. There was an in-person Board meeting held 16-20 February 2022 in Suffolk, England. The Board also met virtually and maintained email contact throughout the year. Most of the specified Committees held two on-line meetings whilst the Communications & Marketing Committee opted for one virtual meeting and conducted other business by group email. The Ad Hoc Committee on Resolutions was convened twice during the year.

The World President and Executive Director are in frequent and regular contact. The Executive Director and Central Office staff in London carry on the day-to-day administration of the organisation ensuring compliance with statutory and charity requirements, financial and membership record keeping, projects administration, writing and design of publications including The Countrywoman magazine, drafting statements and policy documents, research and information to support and administer the work of the specified committees and Board.

There were some staff changes in the year: Ms Yvette Dyer was welcomed as Finance Manager in January 2022 replacing Sue Williams who had retired in December 2021. Ms Iga Jazdzewska joined us as Office Administrator in January and left to take up a new role in July. Ms Casey Daudelin was appointed Office Administrator in September, the same month as Mrs Oluwafunmilayo Omolabi was appointed Finance Assistant. A part-time Research Assistant role was trialled and held by Ms Fleur Boya who left after six months for personal reasons.

Central Office is located at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, a rented property. However, in September 2022 a major flood caused by landlord managed roof works forced a relocation of the office staff to C25A Parkhall and the archive to A02 Parkhall. This is a temporary arrangement, and a rent-free period was negotiated until the unit A04 was once again habitable. At the time of writing, March 2023, the Unit A04 is still unfit for use.

Strategic Plan 2022-2026

In preparing the Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, thirty years of data were examined covering membership, income, expenditure, projects work, advocacy, and impacts. The Board identified the following Strengths and Challenges:

Strengths: ACWW is the largest international rural women's organisation. The membership learns from each other and share their knowledge and experiences. We have a platform to amplify the voices of rural women. We are inclusive and diverse. We have existed for more than 90 years. We have consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, and other UN agencies like UNESCO and FAO. We play a vital role in Civil Society. Our network covers more than 80 countries.

Challenges: Decreasing income over the last 30 years. High turnover of individual members, and member societies themselves experiencing shrinking membership numbers. Limited ability for impact assessment of action on Resolutions and Recommendations. Limited impact of projects due to low investment that had not changed significantly for decades. Limited scope for achieving effective systemic change. Misunderstanding among membership about the connection of advocacy and projects, further confused by 'restricted funds'. Overextension caused by diverse and abundant Resolutions ("spreading ourselves too thin"). Historic prioritisation of stability over the realisation of objectives.

Values: We believe that to address systemic issues, we must see systematic change. Development projects which empower women in their local communities can only succeed when local, national, and international processes recognise the human rights and needs of rural women. Our objectives continue to be the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness and protection and preservation of health, and the advancement of education.

Moving Forward: We will strengthen ACWW's network of women's organisations globally by building capacity, facilitating cooperation, and working with like-minded external partners to achieve our objectives. ACWW will continue to use its Consultative Status with the United Nations and its Agencies to amplify the voices of Rural Women and highlight the issues they raise at the international level. The new Strategic Plan streamlined the way ACWW's internal structure works, and certain changes were introduced in 2022 – these are noted below, with the full 2022-2026 Strategic Plan attached to this Annual Report as an appendix:

Key Priorities: Recognising that 60+ years of policy resolutions passed by the membership had spread resources too thin, it was agreed that ACWW should focus its actions on four key priorities. These are: Community Transformation and Grassroots Projects, Sharing of Knowledge and Local Activities, Advocacy, and Partnership. ACWW maintains the mission it has always had, and the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan holds our values at its core.

Funding Model: ACWW started 2022 accepting unrestricted donations to "Pennies for Friendship", and restricted donations for projects to the "Women Empowered Fund". This previous model was unsustainable, and led to confusion about the nature of international development work. From 1 July 2022 all donations to ACWW were to the unrestricted "Rural Women in Action" Fund, meaning that "Pennies for Friendship" no longer operated as a fund accepting donations. There is a genuine need to reunite grassroots development work with national and international lobbying. To only do grassroots development work without any attempt to influence changes to systems of inequality and oppression, only makes short term progress, which is easily lost, as was evidenced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Restricting funds to one particular aspect weakens all aspects of ACWW's work, and makes it more difficult to achieve our connected goals.

New Projects Model: Alongside core projects which operate like somewhat larger versions of ACWW's historic projects, the new model highlights the opportunity to strengthen capacity in recipient communities with additional "modules", such as water and sanitation, financial literacy training, sexual and reproductive health and rights, or Rabies education attached to the project. This also broadens the opportunity for ACWW to partner with other relevant organisations in terms of expertise and financial support.

In addition, with the creation of a new ACWW Coordinator's scheme to engage with each member society at the local level, it was decided by the Board that they would no longer need to appoint Specified Committees. This is allowed for in the Constitution (clause 20.1), and is intended to create a wider point of consultation with the membership, including greater diversity and, as the scheme is facilitated by online meetings, it is open to those who do not have the financial ability to attend in-person meetings in London as required by the Committee system.

The Strategic Plan was unveiled with a series of online meetings with former World Presidents, Deputy World Presidents, Board

Members, Committee Members, and ACWW Members globally, arranged over several weeks and in different time zones. Though some initial hesitation and objection was expressed by certain members, the overall response was very positive.

Membership and Conferences

ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on rural women, the Board decided that no member societies would be lapsed for non-payment of membership fees in 2020 or 2021. At 31 December 2022 there were 317 Member Societies which represented a substantial drop from 2019 as there were a number of societies still unable to pay, either because their organisation had closed or income was at an all-time low. However, we welcomed 24 new member societies. There were 1,134 Individual Members, in 82 countries; of these 134 were new members and 286 were Life Members. The number of Life Members has declined since none have been added since 1997. However, many Life Members pay a current membership fee and are included only in the Individual Member category.

The following Area Conferences took place in 2022:

South East Asia and the Far East – held in person 4-7 July, Kuching, Sarawak
Europe – held in person 19-23 September, Glasgow, Scotland.
East, West and Central Africa – held in person 8-10 November, Nairobi, Kenya.
Central & South Asia – held digitally 9 December.

The following Area Conferences had taken place in 2021:

South Pacific – held digitally 8 March.
Southern Africa – held in person 7-9 June, Howick, Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa
Canada – held digitally 6-7 July.
United States of America – held digitally 2 August.
Caribbean, Central & South America – held digitally 2 November.

Mandates set by Resolutions passed at the 29th Triennial Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in April 2019 continued to guide the work for the triennium.

ACWW Coordinators

As noted above, the new Strategic Plan called for the creation of ACWW Coordinators. The programme is designed to receive nominations from ACWW member societies for individuals to act as a liaison between the member society and ACWW centrally. The intended impact of this programme is to support the work of Area Presidents and ensure the ACWW is able to reach the grassroots of our extensive membership. Additionally, this programme helps ACWW to better ensure that those who are keen to raise awareness of our work are supported and have access to the most up-to-date information. Coordinators sign a code of conduct, meaning that the Board of Trustees can be confident that those who are generating support for ACWW are doing so in line with our aims and code of Ethics. 2022 saw around 35 Coordinators nominated and approved. There were three Coordinators' meetings in the later part of the year, where ideas were shared, training was administered, and clarifications were given. This has meant that there is increased consistency in ACWW's messaging globally and increased innovation for generating grassroots engagement with ACWW's work. Coordinators were given access to resources like presentations, speaker's notes, bespoke flyers, posters, and pop-up banner designs, and documentation to help explain the work of ACWW. The ACWW Coordinators were already helping with feedback on advocacy. Additionally, this programme helps address advice given by the Fundraising Regulator regarding ACWW's communications around donations.

Volunteer Roles

The ACWW Board and Committee members are volunteers who contribute considerable time, personal resources and energy to furthering the aims of the Charity. As activities are carried out across over 80 countries, it has not been possible to quantify the number of volunteer hours. At conference time, in addition to the local volunteer Hostess Society, many volunteers come forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what become great social occasions and opportunities to forge friendships with people from different cultures and countries.

ACWW Projects

Since 1977 ACWW has funded small-scale grassroots projects, led by local women's organisations. The award of grants to project applications was considered by the Projects Committee in April and December. As the strategy adopted in February 2022 saw the phasing out of the WE Fund at the end of June 2022, the Committee were charged by the Board with expending the funds collected via the Women Empowered (WE) Fund. This enabled 15 projects to be funded which included nine member societies (all eight grants at the December meeting were given to ACWW members), with an amount set aside for future evaluation visits. The amount granted to each project ranged from £2,227 to £9,947 averaging £5,955. The benefit is generally far wider than just the direct project participants and will often include family members and even whole communities, although positive medium and long-term impact has not been proven.

In addition to indicative project descriptions for each of the six WE Fund project 'types', donors were given project profiles, progress and final reports and case studies for their interest in response to the priority focus areas supported.

Up to the end of 2022 Projects were paid for from restricted funds donated to the Women Empowered Fund. Once approved,

75% of the project grant total was sent to the project with the final 25% subject to satisfactory progress reports. An additional sum is generally set aside for evaluation visits. In 2022, donations to projects and the projects restricted Women Empowered Fund amounted to £73,120, of which the WI of England & Wales contributed £68,872.

Projects Funded in 2022

- 1120 Sain Tus Development Bridget NGO, Mongolia.
Project title: Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Domestic Violence. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building
- 1121 Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative, Uganda.
Project title: Improving Rural Women’s Access to Safe Water. Criteria: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
- 1122 Heart for Girls Initiative, Uganda.
Project title: Improving Awareness, Access and Utilization of Friendly, Responsive, and Inclusive Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) Services. Criteria: Maternal and Reproductive Health
- 1123 Muwanga Development Association, Uganda.
Project title: ICT Training Hub for Womens Empowerment. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building
- 1124 Ndibwami Integrated Rescue Project, Uganda.
Project title: Economic Empowerment for Single Mothers through Training in Agriculture and Nutrition. Criteria: Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
- 1125 United for Future Mothers Organisation, Uganda.
Project title: Weaving Skills for Disabled Women and Girls. Criteria: Income Generation and Livelihood
- 1126 Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment, Uganda.
Project title: Promoting Food Security and Regenerative Farming for Refugee Women and Young Farmers. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1127 Youth with a Focus Teso, Uganda.
Project title: Empowering Vulnerable Women and Girls. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1128 Organisation: Synergie d’Actions pour un Développement Approprié (SADA), Togo.
Project title: Agricultural Products Processing. Criteria: Income Generation and Livelihood
- 1129 Organisation: Community Action for Rural Development, India.
Project title: After School Education for Rural Children. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building
- 1130 Organisation: Community Concerns Uganda, Uganda.
Project title: Vocational Training for Sustainable Livelihoods. Criteria: Education and Capacity Building
- 1131 Organisation: Heritage Charity Foundation, Ghana.
Project title Entrepreneurship Training Programme for Unemployed Rural Women. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1132 Organisation: Ntengwe for Community Development, Zimbabwe.
Project title: Ensuring Seed Security through Community Seed Banks. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
- 1133 Organisation: Organisation for Community Development, India.
Project title: Accessible Drinking Water for Fisher Folk. Criteria: Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
- 1134 Organisation: Voice for Change, Papua New Guinea.
Project title: Draught Impacts and Mitigation Strategies. Criteria: Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

Project Case studies

Project 1120 - Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Domestic Violence – Sain Tus Development Bridge. A long-time partner of ACWW, the Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO’s mission is to provide women in the Khov region of Mongolia with information, strengthen the mobilization of women, increase the participation of women in local development, support initiatives of self-development and contribute to protect human rights. This project funded in April 2022 has a two-part focus firstly to provide 100 survivors of domestic violence with vital legal support and intermediary services to reduce rates of domestic violence within the community. Secondly to support these women to improve household income through vegetable farming. The project will also work with perpetrators of domestic violence to initiate behaviour change. Rates of domestic violence in Mongolia remain high as estimates suggest that 1 in 3 women have experienced instances of domestic violence. The Sain Tus Development Bridge NGO is instrumental in the region’s fight to eliminate domestic violence.

Project 1126 - Promoting Food Security and Regenerative Farming for Refugee Women and Young Farmers – Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment. Youth Initiative for Community Empowerment (YICE) is an organisation which is rooted in the Mubende district of Uganda. In 2015, the Ugandan government settled over 700 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Mubende district, a region of Uganda where the majority of households are low-income farmers. In a region of limited financial opportunity, it can often cause tension and conflict within communities when refugees or IDPs are relocated into the community. Living conditions for all people in Mubende district worsened in the aftermath of the resettlement programme. YICE noticed an opportunity to tackle the social and environmental challenges in the community while improving access to sustainable livelihoods. YICE was founded on 4 principles: empowering people, conserving the biodiversity, working with others, and implementing scalable and sustainable ecological friendly solutions.

This project based in Nakivale refugee settlement, supports refugee women and youths to produce food and learn about regenerative farming under the new and changing conditions. The project is aimed at promoting healthier lives, regenerated soils and refugee resilience through soil regeneration for improved food and nutritional security and household income. The intervention is an integrated regenerative farming project targeting women and young refugee farmers in Nakivale refugee settlement. The project aims to achieve this by organizing women and youth refugees into small groups and building their capacity to produce organic nutritious food as well as increasing household incomes through permaculture designs, food forests, climate change adaptation and access to finance services.

Communications

ACWW Communications broadly fall into three categories – those from the World President, those from Central Office, and those from other Board Members, particularly the Area Presidents.

In 2022 the World President continued to contact members via newsletters and occasional live webinars, with sessions being duplicated for different time zones. These were met with great support from the Membership, and often included items like the “World President’s Afternoon Tea”, where an online webinar was accompanied by a PDF recipe card to sent to all participants with their registration for the particular treat the World President had baked that day. Letters and Newsletters from the World President were distributed by Central Office regularly, and several videos were published to mark significant days such as the International Day of Rural Women in October.

Central Office is responsible for the website, social media channels, and distribution of formal communications to the membership. In 2022, ACWW’s website received a significant update and rebuild, upgrading the user experience. Since lockdown staff have made informational videos and assisted members with presentations, which are being well received. ACWW’s Facebook page remains a major focus for social media output.

ACWW publishes *The Countrywoman* magazine which is circulated globally to our members and supporters. We use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. In addition, new issues of *The Countrywoman* (and an archive going back to 2011) are available to read on our website, and to download in PDF format. Since the onset of Covid-19 the ability to print and distribute the magazine had been interrupted, and issues had been produced when prevailing conditions allowed. A consultation had been undertaken in 2020 to ascertain how the membership felt about transitioning to a digital-only magazine, versus continuing to receive a printed and posted magazine. From the few responses received, it was clear that the membership wants the paper version to continue, at least twice per year. Issue 1 in 2022 was printed, issues 2 and 3 were digital and issue 4 was printed. Print costs are competitively low as printed by a small family business in a rural location in the UK, though postage and distribution costs remain the dominant burden. To increase interest, the Board decided to vary the way the digital magazine is distributed, by doing shorter newsletter style emails, more often. This was kept under review and very good feedback was received from members particularly at the Southern Africa Area Conference.

Area Presidents also write Newsletters which are distributed by email. Due to concerns about data protection and technical support, the process changed in 2022 and these newsletters are now written by the Area Presidents, and distributed by Central Office to Members in the respective Areas.

Advocacy

The amplification of our members’ voices has been a crucial part of ACWW’s mission since foundation in 1929. A major element of our advocacy work continues to be engagement with the United Nations and its Agencies and Organisations. In 2022 we were able to return to in-person advocacy action for the first time since Covid-19’s impact cancelled all in-person events in 2020. Specific highlights of the advocacy work are shown below.

The annual UN Commission on the Status of Women was held online in 2022, with more than 20,000 participants from around the world attending civil society sessions over the two weeks. Around 40 ACWW members registered to attend 58 sessions. For the fifth year, ACWW worked with the UK Government Equalities Office on the UK negotiation position and text of the Agreed Conclusions; the results were strong for Rural Women, more so than for the past 2 years. The priority theme was Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. ACWW submitted a written statement to the UN Economic and Social Council, for the Commission, and this was co-signed by 28 other NGOs with ECOSOC Consultative Status – the previous highest total was 10, this was a great success.

ACWW hosted 4 Parallel Events, which focused on the rights of Indigenous women, women living in rural and remote

communities, and economic empowerment. Guest speakers included the Honourable Natalie Jameson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, and the Status of Women, of Prince Edward Island, Canada. These events were viewed online by more than 2000 people.

Relationships with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation were being strengthened and whilst in Nairobi for the East, West & Central Africa Area Conference the team engaged with FAO officials locally especially around our projects relating to climate smart agriculture. This included the Advocacy Director meeting with Ambassador Carla Elisa Luis Mucavi, the FAO Representative to Kenya's regional UN Headquarters.

In December 2020 ACWW was elected to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, aiding in the representation of more than 400 NGOs in official partnership with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. In the role of ACWW's main representative on the Liaison Committee, Nick Newland co-chaired a working group on better communications with national commissions and the report will be published in 2023. After the success of the 12th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO on the topic of "Achieving Global Citizenship" held online in December 2021, which was an ACWW initiative, Nick Newland had been invited to meetings at UNESCO in Paris in May 2022 to explore closer working between the two organisations and to share ACWW's Strategic Plan. ACWW now has access to a much higher level within the UNESCO hierarchy. These relationships led to the 13th International Forum, "Mobilising NGOs for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the Ocean Decade" held 21-22 November 2022 – a joint exercise between ACWW, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the UK National Commission for UNESCO. ACWW also mobilised support for this event from our partners at Ottawa Tourism and Air Canada. The event was presented in English and French, and ACWW had a small delegation present, including the World President, UN Committee Chairman and Executive Director.

The annual UN Commission on the Status of Women will be held in person and online in March 2023. In December 2022 ACWW submitted requests to hold four Parallel events. The Review Theme for 2023 is Rural Women and the aim would be to engage with governments on progress since the 2018 main statement from CSW. There has been interest in working with ACWW expressed by the Canadian Government, including Minister Jamieson of Prince Edward Island.

It was agreed that more should be shared with members about the representation ACWW is conducting at high level meetings and showing how ACWW is working towards achieving greater sustainability and longevity of projects with the new strategy. Advocacy is what links all the issues for women's empowerment and more members are beginning to understand and appreciate that, however, there are still some resistance to any change. It was reaffirmed that with the new strategic plan changes are being made to working methods, not priorities or objects.

Partnership

As ACWW's Central Office is currently flooded and the Board Room unavailable, and with 4 members of the Board located in Canada, it was calculated to be more cost effective to hold the January 2023 Board meeting in Ottawa, Canada. Continuing the partnership established and noted above, Air Canada confirmed an 18% discount for flights to the Board meeting in Ottawa in January. This was the start of a sustainable travel partnership with the airline who will, as cost effectively and sustainably as possible, support all ACWW events up to 2026, with discount codes of at least 10%. Flights will be carbon offset.

A grant under the UNESCO Participation Programme was successfully applied for, supported by both the Mongolian and the UK National Commissions for UNESCO, and ACWW have been awarded \$14,000 for the project proposal in Mongolia based around the San Tus member society. This project is advocacy and community building for 300 women survivors of domestic violence from 16 indigenous ethnic groups. The Minister from Prince Edward Island, Canada will be invited to attend the launch of the project's women's summit in Mongolia because of the links of domestic violence policy, lifelong education, and the opportunity to share knowledge.

As the ACWW United Nations Chairman Marie Kenny recalled, three years ago ACWW was in danger of losing consultative status with UNESCO because of inactivity. She was delighted and proud that all the hard work and energy Nick Newland had put into his role has made such a positive difference for ACWW. The new strategy linking projects and advocacy in a real way is being well received and is an effective way of raising the voices of rural women.

The International Conference of NGO's in Official Partnership with UNESCO took place in Paris 12-16 December 2022 – this is the annual meeting that brings together senior staff representatives of around 400 NGOs. We are delighted to report that Nick Newland was elected as President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for a two year term, a first for ACWW.

Data Protection

Since the distribution of laptops to Board members, the ability to communicate and hold meetings via Teams and Zoom has considerably enhanced both the ease and security of Board communications. The Chief Privacy Officer gives updates and, where appropriate, training at each Board Meeting, in line with the policy agreed by the Board in October 2019. The Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection did not need to meet in 2022 but communicated by email on any issues which needed discussion.

Financial Review 2022 – To be updated when Audit figures available

ACWW's investments managed by Close Brothers were found to have held up well under the circumstances. The CAF Fixed Interest Account was showing a decline in the capital value at the year end. The market value showed a loss of £335,116 over the

year, compared with a net investment gain of £139,948 the previous year. IFSL gave notice that they were closing the CAF Fixed Income account as held for ACWW in June 2023.

Risk Management

The Trustees reviewed the risks faced by the Charity and confirm that systems are in place to manage those risks and accompanying procedures are strengthened as appropriate. As a substantial part of the Charity's income derives from membership fees, strategies to increase membership numbers and retention continue to be addressed. The Board undertook a thorough review of operations at the February 2022 Board meeting and developed a Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

Investments and investment policy are regularly reviewed with investment managers to avoid unnecessary losses and maintain capital whilst increasing income. The global Pandemic of Covid-19 had a major impact on donations received in the year and the Board took measures to reduce costs primarily by having meetings of Committees online and savings were made by producing some issues of *The Countrywoman* digitally. The Board maintain sufficient financial reserves for project commitments and 36 months operational commitments in line with current reserves policy.

Attention continues to be given to minimizing the risk of project grants being misspent. Working with project partners to agree project outcomes in advance has been strengthened. No evaluation visits were able to take place in the year and some project plans were put on hold where lockdowns were in force.

Reserves policy

The Reserves Policy of ACWW is to seek to maintain 36 months' worth of normal income and expenditure in order to meet the requirements of a triennium, which includes providing a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work. That is, Board and governance expenditure, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of *The Countrywoman* magazine for all members, education, outreach and projects, and maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all of the above - this requires in the region of £550,000 per year. There is also a requirement to provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income.

Under the new Strategic Plan 2022-2026 was the last year Projects were to be paid for from restricted funds received to the Women Empowered Fund. Grant expenditure commitments were made in April and December and listed above.

Membership fee income currently yields around £40,000 per year and there is a slight downward trend. Traditionally the fees have met the costs of producing and printing the magazine. Donations generate the majority of income and are subject to continuing support for ACWW and its charitable activities. Income from investments has been maintained in recent years but is subject to the volatility of the investment market. Legacies are an important source of income but cannot be budgeted for. The Board began to explore the possibilities of outside funding.

If closure seemed a likely outcome, there are currently 8 members of staff, two of whom are part-time and five of whom have been employed by ACWW for over two years and would have full redundancy rights.

Investment Policy and objectives including any social, environmental or ethical policies

The policy continued towards the retention of the organisation's capital reserves and to raise funds towards operating expenses. Funds invested were managed on a 'medium risk' strategy through the holding of a range of different types of assets. Restrictions continued to be disallowed on investments in armaments, negative environmental impact, oppressive regimes, pornography and no additional investment in tobacco products. Funds held in CAF are in a fixed interest account.

Going Forward - Transformation and Grassroots Projects from 2023

As agreed at the Incoming Board meeting after the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne in May 2019, the strapline 'Rural Women in Action' and the slogan 'Our Diversity is our Strength' remained the focus of the Board activity. Increasing the number of members and our unrestricted income were highlighted as key elements in enabling the organisation to fulfil this mission. Grounding our development projects in 40 years of experience, combined with recognised good practice, we will continue to prioritise the issues highlighted by rural women in their communities. Future project funding priorities were reviewed, and attention given to the sustainability and real impact of ACWW funded projects. In line with experience and global priority, we will focus on Climate-Smart Agriculture, Rural Women's Health, and Education & Community Development for our Core Projects.

The Board identified that there was a need to develop sustainable income and not rely solely on the membership to maintain the organisation financially in the long-term. In addition to current donations and membership fees, member societies had an important role in responding to surveys and giving their time to promoting ACWW. There was an intention to approach outside bodies for funding to cover core costs. ACWW will also have the opportunity to work with strategic partners to develop digital and financial infrastructure in communities that need it, responding to the unique needs of each community. Using this model, ACWW has already secured support from strategic partners, and this should lead to additional external funding.

We will continue to rely on our members for their donations and hope that this new initiative will inspire even more support among the members of our member societies, and give them a connection to a vital, thriving international network that may attract new, younger members to their local societies. In this way, we are seeking to address a challenge identified by the Board. We seek to not only expand ACWW's network, but also help our member societies with their shrinking membership numbers by

strengthening the links between the whole network: members, supporters, and project participants. Members will continue to be our priority, as we work to achieve the agenda, they have set for ACWW.

Alongside Core Projects which respond to local priorities, we will work with strategic partners to add Capacity Building modules to each project, strengthening impact and building sustainability. We will fund fewer projects each year but continue our annual spending at the same level, so there is greater investment in each community. The new model approach delivers significantly increased opportunities for community and individual development, and ACWW will be using its network and years of experience to bring about real, measurable change.

The Charity is seeking to address a challenge identified by the Board. We seek to not only expand ACWW's network, but also help our member societies with their shrinking membership numbers by strengthening the links between the whole network: members, supporters, and project participants.

The 30th Triennial World Conference is taking place 17-25 May 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and registrations were opened on 29 April 2022, closing 31 December.

As previously reported, no bids had been received to host the 31st Triennial World Conference through normal channels ahead of the 2019 Conference, nor in response to a further request for bids, some informal conversations with the Canada Area President indicated an interest in holding it in Canada but members felt unable to commit six years in advance. The Board decided to pursue discussions with Ottawa Tourism, who had expressed initial offers of significant financial and practical support for an ACWW Triennial World Conference hosted in Ottawa in 2026. After due deliberation, the Board agreed that the 31st Triennial World Conference would take place in Ottawa in April 2026.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on:

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Mrs Magdie de Kock
World President

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Associated Country Women of the World (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is consistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 11 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charity and determined that the most significant are FRS102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP, together with the supervisory requirements of the Charities Commission.
- The charity operates locally and is not significantly impacted by international law or regulations. As a registered charity in England and Wales, they are not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax on income derived from its charitable activities.
- We understood how the charity is complying with those frameworks through discussions with the trustees and review of the trustees minutes and the charity's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the trustees' reporting to the charity with respect of the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the charity.
- Our pre-audit review specifically makes reference to fraud risk and this is supported by audit documentation. We also review board minutes to identify any matters of concern or risk. None was identified.
- The charity is small, its activities are regular and consistent and are not complex and no special audit considerations apply, nor is external specialist assistance required.

However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the charity and management.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



R W Williams FCCA
For and on behalf of
Appleby & Wood (London) Limited
Statutory Auditors
40 The Lock Building
72 High Street
London E15 2QB

Date 6th October 2013

Appleby & Wood (London) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income:					
Donations, membership and legacies	2	198,936	-	198,936	233,647
Investment income		86,069	-	86,069	78,602
Charitable activities	3	10,810	74,537	85,347	66,163
Total income		295,815	74,537	370,352	378,412
Expenditure:					
Raising funds:					
Investment management costs		10,720		10,720	10,637
Charitable activities:					
Project activities		94,024	63,073	157,097	255,477
Education		74,306		74,306	57,627
Outreach		154,974		154,974	52,301
Information and research		91,666		91,666	97,896
United Nations representation		86,288		86,288	28,747
Conference preparation		50,426		50,426	-
Total expenditure	4	562,403	63,073	625,476	502,685
Net income/(expenditure)		(266,588)	11,464	(255,124)	(124,273)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains		(266,588)	11,464	(255,124)	(124,273)
(Loss)/Gains on investment assets		(335,116)	-	(335,116)	139,948
Net movement in funds		(601,704)	11,464	(590,240)	15,675
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2022	16	2,670,692	274,199	2,944,891	2,929,216
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2022	12	2,068,988	285,663	2,354,651	2,944,891

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Charity No. 1174798

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5		8,554		16,406
Investments	6		2,225,834		2,771,496
			<u>2,234,388</u>		<u>2,787,902</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	7	55,621		41,508	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>515,528</u>		<u>197,175</u>	
		571,149		238,683	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(423,131)</u>		<u>(74,189)</u>	
Net current assets			148,018		164,494
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>2,382,406</u>		<u>2,952,396</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	9		(27,755)		(7,505)
Net Assets			<u><u>2,354,651</u></u>		<u><u>2,944,891</u></u>
Funds					
ACWW					
Restricted funds	10		285,663		274,199
Designated funds	11		304,695		297,791
Unrestricted funds	11		1,764,293		2,372,901
Total Funds			<u><u>2,354,651</u></u>		<u><u>2,944,891</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the board on

2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Alison Burnett
Acting Treasurer



Madgie de Kock
President

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:	15	<u>21,738</u>	<u>(267,662)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest and rents investments		86,069	78,602
Purchase of fixed assets		-	(6,438)
Sale of fixed assets		-	-
Purchase of investments		(283,505)	(292,450)
Proceeds from sale of investments		494,051	299,774
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>296,615</u>	<u>79,488</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowing		-	-
Cash inflow from new borrowing		-	-
Receipt of endowment		-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		318,353	(188,174)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>197,175</u>	<u>385,349</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>515,528</u></u>	<u><u>197,175</u></u>

The notes on pages 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Associated Country Women of the World meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity has a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. It has therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The COVID-19 pandemic has been taken into consideration when performing the going-concern assessment.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income including donations and grants, membership subscriptions and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made and the amount involved can be quantified.

Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis, using dates of payment for dividends, and daily accrual for interest.

1.4 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories noted on the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example, time spent, per capita or floor area.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved by the trustees and agreed with the beneficiary. Grants where the beneficiary has not been informed or has to meet certain conditions before the grant is released are not accrued but are noted as financial commitments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture and equipment - 5 years straight line

1.6 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later).

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances stated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

1.9 Funds accounting

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

1.1 Operating leases

The rental charges of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as and when these are paid.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

2	DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP AND LEGACIES		2022	2021
			£	£
	Membership subscriptions		35,700	49,491
	Donations		151,638	128,537
	Legacies		11,598	55,619
			<u>198,936</u>	<u>233,647</u>
3	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		2022	2021
			£	£
	Conference income		-	-
	Other income		85,347	66,163
			<u>85,347</u>	<u>66,163</u>
4	EXPENDITURE	Staff and	Support	Total
		Direct Costs	Costs	2022
		£	£	£
	Cost of raising funds:			Total
	Investment management costs	10,720	-	10,720
	Charitable activities:			2021
	Project activities	120,878	36,219	157,097
	Education	58,504	15,802	74,306
	Outreach	108,302	46,671	154,974
	Information and research	71,480	20,186	91,666
	United Nations representation	73,136	13,152	86,288
	Conference preparation	49,310	1,116	50,426
		<u>492,331</u>	<u>133,145</u>	<u>625,476</u>
				<u>502,685</u>

This table represents an apportionment of resources expended on each of the charitable activities.

Conference Preparation: Actual Triennial World Conference income and expenditure are reported in the year of the event, the 30th TWC is due to take place in 2023.

Project activities: The project administrators work solely on projects and handle all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the Projects Committee and communicating with donors. Restricted funds shown here cover just the direct salary costs of the projects administrators, amounts allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation (these form the Staff and Direct Costs). All the resources expended supporting Project activities including a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, payments out, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation and generation of forms and postage are shown in the Support Costs column and were expended from unrestricted funds in 2020.

Education: Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates and some advocacy work

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

4 EXPENDITURE (continued)

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

United Nations: Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the United Nations Committee. In June 2019 a new UN and Advocacy budget was approved to increase the impact of such work. Much of ACWW's advocacy work is focused here.

The basis of allocation of staff and support costs was reviewed and updated to reflect the time spent on each charitable activity by the Executive Director and other members of staff of the charity. Support costs shown above include an apportionment of governance costs, except in the case of Project activities.

4.1 Governance Costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration - for audit	6,580	6,580
- for other services	750	1,125
Legal and professional	2,717	8,190
Trustee indemnity insurance	1,021	531
Other governance	504	433
	<u>11,572</u>	<u>16,859</u>

4.2 Staff Costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	282,128	205,793
Social security costs	25,881	19,218
Other pension costs	12,877	10,046
Other costs	2,128	444
	<u>323,014</u>	<u>235,501</u>

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees, who received no remuneration or other financial benefits during the year (2021: nil) and the Executive Director, Finance Manager and the Advocacy Director whose emoluments totalled £171,747 (2021: £118,362).

15 trustees were reimbursed a total of £47,505 travelling and accommodation expenses (2021: £1,694).

The Charity employed 8 staff during the year at Central Office (2021: 7). There were 2 employees earning more than £60,000 during the year (2021: none).

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

5	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Furniture & Equipment	
		£	
	Cost		
	As at 1st January 2022	55,060	
	Additions	-	
	Disposals	-	
	As at 31st December 2022	<u>55,060</u>	
	Depreciation		
	As at 1st January 2022	38,654	
	Charge for the year	7,852	
	Released on disposals	-	
	As at 31st December 2022	<u>46,506</u>	
	Net Book Value		
	As at 31st December 2022	<u>8,554</u>	
	As at 31st December 2021	<u>16,406</u>	
6	FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS	2022	2021
		£	£
	Market Value as at 1st January 2022	2,771,496	2,638,872
	Additions	283,505	292,450
	Disposal proceeds	(494,051)	(299,774)
	Net investment gains	(335,116)	139,948
	Market Value as at 31st December 2022	<u>2,225,834</u>	<u>2,771,496</u>
	Historic Value as at 31st December 2022	<u>1,244,288</u>	<u>1,324,794</u>
	Analysis of investments:		
	Equity - UK	463,547	594,537
	Equity - overseas	417,156	786,786
	Fixed interest securities - UK	232,499	232,376
	Alternatives	288,029	229,913
	Property	51,250	54,900
	Commodities	45,462	-
	CAF Income Fund	707,050	856,729
	Capital Account Balance	9,120	4,708
	Cash deposits	11,721	11,547
	Total	<u>2,225,834</u>	<u>2,771,496</u>
	The following investments represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio as at 31st December 2022:		
	CAF Fixed Interest B Income Fund	<u>707,050</u>	<u>856,729</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

7 DEBTORS	2022	2021
	£	£
Income tax and VAT recoverable	2,323	5,791
Dividends and interest receivable	11,721	11,546
Prepayments	27,660	24,171
Prepayments related to Conference	13,917	-
Accrued income	-	-
	<u>55,621</u>	<u>41,508</u>

Included within Prepayments is a balance of £11,992 (2021: £11,992) relating to a property deposit, recoverable in 2022.

8 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Taxes and social security costs	8,716	4,787
Deferred income (note 9)	372,923	18,821
Other creditors	7,038	6,863
Grant commitments	14,287	27,943
Accruals	20,167	15,775
	<u>423,131</u>	<u>74,189</u>

The Projects Committee met towards the end of the year and grants approved by the Board were paid in 2022. Grant Commitments include second instalments due to projects subject to a satisfactory interim report and first instalments not yet sent if applicable.

9 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income at 1st January 2022	26,326	35,015
Income recognised in year	(18,922)	(22,979)
Income deferred in year	393,274	14,290
Deferred income at 31st December 2022	<u>400,678</u>	<u>26,326</u>
Made up of:		
Deferred income including TWC income due within one year	372,923	18,821
Deferred income due after one year	27,755	7,505
	<u>400,678</u>	<u>26,326</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1st January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2022 £
Project Funds	132,278	73,120	(63,073)	-	142,325
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	44,745	1,417	-	-	46,162
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	8,240	-	-	-	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	88,448	-	-	-	88,448
	<u>274,199</u>	<u>74,537</u>	<u>(63,073)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>285,663</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance 1st January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2021 £
Project Funds	167,662	65,695	(101,079)	-	132,278
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	82,369	1,412	-	(39,036)	44,745
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	32,035	-	-	(23,795)	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	88,448	-	-	-	88,448
	<u>371,002</u>	<u>67,107</u>	<u>(101,079)</u>	<u>(62,831)</u>	<u>274,199</u>

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the specific terms of the Charity appeal, both of which are binding on the Trustees.

Total Income restricted to Projects activities was £74,537 (2021: £67,107), of which the WI of England & Wales contributed £68,872 in the year (£53,971 in 2021).

Project income constitutes the main source from which allocations are made for ACWW's charitable work directed towards grassroots projects and paid out of the restricted Women Empowered Fund (WE Fund) and its six priority focus areas which are supported by donors. From England and Wales only, the Women's Institutes Pennies for Friendship (WIPFF) classification represents monies donated to the WE Fund for projects.

The WE Fund was closed to donations on 30 June 2022. The Rural Women in Action Fund was opened on 1 July 2022. The Strategic Plan 2022-2026 specifies the type of projects to be funded from the Rural Women in Action Fund

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1st January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2022 £
Unrestricted	2,372,901	287,475	(560,967)	(335,116)	1,764,293
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	142,569	-	-	-	142,569
IFRW Fund	34,892	8,340	(1,436)	-	41,796
	2,670,692	295,815	(562,403)	(335,116)	2,068,988

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance 1st January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2021 £
Unrestricted	2,278,801	311,305	(401,606)	184,401	2,372,901
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	124,191	-	-	18,378	142,569
IFRW Fund	34,892	-	-	-	34,892
	2,558,214	311,305	(401,606)	202,779	2,670,692

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and relate to amounts set aside by the Trustees to meet specific future requirements of the organisation.

The Margaret Pollock Fund, set up with the proceeds of a substantial legacy received in 1994 has been designated by the Trustees as a capital fund for the time being. The income accruing to this fund is available for general purposes.

The Conference Contingency Fund was provided by the 1992 conference host society to offset unusual costs of future conferences, to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund was set up in 2019 by transferring the historic Relocation Fund (residue), the Leasehold Sink Fund of 1 January 1999, the Equipment Reserve Fund and Building Maintenance Fund (residue) from general unrestricted funds.

The IFRW Fund relates to the International Forum for Rural Women and the Global Survey of Rural Women set up in the year from legacy income received in 2018 and 2019 and a specific donation. The intention is that the survey should be reviewed and repeated on a triennial basis for the foreseeable future. The balance will be spent on the continuing costs of surveys and data analysis.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

England & Wales - Charity number 1174798

Accounts

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

**Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1174798
(Formerly Charity Registration Number 290367)**

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

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THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021

Elected at 29th Triennial World Conference 9 April 2019 includes changes in 2020

World President	Mrs Magdie de Kock	South Africa
Deputy World President / Acting Treasurer / Chairman Food & Agriculture Committee	Mrs Alison Burnett	Scotland
Secretary / Chairman Triennial World Conference Committee	Mrs Christine Reaburn	Canada
Chairman Finance & Membership Committee	Miss Ruth Cargill (resigned June 2020)	Australia
	Mrs Alison Burnett (Acting)	
Chairman Communications & Marketing Committee	Mrs Sheila Needham	Canada
Chairman Projects Committee	Mrs Maybel Moyo (deceased June 2020)	Zimbabwe
	Mrs Edwina Marr (coopted June 2020)	Northern Ireland
Chairman United Nations Committee	Mrs Marie Kenny	Canada
Area President Canada	Mrs Linda Hoy	Canada
Area President Caribbean, Central & South America	Mrs Irene Hinds	Trinidad & Tobago
Area President Central & South Asia	Sr Lucas Arul Seeli (removed June 2020)	India
	Mrs Magdie de Kock (Acting from June 2020)	
Area President East, West and Central Africa	Ms Irene Chinje	Cameroon
Area President Europe	Mrs Afrodita Roman	Romania
Area President South East Asia & the Far East	Mrs Norjanah Razali	Malaysia
Area President Southern Africa	Mrs Anphia Grobler (Resigned October 2019)	South Africa
	Dr Marina Muller (co-opted October 2019)	Namibia
Area President South Pacific	Mrs Gail Commens	Australia
Area President United States of America	Mrs Bonnie Teeples	United States of America

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Tish Collins

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number	1174798 (formerly 290367)
Principal Office	A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road London SE21 8EN
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 57 Victoria Street London SW1H 0HP
Investment Managers	Close Asset Management Limited 10 Primrose Square London EC2 2BY
Auditors	Appleby & Wood (London) Limited 40 The Lock Building 72 High Street London E15 2QB

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Associated Country Women of the World ('the Charity' or ACWW) present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1174798. It is governed by a constitution revised and confirmed by the Charity Commission on 22 September 2017 and confirmed by voting delegates at the 29th Triennial World Conference in May 2019. Formerly ACWW was registered as an unincorporated charity, registration number 290367.

Trustees

The administration of ACWW is vested in a Board of Trustees. The officers are the World President, Deputy World President (Chairman Agriculture Committee), Secretary (Chairman Triennial World Conference Committee) and Treasurer (Chairman Finance & Membership Committee) who together with the three Chairmen of the other Specified Committees (Communications and Marketing, Projects and United Nations) and the nine Area Presidents form the Board of Trustees. The World President is the Chairman of the Board. The day-to-day management of ACWW is delegated to the Executive Committee made up of the World President and the six specified Committee Chairmen, who employ Central Office staff in London, including a Chief Executive Officer. In line with the Constitution, a new Board was elected at the 29th Triennial World Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in May 2019. During the course of the year 2020 there were two resignations, one removal, one death, two co-options and two members of the Board acting in additional roles until the next Triennial World Conference (see the list of Trustees on page 3). The title of the Agriculture Committee was changed to Food and Agriculture at the Incoming Board meeting of 2019.

Structure

The Charity consists of independent organisations and individuals affiliated to it as fee paying members which are associated for achieving shared objectives. ACWW represents one of the largest international organisations for rural women with an extensive membership in over eighty countries and with consultative status at the United Nations. ACWW is a forward looking, friendship organisation committed to raising the health and standard of living of rural women and their families and the empowerment of women by advocacy, partnerships, local activities and sharing of knowledge; this includes funding training programmes and community development projects. ACWW seeks to be a non-sectarian, anti-racist, non-party-political, non-religious association.

There are four categories of society membership which are differentiated by the size and nature of the applicant organisation. Categories govern membership fees and voting rights at the Triennial World Conference; there are also individual members and a special Category for elected members of the Board for the duration of their being in post.

Board members are elected by voting delegates at the Triennial World Conference, with the nine Area Presidents elected by voting delegates from the appropriate Area. Candidates may be nominated by Category 1, 2 and 3 societies from among the active membership of these societies and candidates are also to be an individual Category 5 member of ACWW. Elections are conducted by secret ballot with a 50% +1 majority. The term of office is one Triennium, and they may be re-elected to the same position for one succeeding Triennium, or for different positions totaling a maximum of 4 triennia. All Officers are expected to attend the Triennial World Conference and Board meetings. Trustees do not receive any benefits.

The Triennial World Conference is the highest legislative body of ACWW, it establishes policy and all matters concerning the Constitution. The Constitution, Rules and Bye Laws govern the workings of the organisation; this has been provided to all member societies and is downloadable from our website and may be sent as a hard copy on request. Printed copies were sent to all member societies in advance of the 29th Triennial World Conference in April 2019. Trustees were inducted to their role and responsibilities in pre – Conference workshops and at the incoming Board meeting immediately following the Triennial World Conference. Governance training was continued at subsequent meetings of the Board tailored to suit the diverse experience and needs of Trustees. The Board elected for the 2019-2022 triennium included representatives from thirteen countries.

ACWW organises its work on policy objectives through six specified committees: Food & Agriculture, Communications & Marketing, Finance & Membership, Projects, Triennial World Conference and United Nations. Whilst each is responsible for one aspect, they are all interlinked towards a common goal. Committee meetings are facilitated by staff administrators based at Central Office in London.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The year 2021 is the second year impacted by the global pandemic of Covid-19. Face to face meetings were replaced with video conferencing (zoom or teams). The specified committees continued to meet twice in the year except for the Finance & Membership which meet four times. In the year there were five meetings of the Executive committee held online via 'Teams' and three meetings of the Board also held online. In addition, some decisions such as approving applications from new members were made by the Board via email and reported appropriately. There were two meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection. Decisions are reached on a majority vote basis (unless specified otherwise by the Constitution) but are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees or Executive, whichever meets first, who also operate on a majority vote basis. Each triennium specified committees complete a review of their policy papers to be approved at the following Board meeting, to ensure they are robust and meet the governance and developing needs of the Charity.

The World President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are in frequent and regular contact. The CEO and Central Office staff in London carry on the day-to-day administration of the organisation ensuring compliance with statutory and charity requirements, financial and membership record keeping, projects administration and publications including The Countrywoman magazine, drafting statements and policy documents, research and information to support and administer the work of the specified committees and Board. Electronic communications are used between committee meetings as the appointed members are spread geographically.

There were some staff changes in the year: Mr Rowan McKinnon left the position of Office Administrator in November 2021. Finance Manager Sue Williams retired in December 2021. Both these positions were filled in January 2022.

Volunteers

The ACWW Board and Committee members are volunteers who contribute considerable time, personal resources and energy to furthering the aims of the Charity. In some areas of the UK members of the WI take on the role of ACWW Representative and act as a conduit between the two organisations, in the Country Women's Associations in Australia and elsewhere, this role is played by the International Officers. As activities are carried out across over 80 countries, it has not been possible to quantify the number of volunteer hours. At conference time, in addition to the local volunteer Hostess Society, many volunteers come forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what become great social occasions and opportunities to forge friendships with people from different cultures and countries.

Central Office and Covid Pandemic 2020

Central Office is located at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, a rented property. These premises enable the charity to have offices and to accommodate Board and committee meetings as well as the ability to hold an extensive archive and conduct workshops for up to 50 people. The Board meeting in March 2018 decided to name Central Office, wherever it is located, the virtual 'Madge Watt House', in honour of a founding member. The Office was closed and staff worked from home from 17 March 2020 as the UK went into lockdown. Towards the end of 2020, UK Covid-19 restrictions were tightened once again and became stricter in January 2021. The staff were generally working from home and coping well in trying circumstances. When restrictions for London were lifted in May most staff members returned to work in Central Office and the CEO ensured adherence to all appropriate Covid restrictions; social distancing, sanitisation and enhanced cleaning were in place when staff were in the Office. Temporary arrangements were in place for the two part-timers to work on a hybrid basis when the workload allowed.

In Autumn 2021 some of the staff job titles were changed to bring ACWW in line with other international NGOs and the CEO became the Executive Director.

The impact of Covid-19 on ACWW's membership was addressed via three surveys in 2020 and the results were shared with UNESCO. The so-called 'lockdown' has increased rural isolation and made access to food and banking facilities even more of an issue for our members globally, particularly so as public transport has been curtailed. Additionally, the forced cancellation of meetings for member societies and support groups has resulted in a fall in membership income and donations.

The World President continued to contact members via newsletters and live 'Afternoon Tea Talks'. The sessions were presented two times in the day with the same content to take into account different time zones, seeking to be as inclusive as possible. Feedback indicated that the live webinar presentation of the World President's newsletter as an 'Afternoon Tea' talk was very well received and seen by more people than had opened the recent e-newsletters, as was the ACWW Quiz presented by the World President and the Executive Director.

The website is kept up to date on a daily basis. Since lockdown staff were making more videos and assisting with presentations, which are being well received. ACWW's Facebook remains a major focus for social media output and includes polls of members via the Kitchen Table site.

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Data Protection: In June 2020, the Executive Committee passed a recommendation, to purchase and deploy Windows-based laptop computers for Board Members. This was suspended in December 2020 and

reviewed in March 2021 when it was considered imperative that Board Members were provided with laptops, and have full access to the software on them in order to carry out their ACWW work safely and securely (the cost of computers was significantly less than the cost of fines for breaching Data Protection laws). The laptops were purchased and distribution and training began in June 2021. The ability to communicate and hold meetings via Teams enhanced Board communications considerably.

Rent and Lease at Parkhall: In March 2020, we negotiated with our landlords for 50% reduction in rent for 3 months, saving in the region of £7,500. When the lease period came to an end in September 2020, we successfully secured an additional 3-year lease at Parkhall, with a fixed rate of £52,885.82 – thus no annual increase for the length of the term, and a drop in the service charge increase from 5% to 3%. This will save ACWW a minimum of £5,400 per annum over the term of the lease and removes the costs of sourcing a new office, setting it up, and moving.

Membership and Conferences

ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In 2020 there were 440 Member Societies (440 in 2019) and 1,427 Individual Members, in 82 countries throughout the world. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on rural women, the Board decided that no member societies would be lapsed for non-payment of membership fees in 2020 or 2021. The number of Life Members has declined since no new Life Members have been added since 1997. However, many Life Members pay a current membership fee and are included in the Individual Member category.

ACWW works in three-year cycles and the 29th Triennial World Conference took place from 4th to 10th April 2019 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The 30th Triennial World Conference was scheduled for May 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. However, because of the Covid-19 global pandemic the Board considered what steps to take if the Conference needed to be postponed. In line with the Constitution (2017) a Special World Conference to be held digitally was called for 17-23 April 2021 to consider a resolution to delay the Triennial World Conference by a year. Notices for were emailed and followed up by post to all member societies and individual members. Sessions were repeated in different time zones to enable the maximum possible participation. The Voting procedure will be as for the Area Presidents at the last two Triennial World conferences and will require people to enter their name, voting member society, number of society and that they have authority to represent that society. There will be only one resolution to be voted on.

The Special World Conference considered the following Resolution:

"In light of the unprecedented uncertainties of 2021, specifically in respect of the global Covid-19 Pandemic, it is resolved to:

Reschedule the 30th Triennial World Conference from May 2022 to May 2023, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In order for this to be enacted, the following Constitutional Amendment is required:

The following section of Clause 11.1.1, "...Triennial World Conferences must be held at intervals of not more than 42 months" be suspended, and the following text be inserted: "...Triennial World Conferences must be held at intervals of not more than 52 months"

ii) The amendment in i) above be rescinded at the close of the 30th Triennial World Conference"

There were six sessions held at which more than 150 people join in via Zoom, and more than 2,200 people watched on Facebook. As Magdie de Kock, World President said 'This has been an historic week for ACWW, and I am honoured to have had you with us for this unique event.' The total number of votes received in favour of the Resolution was 300, votes received against the Resolution 4. The percentage of votes cast in favour is: 98.6%

ACWW has an organisational structure for members to meet and, at least once every three years, hold a specially convened general meeting / Area Conference in each of the nine Areas namely: Canada; Caribbean, Central & South America; Central and South Asia; East, West and Central Africa; Europe; South East Asia and the Far East; Southern Africa; the South Pacific; and the United States of America. There are formal and informal partnerships to enable representation at meetings recognising the varying costs of travel involved. Reports of Area Conferences are presented by the Area Presidents to the Triennial World Conference. The World President and other officers attended Area Conferences where appropriate, however, a number of Area Conferences were postponed in 2020 and the World President was in lockdown in South Africa. Each member society is encouraged to send a triennial report of work to be published and distributed at the next Triennial World Conference.

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The continuing impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic resulted in some Area Conferences, originally planned to be in person, being held digitally.

The following Area Conferences took place in 2021:

South Pacific – held digitally 8 March 2021

Southern Africa – held in person 7-9 June 2021 Howick, Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa

Canada – held digitally 6-7 July 2021

United States of America – held digitally 2 August 2021

Caribbean, Central & South America – 2 November 2021

The following were re-scheduled to 2022: Europe, East, West and Central Africa, South East Asia & the Far East and Central & South Asia.

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

ACWW's objectives are the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, and the advancement of education for women in both rural and non-rural areas worldwide, to empower women and improve the quality of life. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charities' aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Charitable Incorporated Organisation constitution maintains the same objectives as the former charity.

The charity aims, through its membership and networks of rural and non-rural women, by cooperation and understanding, to empower its members and rural women worldwide, creating opportunities for women to exercise more power. ACWW believe women will be empowered when they are able to make better decisions and change their own lives. In order to do this, they need to be better informed, be part of an enabling environment and have the necessary tools in order to carry out the changes they want. ACWW's mission is to bring these conditions about through partnership, advocacy, sharing of knowledge and local activities.

Mandates set by Resolutions passed at the 29th Triennial Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in April 2019 guided the work.

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

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

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

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

Pollinator Protection: Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and research institutes to continue to identify and reduce specific drivers of insect pollinator decline, develop agricultural pollinator-friendly practices, and promote greater public awareness of the role of insect pollination in global food production.

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

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

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

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

and other non-governmental agencies in unison to achieve measurable improvements in malnutrition and environmental health for rural women.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Subscriptions: Be it resolved that the membership subscription for Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 increase to: Category 1 £110 (currently £105) Category 2 £69 (currently £64) Category 3 £55 (currently £53) Category 4 £37 (currently £35) Category 5 Individual £27 (currently £25) Category 5 Individuals for 3 years £68 (currently £65). Note, the new rates will apply from January 2020.

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

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Partnership

Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to better connect and support women and communities worldwide. The relationship with rural women's organisations has grown from membership covering 18 countries in 1929 to 82 countries in 2020. Through its member societies, ACWW amplifies the voices of more than 9 million women.

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In pre-Pandemic years, the World President, Area Presidents, other Board members and some staff would travel to carry out extension work and give presentations to member societies, speaking at meetings and conferences throughout the world. However, no local or international travel took place on ACWW business from March 2020 to the end of the year, nor in much of 2021. In its place, there was a rapid deployment of videoconferencing tools which facilitated local and international meetings and ensured the Board, members and Central Office were able to maintain contact.

In 2021 ACWW maintained its relationships with UN agencies and is proud of the fact that it has held consultative status at the United Nations for so many years.

ACWW United Nations affiliations and our commencement date:

ECOSOC – the Economic and Social Council – Special consultative status (1947)

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization – Consultative Status (1947)

CoNGO – Conference of Non-governmental Organizations – consultative status (1948)

UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Consultative status (1949), NGO Official Partner

Women Walk the World events were severely curtailed again this year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, however, some members found ingenious ways of marking the occasion, raising awareness and, where possible, funds, to help support women and communities worldwide. This event brings together women in fellowship, a core function of ACWW.

Area Presidents continued to email newsletters to keep in touch with their members and the World President also sent regular newsletters.

ACWW's partnership with Global Action on Rabies Control (GARC) continued by offering free awareness raising online training to ACWW members. Members were encouraged to take up this excellent source of information about how to recognise the disease, what to do in an emergency and how to prevent it.

Many member societies work with local partners and they were encouraged to send in reports of work to Central Office so they could be acknowledged and used for reporting to UN agencies, building up a picture of rural women in action and sharing through our media channels.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Advocacy

Speaking at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2021, ACWW's World President Magdie de Kock concluded her remarks with the following:

"The Generation Equality Forum in Paris sought to build on the legacy of Beijing as we move into the 26th year since the Platform for Action was agreed. Too many, far too many, of those commitments remain unfulfilled. Today, I recommit ACWW to amplifying the voices of rural women, of older women, of indigenous women, of young women, and of all those women in non-urban communities who cannot be heard above the din of chaos or the silence of global inaction."

The Board of ACWW affirmed the following statement:

The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to bring rural women and their organisations all over the world together, and in so doing address the challenges they faced because of the isolation of their communities, discrimination against women, and their lack of standing in political processes.

ACWW's membership spans 82 countries, and since 1947 we have passed more than 180 policy resolutions by popular vote. The key concept behind each of these is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity, and this continues to be our driving priority.

Rural women are the backbone of families, of communities, of nations, of global food systems. They bear the burden of conflict, they go unheard in legislation, and remain largely unprotected and unsupported. ACWW exists to change that, and challenge international processes and policies that perpetuate these inequalities.

Reaffirming the earliest statements leading to the formation of our organisation and the words of our founders, ACWW calls for co-operation among women's organisations to ensure action to secure meaningful, quality education for all young people. The advancement of education is a pathway to the relief of poverty and the relief of sickness and preservation of health.

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ACWW commits to being an anti-racist organisation, and aims to equip all members to address racism within their own communities and collaborate to ensure that the voices of women of colour and indigenous communities are heard. We will work with peers to redress racial inequalities and leverage our partnerships to ensure positive joint working, promoting, sharing, and learning from best practice wherever possible to encourage greater accountability and advocate for meaningful change.

Remembering the resolution passed by our Membership in 1947 and the more than 20 resolutions and recommendations that have followed, ACWW reaffirms its support for the principles underlying the establishment of the United Nations, and to supporting the UN and its Member States in strengthening global governance and representation. This includes realising the success of the 2030 Agenda, amplifying the voices of rural women through UN processes and with UN agencies, and calling for reform to address the inadequacies of existing mechanisms.

Our work is rooted in the fundamental principles of human rights, and we work on behalf of those left furthest behind. ACWW stands against discrimination in all its forms, and works towards gender equality, accessibility, global citizenship, solidarity with those facing discrimination, and sustainable development.

ACWW's development programme for improved quality of life and the empowerment of rural women relies on funding local women-led delivery partners. This ensures that local voices are reflected in project design, implementation, and outcome assessment. We will continue this work, doing everything we can to ensure we are supporting the growth of relevant local capacity with a sustained and positive impact.

We are incredibly proud of our diverse network of women's organisations globally, and the women-led development projects we have supported over the past 50 years. We recognise that there is always more to be done to strengthen, empower, and build capacity within our network, lessons we can learn, and new voices to bring forward. ACWW's Board is elected by our membership, and geographic representation remains critical to bringing forward the priorities of rural women.

In 2019, the Board adopted 'Our Diversity is our Strength' as the Triennial theme, and today we reiterate this commitment, as we move towards marking the centenary of our Association, and ensuring that we, and our members, continue to be Rural Women in Action.

2021 was a busy year for our advocacy work, with some notable successes along with interest collaborations and advancements. Advocacy reports were published in *The Countrywoman* and social media channels used to highlight ACWW activities.

CEDAW: In June 2021 ACWW gave evidence at the UK CEDAW People's Tribunal about the actions of the UK government relating to rural women, and the experiences of our members in the UK (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland). This involved our Advocacy Director Nick Newland submitting a background policy briefing, then a sworn evidence statement, and giving evidence 'on the stand' (via digital platform) and cross-examination by 4 barristers. Our testimony was well received and included input from the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales, as well as several Institutes and individuals around the country. This tribunal followed the 2019 examination of the UK government at CEDAW, where we also gave evidence based on feedback from our membership.

Later, in October 2021, our Advocacy Director attended a consultation on CEDAW held by the UK Government Equalities Office (GEO) and gave input based on feedback from our members, research, and expertise on rural women in the UK. We were thanked by the GEO and further discussions have taken place.

The United Nations Committee Chairman Marie Kenny reported that Canada is facing many issues of discrimination in schools and she is speaking with the Minister of Education about having the ACWW booklet on CEDAW distributed to schools.

FAO & Civil Society

In October 2021 the FAO contacted ACWW and carried out an unscheduled and short notice review of our Consultative Status. They told us they are in the process of reducing the number of NGOs holding status by around 12% due to pressure from member governments.

We made the case for ACWW maintaining our status: The work undertaken over the past 3 years that aligned with the FAO was presented by our Advocacy Director, and after internal discussion, very positive outcomes were

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reported:

ACWW will continue to hold Consultative Status

FAO is maintaining rural women as a priority focus

Impressed by ACWW's work with UNESCO, FAO would like us to work with them to revise their Civil Society processes and organise a forum.

CSW

The annual UN Commission on the Status of Women was held in a digital format in 2021 for the second time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. More than 20,000 participants from around the world attended civil society sessions over the two weeks. Around 40 ACWW members registered to attend 58 sessions. ACWW's Advocacy Director was heavily involved in the negotiations on the Zero Draft and then Agreed Conclusions, working to influence the UK government and others through lobbying, negotiation, and inputting during consultations. The results were strong for Rural Women, more so than the past 2 years.

ACWW hosted an official CSW Parallel Event on 18 March 2021, 'Rural Women's Role in Global Citizenship', which was chaired by World President Magdie de Kock. Guest speakers included H.E. Hans Wesseling, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO and Gill Naylor, National President of ACWW Member Society Rural Women New Zealand; joined by ACWW UN Committee Chairman Marie Kenny, Area President for East, West, and Central Africa Irene Chinje, and Advocacy Director Nick Newland. The event was attended by 200 people and was watched more than 1500 people online via our Facebook and YouTube pages.

World President Magdie de Kock also appeared as a guest speaker at a Parallel Event hosted by the UK Civil Society Women's Alliance, titled 'The Last Young Woman Post Covid'; this was well attended and live-streamed by ACWW, and watched by around 1000 people.

Our official Statement to the 65th Session of the Commission was submitted, with support from 28 other international NGOs who hold Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council like ACWW. These included new organisations engaging with ACWW for the first time, including one in Brazil, one in Zimbabwe, and groups like the World Organization of the Scout Movement and Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas.

UNESCO

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

All but three nations who are member states of the UN participate at UNESCO, the exceptions being the USA, Israel and Lichtenstein. Our engagement with UNESCO in 2021 led to productive policy discussions throughout the year, and led to partnerships in 2022 that will be reported in the account for that year.

Almost exactly a year after our election, our Advocacy Director organised the 12th International Forum of NGOs, titled "Achieving Global Citizenship". This event was held digitally on 6-7 December 2021, and included high-level speakers from the US, Australia, India, Japan, Poland, Brazil, and Zimbabwe. Nick Newland chaired the Forum and secured the participation of former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The Director-General of UNESCO also attended the Forum digitally alongside many ACWW members.

Orange the world

Since 2016 ACWW has been active in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, under the global banner of 'Orange the World'. Efforts to raise awareness have seen statements, videos, posters, and other resources produced and shared with members in more than 80 countries.

In 2020, the UN identified a 'Shadow Pandemic' of gender-based violence accompanying the impact of Covid-19. As families all over the world were subject to lockdown, so the prevalence of domestic violence increased. Now, more than ever, the campaign to raise awareness from 16 to 365 Days is critically important. During ACWW's Orange the World campaign in 2019 more than 63,550 people saw ACWW's materials online and more than 850

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people actively shared these materials on their Facebook pages. This is a fantastic reach for these resources, and the reach of ACWW's campaign was significantly increased in 2021, possibly reflecting the increased level of digital literacy amongst the membership in light of Covid-19 and greater reliance on computer-based communication.

In December 2021, ACWW co-hosted a Webinar with UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Advocacy Director Nick Newland spoke at the webinar, which specifically addressed violence against women and girls in the Asia Pacific region, with feedback and input from our members in the area. The invitation to co-host this event was a direct result of ACWW holding an elected position on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

3rd Eurasian Women's Forum

World President Magdie de Kock, was accompanied by the Executive and Advocacy Directors at the Eurasian Women's Forum in St Petersburg, Russia. All three ACWW representatives gave TV interviews, were presented as guest speakers on an expert panel titled 'Rural Growth Trends: Infrastructure and Amenities for Women'. ACWW member Vanda Gagiano, who was attending the Forum as Honorary President of the Free State Women's Agricultural Union, South Africa also spoke. This meeting was broadcast live on Russian TV. There were 2,500 participants (1,500 in person, 1,000 experts and speakers attended online) from 111 countries, plus 23 of the largest international organizations. 3 million people joined the platform of the forum via the internet. About 600 speeches were made, more than 300 events took place.

Whilst at the Forum, ACWW presented the experiences of our members, as well as the policy positions of our organisation. This included highlighting the need for women in all their diversity to have equal rights, for rural women to be recognised as having specific and legitimate concerns about modern life, the importance of equality for indigenous women, the rights of widows, and challenging the norms of rural migration to urban centres. We also took the opportunity to renew working relationships with colleagues from the Women's Union of Russia, and establishing significant new contacts including with the international Alliance for Financial Inclusion and others.

After the Forum, our delegation travelled to Moscow where we met with Senator Alexei Mayorov, Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Agriculture and Food Policy and Environmental Management. The Senator invited us to attend the meeting in the Senate building, joined by the Deputy Speaker of the Social Politics Committee and the Deputy Head of the Cooperative Project for German/Russian Dialogue in Agriculture and Politics. This meeting gave us the opportunity to exchange thoughts on the challenges facing rural women, and for ACWW to amplify the voices of its members. We raised the question of land inheritance rights for women, and in particular widows and addressed the low rates of COVID vaccination in rural areas in the Russian Federation. The Senator was challenged on access to funding and provision of social care in rural areas, as well as the participation in CEDAW reporting of the Committee – the response showed a clear lack of understanding of CEDAW and its processes.

The ACWW delegation also met with Member Society the Women's Union of Russia at their headquarters in Moscow. We were greeted by Chair Ekaterina Lakhova, her advisor Helena Bashun and the WUR's advocacy manager Anastasia Kasatkina. We had a productive meeting, giving World President Magdie de Kock the opportunity to film a short discussion with Mrs Lakhova, and to re-connect with this long-standing ACWW member society.

The following Statements (with applicable dates) were published in the year and were used by member societies in their work locally:

11-17 October: International Day of the Girl Child, International Day of Rural Women, World Food Day, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Statement to the 66th Commission on the Status of Women CSW66, in preparation for March 2022. We published and presented a Written Statement to the High Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council and High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development (July 2021) - this was co-signed by 10 international NGO partners, including in the USA, France, Ukraine, UK, and Holland.

We marked the following with statements: International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict and World Refugee Day (19-20 June 2021); World Environment Day (5 June 2021);

We also co-signed with NGO Partners: Open Letter to G20 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors and the IMF: Civil Society Organisations Call for Principles for Fair Channelling of Special Drawing Rights (international loans to developing economies).

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The Board adopted the following resolution moved by the ACWW United Nations Committee:
The Committee has reviewed its goals under the Strategic Plan for ACWW and, considering current circumstances and financial standing, would like to recommend removing the aspiration to secure WHO partnership status by the end of this Triennium. We believe that we do meet the requirements for holding Observer Status with the Congress of Parties, and so recommend applying to secure this status for ACWW, and with it the ability to attend COP meetings in future"

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Sharing knowledge & Learning from each other

ACWW publishes a quarterly magazine, The Countrywoman, which is circulated globally to our Members and supporters. We use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of an issue, 3 are planted in its place. We are proud to work with a local, family-owned printer in the UK called Polstead Press. During 2019, all magazines from 2011 onwards were added to the website as an accessible digital archive. The Board responded favourably to a request from the East, West and Central Africa Area Conference that The Countrywoman be made available as a digital download especially for areas where postal systems were unreliable.

A consultation was undertaken to ascertain how the membership feel about transitioning to a digital- only magazine versus continuing to receive a printed and posted magazine. This consultation towards the end of 2020 utilised all communications channels to reach as many members and members of member societies as possible, including those only reachable by post. From the few responses received, it was clear that the membership overwhelmingly wants the paper version to continue, at least twice per year. Issue 1 in 2021 was printed, issues 2 and 3 were digital and issue 4 was printed. This was a cost saving measure reflecting the vast increase in postal charges and a response to the survey of members. Print costs are competitively low as printed by a small family business in a rural location. To increase interest, the Board decided to vary the way the digital magazine is distributed, by doing shorter newsletter style emails, one per week over a month. This was kept under review and very good feedback was received from members at the Southern Africa Area Conference.

The Finance and Membership Committee under the Chairmanship of Acting Treasurer Alison Burnett discussed how to increase membership and income. The discussion focused on the role of ACWW Supporters Groups active in some countries, their primary aim being to spread information about ACWW out to people and win new members. The Board invited representatives of ACWW supporters' groups from across England, Australia and Canada to speak to them about how and what they did to raise awareness and funds for ACWW, This form of consultation was much appreciated by the Board.

The Board agreed to a proposal from the Agriculture Committee which changed the name of the committee to Food and Agriculture Committee to be more reflective of the scope of the work of the committee and potential future activities and brought it into line with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Decade of Family Farming supported by ACWW. From November 2021 zoom meetings were organised to discuss the Decade of Family Farming core premise that family farms are the key to solving the problem of hunger in the world. Women play a leading role in food security, especially in times of the global pandemic, and these forums listened and learned from the voice of rural women.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Local Activities

For many years ACWW has funded small grassroots projects, led by local women's organisations. The award of grants to project applications was considered by the Projects Committee in February and October. The Women Empowered Fund received donations in 2021 that enabled 27 projects to be funded, of which four were ACWW members, and an amount set aside for future evaluation visits. The amount granted to each project ranged from £2,078 to £8,116, averaging £3,680.

ACWW provides funding for small-scale community projects, primarily in developing countries, and prioritises grants that relate to the SDGs. The Projects Committee has defined the grant making policy which has Board approval and oversight. In line with the overall aims and objectives, small grants are awarded to community-based projects with identified outcomes of alleviating hunger, poverty, sickness or the advancement of education.

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These are linked to SDG indicators and are reflected in the six WE Fund priority focus areas. Whilst many of these projects are initiated by Member Societies, applications from non-members are also welcomed. The benefit is generally far wider than the direct project participants and will often include family members and even whole communities, although positive medium and long-term impact has not been proven.

There were two members of staff, working a combined 7 days per week, whose sole endeavour was to administer the project application process, deal with applicants, grantees and donors on behalf of the Committee. The cost of overheads was to be applied to projects work as recommended by the auditors and restricted funds applied in this respect. Initial evaluation is carried out by these Central Office staff, who prepare a 'longlist' of eligible projects from the applications received. This list is then considered by the Projects Committee Chairman who shortlists the applications to be considered by the Projects Committee at one of their biannual meetings. The recommendations from the Committee are then considered by the Board or Executive, whichever meets first. Projects supported primarily benefit rural women and children. These women tend to be strong activists in their own communities but would not normally have access to external funds. ACWW believes that all women deserve a chance. Grassroots organisations tend to have expert knowledge of their own communities and realities and, are supported where possible so that their communities can benefit from this knowledge. ACWW recognises its project partners as experts and teachers, rather than beneficiaries. ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations. ACWW does not have staff or representatives in situ. When an organisation applies for funding from ACWW, we apply checks to ensure that donations are used responsibly. Reporting and evaluation allow us to measure the impact of funding and, where applicable, ensure longevity and increasing independence. It is intended to resume evaluation visits once the Covid-19 pandemic allows.

The Women Empowered (WE) Fund priority focus areas fall within criteria set by the ACWW policy and constitution, namely: 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. Materials with indicative projects for each "pot" were provided to donors and supporters via email and were shared on ACWW's social media channels and website. Donors are given project profiles, progress and final reports for their interest in response to priority focus areas supported. Case studies and project reports are published in The Countrywoman and in the annual Projects Newsletter, showing that lives of women are being improved. In 2021, donations to projects and the projects restricted Women Empowered Fund amounted to £67,107. Of which the WI of England & Wales contributed £53,971.

Projects Funded in 2021

In March 2021 the Board approved funding for 11 projects .

Member Organisations:

- Association for the Social Educational and Charitable Activities for the Poor Communities (ASHA), India. WE Fund - Education and Capacity Building
'Handloom Weaving Program to Promote Sustainable income generation & create livelihood among 40 Disadvantaged Women Weavers'.

Non-Member Organisations:

- Buddha Outcast Social Society (BOSS), India. WE Fund - Income Generation and Livelihood
'Rural Women Health Status Analysis and Education In 25 Villages'.
- Courage Women Group, India. WE Fund - Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
'Improved Indigenous Poultry Production for Income and Food Security'.
- Elite Community Development Empowerment Programme (ECOPED), Kenya. WE Fund - Income Generation and Livelihood
'Awakening the Olmarurui Woman'.
- Gitaru Marigu Development Group (GMDG), Kenya. WE Fund - Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy
'Construction of a Shallow Water Well for Health and Hygiene Improvement in a Rural Community'.
- Grass-Root Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW), Ghana. WE Fund - Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
'Economic Empowerment of Women Farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture'.
- Kashitu Development Organization (KWDO), Zambia. WE Fund - Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
'Nachampama Women Empowerment through Livelihood Development and Support'.
- Reaching the Unreached Tanzania (RUT), Tanzania. WE Fund - Maternal and Reproductive Health
'Strengthening Skills of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Advocates for SRHR'

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- Vasantham Pengal Sanfam (VPS), India. WE Fund - Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development
'Improved income through goat rearing by adopting hydroponics system of fodder production'.
- Village Reconstruction and Development Society (VRDS), India. WE Fund - Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
'To combat malnutrition among tribal women and children through nutrition education and food making, promoting nutrition home gardens and preservation of fruits and vegetables'
- Women for Life Development Initiative (WOLIDEVE), Uganda. WE Fund - Income Generation and Livelihood
'Empowering rural women with skills and knowledge in craft shoe making to improve their Livelihoods'.

In October 2021 the Board approved the following 14 projects for funding.

Member Organisations:

- Education Communication and Development Trust (EDUCATR), India. WE Fund - Sustainable Agriculture
'Empowering 44 rural women farmers in sustainable organic farming and marketing towards ensuring regular income to livelihood'.
- Give Them Hope, Inc, Liberia. WE Fund - Education and Capacity Building
'Empowering Vulnerable Girls and Women with Vocational Skills to overcome poverty and the impact of Covid-19 in rural Liberia'.
- Safe Plan Uganda, Uganda. WE Fund - Education and Capacity Building
'Rural School Empowerment Project (RUSEE)'.

Non-Member Organisations:

- Association for Human Integrated Massive Social Action (AHIMSA), India. WE Fund - Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
'Organic Greens cultivation in Small Land Holding by 30 Marginal Women Farmers'.
- Babuyirana Women Group, Uganda. WE Fund - Income Generation and Livelihood
'Value addition to agricultural crops to increase incomes generated from agriculture and improving food security of displaced refugee women and other marginalized and most vulnerable women'.
- Hohoe Sankofa Women Co-operative Food Farmers and Marketing Society Limited, Ghana. WE Fund - Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
'Skills Training in Greenhouse Vegetable Production as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy'.
- Hope Foundation for African Women, Kenya. WE Fund - Maternal and Reproductive Health
'Gender Equality through the prevention and eradication of FGM'.
- Iseguri Initiative, Ghana. WE Fund - Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development.
'Building Resilience of Smallholder Women Farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture Practices'.
- Ogongo Dispensary, Kenya. WE Fund - Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
'Ogongo Dispensary Water Project'.
- Rural Aid Foundation, Uganda. WE Fund - Maternal and Reproductive Health
'Improving access to sexual reproductive health information and services for women through village women ambassadors'.
- Rural Empowerment Women Organization (REWO), Uganda. WE Fund - Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
'Strengthening, knowledge skills of promoting Breastfeeding to reduce infant mortality due to malnutrition in community'.
- Star Awake CBO, Kenya. WE Fund - Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
'Installation of 1.5 Km safe water pipe and 4000 litre rainwater system in Sikata village'.
- Vaigai Mahalir lyakkam (VMI), India. WE Fund - Income Generation and Livelihood
'Integrated home-based nutrition garden, backyard poultry and Goatery for socially and economically deprived women headed Families'.
- Youth Active in Community Development (YACODO), Malawi. WE Fund - Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy
'Marginalized Community Access to Improved Water and Sanitation Facilities'.
- Youth and Women for Opportunities Uganda (YWOU), Uganda. WE Fund - Education and Capacity Building
'Go Girls Project'.
- Youth and women for Social and Economic Empowerment (YWSEE), Uganda. WE Fund - Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing
'Training rural women intercropping bananas and pineapple to overcome agricultural labour-gender inequalities, malnutrition, hunger and poverty'.

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The financial Appeal to Secure ACWW for future generations, as recommended by the Finance & Membership Committee, was posted to all members as a personal letter from World President Magdie de Kock and Deputy World President and Acting Treasurer, Alison Burnett. The Appeal raised additional donations of around £21,000.

The continuing pandemic and the impact on donations caused the budget for 2021 to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. ACWW's investments managed by Close Brothers were scrutinised by the Acting Treasurer and found to have held up well under the circumstances.

Cost savings such as submitting the quarterly electronic VAT return in house for the first time in years, were implemented. Most of the staff were multi-tasking to save outside costs. Although the revised budget showed a deficit, it was not reasonable to reduce expenditure any further, so attention was turned to increasing income. Income from PFF was double the budget figure for the first quarter of the year and a legacy of £54,000 had helped considerably. For the first time in many years, the income for unrestricted funds was greater than that restricted to projects. The 29th Triennial World Conference had voted to have a separate chair for Agriculture on the Board, which would have additional cost implications from 2023. Not having face to face meetings in 2020 and 2021 had resulted in considerable savings. The Board decided that all committee meetings were to be held digitally to the end of the Triennium with the Board meeting in person annually when that became possible.

It was decided in October 2021 that the three-year membership discount should cease to apply from the renewal year 2022.

The Board identified that there was a need to develop sustainable income and not rely on the membership to maintain the organisation financially long-term. In addition to current donations and membership fees, member societies had an important role in responding to surveys and giving their time to promoting ACWW. There was an intention to approach outside bodies for funding to cover core costs.

The major sources of incoming funds for the year were voluntary income and investment income. Voluntary contributions made up 79% of total incoming resources, as compared with 75% in 2020. Just over 16% of voluntary income arose from membership fees compared to 20% in 2020; there was legacy income of £55,619 compared with none in 2020 and this represented 18% of voluntary income. Donations in total accounted for 43%, considerably less a percentage than the 78% of the previous year.

Membership fees from societies and individuals amounted to £49,491 an increase over the 46,719 received in 2020 but considerably below the 2019 figure of £69,425. Donations from all sources totalled £128,537, below the £172,630 of 2020, and substantially below the 2019 level of £357,569. This decrease is attributable to the Covid pandemic as member societies were not meeting and therefore not collecting donations as has been reflected in charity donations globally. Donations from Women's Institute members in England and Wales amounted to £53,971 in the year (£45,409.13 in 2020 and £121,967 in 2019) and were restricted to Projects. Investment income at £78,602 was some £11,393 more than in 2020 and represented 21% of total income as compared with 23% in the previous year. Income from the Triennial World Conference was reported in the 2019 accounts.

Total income amounted to £378,412 of which £67,107 was restricted. In 2020 total income was £290,435 of which £98,342 was restricted. For comparison, in 2019 total incoming resources amounted to £816,793 which included £296,052 relating to the Triennial World Conference and £197,927 restricted to Projects. In 2021 total expenditure was £502,685 compared with £460,837 in 2020 and £905,837 in 2019. Restricted funds expended for projects in 2021 £101,079 whilst in 2020 it amounted to £135,146 compared with £170,285 in 2019.

All expenditure was incurred supporting the charitable activities of the organisation. Governance costs were slightly higher at £16,859 compared with 2020 at £15,159 and still considerably lower than the £35,608 of 2019; which reflects a reduction in non-audit professional accountancy fees as such work was brought in house by the Finance Manager.

A gain on investment assets of £139,948 compared with £162,868 in 2020 and £249,729 in 2019 which was still a welcome and positive result under the circumstances of the global Covid pandemic. This resulted in a net movement of funds indicating a gain of £15,6754 compared with a loss of £7,544 in 2020, contrasted with a gain of £160,686 in 2019.

All the work of Central Office is directed to the charitable activities of ACWW. The direct funding of projects in developing countries and their evaluation and administration necessarily incur support costs. Two administrators, (one full-time and one part-time equalling 7-day equivalent) have their work solely directed towards all aspects of projects administration. Unrestricted funds cover the costs of maintenance of an information network and

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production of the quarterly magazine, sustaining the international membership organisation with Board and Committee activities and extension work, representation at the United Nations and related advocacy activities to ensure our consultative status is secure and advocacy effective. Thus, expenditure is apportioned towards charitable activities which are projects, education, outreach, information and research, United Nations representation and Conference preparation.

The Board review arrangements with auditors every few years and decided that after more than two decades, it was time for a change. The audit was put out to tender and four quotes obtained. Appleby & Wood (London) Limited appointed as auditors at the October Board meeting. Azets, formerly Wilkins Kennedy, were thanked for their work over the years.

Risk Management

The Trustees reviewed the risks faced by the Charity and confirm that systems are in place to manage those risks and accompanying procedures are strengthened as appropriate. As a substantial part of the Charity's income derives from membership fees, strategies to increase membership numbers and retention continue to be addressed and the Board launched a financial Appeal early in 2021. All members of the Executive Committee have sat on the Finance and Membership Committee since 2020. The Board scheduled a thorough review of operations for the February 2022 Board meeting with a view to revise the strategic plan.

Investments and investment policy are regularly reviewed with investment managers to avoid unnecessary losses and maintain capital whilst increasing income. The global Pandemic of Covid-19 had a major impact on donations received in the year and the Board took measures to reduce costs primarily by having meetings of Committees and online and savings were made by issuing the Countrywoman digitally. The Board maintain sufficient financial reserves for project commitments and 36 months operational commitments in line with current reserves policy.

Attention continues to be given to minimizing the risk of project grants being misspent. Working with project partners to agree project outcomes in advance has been strengthened. No evaluation visits were able to take place in the year and some project plans were put on hold where lockdowns were in force.

Reserves policy

The Reserves Policy of ACWW is to seek to maintain 36 months' worth of normal income and expenditure in order to meet the requirements of a triennium. That includes:

To provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work

That is, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of The Countrywoman magazine for all members, education, outreach and projects, Board and governance expenditure, maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all of the above - this requires in the region of £550,000 per year. Projects are paid for from restricted funds received to the Women Empowered Fund and expenditure commitments are generally made in the spring and the autumn each year. Once approved, 75% of the project total is sent to the project with the final 25% following subject to satisfactory progress reports. An additional 20% is set aside for evaluation visits.

Membership fee income currently yields around £45,000 per year and is relatively stable although there is a slight downward trend. This should cover the costs of producing and printing the magazine. Donations generate the majority of income and are subject to continuing support for ACWW and its charitable activities. Income from investments has been maintained in recent years but is subject to the volatility of the investment market. Legacies are an important source of income but cannot be budgeted for. The Board began to explore the possibilities of outside funding.

To provide a level of funding for unexpected opportunities. The strategic plan reviewed annually identifies measures to strengthen the organisation and its impact.

To provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. Recent years have seen the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations which have necessitated investment in computer equipment for all Board members, staff training and changes to working procedures in order to keep members' data secure and ACWW compliant.

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

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Investment Policy and objectives including any social, environmental or ethical policies

The policy continued towards the retention of the organisation's capital reserves and to raise funds towards operating expenses. Funds invested were managed on a 'medium risk' strategy through the holding of a range of different types of assets. Restrictions continued to be disallowed on investments in armaments, negative environmental impact, oppressive regimes, pornography and no additional investment in tobacco products. Funds held in CAF are in a fixed interest account.

Plans for the Future

As agreed at the Incoming Board meeting after the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne in May 2019, the strapline 'Rural Women in Action' and the slogan 'Our Diversity is our Strength' remained the focus of the Board activity. Increasing the number of members and our unrestricted income were highlighted as key elements in enabling the organisation to fulfil this mission. The strategic plan for the next 3 - 6 years was reviewed at the Board meeting in October 2019. The focus on advocacy as a means to empowering rural women has been revitalised in the last couple of years and this continues to be a strength as it was possible to be carried out effectively via virtual platforms. In December 2020 ACWW was elected to the Liaison Committee for NGO's engaged with UNESCO and in 2021 our main representative was elected Communications Officer for the Liaison Committee. a Vice-Chairman.

In light of the disruption of the Global pandemic, the 2020 Special World Conference decided to change the date of the 30th Triennial World Conference to May 2023, from May 2022.

The Board engaged with ways to increase communications with members, particularly those in Areas affected badly by the global pandemic, the impact of climate change or other major issues.

Future project funding priorities were reviewed and attention given to the sustainability and real impact of ACWW funded projects.

The 30th Triennial World Conference was confirmed as taking place 17-25 May 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and registrations were opened on 29 April 2022, closing 31 December.

No bids had been received to host the 31st Triennial World Conference through normal channels ahead of the 2019 Conference, nor in response to a further request for bids. Some informal conversations with Canadian members indicated an interest in holding it in Canada but members felt unable to commit future committees six years in advance. The Board decided to pursue discussions with the Ottawa Tourism team, who had expressed initial offers of support in 2019. The offer of significant financial and practical support for an ACWW Triennial World Conference hosted in Ottawa in 2026, was repeated and followed up and channels of communication were kept open

For Resolutions passed in 2019, please see above.

Plans include:

- To review the strategic plan with greater focus on sustainability and effectiveness.
- To encourage take up of Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers.
- To encourage legacy giving.
- To keep relevant UN Observances and issue key statements, utilising using social media
- To promote rural women's interests at CSW, UNESCO and FAO and activities around 'Leave No-one Behind for Planet 50/50 by 2030' and engage the membership further through the advocacy plan.
- To contribute to the development and monitoring provision of the Sustainable Development Goals
- To review the International Forum on Rural Women and the Global Survey on the living conditions of rural women.
- To continue to develop and make available information and action packs for members in line with Conference resolutions
- To work towards a successful Triennial World Conference in April 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Mrs Magdie de Kock
President

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Associated Country Women of the World (the 'charity') for the year ended 31st December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31st December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 20 the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charity and determined that the most significant are FRS102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP, together with the supervisory requirements of the Charities Commission.
- The charity operates locally and is not significantly impacted by international law or regulations. As a registered charity in England and Wales, they are not liable for Income Tax or Corporation Tax on income derived from its charitable activities.
- We understood how the charity is complying with those frameworks through discussions with the trustees and review of the trustees minutes and the charity's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the key risks impacting the financial statements.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the trustees' reporting to the charity with respect of the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the
- Our pre-audit review specifically makes reference to fraud risk and this is supported by audit documentation. We also review board minutes to identify any matters of concern or risk. None was identified.
- The charity is small, its activities are regular and consistent and are not complex and no special audit considerations apply, nor is external specialist assistance required.

However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the charity and management.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



R W Williams FCCA
For and on behalf of
Appleby & Wood (London) Limited
Statutory Auditors
40 The Lock Building
72 High Street
London E15 2QB

Date 27th October 2022

Appleby & Wood (London) Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income:					
Donations, membership and legacies	2	232,235	1,412	233,647	219,349
Investment income		78,602	-	78,602	67,209
Charitable activities	3	468	65,695	66,163	3,877
Total income		311,305	67,107	378,412	290,435
Expenditure:					
Raising funds:					
Investment management costs		10,637		10,637	10,716
Charitable activities:					
Project activities		154,398	101,079	255,477	219,138
Education		57,627		57,627	53,306
Outreach		52,301		52,301	44,422
Information and research		97,896		97,896	88,843
United Nations representation		28,747		28,747	44,422
Conference preparation		-		-	-
Total expenditure	4	401,606	101,079	502,685	460,847
Net income/(expenditure)		(90,301)	(33,972)	(124,273)	(170,412)
Transfer between funds		62,831	(62,831)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains		(27,470)	(96,803)	(124,273)	(170,412)
(Loss)/Gains on investment assets		139,948	-	139,948	162,868
Net movement in funds		112,478	(96,803)	15,675	(7,544)
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2021		2,558,214	371,002	2,929,216	2,936,760
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2021	12	2,670,692	274,199	2,944,891	2,929,216

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 25 to 34 form part of these financial statements

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Charity No. 1174798

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	5		16,406		22,113
Investments	6		<u>2,771,496</u>		<u>2,638,872</u>
			2,787,902		2,660,985
Current assets					
Debtors	7	41,508		34,546	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>197,175</u>		<u>385,349</u>	
		238,683		419,895	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(74,189)</u>		<u>(142,704)</u>	
Net current assets			164,494		277,191
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>2,952,396</u>		<u>2,938,176</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year	9		(7,505)		(8,960)
Net Assets			<u>2,944,891</u>		<u>2,929,216</u>
Funds					
ACWW					
Restricted funds	10		274,199		371,002
Designated funds	11		297,791		279,413
Unrestricted funds	11		2,372,901		2,278,801
Total Funds			<u>2,944,891</u>		<u>2,929,216</u>

The accounts were approved by the board on 21 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Alison Burnett

Alison Burnett
Acting Treasurer

M de Kock

Mrs Madgie de Kock
President

The notes on pages 25 to 34 form part of these financial statements

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:	<u>(267,662)</u>	<u>(136,790)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest and rents investments	78,602	67,209
Purchase of fixed assets	(6,438)	(7,678)
Sale of fixed assets	-	235
Purchase of investments	(292,450)	(764,464)
Proceeds from sale of investments	299,774	972,063
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>	<u>79,488</u>	<u>267,365</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflow from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
<i>Net cash provided by financing activities</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</i>	(188,174)	130,575
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	385,349	254,774
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>197,175</u>	<u>385,349</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 34 form part of these financial statements

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Associated Country Women of the World meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity has a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. It has therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The COVID-19 pandemic has been taken into consideration when performing the going-concern assessment.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income including donations and grants, membership subscriptions and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made and the amount involved can be quantified.

Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis, using dates of payment for dividends, and daily accrual for interest.

1.4 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories noted on the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example, time spent, per capita or floor area.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved by the trustees and agreed with the beneficiary. Grants where the beneficiary has not been informed or has to meet certain conditions before the grant is released are not accrued but are noted as financial commitments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture and equipment - 5 years straight line

1.6 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later).

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances stated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

1.9 Funds accounting

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

1.1 Operating leases

The rental charges of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as and when these are paid.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

2	DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP AND LEGACIES			2021 £	2020 £
	Membership subscriptions			49,491	46,719
	Donations			128,537	172,630
	Legacies			55,619	-
				<u>233,647</u>	<u>219,349</u>
3	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES			2021 £	2020 £
	Conference income			-	-
	Other income			66,163	3,877
				<u>66,163</u>	<u>3,877</u>
4	EXPENDITURE	Staff and Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	Cost of raising funds:				
	Investment management costs	10,637	-	10,637	10,716
	Charitable activities:				
	Project activities	197,205	58,272	255,477	219,138
	Education	36,035	21,592	57,627	53,306
	Outreach	32,161	20,141	52,301	44,422
	Information and research	60,980	36,916	97,896	88,843
	United Nations representation	20,384	8,363	28,747	44,422
	Conference preparation	-	-	-	-
		<u>357,400</u>	<u>145,285</u>	<u>502,685</u>	<u>460,847</u>

This table represents an apportionment of resources expended on each of the charitable activities.

Conference Preparation: Actual Triennial World Conference income and expenditure are reported in the year of the event, the 29th TWC took place in 2019.

Project activities: The project administrators work solely on projects and handle all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the Projects Committee and communicating with donors. Restricted funds shown here cover just the direct salary costs of the projects administrators, amounts allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation (these form the Staff and Direct Costs). All the resources expended supporting Project activities including a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, payments out, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation and generation of forms and postage are shown in the Support Costs column and were expended from unrestricted funds in 2021 and 2020.

Education: Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates and some advocacy work

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

4 EXPENDITURE (continued)

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

United Nations: Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the United Nations Committee. In June 2019 a new UN and Advocacy budget was approved to increase the impact of such work. Much of ACWW's advocacy work is focused here.

The basis of allocation of staff and support costs was reviewed and updated to reflect the time spent on each charitable activity by the CEO and other members of staff of the charity. Support costs shown above include an apportionment of governance costs, except in the case of Project activities.

4.1 Governance Costs	2021 £	2020 £
Auditors' remuneration - for audit	6,580	8,200
- for other services	1,125	6,188
Legal and professional	8,190	335
Trustee indemnity insurance	531	209
Other governance	433	227
	<u>16,859</u>	<u>15,159</u>

In 2020 ACWW produced in-house management accounts and filing of VAT returns, previously outsourced to Azets/Wilkins Kennedy. Payroll and pension services continue to be outsourced to Azets. The Trustees indemnity insurance was paid mid-way through the year and this shows only the corresponding months paid in 2020 for 2020.

4.2 Staff Costs	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	205,793	195,311
Social security costs	19,218	14,413
Other pension costs	10,046	9,485
Other costs	444	5,312
	<u>235,501</u>	<u>224,521</u>

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees, who received no remuneration or other financial benefits during the year (2020: nil) and the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Manager and the Policy & Communications Manager whose emoluments totalled £118,362 (2020: £130,498).

15 trustees were reimbursed a total of £1,694 travelling and accommodation expenses (2020: £22,319).

The Charity employed 7 staff during the year at Central Office (2020: 7). There were no employees earning more than £60,000 during the year (2020: none).

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

5	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Furniture & Equipment	
		£	
	Cost		
	As at 1st January 2021	63,324	
	Additions	6,438	
	Disposals	(14,702)	
	As at 31st December 2021	<u>55,060</u>	
	Depreciation		
	As at 1st January 2021	41,211	
	Charge for the year	9,465	
	Released on disposals	(12,022)	
	As at 31st December 2021	<u>38,654</u>	
	Net Book Value		
	As at 31st December 2021	<u>16,406</u>	
	As at 31st December 2020	<u>22,113</u>	
6	FIXED ASSETS INVESTMENTS	2021	2020
		£	£
	Market Value as at 1st January 2021	2,638,872	2,683,603
	Additions	292,450	764,464
	Disposal proceeds	(299,774)	(972,063)
	Net investment gains	139,948	162,868
	Market Value as at 31st December 2021	<u>2,771,496</u>	<u>2,638,872</u>
	Historic Value as at 31st December 2021	<u>1,324,794</u>	<u>1,405,775</u>
	Analysis of investments:		
	Equity - UK	594,537	512,727
	Equity - overseas	786,786	666,193
	Fixed interest securities - UK	232,376	296,718
	Alternatives	229,913	148,021
	Property	54,900	47,925
	Money Market fund	-	-
	CAF Income Fund	856,729	898,502
	Capital Account Balance	4,708	60,552
	Cash deposits	11,547	8,234
	Total	<u>2,771,496</u>	<u>2,638,872</u>

The following investments represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio as at 31st December 2021.:

CAF Fixed Interest B Income Fund	<u>856,729</u>	<u>898,502</u>
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THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

7 DEBTORS	2021	2020
	£	£
Income tax and VAT recoverable	5,791	3,193
Dividends and interest receivable	11,546	12,522
Prepayments	24,171	18,831
Prepayments related to Conference	-	-
Accrued income	-	-
	<u>41,508</u>	<u>34,546</u>

Included within Prepayments is a balance of £11,992 (2020: £11,992) relating to a property deposit, recoverable in 2021.

8 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	-	1,975
Taxes and social security costs	4,787	4,296
Deferred income (note 9)	18,821	26,055
Other creditors	6,863	4,681
Grant commitments	27,943	86,529
Accruals	15,775	19,168
	<u>74,189</u>	<u>142,704</u>

The Projects Committee met towards the end of the year and grants approved by the Board were paid in 2021. Grant commitments include second instalments due to projects subject to a satisfactory interim report and any first instalments not yet sent if applicable.

9 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Deferred income at 1st January 2021	35,015	40,229
Income recognised in year	(22,979)	(30,535)
Income deferred in year	14,290	25,321
Deferred income at 31st December 2021	<u>26,326</u>	<u>35,015</u>
Made up of:		
Membership deferred income due within one year	18,821	26,055
Membership deferred income due after one year	7,505	8,960
	<u>26,326</u>	<u>35,015</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1st January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2021 £
Project Funds	167,662	65,695	(101,079)	-	132,278
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	82,369	1,412	-	(39,036)	44,745
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	32,035	-	-	(23,795)	8,240
Nutrition Educational Fund	88,448	-	-	-	88,448
	<u>371,002</u>	<u>67,107</u>	<u>(101,079)</u>	<u>(62,831)</u>	<u>274,199</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance 1st January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2020 £
Project Funds	206,043	96,765	(135,146)	-	167,662
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	80,910	1,459	-	-	82,369
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	32,035	-	-	-	32,035
Nutrition Educational Fund	88,330	118	-	-	88,448
	<u>407,806</u>	<u>98,342</u>	<u>(135,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>371,002</u>

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the specific terms of the Charity appeal, both of which are binding on the Trustees.

Total Income restricted to Projects activities was £67,107 (2020 £98,342), of which the WI of England & Wales contributed £53,971 in the year (£45,409 in 2020).

Project income constitutes the main source from which allocations are made for ACWW's charitable work directed towards grassroots projects and paid out of the restricted Women Empowered Fund (WE Fund) and its six priority focus areas which are supported by donors. From England and Wales only, the Women's Institutes Pennies for Friendship (WIPFF) classification represents monies donated to the WE Fund for projects.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1st January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditur e £	Investment gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2021 £
Unrestricted	2,278,801	311,305	(401,606)	184,401	2,372,901
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	124,191	-	-	18,378	142,569
IFRW Fund	34,892	-	-	-	34,892
	2,558,214	311,305	(401,606)	202,779	2,670,692

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance 1st January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditur e £	Investment gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31st December 2020 £
Unrestricted	2,240,801	192,093	(325,701)	171,608	2,278,801
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	132,931	-	-	(8,740)	124,191
IFRW Fund	34,892	-	-	-	34,892
	2,528,954	192,093	(325,701)	162,868	2,558,214

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and relate to amounts set aside by the Trustees to meet specific future requirements of the organisation.

The Margaret Pollock Fund, set up with the proceeds of a substantial legacy received in 1994 has been designated by the Trustees as a capital fund for the time being. The income accruing to this fund is available for general purposes.

The Conference Contingency Fund was provided by the 1992 conference host society to offset unusual costs of future conferences, to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund was set up in 2019 by transferring the historic Relocation Fund (residue), the Leasehold Sink Fund of 1 January 1999, the Equipment Reserve Fund and Building Maintenance Fund (residue) from general unrestricted funds.

The IFRW Fund relates to the International Forum for Rural Women and the Global Survey of Rural Women set up in the year from legacy income received in 2018 and 2019 and a specific donation. The intention is that the survey should be reviewed and repeated on a triennial basis for the foreseeable future. The balance will be spent on the continuing costs of surveys and data analysis.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

12 ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

The funds of the charity are represented by the following net assets:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	16,406	-	16,406
Investments	2,497,297	274,199	2,771,496
Current assets	238,683	-	238,683
Current liabilities	(74,189)	-	(74,189)
Long term liabilities	(7,505)	-	(7,505)
	<u>2,670,692</u>	<u>274,199</u>	<u>2,944,891</u>

13 PENSIONS AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Defined contribution pension plans:

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £10,046 (2020: £9,485).

14 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
The charity had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:		
In less than one year	54,979	54,979
In more than one year	43,550	98,259
	<u>98,529</u>	<u>153,238</u>

The three-year lease held for Central Office at its Parkhall location was re-signed with Workspace in September 2020 at no additional cost on rent.

15 RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period incl. investment gains	15,675	(7,544)
Adjustments for:		
Interest and dividends	(78,602)	(67,209)
Losses/(gains) on investments	(139,948)	(162,868)
Depreciation	9,465	8,740
Losses/(gains) on fixed asset disposal	2,680	-
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(7,938)	21,573
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(68,994)	70,518
	<u>(267,662)</u>	<u>(136,790)</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

16 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Donations, membership and legacies	121,007	98,342	219,349	450,799
Investment income	67,209	-	67,209	69,942
Charitable activities	3,877	-	3,877	296,052
Total income	192,093	98,342	290,435	816,793
Expenditure:				
Raising funds:				
Investment management costs	10,716	-	10,716	8,514
Charitable activities:				
Project activities	83,992	135,146	219,138	269,728
Education	53,306	-	53,306	44,417
Outreach	44,422	-	44,422	44,417
Information and research	88,843	-	88,843	88,835
United Nations representation	44,422	-	44,422	44,417
Conference preparation	-	-	-	405,509
Total expenditure	325,701	135,146	460,847	905,837
Net income/(expenditure)	(133,608)	(36,804)	(170,412)	(89,044)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other gains	(133,608)	(36,804)	(170,412)	(89,044)
(Loss)/Gains on investment assets	162,868	-	162,868	249,730
Net movement in funds	29,260	(36,804)	(7,544)	160,686
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2020	2,528,954	407,806	2,936,760	2,776,074
Total funds carried forward 31 December 2020	2,558,214	371,002	2,929,216	2,936,760

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

England & Wales - Charity number 1174798

Accounts

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1174798
(Formerly Charity Registration Number 290367)**

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

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THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020

Elected at 29th Triennial World Conference 9 April 2019 includes changes in 2020

World President	Mrs Magdie de Kock	South Africa
Deputy World President / Chairman Agriculture	Mrs Alison Burnett	Scotland
Secretary / Chairman Triennial Conference Committee	Mrs Christine Reaburn	Canada
Treasurer / Chairman Finance & Membership Committee	Miss Ruth Cargill (resigned June 2020) Mrs Alison Burnett (Acting)	Australia
Chairman Communications & Marketing Committee	Mrs Sheila Needham	Canada
Chairman Projects Committee	Mrs Maybel Moyo (deceased June 2020) Mrs Edwina Marr (coopted June 2020)	Zimbabwe Northern Ireland
Chairman United Nations Committee	Mrs Marie Kenny	Canada
Area President Canada	Mrs Linda Hoy	Canada
Area President Caribbean, Central & South America	Mrs Irene Hinds	Trinidad & Tobago
Area President Central & South Asia	Sr Lucas Arul Seeli (removed June 2020) Mrs Magdie de Kock (Acting from June 2020)	India
Area President East, West and Central Africa	Ms Irene Chinje	Cameroon
Area President Europe	Mrs Afrodita Roman	Romania
Area President South East Asia & the Far	Mrs Norjanah Razali	Malaysia
Area President Southern Africa	Mrs Anphia Grobler (Resigned October 2019) Dr Marina Muller (co-opted October 2019)	South Africa Namibia
Area President South Pacific	Mrs Gail Commens	Australia
Area President United States of America	Mrs Bonnie Teeples	United States of America

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Tish Collins

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number	1174798 (formerly 290367)
Principal Office	A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road London SE21 8EN
Banker	National Westminster Bank plc 57 Victoria Street London SW1H 0HP
Investment Manager	Close Asset Management Limited 10 Primrose Square London EC2 2BY
Auditor	Azets Audit Services 2nd Floor Regis House 45 King William Street London EC4R 9AN

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Associated Country Women of the World ('the Charity' or ACWW) present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1174798. It is governed by a constitution revised and confirmed by the Charity Commission on 22 September 2017 and confirmed by voting delegates at the 29th Triennial World Conference in May 2019. Formerly ACWW was registered as an unincorporated charity, registration number 290367.

Trustees

The administration of ACWW is vested in a Board of sixteen Trustees. The officers are the World President, Deputy President (Chairman Agriculture Committee), Secretary (Chairman Triennial Conference Committee) and Treasurer (Chairman Finance & Membership Committee) who together with the three Chairmen of the other Specified Committees (Communications and Marketing, Projects and United Nations) and the nine Area Presidents form the Board of Trustees. The World President is the Chairman of the Board. The day-to-day management of ACWW is delegated to the Executive Committee made up of the World President and the six specified Committee Chairmen, who employ Central Office staff in London, including a Chief Executive Officer. In line with the Constitution, a new Board was elected at the 29th Triennial World Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in May 2019. During the course of the year 2020 there were two resignations, one removal, one death, two co-options and two members of the Board acting in additional roles until the next Triennial World Conference (see the list of Trustees on page 3).

Structure

The Charity consists of independent organisations and individuals affiliated to it as fee paying members which are associated for achieving shared objectives. ACWW represents one of the largest international organisations for rural women with an extensive membership in over eighty countries and with consultative status at the United Nations. ACWW is a forward looking, friendship organisation committed to raising the health and standard of living of rural women and their families and the empowerment of women by advocacy, partnerships, local activities and sharing of knowledge; this includes funding training programmes and community development projects. ACWW seeks to be a non-sectarian, anti-racist, non-party-political, non-religious association.

There are four categories of society membership which are differentiated by the size and nature of the applicant organisation. Categories govern membership fees and voting rights at the Triennial World Conference; there are also individual members and a special Category for elected members of the Board for the duration of their being in post.

Board members are elected by voting delegates at the Triennial World Conference, with the nine Area Presidents elected by voting delegates from the appropriate Area. Candidates may be nominated by Category 1, 2 and 3 societies from among the active membership of these societies and candidates are also to be an individual Category 5 member of ACWW. Elections are conducted by secret ballot with a 50% +1 majority. The term of office is one Triennium and they may be re-elected to the same position for one succeeding Triennium, or for different positions totaling a maximum of 4 triennia. All Officers are expected to attend the Triennial World Conference and Board meetings. Trustees do not receive any benefits.

The Triennial World Conference is the highest legislative body of ACWW, it establishes policy and all matters concerning the Constitution. The Constitution, Rules and Bye Laws govern the workings of the organisation; this has been provided to all member societies and is downloadable from our website and may be sent as a hard copy on request. Printed copies were sent to all member societies in advance of the 29th Triennial World Conference in April 2019. Trustees are inducted to their role and responsibilities in pre – Conference workshops and at the Board meeting immediately following the Triennial World Conference. Governance training was continued at subsequent meetings of the Board tailored to suit the diverse experience and needs of Trustees. The Board for the 2019-2022 triennium included representatives from thirteen countries.

ACWW organises its work on policy objectives through six specified committees: Agriculture, Communications & Marketing, Finance & Membership, Projects, Triennial World Conference and United Nations. Whilst each is responsible for one aspect, they are all interlinked towards a common goal. Committee meetings are facilitated by staff administrators based at Central Office in London.

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Generally, the specified committees meet twice a year except for the Finance & Membership and the Executive Committees which meet thrice, with some members participating via videoconferencing. Decisions are reached on a majority vote basis (unless specified otherwise by the Constitution) but are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees or Executive, whichever meets first, who also operate on a majority vote basis. Each triennium specified committees complete a review of their policy papers to be approved at the following Board meeting, to ensure they are robust and meet the governance and developing needs of the Charity. No in-person meetings were held in 2020 but a greater reliance on connecting via video-conferencing developed.

The World President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are in frequent and regular contact. The CEO and Central Office staff in London carry on the day-to-day administration of the organisation ensuring compliance with statutory and charity requirements, financial and membership record keeping, projects administration and publications including The Countrywoman magazine, drafting statements and policy documents, research and information to support and administer the work of the specified committees and Board. Electronic communications are used between committee meetings as the appointed members are spread geographically.

There were some staff changes in the year: Mrs Jessica Green resigned during lockdown as she moved to another city and took up employment there. In September 2020 Mr Rowan McKinnon was recruited as Office Administrator in her place.

Volunteers

The ACWW Board and Committee members are volunteers who contribute considerable time, personal resources and energy to furthering the aims of the Charity. In some areas of the UK members of the WI take on the role of ACWW Representative and act as a conduit between the two organisations, in the Country Women's Associations in Australia and elsewhere, this role is played by the International Officers. As activities are carried out across over 80 countries, it has not been possible to quantify the number of volunteer hours. At conference time, in addition to the local volunteer Hostess Society, many volunteers come forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what become great social occasions and opportunities to forge friendships with people from different cultures and countries.

Central Office and Covid Pandemic 2020

Central Office is located at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, a rented property. These premises enable the charity to have offices and to accommodate Board and committee meetings as well as the ability to hold an extensive archive and conduct workshops for up to 50 people. The Board meeting in March 2018 decided to name Central Office, wherever it is located, the virtual 'Madge Watt House', in honour of a founding member. The Office was closed and staff worked from home from 17 March 2020 as the UK went into lockdown. The office opened again between September and October until London went into another phase of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The impact of Covid-19 on ACWW's membership has been addressed via three surveys, the results of which have been shared with the UNESCO. The so-called 'lockdown' has increased rural isolation and made access to food and banking facilities even more of an issue for our members globally, particularly so as public transport has been curtailed. Additionally, the forced cancellation of meetings for member societies and support groups has resulted in a fall in membership income and donations. The Board has taken steps to draw down some of the reserves in order to meet commitments for the year.

IT System Refresh: In June 2019 it was agreed by the Finance and Membership Committee and the Board that the Policy and Communications Manager should be tasked with establishing a case for refreshing ACWW's IT setup and bringing a proposal in early 2020 to the Board. This would include the outsourcing of IT support and switching to a Cloud-based system, relieving him of the additional in-house workload of full-time IT support and Server maintenance. In February 2020, the business case for what was needed was prepared, quotes from 5 suppliers were received, and all was ready to recommend Cloudserve as the preferred vendor at the forthcoming meeting of the Board. When COVID-19 required Central Office to close in March 2020, ACWW staff were unable to work from home because of the existing setup. The Board therefore authorised the plan as presented by the Policy & Communications Manager, and Cloudserve were engaged as Cloud and support supplier. New machines were ordered, and the Policy & Communications Manager worked for 10 days straight with Cloudserve and Harlequin to set up the new system. 11 days after the office closed, with the CEO, he delivered the new machines, and training notes, to each member of ACWW staff at home. By day 12 Central Office was operational, with all staff working from home on new machines and with fully-secure, compliant and user-friendly systems.

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

Policy Renewal and Updates: In May and June 2020, the Chief Executive Officer and Policy and Communications Manager reviewed and updated more than 20 internal policies and procedures to ensure continuing compliance and best practice.

Membership and Conferences

ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In 2019 there were 440 Member Societies (445 in 2018) and 1,427 Individual Members, in 82 countries throughout the world. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on rural women, the Board decided that no member societies would be lapsed for non-payment of membership fees in 2020. The number of Life Members has declined since no new Life Members have been added since 1997. However, many Life Members pay a current membership fee and are included in the Individual Member category.

ACWW works in three-year cycles and the 29th Triennial World Conference took place from 4th to 10th April 2019 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The 30th Triennial World Conference is scheduled for May 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. However, because of the Covid-19 global pandemic the Board considered what steps to take if the Conference needed to be postponed. A Special World Conference was called for 17-23 April 2021 to consider a resolution to delay the Triennial World Conference by a year.

ACWW has an organisational structure for members to meet and, at least once every three years, hold a specially convened general meeting / Area Conference in each of the nine Areas namely: Canada; Caribbean, Central & South America; Central and South Asia; East, West and Central Africa; Europe; South East Asia and the Far East; Southern Africa; the South Pacific; and the United States of America. There are formal and informal partnerships to enable representation at meetings recognising the varying costs of travel involved. Full reports of Area Conferences are presented by the Area Presidents to the Triennial World Conference. The World President and other officers attended Area Conferences where appropriate, however, a number of Area Conferences were postponed in 2020 and the World President was in lockdown in South Africa. Each member society is encouraged to send a triennial report of work to be published and distributed at the next Triennial World Conference.

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

ACWW's objectives are the relief of poverty, the relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, and the advancement of education for women in both rural and non-rural areas worldwide, to empower women and improve the quality of life for all people. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charities' aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The CIO constitution maintains the same objectives as the former charity.

The charity aims, through its membership and networks of rural and non-rural women, by cooperation and understanding, to empower its members and rural women worldwide, creating opportunities for women to exercise more power. ACWW believe women will be empowered when they are able to make better decisions and change their own lives. In order to do this, they need to be better informed, be part of an enabling environment and have the necessary tools in order to carry out the changes they want. ACWW's mission is to bring these conditions about through partnership, advocacy, sharing of knowledge and local activities.

Mandates set by Resolutions passed at the 29th Triennial Conference held in Melbourne, Australia in April 2019 guided the work.

1. 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.*

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2. 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.*
3. 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.*
4. 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.*
5. 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.*
6. 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.*
7. 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.*
8. Gender Sensitive Health Care: *Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organizations urge their governments to strive for gender sensitive health care by carrying out a gender analysis on all health policies as they are developed and before they are implemented.*
9. 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.*
10. 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.*
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.*
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.*
13. 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.*
14. 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.*

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15. 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.*
 16. Membership Subscriptions: *Be it resolved that the membership subscription for Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 increase to: Category 1 £110 (currently £105) Category 2 £69 (currently £64) Category 3 £55 (currently £53) Category 4 £37 (currently £35) Category 5 Individual £27 (currently £25) Category 5 Individuals for 3 years £68 (currently £65). Note, the new rates will apply from January 2020.*
 17. Chairman of the Agriculture Committee: *Be it resolved that the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee be a singular position on the Board and Executive.*

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Partnership

Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to further its aims connecting and supporting women and communities worldwide. The relationship with rural women's organisations has grown from membership covering 18 countries in 1929 to 84 countries in 2020. Through its member societies, ACWW gives voice internationally to over 9 million women. In pre-Pandemic years, the World President, Area Presidents and other Board members would travel to carry out extension work and give presentations to member societies, speaking at meetings and conferences throughout the world. However, no local or international travel took place on ACWW business from March 2020 to the end of the year. In its place, there was a rapid learning of videoconferencing tools which facilitated local and international meetings and ensured the Board, members and Central Office were able to maintain contact.

In 2020 ACWW maintained its relationships with UN agencies and is proud of the fact that it has held special consultative status at the United Nations for so many years. We file annual and quadrennial reports of our activities as required and feed into other consultations and meetings as appropriate.

ACWW United Nations affiliations and our commencement date:

ECOSOC – the Economic and Social Council – Special consultative status (1947)

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization – Consultative Status (1947)

CoNGO – Conference of Non-governmental Organizations – consultative status (1948)

UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Consultative status (1949), NGO Official Partner

Women Walk the World events were severely curtailed this year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, however, some members found ingenious ways of marking the International Day of Rural Women around 15 October, rather than the usual ACWW Day on 29 April. These events were to raise awareness and, where possible, funds, to help support women and communities worldwide. This event brings together women in fellowship, a core function of ACWW.

The Area Presidents continued to email newsletters to keep in touch with their members. All the Area Conferences scheduled for 2020 were postponed to 2021 or 2022. The World President sent regular newsletters to all members by email.

ACWW's partnership with Global Action on Rabies Control (GARC) continued by offering free awareness raising online training to ACWW members. Members were encouraged to take up this excellent source of information about how to recognise the disease, what to do in an emergency and how to prevent it.

Many member societies work with local partners and they were encouraged to send in reports of work to Central Office so they could be acknowledged and used for reporting to UN agencies, building up a picture of rural women in action and sharing through our media channels.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Advocacy

CSW64: Each year, the United Nations convenes the Commission on the Status of Women at its Headquarters in New York. This is a two week gathering of governments, UN bodies, and civil society organisations and NGOs like ACWW to discuss women's rights and agree new standards for action. 2020 was due to be a Review Year, marking 25 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 5 years since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, and several other anniversaries. In the end the main conference was not able to take place because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, but there was a series of negotiations which started in February and which aimed to agree a Political Declaration on behalf of all governments.

In mid-February, ACWW was invited to a private briefing from the United Kingdom Government Equality Office, which gave an overview of the progress in negotiations, and which asked for input on the political declaration. There were some very troubling indications from the negotiations and draft text, including removal of references to women's rights as human rights, attempts at changing 'agreed language' which protects rights in existing treaties, and switching the blame for slow progress from governments to women globally.

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Whilst ACWW represents millions of women worldwide, we felt it important that with such an opportunity to have input into a UN process at this high level, we reach as many of our members as possible. A letter to the UK negotiators was drafted and circulated to all member societies for agreement - it must be said that we were thrilled with the response! In just five days we received a huge number of messages from members and even other organisations outside of ACWW who wanted to support our letter to the UN. Individuals contacted us and asked how they could promote it to their branches, and we saw a superb response from countries across the world. The letter was signed by 185 organisations in 35 countries, representing more than 11.95 million women globally. The letter was sent to the UK negotiator on 24 February 2020.

When the Political Declaration was published on 9 March, we were pleased to see that three of the points raised in our letter had been listened to and their impact was visible in the Declaration. Sadly, our fourth point had not survived the negotiating process and the text did indeed include 'made the least progress'. However, because of ACWW's intervention we did see the acknowledgement of rural women in the list of specific groups suffering the least improvement globally, as you can see in this extract:

"that significant levels of inequality persist globally, that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life course, and that they have made the least progress, which may include, inter alia, women of African descent, women with HIV and AIDS, rural women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, migrant women and older women".

It is through these processes that we can seek to achieve real change, with all governments now committing to this renewed Political Declaration, and giving us a mechanism for monitoring their action. It is not a perfect system, but by members' brilliant response, and involvement in it, they have ensured that the voices of rural women are amplified and, crucially, heard at the international level.

CSW65 (for 2021): The Executive agreed that ACWW should host a Parallel Event at the 65th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and approved a minor budget of £175 to cover the costs of the online Parallel Event and associated resources.

In December 2020, a Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) under the auspices of the Secretary General was called to discuss the ongoing response to Covid-19. This was a Head of State/Government session, the highest level of UNGA meeting (as opposed to Ambassadorial/Permanent Reps or Ministerial level meetings). ACWW submitted a statement to this meeting and it was attended digitally by Nick Newland in his role as UN Committee Administrator.

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Usually held in New York in July each year, the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the monitoring mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals. Normally, each year sees around 40 governments present Voluntary National Reviews, or VNRs. In 2020, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, HLPF was held online. ACWW used information gathered during our Covid-19 Impact Surveys to present the needs and concerns of rural women in the NGO Major Group position paper, and made a high-level intervention during the governmental session on 'Building Back Better' which outlined the critical need for the inclusion of local voices, experience, and expertise when governments plan their post-Covid initiatives. 93,340 people viewed live events and streams via UN Web TV during HLPF. In preparation for HLPF, ACWW acted as a 'Silent Observer' in Ministerial negotiations for the Ministerial Declaration. This is a major vote of confidence in ACWW, and our role within the NGO Major Group. Whilst the Chatham House Rules mean that we cannot quote or name any participants (publicly), this is a fantastic opportunity to collect intelligence on how each government at the UN is positioning itself on sustainable development, Covid, women's rights, climate change, and a host of other issues. Of course, we use this internally to inform our lobbying process for CSW, HLPF, and other processes like CEDAW. With heads of state and senior ministers present, it also is a great opportunity to raise the profile of ACWW as being one of just 2 NGO representatives across the whole UN system allowed into the meeting.

Orange the World / 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: Since 2016 ACWW has been active in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, and the global banner of 'Orange the World'. Efforts to raise awareness have seen statements, videos, posters, and other resources produced and shared with members in more than 80 countries. In 2020, the UN identified a 'Shadow Pandemic' of gender-based violence accompanying the impact of Covid-19. As families all over the world were subject to lockdown, so the prevalence of domestic violence increased. Now, more than ever, the campaign to raise awareness from 16 to 365 Days is critically important. During ACWW's Orange the World campaign in 2019 more than 63,550 people saw ACWW's materials online and more than 850 people actively shared these materials on their Facebook pages. This is a fantastic reach for these resources, and the reach of ACWW's campaign was significantly increased in 2020, possibly reflecting the increased level of digital literacy amongst the membership in light of Covid-19 and greater reliance on computer-based communication.

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Commission on Food Security: In October 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) hosted the first virtual session of the Commission on Food Security. Whilst ACWW has previously attended the in-person sessions of CFS, this was an opportunity for wider participation and 12 members of ACWW's Board and Committees attended CFS virtually. This included the World President and Deputy World President.

UNESCO: With the declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, ACWW initiated impact surveys with our membership to chart the specific impacts of the virus on rural women around the world. These surveys received a high level of response from our membership, and were registered with UNESCO as part of their initiative to record global policy and advocacy initiatives – for which we were recognised as taking a world-leading policy response. At the direction of the World President and UN Committee Chairman, ACWW stood for election to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee at the bi-annual International Conference of NGOs. In December 2020, ACWW was successfully elected, and duly joined the Liaison Committee for the 2020-2022 term (actually running from January 2021 to December 2022).

Statements

In 2020, ACWW issued the following statements:

- a) World Environment Day – 5 June 2020
- b) International Day of Families – 15 May 2020
- c) Joint Statement to the UN Commission on Population and Development (April 2020) – our first time submitting to CSocD, and co-signed with Soroptimist International and Zonta International
- d) Co-signed the 'Covid-19 Recover: Building Back Better' letter from the President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO), sent to the UN Secretary General.

Training: In June 2020, the Policy and Communications Manager undertook training with the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies and was awarded a Professional Certificate in Strategic Gender and Development Planning. This was high-level training, and the other participants on the course were the Director for the Gender Affairs Department of the Ministry of Nationality, Immigration, and Gender Affairs from the Republic of Botswana, and the Principal Gender Officer for the same department; The Global Technical Lead for Economic Empowerment for Sightsavers International (an NGO we have collaborated with at HLPF in the past); the Gender Justice Manager for the Rights and Resources Initiative in Washington, DC; and the Director of Human Resources and Gender Mainstreaming at the World Food Programme.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Sharing knowledge & Learning from each other

ACWW publishes a quarterly magazine, *The Countrywoman*, which is circulated globally to our Members and supporters. We use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of an issue, 3 are planted in its place. We are proud to work with a local, family-owned printer in the UK called Polstead Press. During 2019, all magazines from 2011 onwards were added to the website as an accessible digital archive. The Board responded favourably to a request from the East, West and Central Africa Area Conference that *The Countrywoman* be made available as a digital download especially for areas where postal systems were unreliable.

Editorship of *The Countrywoman* passed to the Agriculture and Member Engagement Administrator from issue 1 in 2020. Directed by the Communications and Marketing Committee the journal and the website provide a wealth of shared information on relevant issues keeping members and the public in touch with the organisation, its policies and activities. The decision was taken to send Issues 2, 3 and 4 electronically in 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic was impacting both our printer's ability to provide a service and the lockdown of postal systems internationally meant distribution was halted. The World President maintained a regular e-Newsletter which contained a link to the magazine. A consultation was undertaken to ascertain how the membership feel about transitioning to a digital-only magazine versus continuing to receive a printed and posted magazine. This consultation towards the end of 2020 utilised all communications channels to reach as many members and members of member societies as possible, including those only reachable by post.

To celebrate International Women's Day, Central Office worked with members all over the world to produce a 27-foot-long banner using traditional textile crafting methods. The inspiration was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary for which was being observed this year. ACWW believes that all of the 12 critical areas of concern raised in the Declaration remain a problem in some way for Rural Women. We gave 24 members briefs that referenced one of the Critical areas or its continuing challenges, and they each gave their own interpretations through their desired medium within a 30cm square of fabric. The resulting banner was intended to be unfurled outside the UN, raising the voices of the many rural women who don't have access to the UN or even their own government. However, with the cancellation of CSW, Central Office had to think of another way to use this beautiful banner and took it to a meeting with Essex Women's Institute to be filmed together with the World President and UN Chairman. A video is being produced which will be an impactful and heart-rending call to action and awareness of the problems still faced by rural women.

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Published statements and new advocacy and campaigning resources were published on social media and on our website, to inform and support members in their local campaigns. These resources were also sent to members directly by email. In light of reported impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided that our social media should have a focus on domestic violence.

Immediately prior to Lockdown a Rural Women in Action pack was produced, designed to generate support and engage previously casual members with the full breadth of the work of ACWW. The packs would be used to convince members of the relevance, importance, and impact of ACWW in order to join and maintain meaningful membership. It gives women a measurable way to fully engage with our work. Initially planned to distribute to all members, this was halted because of Covid and costs of distribution. Some members of the Board asked for bulk supplies to be sent to them for local distribution. The CEO was asked to speak at the Women in Agriculture Conference in Canada in October 2020 and a video presentation of her introducing the '100 Ways You Can Make a Difference' booklet was delivered online to an audience of about 250 women.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Local Activities

For many years ACWW has funded grassroots projects, led by local women's organisations. The award of grants to project applications was considered by the Projects Committee in October, the March meeting having been cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Women Empowered Fund received donations in 2019 and 2020 that enabled 22 projects to be funded and an amount set aside for future evaluation visits. Of these, five were from Member Societies and seventeen from non-member societies, with a total planned beneficiary reach of 21,102. The average size of the grant was £3,601. A balance of around 25% remained in each WE Fund pot or focus area ready for the next round of funding.

ACWW provides funding for small-scale community projects, primarily in developing countries, and prioritises grants that relate to the SDGs. The Projects Committee has defined the grant making policy which has Board approval and oversight. In line with the overall aims and objectives, small grants are awarded to community-based projects with identified outcomes of alleviating hunger, poverty, sickness or the advancement of education. These are linked to SDG indicators and are reflected in the six WE Fund priority focus areas. Whilst many of these projects are initiated by Member Societies, applications from non-members are also welcomed. The benefit is generally far wider than the direct project participants and will often include family members and even whole communities.

There were two members of staff, working a combined 7 days per week, whose sole endeavour was to administer the project application process, deal with applicants, grantees and donors on behalf of the Committee. Initial evaluation is carried out by these Central Office staff, who prepare a 'longlist' of eligible projects from the applications received. This list is then considered by the Projects Committee Chairman who shortlists the applications to be considered by the Projects Committee at one of their biannual meetings. The recommendations from the Committee are then considered by the Board or Executive, whichever meets first. Projects supported primarily benefit women and children. These women tend to be strong activists in their own communities but would not normally have access to external funds. ACWW believes that all women deserve a chance. Grassroots organisations tend to have expert knowledge of their own communities and realities and, are supported where possible so that their communities can benefit from this knowledge. ACWW recognises its project partners as experts and teachers, rather than beneficiaries. ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations. ACWW does not have staff or representatives in situ.

The Women Empowered (WE) Fund priority focus areas fall within criteria set by the ACWW policy and constitution: 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. Donors may choose to support one or more of these areas and through these donations, they also declare their interest in a specific area of ACWW's development work. Materials with indicative projects for each "pot" were provided to supporters via email and were shared on ACWW's social media channels and website. Donors are given project profiles, progress and final reports for their interest in response to priority focus areas supported. Case studies and project reports are published in *The Countrywoman* and in the annual Projects Newsletter, showing that lives of women are being improved.

In 2020, donations to projects and the projects restricted Women Empowered Fund amounted to £96,765.

When an organisation applies for funding from ACWW, we apply checks to ensure that donations are used responsibly. Reporting and evaluation allow us to measure the impact of funding and, where applicable, ensure longevity and increasing independence. It is intended to resume evaluation visits once the Covid-19 pandemic allows.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Projects Funded in 2020

Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development:

Project name: Value Addition Opportunities for Female Farmers Project number: 1070
Organisation: Success Trust, India

Project name: Increased Economic Opportunities for Female Farmers Project number: 1072
Organisation: WEEDS Women's Education and Employment Development Society, India

Project name: Economic Opportunities through Agribusiness Project number: 1082
Organisation: TIDEF Tingathe Development Forum, Malawi

Project name: Goats for Empowerment Project number: 1089
Organisation: Pallisa Children's Concern Project (PCCP), Uganda

Income Generation and Livelihood:

Project name: Goat farming to Support Dalit Arunthathiar Women Project number: 1080
Organisation: ROSED Rural Organization for Social Education and Development, India

Project name: Tailoring training for Women living with HIV/AIDS Project number: 1085
Organisation: Efforts Integrated Development Foundation (EITEDEF), Uganda

Project name: Income Generation for Female Headed Households Project number: 1087
Organisation: Kitabu Integrate Development Association (KIDA), Uganda

Project name: Vocational Training for Economic Independence Project number: 1090
Organisation: Paramedical Educational Trust, India

Project name: Essential Life Skills for Young Mothers Project number: 1075
Organisation: CIFORD Community Initiatives for Rural Development, Kenya

Maternal and Reproductive Health:

Project name: Midwifery Skills for Community Health Workers Project number: 1073
Organisation: MamaCare – Ghana, Ghana

Project name: Improving Rural Girl's Menstrual Sanitation and Hygiene Project number 1083
Organisation: YWFT Youth with a Focus Teso, Uganda

Project name: Safe Menstrual Health Management for Tribal Communities Project number: 1086
Organisation: Institute of Research and Development for the Rural Poor Trust (IRDRP), India

Project name: Sexual and Productive Health and Rights Education for Adolescent Girls Project number: 1091
Organisation: Society for Women's Education and Awareness Development (SWEAD), India

Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing:

Project name: Sustainable Farming Practices for Economic Growth Project number: 1078
Organisation: GREPO Green Global Promotion Organization, Tanzania

Project name: Health and Sanitation Awareness Raising for Disabled Communities Project number 1079
Organisation: Kasese District Women with Disabilities (KADIWOD), Uganda

Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy:

Project name: Safe Water for Tribal Communities Project number: 1071
Organisation: SWEET Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust, India

Project name: El Niño Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project Project number: 1074
Organisation: Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development Foundation (WAND), Philippines

Project name: Erussi and Ndhew Community Water Projects Project number: 1076
Organisation: CUWEDE Community Uplift and Welfare Development, Uganda

Project name: Mabuye Village Water Project Project number: 1088
Organisation: Kagera Woman and Aids Organisation (KWAO), Tanzania

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Education and Capacity Building

Project name: Financial literacy for Tribal Community Women Project number: 1077
Organisation: Children Watch, India

Project name: Jikwamue Social Enterprise Hub Project number: 1081
Organisation: UWWK Umoja wa wawezeshaji KIOO, Tanzania

Project name: Promoting Girl's Education Project number: 1084
Organisation: CINTA Foundation Uganda (CFU), Uganda

Achievements and Performance

A few examples of case studies from projects completing in the year.

Mamacare-Ghana Organization, Ghana. Project 1073

Training of community health workers in basic Midwifery practices. The project specifically aims to improve the quality of Maternal and Child care at the primary level of health care (community level and health posts)

Case Study 1: Shadrack (Community Health Nurse). Shadrack works as a community health worker in his suburban community. He visits 7-10 clients each day. Shadrack prior to receiving training from MamaCare-Ghana Organization was practicing as Community Health Nurse. He does not have much knowledge of basic midwifery and obstetrics care for women. However, he has been managing to cope with his work. The major challenges Shadrack was facing amongst others is lack of medical equipment and materials to work with, knowledge of basic midwifery practices and emergency delivery. Fortunately, when MamaCare-Ghana organization introduced a project on training of community health workers on basic midwifery, Shadrack was selected to participate in a three-day workshop. Shadrack has gained more knowledge on emergency delivery practices and has received medical equipment which will help him in his work. In addition, Shadrack also received training in HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Diarrhoea including Nutrition education for community members targeting mothers and their children. The Ministry of Health Ghana in partnership with Ghana Health Service is preparing certificates to be awarded all the participant's including Shadrack for their proficiency. Shadrack works in the community of Kpinchila sub-district area. Since the training workshops, Shadrack has delivered 5 babies safely and conducted about 10 Ante-natal cases. Shadrack does his community health education during monthly child welfare clinics. Thanks to Associated Country Women of the World for their funding support.

Case Study 2: Ajara (Community Health Nurse). Ajara works as a community health worker in his suburban community. She visits 10-15 clients each day. Ajara prior to receiving training from MamaCare-Ghana Organization was practicing as a Community Health Nurse. Ajara, does not have much knowledge on basic midwifery and obstetrics care for women. However, she has been practicing. The major challenge Ajara was facing amongst others is lack of medical equipment and materials to work with, knowledge on basic midwifery practices and emergency delivery. Fortunately, when the MamaCare-Ghana organization introduced a project on training of community health workers on basic midwifery, Ajara was selected to participate in a three-day workshop. Today Ajara has gained more knowledge on emergency delivery practices and has also received medical equipment which will help her in her work. She also also received training in HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Diarrhoea including Nutrition education for community members targeting mothers and their children. The Ministry of Health Ghana/ Ghana Health Service is preparing certificates to be awarded all the participant's including Ajara for their proficiency. Ajara works in the community of Dashie sub-district area. Dashie is a small farming community with a population of about 900 people. The community has no health center. Ajara therefore, embarks on home visits almost every day to provide necessary health care for the people. Ajara has managed to deliver about 3 babies since trained. Ajara conducts her monthly Child Welfare Clinic (CWC) where she gets the opportunity to educate mothers and general population about HIV/AIDS, causes of Malaria and Diarrhoea and its prevention. Ajara is thanking MamaCare-Ghana Organization and Associated Country Women of the World United Kingdom for their support.

Pallisa Children's Concern Project (PCCP), Country, Uganda. Project 1098
"Goats for Empowerment" To empower the most vulnerable female led households and their children to initiate their own household income generation and improve nutrition in a sustainable manner.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Case Study 1. My name is Florence and I am 15 years old, a pupil at N*** Primary School, now in Primary Six. I am a total orphan having lost both my parents. My mother died in 2015 and my father died in 2018, and since then I have been living with my 73-year grandmother. Life is very difficult for us at home because my grandmother has other children she takes care of and she is now old. Many times we sleep hungry because we don't have food to cook. I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) for having considered vulnerable women and girls in our community of Kameruka Sub County to have an opportunity for income generation activity. I received my goat from the project and I was excited when it produced one kid last week. I am happy to have this goat because it has given me hope, the hope that I had lost due to the feeling of uncertainty of my future. I will keep the goat very well with support from my grandmother and PCCP to make sure it multiplies. I see a brighter future with the support from the goats project because I will sell some in the future to pay fees for my secondary education. I feel grateful to you ACWW because you have made me feel that I am not alone; I feel there is someone out there who has some big heart for people like me.

Case Study 2: I am called Nulu, a resident of N*** cell, in Budaka district, aged 62 years old. I don't know what I should say, or even how I should thank our project funders, ACWW and PCCP. What you have done is unimaginable. You have listened to our cries as elderly women and girl children in this community. My own children passed on but I have 5 grandchildren I am taking care of. It is a big burden on me because I am weak and sickly most of the time. I cannot afford to send the children to school much as some of them want to be in school. I depend on small subsistence farming to get food to feed the family. About two weeks ago our Chairperson for women called me to go and collect my goat from the project. For sure I was overwhelmed with joy and happiness when I received my goat. I am also lucky that my goat is already pregnant and I know in a few months to come I will start enjoying the milk. I thank you for considering elderly women like me who are struggling to raise orphans, leave alone getting what to eat. My plan is to make sure that I raise the goat well. I will take care of it as one of my children to make sure it multiplies. And please, send my voice to those women (ACWW); that I am overjoyed by their deed. It is the tears of joy rolling down my cheek to see that we still have some good people in this world who are able to support other struggling souls out there. Please let them know how happy I am. Thank you.

Financial Review

The major sources of incoming funds for the year were voluntary income and investment income. Voluntary contributions made up 75% of total incoming resources, as compared with 86% in 2019. Just over 21% of voluntary income arose from membership fees compared to 15% in 2019; there was no income from legacies in 2020 although this source yielded 5% of voluntary income in 2019. Donations in total accounted for 78%, slightly below the 79% of the previous year.

Membership fees from societies and individuals amounted to £46,719, a decrease from £69,425, received for 2019; and donations from all sources totalled £172,630 in 2020, substantially below the 2019 level of £357,569. This decrease is attributable to the Covid pandemic as member societies were not meeting and therefore not collecting donations as has been reflected in charity donations globally. Donations from Women's Institute members in England and Wales amounted to £45,409.13 in 2020 (£121,967 in 2019) and were restricted to Projects. Investment income at £67,209 was £2,733 lower than in 2019 when it yielded £69,942 and represented 23% of total income as compared with 8.5%. Income from the Triennial World Conference was reported in the 2019 accounts.

Total income amounted to £290,435 of which £98,342 was restricted. In 2019 total incoming resources amounted to £816,793 which included ££296,052 related to the Triennial World Conference and £197,927 restricted to Projects. In the same period, total expenditure was £460,837 compared with £905,837 in 2019. Restricted funds expended in 2020 for projects was £135,146 compared with £170,285 in 2019.

Expenditure was incurred supporting the charitable activities of the organisation. Governance costs were similar to last year at £15,159 which was about half for the 2019 figure of £35,608 which reflects a reduction in non-audit professional accountancy fees as such work was brought in house by the Finance Manager.

A gain on investment assets of £162,868 compared with £249,729 in 2019 a good result under the circumstances of the Covid pandemic. This resulted in a net movement of funds indicating a loss of £7,544 contracted with a gain of £160,686 in 2019.

All the work of Central Office is directed to the charitable activities of ACWW. The direct funding of projects in developing countries and their evaluation and administration necessarily incur support costs. Two administrators, (one full-time and one part-time equalling 7-day equivalent) have their work solely directed towards all aspects of projects administration. Unrestricted funds cover the costs of maintenance of an information network and production of the quarterly magazine, sustaining the international membership organisation with Board and Committee activities and extension work, representation at the United Nations and related advocacy activities to ensure our consultative status is secure and advocacy effective. Thus, expenditure is apportioned towards charitable activities which are projects, education, outreach, information and research, United Nations representation and Conference preparation.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Risk Management

The Trustees reviewed the risks faced by the Charity and confirm that systems are in place to manage those risks and accompanying procedures are strengthened as appropriate. As a substantial part of the Charity's income derives from membership fees, strategies to increase membership numbers and retention continue to be addressed. The major source of unrestricted funds is donations to Pennies for Friendship and plans for increasing this fund were also considered and developed. At the end of the year the Board took the decision to launch an Appeal early in 2021. Investments and investment policy are regularly reviewed with investment managers to avoid unnecessary losses. The global Pandemic of Covid-19 had a major impact on donations received in the year and the Board took measures to reduce costs primarily by having meetings of Committees and the Board on line and savings were made by issuing the Countrywoman digitally, a negotiated rent reduction and utility bills were lower as staff worked from home. The Board maintain sufficient financial reserves for project commitments and 36 months operational commitments in line with current reserves policy.

Attention continues to be given to minimizing the risk of project grants being misspent. Working with project partners to agree project outcomes in advance has been strengthened. No evaluation visits were able to take place in the year and some project plans were put on hold where lockdowns were in force. The Projects Committee did not meet to allocate grants in spring 2020 but carried applications over to the autumn meeting when it was confirmed that projects could be carried out.

Reserves policy

The Reserves Policy of ACWW is to seek to maintain 36 months' worth of normal income and expenditure in order to meet the requirements of a triennium.

To provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work

- That is, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of The Countrywoman magazine for all members, education, outreach and projects, Board and governance expenditure, maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all of the above - this requires in the region of £550,000 per year.
- Projects are paid for from restricted funds received to the Women Empowered Fund and expenditure commitments are generally made in the spring and the autumn each year. Once approved, 75% of the project total is sent to the project with the final 25% following subject to satisfactory progress reports. An additional 20% is set aside for evaluation visits.
- Membership fee income currently yields around £45,000 per year and is relatively stable although there is a slight downward trend. This should cover the costs of producing and printing the magazine. Donations generate the majority of income and are subject to continuing support for ACWW and its charitable activities. Income from investments has been maintained in recent years but is subject to the volatility of the investment market. Legacies are an important source of income but cannot be budgeted for.

To provide a level of funding for unexpected opportunities

- The strategic plan reviewed each triennium identifies measures to strengthen the organisation and its impact.

To provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income

- Recent years have seen the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations which have necessitated investment in computer equipment for all Board members, staff, training and changes to working procedures in order to keep members' data secure and ACWW compliant.
- If closure seemed a likely outcome, there are currently 7 members of staff, four of whom have been employed by ACWW for over two years and would have full redundancy rights. In September 2021 this would apply to six members of staff.

Investment Policy and objectives including any social, environmental or ethical policies

The policy continued towards the retention of the organisation's capital reserves and to raise funds towards operating expenses. Funds invested were managed on a 'medium risk' strategy through the holding of a range of different types of assets. Restrictions continued to be disallowed on investments in armaments, negative environmental impact, oppressive regimes, pornography and no additional investment in tobacco products. Funds held in CAF are in a fixed interest account.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Plans for the Future

As agreed at the Incoming Board meeting after the 29th Triennial World Conference in Melbourne in May 2019, the strapline 'Rural Women in Action' and the slogan 'Our Diversity is our Strength' remained the focus of the Board activity. Increasing the number of members and our unrestricted income were highlighted as key elements in enabling the organisation to fulfil this mission. The strategic plan for the next 3 - 6 years was reviewed at the Board meeting in October 2019. The focus on advocacy as a means to empowering rural women has been revitalised in the last couple of years and this continues to be a strength as it was possible to be carried out effectively via virtual platforms. In December 2020 ACWW was elected to the Liaison Committee for NGO's engaged with UNESCO.

In light of the disruption of the Global pandemic, the 2020 Special World Conference decided to change the date of the 30th Triennial World Conference to May 2023, from May 2022.

Future project funding priorities were reviewed and remain as in the previous year: prioritising project funding proposals from small, women led organisations whose projects focus on basic literacy, skills-training, income-generating businesses, organic smallholder agriculture, improved health, nutrition and access to water and sanitation. These have been grouped within the WE Fund six priority focus areas and linked to SDG indicators, which also informs our reporting to agencies of the United Nations.

Early in March 2020 it became clear that Covid-19 was spreading at such a rate that a global pandemic was declared and most nations went into some form of lock down or travel restriction. A major strength of the organisation is its global reach and diversity and new methods were employed in order to maintain contact. In normal years, this allows for member societies to become involved with campaigns at a local or Area level that have the most relevance to their circumstances or interest. Key campaigns that member societies were encouraged to engage in were linked to Conference Resolutions and the nature of the work around them which may be locally focused, including those passed by the 29th Triennial World Conference. Supporting information and publicity resources continued to be developed, added to the website for download and promoted via social media, particularly Facebook.

For Resolutions passed in 2019, please see above.

Plans include:

- To develop a campaign to recruit new members and increase donations for unrestricted and restricted funds.
- To encourage take up of Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers.
- To encourage legacy giving.
- To keep relevant UN Observances and issue key statements, utilising using social media
- To promote rural women's interests at CSW, UNESCO and FAO and activities around 'Leave No-one Behind for Planet 50/50 by 2030' and engage the membership further through the advocacy plan.
- To contribute to the development and monitoring provision of the Sustainable Development Goals
- To review the International Forum on Rural Women and the Global Survey on the living conditions of rural women.
- To continue to develop and make available information and action packs for members in line with Conference resolutions
- To work towards a successful Triennial World Conference in April 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the trustees on 26 October 2021

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Mrs Magdie de Kock
President

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Associated Country Women of the World (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 20083 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 20083. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

John Howard (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services,
Statutory Auditor
2nd Floor, Regis House
45 King William Street
London
EC4R 9AN

Date: 26 October 2021

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income:					
Donations, membership and legacies	2	121,007	98,342	219,349	450,799
Investment income		67,209	-	67,209	69,942
Charitable activities	3	3,877	-	3,877	296,052
Total income		192,093	98,342	290,435	816,793
Expenditure:					
Raising funds:					
Investment management costs		10,716	-	10,716	8,514
Charitable activities:					
Project activities		83,992	135,146	219,138	269,728
Education		53,306	-	53,306	44,417
Outreach		44,422	-	44,422	44,417
Information and research		88,843	-	88,843	88,835
United Nations representation		44,422	-	44,422	44,417
Conference preparation					405,509
Total expenditure	4	325,701	135,146	460,847	905,837
Net (expenditure)/income		(133,608)	(36,804)	(170,412)	(89,044)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income/ (expenditure) before other gains		(133,608)	(36,804)	(170,412)	(89,044)
(Loss) /Gains on investment assets		162,868	-	162,868	249,730
Net movement in funds		29,260	(36,804)	(7,544)	160,686
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2020		2,528,954	407,806	2,936,760	2,776,074
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2020	12	2,558,214	371,002	2,929,216	2,936,760

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of the financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets	Notes		
Tangible assets	5	22,113	23,410
Investments	6	2,638,872	2,683,603
		<u>2,660,985</u>	<u>2,707,013</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	7	34,546	56,119
Cash at bank and in hand		385,349	254,774
		<u>419,895</u>	<u>310,893</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(142,704)	(71,452)
Net current assets		<u>277,191</u>	<u>239,441</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>2,938,176</u>	<u>2,946,454</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within more than one year	9	(8,960)	(9,694)
Net assets		<u>£2,929,216</u>	<u>£2,936,760</u>
Funds			
ACWW			
Restricted funds	10	371,002	407,806
Designated funds	11	279,413	288,153
Unrestricted funds		2,278,801	2,240,801
Total funds		<u>£2,929,216</u>	<u>£2,936,760</u>

The financial statements were approved and signed on behalf of the Board by:



Mrs Alison Burnett
Treasurer

Mrs Magdie de Kock
President

Date: 26 October 2021

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Net cash used in operating activities	15	<u>(136,790)</u>	<u>(303,888)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments		67,209	69,942
Purchase of fixed assets		(7,678)	(3,098)
Disposal of fixed assets		235	
Purchase of investments		(764,464)	(288,172)
Proceeds from sale of investments		972,063	116,686
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>267,365</u>	<u>(104,642)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		130,575	(408,530)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		254,774	663,304
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>£385,349</u>	<u>£254,774</u>

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of accounting

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Associated Country Women of the World meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity has a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. It has therefore continued to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. The COVID-19 pandemic has been taken into consideration when performing the going-concern assessment.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income including donations and grants, membership subscriptions and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Legacies are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made and the amount involved can be quantified.

Investment income plus associated tax recoverable is credited to income on an accruals basis, using dates of payment for dividends, and daily accrual for interest.

1.4 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories noted on the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, for example, time spent, per capita or floor area.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

Costs of raising funds consist of investment management fees for the period. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

Grants payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when approved by the trustees and agreed with the beneficiary. Grants where the beneficiary has not been informed or has to meet certain conditions before the grant is released are not accrued but are noted as financial commitments.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Furniture and equipment - 5 years straight line

1.6 Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later).

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.8 Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances stated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

1.9 Funds accounting

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for specific restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

1.10 Operating leases

The rental charges of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as and when these are paid.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP AND LEGACIES	2020 £	2019 £
Membership subscriptions	46,719	69,425
Donations	172,630	357,569
Legacies	-	23,805
	£219,349	£450,799

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2020 £	2019 £
Conference income	-	291,572
Other income	3,877	4,480
	£3,877	£296,052

Triennial World Conferences are held every three years. As historically the major associated income and expenditure takes place in the year of the conference, this is generally recorded in that year. The 29th Triennial Conference took place in April 2019.

4. EXPENDITURE	Staff and Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Cost of raising funds:				
Investment management costs	10,716	-	10,716	8,514
Charitable activities:				
Project activities	173,339	45,799	219,138	269,728
Education	33,678	19,628	53,306	44,417
Outreach	28,065	16,357	44,422	44,417
Information and research	56,130	32,713	88,843	88,835
United Nations representation	28,065	16,357	44,422	44,417
Conference preparation	-	-	-	405,509
	£329,993	£130,854	£460,847	£905,837

This table represents an apportionment of resources expended on each of the charitable activities.

Conference Preparation: Actual Triennial World Conference income and expenditure are reported in the year of the event, the 29th TWC took place in 2019.

Project activities: The project administrators work solely on projects and handle all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the Projects Committee and communicating with donors. Restricted funds shown here cover just the direct salary costs of the projects administrators, amounts allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation (these form the Staff and Direct Costs). All the resources expended supporting Project activities including a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, payments out, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation and generation of forms and postage are shown in the Support Costs column and were expended from unrestricted funds in 2020.

Education: Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates and some advocacy work.

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. EXPENDITURE (continued)

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

United Nations: Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the United Nations Committee. In June 2019 a new UN and Advocacy budget was approved to increase the impact of such work. Much of ACWW's advocacy work is focused here.

The basis of allocation of staff and support costs was reviewed and updated to reflect the time spent on each charitable activity by the CEO and other members of staff of the charity. Support costs shown above include an apportionment of governance costs, except in the case of Project activities.

4.1 Governance Costs	2020 £	2019 £
Auditors' remuneration - for audit	8,200	8,000
- for other services	6,188	22,382
Legal and professional	335	4,816
Trustee indemnity insurance	209	410
Other governance	227	-
	£15,159	£35,608

In 2020 ACWW produced in-house management accounts and filing of VAT returns, previously outsourced to Azets/Wilkins Kennedy. Payroll and pension services continue to be outsourced to Azets. The Trustees indemnity insurance was paid mid-way through the year and this shows only the corresponding months paid in 2020 for 2020.

4.2 Staff Costs	2020 £	2019 £
Salaries and wages	195,311	205,905
Social security costs	14,413	15,928
Other pension costs	9,485	10,773
Other costs	5,312	2,881
	£224,521	£235,487

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees, who received no remuneration or other financial benefits during the year (2019: nil) and the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Manager and the Policy & Communications Manager whose emoluments totalled £130,498 (2019: £113,186).

14 trustees were reimbursed a total of £22,319 travelling and accommodation expenses (2019: £30,431).

The Charity employed 7 staff during the year at Central Office (2019: 8). There were no employees earning more than £60,000 during the year (2019: none).

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture & Equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 January 2020	55,981
Additions	7,678
Disposals	(335)
As at 31 December 2020	63,324
Depreciation	
As at 1 January 2020	32,571
Charge for year	8,740
Released on disposals	(100)
As at 31 December 2020	41,211
Net Book Value At 31 December 2020	£22,113
At 31 December 2019	£23,410

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Market Value at 1 January 2020	2,683,603	2,262,388
Additions	764,464	288,172
Disposal proceeds	(972,063)	(116,686)
Net investment gains	162,868	249,729
Market value at 31 December 2020	£2,638,872	£2,683,603
Historic cost at 31 December 2020	£1,405,775	£1,405,775

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (continued)

Analysis of investments:

	2020 £	2019 £
Equity – UK	512,727	469,063
Equity – overseas	666,193	718,215
Fixed interest securities - UK	296,718	453,192
Alternatives	148,021	118,555
Property	47,925	-
Money Market fund	-	45,000
CAF Income Fund	898,502	825,643
Capital Account Balance	60,552	44,497
Cash deposits	8,234	9,438
Total	£2,638,872	£2,683,603

The following investments represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio as at 31 December 2020:

CAF Fixed Interest B Income Fund	£ <u>898,502</u>
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7. DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Income tax and VAT recoverable	3,193	7,547
Dividends and interest receivable	12,522	9,438
Prepayments	18,831	15,554
Prepayments related to Conference	-	-
Accrued income	-	23,580
	<u>34,546</u>	<u>£56,119</u>

Included within Prepayments is a balance of £ 11,992 (2019: £11,992) relating to a property deposit, recoverable in 2020.

8. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade Creditors	1,975	450
Taxes and social security costs	4,296	4,355
Deferred income (note 9)	26,055	30,535
Other creditors	4,681	4,814
Grant commitments	86,529	-
Accruals	19,168	31,298
	<u>£142,704</u>	<u>£71,452</u>

The Projects Committee met towards the end of the year and grants approved by the Board were paid in 2021.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due in more than one year	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred income at 1 January 2020	40,229	325,787
Income recognised in year	(30,535)	(310,000)
Income deferred in year	25,321	24,442
	<u>£35,015</u>	<u>£40,229</u>
Deferred income at 31 December 2020		
Made up of:		
Membership deferred income due within one year	26,055	30,535
Membership deferred income due in more than one year	8,960	9,694
Total deferred income	<u>£35,015</u>	<u>£40,229</u>

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Project Funds	206,043	96,765	(135,146)	-	167,662
Conference Sponsorship Fund	488	-	-	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	80,910	1,459	-	-	82,369
Elise Zimmern Memorial Fund	32,035	-	-	-	32,035
Nutrition Education Fund	88,330	118	-	-	88,448
	<u>407,806</u>	<u>98,342</u>	<u>(135,146)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>371,002</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS – PRIOR YEAR	Balance 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2019 £
Project Funds	273,232	197,487	(170,285)	(94,391)	206,043
Conference Sponsorship Fund	3,183	440	(3,135)	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	-	-	-	80,910	80,910
Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund	-	-	-	32,035	32,035
Nutrition Education Fund	-	-	-	88,330	88,330
	<u>£276,415</u>	<u>£197,927</u>	<u>£(173,420)</u>	<u>£106,884</u>	<u>£407,806</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by donors or by the specific terms of the Charity appeal, both of which are binding on the Trustees.

Total Income restricted to Projects activities was £98,342 (2019 £197,487), of which the WI of England & Wales contributed £45,409 in the year (£121,967 in 2019).

Project income constitutes the main source from which allocations are made for ACWW's charitable work directed towards grassroots projects and paid out of the restricted Women Empowered Fund (WE Fund) and its six priority focus areas which are supported by donors. From England and Wales only, the Women's Institutes Pennies for Friendship (WIPFF) classification represents monies donated to the WE Fund for projects.

11. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted	2,240,801	192,093	(325,701)	171,608	2,278,801
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	132,931	-	-	(8,740)	124,191
IFRW Fund	34,892	-	-	-	34,892
	2,528,954	192,093	(325,701)	162,868	2,558,214
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – PRIOR YEAR					
	Balance 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted	2,006,985	608,523	(728,466)	353,759	2,240,801
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	142,569	-	-	(9,638)	132,931
IFRW Fund	36,111	-	(1,219)	-	34,892
	£2,305,995	£608,523	£ (729,685)	£344,121	£2,528,954

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

Designated funds form part of unrestricted funds and relate to amounts set aside by the Trustees to meet specific future requirements of the organisation.

The Margaret Pollock Fund, set up with the proceeds of a substantial legacy received in 1994 has been designated by the Trustees as a capital fund for the time being. The income accruing to this fund is available for general purposes.

The Conference Contingency Fund was provided by the 1992 conference host society to offset unusual costs of future conferences, to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund was set up in 2019 by transferring the historic Relocation Fund (residue), the Leasehold Sink Fund of 1 January 1999, the Equipment Reserve Fund and Building Maintenance Fund (residue) from general unrestricted funds.

The IFRW Fund relates to the International Forum for Rural Women and the Global Survey of Rural Women set up in the year from legacy income received in 2018 and 2019 and a specific donation. The intention is that the survey should be reviewed and repeated on a triennial basis for the foreseeable future. The balance will be spent on the continuing costs of surveys and data analysis.

12. ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

The funds of the charity are represented by the following net assets:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	22,113	-	22,113
Investments	2,267,870	371,002	2,638,872
Current assets	419,895	-	419,895
Current liabilities	(142,704)	-	(142,704)
Long term liabilities	(8,960)	-	(8,960)
	<u>2,558,214</u>	<u>371,002</u>	<u>2,929,216</u>

13. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Defined contribution pension plans:

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £9,485 (2019 - £10,773).

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2020 £	2019 £
The charity had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:		
In less than one year	54,979	41,701
In more than one year	<u>98,259</u>	<u>129</u>
	<u>£153,238</u>	<u>£41,830</u>

The three-year lease held for Central Office at its Parkhall location was re-signed with Workspace in September 2020 at no additional cost on rent.

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period incl. investment gains	(7,544)	160,686
Adjustments for:		
- Interest and dividends	(67,209)	(69,942)
- Losses/(gains) on investments	(162,868)	(249,730)
- Depreciation	8,740	9,638
- (Increase)/decrease in debtors	21,573	118,234
- Increase in creditors	70,518	(272,774)
	<u>(£136,790)</u>	<u>(£303,888)</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

16. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – PRIOR YEAR

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