

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 Teeple	United States of America

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Tish Collins

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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.

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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 Gagliano, 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.

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
- 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.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

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

Mrs Madgie 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
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>79,488</u>	<u>267,365</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	(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>

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
	<u>2,558,214</u>	<u>311,305</u>	<u>(401,606)</u>	<u>202,779</u>	<u>2,670,692</u>

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
	<u>2,528,954</u>	<u>192,093</u>	<u>(325,701)</u>	<u>162,868</u>	<u>2,558,214</u>

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

