



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2013

84 years of cooperating and understanding through networks of rural and non-rural women

We believe: in creating opportunities for women to exercise more power – through being better informed, being part of an enabling environment and having the necessary tools to carry out the changes they want.

We believe: women will be empowered when they are able to make better decisions and change their own lives.

ACWW believes in empowerment of women by:

Advocacy, partnership, sharing knowledge and local activities - including UN representation, information resources, funding community development projects and training programmes.

ACWW is committed to raising the health and standard-of-living of rural women & their families; it is non-sectarian, non-political, forward-looking and friendly.

ACWW is a non-governmental organisation (NGO), a 'not for profit', registered in England as charity number 290367. It has three connected charities - The Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund, charity number 266190, The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund, charity number 262772 and ACWW Nutrition Education Fund, charity number 270053.

Be a part of ACWW

We welcome women's societies, umbrella organisations, interested groups and individuals. Visit www.acww.org.uk for more details

Full versions of the 27 page Trustees Annual Report and Accounts 2013, as well as the Constitution (as amended 2010) are downloadable from www.acww.org.uk. On request, a printed copy is available for a small charge to cover postage.



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

CONNECTS & SUPPORTS WOMEN & COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

The World Triennial Conference is the highest legislative body and elects a Board of Trustees for 3 years. In 2013 the 27th Triennial Conference took place in Chennai, India between 26th September and 2nd October. The Board are all volunteers who conduct most of their ACWW activities at their own expense.

EXECUTIVE

	2013-2016	2010-2013
President	Ruth Shanks AM (Australia)	May Kidd MA JP (Scotland)
Deputy President & Chair Agriculture Committee	Margaret Yetman (Canada)	Anphia Grobler (South Africa)
Secretary & Chair Triennial Conference Committee	Henrietta Schoeman (South Africa)	Jo Ellen Almond (USA)
Treasurer & Chair Finance Committee	Alison Burnett (Wales)	Alison Burnett (Wales)

AREA PRESIDENTS

	2013-2016	2010-2013
Africa - East, West & Central	Angela Njugabui Njezeh (Cameroon)	Emende Evelyn Nojang (Cameroon)
Africa - Southern	Maybel Moyo (Zimbabwe)	Dr Semane Bonolo Molotlegi (South Africa)
Asia - Central & South	Professor Momtaz Begum (Bangladesh)	Sister Viji (India)
Asia - South East & Far East	HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar (Malaysia)	HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar (Malaysia)
Canada	Sheila Needham (Canada)	Margaret Yetman (Canada)
Caribbean, Central & South America	Dotsie Maude Gordon (Jamaica)	Rose Rajbansee (Trinidad & Tobago)
Europe	Valerie Stevens (England)	Merja Siltanen (Finland)
South Pacific	Margaret Sullivan (Australia)	Ruth Shanks AM (Australia)
USA	Beverly Earnhart (USA)	Beverly Earnhart (USA)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

	2013 - 2016	2010 - 2013
Projects	Anne Marit Hovstad (Norway)	Margaret Mackay (Scotland)
Promotion & Publications / Communications & Marketing	Magdie de Kock (South Africa)	Alison Bayley (Scotland)
United Nations	Sharon Hatten (Canada)	Sharon Hatten (Canada)

UN REPRESENTATIVES

Patricia Altshuler	New York
Bettina Corke	Rome
Dr Chaiskran Hiranpruk	Bangkok
Joanna Koch	Geneva
Dr Gertraud Pichler	Vienna
Anushka Wirasinha	New York

2013 CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Jennifer Atigolo	Digital & Print Media Manager/Editor
Lisa Barker	Operations Manager
Juliet Childs	Projects Administrator
Roxana Comanac	Finance & Membership Administrator
Mariana Meirelles	Projects Administrator
Sharon Ortiz	Office Administrator
Amit Patel	Finance Manager
Christine Ro	UN & Agriculture Administrator

ACWW conducts work on policy objectives, set by Triennial Conference resolutions, through six specified committees which meet 2-3 times per year: Agriculture, Communications and Marketing, Finance, Projects, Triennial Conference and United Nations. The Board meets once annually. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Executive Committee, who employs 8 staff members in the London Central Office. Communication with Members is through mail outs, The Countrywoman, our website, email, social media and direct from Area Presidents.



2013 STATISTICS
AT A GLANCE

456 Member Societies
1,491 Individual Members
467 Life Members
in **72** countries

27TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE CHENNAI, INDIA 2013 - RESOLUTIONS

Shaping our work 2013-2016, Member Societies urged their governments to:

2013-2016 ACWW BOARD



Front - left to right: Alison Burnett, Treasurer; Professor Momtaz Begum, Margaret Yetman, Deputy President; Ruth Shanks AM, World President; Angela Njugabui Njezeh; Valerie Stevens, Sharon Hatten & Henrietta Schoeman, Secretary. *Back - left to right:* Dotsie Gordon, Margaret Sullivan, Anne Marit Hovstad, Magdie de Kock, Sheila Needham, Maybel Moyo & Beverly Earnhart

2010-2013 ACWW BOARD



Seated - left to right: Jo Almond, Secretary; Anphia Grobler, Deputy President; May Kidd, World President; Alison Burnett, Treasurer. *Standing, left to right:* Alison Bayley; Emende Evelyn Nojang; Sharon Hatten; Merja Siltanen; Margaret Yetman; Rose Rajbansee; Margaret Mackay; Semane Molotlegi; Beverly Earnhart; Sister Viji; Ruth Shanks AM & HRH Princess Azizah

A. Provide well trained and resourced, quality maternity health services, to improve maternal health education for all women and girls to ensure best outcomes for mother and baby, giving particular regard to the special needs and isolation of rural women.

B. Banish use of hazardous chemical Bisphenol A (BPA). BPA is the main building block of polycarbonate plastics used in many consumer products and household goods, such as food and drink containers, plastic baby bottles, medical devices, sports equipment and toys. The chemical components can dissolve and leach into bottle contents, poisoning our bodies and damaging our health.

C. Record, without prejudice, the births of all children born within their jurisdiction to ensure that all children are recognised as citizens.

D. Act, not only adopt, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This is a call for the adoption of a gender perspective that includes the special needs of women and girls during repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

E. ACWW urges all member societies to focus strongly on the situation of girls and women who are victims of different forms of violence.

F. Calls on all people worldwide to stop the practice of Female Genital Mutilation, Female Circumcision and Cutting which endangers the health and life of young girls.

G. To set up an Ad Hoc Committee to a) review the Constitution to bring it up to date with Charity Commission requirements; b) to look at the legal structure with a view to making ACWW a legal entity in its own right, limiting the liability of Trustees. Resolutions on these matters to be presented for discussion and voting at the 2016 Triennial Conference (Warwick, England).

H. The following Recommendation was also passed and suggests a line of action which member societies may choose to follow: In view of the ever increasing use of electronics that pollute the environment, the members of ACWW are urged to do all they can to ensure e-waste is recycled and disposed of safely and responsibly to prevent further damage to the environment.

ADVOCACY

In 2013 ACWW's Consultative status as an NGO at the United Nations (UN), UNESCO and the FAO continued to give rural women a voice particularly on policies addressing poverty, hunger and women's empowerment. Such advocacy and consultation brings potential benefits on a global scale, not restricted to ACWW membership.

The United Nations (UN) Committee coordinated contact with over 35 UN agencies and NGO committees whose mandates relate specifically to the interests, concerns and activities of ACWW and its member societies, regarding our 2013 Resolutions & Recommendations. Our UN Committee a) keep the UN informed about the role, needs and problems of member societies, and b) keep member societies informed about relevant developments at the UN, enlisting their support for its work and enabling them to influence and build on opportunities available through the UN system, particularly at national and local level.

Whilst the UN Committee's main priorities this year were the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Commission on the Status of Women theme of "elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" and the World Health Organization's 8th Global Conference theme of "health in all policies" were also supported. The next big challenge will be the transition from the MDGs to new goals and targets set out by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will form the UN agenda for 2016-2030.

With the addition of 3 new volunteers, we currently have UN representatives in Bangkok, Rome, New York, Geneva and Vienna who participate on working committees to establish statements and provide input to government policy makers at UN venues to achieve the empowerment of women. Our UN Reps and Committee members

attended more than 40 UN and NGO committee events including the Commission on the Status of Women (New York), the World Health Assembly (Geneva), the FAO General Conference (Rome), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok).

The Agriculture Committee contributed to the FAO consultation on investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and discussed FAO resolutions and recommendations such as retention of arable land for food production. They called for greater acknowledgement of the role of women in agriculture who have traditionally lacked the same access to productive inputs as men even though women produce the majority of the World's food.

Our input influenced the International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, the largest group of non-governmental organisations working on these issues. Reporting the Committee on World Food Security's session in October 2013, FAO decision-makers noted: Limited access to land and other natural assets (especially water) is one of the most binding constraints on smallholder farming investment, especially for women. Issuing a statement for 2013 International Day of Rural Women (15 October), World Food Day (16 October) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) rural women were encouraged to find their voice and speak up. 2014 was highlighted as the International Year of Family Farming.

The statement was a collaborative effort by our UN Committee and the Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ), with the theme: "Speak Up! recognising the need for rural women to have a voice in policy and decision making". Our Communications and Marketing Committee (formerly Promotion and Publications) made the statement available to members, the general public and UN agencies, enabling advocacy at several levels.

Member societies were encouraged to learn about UN Observances and to celebrate the many achievements, while supporting the need to encourage change for a better life for the majority who don't have a voice. At the World Health Organisation 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Helsinki, our representative spoke about the importance of engaging young doctors in policy-making as, in time, they will become the implementers. The 57th UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York in March 2013 was attended by members of the Executive and other Committees. They passed on valuable insight into how governments are informed and how policies are developed, via The Countrywoman.



IMPACT

17,668 Women and **7,941** children directly supported by our Projects programme.

48,000 Additional family members from **12,021** families, reached by our financial support of projects

PARTNERSHIP

ACWW forges partnerships with likeminded organisations such as Women's Institutes and Country Women's Associations around the world in order to further joint aims. The World President and other Board members are frequently invited to give presentations and speak at meetings and conferences to rural and non-rural women. This year, at least 119 presentations were given by members of the Board in 47 countries

ACWW United Nations Affiliations (ACWW's commencement date):
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
Consultative status (1947)

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

CoNGO - Conference of Non-governmental organizations
Consultative status (1948)

UNESCO - UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Consultative status (1949)

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
Consultative status (1953)

January 2013 ACWW became a partner of Save Food, the FAO's global initiative on food loss and waste reduction. Our Agriculture Committee contributed information learned through the agricultural projects we fund and shared best practices for reducing food waste. We believe it is shameful that at least 30% of all food produced is wasted, harming the environment and driving up food prices for the poorest people in the world and therefore campaign around the slogan 'Grow locally, benefit globally'.

We also continued to work with other NGOs on bodies such as the Committee on the Family. Through such partnerships, the impact of our advocacy and communication is maximised and ACWW's UN representatives have assumed significant roles. In 2013 our Geneva Representative remained Treasurer of the Alliance for Health Promotion and our Vienna representative was elected to leadership positions in three NGO committees. ACWW is a huge partnership of 456 Member Societies in 72 countries. Grass roots projects in developing countries are supported by fund raising efforts in more developed countries, facilitated by staff at Central Office.



SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Member Societies and Individual and Life members receive The Countrywoman magazine 4 times per year by post. This major communication tool, first published in 1936, is also available online to download. Directed by the Communications and Marketing Committee the magazine and the recently re-designed website provide a wealth of information on current issues keeping members and the public in touch with our organisation, its policies and activities. It is a developing resource for fact sheets, flyers, posters and brochures on topical subjects.

During the year the Agriculture Committee placed 15 articles in the magazine and produced other materials with practical advice on gardening, domestic food production and efficient water conservation. These reflect the 2010 Triennial Conference Resolution around the Campaign 'Grow locally, benefit globally' and encourage members to produce their own food in order to eat healthily, save money and perhaps produce a surplus to share, give or trade. This is in tune with the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other international agencies, which see small-scale vegetable gardens as a means of increasing food security, improving nutrition, generating income and reducing environmental harm.

The International Year of Water Cooperation and International Year of Quinoa, were marked with dedicated articles and summaries of projects related to these observances and participation in UN social media campaigns. We also prepared statements for the International Day of Families.

Before the 27th Triennial Conference, 23 attendees from Central and South Asia Area were sponsored to attend an ACWW workshop on 'Leadership: An Art of Management'. Participants gained leadership skills and learned about management assessment tools they could teach others. The aim was to develop a group of female leaders in India to recognise their own skills and thus empowering them and helping improve their effectiveness.

At the Triennial Conference one of our UN representatives gave an informed talk about water and the threat of climate change. The resource pack provided for delegates included suggestions for preventing waste with recipes making use of leftovers.

Funding was also provided for six Kenyan members to attend a health promotion workshop held in Kitale, Kenya. This workshop was run by the Alliance for Health Promotion, which ACWW co-founded through its UN representative. The workshop built on topics of recent World Health Organization conferences and provided an opportunity to share and learn for people involved in implementing community health projects. Two ACWW staff members took part in the 'Great Food Debate' held by the Women's Institute in Whepstead, England. They were joined by representatives of organisations such as the Soil Association, a biotechnology institute and a local food bank to debate the problem of access to food for the poor.

The Pen Friend Scheme provides another opportunity for members to learn about each other's lives and cultures. In 2013 our Pen Friend Coordinators facilitated 49 links across the world for support and friendship.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations in developing countries, through its network of Member Societies and individual supporters. Small grants are awarded to women-led community based projects with identified outcomes of alleviating hunger, poverty, sickness or the advancement of education, in line with ACWW's overall aims and objectives. Applications are welcomed from both member and non-member societies. Grants may be given for the purchase of equipment to be used in making goods for sale, thus providing income; for investment in food production to feed the participants and their families (perhaps producing some surplus to trade); or for educational projects to increase knowledge, understanding or skills.

Whilst projects supported primarily target women and children, benefits generally reach far wider into the community. Applicant women tend to be strong activists locally, but who would not normally have access to major external funds.

Grassroots organisations invariably have expert knowledge of their own communities 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.

The Projects Committee again received far more applications than it could possibly fund. Eligibility criteria are published and the selection is made as fair as possible to spread funds, with some reference to track-record and geographical spread. Insufficient detail in the application remains the most common reason for rejection. However, regrettably, some good projects still have to be turned down. Monitoring visits were made to approximately 50% of projects and our mechanisms for evaluating and checking impact of the funding programme are under review. All ACWW projects support some or all of the MDGs, which is an important extension of UN work at the local level.

UN agencies acknowledge the importance of NGO and civil society input into development. Several ACWW projects were summarised for inclusion in the International Year of the Family +20 study prepared by Dr. Peter Crowley, NGO Committee on the Family in Vienna. In 2013 £109,809 was granted to 21 new projects. Some final instalments were made to projects approved in the preceding year, subject to receipt of satisfactory reports. An additional £21,606 was allocated from Project funds for monitoring.

Specific donations and pledges from Member Societies to sponsor projects are recorded in the Project Funds figure. In the course of the year £274,647 was spent on direct and support costs of Projects. This was supported by incoming donations of £109,711 to the Projects' funds. The Women's Institute Pennies for Friendship account, restricted for direct Project grants, received income of £66,789 and expenditure of £90,231.

VOLUNTEERS

All Board, Committee members, UN representatives and ACWW representatives (in the UK) are volunteers who contribute considerable time, money and energy to furthering the aims of ACWW. Volunteer fundraisers raised the major source of incoming funds for the year in the form of Membership fees and Pennies for Friendship.

Women tend to be **strong activists** in their own communities

Additionally, nearly £67,000 was donated to restricted funds as WI Pennies for Friendship in direct support of projects. The grant funding of projects necessarily incurs support costs, as does the maintenance of an information network, magazine, international members' organisation, representation at the UN and related activities, education, outreach and the facilitation of meetings and functioning of the Board and six Specified Committees – all of which give ACWW its truly global reach.

At conference time many volunteers came forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what became a great social occasion and opportunity to forge friendships with people from different cultures and countries. A major focus for awareness, fellowship and fundraising was Women Walk the World held on ACWW day, 29th April, reported with many photographs in *The Countrywoman*. A fundraising initiative on jewellery recycling was also launched from the Triennial Conference.

PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP

In 1936, as ACWW developed and needed an office, it was decided that each year every society should collect one penny (or equivalent) from each member and that these contributions would enable ACWW to continue. Thus 'Pennies for Friendship' was born which contributes to our unrestricted funds.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2013

ACWW CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/ 2013

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Permanent Endowment £	Connected Charities £	Total 2013 £	Total 2012 £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income	371,217	176,500	-	2,691	550,408	480,182
Investment income	69,679	-	-	-	69,679	75,039
Incoming resources from charitable activities	284	-	-	-	284	480
Total incoming resources	441,180	176,500	-	2,691	620,371	555,701
Resources expended						
Cost of generating funds:						
Investment management costs	7,493	-	-	-	7,493	5,040
Charitable activities:						
Project activities	-	274,647	-	-	274,647	254,221
Education	20,445	-	-	-	20,445	20,715
Outreach	32,689	-	-	-	32,689	35,172
Information and research	74,246	-	-	-	74,246	75,587
United Nations representation	30,454	-	-	-	30,454	28,470
Conference	54,144	-	-	-	54,144	-
Governance costs	15,511	-	-	-	15,511	23,081
Total resources expended	234,982	274,647	-	-	509,629	442,286
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	206,198	(98,147)	-	2,691	110,742	113,415
Transfers between funds	(71,951)	71,951	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources	134,247	(26,196)	-	2,691	110,742	113,415
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	97,880	22,952	(20,729)	-	100,103	94,153
Net movement in funds	232,127	(3,244)	(20,729)	2,691	210,845	207,568
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2013	1,175,452	413,581	665,103	170,395	2,424,531	2,216,963
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2013	1,407,579	410,337	644,374	173,086	2,635,376	2,424,531

ACWW BALANCE SHEETS AT 31/12/ 2013

	GROUP		CHARITY	
	2013 £	2012 £	2013 £	2012 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	10,025	12,685	10,025	12,685
Investments	2,177,521	2,084,910	2,177,521	2,084,910
	<u>2,187,546</u>	<u>2,097,595</u>	<u>2,187,546</u>	<u>2,097,595</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	30,252	35,140	30,252	35,140
Cash at bank and in hand	470,274	344,884	367,931	242,583
	<u>500,526</u>	<u>380,024</u>	<u>398,183</u>	<u>277,723</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(52,696)	(53,088)	(123,439)	(121,182)
Net current assets	447,830	326,936	274,744	156,541
Net assets	£2,635,376	£2,424,531	£2,462,290	£2,254,136
Funds				
ACWW				
Permanent endowment fund	644,374	665,103	644,374	665,103
Restricted funds	410,337	413,581	410,337	413,581
Designated funds	161,809	161,809	161,809	161,809
Unrestricted funds	1,245,770	1,013,643	1,245,770	1,013,643
	<u>2,462,290</u>	<u>2,254,136</u>	<u>2,462,290</u>	<u>2,254,136</u>
Connected charities				
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	71,138	69,531	-	-
Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund	33,296	33,296	-	-
Nutrition Education Trust Fund	68,652	67,568	-	-
	<u>173,086</u>	<u>170,395</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	£2,635,376	£2,424,531	£2,462,290	£2,254,136

ACWW FUNDED PROJECTS STARTED IN 2013

BANGLADESH

Sustainable sanitation practices for disadvantaged Women

Organisation: SAYAPATH

Disabled women and girl's rehabilitation project

Organisation: POWER

Literacy and non-formal education of drop-out street girls/children

Organisation: DPUK

CAMEROON

Cultivation and preservation of vegetables and medicinal plants for better sustainability

Organisation: FOCWED

Boka Bajoh community water supply project

Organisation: Youth Development Limbe

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Implementation of an integral centre for women and to prevent, as much as possible, the risks of infectious and sexually transmitted diseases

Organisation: ODEMIHF

GAMBIA

Awareness creation on the negative effects of FGM in Lower River Region

Organisation: WACC

GHANA

Teaching programme for traditional birth attendants in Ghana (Phase 4)

Organisation: Akpafu Traditional Birth Attendants Women's Association

INDIA

Dairy cooperative income generation project for poor, rural, Dalit women

Organisation: Victory Rural Development Society

Women empowerment - training in weaving to ten women of which three are handicapped

Organisation: Country Women's Association of India

Continuation of adolescent health & education programme in Dindigul District

Organisation: Society for Serving Humanity

Rural sanitation and water project

Organisation: Nirmala Mahila Samajam

Safe drinking water and sanitation for Happy Children's Home

Organisation: ATSWA Trust

Safe water and safe health

Organisation: Mother Theresa Rural Development Society

Community health care project in 5 Villages

Organisation: Association for the Social, Educational and Charitable Activities (AASHA)

ROMANIA

Computer literacy and activity scheme for women and children

Organisation: Asociata Femeior din Sibiu

SIERRA LEONE

Amutor Calvary women's agriculture project

Organisation: Amutor Calvary Women's Association

SRI LANKA

Caring for and supporting families, women and children

Organisation: NEST

UGANDA

Psychosocial support rehabilitation and reintegration of the child prisoners with emphasis to the girl child

Organisation: Companionship of Works Association (COWA)

Promotion of increased household food security and incomes among rural poor women - led families in Katikamu Sub county, Luwero District

Organisation: Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA)

Drilling of 2 boreholes in Northern Uganda

Organisation: Fields of Life

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

