



## ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

CONNECTS AND SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE



## What is ACWW?

- One of the largest international organisations for women's groups
- ACWW has over 460 Member Societies worldwide in over 70 countries
- ACWW was established at an Executive Committee of the International Council of Women (ICW) in Geneva in 1927
- ACWW has a Board of Trustees and six Specified Committees: Agriculture, Finance, UN, Projects, Triennial Conference and Communications and Marketing.

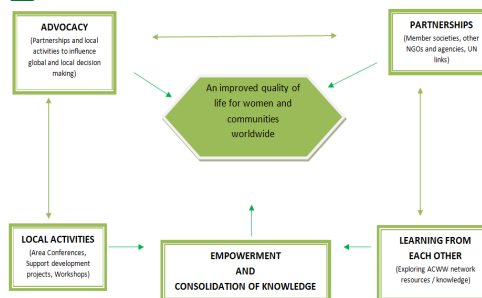


## ACWW's Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** An improved quality of life for women and communities worldwide.
- **Mission:** The ACWW membership and networks of rural and non-rural women will empower women and communities worldwide through: partnership, advocacy, sharing of knowledge and local activities.



## What We Do



## ACWW Conferences

At Triennial Conference, ACWW members share common challenges and experiences from around the globe and seek solutions despite language barriers and cultural differences.

The strong network supplied by ACWW members can become life changing for many women.

**Recent Conferences:**  
 25<sup>th</sup>: Turku, Finland 2007  
 26<sup>th</sup>: Hot Springs, USA 2010  
 27<sup>th</sup>: Chennai, India 2013  
**Upcoming Conferences:**  
 28<sup>th</sup>: Coventry, England 2016  
 29<sup>th</sup>: Melbourne, Australia 2019



## Resolutions & Recommendations

ACWW Member Societies work hard to promote Resolutions & Recommendations that are voted upon and passed at Triennial Conferences.

Activities have included awareness raising, government lobbying, competitions, debates, classes, educational materials and talks.

### Recent topics for R&Rs include:

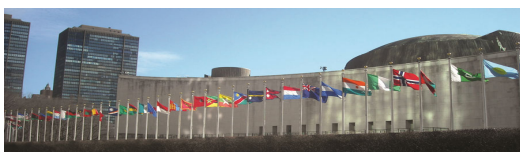
- 2013 Resolution:**
- Maternal Health
  - Stop Use of Bisphenol A
  - Registration of Births
  - Stop the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation
  - Stop Violence against Women and Girls
  - Women as Victims of Conflict
- 2013 Recommendation:**
- E-Waste Recycling & Disposal





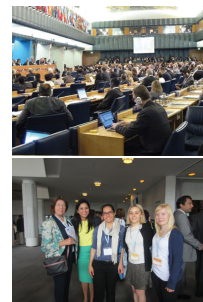
## ACWW and the United Nations

- Consults UN agencies e.g. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- ACWW UN representatives in New York, Geneva, Rome, Vienna, & Bangkok
- ACWW speaks for women at UN meetings & updates UN about its activities
- ACWW informs its members about UN developments, helping them to identify areas where they can participate in UN activities



## Achievements related to the UN

- ACWW was one of the first organisations to lobby for a year to be dedicated to families.
- At the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, ACWW was one of the initial proposers of an annual World Rural Women's Day (now IDRW).
- ACWW was a member of the first Working Group of Girls. ACWW's UN Representative in New York, M. Talbot, started the UNIFEM national groups (now UN Women).



## ACWW & Agriculture: Advocacy



- Main UN relationships: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Committee on World Food Security, Save Food.
- Advocacy activity: statements, reports, events, etc.
- ACWW's Rome UN representative: Bettina Corke.
- UN's agriculture-related observances: World Food Day (16 October), International Year of Family Farming (2014).



## ACWW & Agriculture: Focus Areas



- Vegetable gardens campaign, 'Grow Locally, Benefit Globally'
- Food waste
- Studying the state of agriculture around the world
- Water/environment
- ACWW Resolutions & Recommendations



## ACWW Projects

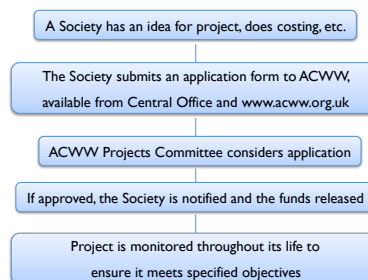
ACWW and Member Societies have together funded more than 950 projects.

ACWW actively supports a range of development programmes in communities around the world:

- Leadership & skill training
- Nutrition / education projects
- Literacy & basic education programmes (including family planning & HIV/AIDS awareness)
- Small business initiatives & small-scale agricultural, income-generating schemes



## Life Cycle of a Project





### Case Study of a Project: "Promotion of household food security and increased incomes for the rural women"

#### Run by Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA)

Trained 216 women in sustainable agriculture methods and practices

- Improved farming practices leading to improved crops and animal yields
- Increased income by at least 40% & increased the general well-being of the families.
- Reduction in lost crops due to diseases and pests, poor drying and storage - the women now have knowledge of post-harvest handling techniques
- 47 women were trained in savings and credit and also supported with revolving loans to improve savings and farm production.

The project emphasised inclusiveness, respect, shared learning and the importance of actively engaging women and girls in matters that affect them.



### Adopt a Project

ACWW believes that through a network of women, small women's societies living in difficult conditions can have access to better resources and raise their living standards.

ACWW has developed a unique system in which our donors can support a specific project and bring hope to many women who would not otherwise have access to grants – by "Adopting" a project. Find out more: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)



### How ACWW is Financed

- **Pennies For Friendship** (donated voluntarily by Member Societies & Individual Members) is main source of ACWW's income
- **Dues** are payable per annum by Member Societies & Individual Members
- **Donations, Legacies and Grants** are welcome to all our funds
- **ACWW receives no government funding**



### Your Link With ACWW

#### YOU can:

- Join ACWW as a society, group or **individual** member
- Adopt or donate to projects to help rural women worldwide
- Receive quarterly issues of 'The Countrywoman' magazine as a member
- Participate in ACWW's Pen Friend and Society Link Scheme and Women Walk the World
- Encourage donations to Pennies for Friendship
- Find out more on our website: [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)



### National Organizations

- **NAFCE** - National Association for Family & Community Education
- **NVON** - National Volunteer Outreach Network
- **The Affiliates** - Combined group of state societies
- **WNF&G** - Womens National Farm & Garden



### NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

- **CWC** - COUNTRY WOMEN'S COUNCIL  
includes:
- **NMFHG** - National Master Farm Homemakers Guild - 5 states in partnership
- **NVON** - National Volunteer Outreach Network  
8 states working together
- **The Affiliates** - Combined US state societies



## National Master Farm Homemakers Guild

- \*Colorado      \*Iowa
- \*Kansas      \*Kentucky

\* 4 States - consisting of Farming oriented membership.



## National Volunteer Outreach Network

- \*Arkansas      \*Illinois
- \*Indiana      \*Kentucky
- \*North Carolina      \*South Carolina
- \*West Virginia      \*Wisconsin

\* 8 states working together on "Projects in Common"



## THE AFFILIATES

- Alabama Homemakers & Community Leaders



Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee - Idaho & Oklahoma

- Association for Home & Community Education - Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington & Wisconsin



Women's National Farm & Garden - Michigan, Ohio & Pennsylvania



## The Affiliates - cont'd



New Hampshire Circle for Home & Family

- Family & Community Education - Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, North Dakota, Wisconsin



Louisiana Volunteers for Family & Community

Washington State Home & Community Educators



## NAFCE



- National Association For Family and Community Education
- Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia



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