

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and administrative information	1 - 2
Report of the trustees	3 - 19
Independent auditor's report	20 - 21
Statement of financial activities	22
Balance sheets	23
Statement of cash flows	24
Notes to the financial statements	25 - 36

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019

Elected at 28th Triennial World Conference 2016

World President	Mrs Ruth Shanks	Australia
Deputy President / Chairman Agriculture Committee	Mrs Margaret Yetman	Canada
Secretary / Chairman Triennial Conference Committee	Mrs Henrietta Schoeman	South Africa
Treasurer / Chairman Finance & Membership Committee	Mrs Heather Brennan	Australia
Chairman Communications & Marketing Committee	Mrs Magdie de Kock	South Africa
Chairman Projects Committee	Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad	Norway
Chairman United Nations Committee	Mrs Kerry Maw Smith (resigned April 2018)	New Zealand
	Mrs Ruth Shanks (Acting)	
Area President Canada	Mrs Sheila Needham	Canada
Area President Caribbean, Central & South America	Mrs Dotsie Gordon	Jamaica
Area President Central & South Asia	Mrs Thilaka Perera	Sri Lanka
Area President East, West and Central Africa	Ms Irene Chinje	Cameroon
Area President Europe	Mrs Margaret McMillan (deceased July 2018)	Northern Ireland
	Mrs Ruth Shanks (Acting)	
Area President South East Asia & the Far East	Mrs Maria Abdul Karim	Indonesia
Area President Southern Africa	Mrs Maybel Moyo	Zimbabwe
Area President South Pacific	Mrs Gail Commens	Australia
Area President United States of America	Mrs Jo Ellen Almond	United States of America

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

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

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Tish Collins

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Associated Country Women of the World ('the Charity' or ACWW) present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019. 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.

Trustees

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

Structure

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

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 and life 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 Area Presidents elected from 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 simple majority. One person may not stand for two offices. The term of office is one Triennium (three years) and they may be re-elected to the same position for one succeeding Triennium, or for different positions totalling 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, and it establishes policy and all matters concerning the Constitution. The Constitution, Rules and Bye Laws govern the workings of the organisation; this has been provided to all member societies and is downloadable from our website and may be sent as a hard copy on request. Printed copies were sent to all member societies in advance of the 29th Triennial World Conference in April 2019. Trustees are inducted to their role and responsibilities in pre – Conference workshops and at the Board meeting immediately following the Triennial World Conference. Governance training was continued at subsequent meetings of the Board tailored to suit the diverse experience and needs of Trustees. The Board for the 2016-2019 triennium included representatives from twelve countries and that of 2019-2022 thirteen countries.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Structure (continued)

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

The specified committees meet twice a year except for the Finance & Membership and the Executive Committees which meet thrice, with some members participating via videoconferencing. Decisions are reached on a majority vote basis (unless specified otherwise by the Constitution) but are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees or Executive, whichever meets first, who also operate on a majority vote basis. Each triennium specified committees complete a review of their policy papers to be approved at the following Board meeting, to ensure they are robust and meet the governance and developing needs of the Charity.

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, research and information to support and administer the work of the specified committees and Board. Electronic communications are used between committee meetings as the appointed members are spread geographically.

There were some staff changes in the year: Mrs Monica Tomlins' time as Office Assistant came to an end in September 2019, Ms Viktoria Dimitrova, Projects Administrator, left in October 2019. Mrs Susan Williams joined as Finance Manager in September 2019 and Ms Jenny Sellers joined as Projects Administrator in the same month. The contract with accountancy firm Wilkins Kennedy continued this year and is under review.

Central Office

Central Office is located at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN. These premises enable the charity to have offices, Board and committee meetings as well as the ability to hold 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.

Connected Charities

The Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund, The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund and the ACWW Nutrition Education Fund were wound up by their respective Trustees in November 2018 and all assets transferred to the Associated Country Women of the World. It was further agreed that internal funds or classifications would be held to represent these assets which would be recorded and distributed according to the terms above.

ACWW is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies and through networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In 2019 there were 440 Member Societies (445 in 2018) and 1,427 Individual Members, in 82 countries throughout the world. The number of Life Members has declined since no new Life Members have been added since 1997. However, most of the existing ones 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 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The 30th Triennial World Conference is scheduled for May 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. By convention, the financial income and expenditure for each Triennial World Conference is reported in the year of the actual conference.

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

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

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

Mandates set by Resolutions passed at the 28th Triennial Conference held in Warwick, England in August 2016 continued to guide work for the early part of the year. Such resolutions have been reported in the 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports and developed extensively on our website and through the Countrywoman magazine. Resolutions approved at the 29th Triennial World Conference in April 2019 were:

1. Registration of Old Landfills: *Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge the governments of all countries to map and register the presence of old landfill sites. The register should record the presence of dangerous substances (if known) and the risk of future leakage. In addition, we urge each country to develop a strategy for the rehabilitation of these sites.*
2. Protection of Shared Marine Environment, Sustainable Coral Reefs, and Fish Stocks: *Be it resolved that Member societies of the ACWW request their Governments and Industries to take urgent action, as appropriate, to ensure the wise use and protection of the shared marine environment, to protect the sustainability of coral reefs and fish stocks for future generations.*
3. Use of Plastics: *Be it resolved that ACWW calls on all governments to regulate the use of plastics in packaging and manufacturing processes to reduce the impact of discarded plastic on the environment.*
4. Action on Climate Change: *Be it resolved that all ACWW member societies support the historic Paris Climate Agreement 2015 by taking action at local, national and international level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help build resilience within their communities to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.*
5. Pollinator Protection: *Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and research institutes to continue to identify and reduce specific drivers of insect pollinator decline, develop agricultural pollinator-friendly practices, and promote greater public awareness of the role of insect pollination in global food production.*
6. Elimination of Dog Mediated Rabies: *Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World member societies support rabies education globally and support 'Zero by 30'. This initiative of the World Health Organisation, World Organisation for Animal Health, Food and Agriculture Organisation and Global Alliance for Rabies Control seeks to eliminate dog mediated rabies by 2030 through: rabies education programs on bite prevention, expanding dog rabies vaccination coverage to stop transmission, improving access to post exposure prophylaxis and by lobbying governments to provide the funds to achieve this.*
7. Iron Deficiency: *Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and health organizations to continue financing and supporting the research needed to eliminate the world-wide incidence of iron deficiency.*
8. Gender Sensitive Health Care: *Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organizations urge their governments to strive for gender sensitive health care by carrying out a gender analysis on all health policies as they are developed and before they are implemented.*

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

9. Health and Nutrition for Women with Emphasis on Environmental Health: *Be it resolved that ACWW gives high priority to programs relating to health and nutrition for rural women including provision of clean water, training in sanitation, hygiene and waste disposal which are of paramount importance to vulnerable rural communities. Where possible member societies should promote work with Governments and other non-governmental agencies in unison to achieve measurable improvements in malnutrition and environmental health for rural women.*
10. Q or Query Fever: *Be it resolved that ACWW Member Societies advocate to governments in their respective regions that increased funding be made available to: a) educate medical practitioners and alert all communities about the identification, treatment and prevention of Q fever, and b) if not already in place, implement a scheme to subsidise vaccination programs to prevent Q fever in high risk areas.*
11. Textiles and Clothes: *Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations put pressure upon all textile, footwear and apparel companies and manufacturers to ensure fair pay and working conditions, as suggested by current International Labour Organisation conventions and recommendations, for all their women workers.*
12. Domestic Violence: *Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge the governments of all countries and their agents to develop and implement strategies for the prevention of domestic violence.*
13. Safe and Secure Access to Toilet Facilities for All: *Be it resolved that ACWW and their members aim to raise the standard of living of rural women and their families by putting specific emphasis to Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goal for water and sanitation, by including special and appropriate sanitary facilities for people with disabilities, serious illnesses and the elderly.*
14. Adoption of the New Constitution: *Be it resolved that the constitution of the Associated Country Women of the World Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1174798, approved by the Charity Commission in September 2017, be formally adopted.*
15. Adoption of Bye Laws, Standing Orders, and Rules of Procedure: *Be it resolved that the Bye Laws, Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure be ratified and approved as amended and in line with the new Constitution.*
16. Membership Subscriptions: *Be it resolved that the membership subscription for Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 increase to: Category 1 £110 (currently £105) Category 2 £69 (currently £64) Category 3 £55 (currently £53) Category 4 £37 (currently £35) Category 5 Individual £27 (currently £25) Category 5 Individuals for 3 years £68 (currently £65). Note, the new rates will apply from January 2020.*
17. Chairman of the Agriculture Committee: *Be it resolved that the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee be a singular position on the Board and Executive.*

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Partnership

Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to further its aims connecting and supporting women and communities worldwide. The relationship with rural women's organisations has grown from membership covering 18 countries in 1929 to 84 countries in 2019. Through its member societies, ACWW gives voice internationally to over 9 million women. The World President, Area Presidents and other Board members frequently travel to carry out extension work and give presentations to member societies, speaking at meetings and conferences throughout the world. These trips are carried out as economically as possible, combining visits wherever possible.

In 2019 ACWW maintained its relationships with UN agencies and is proud of the fact that it has held special consultative status at the United Nations for so many years. We file annual and quadrennial reports of our activities as required.

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Partnership (continued)

2019 was the seventh year ACWW members have staged Women Walk the World events. Members, family and friends promoted ACWW by walking on or around ACWW Day (29th April) to raise awareness and, where possible, funds, to help support women and communities worldwide. This event brings together women in fellowship, a core function of ACWW.

Central Office, the World President and Triennial Conference Committee worked in partnership with the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc as they developed preparations for the 29th Triennial World Conference and a successful conference with 560 attendees took place in Melbourne, Australia. Pre-Conference Leadership Training was arranged for Board nominees. Pre and Post World Conference Area meetings also took place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Area Presidents increasingly use emailed newsletters or Facebook to keep in touch with their members. All nine Area Conferences took place during 2017 and 2018.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Advocacy

Today rural women continue to face challenges that are interconnected, from the way climate change affects food growth and distribution, to the legal implications of governments weakening human rights treaties. So many of the issues identified by members in 1929 remain, and this is largely because governmental systems and ideas remain the same. We need to see systematic change to address these systemic problems, with the realisation that rural women are crucial to the lives of all humanity and must therefore be included in global, national, and local dialogues.

ACWW carries forward all the information our members provide to feed into UN systems, surveys, and meetings. Our representatives take every opportunity to engage with these systems and amplify the voices of our membership. We also complete the cycle by passing information from the UN back to our members. The UN provides us the opportunity to hold governments to account and ensure that you are heard at the international level. 2019 saw ACWW once again elevate our representation and impact. Such advocacy and consultation bring potential benefits on a global scale, not restricted to ACWW membership.

Over the past three years ACWW has used a series of different surveys to gather information on the reality of life for rural women, and our members all over the world. These are critically important, as it means we are collecting data - and the UN has identified a 'data gap' concerning rural women and therefore they are not counted or represented when governments take policy decisions. Gathering data about the living conditions of rural women means we can contribute to policy conversations at national and international levels, and make sure our members have evidence to support their own lobbying. These surveys are circulated by email and are promoted on our website and social media channels.

Every four or five years, each government which has signed and ratified CEDAW is examined by the Committee for compliance. This is a legally binding obligation and governments are held to account by the Committee; they are required to make a report, then NGOs have the opportunity to give evidence - a crucial chance to ensure that voices are heard without government interference. The Committee members then spend a day questioning the government representatives, and examining the evidence presented. The final stage of the process is the publication of a report on the government's compliance and recommendations for improvements. In 2019, ACWW had the opportunity to participate in the 72nd Session of CEDAW, and specifically the examination of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK). ACWW held a consultation with Member Societies and Individual Members in the UK, and based on this prepared a written statement reflecting the reality of life for rural women in all four nations of the UK. On the strength of this, ACWW was also asked to give evidence directly to the Committee, which involved 10 minutes of verbal presentation. When the Committee published its Concluding Observations, there was a strong statement finding the UK in breach of the Convention, and some specific commentary and recommendations on rural women:

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Advocacy (continued)

Concluding Observations on Rural Women in the UK, 2019: *“The Committee is concerned about the obstacles faced by women and girls in rural areas in gaining access to education, employment and healthcare and support services due to, among other things, limited resources and access to transportation and the Internet. In addition, although the Committee commends the measures taken in Scotland and Wales to halt the practice of hydraulic fracturing to extract fossil fuels (known as “fracking”), it is concerned that women in rural areas in other territories of the State party are disproportionately affected by the harmful effects of fracking, including exposure to hazardous and toxic chemicals, environmental pollution and the effects of climate change. Recalling its general recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women, the Committee recommends that the State party: • Adopt inclusive and accessible measures to facilitate access for women and girls to education, employment, healthcare services and support services in rural areas, including by ensuring their access to transportation and the Internet and their participation in decision-making processes regarding rural development; • Review its policy on fracking and its impact on the rights of women and girls and consider introducing a comprehensive and complete ban on fracking; • Ensure the equal participation of rural women and girls in policy making processes on disaster mitigation and climate change, in line with its general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.”* Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Adopted by the CEDAW Committee at its seventy-second session (18 February–8 March 2019)

When the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were agreed and the 2030 Agenda was launched in 2015, governments committed to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - known as HLPF. Normally held at UN Headquarters in New York, each year sees around 40 governments present Voluntary National Reviews, or VNRs. This is an important process as it allows governments to update the UN on progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Crucially, and reflecting the commitment to the participation of Civil Society in the 2030 Agenda, the VNR process also includes input from non-governmental organisations. This parallel mechanism means that organisations like ACWW can bring the voices of their members to the discussion and hold governments to account in front of all UN Member States

In 2019, ACWW worked with its members in Lesotho, Cameroon, and New Zealand to ensure that their concerns were raised. This information gathering meant that in two cases, Lesotho and New Zealand, ACWW actually presented questions and a statement on behalf of our members during the Voluntary National Review. The videos of these presentations can be found on our website www.acww.org.uk/resources_statements.html

Each year, the United Nations convenes the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its Headquarters in New York. This is a two week gathering of governments, UN bodies, and civil society organisations and NGOs like ACWW - gather together to discuss women’s rights and agree new standards for action. At CSW in 2019 ACWW, along with hundreds of other women’s organisations around the world, told the Commission and its 193 member states that the social protection systems in place for women are woefully lacking. While the Covid-19 pandemic is a global disaster, a strong civil society that advocates for the most vulnerable members of communities can help to mitigate the impact of these disasters by holding governments to account and seeking a better future. As ever, ACWW is committed to amplifying the voices of Rural Women to achieve this goal.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was launched by the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991. The dates for the campaign were chosen for the specific UN Observances that already fell in that time period – namely, 25 November, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, 29 November, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, 1 December, World AIDS Day, and 10 December, International Human Rights Day. The vision of the campaign is to link violence against women with human rights and emphasize that violence against women is a specific violation of human rights. Despite 27 years of campaigning, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) still persists. While significant change has been accomplished on some harmful traditional practices like Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage, reports of domestic violence and violence against women in conflict have increased. Globally, about 35% of women have experienced intimate partner violence, and this increases with conflict and war. During ACWW’s Orange the World campaign in 2019 more than 63,550 people saw ACWW’s materials online and more than 850 people actively shared these materials on their Facebook pages. This is a fantastic reach for these resources, and we look forward to increasing this engagement in 2020.

ACWW knows that rural women face worse food insecurity than their male or urban counterparts; restricted access to financial resources; less access to education and productive technology; highest global rates of poverty; high rates of domestic violence; and lack of control over productive land. ACWW has pledged to support the UN Decade of Family Farming, joining the global campaign to ensure that rural women are empowered to improve global food systems, making sure you always have good, nutritious food on your plate, and global hunger is eradicated.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Advocacy (continued)

Towards the end of the year and putting into play the strapline of ACWW: Rural Women in Action, a pack of resources was produced for members including '100 ways you can make a difference'. These were produced in an attractive physical form of booklets, posters and stickers and are also available as a download from ACWW's website.

In 2019 the following Statements were issued: International Day of Families (May), World Environment Day (June), International Day of Peace (September), World Rabies Day (September), International Day of the Girl Child (October), Joint Statement to Commission on the Status of Women (October), International Day of Rural Women (October), World Food Day Statement (October), International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October).

In line with ACWW policy objectives, partnerships were established beyond Consultative Status: UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee; UK CSW Alliance; UK Civil Society Women's Alliance; Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CCNGO); Global Alliance for Rabies Control; UNESCO Steering Committee on the Forum on Global Citizenship; Informal actions with Soroptimist International, Zonta International, and other NGOs; Women's Major Group at the United Nations; NGO Major Group at the United Nations.

ACWW Data Collection and Surveys: Reporting on Global Survey of the Living Conditions of Rural Women; HLPF Membership Consultation – Cameroon; HLPF Membership Consultation - New Zealand; HLPF Membership Consultation – Lesotho. ACWW also responded to external Surveys including the UN Beijing+25 Civil Society Survey.

Verbal or Written Interventions: UN Civil Society Conference; UNESCO G7 Special Session on Educating Girls; Commission on the Status of Women; High-Level Political Forum; UK Parliamentary Meetings; UNESCO Forum on Tackling Inequalities. Formal Speaking Roles: Main Speaker - HLPF Side Event on Education; Verbal Evidence at 72nd Session of CEDAW; Chaired Thematic Session at UNESCO Forum on Tackling Inequalities; Presented NGO Major Group Response to Government of Lesotho at HLPF; Presented Education Major Group Response to Government of New Zealand at HLPF.

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

Members receive *The Countrywoman* magazine four times per year. During the course of 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.

Edited by the Policy & Communications Manager, directed by the Communications and Marketing Committee the journal and the website provide a wealth of shared information on relevant issues keeping members and the public in touch with the organisation, its policies and activities. Information sheets, flyers, posters and brochures were also produced on topical subjects to assist members in their local campaigning. UN Observance Days featured significantly on the website and, increasingly, in social media linking with our policies and the Sustainable Development Goals. For the third year, ACWW participated in the Orange the World campaign to raise awareness of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the campaign to end Gender-Based Violence.

Published statements and new advocacy and campaigning resources were published on social media and on our website, to inform and support members in their local campaigns. These resources were also sent to members directly by email. Following the 29th Triennial World Conference in May, the World President issued a monthly newsletter to all members.

The highlight of the year was the 29th Triennial World Conference held in May. This was a marvelous gathering of 560 delegates over six days in Melbourne. In addition to the resolutions passed, talks were heard, friendships were formed and it was a great opportunity to learn from each other and share knowledge. The Triennial Report of Work included reports from all members of the Board and Committees and from over 80 member societies.

Following the successful Conference resolution raising awareness of dog-mediated Rabies and viewing this as a rural women's issue because 80% of human deaths from dog-mediated rabies occur in rural areas (www.who.int/rabies/about/en/), ACWW partnered with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control to help our members learn more about rabies and how to mitigate its spread in rural communities. Free online training for our members educates and equips them to make real, measurable progress in their communities.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

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

We continue to be aware of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and it has been a learning curve for the Board to use secure iPads for all their ACWW business. Our gratitude to pro bono support from expert consultant Sophie Chase-Borthwick continues. Central Office practices have been reviewed and modified to ensure compliance.

Most members of the Board, and some of the staff, carried out extension work by visiting member meetings and speaking to audiences about the work of ACWW. Most of the Area Presidents have travelled throughout their regions meeting with member societies and making contact with potential members. The World President was also invited to annual general meetings and special celebrations by member societies all over the world. These engagements she undertook willingly and, wherever possible combined it with project monitoring or scheduled them consecutively, to maximise the use of time and minimise the costs of travel.

Volunteers

The ACWW Board and Committee members are volunteers who contribute considerable time, personal money 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.

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Local Activities

ACWW has for many years funded grassroots projects, led by local women's organisations. The award of grants to project applications was considered by the Projects Committee in October; because of the timing of the Triennial World Conference, there were no Committee meetings in March. The Women Empowered Fund received donations that enabled 19 projects to be funded and an amount set aside for future evaluation visits. Of these, eight were from Member Societies and eleven from non-member societies, with a total beneficiary reach of 10,320. The average size of the grant was £4,044. A balance of around 25% remained in each WE Fund pot or focus area ready for the next round of funding. Only the direct costs of projects' administrative staff were attributed to this restricted fund.

ACWW provides funding for small-scale community projects, primarily in developing countries, and prioritises grants that relate to the SDGs. The Projects Committee has defined the grant making policy which has Board approval and oversight. In line with the overall aims and objectives, small grants are awarded to community-based projects with identified outcomes of alleviating hunger, poverty, sickness or the advancement of education. These are linked to SDG indicators and are reflected in the six WE Fund priority focus areas. Whilst many of these projects are initiated by Member Societies, applications from non-members are also welcomed. The benefit is generally far wider than the direct project participants and will often include family members and even whole communities.

There were two members of staff, working a combined 7 days per week, whose sole endeavour was to administer the project application process, deal with applicants, grantees and donors on behalf of the Committee. Initial evaluation is carried out by these Central Office staff, who prepare a 'longlist' of eligible projects from the applications received. This list is then considered by the Projects Committee Chairman who shortlists the applications to be considered by the Projects Committee at one of their biannual meetings. The recommendations from the Committee are then considered by the Board or Executive, whichever meets first. Projects supported primarily benefit women and children. These women tend to be strong activists in their own communities but would not normally have access to external funds. ACWW believes that all women deserve a chance. Grassroots organisations tend to have expert knowledge of their own communities and realities and, are supported where possible so that their communities can benefit from this knowledge. ACWW recognises its project partners as experts and teachers, rather than beneficiaries. ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations. ACWW does not have staff or representatives in situ.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit (continued)

ACWW seeks to empower women and communities through: Local Activities

The Women Empowered (WE) Fund priority focus areas fall within criteria set by the ACWW policy and constitution: Education and Capacity Building; Nutrition, Good Health, and Wellbeing; Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development; Income Generation and Livelihood; Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Energy; and Maternal and Reproductive Health. Donors may choose to support one or more of these areas and through these donations, they also declare their interest in a specific area of ACWW's development work. Materials with indicative projects for each "pot" were provided to supporters via email and were shared on ACWW's social media channels and website. Donors are given project profiles, progress and final reports for their interest in response to priority focus areas supported. Case studies and project reports are published in The Countrywoman and in the annual Projects Newsletter, showing that lives of women are being improved.

In 2019, some £115,700 was donated to the 6 Pots of the Women Empowered Fund, with a further £84,000 donated to the general projects fund. When ACWW receives a donation earmarked for Projects or one of the 6 WE Fund Pots, that donation is internally restricted only for projects and their direct associated costs like monitoring and the salaries of staff working on projects.

When an organisation applies for funding from ACWW, we apply rigorous 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.

Projects Funded in 2019

Project Title	Name of Organisation	Project No.	Country	ACWW Area
---------------	----------------------	-------------	---------	-----------

WE Fund Income Generation and Livelihood

Income Generation through Training and Cooperation	Tanzania Women Social Economic Development and Human Rights Organization (TWSEDHRO)	1064	Tanzania	East, West & Central Africa Area
Economic Opportunities for Women Living with HIV/AIDS	Youth for Positive Change (YOPOC)	1061	Malawi	Southern Africa Area
Beekeeping for Economic Empowerment	Universal Farmers Association INC (UFA)	1060	Liberia	East, West & Central Africa Area
Skill Development for Young Mukkuvar Women	Organisation for Community Development (OCD)	1053	India	Central & South Asia Area
Skills Training towards a Brighter Future for Widows	Nari Unnayan Sangstha (NUS)	1050	Bangladesh	Central & South Asia Area

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Projects Funded in 2019 (continued)

Project Title	Name of Organisation	Project No.	Country	ACWW Area
---------------	----------------------	-------------	---------	-----------

WE Fund Maternal and Reproductive Health

Installing Solar Lighting Facilities to Improve Maternal and Infant Healthcare	Kiwanyi Health Centre NGO (KHC)	1066	Uganda	East, West & Central Africa Area
Introducing an Alternative Rite of Passage to Combat Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania	Empowerment of Marginalised Communities (EMAC)	1062	Tanzania	East, West & Central Africa Area

WE Fund Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

Mushroom Farming and Agribusiness Development	Kisumu Disabled Self-help Group (KIDSEG)	1068	Kenya	East, West & Central Africa Area
Conservation Agriculture for Tribal Women	Grameena Mahila Samstha (GMS)	1058	India	Central & South Asia Area
Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming; Supporting Vegetable Gardens in Zimbabwe	Ntengwe for Community Development (NCD)	1057	Zimbabwe	Southern Africa Area

WE Fund Education and Capacity Building

Empowering Women with Business Training and Skill Building	Tanzania People Development Organization (TADEPO)	1063	Tanzania	East, West & Central Africa Area
Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion	Sain Tus Center NGO (STC)	1055	Mongolia	Europe
<i>Literacy for Rural Women in Togo</i>	SADA [Synergie d'Actions pour un Développement Approprié]	1056	Togo	East, West & Central Africa Area

**THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

Projects Funded in 2019 (continued)

Project Title	Name of Organisation	Project No.	Country	ACWW Area
---------------	----------------------	-------------	---------	-----------

WE Fund Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing

Improved Nutrition for Women Living with HIV/AIDS	Action for Disadvantaged People (ACDIPE)	1065	Uganda	East, West & Central Africa Area
Mental Health Awareness in Rural India	Community Action for Rural Development (CARD)	1052	India	Central & South Asia Area
Agricultural Training for Improved Food Security and Nutrition	Shape Lives International (SLI)	1051	Ghana	East, West & Central Africa Area

WE Fund Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy

Improving Access to Safe Water for Rural Women in Kisiwa	UWG Ufanisi Women Group	1059	Kenya	East, West & Central Africa Area
<i>Drought Mitigation through Alternative Water Management</i>	Voluntary Efforts for Community Health (VECH)	1067	Uganda	East, West & Central Africa Area
Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion	Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)	1054	India	Central & South Asia Area

Achievements and Performance

In 2019 there were a total of 19 Projects in ten countries approved for funding, one of which was not able to start within the year. Of the 19 awards, eleven grants were given to non-member societies. The average grant awarded was just over £4,000. During the course of the year, 17 final reports were received for projects funded in 2018 and 2019, indicating 10,320 beneficiaries.

Case Studies of Projects making progress or final reports in 2019

Income Generation & Livelihood

These projects resulted in 150 women can now generate their own income and they benefit 600 people across 2 countries.

Project 1039 Rice and Maize for a Better Tomorrow Lifeline Counselling Centre & Gender Empowerment, Tanzania. Project participant Chausiku is 24 and lives with her husband and four children in Negezi, Shinyanga. Her family struggled with day-to-day expenses and even more so when unexpected financial challenges arose. She joined the 'Rice and Maize for a Better Tomorrow' project to improve her family's prospects. She gained business and entrepreneurship skills by participating in several workshops, and currently works at the maize flour shop established as part of Project 1039. Having a stable job, she is in a better position to provide for her children's needs. As an unexpected benefit, she says that her relationship with her husband improved due to the shared responsibility of household expenses. *"I give thanks to ACWW for enabling me to stand on my own feet. Now I need not depend on others for my personal needs. Before joining the project, I was very poor and unable to send my son to school, or afford the school supplies that other children had. When other children were being picked up by the bus, he would cry as he watched all his friends leave for the day. Since I joined the project, I am able to send my son to school where he is studying with enthusiasm, and I can also provide for my whole family."*

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Case Studies of Projects making progress or final reports in 2019 (continued)

Project 1036 Revolving Loans for Local Businesses Led by Women ASHA, India.

Because of Project 1036, women are no longer pressured into taking out loans with high interest or sending their children to work. In Tanzania, your donations have empowered women to generate income from rice and maize milling, and family health has improved because women can afford nutritious food. The labour burden has been lifted for many women with improved access to funds and machines that aid efficiency. Children in both communities benefit from the empowerment of their mothers, who can now afford school supplies and uniforms.

Sustainable Agriculture, Training & Development

From these projects 130 women were trained in sustainable agricultural practices.

Project 1037 Cultivation of Indigenous Rice among Women Farmers Success Trust, India and **Project 1046 Organic Cultivation of Indigenous Millets**, Grama Valar Nirai Trust, India. Shenbagavalli and her husband live in a village with 2 children, one boy and one girl. They are small-scale farmers who have one acre of land to cultivate, and this is their main source of income. Shenbagavalli received training, farm experience, and follow up training with this ACWW project implemented by Success Trust in five villages. She cultivated Mappilai Samba (one of the many indigenous rice varieties in India) using the seeds and skills gained during her training. She excelled in soil and water conservation methods, land preparation, levelling, transplantation, and using cattle waste compost and vermicompost. She had a good harvest of paddy (rice before husking) cultivated using the training, supplies, and support offered during the project. Shenbagavalli is now a model farmer in her village and has plans to sustain and strengthen indigenous rice cultivation there in the coming years. She also motivates other women farmers to take up indigenous rice cultivation. She thanks ACWW and Success Trust for their support and partnership in facilitating her new skills and livelihood.

Project 1047 Walking on Eggshells ELWOFOD, Kenya. Mama Linda is one of the ex-offenders trained by ELWOFOD. She was released after serving a 1-year sentence for brewing illegal liquor, but the community looked down on her. *"I felt a lot of stigma, like I was walking on eggshells because everyone looked at me suspiciously once they knew I was once an offender."* She committed to changing and proving them wrong. Her victory came when she was able to provide food from her garden for the community that made her feel ashamed. Mama Linda made enough money from selling at the market to send her daughter back to school, who had to drop out when her mother was sent to prison. She says, *"Today, I feel free, I feel like a real woman, a woman with economic rights and the power to influence. I can now re-write my history positively. Many women flock to my kitchen garden ready to buy vegetables."* She says that some of the women are even asking for training to start their own kitchen gardens. *"I feel I am the woman other women want to emulate."* *"Thanks to ELWOFOD and ACWW, for now I am the woman I have always longed to be."*

Nutrition, Good Health & Wellbeing

Project 1038 Growing Better Sweet Potato for Improved Nutrition Security Grassroot Rural Opportunities for Women, Ghana. The aim of project 1038 was to address nutritional deficiencies in the local community through education, and facilitating the production and consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato. The project also aimed to increase food sovereignty in the local community. The project families reported that the yield of the orange-fleshed sweet potato was double that of the ordinary sweet potato. They had excess produce to sell after consumption and their income increased. The orange-fleshed sweet potato has given the local community ownership over their food production and a sense of independence. In particular, the issue of Vitamin A deficiency in women and children has received considerable attention locally. A community health nurse states: *"The adoption of orange-fleshed sweet potato has produced evidence that a food-based approach towards Vitamin A deficiency is a more sustainable and cost-effective solution. The relevant government bodies should mount a campaign to increase the acceptability of the orange-fleshed sweet potato in Ghanaian dishes by educating the public about its nutritional advantages"* • Awareness-raising on the nutritional benefits of sweet potato • Increased demand for sweet potato in the community • Improved income • Improved crop yields • Improved child health by addressing Vitamin A deficiency.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Case Studies of Projects making progress or final reports in 2019 (continued)

Sustainable Water, Sanitation & Energy

Project 1041 Improved Water Security for the Girl Child Foundation for Ugandan Women Development, Uganda
Project 1044 improved Access to Water in Villupuram District Society for Women's Economic Thrust, India

Project 1049 Sanitary Facilities for Improved Menstrual Hygiene Community Concerns Uganda

These projects, while relatively simple in their execution, are complex and far-reaching in their impact. The act of providing water in 4 schools in Uganda and 4 villages in India has prepared the way for women to be able fill their time with things other than fetching water, and for girls to have access to safe sanitary facilities so that they stay in school. Access to water means that women and girls don't have to worry about this basic element of survival, and can focus on education, employment, and participation in community life. These three projects all report that they have completed their activities according to plan. Before, water in all 3 of the project locations had to be collected from a distance, a burden which fell disproportionately on women and girls. Water sources were often open and stagnant, and the risk of illness caused by contamination was high, especially for children and older people. The reports from water projects are formulaic: plan to dig a well or build a rainwater harvesting tank + build it = people have water. However, the outcome of access to clean water and sanitation facilities is freedom for women and girls to pursue any path they want. The immediate impacts are 2,418 women now have access to clean water; 4 schools have reduced absenteeism; and 3,126 children now have access to clean water.

Education and Capacity Building

Project 1045 Education for Life Mubalu Women of Hope Federation, Papua New Guinea

Participant Joyce had been living as a village widow for seven years with her four children, when she joined Mubalu Women of Hope Federation. A keen gardener, Joyce worked tirelessly to provide for her family, but playing the roles of both provider and carer was taking its toll, and Joyce longed to get an education of her own. So, one day, having asked her own mother to babysit her infant child, Joyce went to school with her older daughter. It was a new beginning and Joyce began to see hope for the future of her family. Initially, Mubalu Women of Hope Federation helped Joyce and her older children with stationary and supplies for school. Joyce and her daughter graduated from Secondary School, but Joyce was devastated when she could not carry on to further education. However, Joyce's dream was fulfilled with the funding of ACWW Project 1045 'Education For Life'. She trained to be an Adult Primary School teacher with twenty others who come from the same background as her. She is now an Adult Literacy teacher. When Mubalu Women of Hope and ACWW partnered to provide her with further opportunities, Joyce began teaching 15 members of her own community basic literacy and numeracy. Project 1045 has reached 100 women with skills training like this from empowered women in their own communities.

Project 1042 Sexual and Reproductive Health Education PACHE Trust, India

A beneficiary writes: "My name is Latha. I am living in a village called Kadupatti. I am studying at secondary school and we live in a remote village with limited infrastructure. My parents are agricultural labourers. When I reached puberty, I began to notice changes in my body but there was no guidance from my parents or my friends. I spent those years confused, searching for information. Even my elders and relatives refused to talk about sex and sexuality. In schools, we don't have sex education classes. Discussing sex is a taboo in our culture and traditions. I learned by observing my mother and our family women using cloths during menstrual periods. I learned that we were to wash the cloths and hide them secretly after our periods. In other homes, the parents keep their daughters away from their homes during the menstrual period times. This is the common reality in our village. PACHE Trust invited me to a meeting about sexual and reproductive health. Initially, I hesitated attending the meeting because of cultural taboo and stigmatization. After repeated invitations, I went to a meeting. It was an eye opener for me. The doctor explained human anatomy and the biological changes in our body during puberty, childbirth and menopause etc., and also they told us about sexually transmitted infections and treatments. The slides clearly show the human anatomy accurately. Questions and doubts were raised by the participants, but the programme leader gave answers that were reassuring and helped us to better understand our own bodies. Now, I know how to prevent unwanted pregnancy and how to maintain menstrual hygiene. This is a great opportunity not only for me but all the adolescent girls who participated in the meeting. I am planning to share this information with my other friends and ask them to attend the trainings."

In all 330 women and girls were taught about sexual and reproductive health and rights, 140 young men taught about women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Financial Review

The major sources of incoming funds for the year were voluntary income and investment income. There was also a substantial amount of Conference related income and expenditure spread over 2018 and 2019, accounted for in these accounts as the Triennial World Conference (TWC) year. Putting the TWC to one side, voluntary contributions made up 86% of total incoming resources, a similar proportion to the previous year. Just over 15% of voluntary income arose from membership fees compared to 10% in 2018; and 5% from legacies (27% in 2018). Donations in total accounted for 79% (63% in 2018).

Membership fees from societies and individuals amounted to £69,425, an increase over 2018; and donations from all sources totalled £357,569 (£312,435 in 2018); of which donations from Women's Institute members in England and Wales amounted to £121,967 (£102,548 in 2018) of the total restricted to Projects. Legacy income of £23,805 was received compared with £135,050 the previous year. Investment income at £69,942 was about 8% lower than in 2018.

Registrations for the 29th Triennial World Conference held in April 2019 were received between the end of April 2018 and the middle of 2019. In line with normal practice these are recorded in 2019 as the year of the Triennial World Conference. Total incoming resources (excluding Conference) amounted to £455,279 of which £257,352 was unrestricted and £197,927 was restricted to Projects. In the same period, total resources expended (excluding Conference) were £500,328 (£593,735 in 2018), of which £269,728 was expended on Projects.

Expenditure was incurred supporting the charitable activities of the organisation. Governance costs were similar to last year at £35,608 (£34,374 in 2018) which reflects professional fees paid for outsourcing aspects of the former finance manager's work. A Finance Manager was recruited in September 2019 and these costs are expected to be considerably lower in 2020. A gain on investment assets of £249,729 compared favourably with the loss of £120,185 recorded in 2018. This resulted in a net movement of funds indicating a gain of £160,686 at the year end, compared with the loss of £141,563 in 2018.

The direct funding of projects in developing countries and their monitoring necessarily incurs support costs. Two administrators, (one full-time and one part-time equalling 7-day equivalent) have their work solely directed towards all aspects of projects administration. Unrestricted funds cover the costs of maintenance of an information network and production of the quarterly magazine, sustaining the international membership organisation with Board and Committee activities and extension work, representation at the United Nations and related advocacy activities to ensure our consultative status is secure and advocacy effective. Thus, expenditure is apportioned towards charitable activities which are projects, education, outreach, information and research, United Nations representation and Conference preparation.

Risk Management

The Trustees reviewed the risks faced by the Charity and confirm that systems are in place to manage those risks and accompanying procedures are strengthened as appropriate. As a substantial part of the Charity's income derives from membership fees, strategies to increase membership numbers and retention continue to be addressed. The major source of unrestricted funds is donations to Pennies for Friendship and plans for increasing this fund were also considered and developed. Investments and investment policy are regularly reviewed with investment managers to avoid unnecessary losses. The Board maintain sufficient financial reserves for project commitments and 36 months operational commitments in line with current reserves policy. With the aim of making project funding more sustainable, the Women Empowered Fund (WE Fund) was introduced in April 2018. Wilkins Kennedy (now known as Azets in 2020) continued to oversee the financial record keeping of the organisation, although this is being managed in-house again in 2020.

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 and this, plus evaluation visits help form the basis for effective monitoring and evaluation. We aim to have most ACWW funded Projects visited during their life cycle for evaluation purposes. Approximately 20% on top of each project grant is allocated to the Projects Monitoring Fund to help cover monitoring costs incurred by ACWW; the visits are usually carried out by Area Presidents and local Resource Persons. Policies and procedures governing resource persons, are being overhauled to ensure they are robust and up to date.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Reserves policy

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

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

- That is, advocacy on behalf of rural women including with United Nations agencies, information and research including production of The Countrywoman magazine for all members, education, outreach and projects, Board and governance expenditure, maintaining a Central Office to facilitate all of the above - this requires in the region of £550,000 per year.
- Projects are paid for from restricted funds received to the Women Empowered Fund and expenditure commitments are generally made in the spring and the autumn each year. Once approved, 75% of the project total is sent to the project with the final 25% following subject to satisfactory progress reports. An additional 20% is set aside for evaluation costs.
- Membership fee income currently yields around £45,000 per year and is relatively stable although there is a slight downward trend. This should cover the costs of producing and printing the magazine. Donations generate the majority of income and are subject to continuing support for ACWW and its charitable activities. Income from investments has been maintained in recent years but is subject to the volatility of the investment market. Legacies are an important source of income but cannot be budgeted for.

To provide a level of funding for unexpected opportunities

- Recent opportunities have included the International Forum of Rural Women and continuing surveys of living conditions.
- Developing capacity building for member societies through financial literacy training at Area Conferences and longer term working with partner agencies to have training delivered in the field and recognised by UNESCO.
- The strategic plan reviewed each triennium identifies measures to strengthen the organisation and its impact.

To provide cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income

- Recent years have seen the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations which have necessitated investment in computer equipment for all Board members, training and changes to working procedures in order to keep members' data secure and ACWW compliant.
- If closure seemed a likely outcome, there are currently 7 members of staff, four of whom have been employed by ACWW for over two years and would have full redundancy rights.

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.

Plans for the Future

The beginning of the year was dominated by arrangements for the 29th Triennial World Conference being held at the beginning of May 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. The first Board meeting of the 2019-2022 Triennium addressed the presentation of ACWW's vision and confirmed the statement: '*An improved quality of life for women and communities worldwide*' with a mission to '*empower women and communities worldwide through ACWW's membership and networks of rural and non-rural women by partnership, advocacy, sharing of knowledge and local activities.*' **The strapline 'Rural Women in Action' and the slogan 'Our Diversity is our Strength' were also adopted at the incoming Board meeting in May 2019.** 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 by the Specified Committee meetings in June and October and agreed, subject to further review, at the Board meeting in October 2019.

Future project funding priorities were reviewed and remain as in the previous year: prioritising project funding proposals from small, women led organisations whose projects focus on basic literacy, skills-training, income-generating businesses, organic smallholder agriculture, improved health, nutrition and access to water and sanitation. These have been grouped within the WE Fund six priority focus areas and linked to SDG indicators, which also informs our reporting to agencies of the United Nations.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Plans for the Future (continued)

A major strength of the organisation is its global reach and diversity. This allows for member societies to become involved with campaigns at a local or Area level that have the most relevance to their circumstances or interest. Key campaigns that member societies were encouraged to engage in were linked to Conference Resolutions and the nature of the work around them which may be locally focused, including those passed by the 28th and 29th Triennial World Conferences. Supporting information and publicity resources continued to be developed, added to the website for download and promoted via social media, particularly Facebook.

For Resolutions passed in 2019, please see above.

Plans include:

- To develop a campaign to recruit new members and increase donations for unrestricted and restricted funds.
- To encourage take up of Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers.
- To encourage legacy giving.
- To keep relevant UN Observances and issue key statements, utilising using social media
- To promote rural women's interests at CSW, UNESCO and FAO and activities around 'Leave No-one Behind for Planet 50/50 by 2030' and engage the membership further through the advocacy plan.
- To contribute to the development and monitoring provision of the Sustainable Development Goals
- To review the International Forum on Rural Women and the Global Survey on the living conditions of rural women.
- To continue to develop and make available information and action packs for members in line with Conference resolutions
- To work towards a successful Triennial World Conference in April 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Covid-19

Although this is the Trustees Annual Report from 2019, it was written in 2020 with the experience of the global pandemic of Covid-19 which impacted the UK in March 2020. The impact on ACWW's membership has been addressed via three surveys, the results of which have been shared with the UNESCO. The so-called 'lockdown' has increased rural isolation and made access to food and banking facilities even more of an issue for our members globally, particularly so as public transport has been curtailed. Additionally, the forced cancellation of meetings for member societies and support groups has resulted in a fall in membership income and donations. The Board has taken steps to draw down some of the reserves in order to meet commitments for the year.

Auditors

On 7 September 2020 Group Audit Services Limited trading as Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services changed its name to Azets Audit Services Limited. The name they practice under is Azets Audit Services and accordingly they have signed their report in their new name.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Trustees' responsibilities statement

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

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

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

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

This report was approved by the trustees on 28 January 2021.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Mrs Magdie de Kock
President

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Associated Country Women of the World (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of the charity's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

Use of our report

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

Azets Audit Services

John Howard (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services,
Statutory Auditor
2nd Floor, Regis House
45 King William Street
London
EC4R 9AN

Date: 28 January 2021

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Connected Charities £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income:						
Donations, membership and legacies	2	242,529	197,927	10,343	450,799	495,885
Investment income		69,942	-	-	69,942	76,034
Charitable activities	3	296,052	-	-	296,052	438
Total income		608,523	197,927	10,343	816,793	572,357
Expenditure:						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs		8,514	-	-	8,514	8,985
Charitable activities:						
Project activities		99,443	170,285	-	269,728	204,665
Education		41,685	-	2,732	44,417	46,780
Outreach		44,417	-	-	44,417	46,780
Information and research		88,835	-	-	88,835	93,559
United Nations representation		44,417	-	-	44,417	46,780
Conference preparation		402,374	3,135	-	405,509	146,186
Total expenditure	4	729,685	173,420	2,732	905,837	593,735
Net (expenditure)/income		(121,162)	24,507	7,611	(89,044)	(21,378)
Transfers between funds		94,391	(94,391)	-	-	-
Net income/ (expenditure) before other gains		(26,771)	(69,884)	7,611	(89,044)	(21,378)
(Loss) /Gains on investment assets		249,730	-	-	249,730	(120,185)
Net movement in funds		222,959	(69,884)	7,611	160,686	(141,563)
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2019		2,305,995	276,415	193,664	2,776,074	2,917,637
Balances transferred in from previous connected charities		-	201,275	(201,275)	-	-
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2019	13	2,528,954	407,806	-	2,936,760	2,776,074

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 25 to 36 form part of the financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	23,410	29,950
Investments	6	2,683,603	2,262,388
		<u>2,707,013</u>	<u>2,292,338</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	7	56,119	174,352
Cash at bank and in hand		254,774	663,304
		<u>310,893</u>	<u>837,656</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(71,452)	(338,133)
Net current assets		239,441	499,523
Total assets less current liabilities		2,946,454	2,791,861
Creditors: Amounts falling due within more than one year	9	(9,694)	(15,787)
Net assets		<u><u>£2,936,760</u></u>	<u><u>£2,776,074</u></u>
Funds			
ACWW			
Restricted funds	10	407,806	276,415
Designated funds	11	288,153	299,010
Unrestricted funds		2,240,801	2,006,985
		<u>2,936,760</u>	<u>2,582,410</u>
See note 11 for difference in Unrestricted funds			
Connected charities			
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	12.1	-	78,442
Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund	12.2	-	32,034
Nutrition Education Trust Fund	12.3	-	83,188
		<u>-</u>	<u>193,664</u>
Total funds		<u><u>£2,936,760</u></u>	<u><u>£2,776,074</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and signed on behalf of the Board by:

Alison Burnett *Magdie de Kock*

Mrs Alison Burnett
Treasurer

Mrs Magdie de Kock
President

Date: 28 January 2021

The notes on pages 25 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Net cash used in operating activities	16	<u>(303,888)</u>	<u>66,436</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends and interest from investments		69,942	76,034
Purchase of fixed assets		(3,098)	(12,745)
Purchase of investments		(288,172)	(132,092)
Proceeds from sale of investments		116,686	141,076
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>(104,642)</u>	<u>72,273</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(408,530)	138,709
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>663,304</u>	<u>524,595</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>£254,774</u>	<u>£663,304</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 36 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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 comparatives in the financial statements include the results of three connected charities which have been dissolved during the financial year 31 December 2019. The connected charities are the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Trust (Removed from the Charity Commission register on 21 November 2019), Elsie Zimmern Memorial Trust (Removed 20 November 2019) and Nutrition Education Trust Fund (Removed 21 November 2019). Since the connected charities have been removed from the Charity Commission register, the funds have been transferred to restricted funds and it is not necessary to prepare consolidated accounts.

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

1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

1.3 Income

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

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

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

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

1.4 Expenditure

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

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Expenditure (continued)

Costs of raising funds consist of investment management fees for the period. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

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

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

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

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

Furniture and equipment - 5 years straight line

1.6 Investments

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

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

1.7 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

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

1.8 Foreign currencies

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

1.9 Funds accounting

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

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

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

1.10 Operating leases

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP AND LEGACIES	2019 £	2018 £
Membership subscriptions	69,425	48,400
Donations	357,569	312,435
Legacies	23,805	135,050
	£450,799	£495,885

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2019 £	2018 £
Conference income	291,572	-
Other income	4,480	438
	£296,052	£438

Triennial World Conferences are held every three years. As historically the major associated income and expenditure takes place in the year of the conference, this is generally recorded in that year. The 29th Triennial Conference took place in April 2019.

4. EXPENDITURE	Staff and Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Cost of raising funds:				
Investment management costs	8,514	-	8,514	8,985
Charitable activities:				
Project activities	170,285	99,443	269,728	204,665
Education	21,688	22,729	44,417	46,780
Outreach	21,688	22,729	44,417	46,780
Information and research	43,375	45,460	88,835	93,559
United Nations representation	21,688	22,729	44,417	46,780
Conference preparation	334,479	71,030	405,509	146,186
	£621,717	£284,120	£905,837	£593,735

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

Conference Preparation: Actual Conference income and expenditure are reported in the 2019 accounts.

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. The Board decided in 2019 that restricted funds should 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.

Education: Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates.

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

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. EXPENDITURE (continued)

Information and research: Includes the costs of producing The Countrywoman magazine, the annual report, production of information, publicity leaflets, designing and maintaining the website, time and postage distributing publicity materials, responding to enquiries, administering committees. The unit print costs of The Magazine and other materials have reduced substantially over recent years thanks to negotiating and sourcing by the Policy and Communications Manager. 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 a new UN and Advocacy budget was approved to increase the impact of such work.

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	2019 £	2018 £
Auditors' remuneration - for audit	8,000	9,950
- for other services	22,382	18,164
Legal and professional	4,816	5,850
Trustee indemnity insurance	410	410
	<u>£35,608</u>	<u>£34,374</u>

Since part-way through 2018 payroll and pension services have been outsourced to Azets (previously known as Wilkins Kennedy). Azets were also contracted to scrutinise the bookkeeping and ensure accounting procedures were robust; producing management accounts. It is intended that these functions are taken back in-house by the charity in 2020 due to the appointment of a Finance Manager.

4.2 Staff Costs	2019 £	2018 £
Salaries and wages	205,905	181,749
Social security costs	15,928	13,899
Other pension costs	10,773	8,274
Other costs	2,881	5,016
	<u>£235,487</u>	<u>£208,939</u>

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees, who received no remuneration or other financial benefits during the year (2018: nil) and the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Manager and the Policy & Communications Manager whose emoluments totalled £113,186 (2018: £93,921).

16 trustees were reimbursed a total of £30,431 travelling and accommodation expenses (2018: £45,611).

The Charity employed 8 staff during the year at Central Office (2018: 7). There were no employees earning more than £60,000 during the year (2018: none).

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Furniture & Equipment £	
Cost		
As at 1 January 2019	52,883	
Additions	3,098	
	<hr/>	
As at 31 December 2019	55,981	
	<hr/>	
Depreciation		
As at 1 January 2019	22,933	
Charge for year	9,638	
	<hr/>	
As at 31 December 2019	32,571	
	<hr/>	
Net Book Value		
At 31 December 2019	£23,410	
	<hr/> <hr/>	
At 31 December 2018	£29,950	
	<hr/> <hr/>	
6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	2019 £	2018 £
Group and Charity		
Market Value at 1 January 2019	2,262,388	2,391,558
Additions	288,172	132,092
Disposal proceeds	(116,686)	(141,076)
Net investment gains	249,729	(120,186)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value at 31 December 2019	£2,683,603	£2,262,388
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Historic cost at 31 December 2019	£1,405,775	£1,218,025
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (continued)

Analysis of investments:

	2019 £	2018 £
Equity – UK	469,063	404,709
Equity – overseas	718,215	577,482
Fixed interest securities - UK	453,192	289,192
Alternatives	118,555	106,020
Money Market fund	45,000	
CAF Income Fund	825,643	825,643
Cash deposits	53,935	59,342
Total	£2,683,603	£2,262,388

The increase in investments of £421k includes a temporary short term funds deposit of £180k transferred in November 2019 from the bank account surplus to mitigate financial risk, and this has subsequently been drawn back in 2020 into available funds at the bank.

The following investments represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio as at 31 December 2019:

CAF Fixed Interest B Income Fund	£ 825,643
----------------------------------	----------------------

7. DEBTORS

	2019 £	2018 £
Income tax and VAT recoverable	7,547	5,673
Dividends and interest receivable	9,438	8,644
Prepayments	15,554	14,812
Prepayments related to 2019 conference	-	141,176
Accrued income	23,580	4,047
	£56,119	£174,352

Included within Prepayments is a balance of £11,992 (2018: £11,992) relating to a property deposit, recoverable in 2020.

8. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due due within one year

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade Creditors	450	3,234
Taxes and social security costs	4,355	4,610
Deferred income (note 9)	30,535	310,000
Other creditors	4,814	3,612
Accruals	31,298	16,677
	£71,452	£338,133

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due in more than one year	2019 £	2018 £
Deferred income at 1 January 2019	325,787	34,139
Income recognised in year	(310,000)	(28,558)
Income deferred in year	24,442	320,206
Deferred income at 31 December 2019	£40,229	£325,787
Made up of:		
Membership deferred income due within one year	30,535	40,793
Conference related deferred income due within one year	-	269,208
Membership deferred income due in more than one year	9,694	15,786
Total deferred income	£40,229	£325,787

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2019 £
Project Funds	273,232	197,487	(170,285)	(94,391)	206,043
Conference Sponsorship Fund	3,183	440	(3,135)	-	488
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	-	-	-	80,910	80,910
Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund	-	-	-	32,035	32,035
Nutrition Education Fund	-	-	-	88,330	88,330
	£276,415	£197,927	£(173,420)	£106,884	£407,806

RESTRICTED FUNDS – PRIOR YEAR

	Balance 1 January 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment gain & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2018 £
Project Funds	115,384	148,917	(78,168)	87,099	273,232
Conference Sponsorship Fund	3,183	-	-	-	3,183
Anonymous Donor Fund	100,000	-	-	(100,000)	-
Diamond Jubilee Fund	117,989	-	-	(117,989)	-
	£336,556	£148,917	£(78,168)	£(130,890)	£276,415

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

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

Total Income restricted to Projects activities was £197,487, of which the WI of England & Wales contributed £121,967 in the year (£102,548 in 2018).

Project funds constitute 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) represents monies donated to the WE Fund for projects. Expenditure relates to direct project expenditure in the form of grants to projects, an allocation for project monitoring and evaluation and an allocation of direct, project administration staff costs – see note 4.

11. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted	2,006,985	608,523	(728,466)	353,759	2,240,801
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	142,569	-	-	(9,638)	132,931
IFRW Fund	36,111	-	(1,219)	-	34,892
	£2,305,995	£608,523	£ (729,685)	£344,121	£2,528,954
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – PRIOR YEAR					
	Balance 1 January 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gain (loss) & Transfers £	Balance 31 December 2018 £
Unrestricted	2,086,527	391,025	(489,882)	19,315	2,006,985
Designated funds					
Margaret Pollock Fund	105,330	-	-	-	105,330
Conference Contingency Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund	150,426	1,080	(327)	(8,610)	142,569
IFRW Fund	50,000	71	(13,960)	-	36,111
	£2,407,283	£392,176	£ (504,169)	£10,705	£2,305,995

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

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

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

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

The Office Relocation and Maintenance Fund was set up in the year 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 expenditure in the year relates to the non-capital costs of the recent office move and the remaining balance will be used for future maintenance and relocation costs at the discretion of the Trustees.

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 the survey and data analysis.

12. CONNECTED CHARITIES	2019	2018
12.1 THE LADY ABERDEEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2019	78,442	73,513
Income	2,468	7,083
Expenditure	-	(2,154)
Transfer	(80,910)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>£78,442</u>
Balance at 31 December 2019	-	£78,442
Represented by:		
Cash at bank	-	39,022
Debtors – ACWW	-	39,420
	<u>-</u>	<u>£78,442</u>

The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund was removed from the Charity Commission register on 21 November 2019 and its funds transferred to the ACWW restricted fund.

12.2 THE ELSIE ZIMMERN MEMORIAL FUND	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2019	32,034	32,034
Income	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
Transfer	(32,034)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>£32,034</u>
Balance at 31 December 2019	-	£32,034
Represented by:		
Cash at bank	-	23,721
Debtors – ACWW	-	8,313
	<u>-</u>	<u>£32,034</u>

The Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund was removed from the Charity Commission register on 20 November 2019 and its funds transferred to the ACWW restricted fund.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12. CONNECTED CHARITIES (Continued)	2019	2018
12.3 ACWW NUTRITION EDUCATION FUND		
	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2019	83,188	68,251
Income	7,874	24,181
Expenditure	(2,732)	(9,244)
Transfer	(88,330)	
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>£83,188</u>
Represented by:		
Cash at bank	-	-
Debtors – ACWW	-	83,188
	<u>-</u>	<u>£83,188</u>

The ACWW Nutrition Education Fund was removed from the Charity Commission register on 20 November 2019 and its funds transferred to the ACWW restricted fund.

Project applications were received that met the criteria of the Funds. The Trustees met and awarded grants accordingly.

13. ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

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

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Connected Charities	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	23,410	-	-	23,410
Investments	2,275,797	407,806	-	2,683,603
Current assets	310,893	-	-	310,893
Current liabilities	(71,452)	-	-	(71,452)
Long term liabilities	(9,694)	-	-	(9,694)
	<u>£2,528,954</u>	<u>£407,806</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£2,936,760</u>

14. 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 £10,773 (2018 - £8,275).

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2019 £	2018 £
The charity had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:		
In less than one year	41,701	50,997
In more than one year	129	39,664
	<u>£41,830</u>	<u>£90,661</u>

16. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2019 £	2018 £
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period incl. investment gains	160,686	(141,563)
Adjustments for:		
- Interest and dividends	(69,942)	(76,034)
- Losses/(gains) on investments	(249,730)	120,185
- Depreciation	9,638	8,610
- (Increase)/decrease in debtors	118,234	(133,584)
- Increase in creditors	(272,774)	288,822
	<u>£(303,888)</u>	<u>£66,436</u>

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – PRIOR YEAR

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Connected Charities £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Income:						
Donations, membership and legacies	2	315,704	148,917	31,264	495,885	469,747
Investment income		76,034	-	-	76,034	77,938
Charitable activities	3	438	-	-	438	1,806
Total income		392,176	148,917	31,264	572,357	549,488
Expenditure:						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs		8,985	-	-	8,985	8,905
Charitable activities:						
Project activities		115,099	78,168	11,398	204,665	249,838
Education		46,780	-	-	46,780	45,409
Outreach		46,780	-	-	46,780	71,729
Information and research		93,559	-	-	93,559	113,522
United Nations representation		46,780	-	-	46,780	45,409
Conference preparation		146,186	-	-	146,186	22,801
Total expenditure	4	504,169	78,168	11,398	593,735	557,613
Net (expenditure)/income		(111,993)	70,749	19,866	(21,378)	(8,125)
Transfers between funds		123,598	(123,598)	-	-	-
Net income/ (expenditure) before other gains		11,605	(52,849)	19,866	(21,378)	(8,125)
(Loss) /Gains on investment assets		(112,893)	(7,292)	-	(120,185)	72,821
Net movement in funds		(101,288)	(60,141)	19,866	(141,563)	64,696
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2018		2,407,283	336,556	173,798	2,917,637	2,852,941
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2018	14	2,305,995	276,415	193,664	2,776,074	£2,917,637