



Slide 1 - Introduction

Much of ACWW's work focuses on rural health - that is, the health of rural communities, the health of rural women, and the health of rural children. Here, we'll look at the specific barriers to personal and family health faced by rural women, and we'll also examine how empowering and educating women improves the health of the whole community.

Slide 2

Women are usually primary caretakers in the home. This is true in urban areas, rural areas, and everywhere in between. Even in homes where both parents are working, mothers tend to take charge of health and nutrition. However, in many parts of the world, multiple and intersecting barriers stand in the way of women being able to care for themselves and their families effectively.

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The root of the problem is access to education and empowerment that enables women to take charge of family health. Aside from education and access to nutrition, rural women also face problems with infrastructure or independence that leave them unable to reach the nearest medical facility. This is especially true of specialised medical care like obstetrics and gynaecology.

Discussion point: Do you feel your medical care has suffered because of rurality or poor infrastructure?

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Different approaches are necessary to meet the challenges in different areas, but there is a fundamental need for access that must be met. According to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, everyone has a right to medical care. Having medical facilities available does not necessarily mean that they are accessible, and we must work to ensure that everyone everywhere has access to affordable, adequate healthcare.

1.

ACWW and the
UN Decade of Family Farming

Rural Health is Vital

to find out more, visit
www.acww.org.uk

2.

Rural Women as caretakers face multiple
barriers to personal and family health

- Access to nutrition education
- Access to nutritious food
- Access to water and sanitation facilities
- Access to healthcare providers
- Access to immunisations

to find out more, visit
www.acww.org.uk

3.

The Root of the Problem:

- Rural women are less likely to receive a comprehensive education than their urban or male counterparts.
- Nutrition education is especially vital for rural women, as is agricultural awareness and empowerment
- Education empowers women to contribute to their own, and their family's health, financial security, and future

to find out more, visit
www.acww.org.uk

4.

What can we do?

Local solutions are necessary for local problems. Different approaches are needed in every country.

“ The universal truth is that training, access to appropriate facilities, and sufficient financial support is the answer. ”

ACWW World President Maggie de Kock

to find out more, visit
www.acww.org.uk



Slide 5

One specific area of concern for ACWW members is canine-mediated rabies. Rabies is a zoonotic disease, meaning that it is passed from animals to humans, and it is of particular concern in rural areas where the vast majority of rabies deaths occur. Since Rabies is 100% fatal once symptoms occur, education on modes of transmission, post-exposure treatment, and risk are vital to preventing death.

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Rural women are uniquely able to address the issue of rabies in their communities, which is why ACWW, following the resolution agreed at the 29th Triennial World Conference, is taking steps to equip and empower women. Women are disproportionately affected by, and are responsible for, health concerns. They are most able to make the greatest measurable change for better health in their communities.

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ACWW has partnered with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) to empower women in rural communities to tackle this aspect of community health. GARC has been working since 2006 to address the spread of rabies and to bring about the end of this deadly, but entirely preventable, disease. Rural, Isolated, and low-income communities suffer most. Lack of funds and access shouldn't mean that these communities continue to suffer, especially when rabies can be so readily addressed.

ACWW's Contribution to the 'Zero by 2030' Initiative (working towards zero deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030) is using our network to give vital training to women in rural communities. Starting with a focus on East, West, and Central Africa, we will be focusing on a different ACWW Area each year, until the ACWW network is fully educated about the risk and prevention of rabies. Alongside this training effort, ACWW will continue to fund water and sanitation projects which, among other things, are vital for the immediate post-exposure treatment of rabies.

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Discussion:

1. Is rabies an issue, or potentially an issue, in your area?
2. If you were to be exposed to rabies, would you know how to treat it?
Follow-up: Would you have access to clean water and soap, post-exposure vaccination, and after-care?
3. Will you commit to taking the free, certified training course?

5.

Rabies: A Rural Women's Issue

- 80% of rabies deaths occur in rural areas
- Half of rabies deaths occur in children under the age of 15
- Rural women are most often responsible for family health
- Rural women can benefit from specialised training in dealing with Rabies, improving the health and awareness of whole communities

to find out more, visit www.acww.org.uk

6.

Rabies

- Rabies is Zoonotic; it can pass from animals to people
- About 55,000 deaths from rabies annually
- 100% fatal once symptoms appear
- Symptoms include fever and general discomfort, followed by aggressive behaviour, hallucinations, muscle spasms, and paralysis
- 95% of cases occur in Asia and Africa

to find out more, visit www.acww.org.uk

7.

Partnership for Better Rural Health

Together with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, ACWW is seeking to equip Rural Women with the tools to combat rabies in their communities

to find out more, visit www.acww.org.uk

8.

Learn: Is rabies an issue, or potentially an issue in your area? Is rabies education already available?

Participate: Take the online training available on the ACWW website and let us know when you have

Share: Don't keep the information to yourself! Share with others in your community

to find out more, visit www.acww.org.uk