



rural  
women  
in action

Associated Country  
Women of the World

Every day, 830  
women die from  
preventable causes  
related to pregnancy  
and childbirth around  
the world

Women and men have  
different health-care  
needs, but an equal  
right to live healthily

SDG3 demands  
that global maternal  
mortality ratio must be  
reduced to less than  
70 per 100,000 live  
births by 2030

**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



## ACWW Rural Women's Health Project Snapshot

Rural women make up over a quarter of the world's population but continue to face disproportionate barriers to quality, affordable, and accessible health care. This includes a lack of access to comprehensive health information and education, affordable health services and medication, and local healthcare services, centres, and hospitals.

The impact of poor maternal and reproductive health, particularly in rural areas with little access to health services, has a profound effect on the lives of women and girls. Without access to accurate and accessible information and education on reproductive processes, women and girls are unable to plan their families and less able to advocate for their choices.

Women have historically suffered a lower standard of medical care, and interventions have often focused predominantly on maternal and reproductive health, thus ignoring the wide range of other health issues that impact women and girls in rural areas.

ACWW is focused on increasing rural women's access to comprehensive, gender sensitive, and effective healthcare. This includes advice and services to promote nutrition, mental health support and education, sexual and reproductive health and rights including maternal health and HIV/AIDS prevention, and increasing access to healthcare and provision for women as they age.



# A Case Study from ACWW Project 1066 in Uganda

ACWW project 1066, **Installing Lighting Facilities to improve Maternal and Infant Healthcare** takes place in the Iganga District of Uganda, and is delivered with local partner Kiwanyi Health Centre.

In rural communities where health services are infrequent and funding is low, expectant mothers often have to travel long distances to health centres to receive medical care. Even after this long journey women are more likely to be seen by a community health worker than a midwife. Where health centres are available, there are not always the resources available to provide quality care for expectant mothers.

Kiwanyi health centre is the sole clinic for health care services in the Kiwanyi community, in Iganga District, Uganda. The centre had recently constructed a new maternity ward, however the new ward lacked electrical facilities to provide light for patients that need to be kept

overnight, for mothers giving birth at night, and electricity needed to power equipment. This rendered the mothers in labour and midwives on duty vulnerable to risks.

Results from an independent survey indicated that 90% of the life threatening risks occurred during night, due in part to the lack of sufficient light in the labour room, and electricity to sterilise delivery kits and run resuscitation machines.

In these difficult conditions, the midwives were forced to refer the mother to a government hospital some 40km from the health centre.

The project has installed 20 lights powered by 4 solar panel arrays which will help ensure that the schedule of patient treatment is able to continue throughout the night.

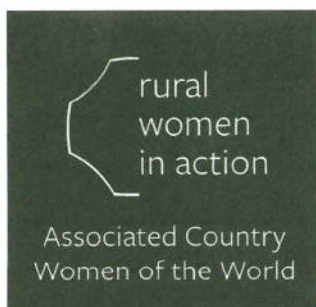
With power now available at the health centre through the solar panels, the health centre is now able to use a

fridge to store vaccines and has sufficient light inside the maternity ward for night-time procedures and deliveries. It also provides for security lighting at the perimeter.

This small but crucial addition to the health centre will have a huge and lasting impact on the community and the health and wellbeing of expectant mothers.



*Want to know more?  
Join ACWW and join  
a global Association  
taking action  
for change!*



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1 in 3 people face  
food insecurity.

In two thirds  
of the world,  
women are more  
likely than men to  
struggle to  
eat daily

We need genuine  
change in our  
systems, and focus  
on more equitable  
control over food  
systems.

2 ZERO  
HUNGER



## ACWW Agriculture Project Snapshot

Food and agriculture production systems across the world are confronting unprecedented challenges in the face of climate change. Without action, this will lead to unpredictable growing seasons, failed crops, reduced soil health, loss of biodiversity, and increased hunger and food insecurity.

Small-scale subsistence farmers in Africa, Asia, and South America are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and higher risk of draught, leading to poorer harvests and reduced income. Women make up 48% of agricultural employment across low-income countries - fulfilling vital roles in the management of natural resources and food production.

Despite their critical role in the global food system, women face disproportionate challenges compared to rural men; they are more likely to be food-insecure, lack access to land, resources and market information, and tend to have less decision-making power. ACWW is committed to promoting sustainable Climate Smart Agriculture through small-scale project funding. Climate Smart Agriculture helps farmers to respond effectively to the impacts of climate change and adapt to these challenges by choosing Indigenous seed varieties for drought resistant crops, building irrigation systems, rainfall forecasting and rainwater harvesting.



# A Case Study from ACWW Project 1109 in Ghana

ACWW project 1109, **Climate Smart Agriculture through Greenhouse Production** takes place in the Volta region of Ghana, and is delivered with local partner Hohoe Sankofa Women Co-operative Food Farmers.

Climate change has forced smallholder farmers to continually adapt planting season planning. Factors such as extreme weather, unpredictable rainfall and prolonged draught all threaten food security in rural communities and mean that farmers can no longer rely on the agricultural knowledge collected over generations.

Female farmers are disproportionately affected by these challenges. In addition to the persisting and intersecting inequalities they face, restricted access to resources and land required for adaptation and resilience mean they are less able to safeguard crops from loss and damage due to climate change and disaster.

Sankofa Women Cooperative Food Farmers and Marketing Society is providing its members with the tools and knowledge needed to put in place adaptive measures to climate change.

The 30 members were trained in the use of greenhouse technology for the sustainable productive of Indigenous African vegetables. Agricultural production in greenhouses offers a protected and controlled environment from pests, extreme weather, heavy rains and solar radiation. In a greenhouse environment, the Sankofa farmers also have more control over their cropping methods for optimum growth, and a higher yield for market, using less land.

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## Ms E's Story

A major cause of the crop failures that Ms E\* endures are due to lack of seed security and seed sovereignty.

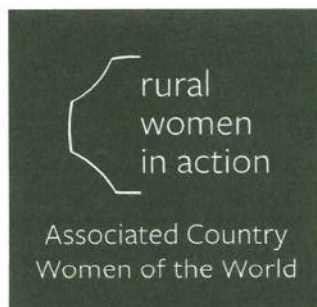
*"Seeds we buy from the agro-chemical shops have a poor germination rate. Crops from such seeds are not adapted to our climatic conditions and do not thrive well", she says.*

*"Another problem for us is our inability to save, process and store our own vegetable seeds for the next planting season."*

Having been a participant on the Climate Smart Agriculture training programme, she has been exposed to new techniques for seedlings production.

*"A good vegetable crop harvest begins with a good seed and care taken in producing healthy seedlings" she concludes.*

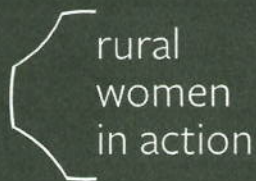
\* Participant's names have been changed to protect their privacy and safety.



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Every additional year  
of primary school  
increases girls'  
eventual wages by  
10-20%

It also encourages  
them to marry later  
and have fewer  
children, and leaves  
them less vulnerable  
to violence.

39% of rural girls  
attend secondary  
school. This is far  
fewer than rural boys  
at 45%, urban girls  
at 59% and urban  
boys at 60%

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



## ACWW Education & Community Development Project Snapshot

ACWW believes that sustainable change requires building networks of rural women and promoting women-led empowerment projects.

We have a long history of providing support to education and capacity building projects which have enabled women to come together and share skills; build entrepreneurship activities for increased income and financial independence; develop financial literacy; establish community-led savings and loan schemes; and creating life-long learning opportunities.

Rural women have faced systemic barriers to education due to traditional patriarchal cultural norms, conflict, and a lack of practical access to schooling.

UN Women have identified that globally, two-thirds of illiterate adults are women. This means that a high proportion of rural women face struggles in completing basic education, resulting in reduced income potential, poorer health, and nutrition outcomes for their families, reduced decision-making ability and community participation. By investing in Education and Community Development, ACWW seeks to change this reality for rural women.



# A Case Study from ACWW Project 1104 in Liberia

ACWW project 1104, **Empowerment through Vocational Skill Training** takes place in Nimba County, Liberia and is delivered with local partner Give Them Home.

Globally, equitable access to education faced huge challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing attention to the challenges already being faced by rural communities to access education and development opportunities.

Many lost access to schools and those in rural areas lacked the connectivity to be able to continue their education online. For those who had recently finished or were coming to the end of their education, the path before them suddenly slipped away.

In Liberia, ACWW funded a project delivered by Give Them Hope which aims to equip rural women and girls with vocational training and economic empowerment to overcome the impacts of Covid-19.

The project began in 2021 and provides 75 women and girls with vocational skills and a mindset change to boost confidence, overcome the hardship and economic challenges posed by the pandemic, the aftermath of 15 years of civil conflict and the well-known challenges of rurality.

The project will provide skills that can be translated into small local business initiatives and self-employment to create an income platform for these girls and women. Further small business training and financial management skills will also be provided.

Building confidence and capability with these young women places them in a stronger position within society, and contributes to building equality of status and rights with men in their community. The project will promote gender equality, reduce gender-based violence, and strengthen women and girls' economic growth.

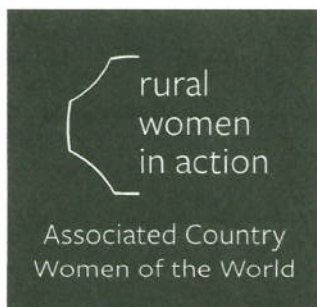
## Ms L's Story

*"In January 2022, I was selected to benefit from the training. I eagerly joined because I had no other means of income except selling small portions of rice that I grow from my farm.*

*The new skills have not only increased my income, my social and community status has risen. Yes indeed, my empowerment through the vocational skill training has greatly promoted and placed me on equal pale with men in the community. Thank you for empowering me to reach my full potential.*

*"The elderly men and key decision makers of the community gather at my house everyday to buy bread in the morning and to discuss major community issues - and they ask for my advice on key issues in our community."*

Participant's names have been changed to protect their privacy and safety.



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