

COMMUNICATION *JUSTICE FOR ALL*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





VISION

Communication for All

MISSION

The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes communication as a basic human right, essential to people’s dignity and community. Rooted in Christian faith, WACC works with all those denied the right to communicate because of status, identity, or gender. It advocates full access to information and communication and promotes open and diverse media. WACC strengthens networks of communicators to advance peace, understanding and justice.

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Front cover: An Indigenous woman from Brazil speaks up for justice during public advocacy organized by people from the Pacific islands at the UN climate summit COP28 in December 2023. As Indigenous voices are often excluded from international policy-making events, WACC advocates for and facilitates the full participation of Indigenous people in such global debates. Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth



*Philip Lee, WACC General Secretary.
Photo: Gregg Brekke Media*

SPEAKING UP FOR COMMUNICATIVE JUSTICE


WACC believes in communication that builds and shapes community, enhances participation, and promotes freedom. Communication that demands accountability, builds connectedness, affirms justice, and challenges injustice.

Speaking up is, therefore, a duty. WACC's current Strategic Plan (2022-26) cites "promoting, implementing and supporting the communication rights of all, especially the poorest, most excluded and most vulnerable people and communities." This can only be done by bringing key concerns, challenges, and opportunities to global, regional, and national platforms.

In his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963), Martin Luther King Jr. wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a

single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Since then, the world has changed for the better, but not nearly enough, making the call for fair and balanced communication vital. Accessibility – using media platforms to express views and opinions – must be matched by accountability – being morally responsible for what is said.

In 2023, in addition to regularly publishing its journal *Media Development* and its *Comment*, WACC initiated a series of Conversation Circles and online seminars – all aimed at highlighting communication issues that require attention. Together with partners in every region of the world, WACC publicly voiced its concerns. One example is the underrepresentation of women in the news, discussed during an episode of



Al Jazeera's The Stream titled "Why are women still poorly represented in news media?"

WACC spoke about gender justice in our digitalized world at the NGO CSW67 Forum, a platform that enables civil society to engage with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the global, intergovernmental instrument dedicated to promoting women's rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women. WACC co-organized two NGO parallel events on communications rights, technological innovation, and media literacy in the digital age.

WACC's virtual Conversation Circles were launched with "From Words to Action: Statements on Communication for a Better Future," a discussion about how statements outlining ethics and actions can be used as tools for advocacy and engagement in the run-up to the 20th anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) in 2025.

An online seminar hosted by WACC Europe offered rich perspectives for those struggling with the implications of digital transformation, and wondering what the role of Christian communicators could be. The seminar considered questions such as: How do we decolonize artificial intelligence? How do we incorporate the knowledge of Indigenous people? How do we root out racist algorithms? How can we make digital technology more accessible for all?

WACC and the CDAC Network joined forces in a public seminar exploring the need for a technological ecosystem rooted in human rights, based on the premise that information and communication technologies lacking such a foundation perpetuate and exacerbate injustice.

WACC also emphasized the vital link between communication rights and pressing issues such as climate justice, migrants' rights, gender equality, freedom of expression, and media viability at the annual conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), at which a global network of communication researchers explored the theme "Inhabiting the Planet: Challenges for media, communication and

beyond." For more than 40 years, WACC has been an active member of this internationally recognised community of professionals working on every dimension of social communications.

Local voices and community-led climate action hold the key to global climate solutions, concluded panellists at WACC's second Conversation Circle in 2023. The online discussion "Local Climate Voices: The Missing Link to Real Climate Action?" offered members and partners the chance to explore how the voices of local communities can contribute to meeting the global threat of climate change.

“

WACC believes in communication that demands accountability, builds connectedness, affirms justice, and challenges injustice. Speaking up is, therefore, a duty.

WACC partners advanced a vision of just, inclusive, and community-led digital communication at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2023 on the theme "The Internet We Want – Empowering All People". WACC joined with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), DW Akademie, and Rhizomatica to organize a side event on "Agents of Inclusion" which showcased best practices in community-led connectivity and media.

Looking ahead, much of our work in 2024 will focus on articulating and promoting communicative and digital justice, on preparations for the next instalment of the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) and on the struggle for a vociferous civil society presence at WSIS+20, both in 2025.

This all takes place against a background of increasing internet restrictions, AI-driven disinformation, growing threats to press freedom, suppression of the right to protest,

obstacles to information access, the impact of shrinking civic space on elections, and international judicial efforts to bring about accountability and to end impunity.

On a positive note, the UN Summit of the Future (22-23 September 2024) promises a high-level event bringing world leaders together to forge a new international consensus on how to deliver a better present and safeguard the future. The intention is to “Strengthen international cooperation so it delivers fully and fairly on existing agreements, while enabling us to respond effectively to new threats and opportunities for present and future generations. In so doing, restore trust in multilateralism and in each other.”

However, as noted by WACC and many communication for development practitioners, communication rights still get short shrift, and the UN is placing enormous reliance on the

potential of digital technologies to rescue and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, it does seek to make the digital space “safer and more inclusive with all stakeholders protecting human rights, guided by a voluntary UN Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms, with enhanced understanding of information integrity globally.”

In all these urgent endeavours, WACC’s voice – with you as members and partners worldwide, who represent people concerned about moral responsibility in a fragmented world – is a vital component of public debate and action. We are looking forward to continuing the struggle together!



Computer Professionals' Union, a WACC partner in the Philippines, speaks up against a law requiring mobile users to register their SIM cards. Credit: CPU



Jenny Sulfath (DEF India) listens as Rabab Jaber Musleh speaks about YWCA Palestine's support for young women's digital communication rights. Photo: Gregg Brekke Media

AGENDA FOR A JUST DIGITAL FUTURE

In August, WACC brought together partner organizations in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East for a learning, exchange, and networking consultation on communication rights. All receive support through our Communication for All Programme (CAP).

Sharing insights and best practices from their work, our partners looked at how to advance digital justice in a world in digital transformation. They identified priority issues for securing and protecting human rights — especially those of marginalized and vulnerable people — on digital platforms.

The resulting digital justice agenda outlines a vision for a just digital future to guide communication rights advocates as we move towards the 20-year review of the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS+20) in 2025.

“

We want a digital future ... that is focused on the common good rather than on profit, one that is localized, [and] respects and complements the values of communities.

—A Digital Rights and Digital Justice Advocacy and Action Agenda

BY THE NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

45
participants from

22
WACC partner organizations

17
countries in Asia, Africa &
the Middle East

Digital Justice Agenda
outlines

14
commitments for WSIS+20

6
core stakeholder groups

16
essential digital rights

9
key qualities for just digital
transformation

PARTNER CONSULTATION 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

[#SDG18](#)

WACC renewed the case for Sustainable Development Goal 18 — Communication for All in a publication that outlines the key role of communication rights for development and social progress.

[#CommunicationForAll](#)

In his 2023 New Year's message, WACC's president invited members and partners to join WACC's spaces for reflection and collective action to promote communication for all.

[#ConversationCircles](#)

In April, "From Words to Action: Statements on Communication for a Better Future" launched Conversation Circles, an online discussion space for WACC members and partners.

[#CommunicationResearch](#)

At the 2023 International Association for Media and Communication Research conference, WACC stressed the links between communication rights and contemporary issues.

[#MediaFreedom](#)

WACC participated in the Trust Conference 2023, which underlined the vital function media freedom and independent journalism have for democracy.

[#TransformativeCommunication](#)

WACC global staff and regional president spoke at the First Latin America Communication Congress whose Quito Declaration recognized communication as transformative.

[#StopMisinformation](#)

A webinar hosted by WACC and the World Council of Churches highlighted the need for churches to prioritize education and build community to prevent spreading misinformation.

[#MediaDevelopment](#)

The first issue in 2023 of WACC's journal *Media Development* took a communication rights look at the modern-day utopias of the Metaverse and Latin America's Pink Tide 2.0.

HIGHLIGHTS

[#MediaLiteracy](#)

In August, WACC's journal *Media Development* explored the importance of media literacy as an instrument of public policies, essential to promote democracy and dialogue.

[#CaribbeanMediaLiteracy](#)

WACC Caribbean brought together experts, journalists, and students for a regional conversation on the importance and practice of media literacy in an age of mis- and disinformation.



[#ArchivalJustice](#)

The 2/2023 issue of WACC's *Media Development* journal looked at how power is at play in whose stories, both individual and collective, are preserved as public memory.

[#BeliefOnScreen](#)

WACC Europe co-hosted the TV festival "Belief on Screen," which explored religion and media today and awarded the Hans W. Florin Prize honoring the late WACC General Secretary.



BY THE NUMBERS:

23

Comment pieces published on the WACC website and social media channels



63

articles published on the WACC website and promoted on social media



15

public interventions by WACC staff

2

Conversation Circles enabled dialogue on communication rights with WACC members and partners



29

Communication for All Programme projects in

5

regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East)





WACC partner Ulalo is strengthening community networks to bridge the digital gap in Malawi. Photo: Ulalo

WORKING TOGETHER FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION

In May WACC partnered with the CDAC network to hold the seminar “Development and Digital Access: Are we fostering equitable pathways to inclusion?” Together, we explored how organizations and individuals committed to justice, democratic participation, and equality can promote a technology ecosystem rooted in human rights.

The event showed how digital colonialism and other power inequalities in and through technology exclude people from the digital sphere. We noted that the digital world is a gendered experience, where harassment and abuse trample women’s communication rights. This means that we need to focus on underlying structures that discriminate, in particular against women.

Collaboration for inclusion was the seminar’s watchword. We left committed to strengthening partnerships that keep questions of power and control in the foreground while addressing digital access.

“

Digital access without a human rights foundation perpetuates, even exacerbates injustices and inequalities.

– “Development and Digital Access” seminar

PROJECT

WOMEN WIRELESS ENGINEERS IN INDIA

PARTNER: Digital Empowerment Foundation

COUNTRY: India

WHO: Rural women from marginalized communities

The project trained rural Indian women in digital literacy and infrastructure.

These freshly minted “wireless engineers” are providing their communities with affordable internet while bridging the digital gender divide.

The project participants have empowered a wider circle of women in their communities by sharing their newly acquired digital skills and knowledge. The community information centers they manage allow women to access government services — and are rewiring patriarchal norms.



A Woman Wireless Engineer shares digital knowledge with other women in Ranchi district in northeastern India. Photo: Abner Manzar/DEF

“

Internet connectivity is democratizing society and I hope it will shake the deep-rooted patriarchy and paternalistic attitudes of our society.

—Fauziya, project participant

BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

15
women
certified as
wireless
engineers

150
women trained
as wireless
volunteers

2,069
women received
digital literacy
training

5
community
information
centers reaching

45
villages
benefitting
36,000
people

PROJECT › WOMEN WIRELESS ENGINEERS IN INDIA

HIGHLIGHTS

#DigitalDemocracy

The WACC-backed Digital Democracy Initiative started in March with a virtual event that explored how to amplify the voice of civil society in the digital age.

#DigitalJustice

WACC launched the Digital Revolution Game, a quiz to test digital justice knowledge, at the German Protestant Kirchentag.

#DigitalAdvocates

WACC and the World Council of Churches published “Digital Justice: A Study and Action Guide” in French and Spanish, allowing more people to learn about digital advocacy.

#DigitalInclusion

WACC partners advanced a vision for just, inclusive, and community-led digital communication at the Internet Governance Forum 2023 in Kyoto, Japan.

#CommunicationAndAI

WACC joined an event organized by the CDAC Network to reflect on communication in conflict settings and how to safeguard information in an age of AI.

#DigitalTransformation

In an online seminar, WACC Europe considered ways that Christian communicators can promote digital transformation and digital justice.

Discover more



BY THE
NUMBERS:



7
Communication for
All Programme
projects
promoting digital
communication rights



10
WACC Comment
pieces exploring digital
communication rights



104
aspiring digital justice
advocates played the
Digital Revolution Game

4 out of **10**
correct answers
on average



DIGITAL COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

2023



Participants and facilitators of the WACC–WCC workshop “Taking Action Against Online Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.” Photo: WCC

EQUIPPED TO TACKLE GENDER CYBERVIOLENCE

In December, WACC took a further step in our collaboration with the World Council of Churches to build gender-just media. A workshop in digital gender justice trained young church leaders to use social media monitoring to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

The learning event showed that gendered disinformation and online abuse alters public perceptions of women and causes women to self-censor.

The participants discovered in social media monitoring a powerful tool to gather evidence of online misogyny and the microaggressions that silence women, violating their communication rights. They saw that documenting such online violence is a way to educate other users and advocate for policy change.

After practicing the techniques adapted from our Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), the new social media monitors left equipped with action plans to train others in working to end gendered cyberviolence.

“

Gender disinformation intentionally [weaponizes] misogyny to undermine women political leaders who are at the forefront of important democratic and human rights battles.

—Lucina Di Meco,
speaker at the
WACC–WCC workshop
on digital gender justice

PROJECT

GENDER IMPLICATIONS OF NEWS OUTPUT: REINFORCING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF MEDIA PRACTITIONERS

PARTNER: Media & Gender Enlightenment Initiative (MEGEIN)

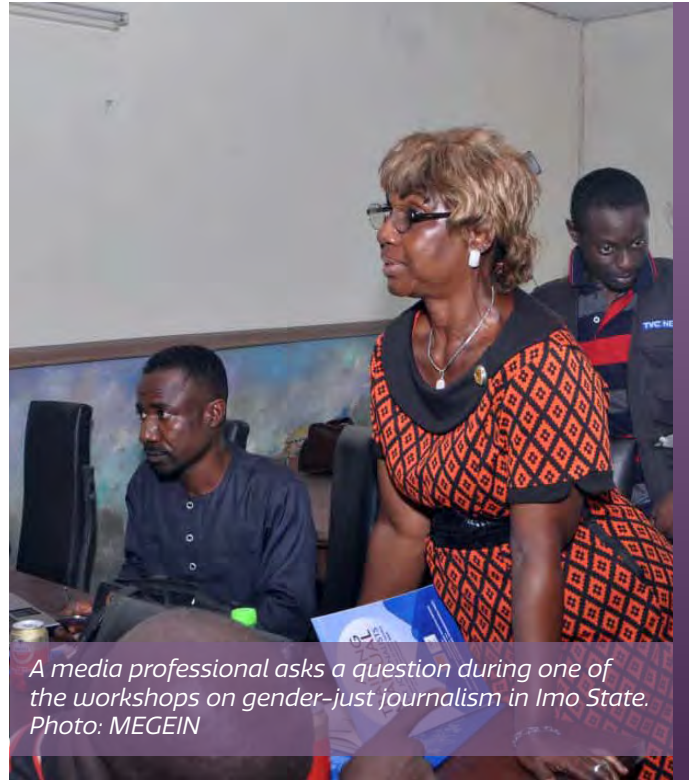
COUNTRY: Nigeria

WHO: Journalists

The project trained 900 journalists in southern Nigeria in gender-just reporting.

Through a series of workshops, the media professionals learned steps to advance gender equality, such as writing from a women's rights perspective, interviewing more women as sources, and promoting women editors.

The project training materials, drawing on reports from the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), are being used to advocate for gender reporting as a component of mass communication programs.



A media professional asks a question during one of the workshops on gender-just journalism in Imo State. Photo: MEGEIN

“

There should be more women in print journalism and as editors, as a way of promoting more gender-equality and women-sensitive reporting.

—Nkem Fab-Ukozor, MEGEIN project director

BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

900

journalists trained in
gender-sensitive reporting

623 men & **277** women
from

6

states in southern Nigeria

6

workshops

PROJECT › GENDER IMPLICATIONS OF NEWS OUTPUT



HIGHLIGHTS

[#AfghanWomensRights](#)

In January WACC signed an open letter urging international action following further bans on Afghan women’s human rights, including communication rights, by the Taliban.

[#WhoMakesTheNews](#)

WACC’s Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) global coordinator spoke on an episode of The Stream on Al Jazeera English on underrepresentation of women in the media.

[#FreedomOfExpression](#)

At the UN Human Rights Council in March, WACC co-organized a side event on gender equality and freedom of expression in mainstream media and digital platforms.

[#GenderJustDigital](#)

A webinar co-organized by WACC during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) looked at the impact on gender justice of algorithms, the digital divide, and polarization.

[#MediaSafeZone](#)

At the NGO CSW67 Forum, WACC and Global Forum for Media Development partners explored how to create safe and diverse media spaces using old and new technologies.

[#RepresentationMatters](#)

At a webinar on missing perspectives in the news, WACC highlighted how the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) can address gender blind spots in the news industry.

[#DigitalGenderGap](#)

A panel at the WACC partner forum in Nairobi in August stressed the need for gender integration, through inclusive policies and practical initiatives, in digital spaces.

[#GenderJustMedia](#)

New GMMP strategies and partnerships are needed to address current challenges of gender equality in and through the media, WACC urged at a virtual roundtable in October.

[#WomenInMedia](#)

WACC spearheaded development of the Kigali Declaration on eliminating gender violence in and through media, adopted at the African Women in Media Conference in December.

Discover more



BY THE NUMBERS:



5
Communication for All Programme projects promoting gender and communication rights



4
proposed #16Days actions to end cyber gender-based violence



2
WACC Comment pieces exploring gender and communication rights



GENDER & COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

2023



Refugees at the Vyšné Nemecké border crossing between Slovakia and Ukraine in mid-March 2022. Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

MIGRANTS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

WACC's final issue of *Media Development* in 2023 explores how media and communication can become vehicles to help migrants exercise all of their human rights — including the right to communicate and be in communication.

WACC partners outline how they work with people on the move — migrants in Asia, forcibly displaced Papuans in Indonesia, internally displaced people in Nigeria — to ensure they can share their experiences and have a voice in shaping policy.

The journal issue's introductory pieces give background on migration, the landmark Global Compact for Migration, and the role that journalism plays in shaping public perception. Practical recommendations offer journalists guidance for reporting on migration.

Further perspectives on the intersection between communication rights and migrant rights underscore how vital communication is to enabling people on the move to be seen and heard.

“

Communication with, from, and by migrants and refugees is fundamental to their wellbeing and to strengthening the sense of self-worth and dignity that will enable them to survive and flourish.

— *Media Development*
4/2023

PROJECT

IMPROVING THE NARRATIVE CYCLE ON MIGRATION

PARTNER: Presbyterian Church in Cameroon

COUNTRY: Cameroon

WHO: Internally displaced people and host communities

The project trained citizen journalists from IDP communities in Douala, Cameroon's economic capital, to create positive communication about migration and support the rights of forcibly displaced people.

The project participants developed the program "Voices for Migrants," a weekly community radio broadcast featuring resource persons and guests from Douala's migrant and host communities.

The program raised awareness about issues facing IDPs, allowing people to share information, experiences, and solutions.



The new citizen journalists prepare a "Voices for Migrants" broadcast. Photo: PCC

“

We are the same citizens. Migrants are contributing to the wellbeing of a place where they are being host[ed]. Let them feel at home wherever they find themselves.

—Enock Mutengene, "Voices for Migrants" listener

BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

4
migrant citizen
journalists

26
episodes of
"Voices for
Migrants"

80
broadcasts
and
rebroadcasts

20
resource persons
as guests

500,000+
listeners

PROJECT › IMPROVING THE NARRATIVE CYCLE ON MIGRATION

HIGHLIGHTS

#ChangingTheNarrative

At the annual conference of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, WACC showed how the general public can drive more just media coverage of migration.

#ItTakesACommunity

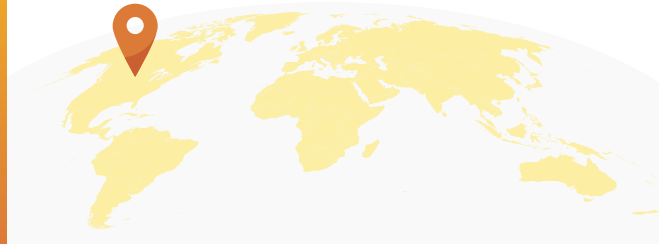
In an expert dialogue about migration narratives, WACC shared about work to strengthen migrant voices and representation in the media, and address online hate speech.

Discover more



#MigrantMediaMonitoring

WACC North America launched the final report of its 2022 Migrant Media Monitoring Project and explored how the resource could be used as a political advocacy tool.



BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

3

Communication for All
Programme projects
promoting the
communication rights
of people
on the move



2

WACC
Comment pieces
exploring the
communication rights
of people
on the move



MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

2023



A member of the Indigenous Peoples Constituency at COP26 advocates for bolder action to address climate change. Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

HEARING INDIGENOUS VOICES

Ahead of the UN climate change conference COP28, a WACC Comment underlined the urgent need to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into global climate policy.

The thought leadership article highlighted the vital role that Indigenous communities play in conserving essential ecosystems throughout the world. We pointed to how ancestral knowledge of Indigenous peoples such as the Punae on Ecuador's Pacific Coast offers alternative responses to climate change — holistic, sustainable solutions that strengthen local governance.

The WACC Comment noted that Indigenous communities face communication injustice, the injustice of being denied a public voice. We called for governments and civil society in the COP process to listen to and hear these local voices, and to bring Indigenous knowledge into the forefront of climate action.

“

Governments and civil society involved in the COP process must highlight the critical importance of local knowledge in addressing the climate crisis and place communication and information justice at the heart of climate and environmental justice.

Lorenzo Vargas, WACC Communication for Social Change program manager

PROJECT

POSITIONING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

PARTNER: *Majawil Q'ij Nuevo Amanecer Association of Mayan Women*

COUNTRY: *Guatemala*

WHO: *Poqomchi' Mayan and Spanish-speaking communities*

The project documented traditional ecological knowledge of the Poqomchi' people in central Guatemala as a path to mitigate climate impacts, engage youth, and construct more equitable societies.

During intergenerational dialogues, Poqomchi' ancestral authorities shared traditional ways of relating to and conserving the Earth. Young people from the community helped to catalogue the knowledge, which is being used to communicate with a wider public through public activities, broadcasts, and printed materials.

“

The Mayan cosmogony of [these Poqomchi'] communities shows a clear path to mitigate climate change: a broad awareness of our relationship and impact on the balance of life.

—Ancestral knowledge catalogue of caring for and conserving Mother Nature



BY THE NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

6

intergenerational dialogues with
22 ancestral authorities

36 young people and children in
3 municipalities in
Alta Verapaz Department

11

proposals from the Poqomchi' communities for care of the Earth

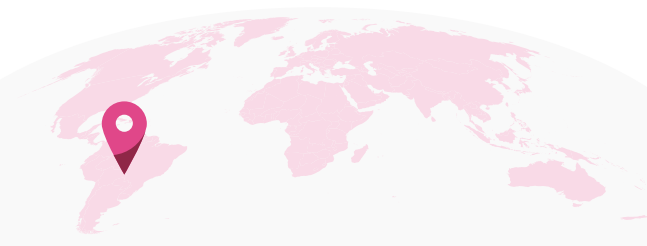
1 million
potential listeners on Facebook live and local radio

PROJECT › POSITIONING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

HIGHLIGHTS

#IndigenousMedia

WACC Latin America joined other regional communication networks in urging the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to protect and promote Indigenous community media.



Discover more



BY THE
NUMBERS:



6

Communication for
All Programme
projects promoting
Indigenous
communication rights



2

WACC
Comment pieces
exploring Indigenous
rights and
communication rights



COMMUNICATION RIGHTS & INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

2023



Land defenders from Mexico and Central America design communication strategies at a training program run by WACC partner La Sandia Digital. Photo: La Sandia Digital

THE MISSING LINK

In October, WACC's second Conversation Circle explored how local voices and community-led actions — rights based and sustainable — hold the key to global climate solutions.

During the online discussion, three of our partners shared best practices from communities in Central America, Mexico, Nepal, and the Philippines. Hard-hit by climate change but often excluded from global decision-making, these communities are tapping into their communication rights to shape climate policy and build a more just future.

The virtual learning event showed why a communication-rights approach is the missing link to climate justice:

- Local climate voices counter misinformation and disinformation.
- Local climate voices highlight gaps between local realities and higher-level decision-makers.
- Local climate voices bring climate justice solutions rooted in local knowledge.
- Local climate voices hold policymakers accountable.
- Local climate voices inspire hope.

“

Local voices are important to bring visible and lasting solutions which are not only socially accepted but socially built from local knowledge.

—Victor Lopez Illescas,
Ford Foundation, Mexico
and Central America

PROJECT

STRENGTHENING THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF FARMING COMMUNITIES

PARTNER: Réseau Africa Volontaire
COUNTRY: Burkina Faso
WHO: Farming communities, journalists

The project created a network of environmental journalists and local organizers to build climate resilience in communities in central Burkina Faso.

Workshops, sharing, and learning sessions equipped the project participants to help farming communities respond to and prepare for climate change — always with a focus on local and Indigenous knowledge and practices. Thanks to partnerships with community radio stations, local communities are receiving the climate information they need to take action.



Community members share traditional knowledge about sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation. Photo: RAV

“

The use of local and traditional knowledge for the sustainable management of natural resources has been promoted.

— Project manager

BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

20
environmental
journalists
and citizen
organizers
trained in
communicating
climate
solutions

332,600
people informed
about climate
action through
broadcasts
and in-person
meetings

30
environmental
citizens clubs
892 members

21
awareness-raising
sessions for **13**
municipalities
on the role of
communication in
climate action

PROJECT › STRENGTHENING THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF FARMING COMMUNITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

#VoicesOfTheAmazon

Together with PWRDF, WACC launched Voices of the Amazon, a multi-year project that uses community radio to enable local communities in the region to be active shapers of environmental policy.

Discover more



BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

8

Communication
for All
Programme
projects
promoting
climate justice
and
communication
rights



4

WACC Comment
pieces exploring
climate
change and
communication
rights



4M

people to
benefit from the
Voices of
the Amazon
project



COMMUNICATION RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

2023

WACC Global raised £1.16 million in 2023 to fund its programs. Nearly 70% of funding came from international partners. The remaining 30% was self-generated from membership dues and other contributions, as well as from exchange gains, hosting fees, and rental income.

WACC's board, management, and staff do everything possible to minimize costs, while maximizing social impact. In 2023 we spent 91% of income directly and indirectly on programs and program partners around the world, while governance costs accounted for only 6%. WACC invested just under 3% in fundraising and development activities to nurture relationships with potential partners and supporters.

WACC's global members, boards, and staff continue to work closely with friends and partners to diversify income streams to expand WACC's reach and strengthen our ability to fulfil our mission. With adequate funding and careful management, we will continue to promote communication as an essential human right, enabling people to participate fully in the issues that affect their communities.

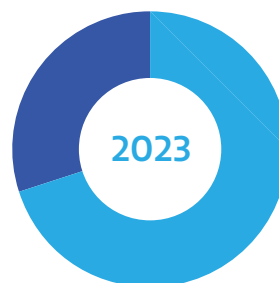
Note: Financial figures provided are pre-audit. Audited accounts are available on request.



A woman talks on her mobile phone in a remote village in northwestern Haiti. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

INCOME BY SOURCE

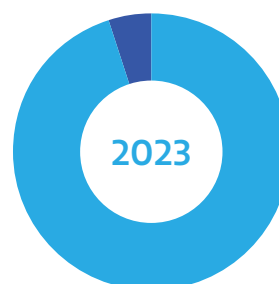
| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| International Grants | 812,200 | 69.9% |
| Non-Governmental | 349,033 | 30.1% |
| Grand Total | £1,161,233 | 100.0% |



- **69.9%** International Grants
- **30.1%** Non-Governmental

INCOME BY TYPE

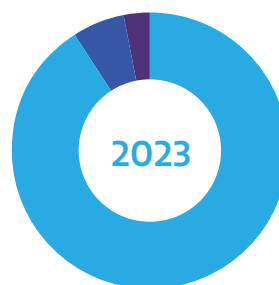
| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Grants & Contributions | 1,106,124 | 95.3% |
| Self-Generated | 55,109 | 4.7% |
| Grand Total | £1,161,233 | 100.0% |



- **95.3%** Grants & Contributions
- **4.7%** Self-Generated

EXPENSES BY TYPE

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Fundraising | 38,194 | 2.9% |
| Governance | 82,857 | 6.3% |
| Programmes | 1,194,426 | 90.8% |
| Grand Total | £1,315,477 | 100.0% |



- **90.8%** Programmes
- **6.3%** Governance
- **2.9%** Fundraising

Note: All figures in British pounds sterling.

FUNDING PARTNERS

WACC thanks all of our institutional funders and individual donors, who help us to promote communication as a basic human right, essential to people's dignity and community.

The commitment of our supporters enables us to work with those denied the right to communicate, to advocate freedom of information and the press, and to strengthen communicator networks to advance peace, understanding, and justice throughout the world.



A budding environmental reporter gets training through "Voices of the Andean Paramos," a community radio network run by WACC partner Grupo Comunicarte. Photo: Voces y Susurros de los Páramos

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Internews



Bread for the World



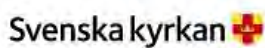
Otto per Mille of the Waldensian Church



Centre for Communication Rights



Primate's World Relief and Development Fund



Church of Sweden



United Church of Canada



Cultural Survival



Witness



DanChurchAid



World Council of Churches



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



WACC Directors and staff during the Board's meeting in London in May 2023. Photo: Gregg Brekke Media

WACC is governed by an elected Board of Directors that includes representatives of our eight regional associations. The WACC UK Board of Directors has oversight of the global organization, its policies, and priorities, while the WACC Canada Board ensures WACC's viability and compliance with Canadian regulations.

In May, the UK Board of Directors met in-person for the first time since before the pandemic. The newly appointed body determined steps to strengthen WACC's mission to promote communication rights as a cornerstone for more

just societies. During the meeting, a seminar with the Communicating with Disaster-Affected Communities (CDAC) Network explored pathways to a rights-based technology ecosystem.

Discover more



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Gisèle Langendries, *Programs & Funding Officer*
Shari McMaster, *Administrative Coordinator & Board Liaison*
Saskia Rowley, *Web Design & Communications*
Simon Chambers, *Director of Communications (ACT Alliance)*

WACC is registered in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation (438311-7) and an incorporated charitable organisation (number 83970 9524 RR0001) with its offices at 80 Hayden Street, Toronto ON, M4Y 3G2.

WACC is also a UK Registered Charity (number 296073) and a Company registered in England and Wales (number 2082273) with its Registered Office at 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE United Kingdom.



An Egyptian human rights activist gives an interview to media during the UN climate conference in November 2022. Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

WACC's member and partner networks span eight regions across the globe — a movement of committed communicators and rights activists, both individuals and organizations, who believe in the transformative power of communication rights for all and who defend everyone's right to communicate and to be in communication without harm to others.

Join us to make your voices heard. Work with us to help advance democratic communications. Speak and act with us to become part of the global struggle for a better world.

Discover more



GET INVOLVED – *Be a part of WACC*

JOIN.

Become a member of the WACC movement at waccglobal.org/join.

BE INFORMED.

Visit waccglobal.org/subscribe to sign up for news about communication rights action, events, and more, and to subscribe to WACC's quarterly journal *Media Development*.

LEARN.

Get equipped to put communication rights into practice through WACC's online learning opportunities at the Centre for Communication Rights at ccrvoices.org/learning.

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Find tools for communication rights advocacy and education at waccglobal.org/resources.

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Support communication rights online at waccglobal.org/donate.

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AFFILIATIONS

WACC is a member of ACT Alliance

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WACC has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council

