

ENABLING A FUTURE FOR ALL

2024 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: Yalsin Nakasha, a Syrian refugee, holds his daughter Zahara, 3, as he uses his mobile phone to inform his family that he arrived safely on the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos just minutes earlier. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth



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

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF DIGITAL SOCIETIES

During 2024, WACC continued to advocate for digital justice, gender justice, and climate justice. There were, of course, other global challenges such as the stifling of public interest journalism and attacks on journalists; shrinking communication spaces for civil dissent; horrendous wars in Palestine, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan; famine and displacement in Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo; and the sabotaging of democratic values by right-wing populists.

Digital justice and the uses and misuses of artificial intelligence (AI) remain high on the public agenda in the face of the urgent need to tackle fake news, to regulate social media platforms, and to rein in the runaway development of AI. As well as publishing

issues of its journal *Media Development* on such questions, WACC launched a webinar series on “AI, You, and Your Organization,” offering an ethics-based approach.

Many people and communities are worried that digital technologies are being appropriated by governments, security services, and global corporations to control, manipulate, and profit from ordinary people—who have different expectations of how these technologies might help bring about greater social justice.

Social media enable users to share information, ideas, and content. They offer an instantaneous and distance-free way for people to connect with family and friends and to air opinions and concerns in the digital public sphere.

Decolonising the Public Sphere

At the same time, misinformation (the unintentional spreading of inaccurate information), disinformation (the intentional spreading of lies), and hate speech (offensive discourse targeting a group or an individual based on inherent characteristics such as race, religion or gender) are rampant.

WACC has added its voice to the struggle for a world in which everyone can communicate, inform, and share knowledge or alternative perspectives; everyone can participate in societies where marginalised and vulnerable groups are respected; everyone can benefit from open and unbiased public communication; and everyone's dignity is upheld. Inevitably, this means rethinking power structures, including how to decolonialise the public communication sphere.

“

WACC has added its voice to the struggle for a world in which everyone can communicate. This means rethinking power structures, including how to decolonialise the public communication sphere.

One of the markers of a democratic society is the prevalence of independent journalism and the integrity and credibility of news. As Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, pointed out on World Press Freedom Day 2024, “We need independent, ethical, and quality journalism perhaps now more than ever. On the climate crisis—and on all crises—journalists serve as the ultimate allies in human rights. Because in their pursuit of facts, evidence, and accountability, we have one of our best hopes to build societies based on truth and trust.”

A Global Vision of Digital Justice

In September 2024, the UN's much-heralded Summit of the Future endorsed a Pact for the Future with two annexes: a Global Digital Compact, focusing on closing digital divides and regulating AI, and a Declaration on Future Generations, calling for national and international decision-making to create peaceful, inclusive, and just societies.

The Pact for the Future underlined that such efforts “cannot succeed unless we step up our efforts to promote tolerance, embrace diversity and combat all forms of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations.”

The Pact also reaffirmed a “commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to accelerating our efforts to achieve gender equality, women's participation, and the empowerment of all women and girls in all domains and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.” WACC's Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) was a direct outcome of Beijing 1995 and the need to “promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.”

Civil society organisations made many interventions in the drafting of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which had the following objectives:

- To close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals
- To expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
- To foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space that respects, protects, and promotes human rights
- To advance responsible, equitable, and interoperable data governance approaches
- To enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity

Echoing these aspirations, the 4/2024 issue of WACC's journal *Media Development* set out "A Global Vision of Digital Justice", supporting the call for "a progressive digital society, encompassing basic, normative principles, on issues like ownership of platforms, data, and AI, and community-centric and owned digital platforms and structures." That vision echoed earlier, pre-digital calls for communication rights to be recognised as the bedrock of societies based on democratic values and human dignity.

Looking Ahead

WACC is part of a global network of secular and faith-based organisations tackling communication issues from a rights-based perspective, including advocating for national governments to be proactive in persuading tech platforms to prioritise transparency and data privacy. In 2025, WACC continues to work directly with civil society organisations to strengthen and promote local responses to the needs of marginalised and grassroots communities.

This includes active participation at the Commission on the Status of Women with a session on "Safeguarding Women's Communication & Digital Rights" in March and the launch of the 7th GMMP as a further step towards advancing gender equality in the media. WACC will also be lobbying at the World Summit on the Information Society+20 in July in Geneva. The aim is to bring human dignity and the right to communicate into the digital equation.

We shall be seeking new partners who share a vision of a more just future; new funding for a raft of community-led projects aimed at strengthening communication rights; and new ways of promoting trustworthy and truthful information and knowledge. In the wise words of Graça Machel, Deputy Chair of the Elders, "It is only through our collective efforts that we can make progress."



Young people from the Soliga tribal community in southwestern India take part in digital media literacy training run by WACC partner Ideosync Media Combine. Photo: Ideosync Media Combine



Participants of the WACC Project Partner Forum 2024.
Photo: AMARC AP

ROADMAP TO A DIGITAL FUTURE FOR ALL

Project partners from WACC's Communication for All Programme (CAP) gathered in October to look at communication rights as building blocks for social justice. In the spotlight was the United Nations Global Digital Compact adopted a month earlier—without any explicit reference to communication rights.

The partners developed an implementation roadmap for the Compact to bridge this gap. Their actionable recommendations democratize digital technology, giving priority to public interest over private profits.

With a focus on rights-based implementation, gender equality, climate justice, and migrant rights, the roadmap outlines people-centered pathways to an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future for all.

These recommendations guide our advocacy for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20).

“

WACC believes in a digital world that upholds human rights and the public interest, democratizes public debate, and contributes to positive social change.

*— WACC Partner
Recommendations on the
Implementation of the
Global Digital Compact*

BY THE NUMBERS:



29
participants from

24
WACC partner organizations

16
countries in Asia, Africa,
Eastern Europe &
the Middle East

Global Digital Compact
Recommendations

32
actionable pathways

2
guiding concepts

4
thematic areas

PARTNER FORUM 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

[#GenderEquality](#)

WACC welcomed the Canadian government's strong commitment to gender equality signalled by a new, multiyear national action plan on women, peace, and security.

[#CommunicationRights](#)

In May, WACC's journal *Media Development* 2/2024 looked at understandings of "communication rights," showing the need for this approach regardless of the language used.

[#CommunicationInConflict](#)

The 3/2024 issue of *Media Development* explored obstacles and opportunities for constructive communication in conflict situations.

[#RadioForPeace](#)

WACC co-facilitated a training in media monitoring that equipped broadcasters in Nepal to use community radio to change discriminatory narratives and foster peace.

[#CommunicativeJustice](#)

WACC urged ACT Alliance members to view communicative justice—especially democratic media—as key in sustainable development and humanitarian response.

[#StopDisinformation](#)

A webinar by WACC and the World Council of Churches, with input from WACC Africa, presented practical tools and advocacy strategies to tackle disinformation.

[#CommlsAid](#)

WACC helped plan CDAC Network events that reflected on AI in humanitarian aid and ways to strengthen communication with disaster-affected communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

#DisabilityAndCommunication

In June, a webinar by WACC Latin America took a closer look at disability and communication rights in the region.



#RuleOfLaw

WACC Europe joined a call to the European Commission to protect a rights-based civic space, including freedom of expression and press freedom.



#MediaLiteracy

WACC Caribbean held a debate between university students on a proposal to introduce media and information literacy into school curricula from an early age.



BY THE NUMBERS:



24

Comment pieces published on the WACC website and social media channels



58

articles published online and promoted on social media



17

public interventions by WACC staff

1

WACC learning platform launched



26

Communication for All Programme projects in

6

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



KEY PUBLICATIONS

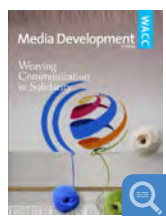
MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, WACC published four issues of our international journal *Media Development*. Readers were invited to delve into contemporary communication issues through a social justice lens, especially from the perspective of less developed countries and marginalized communities.



1/2024 TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE OF DIGITAL SOCIETY

Many in civil society worry that governments, security services, and global corporations may misuse digital technologies, including AI, to silence, control, and profit from ordinary people. This *Media Development* issue explores how digital instead could be used in just, democratic ways to enhance lives and livelihoods for everyone.



2/2024 WEAVING COMMUNICATION IN SOLIDARITY

This *Media Development* issue underlines the need to resist by every means possible the steady erosion of democratic values, press freedom, and people's capacity to see, hear, and express their needs and concerns in public without obstruction. Only in this way can we retain a peaceful and sustainable future as a shared vision for all.



3/2024 COMMUNICATION IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

This issue of *Media Development* explores how constructive journalism can create greater understanding by those on the outside of a conflict situation, as well as greater trust by those on the inside. By aiming to reduce tension, pave the way for dialogue, and seek equitable and practicable solutions, journalists can play a crucial role in advancing alternative pathways.



4/2024 A GLOBAL VISION OF DIGITAL JUSTICE

International, regional, and national organisations worked tirelessly to secure a place for civil society's expectations in the UN's Pact for the Future and its Global Digital Compact. This issue of *Media Development* gives insight into the complex issues at hand, showing ways we can foster an environment that genuinely fosters peace and mutual understanding.

TAKING A PROGRESSIVE AND DECOLONIAL APPROACH TO DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS

In this contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society+20 process, WACC invites broader civil society to embrace communication rights as the building blocks of a progressive and transformational digital society.

We call for social movements addressing urgent global challenges today to have access to platforms and resources so they can influence public debate—and drive positive social change.

The position paper, a direct outcome of WACC's consultation with project partners in October, is available in English, Spanish, and French.



English



Spanish



French



Schoolchildren use a mobile phone during a break between classes in Cairo, Egypt. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

ENCOURAGING DIGITAL JUSTICE CHAMPIONS

WACC launched the first module of our new e-learning program “Just Digital” in July. We created this self-directed online course to empower individuals and groups to navigate digital spaces wisely and advocate effectively.

Just Digital’s three sessions introduce core digital literacy in a fun and accessible way, with input from experts in our global regions. Participants become Digital Justice Champions by learning practical skills to protect data, to identify misinformation, and to exercise their right to freedom of expression responsibly.

The course, a further digital justice collaboration with the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW) and the World Council of Churches, is now available in French and Spanish.

“

Digital technologies have already transformed the world for many of us. We have new ways to communicate, but we also need new ways to navigate the world so we ensure that multiple voices are heard.

— Marianne Ejdersten, WCC director of communication

PROJECT

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SIM REGISTRATION LAW

PARTNER: *Computer Professionals' Union (CPU)*

COUNTRY: *Philippines*

WHO: *Civil society organizations,
community leaders*

The project campaigned against a law in the Philippines requiring mobile users to register their SIM cards.

Through community education, CPU informed people about how the law risks violating their digital communication rights and how they can protect themselves.

CPU's dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression highlighted the SIM Registration Law as part of government policies and programs that curtail Filipinos' right to free speech.



Filipino trade unionists learn about digital rights and the SIM Registration Law. Photo: CPU

“

With the support of a well-informed public, we have a stronger force to assert our digital rights in the Philippines.

— Franklin Maraya, CPU project coordinator

BY THE
NUMBERS:



7
sessions trained

73
trainers who taught

1500
more individuals

25–27 K
people reached through
community education

3
modules added to CPU's
digital rights curriculum

PROJECT › CAMPAIGN AGAINST SIM REGISTRATION LAW



HIGHLIGHTS

#EthicalAI

WACC kicked off 2024 by launching a 3-part webinar series—later released as a self-paced e-course—on an ethics-based approach to AI use.

#DigitalTransformation

Respond to digital colonialism with just digital transformation, WACC urged a pre-assembly meeting of the Council for World Mission in January.

#DemocraticDigital

The 1/2024 issue of WACC's journal *Media Development* explored paths toward democratic digital governance and away from for-profit models.

#WSIS20

WACC co-sponsored a special edition of *Global Information Society Watch* that focuses on the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society.

#DigitalJustice

At the UN Civil Society Conference in May, WACC called for civil society to participate in the WSIS+20 process and advocate for a just digital future.

#DigitalJustFuture

At a high-level event in May, WACC joined a civil society call for WSIS+20 in 2025 to guarantee a democratic framework for global digital governance.

#OurCommonFuture

WACC welcomed the UN Pact for the Future with its Global Digital Compact while stressing that civil society must be involved at policy-making tables.

#InclusiveDigital

WACC's *Media Development* 4/2024 looked further at democratic frameworks for digital governance with a discussion paper ahead of WSIS+20 in 2025.

#ResponsibleAI

In December, WACC Europe launched a monthly discussion series with a webinar exploring how faith-based organizations can use AI responsibly.



Discover more



BY THE
NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

7
Communication for
All Programme
projects
promoting digital
communication rights



12
WACC Comment
pieces exploring digital
communication rights



120+
learners registered for
digital justice courses



DIGITAL COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

2024



A teacher helps students use a tablet in a class in Hong Kong. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth

FOR EQUITABLE & INCLUSIVE ONLINE SPACES

In September, WACC marked another milestone in our collaboration with the World Council of Churches to promote gender justice online—the launch of “Taking Action Against Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV).”

At the heart of this joint initiative to address online misogyny and gender-based abuse is a new, comprehensive toolkit in four languages. Based on the proven methodology of our Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), the resource guides groups and individuals in becoming social media watchers. Companion training is honing skills to collect standardized data on sexist content that evades platform moderation.

The toolkit has laid the foundation for a global, gender-focused social media observatory that will drive collective and evidence-based action to stop TFGBV.

“

We are all at risk. Tech-facilitated gender-based violence is no respecter of race, class, or nationality, and it has consequences.

— Rev. Nicole Ashwood, WCC programme executive

PROJECT

MONITORING MISOGYNY ON PLATFORM X

PARTNER: Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA)

COUNTRY: Uganda

WHO: Women politicians, media professionals, activists

The project gathered data on misogyny directed at women in the public eye by Ugandan digital news media. The tool? Social media monitoring based on WACC methodology.

UMWA's study showed the prevalence and type of misogynistic content on the platform X. It also highlighted the poster's gender as a determining factor for the likelihood of such content and which media outlets were the biggest offenders.

The findings are being used to advance gender-sensitive digital reporting and moderation of social media content.



Training in gender-just portrayal of women for reporters and influencers on platform X. Photo: UMWA

“

I am committed to applying what I have learned to my work as a journalist. We have the power to create a more inclusive digital landscape for women everywhere.

— Brenda Namata, UMWA media monitor

BY THE
NUMBERS:



1,640
monitored posts
on X about

40
prominent women

11
recommendations
to address
misogyny in
digital media

PROJECT › MONITORING MISOGYNY ON PLATFORM X



HIGHLIGHTS

[#InspireInclusiveMedia](#)

To mark International Women's Day, WACC issued a call to work for gender-just news content and the inclusion of women in media organizations.

[#MediaMonitoring](#)

The Global Media Monitoring Project is key to breaking down gender stereotypes, WACC reported at the 68th UN Commission on the Status of Women.

[#GenderJustDigital](#)

Keep gender at the core of global digital governance was the message of a CSW68 parallel event on digital communication rights co-organized by WACC.

[#CSW68](#)

WACC partners had the opportunity to learn more about advancing gender equality and to network with fellow advocates as part of our CSW68 delegation.

[#NewGenderDeal](#)

A WACC–GAMAG session at the WSIS+20 high-level event in May stressed the need for a new gender deal as part of the review of global digital governance.

[#GMMP30](#)

In the run-up to the 7th edition of the Global Media Monitoring Project in 2025, WACC launched a blog series to profile GMMP coordinators and countries.

[#StopTFGBV](#)

WACC invited members and partners to monitor social media for misogyny during the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

[#BreakingBarriers](#)

WACC supported the November launch of a resource that promotes a whole-of-society approach to advancing gender equality in and through the media.

[#WomensCommunicationRights](#)

In March, WACC Latin America held a webinar looking at the right to communicate in women's movements in the region.



Discover more 

BY THE
NUMBERS:



5
Communication
for All
Programme
projects
promoting
gender &
communication
rights 

3
#16Days
calls to actions
to stop
tech-facilitated
gender-based
violence 

2
WACC Comment
pieces exploring
gender &
communication
rights 

GENDER & COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

2024



Two young women with a migrant caravan in Mexico heading north to the US border. Photo: Sean Hawkey/Life on Earth

SHIFTING THE MIGRATION NARRATIVE

At the 14th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in January, a WACC delegation championed a rights-based approach to reshape narratives around migration.

We named factors and structural barriers that prevent people on the move from being heard—a lack of public voice that feeds increasingly negative public discourse.

Two of our project partners from Jordan and Hong Kong highlighted the impact of ensuring that migrants and refugees can speak about their realities. These stories of lived experience challenge harmful stereotypes, promote inclusion, and bring injustice into sharp focus.

Our GFMD call was for all parties to recognize migrants' communication rights—like the right to freedom of expression, to access information, to protect one's reputation—as a key step to shifting the migration narrative.

“

We need new narratives to challenge negative perceptions of migrants, refugees, and human rights defenders, and shed light on larger, systematic factors that reinforce the commodification of migrant workers.

— Rey Asis, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants project coordinator

PROJECT

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNICATION RIGHTS AMONG REFUGEES

PARTNER: Community Media Network (CMN)

COUNTRY: Jordan

WHO: Syrian refugee children & caregivers,
refugee & host communities

CMN used animated film and radio to raise awareness about mental health among Syrian refugees in Jordan and to empower them to talk about their needs.

Radio programs provided vital information and a platform for refugees to share their stories—while helping dispel misconceptions and foster empathy among Jordanian listeners.

The films continue to spark conversations about issues like bullying, sexual abuse, and jealousy. And post-screening discussions have led to more targeted mental health care for refugees.



In-cinema discussion with Syrian refugee children in Jordan. Photo: CMN

“

By giving voice to these often-silenced experiences, the project has opened doors for a more compassionate and supportive environment for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

— Daoub Kuttab, CMN director

BY THE
NUMBERS:



10
film screenings
200
children
attending with
their caregivers

80
children and
56
caregivers
participated in
5
workshops with
psychologists

5
radio broadcasts
focusing on
mental health
and refugees
2,000+
listeners

PROJECT › ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AMONG REFUGEES



HIGHLIGHTS

#MigrantVoices

WACC's Conversation Circle in May explored ways to ensure migrant voices are at the center of public dialogue, communities, and action for change.

#MigrantRights

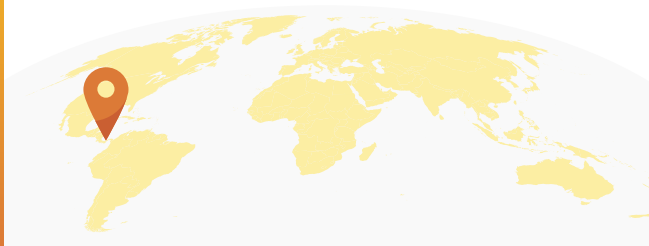
In June WACC launched the "You Are Not Alone" project in partnership with Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants and ELCA to advance migrants' communication rights.

#NothingAboutUsWithoutUs

WACC spoke about a communication rights approach to migration governance with the civil society arm of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

#ChangingTheNarrative

WACC Latin America hosted workshops on communicating migration responsibly and current issues related to migrant women and girls in the region.



Discover more



BY THE NUMBERS:



WACC
communication for all

3

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



1

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



7

Asia-Pacific countries where partners are supporting migrants through the You Are Not Alone project



MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

2024



Interview with Vilma Mendoza, president of the National Confederation of Indigenous Women of Bolivia (CNAMIB). Photo: ALER

BRINGING INDIGENOUS VOICES TO THE FORE

WACC amplified Indigenous voices at the 11th Pan Amazon Social Forum (FOSPA) in June—a key space for civil society organizing ahead of the UN biodiversity (COP16) and climate (COP30) conferences in 2024 and 2025.

Our delegation—ten community media activists and broadcasters, including Indigenous members—was active on the ground. Through interviews with Indigenous leaders and reporting from the Forum’s Indigenous track, our partners gave visibility to Indigenous perspectives and knowledge.

Coverage on radio and social media in Indigenous languages like Kichwa and Aymara and in Spanish and Portuguese helped broaden the reach of Indigenous advocacy, calling for protection of the Amazon and its communities.

“

Through ALER's media coverage, Indigenous nations from the Amazon were able to express themselves, raising awareness of the risks they face as communities [with] the destruction of their territories, as well as of their ideas and solutions.

— Fernando Lopez, ALER communication network

PROJECT

NETWORKING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RADIO

PARTNER: *Estor Association for Integral Development (AEPDI)*

COUNTRY: *Guatemala*

WHO: *Indigenous broadcasters in Central America*

AEPDI worked with Indigenous radio stations in Central America to bridge technical gaps and to strengthen their voices in defense of rights and social justice.

Equipped with mobile phones and trained in their use to create content, broadcasters can more easily produce high-quality, impactful programming.

In a region forum, Indigenous broadcasters explored common challenges and ways to collaborate in their essential role of preserving the languages, traditions, and experiences of their communities.



A mobile phone becomes a content development tool for Indigenous community broadcasters in Guatemala. Photo: AEPDI

“

The project has been a step toward making visible the problems and aspirations of Indigenous peoples in Central America, consolidating community radio as a living and vibrant voice.

— Alfredo Rax Coc, AEPDI project coordinator

BY THE
NUMBERS:



20

radio spots on legal recognition for Indigenous community radio in Guatemala in

10

Indigenous languages

3,000+
listeners

50

broadcasters trained to use mobile phones to create content

15

broadcasts of the regional forum

969
views

PROJECT › NETWORKING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RADIO



BY THE
NUMBERS:



5

Communication for All Programme projects
promoting Indigenous communication rights



COMMUNICATION RIGHTS & INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

2024

Discover more



Indigenous activists at the in-person module of the Common School run by WACC partner PAKKIRU in Ecuador. Participants learned to use community communication and digital tools to defend their territories. Photo: PAKKIRU



Indigenous reporters at Radio Sucumbios in the Ecuadorean Amazon. Photo: CORAPE-Ecuador

COMMUNITY RADIO FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In June, WACC co-published a multinational study that confirms community radio's essential role in connecting Amazon communities to environmental policymaking.

Carried out by our partners in the Voices of the Amazon project, the research examined communication barriers in the Brazilian, Colombian, and Ecuadorean rainforest. It found that limited internet access, misinformation campaigns, and language challenges block local communities from participating in climate debates.

The study reveals the power of extractive industries to control public narratives and silence local perspectives. Community radio emerges as a crucial solution—accessible, affordable, and effective at building trust within communities.

With its recommendations to bridge communication gaps, the publication proposes evidence-driven action that is centered on the voices of those hardest hit by climate change.

“

Community radio is called upon to convey local environmental information and give a voice to the actors in situ.

— Voices of the Amazon publication

PROJECT

CATALYZING COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

PARTNER: Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA)

COUNTRY: Zimbabwe

WHO: Faith and community leaders, grassroots communities

The project bridged climate knowledge gaps in two districts in Zimbabwe by training communities and sharing Indigenous wisdom.

Through workshops led by MeDRA, faith and community leaders learned about climate change, its causes, and local adaptation strategies. Elders met with younger community members to document Indigenous knowledge and to explore how to integrate it with modern technology.

Thanks to the training, communities are using sustainable practices and have reduced deforestation.



*The new Kugarika Kushinga community garden provides nutritious food grown sustainably.
Photo: ACT Alliance*

“

The project has fostered a well-informed, proactive community equipped to address the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a sustainable and resilient future.

— Tariro Washaya, MeDRA program manager

BY THE
NUMBERS:



6,445
participants, including

351
teenagers

144
people with disabilities

16
intergenerational dialogues
on climate action

2
community gardens
established

2,500
villagers
benefiting indirectly

PROJECT › CATALYZING COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION



HIGHLIGHTS

#VoicesOfTheParamos

At a seminar in February, community radio reporters in the WACC “Voices and Whispers of the Páramos” project in the Colombian Andes learned about current environmental issues.

#ClimateJustDigital

Ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP29, WACC endorsed the Green Digital Action Declaration to promote climate-positive digitalization.

#LocalClimateVoices

WACC supported community media partners ALER and Grupo Comunicarte to amplify local climate voices at the UN Biodiversity Conference COP16 in October.

Discover more



BY THE
NUMBERS:



6

Communication
for All Programme
projects promoting
climate justice and
communication
rights



3

WACC Comment
pieces exploring
climate change
and
communication
rights



107

adults & children
creating radio
programming for

345 K

listeners in the
Voices of the
Paramos project



COMMUNICATION RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

2024

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

WACC Global raised nearly £1.34 million in 2024 to fund its programs promoting communication as an essential human right for everyone. Slightly more than 72% came from international partners, with non-governmental sources making up the remainder. Of this revenue, just over 86% was in the form of grants and contributions, and close to 14% was self-generated.

In 2024, WACC Global spent 95.6% of its income directly and indirectly on programs and program partners around the world, while governance costs accounted for only 1.8%. We invested 2.6% in fundraising and development activities to nurture relationships with potential partners and supporters, strengthening our ability to fulfill WACC's mission of communication for all.

Our global members, boards, and staff continue to work closely with friends and partners to diversify income streams and expand WACC's reach—enabling more people to be seen and heard.

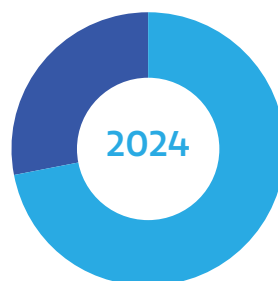
Note: Financial figures provided are pre-audit. Audited accounts are available on request.



Azra Talat Sayeed of the Pacific Forum on Women, Law, and Development advocates at the UN climate summit COP28. Photo: Albin Hillert/Life on Earth

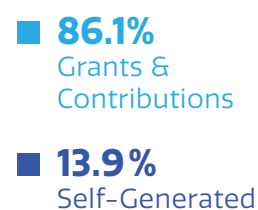
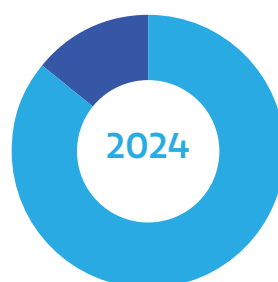
INCOME BY SOURCE

International Grants	966,633	72.1%
Non-Governmental	373,123	27.9%
Grand Total	£1,339,756	100.0%



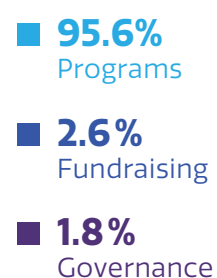
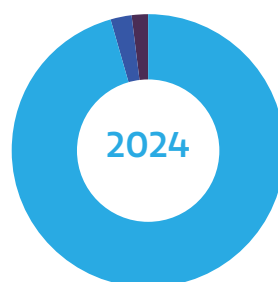
INCOME BY TYPE

Grants & Contributions	1,153,622	86.1%
Self-Generated	186,134	13.9%
Grand Total	£1,339,756	100.0%



EXPENSES BY TYPE

Programs	1,341,332	95.6%
Fundraising	36,342	2.6%
Governance	25,087	1.8%
Grand Total	£1,402,761	100.0%



Note: All figures in British pounds sterling.

FUNDING PARTNERS

WACC thanks all of our institutional funders and individual donors for their vital support to our mission of making communication more democratic, inclusive, safe, and sustainable.

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



A man sells Real Change, a newspaper produced and sold by street people in Seattle (WA), USA, to earn an income and raise awareness about local social justice issues. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth



ACT Alliance



DanChurchAid



Alongside Hope



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



AMARC Asia Pacific

Ford Foundation

Ford Foundation
(Mexico Office)



Association
for Progressive
Communications



Otto per Mille of the
Waldensian Church



Association of
Protestant Churches
and Missions in
Germany (EMW)



United Methodist
Committee on Relief
(UMCOR)



Bread for the World



Witness



Centre for
Communication
Rights



World Council
of Churches



Cultural Survival



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.

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Lorenzo Vargas, *Program Manager – Communication for Social Change*
Terri Miller, *Communications Coordinator*
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 First Floor, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE, United Kingdom.



Amy Toreno uses a resource from a migrant support organization to inform fellow Filipina migrant workers in Hong Kong about their rights. Photo: Paul Jeffrey/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.

ADVOCATE.

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

DONATE.

Support communication rights online at waccglobal.org/donate.

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CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

ccrvoices.org

AFFILIATIONS

WACC is a member of

ACT Alliance



CDAC Network



Global Forum on Media and Development



WACC has consultative status with the
UN Economic and Social Council

