

Programme Report

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Highlights

- DIP 2016-2020 is coming to an end. 78 organizations in DAC-list countries have benefitted. 75% funded by Bread for the World- Germany (BfdW).
- The DIP is now called the Communication for All Programme (CAP): Communication Rights for Sustainable Development. The 2019-2023 CAP is launching in the second semester of 2019. WACC was able to secure an additional EUR 200,000 funding commitment from BFDW in relation to the previous DIP contract for a total contract value of EUR 1,494,000 over four years. Five thematic areas will be Gender, Climate, Indigenous Rights, Migration, and Digital Rights.
- Projects supported with funding from the Waldensian Church – Italy's Otto Per Mille fund (OPM) have focused primarily on migration and gender issues in recent years. Funding from OPM (EUR 79,960 in 2018; EUR 80,000 in 2019; 85,000 in 2020) has been stable over the past 4-5 years.
- WACC secured a new grant of USD 84,000 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) to launch a new pilot project on migration and communication in Colombia and Venezuela. The project generates about 7,000 USD in overhead income for WACC. ELCA has expressed interest in renewing the grant.
- WACC has submitted an application to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund of the Anglican Church of Canada (PWRDF) for CAD 132,000 to launch a new project on environmental protection and climate change mitigation in Colombia. If approved, WACC will have to contribute CAD 37,000, which we will do from the CAP. It will generate about CAD 7,000 in overhead income for WACC. News expected in late September.
- WACC has submitted an application for a CAD 100,000 grant from Canada's Department of Citizenship, Immigration, and Refugees to launch a new project on migration and freedom of expression in Mexico and Guatemala. If approved, it will generate about CAD 8,000 in overhead fees for WACC. News expected in October.
- Preparations for the GMMP are ongoing.
- WACC hosted one Partners' Consultation in February of 2019. It was held in Saint Lucia and focused on linguistic rights and sustainable development. It was also an occasion to mark the Year of Indigenous Languages (2019). WACC is planning to host a Partners' Consultation in December of 2019 focused on gender and media. It will be held in Turkey.
- WACC continued to be active at the UN and global advocacy levels, especially at events such as the UN's Commission on the Status of Women and Deutsche Welle's Global Media Forum. Planning for engagement in 2020 is underway.

1. Strategic Plan 2017-2021

WACC is now in the third year of its [2017-2021 strategic plan](#). The SP has a series of programmatic priorities. Updates are provided below.

1.1 Advocacy for Communication Rights

1.1.1 Media Monitoring

WACC's media monitoring work is ongoing. Preparations are underway for the 2020 edition of the GMMP. WACC has also supported a number of projects focused on media monitoring of migration, implemented by regional associations in Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Latin America, and Europe.

1.1.2 Campaign

WACC's #EndNewsMediaSexism launched in 2016 came to an end with mixed results, primarily as a result of limited funding for it.

WACC is exploring the possibility of launching a campaign calling an 18th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) entitled "Communication for All"

1.1.3 Communication Rights Index

WACC has not made much progress with the idea of a Communication Rights Index, primarily because of funding limitation and broader questions about the feasibility and/or usefulness of such an index. However, WACC is exploring the possibility of launching an Index-like project focused on the extent to which the digital transformation in today's world is democratic and advances social justice.

1.1.4 Communication Rights Charter

WACC has not made much progress with the idea of a Communication Rights Charter, primarily because of funding limitation and broader questions about the usefulness of a new charter in a context with so many charters and declarations already in place.

1.2 Building Capacity to Promote and Strengthen Communication Rights

1.2.1 Communication for Social Change

Capacity building work on communication for social change has been significant. 60 projects have been supported with BfdW funding. 10 have been supported with OPM funding. 1 has been supported with ELCA funds.

1.2.2 Gender and Communication

Capacity building work on gender and communication has been significant. 19 projects have been supported with BfdW funding with 9 of the 60 Communication for Social Change projects mentioned above also having very strong gender dimensions.

GMMP 2020 preparations are ongoing.

1.3 Communications

WACC has significantly enhanced its external communications. We have a new contact management system called CV-CRM. We have launched a revamped website for Many

Voices One World, our secular brand (<https://mvow.org/>). We have a new member of the WACC team responsible for managing our external communications and enhancing our social media presence. We have revamped the GMMP logo. WACC's main website is also being updated. We will also be producing a new series of written materials on communication rights in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.

1.4 Building Bridges, Networks and Partnerships

WACC continued its engagement with networks such as ACT Alliance, Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), Global Alliance on Gender and Media (GAMAG), International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Religious Communication Congress (RCC), and Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Network

2. DIP Contract E-WEL-2016-0193 (1.1 million EUR over four years)

In mid-August 2016, WACC signed a new contract with Bread for the World with the overall development goal: "Civil society organisations in developing countries address communication needs of disadvantaged society members. By improving these, progress is made towards local sustainable development especially with regard to access to information and communication."

Under this contract, WACC is focusing on two major areas: Communication for Social Change (how media platforms can help advance communication rights in practice while also contributing to broader social change) and Gender and Communication (media monitoring projects to generate evidence on the gender dimensions of news reports).

Partner organizations supported under this DIP benefit not just from funding to implement their projects, but also from a series of accompanying measures such as: funds to attend events to share best practices and acquire new knowledge, grants to enhance the public recognition of their work, funds to [produce videos](#) about their projects, access to resource materials on communication rights, and technical support from WACC staff. WACC also developed a [virtual forum](#) for its project partners, which will be launched with the next iteration of the DIP programme in early 2020.

Co-funding under the new contract comes directly from project partners themselves or from a co-funding partner (both of whom must place the agreed amount in the project account before individual contracts are signed). This new approach has enabled WACC to collaborate with partners such as Cultural Survival (CS) and the Global Fund for Women (GFW) to fund joint projects. In the case of Cultural Survival, nearly all the administrative work is supervised by a CS staff member who also pays regular visits to the local project-holder.

An evaluation of the current programme must be completed before the end of implementation period (July 31, 2020). WACC will be developing Terms of Reference in the summer of 2019 in an effort to begin the evaluation process in late 2019.

As of July 31, 2019, the following 78 projects have been, or are being, supported under **DIP Contract E-WEL-2016-0193. This constitutes the totality of projects supported under this contract.**

	Project partner	Project title	Location	Co-funding partner	Approval date	Start date
2750	StudioMobile - Accent on Action Union	Training for women's and other marginalized groups' rights in regions of Georgia	Georgia	Global Fund for Women	27.09.16	01.11.16
2754	Fundación Comunicación Positiva	Representation of poverty in media in border regions Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia	Colombia	None [L/A regional project]	21.09.16	01.01.17
2752	LGBTIQA Association Okvir	LGBT*IQA Storytelling- Queer Archive Project	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Global Fund for Women	27.09.16	01.10.16
2757	Asociación Estoreña para el Desarrollo Integral -AEPDI	Xyaab' Tzuul Taq'a (La Voz de los Cerros)	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	20.10.16	18.11.16
2763	Radio Nimlajacoc	Ampliando la Libertad de Expresion del Pueblo Q'eqchi' mediante el fortalecimiento de Radio Nimlajacoc	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	16.11.16	22.11.16
2766	Grupo Comunicarte (VfP)	Multimedia Peace Waves; Youth Building Peace in Colombia	Colombia	Project partner	29.11.16	27.02.17
2765	Rural Missionaries of the Philippines-NMR (VfP)	Pax Ganern-Mindanao Interfaith Youth Initiatives for a Just and Lasting Peace	Philippines	Project partner	28.11.16	09.01.17
2767	Observatorio Centroamericano de Género y Comunicación	Creación y consolidación del observatorio centroamericano de género y comunicación	Costa Rica	Project partner	13.12.16	1.02.17
2761	Women, Media and Development	Women in Palestinian Media	Palestine	Project partner	13.12.16	1.02.17
2760	Uganda Media Women's Association	Generation of, and Popularizing Evidence-Based Knowledge in Media Reporting of Peace, Security & Conflict	Uganda	Project partner	31.01.17	1.02.17
2786	Radio Ixchel	Strengthening children's participation in community radio	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	13.02.17	20.02.17

2788	Radio Xilotepek	Capacity building for community communicators at Radio Xilotepek	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	16.02.17	20.02.17
2787	Radio Sinakan	Communication for Social Change	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	16.02.17	20.02.17
2785	Radio Likhu	Strengthening Capacity and Gender Equality at Radio Likhu	Nepal	Cultural Survival	08.02.17	16.02.17
2781	Radio Namobuddha	Technical and Gender Equality Capacity Building at Radio Namobuddha	Nepal	Cultural Survival	06.02.17	16.02.17
2782	Radio Kairan	Strengthening Capacity and Indigenous Women's Representation at Radio Kairan	Nepal	Cultural Survival	06.02.17	16.02.17
2783	Radio Sumhatlung	Strengthening Capacity and Women's Representation at Radio Sumhatlung	Nepal	Cultural Survival	07.02.17	16.02.17
2784	Radio Kairan (Nepal Women's Project)	Promoting Indigenous Women's Voices in Nepal Community Radio	Nepal	Cultural Survival	08.02.17	16.02.17
2790	Rural Missionaries of the Philippines-NMR	Radyo Lumad	Nepal	European Union	13.03.17	
2795	Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos	The right to communication in relation to Argentina's memory, truth and justice process	Argentina	Project partner	27.11.17	27.11.17
2817	Women's Media Watch - Jamaica	Where is Melissa? Increasing public awareness of human trafficking in Jamaica	Jamaica	Council for World Mission	17.11.17	17.11.17
2796	Community Media Centre	Young women advocates	Palestine	Project partner	1.12.17	1.12.17
2798	Indigenous Television	Amplifying the voices of Nepali Indigenous people	Nepal	Tamang Cooperation Society Of California Association	1.12.17	1.12.17

2797	Ideosync Media Combine	Free/dem Sarai	India	Project partner	1.2.2018	1.2.2018
2822	Fundacion de Santa Maria para la Promocion Indigena y Agroforestal	Radio Bee Xhiidza	Mexico	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	16.4.18
2826	APRODISE- Radio San Juan	Capacity building on Indigenous Rights in the Kaqchikel Region of Guatemala	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	16.4.18
2824	AEPDI	Strengthening Radio Xyaab Tzuultaq'a	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	16.4.18
2825	Radio Lak Lumal	Capacity Building on Radio Production and Community Development for the Tseltales and Choles Peoples of Chiapas State	Mexico	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	10.5.18
2833	Valley FM	Voices of the First Nation	South Africa	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	15.05.18
2834	Radio Triguya	Enhancing Indigenous Rights through Community Radio	Nepal	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	1.5.18
2835	Radio Janasanchar	Enhancing the Rights of Newar Indigenous Communities	Nepal	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	1.5.18
2823	COMADINCH	Empowering Maya Chorti Women Through Community Radio	Honduras	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	1.6.18
2837	Radio Mukulum	Supporting Community-Based Indigenous Journalism	Mexico	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	20.5.18
2836	Radio Tzinaka	Strengthening Radio Tzinaka in order to Advance Indigenous and Human Rights	Mexico	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	19.5.18
2832	Asociación Comunitaria de Desarrollo Integral	Capacity Building on Indigenous Rights in	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	16.4.18

	Maya Mam (Radio Nan Pix)	the Kaqchikel Region				
2838	Resguardo Indigena Paez de Corinto (Radio Nasa)	Strengthening the Wej'Xia Ka'Senxi Communication Network	Colombia	Cultural Survival	01.04.18	1.6.18
2841	Organizacion Indigena Kankuama	Strengthening the work of Tayrona Estereo in the Kankuamo region, Sierra Nevada	Colombia	Cultural Survival	04.06.18	20.07.18
2839	Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (CODECA)	Strengthening Radio Victoria	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	04.06.18	20.06.18
2840	Japexunk	Building Technical and Legal capacity among community media in Oaxaca and Hildago states	Mexico	Cultural Survival	30.04.18	01.06.18
2828	UKS Research Centre	Gender Equality in Media: Beyond Advocacy and Awareness	Pakistan	Project partner	01.04.18	01.05.18
2831	Women's Peace Initiatives	Reducing gender inequalities in the media landscape in Cameroon	Cameroon	Project partner	01.04.18	01.09.18
2830	School of Journalism, Press Institute of Mongolia	Increasing awareness of gender inequality in media content in Mongolia	Mongolia	Project partner	01.04.18	01.08.18
2829	Media and Gender Enlightenment Initiative (MEGEIN)	Gender issues in economic development: Analysis of Nigerian print and television news'	Nigeria	Project partner	01.04.18	01.06.18
2844	CIMAC	Politically Motivated Gender-Based Violence as the Focus of Newsmaking	Mexico	Project partner	13.06.18	01.06.18
2842	Friends of Youth Voice (Radio Meeta)	Raising Awareness of Indigenous Rights	Nepal	Cultural Survival	04.06.18	15.06.2018

		Through Community Radio				
2864	Helping Hand	Creating School-Based Media Clubs to Foster Dialogue and Youth Engagement	Georgia	Project Partner	30.11.18	01.01.19
2865	Communication Foundation for Asia	Building Media Literacy Skills Among Youth in the Philippines	Philippines	Project Partner	30.11.18	01.03.19
2866	Espacio de Comunicacion Insular	Promoting a Culture of Democracy in Response to Xenophobia and Racism in Dominican Media	Dominican Republic	Project Partner	15.12.18	01.02.19
2933	Folk Research Centre	Making Kwéyòl language speakers advocates for sustainable development	St Lucia	Project Partner	1-Apr-19	01.05.2019
2867	Alianza por el Derecho Humano de las Mujeres a Comunicar	Violeta Radio: Advancing Women's Access to Media in México City-	Mexico	Project Partner	15.12.18	01.02.19
2926	Grupo Comunicarte	Communicating the Amazon: Radio for Social Change at the Pan Amazon Social Forum	Colombia	Project Partner	19.03.19	01.04.19
2895	Asociación Civil Comunicación para la Igualdad	Periodismo económico y género: ¿quiénes hablan del tema y cómo lo hacen?	Argentina	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2897	Novi put	Monitoring Gender Portrayal and Representation in B&H Media	Bosnia	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2899	Comunicación e Información de la Mujer A.C CIMAC	Defensoras de la tierra y el territorio en los medios	Mexico	Project Partner	19.02.19	

2900	Grupo de Apoyo al Movimiento de Mujeres del Azuay - GAMMA	Reforzar herramientas y analizar cambios para aportar a la justicia de género en los medios	Ecuador	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2904	Asmita Women's Publishing House, Media & Resource Organization (ASMITA)	Media Monitoring on Violence against Women & Girls in Entertainment Sector in Nepal for their Empowerment & Gender Equality in Nepal.	Nepal	Project Partner	1-Apr-19	
2912	Media and Gender Enlightenment Initiative (MEGEIN)	Media Reportage of Land Rights and Agricultural Development in Nigeria: A Gender Analysis	Nigeria	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2910	Comité pour le Développement Intégré des communautés de base - CODICOM	Prévention des facteurs de discrimination et de stigmatisation des femmes dans les couvertures médiatiques en zone post-conflit en République Centrafricaine	Central Africa Republic	Project Partner	19.03.19	
2911	Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jot (WE CAN Alliance)	News Representation of Minority Women: Monitoring Bangladesh Media	Bangladesh	Project Partner	19.03.19	
2913	Gender Links Mauritius (GL Mauritius)	Capacity building on Gender in the Media in Mauritius newsrooms	Mauritius	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2915	Asociación de Comunicadores Sociales Calandria A.C.S. Calandria	Consulta ciudadana del tratamiento de la mujer en los medios masivos de comunicación	Peru	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2916	Appropriate Communication	"SHE" in Drama : Towards Breaking	Egypt	Project Partner	19.03.19	

	Techniques for Development (ACT)	Gender stereotypes in Drama				
2917	Uganda Media Women's Association, UMWA	Gender Portrayal and Representation in Gender Based Violence News Stories – Case of the Print Media in Uganda	Uganda	Project Partner	19.03.19	
2919	Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK)	Improving Women's Online safety through research, training and policies.	Kenya	Project Partner	19.03.19	
2920	OBSERVATORIO DE GÉNERO Y MEDIOS CENTROAMERICANO, GEMA	WACC/GEMA: ESTRATEGIAS PARA REDUCIR LA BRECHA DE GÉNERO EN LAS NOTICIAS EN CENTROAMÉRICA	Costa Rica	Project Partner	19.03.19	
2921	Réseau Interafricain pour les femmes, médias, genre et Développement – FAMEDEV	Projet de monitoring des reportages sur le développement local : L'agriculture au Sénégal	Senegal	Project Partner	19.02.19	
2930	Radio Gurbaba	Capacity Building for Gurbaba FM Community Radio station	Nepal	Cultural Survival	1-Apr-19	01.05.2019
2923	Radio USWA Nasa	Strengthening Radio Uswal Nasa Yuwe Estereo	Colombia	Cultural Survival	19.03.19	01.04.2019
2928	Coordinadora de Organizaciones del Pueblo Kichwa Saraguro (CORPUKIS)	Enhancing Radio 91.3- Kichwa Communities	Ecuador	Cultural Survival	1-Apr-19	01.05.2019
2924	Newa FM	Enhancing the language, literature, and cultural heritage of the Newar indigenous community	Nepal	Cultural Survival	19.03.19	30.03.2019
2925	Radio Kalinchowk	Empowering indigenous	Nepal	Cultural Survival	19.03.19	01.04.2019

		communities in Dolakha District on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)				
2934	Mujer voz y rostro de la Montaña Asociación Civil (Radio Naxme)	Women, Ancestral Fire, and Community Radio	Mexico	Cultural Survival	01.05.2019	15.05.2019
2929	Fundación para la Promoción de la Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo Económico y Social en Nariño (PROCOINDES)	Building Peace from our Land and Knowledge	Colombia	Cultural Survival	19.03.19	01.04.2019
2927	Asociacion de Grupo de Mujeres Tejedoras Ixiles Q'imb'al	Community Radio:Ixil Voices for Buen Vivir	Guatemala	Cultural Survival	19.03.19	01.04.2019
2931	Indigenous Community Radio Network (ICRN)	Network Capacity Building on Equipment Maintenance, ICTs, and Integrating UNDRIP into Radio Programmes	Nepal	Cultural Survival	01.04.19	01.05.2019
2939	Central American Indigenous Community Radio Network (Asociación Estoreña para el Desarrollo Integral- Guatemala).	Strengthening the Central American Indigenous Community Radio Network	Guatemala	Cultural Survival		15.06.2019
2936	Ximai Comunicaciones	Strengthening Radio Ximai	Mexico	Cultural Survival	01.05.2019	

As part of this DIP Contract, WACC retained the services of external consulting services to examine ways in which the DIP could be enhanced by better aligning programmatic themes with trends in the communication rights and communication for development field. The key recommendation from the external consultants was that, rather than trying to identify set themes under which individual project support would fall, the DIP should direct its project support towards civil society-led efforts to create social movements advocating for communication rights and sustainable development. According to the consultants, rather than focusing on projects seeking to meet an immediate development need, the DIP should focus on efforts seeking to address systemic issues hindering the realization of communication rights and sustainable development. The consultants' view is that this approach would serve to increase the influence of DIP project partners and of WACC as a whole.

Specific recommendations include:

- * Selecting DIP grantees in ways that reinforce movement building, particularly by supporting grantees that engage in awareness raising, community organizing and mobilization, capacity development for advocacy, research and policy recommendations, advocacy and campaigns, and resource mobilization activities;
- * Work with grantees in order to identify concrete advocacy opportunities for change;
- * Support network building, knowledge sharing, and joint advocacy activities in collaboration with grantees; and
- * Provide support to multiple organizations within the same movement or ecosystem in order to encourage project partners to collaborate.

Broadly speaking, WACC is in agreement with the recommendations of the consultants, which in many ways align with the general direction in which WACC has been moving recently. As a result, the 2019-2023 phase of the DIP (now called Communication for All (CAP) Programme: Communication Rights for Sustainable Development in order to better reflect the aims of the programme) will seek to integrate these recommendations while attempting to achieve a balance between supporting projects addressing concrete communication-related development needs at the grassroots level, to which WACC is committed, and supporting movement-building initiatives, paying special attention to initiatives that build on grassroots change to support broader change. WACC believes that it is well positioned to support movement building efforts due to current and past experiences supporting the global communication rights, gender and media, and community radio movements.

3. New Communication for All (CAP) Programme (1.4 million EUR over 4 years)

In the second half of 2019, WACC signed a new DIP (now CAP) small projects fund contract with Bread for the World for the period of 2019 to 2023 with the overall development goal of enabling civil society organisations in developing countries strengthen the democratic participation of disadvantaged people and communities in society in order to advance sustainable development. 45-65 organizations from DAC-list countries are expected to benefit.

Specific objectives include:

1. Civil society organizations in OECD-DAC countries have enabled vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged groups in society in these countries to exercise their communication rights, thus advancing sustainable development.
2. The active engagement of CSOs in OECD DAC countries in networks advancing communication rights for sustainable development is strengthened.

Following the recommendations of external consultants in 2019 and the recommendations of the 2015 DIP external evaluation, the projects selected under the CAP 2019-2023 will be expected to both align with the selected organization's internal strategic plan, and to contribute to the development of social movements seeking to address systemic issues undermining communication rights and sustainable development. To do this, partner organizations will be expected to engage in key movement building activities, such as strategic planning and

collaboration with allies, capacity building, knowledge production and dissemination, public engagement, and advocacy, among others. In addition to supporting its project partners with funding, WACC will provide support and advice in terms of project design, strategy, and knowledge sharing.

Beyond the small projects fund mechanism, and building on years of experience employing this method to advance communication rights around the world, the DIP also offers a series of accompanying measures (now called network building measures) meant further support organizations benefiting from the small project fund. These measures enable project partner to gain and share knowledge, build their internal capacity, work on joint initiatives, and make their work better known. Crucially, accompanying measures also enable project partners to participate in national, regional, and/or international-level discussions related to the work they carry out.

In addition to network building measures, the CAP will enable partners to access a 200,000 EUR fund to support the acquisition of broadcasting and media production equipment. These are new funds being generously made available by BfdW.

WACC and its partners around the world believe that addressing these types of communication and information issues is critical to achieving the vision of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is because these issues impede full participation in development processes, especially for the poorest and most marginalized people in society. WACC's position is that, despite the progress that the inclusion of some communication and information issues into the SDGs represents, greater integration of communication and information issues into the Goals, Targets, and Indicators would have strengthened the overall vision of Agenda 2030. CAP partners will also be invited to take an active role in awareness raising campaign calling for SDG 18 – Communication for All – that WACC will launching.

As such, the CAP is meant to encourage the integration of communication and information issues into the implementation of efforts aimed at advancing a number of the Goals. The CAP (2019-2023) will have five (5) programmatic areas, all of them drawing on the theory and practice of communication rights:

- A. Gender and Communication Rights (SDG 5- Gender Equality; SDG 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions);
- B. Indigenous Communication (SDG 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions);
- C. Communication Rights in a Digital Age (SDG 9- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and SDG 17- Partnership for the Goals. Elements related to media literacy align with SDG 4- Quality Education.);
- D. Migration and Communication Rights (SDG 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, SDG 10- Reduced Inequalities, as well as with 2030 Agenda as a whole as migration is a cross-cutting theme); and
- E. Climate and Communication Rights (SDG 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, SDG 13- Climate Action).

The decision to move away from having only two thematic areas - Gender and Communication and Communication for Social Change- as in the 2016-2020 phase of the CAP is the result of the following rationale:

- In WACC's experience, the concept of communication rights really comes alive when it is linked to tangible development problems that people and communities are trying tackle in their everyday lives. In most cases, communities approaching WACC for support are interested in establishing a new community radio station, training a network of citizen journalists, or challenging sexist stereotypes in media content not only because they want to be able to exercise key communication rights such as freedom of expression or access to information, but also because they want to use the freedoms afforded by those rights to be able to participate in society more meaningfully and tackle key development issues, such as landlessness, urban poverty, environmental degradation, or food insecurity. In this sense, communication should be understood to be both a right and a vehicle or tool advance broader social change. As a result, the themes of the 2019-2023 CAP are designed to support partners to implement projects that both advance communication rights and advance sustainable development in concrete ways. This approach is in line with the results of recent DIP consultations on communication rights and the SDG's, which reflect an interest on the part of WACC partners to engage with more tangible development issues from a communication rights perspective, as well as with recent developments in the communication for development field, such as the establishment of the Global Alliance for Social and Behaviour Change Communication, which seeks to bring greater attention to the crucial importance of communication in sustainable development more broadly. It is also a response to one of the findings of the 2015 DIP evaluation, which stated that the DIP lacked "a sense of an integrated holistic programme with a focus on communication rights. It appears more like a dispersed set of projects and bursaries on topics loosely related to the idea of communication rights" (pg. 43). WACC hopes that by more clearly articulating the relationship between communication rights and specific development challenges, WACC will be able to offer its partners a more meaningful partnership experience that will ultimately lead to a stronger identification with the theory and practice of communication rights.

- WACC believes that having more clearly outlined themes will strengthen the networking and collaboration element of the CAP. For example, it will be much easier for WACC to facilitate networking and knowledge sharing among the 7-11 projects partners that will implement initiatives under the migration and communication theme because they will share similar concerns, making the lessons learned by each partner more relevant and applicable for the other partners. In addition, WACC can more easily identify global networks or events, such as the UN Global Compact for Migration, for example, where a communication rights perspective may be missing from the agenda, and where WACC partners can make a strong contribution. This more targeted approach stands in contrast with the approach taken during the 2016-2020 CAP, in which dozens of partners working on themes as diverse as Indigenous radio, peace and communication, and media literacy were grouped under the Communication for Social Change theme and expected to engage in meaningful knowledge exchange despite the fact that the issues they were each tackling were significantly different. Under the 2019-2023 iteration of the CAP, consultations and other accompanying measures would be designed to facilitate exchange about communication rights as an umbrella theme as well as to facilitate the exchange of best practices tied to the specific development issues being tackled.

- While WACC's decision to focus on migration and communication, climate and communication, digital rights, and Indigenous communication may give the impression that WACC is taking the CAP in different or new directions, it is worth mentioning that these four themes have actually emerged organically from work already being supported under the Communication for Social Change theme. For example, under the 2016-2020 DIP, WACC is already providing support to several Indigenous community radio stations and networks, is supporting the establishment of a network of environmental citizen journalists raising awareness about climate change, is enabling partners to tackle digital media illiteracy and fake news" by working with networks of youth through online radio, and has supported efforts to enhance access to information for migrants. In this sense, the shift from two thematic areas to five thematic areas should be understood as a way for WACC to better articulate and communicate work it is already doing through the DIP, as well as a mechanism to better define and articulate the work it is mandated to carry out as part of the "Communication for Social Change" thematic area outlined in its current strategic plan.

Ultimately, WACC believes that sustainable development requires that people participate in the debates and decisions that affect their lives. They need to have access to information, but also to make their voices heard and to be represented fairly in media content. In light of the digital revolution, they need to have control over their data, be able to exercise their right to privacy, and to draw meaningful benefits from new technologies. WACC believes that the rights-based approach to addressing communication and information poverty that underpins this proposed initiative is the right framework to tackle these complex and fast-changing challenges.

4. Waldensian Church – Otto per mille Fund (80,000 in 2018; similar amount expected for 2019)

OPM funded projects has primarily focused on migration and communication, though two of them focused on different topics (communication rights of people with disabilities & communication rights and climate change) and have been all managed by WACC's regional associations.

Projects implemented in 2018:

Project location	Name of Organization	Project title	Project Area	Amount approved
Africa	WACC-Africa	Monitoring media reportage and portrayal of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa: Case studies from Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya	Internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and communication rights	EUR 25,460
Latin America	WACC-Latin America	Trabajando por el Derecho a la comunicación de las Personas con Discapacidad en 6 países de América Latina	Derechos humanos y discapacidad, Derecho a la comunicación	EUR 10,000
Asia	WACC-Asia	Communication rights of undocumented migrants	Migrants, refugees and communication rights	EUR 30,000

		and refugees in major migration corridors in Asia		
Pacific	WACC-Pacific	Climate Change Network – Lessons from Nuclear Test Lobbying	Communication rights and climate change	EUR 14,500
TOTAL				EUR 79,960

Projects implemented in 2019:

Project location	Name of Organization	Project title	Project Area	Amount approved
Global	WACC-Global	Transforming Media Representation of Migrants and Refugees ¹	Media monitoring, migrants and refugees, C.R.	20,000
Caribbean	WACC-Caribbean	Empowering migrants for language and communications integration	Migrants and communication rights	12,000
Africa	WACC-Africa	Research and stakeholders' engagement on best practices in guaranteeing the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs): Making a case for IDPs in Nigeria	Internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and communication rights	12,000
Europe	WACC-Europe	Communication Rights and Refugees in Europe: Breaking Down the Social Media Divides	Migrants, refugees and communication rights	12,000
Asia	WACC-Asia	Advocacy and media monitoring for communication rights of undocumented migrants and refugees in Asia	Migrants and communication rights	12,000
Latin America	WACC-Latin America	La representación de la migración en los medios de difusión. Caso migración humana entre México y Guatemala	Migrants and communication rights	12,000
TOTAL				EUR 80,000

Projects to be implemented in 2020 were submitted in late 2018 and are the following:

Project location	Name of Organization	Project title	Project Area	Amount Approved
Global	WACC-Global	Equal and Inclusive: Media and Communication Rights	Media monitoring, migrants and refugees, C.R.	EUR 25,000

¹ WACC sees this project as the first year of a three-year project implemented by WACC Global to consolidate, coordinate, and promote WACC's work on communication rights and migration. Future WACC requests for support submitted to OPM will include requests to support the continuation of this project.

		of Migrants and Refugees ²		
Africa	Journalists for Christ International Outreach, Nigeria	Monitoring and advocacy for gender equality in African news media	Empowerment of women and gender equality	EUR 25,000
Latin America	Grupo de Apoyo al Movimiento de Mujeres del Azuay, Ecuador	Monitoring and advocacy for gender equality in Latin American news media	Empowerment of women and gender equality	EUR 25,000
Lebanon	The Foundation for Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Lebanon	Monitoring media reporting on internal security to advance peace and social cohesion in Lebanon	Participation, dialogue, governance and human rights	EUR 10,000
TOTAL				EUR 85,000

Projects to be implemented in 2021 will be submitted to OPM in late 2019. Focus will be on migration, gender, and digital rights.

5. Network of Colombian and Venezuelan Citizen Journalists Working to Advance Access to Information and Intercultural Dialogue (84,000 USD in 2019; possibility of Renewal in 2020)

Thanks to the support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), WACC is running a pilot project to meet the communication and information needs of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia (estimated to be 1.2 million by mid-2019). ELCA's support (84,000 USD for 2019 and the possibility of renewal in 2020) is enabling WACC to respond to the crisis. Project website available [here](#).

This project seeks to foster intercultural dialogue and greater access to information by Venezuelan migrants in Colombia through the establishment of a network of citizen journalists in the border region (Venezuela-Colombia) and in Bogotá.

The network of citizen journalists, which will receive specialized training and accompaniment, will be made up of reporters from 20 community or university radio stations: 6 on the Venezuelan side of the border, 6 on the Colombian side of the border, and 8 in Bogotá. With WACC's support, this network will be responsible for producing media content and information products promoting greater access to essential information for migrants and encouraging intercultural dialogue.

Content will be strategically disseminated through community and university radio stations, as well as through digital platforms and public events at the community level. The combined use of

² WACC sees this project as the second year of a three year project implemented by WACC Global to consolidate, coordinate, and promote WACC's work on communication rights and migration. Future WACC requests for support submitted to OPM will include requests to support the continuation of this project.

several communication platforms will enable the network to reach as many migrants and host communities as possible in the geographical areas of implementation. The potential audience of content produced by the network, not taking into account online channels, is 8.5 million people in Bogota and 2.5 million people in the border regions. Thanks to a partnership with a Jesuit broadcasting network, the project hopes to reach an additional potential audience of 4 million in Venezuela.

Beyond greater access to information by migrant and host communities, the project will contribute to the development of an alternative narrative of migration, anchored in human rights and intercultural dialogue, in order to facilitate the integration of migrants and promote peaceful coexistence with host communities.

As a result of this project, WACC is cooperating in Colombia with UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, the ACT Alliance Colombia Forum, and Jesuit Refugee Service.

6. Other funding applications 2019-20

[Voices of the Andean Moorlands: Network of Environmental Citizen Reporters in Colombia.](#)
[Submitted to PWRDF for CAD 132,000 over three years.](#)

WACC was approached by PWRDF wanting to learn more about the work we are doing in Colombia focused on climate change. WACC submitted a proposal in response.

In the context of Colombia, several factors are contributing to environmental degradation and are consequently undermining human livelihoods. Some of those include the increasing number of open-pit mining projects, the very real possibility that fracking will become a widely used practice, deforestation and industrial agribusiness, all of which have an impact on forests and water resources, the protection of ancestral Indigenous lands, biodiversity, and family farming. These consequences have a particularly strong impact on women in rural areas, many of whom work primarily in agriculture.

This situation is unfolding in a context in which the Colombian government are pursuing what are broadly understood to be “extractivist” economic projects that prioritize the extraction of natural resources and mass-scale agriculture as some of the main drivers of economic growth. This model is having significant human rights consequences in terms of forced displacement and the persecution of environmental activists, as in the high-profile case of Afro-Colombian leader Francia Marquez, winner of the 2018 Goldman Prize, who narrowly escaped an attack in early May 2019. Environmental activists, many of them hailing from Indigenous or Afro-descendent communities who have depend on these resources for their livelihoods, are often the last line of defense in the battle between the destruction caused by the extractivist model and the protection of vital natural resources.

Of particular importance to Colombia is the protection of moorland (páramos) ecosystems in the high Andes (above 3,100 meters above sea level), which are critical sources of water (providing approximately 70% of drinkable water) and under serious threat by climate change. Despite existing international and national regulations meant to protect these ecosystems, there are fears among environmentalists that some of those protections could be eroded to facilitate extractive activities, as exemplified by Colombia’s new national development plan, which

proposed to weaken legislation that established moorlands as off-limits zones for resource development.

This proposed initiative seeks to address this situation by promoting a culture of people-led environmental protection among Indigenous, peasant, and Afro-descendant communities in the Colombian regions home to moorlands and moorland-related ecosystems. Drawing on the concept of *Buen Vivir* or *Sumak Kawsay*, a framework that promotes community-centred, ecologically-balanced and culturally-sensitive development, this proposed initiative seeks to establish a network of environmental journalists in areas located in or near moorland ecosystems in order to help disseminate information and knowledge and to encourage greater environmental cooperation between and among different communities. The project will also strengthen existing citizen journalism and community radio networks already working on environmental issues in order to help promote content produced by the new network focused on moorland ecosystems, as well as to enable trainees to benefit from the knowledge and experience of other, more experienced actors.

Migrant Voices: Freedom of Expression & Access to Information in Mexico/Guatemala. Submitted to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada's Migration Policy Development Programme for Cad 100,000 over 12 months.

WACC was approached by this Canadian government department wanting to learn more about the work we are doing focused on migration. WACC submitted a proposal in response.

This proposed initiative seeks to build the capacity of women, young, and/or Indigenous migrants (both in transit and at destination) in a) central Mexico (Mexico City and Mexico State) and b) in the border areas between Mexico (Chiapas State) and Guatemala to exercise their right to freedom of expression & access to information, as well as to derive best practices about the ways in which empowering migrants to exercise this right can help to address migration-related vulnerabilities and promote safe, orderly, and regular migration. The initiative responds to the very limited ability of migrants, particularly women, young and/or Indigenous migrants, in Mexico and Guatemala to make themselves heard in their host/transit societies despite being at the centre of public discourse on migration and to access vital information. This is occurring at a time when there is a sense that the Mexican government is primarily focused on border enforcement in its southern border rather than on the humanitarian protection of migrants (Amnesty International), and when there are growing calls within Mexican society to clamp down on Central American migration (a record 60,000 Hondurans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans - many of whom are minors, women, and/or Indigenous-, are expected to file applications for asylum in Mexico by the end of 2019 (Financial Times)). WACC will partner with two CSOs to implement this initiative: La Sandia Digital in Mexico City, and Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Cine y Comunicación de los Pueblos Indígenas (CLACPI) in the border area between Mexico and Guatemala, both of which are established civil society organizations.

Activities will consist of:

1. Project design: WACC works with two (2) local implementation partners, one in Mexico City and one in the border regions between Mexico and Guatemala, to identify key communication and information needs of women, young and/or Indigenous migrants at different stages of their migration journey, and develop project activities to respond to those needs.

2. Project implementation and monitoring: WACC's partner organizations in Mexico and Guatemala implement local activities developed during project design stage and monitor progress as WACC staff continues to provide technical support through site visits and network building efforts.

a. Programming in Mexico City will entail i) the development and launch of a participatory digital content campaign to inform migrants about their rights. Digital content will be produced by a group of 20 women and/or youth migrants, with support from WACC and La Sandia Digital, and will be disseminated via digital channels and community radio stations; ii) the development and launch of a strategic communications campaign via digital channels to tackle and confront xenophobic discourse; iii) develop a partnership with and hold a workshop with community and mainstream journalists and editors interested in giving greater visibility to migration issues from a rights-based perspective; and iv) development and launch of a digital media bank and journalistic guide focused on migration issues examined from an ethics, gender-sensitive, and human rights-based perspective.

b. Programming in the border region between Mexico and Guatemala will entail i) production and dissemination (via digital and community radio channels) of information pieces for migrants, including content in Indigenous languages, on their rights and how to access key services; ii) launching a public awareness campaign in partnership with local authorities, Indigenous leaders, church leaders, and youth on migrants' rights, empathy, and countering xenophobia; iii) a series of public events/dialogues featuring short films, migration experts, migrants, and host communities to promote inter-cultural understanding and advance a rights-based view of migration; and iv) holding a round-table event with reporters and editors from local media outlets, as well as with migrants' rights advocates, to promote media coverage that takes into account a rights-based view of migration, represents migrants in a balanced and fair way, and counter xenophobic and hate speech.

3. Research and publication of "best practices" report. WACC works with partner organizations to assess project impact, derive learnings and best practices, publish a report to be shared with interested CSOs and governments, and hold event to launch the report, ideally at the Global Forum for Migration and Development.

7. WACC project partner consultations

Exploring the Intersections between Communication Rights, Linguistic Diversity, and Sustainable Development (February 25-27, 2019; Castries, Saint Lucia)

WACC convened a meeting of its project partners across the Caribbean 25-27 February 2019 to reflect on challenges and opportunities around communication rights and linguistic diversity, particularly in relation to sustainable development.

The meeting held in Saint Lucia explored the following questions: What is the role of civil society in advocating for linguistic rights? How can civil society in the region forge stronger links to promote greater cooperation? How should countries adapt to meet the linguistic needs of migrants? What role does gender play in tensions around language use? Can digital communication help advance linguistic rights, enhance participation, and promote regional integration?

The consultation was attended by 11 representatives of nine WACC project partners from Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Suriname, as well as by four experts on topics such as gender, media systems, and cultural policy. Saint Lucia's Folk Research Centre served as local organizer and host.

Discussions among WACC partners and experts focused on three key themes. The first one was the role of media in upholding linguistic rights. Keeping in mind that media play a critical role in establishing spaces for public debate and in shaping public discourse, participants were asked to reflect about the role the media should play in creating spaces for linguistic minorities to express themselves, whether this role should be seen as a responsibility or as merely as choice by media houses.

The second one focused on the relationship between gender dynamics, linguistic issues, and participation in society. Participants explored questions such as “do women who do not master the dominant language in a given society face greater obstacles than men?” and “do women have a special role to play in the preservation or promotion of creole or patois languages?”

The third theme focused on the challenges and opportunities for greater integration and cooperation among Caribbean countries brought about by linguistic diversity.

“Can Migrants Make Themselves Heard in the Age of National Populism?” (May 27-28, 2019; Bonn, Germany)

WACC organized a panel presentation featuring 4 project partners (3 of whom represent DIP Partners) at the DW Global Media Forum, May 27-28 in Bonn, Germany. The panel presentation was an opportunity for project partners to exchange experiences and best practices related to migration and communication rights.

More than 2,000 media professionals, policymakers, and movers from politics and civil society, culture and education, business and science – representing 140 countries – attended the conference. The main conference theme, “Shifting powers,” explored “the impact of shifting power structures on the international media landscape and evaluate opportunities and challenges arising from digitalization,” according to the conference website. The program included topics ranging from how the media can shift power back to local people to a debate on whether social media is undermining the critical media landscape.

The DW Media Forum is one of the most important global events related to the democratization of the media. WACC was happy to contribute to the ongoing dialogue – especially on the challenging theme of the media representation of migrants and refugees.

WACC's panel provided lessons for journalists, researchers, communication professionals and policymakers about how media and communication can be used to help migrants and refugees exercise their rights at a time when national populist movements are gaining power around the world.

It is worth noting that WACC's panel presentation received strong media coverage. WACC's General Secretary was interviewed by Deutschlandfunk (a German public broadcasting station), and participants were made appearances on television and radio programmes.

Gender and Communication Consultation (likely to take place in Turkey in December 2019)

WACC is planning to hold a partners' consultation in late 2019 for approximately 30 project partners with the following objectives:

1. To gather lessons and best practices to inform WACC's approach to media monitoring projects including the strategy for the 2020 Global Media Monitoring Project
2. To develop an assessment of successes, gaps and opportunities in the implementation of the media recommendations (Section J) of the Beijing Platform for Action in preparation for its 25-year review in 2020.
3. To develop a policy proposal on gender and media / women's communication rights & right to freedom of expression, for use in national, regional and international advocacy towards the Beijing +25 and Agenda 2030 reviews in 2020.

8. Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP)

Background: WACC's flagship project the GMMP began with a mandate from the Women Empowering Communication conference (Bangkok, 1994) to organize one day at the start of 1995 for the monitoring of all media and use the data as the basis for an analysis of where women were. WACC in partnership with Isis International (Manila) and the International Women's Tribune Centre (New York) had convened the conference to address the need for a global women's conference to reassess communication developments and plan actions for the future. Since then, five global monitoring studies have been carried out and the results published in the WACC-issued report *Who makes the news? The Global Media Monitoring Project*. By 2015 GMMP participation had expanded from 71 to 115 countries covering news published in print, broadcast and digital media. The number of participating countries is expected to surpass 120 in the 2020 edition.

Policy frameworks: Section J of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action underscores the importance of media to the advancement of women. Non-governmental organisations and media professional associations are encouraged to establish 'media watch groups that can monitor the media and consult with the media to ensure that women's needs and concerns are properly reflected'. The GMMP responds directly to this mandate and has produced the statistical evidence to monitor change every five years since 1995. The 2020 edition seeks to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 SDG Target 5.1 on measuring performance in efforts to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, indicator 5.1.1.

The global monitoring day is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020. The actual date is not publicly announced in keeping with standard research conventions to minimize threats to validity of the research results.

GMMP 2020 preparatory phase update:

Task 1. Building the coordination structure: Numerous regional, sub-regional and national coordinators have been secured in Africa (28), Asia (13), the Caribbean (14), Europe (28), Latin America (10), Middle East (4), North America (1) and the Pacific (6). The coordinators are focal points for the monitoring groups in the region/country with support from the global coordinator.

Task 2. Revision of the GMMP monitoring methodology and coding instruments: An international team of technical experts working virtually in an ongoing online discussion expects to have the new monitoring tools available by 31 August 2019.

Task 3: Partnerships and fundraising. WACC has devoted considerable effort to secure funds through crowdfunding, grant proposals, letters of interest to donors and agreements with like-minded organisations for joint fundraising. Most promising so far are the discussions with:

- Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) (AUS 25,000 pledged to support participation of Pacific Island Nations);
- IPDC-UNESCO (USD 27,000 pledged to support implementation in conflict/transitional countries in Asia and Africa);
- Waldensian Church - Otto per Mille (EUR 46,756 requested for implementation in Latin America and Africa, decision expected in November); and,
- UN Women Europe and Central Asia (EUR 37,300 grant request for countries in Central Asia, decision expected shortly).

Also expected to bear fruit is a joint fundraising agreement with Internews (USA) and new talks with Free Press Unlimited (the Netherlands). A new coalition with East Africa region GMMP coordinator African Women and Child (AWC) and project partner Association of Media Women in Kenya has potential to mobilize funds from international donor partners located in Nairobi.

Award: On October 17 the GMMP will receive the Donald H. McGannon Award in Washington, D.C. The award is given annually as part of the United Church of Christ's media justice ministry's effort to recognize special contributions in advancing the roles of women and persons of color in the media; in this case, for the GMMP's decades of effort combining grassroots engagement, research and advocacy globally.

Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG)

WACC was appointed Interim General Secretary of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) in September 2016 and will continue hosting the general secretariat until 2021 following the results of GAMAG's general elections in July 2019.

The role includes:

- i. Managing GAMAG's membership and other records;
- ii. Coordinating the overall implementation of decisions and activities of GAMAG's governing body the International Steering Committee (ISC);
- iii. Monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and,
- iv. Preparing an annual report of GAMAG's activities and achievements, statement of accounts and other fiscal matters.

Key achievements

1. Establishment of membership records following a process of consolidating various lists. GAMAG's regional chapters and thematic committees have access to the lists through a private members portal on GAMAG's website managed by WACC.
2. Establishment of an independent website for GAMAG at www.gamag.net and support to the regional chapters and thematic committees to manage content on the site.
3. Award of three grants by IPDC-UNESCO to support GAMAG's work. WACC's role through the Gender & Communication programme manager was to develop the funding proposals,

oversee grant administration, coordinate implementation of activities, implement some project tasks, liaise with the funder, and, develop and submit the narrative and financial reports. Projects funded in 2018-2019 were:

- Gender and Media – Strengthening IPDC-GAMAG Partnership for Gender Transformative Media Development. Grant amount: USD 18,000. Outputs:
 - i. The position papers publication [*Setting the Gender Agenda for Communication Policy: New proposals from the Global Alliance on Media and Gender*](#) launched in July 2019 at the International Association for Media and Communication Research conference (IAMCR).
 - ii. Videos that illustrate the issues and good practices recommended in the position papers. See video roll at <https://gamag.net/resources/>.
 - iii. Events at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) New York March 2018 session to discuss the position papers and videos. WACC on behalf of GAMAG submitted a Written Statement in response to the CSW's call. The Statement was accepted and published on the Commission website at [E/CN.6/2018/NGO/155](#). (see story <http://whomakesthenews.org/articles/process-to-csw-gamag-statement-to-the-commission>) Responding to CSW 2018's Call for Communications, WACC as well submitted a petition to demand accountability by governments for the violation of women's human right to communicate and women's right to freedom of expression. In a CSW 2019 side event hosted by UNESCO, WACC and other GAMAG governance committee members led a panel discussion on the key issues raised in the papers.
- 2019-2020: Engendering National Mechanisms for the Safety of Journalists. Grant amount: USD 22,000. With implementation set to commence later this year, the project will, among other tasks:
 - i. Research legislation for the protection of women journalists in the three countries
 - ii. Develop proposals to mainstream gender in mechanisms for the protection of women journalists
 - iii. Convene a side event at the CSW March 2020 session in New York.

The adoption of a membership fee structure in 2019 as agreed at the July General Assembly will generate funds to offset the costs of hosting the GAMAG secretariat, which so far, have been partly covered through project grants and partly through the volunteer effort of WACC's Gender & Communication Programme Manager.

9. SIGNIS-WACC-Human Rights Award 2018

Every year, the Human Rights Award is given to a documentary film that throws light on a question of human rights reflecting the values and priorities of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) and SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication.

Eldorado directed by Markus Imhoof (Switzerland) received the WACC-SIGNIS Human Rights Award 2018. Throughout the world today, there are unprecedented levels of displacement caused by civil conflict and natural disasters. As a result, the theme of migrants, refugees and displaced people has become daily fare in much coverage by newspapers and television.

At the same time, studies have shown that news stories of migration and asylum-seekers rarely include the genuine voices and experiences of individuals and their families. Imhoof's camera holds up a mirror to European society, probing and questioning the viewer's own response and conscience as well as that of officialdom.

Where migrants and refugees face intolerance, discrimination, and xenophobia, Imhoof turns the tables by presenting human beings who are simply trying to rebuild their lives.

10. Media Development

WACC continued publication of its international quarterly journal *Media Development*. The issues to date were:

Media Development 1/2018

Gender and media – A holistic agenda

Articles in this issue are based on papers presented to the 62nd session of the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women. They call for the global development agenda to promote gender equality and women's rights, including requiring governments to work to end gender discrimination and promote equality in their laws, policies, and practices. Media output that clearly challenges gender stereotypes will help eliminate prejudices, attitudes, norms, and practices that sustain gender-based discrimination, marginalisation, and inequality.

Media Development 2/2018

Journalism that serves the public interest

At the heart of this issue of *Media Development* lies an opinion piece written by the editor-in-chief of *The Guardian* newspaper and first published on November 16, 2017. In a world where balance and truth in news coverage appear to be at a premium and where social media often promote fake news and misinformation, public service media remain an urgent necessity.

Media Development 3/2018

WACC at 50: Celebrating inclusion

Fifty years after its foundation, WACC is in a growing number of partnerships working for greater inclusion, accessibility and affordability, as well as greater responsibility in the world of public service media and digital communications. It is a matter of recognizing and portraying the intrinsic dignity and worth of all human beings no matter their background and belief.

Media Development 4/2018

Engaging with the digital

Digital communications are everywhere and yet policymakers struggle to respond with appropriate structures and governance models. It is necessary to move beyond celebrating greater accessibility and affordability in order to tackle fundamental questions about ownership and regulation, as well as ethical questions about privacy, security and surveillance.

Media Development 1/2019

Brave new digital world

What are the challenges confronting a society increasingly dependent on digital technologies? Who is making the rules and determining the values behind using social media? How are societies adapting and what are the prospects for the future? Articles in this issue address these questions and more.

Media Development 2/2019

Wanted: Sustainable Development Goal 18

This issue of Media Development went in search of the missing UN Sustainable Development Goal that underpins all the other SDGs. Goal 18: Expand and strengthen public civic spaces through equitable and affordable access to communication technologies and platforms, media pluralism, and media diversity. Its aim is to contribute to the debate about society, its values and priorities, and, above all, to our common future.

Media Development 3/2019

MacBride +40: What next for media democracy?

A review of today's communications environment in the context of what the MacBride Commission might have observed and commented on if it were sitting today.

Media Development 4/2019

Communication Pirates of the Caribbean

The new empires of digital media: how governments, corporate and private interests are hijacking public communication spaces. Ownership and control, the need for independent journalism and accountability, hate speech in online platforms, privacy, digital surveillance and surveillance capitalism.

Appendix: Public Interventions

WACC staff participate in various public events and discussions. A resume of those for 2017 follows together with those planned for 2018. The complete listing from 2012 onwards is available on request.

Public interventions (2018)

Event	Location and Dates	Brief description + link to WACC news story
ACT North America Annual Meeting	St. Augustine, Florida, USA 17-18 January	WACC was represented by Lorenzo Vargas, who sits on the Development Policy and Practice Advisory Group. Other organizations represented included ACT Secretariat, World Renew, ELCA, PWRDF, LWR, PDA, IOCC, and Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development	New York, USA, 22-23 January	The focus was on migration and new UN charters. WACC was represented by its General Secretary, Rev. Dr Karin Achtelstetter.
Foro sobre Igualdad de Género y Comunicación. México ante la Comisión de la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer (CSW) 2018	City of Mexico, 13 February	Organisers: Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE); Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (Inmujeres); Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM); Alianza Global de Medios y Género (GAMAG). WACC was represented by Dr Sarah Macharia at the invitation of the Mexican government.
ACT Alliance Development Policy and Practice Advisory Group	Geneva, Switzerland, February 26 to March 1	WACC was represented by its Programme Coordinator, Lorenzo Vargas.
WSIS Prizes 2018 Award Ceremony	Geneva, Switzerland 20 March	WACC was represented by its UK Programme Manager, Sara Speicher. She accepted the WSIS 2018 Champion Prize awarded to WACC.
The sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women	United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, 12-23 March	WACC was represented by Dr Sarah Macharia (GMMP/GAMAG) and others.

Religion Communicators Council (RCC) Convention “Realizing the Dream: Peace and Justice Through Communication”	Atlanta, Georgia, 5-7 April	WACC was represented by Philip Lee, Acting General Secretary, Shirley Struchen, President of WACC North America, and other members of the WACC NA Executive Committee.
International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference on “Reimagining Sustainability: Communication and Media Research in a Changing World”	Eugene, Oregon, USA, 20-24 June	WACC was represented by Lorenzo Vargas, Program Coordinator
ACT Alliance Assembly	Uppsala, Sweden, 29 October to 2 November	WACC was represented by Lorenzo Vargas, Program Manager, and staff liaison for ACT.
UNICEF Latin America regional workshop on “From words to action: Improving communication, community engagement and accountability”	Panama City, Panama, 30 October to 1 November	WACC was represented by WACC General Secretary, Philip Lee.
Parliament of the World’s Religions on “The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation and Change”	Toronto, Canada, 1-7 November	WACC General Secretary attended one day, including a workshop given by PaRD. Sarah Macharia attended the gender justice day.

Public interventions (2019)

Event	Location and Dates	Brief description + link to WACC news story
ACT Alliance North America Forum	San Francisco, USA, 16-18 January 2019	WACC was represented by its General Secretary, Philip Lee.
The sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women	United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, 11-22 March	WACC was represented by Dr. Sarah Macharia
Act Alliance Global Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean.	Guatemala City, Guatemala, March 27-29	WACC was represented by WACC member and project partner Alma Montoya (Colombia) to showcase learnings of ELCA-funded project on migration.
Religion Communicators Council (RCC) Convention “Realizing the Dream: Peace and Justice Through Communication”	Chicago, USA, 10-13 April	WACC was represented by Dr. Sarah Macharia
Deutsche Welle Media Forum	Bonn, Germany, 27-29 May 2019	WACC presented a session on the theme “Can migrants make themselves heard in the age of national populism?” WACC was represented by its General Secretary Philip Lee, Program Manager Lorenzo Vargas, and a panel that included Stephen Brown (Treasurer) and David Morales (Director).
International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference on “Communication, Technology and Human Dignity: Disputed Rights,	Madrid, Spain 7-11 July	WACC was represented by Lorenzo Vargas, Program Coordinator, and Sarah Macharia

Contested Truths		
UN High-level political forum on sustainable development	New York, USA, 9-18 July	WACC was represented by its General Secretary, Philip Lee.
Global Forum on Migration and Development	Quito, Ecuador, November 2019	TBD

Planned Public interventions (2020)

Event	Location and Dates	Brief description + link to WACC news story
ACT Alliance North America Forum	January 2020	TBD
The sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women	United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, TBD March	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
Religion Communicators Council (RCC) Convention	Washington, USA, 10-13 April	WACC will be represented by Philip Lee
The Nineteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) or Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, TBD April	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff

World Social Forum	Mexico, TBD	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
Deutsche Welle Media Forum	Bonn, Germany, May 2020	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
RightsCon	Costa Rica, June 8-12, 2020	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
IAMCR conference	Beijing, China, July 2020	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
UN High-level political forum on sustainable development	New York, USA, July 2020	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
Global Forum on Migration and Development	TBD	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff
WACC Symposium- Democratizing the Digital Transformation	October 2020	TBD
UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 26) or other climate-related event	November 2020	TBD. WACC is likely to be represented by project partners and/or staff