WOCCU 2023 IMPACT REPORT
A Year of New Opportunities

Membership with World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) already connects your organization to a global network of more than 50 national and regional credit union associations representing over 75,000 credit unions, with more than 280,000,000 members in 70+ countries.

Based on a desire to strengthen our network through greater inclusivity and provide more organizations with a pathway to global networking, WOCCU expanded its reach even further in 2023 – both by growing our membership and offering our members more opportunities for engagement moving forward.

A Governance Voice for Women and Youth

WOCCU Fellowship

WOCCU selected one nominee each from the Global Women’s Leadership Network (GWLN) and from WYCUP (World Young Credit Union Professionals) to serve as the first “Observers” to the WOCCU Board of Directors. The WOCCU Fellowship is designed to serve as a model for one of our network’s shared global challenges: the promotion of young professionals and women to more leadership roles in governance.

Patrick Rico (Philippines) and Eleonora Zgonjanin (North Macedonia) are the first WOCCU Board Observers.

Expanded Categories of Membership

WOCCU Membership is now open to additional national credit union or cooperative associations in countries where there is already a WOCCU Direct Member organization. Those organizations are now eligible to become Associate Members.

First and second tier credit unions in countries without an existing Direct Member are also now eligible for Associate Membership.

Credit union service organizations, fintechs and other industry partners that had previously been Associate Members, are now recognized as Supporting Members.

SICOOB (Brazil) became the first organization added under the revised Associate Member category.

New Engagement Opportunities

Global Bridges

By connecting networks across WOCCU and the Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions (WFCU) to advance solutions to our shared challenges, the revised Global Bridges program in 2023 facilitated 12 engagements between seven countries or regions, including:

- An MOU allowing the National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK) to help the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions (CCCCU) increase digital financial services throughout the Caribbean.
- An engagement trip to Ireland for PVKS Credit Union (Ukraine), allowing its representatives to learn how to improve operational capacity and digitalization efforts.

Climate Influencers Network

WOCCU launched its Climate Influencers Network with a summit at the 2023 World Credit Union Conference. More than 20 credit union leaders from six continents discussed the types of climate resilience issues they would like to see the global credit union movement focus on moving forward.
How We Worked for You in 2023

WOCCU executives engaged with you and your credit unions at events across five continents in 2023, including:

- Washington, D.C. (March) Credit Union National Association (CUNA) Governmental Affairs Conference.
- Zagreb, Croatia (September) International Conference of the Croatian Association of Credit Unions.
- Kathmandu, Nepal (September) Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) Annual Conference.
- Gaborone, Botswana (October) African Confederation of Cooperative Savings and Credit Associations’ (ACCOSCA) 2023 SACCA Congress.
- Foz de Iguacu, Brazil (April) Sicredi Women and Youth Summit.

Meeting Members Where They Are

Records Smashed at WCUC 2023

A record 3,000-plus credit union professionals from 60 countries attended the 2023 World Credit Union Conference in Vancouver, Canada – which WOCCU co-hosted with the Canadian Credit Union Association (CCUA). WCUC 2023 also set records for both the number of speakers (nearly 100) and the number of keynote presentations or breakout sessions (43).

Along with putting on a record-setting in-person conference, WOCCU’s Meeting and Events team hosted 14 virtual education and networking events attended by more than 1,500 industry professionals.

International Advocacy

2023 featured WOCCU International Advocacy’s first-ever address to a group at the United Nations, where they outlined the various ways credit unions, as member-owned financial cooperatives, play a key role in growing financial inclusion for rural and underserved communities during a UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Expert Group Meeting.

International Advocacy also:

- Successfully advocated for the Leaders of The G20 to include language in their Declaration embracing a proportional approach to the newly finalized standards on sustainability and climate-related disclosures published by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB).
- Obtained favorable language from the Financial Stability Board on cybersecurity issues, including proportionality and regulatory burden reduction for smaller community-based financial institutions in the Recommendations to Achieve Greater Convergence in Cyber Incident Reporting.
- Led executives from our Direct Member organizations in Australia, Canada, Poland and the United States on a sweep through three countries to visit with key International Standard Setting Bodies and urge support for the credit union cooperative model.
- Engaged with key European Union (EU) officials and select Members of the EU Parliament to obtain favorable considerations for credit unions on such issues as the Digital Operational Resilience Act, the EU Payment Package and the Consumer Credit Directive.
Global Programs

Your membership also indirectly contributes to a stronger worldwide network of credit unions that benefit from WOCCU Global Programs. In 2023, our success in this area led USAID to extend two of our current projects, while awarding us another.

USAID extended our Credit for Agriculture Producers (CAP) Project in Ukraine through September 2024, allowing the CAP Project’s partner credit unions to remain open and continue to serve their communities, while providing agricultural and rural businesses with access to savings and loans.

USAID also extended our Economic Inclusion Project (EIP) in Peru and Ecuador through May 2026, awarding $14 million to continue implementation on a much larger scale. In the first phase, EIP helped 123,952 Venezuelan migrants and local underserved populations obtain formal financial services.

Finally, the USAID Cooperative Development Program awarded WOCCU $9.3 million over five years (2023-28) to implement the Accelerating Growth and Inclusion in Lending for Credit Unions (AGIL4CU) Project in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Senegal and Guatemala. AGIL4CU will build on the work of WOCCU’s CDP-TIFI Project to advance credit unions’ ability to provide value to their members and contribute to the economic development of their communities, while extending business financing to underserved market segments, including women and youth.

Looking to 2024

World Council embarks on a new venture this year with the launch of HUB C, a space for credit unions and cutting-edge fintech providers to collaborate on innovations to reach more customers and grow financial inclusion.

Our expanded International Advocacy team will continue posturing credit unions for fair treatment in front of key international standard-setting bodies and assist more credit union movements with country-level regulatory issues.

The Climate Influencers Network will facilitate more engagements and experiences across our global network to drive sustainable solutions that make our credit unions more climate resilient.

The 2024 World Credit Union Conference in Boston, Mass. (USA), July 21-24, co-hosted with America's Credit Unions, will feature top-notch speakers, cutting-edge insights and solutions, and unmatched networking opportunities with thousands of peers from more than 60 countries.

WOCCU Global Programs will continue to work on leveling the playing field for vulnerable populations in the developing world, with a focus on serving migrants, refugees, women and youth, through financing for small businesses and working with communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions will continue partnering with WOCCU to make a deep global impact through funding that supports refugees and migrants, agricultural producers and small business owners, while seeding innovative solutions for credit unions through digitalization and leadership development.

Global Women's Leadership Network (GWLN) celebrates 15 years of program growth in 2024, by building on global engagement, membership offerings and collective efforts toward bridging the gender gap. And WYCUP will be forming a Leadership Council comprised of its Scholar Alumni and other emerging leaders across the globe in a continued effort to bridge the leadership gap.