



World Council



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.

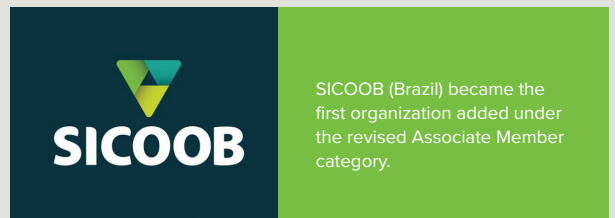


Expanded Categories of Membership

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**.



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 (CCCU) 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

Meeting Members Where They Are

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



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.](#)



DOING GLOBAL GOOD



As a global first responder, [Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions \(WFCU\)](#) delivers relief and recovery aid to damaged credit union systems, impacted employees and displaced members in the wake of disaster through its Project Storm Break initiative.

Project Storm Break by the Numbers

\$70K

financing 10 portable Turkish financial cooperatives, serving earthquake-affected areas

\$150K

earmarked for Ukrainian members to purchase agricultural equipment

\$300K

secured to capitalize the digitization of the Ukrainian credit union system

\$500K

distributed through central Ukrainian credit unions to support war-torn communities

\$3K

program for Ukrainian credit unions to purchase drinking water and storage equipment

Outreach to Women and Youth

Two WFCU initiatives continued to reach more women and youth in 2023. [The Global Women's Leadership Network \(GWLN\)](#) engaged 2,500+ women and men from its global community through multiple in-person events throughout the year and provided more than 3,500 hours of education and networking across 160 Sister Societies in 30 countries on six continents.

[WYCUP](#) added more than 350 young credit union professionals in 2023, with membership now spanning across 75 countries and engagements continuing to grow through in-person and virtual events throughout the year.

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.

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.

