Why Your Membership Matters

Membership with World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) connects your organization to a global network with strength in numbers.

50+ NATIONAL OR REGIONAL CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATIONS

REPRESENTING MORE THAN

75,000 CREDIT UNIONS

WITH

280 MILLION MEMBERS

IN MORE THAN

80 COUNTRIES

WOCCU MEMBERS ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 70% of all credit unions, credit union members and credit union assets worldwide.

How We Work on Your Behalf

Our International Advocacy team advocates on behalf of credit unions in front of all the major international standard-setting bodies. Those efforts resulted in some major wins for 2022, prompting:

• The G20 to adopt the G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration, wherein it reaffirmed support for a WOCCU-advocated focus on financial inclusion.

• The Basel Committee to issue guidance encouraging national-level regulators to tailor Basel III standards in a proportional manner for less complex financial institutions, such as credit unions.

• The Financial Stability Board (FSB) to heed WOCCU’s call for regulatory flexibility, by noting relief measures granted during the COVID-19 pandemic are best withdrawn gradually.
Our **Meetings and Events** team hosted the [first in-person World Credit Union Conference since 2019 in Glasgow, Scotland](#). While more than 1,600 attendees were treated to 30 keynote presentations or breakout sessions from more than 50 speakers, professionals whose credit unions belong to a WOCCU member association got the extra benefit of a conference registration discount. **1,100 people took advantage of that member discount, for a total savings of US $440,000.**

Meetings and Events also offered **35 virtual events**, ranging from educational webinars to networking workshops that attracted 2,300 live viewers from more than 80 countries.

Your membership also indirectly contributes to a stronger worldwide network of credit unions that benefit from WOCCU **International Projects** through funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donors who support capacity building and technical assistance.

Never was that support more essential than in 2022, especially in Ukraine. In the midst of war, the **Credit for Agriculture Producers (CAP) Project** helped its partner credit unions issue more than 1,900 agricultural loans worth over US $2.8 million to its member farmers, so they could continue critical food production for their communities and the world market.

The **Economic Inclusion Project** developed and launched the **Enko app** for entrepreneurs in Peru and Ecuador, and has now helped more than 71,000 Venezuelans and low-income local residents get access to savings, credit services and loans through 14 partner financial institutions.

Finally, the **Technology and Innovation for Financial Inclusion (TIFI) Project** helped 23 credit unions in Guatemala develop and open their own Credit Union Services Organization (CUSO) to issue loans to SMEs that are classified as limited liability corporations.

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**Doing Global Good**

In response to Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, [Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions (WFCU)](#), the charitable and fundraising arm of World Council, on February 27 launched its **Ukrainian Credit Union Displacement Fund**. It has resulted in several programs to strengthen credit unions and make them more resilient. To date, the Displacement Fund has financed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Union Operations</th>
<th>Food Security &amp; Agricultural Production</th>
<th>Resettlement Support</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$300,000</strong> to support credit union business processes.</td>
<td><strong>$100,000</strong> Fuel Disbursement Program</td>
<td><strong>$50,000</strong> to provide shelters and humanitarian aid for internally displaced persons at the outset of the war.</td>
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<td><strong>$55,000</strong> to purchase generators, so credit unions can continue operations during blackouts.</td>
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<td><strong>$40,000</strong> to support daily operations of the All-Ukrainian Credit Union Association (AUCUA).</td>
<td><strong>$100,000</strong> Loan Reimbursement Program</td>
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Outreach to Women and Youth

Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions also continues to grow the collective influence of credit union women and young professionals through its Global Women’s Leadership Network (GWLN) and World Young Credit Union Professionals’ (WYCUP) Program.

GWLN engaged 1,500 women and men through 3,800+ hours of education and networking content across 155 sister societies on six continents, while WYCUP added more than 300 new members in 2022 – contributing to an overall membership growth of 237% since January 2021.

What’s Ahead in 2023

World Council of Credit Unions will focus on three major themes this year: digitalization, sustainable finance and resilience.

International Advocacy will look to posture credit unions to be resilient in the face of major regulatory challenges, including sustainable finance, climate change, payments, cybersecurity, cryptocurrencies and anti-money laundering.

Our 2023 World Credit Union Conference in Vancouver, Canada, July 23-26, is expected to welcome 2,500 industry professionals from more than 60 countries for an event focused on sustainability, digital technologies and the future of financial services. Our Meetings and Events team also plans to feature an even more robust calendar of virtual events this year.

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

Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions and WOCCU Member Services look forward to connecting credit union peers worldwide to grow networking, education and technical capabilities through our expanded Global Bridges program.

For the first time in 2023, the WYCUP Scholarship program is offering recipients a choice of two, all-expense paid education and networking events held on different continents – its inaugural Global Youth Summit in Canada and the Sicredi Women and Youth Summit in Brazil. GWLN will seek to build on global engagement by continuing to add value across its annual events, membership offerings, scholarship experiences and thought leadership centered on bridging the gender gap.