

COPING WITH THE NEW NORMAL



AKIDWA 2020 IMPACT REPORT

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CHAIRPERSON REPORT

It is my great pleasure to share this annual report which signifies the continued hard work and efforts of AkiDwA staff, volunteers, members, and supporters in advancing the rights of migrant women throughout Ireland.

The events of 2020 presented significant challenges for AkiDwA, for Irish society, and indeed the world. The COVID-19 pandemic affected each and every one of us, but we are particularly mindful that those at greatest risk and experiencing precarity continue to be disproportionately affected. Concern for our loved ones and for the welfare of those overseas was felt acutely by us all. In addition, as a front-line service provider, AkiDwA joined in tackling the Shadow Pandemic and rising incidences of violence against women. Amidst all this, the killing of George Floyd sparked a global movement which forced the world to confront the inherent and pervasive racism in our societies.

However, out of adversity comes opportunity, and AkiDwA has demonstrated strategic vision while continuing to implement needs-led programme work. Despite a challenging 12 months, this was a year to reflect upon and be proud of the continued growth of the organisation; to consider the impact of decades of essential service provision, and gains made through advocating for equal access, opportunities, and outcomes for migrant women in Ireland. After such a difficult year, the strength and determination of the AkiDwA community gives me great confidence that our staff and volunteers will continue to deliver our objectives for the benefit of Irish society. I wish to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Dr. Salome Mbugua in facing such unprecedented challenges.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of AkiDwA, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to the AkiDwA community, including funders, for the sustained commitment to our work. It has been my honour to serve as a board member and Chairperson, and I look forward to supporting the continued success of Ireland's leading national migrant-led women's network.



CEO REPORT

2020 was an extremely challenging year, with everyone having to deal with the new normal. The breakout of the coronavirus pandemic affecting all countries in the world created fear of the unknown, uncertainty, loss of jobs, lockdown, restricting movements. At the same time, cases of domestic violence increased, and people's mental health was challenged. The senseless killing of George Floyd sparked the debate on Racism globally, bringing to life the black lives matters movement, while the killing of George Nkecho through shooting by Gardai(Police) in Ireland left people, especially people of African descent, with many questions and doubt at the awake of all discussions and cry for support for the youth of African descent.



At the height of the pandemic and especially during the lockdown period, at least 90% of employees across Ireland worked from home. This was to control the spread of the viral infection, and hence restrictions dictated so. This effectively means that since March, the way people were used to work changed drastically; this led us to discover that working from home has its own opportunities as well as challenges, however AkiDwA office remained open in support of vulnerable women mainly experiencing domestic violence and homelessness, our organisation support 68 women experiencing violence. Our professional approach was to provide more flexibility and to help each other to find a new balance. We always kept daily interactions with work colleagues by regular meetings and debriefing online, calling each other to air their experiences and coping mechanisms. We also always talked with other frontline workers, which is essential to find out how others were doing their work from home, away from the office, and in familiar work environments. Hence there was a lot to learn from each other. In the context of AkiDwA challenges during the lockdown, mental health and well-being were factors that manifested themselves in all of the organisation's work. To cope with the stress and fears that manifested during this time, talking to others helped and going for walks; all forms of meditation and prayers were also useful. Another strategy was making long-distance calls to friends and family just to find out how they were fairing.

All activities were moved online, which came with challenges and opportunities, while support for vulnerable women was provided by 2 staffs, meeting in the office, accompanying them to Garda and refuge, listening and referral. The organisation distributed condoms and information to 23 direct provision centres. Over 60 meetings were held online, with coffees mornings and training sessions held on a weekly basis. AkiDwA produced a video explaining available services and support to members during this time of covid 19. The video was placed on our website and was also shared through social media. Team meetings were held every Friday where staff shared updates and feedback to others on outreach carried out through the phone. An opportunity to hold an information day arose in September when restrictions were lifted. We held important discussions, participated, and engaged in other organisations, events, and activities. While it was a very difficult year, the organisation continued to play a big role in supporting migrant women with information and providing direct support.

BACKGROUND

Established in 2001, AkiDwA is a national network of migrant women living in Ireland. Our mission is to promote equality and justice for migrant women, with a vision for a just society where there is equal opportunity and access to resources in all aspects of society: social, cultural, economic, civic, and political. This report covers activities and projects which were undertaken in 2020 and based on AkiDwA Strategic Plan 2019-2021: Shaping the Future.

AkiDwA's core objective is to advance education and address poverty of migrant women by setting up a drop-in-centre to relieve hardship for women immigrating, particularly from the continent of Africa into Ireland. This is done by providing information, counselling (including therapeutic services for survivors of war, FGM, torture, and other forms of disempowerment to women), and social opportunities. The report below is a narrative of activities and projects undertaken in 2020, in line with the four strategic objectives as outlined in our strategic plan: Voice, Equality, Community, and Organisational Development.

VOICE

representing the voices of migrant women and their families to the political and administrative system through, the media and the public.

2020 was the second year since the implementation of AkiDwA strategic plan 2019-2021. The year started busy with the launch of a new report on mental health and a manifesto on FGM. AkiDwA appeared on various mainstream media in January due to FGM sentencing – this includes RTE six one news, Newstalk radio, Kildare FM, medical times, Irish Times, and the Journal. To mark black history month, AkiDwA was invited to participate in two online webinars, an online event by Air B &B, where SM spoke; the organisation will receive a contribution of £150. AkiDwA also spoke at an event organised by Humanist Ireland from Cork; their online conference focused on addressing racism and forging allies to build a better society.

There was great media coverage highlighting the study on hidden attitudes of racism. We took part in the Wheel conference, highlighted our work, and outlined the multiple discrimination and intersectionality based on gender, migration, race, faith, and religion as quite often leads to multiple discriminations. AkiDwA produced two newsletters that were shared with members and other stakeholders; some good feedback was received from organisations and funders who acknowledged AkiDwA efforts during the difficult times of the pandemic.

The launch of the Manifesto took place at Buswell hotel and was attended by a good number of people, among them politicians, CHA, people from different faith and religions. The Manifesto targeted politicians contesting for TDs seats in advance of the national election calling for a commitment to address FGM in Ireland, given the first case, which saw a couple convicted in January 2020. AkiDwA, with the national steering committee, called for a comprehensive government-led National Action Plan (NAP), implementing and allocating funding, supporting civil society working on the issue, and calling for political commitment to end female genital mutilation and protect those at risk.

AkiDwA addressing the Irish nation in 3mins: In July 2020, AkiDwA was approached by Abbey Theatre and was asked to participate in a series of nationwide broadcasting- Dear Ireland 2. The organisation worked with Abbey theatre, where we produced a 3 min video focusing on equality. The series was broadcast to the nation and to the world in December through Abbey Theatre's social media outlet.

AkiDwA was invited by the Leitrim International community group to speak at their conference in October. The conference focused on migrant women's activism. Good links were made with this group, and the organisation hopes to collaborate with them in the future.

Shared Island meeting: SM was invited for the second year by the Department of Taoiseach in their project shared Island, where she presented the vision for a shared Island from migrant women's perspective.

Despite the pandemic, AkiDwA appeared in both printed and broadcast media with attention drawn to the FGM sentence in January, the killing of George Floyd in May, and George Nkecho in December.

EQUALITY

To ensure equality of access to opportunity and treatment, AkiDwA focused on equality issues across integration and social inclusion and delivered activities and projects addressing racism, discrimination, FGM, mental health, domestic violence, and support for women seeking international protection

AkiDwA participated in First Fortnight activities organised by DCU; this took place on 10th January, and as part of the First Fortnight, Mental Health Arts Festival 2020 – AkiDwA collaborated with the Dublin North, East Recovery College, Cairde, DCU, Pavee Point, and Silver Thread where they held a full day of activities with a title “Journeys - What I Know Now” focusing on transcultural healing, creativity, understanding, and integration of well-being. AkiDwA work on FGM, reproductive health, and mental health were featured in the discussions as well

In March 2020 the organisation made submission to Citizen Assembly on Gender Equality, AkiDwA argued gender equality cannot be truly addressed without listening to the perspectives of women with varying life experiences – whether that is the experience of navigating the migration system, being an ethnic minority, having a disability or coming from a disadvantages socio-economic background. The organisation emphasized on the need for any data collected on discrimination and victimization to account for the multiple discriminations faced by migrant women, LGBT+ community, religious minorities, people with disabilities and that all policies should have a gendered and intersectional approach to protect the most vulnerable groups. The organisation submitted some key gendered experiences of the members from our outreach work and research undertaken recently for consideration of the Citizen’s Assembly including Gender Based Violence, Employment and Childcare, and the experience of women in Direct Provision

The outbreak of Covid 19 brought a fear of the unknown, and the lockdown meant many Migrant women had to cope up with child schooling while others lost jobs. To support the community, AkiDwA held an online conference Migrant Women Stand Up to covid 19, discussions focused on five key major areas -

1. **Mental health** – discussion and information in this area included tips on how to reduce stress, information on counselling and therapy.
2. **Reproductive health & Covid-19**-discussions focused on safe sexual health and access to contraceptives and other reproductive health support
3. **Economic and social impact of Covid 19**-on migrants-session covered covid 19 support and access to benefits.
4. **Family and children** – focused on confinement and challenging in managing family and children and stress too
5. **Domestic violence** – With a flare of stress, frustration and insecurity, women been at the risk of domestic violence, discussions focused on women safety during the crisis

There was huge interest in the conference 121 people registered, and 88 managed to participate through zoom. Through AkiDwA weekly check-up with members, it was noted many women are under pressure and are affected by stress while trying to manage children and families, some in confined rooms, a presentation on challenges facing Women and Families in Direct Provision and suggestions on how to keep safe and children staying safe was presented by Rosey from dignity partnership, and Adeline from break forth, CEO of Dublin Talk Therapy Centre who have been supportive of AkiDwA work shared important tips on managing stress and minding mental health. The Communication Manager, CPP, HSE gave an input on Sexual reproductive health and explained to the participants on how they can access services and support such as contraceptives, emergency pill, and also support in case of crisis pregnancy during the lockdown. Due to the rise in numbers of domestic violence, AkiDwA invited the

CEO of women's Aid to share about their work and support where she spoke on Domestic violence in general and on Coercive Control. The conference was an opportunity to highlight about AkiDwA work on FGM, focusing on prevention, protection, and generally FGM hidden nature, especially during the lockdown. Migrant women, though they face many challenges at this time, continue to contribute positively as care workers, providing care and emotional support to families and friends and has as well come up with innovative ideas such as making and supplying masks; an example of this was shared by the coordinator of Cork Migrant Centre

Meeting with superintendents for Youth

Two meetings were held with the chief superintendent for the youth to discuss concrete actions on work with migrant youth. They have agreed to work with a group in Tallaght to try and reach out to the youth and will be preparing for key specific actions. The superintendent agreed to work with African Professional Network and together will establish mentoring and role model projects; they will link with Cork Migrant Centre for sharing of good practice. AkiDwA requested that the superintendent consider establishing an advisory group with leaders of the African community to help shape and inform the project through recommendations from a different organisation. AkiDwA was appointed by the Minister for Justice and Equality in October to the Monitoring Committee tasked with overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Diversion Programme on youth, SM seats in the committee.

AkiDwA was invited by Minister for Justice and Equality on 27th October to an online event on the pre-launch of the victim support project; the project aims to deliver training, raise awareness on rights and services and support available for women victim of sexual violence. There will also be a review of laws and policies and funding for groups supporting women. This project is part of recommendations from Tom O’Malley Implementation Group Report, which seeks to introduce new and strengthen existing supports for vulnerable victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system.

AkiDwA collaborated with Clare women's network in their annual conference; we also took part in the national women council of Ireland webinar on the prevention and protection from violence: examining gender-based violence, SM highlighted challenges faced by migrant women, especially those living in direct provision centres who are forced to share rooms with abusive partners, and lack independent status, also the habitual residence conditions which hinders women seeking asylum, undocumented and trafficked access to support and services.



Beijing Plus 25

AkiDwA was involved in a discussion on Beijing plus 25, where we provided information on policy areas of improvement. The organization input included advocating for key policy formulation addressing social norms and stereotypes which continue to hinder women's participation in decision making and accessing employment. Gender inequality which has resulted in only achieving very little progress since 1995 where 12 critical areas of concern (education, Violence against women, women in Armed conflict, women, and economy, women in decisionmaking, human rights of women, women, and the media, women, and environment, women and health, women and health, women and poverty, women and institution mechanism and the girl child) were identified must also be addressed.



Dismantling racism

AkiDwA was involved in a discussion on Beijing plus 25, where we provided information on policy areas of improvement. The organization input included advocating for key policy formulation addressing social norms and stereotypes which continue to hinder women's participation in decision making and accessing employment. Gender inequality which has resulted in only achieving very little progress since 1995 where 12 critical areas of concern (education, Violence against women, women in Armed conflict, women, and economy, women in decisionmaking, human rights of women, women, and the media, women, and environment, women and health, women and health, women and poverty, women and institution mechanism and the girl child) were identified must also be addressed.



On 21st October, AkiDwA, NWC, and National Travellers women forum held a conference on Gender and racism, and discussions focused on the intersection of migration, gender, and racism, and various speakers from the three organisations spoke, OP and SM represented AkiDwA and spoke during the conference. The conference heard the challenges facing women in direct provision, which include racism and sexism, difficulty in parenting, and access to services and resources. Two key developments have emerged from that conference. AkiDwA was contacted by the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) and has requested for collaboration on the professional development of training for primary teachers and to focus on understanding and preventing racism. OP has been following up with INTO. SM has held discussions with Maria Joyce, coordinator of National Travellers Women's Forum, on forming an alliance to combat racism; this was viewed as a good approach given the fact that both organisations will have more authority and be well informed given the experiences and impact of racism on migrant and travellers women. The two organisations will be progressing these discussions in the coming months.

Women & Racism in Ireland Webinar

Dublin Arts and Human Rights Festival

Wednesday 21st October 2020, 11.15am - 1pm

Webinar on Zoom hosted by:

- National Women's Council
- AkiDwA
- National Traveller Women's Forum



Input on Shared Island vision

With an invitation from the Shared Island unit in the department of Taoiseach, AkiDwA gave a presentation that addressed and highlighted many challenges facing migrant and ethnic minority women, which include exclusion from the society while many people want to belong and they are working very hard towards that. However, discrimination is a real problem while trying to access services and support; there is lack of diversity in our services, institutions- within statutory and non-statutory sectors

Migrant and ethnic minorities are poorly represented in decision-making, including the development of policies in areas that affect their lives. Lack of opportunities- in particular access to employment, many migrants, while highly educated, fails to access jobs that match their qualifications; we have teachers, psychotherapists, doctors, and engineers who are not able to work because their qualifications are not recognised. Economic, social research report in 2020 also pointed out employer bias indicating employer- level of discrimination.

There are many challenges on access to rights which include the right to family reunification, education, and citizenship for migrant children born in Ireland after 31st December 2004

AkiDwA vision for shared Ireland would therefore be an Ireland where everyone is treated with respect and dignity and has access to resources and equal opportunities. A shared Island means inclusion and leaving no one behind, embracing diversity and recognizing diversity as a strength. To be open for change and while it's important to work on the past challenges to position ourselves for opportunities that are presented in the new Ireland- most of the migrant we see here has gone through a very difficult situation, we are survivors of conflict, war, and violence, but we have learned a lot from our experience and can help in shaping the shared Island.

We recommended that the education curriculum in Ireland will have to reflect on the diversity of people living on the island of Ireland and our offices- a government department, Agencies, and NGO, board, Dail will need to adapt to this change and has to reflect this diversity.

Sexual and Gender based violence

As part of DSGBV work within the organisation, we commissioned research on the trafficking of African women in Ireland. Trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation is a modern, global form of slavery. AkiDwA believes that the trafficking of women is a form of gender-based violence, and the organisation is committed to working with others to address this issue. From 2008- 2010 AkiDwA worked with Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) based in Thai Land in a project that explored the trafficking of women in general. In 2009 AkiDwA joined the Immigrant Council of Ireland campaign called Turn Off the Red Light (TORL), which, together with over 70 organisations, advocated for the introduction of new legislation to address prostitution and human trafficking. The Sexual Offences Act 2017 was passed by the Irish Government in February 2017. Many of the women trafficked to Ireland are from the African continent (Nigeria). AkiDwA has supported women trafficked to Ireland with information and referral for legal support, and while 90% of the organisation members are from the African continent, the AkiDwA can contribute on this issue further and explore how the problem can be combatted. The objective of the research was to contribute to the understanding of trafficking of women, in particular from the African continent to Europe, for the purposes of sexual exploitation and, through key recommendations, address the problem from a holistic approach. The finding for the research was shared in November in a conference organised by AkiDwA; the research found that victims from the African continent often come from vulnerable situations and are under peculiar circumstances which require a context-specific approach to be applied in the prevention and protection of victims. Prosecution of traffickers and implementation of effective laws and policies must be applied. Additionally, the country of origin and destination must work together to address the root cause of the problem. The report makes valid suggestions and recommendations, which include the establishment of gender-specific accommodation for the victims of human trafficking. The provision of the statutory definition of reasonable grounds for suspicion that a person is a victim of human trafficking needs as well as the burden of proof necessary to determine victimhood. The codification of the current practice guideline currently provides for the national referral mechanism and the victim support structure—the establishment of a state fund for victims of trafficking compensation.

Conference on sexual and gender-based violence was held on 26th November 2020. 469 people registered for the conference, and over 600 participated through zoom, Facebook, and YouTube: In this conference, we marked the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence by launching the findings of the research on trafficking but also highlighted the incidence of forced marriage and honour violence in some cultures (a form of domestic violence) and highlighted AkiDWA's role in supporting migrant women survivors of violence and abuse. We had speakers and experts from different backgrounds from Ireland and UK. This includes Siobhan Mullaly, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, among other speakers. AkiDWA will explore issues of forced marriage through research in 2021. On the same note, it was revealed that AkiDWA attends to at least 900 cases of gender-based annually. This is made possible through the organisation's work with its network of Community Health Ambassadors - (CHA).



Domestic violence

during the year, we saw an increase in domestic violence cases, including among migrant women. AkiDwA supported 68 women affected by violence. Major challenges were created by the lockdown, where women were tied to their homes with abusive partners. Funding received from Tusla enabled the organisation to engage with services providers; we also carried desk research which included case studies from the women.

AkiDwA's work on FGM progressed significantly with training provided to over 400 service providers and front-line services. The organisation commissioned a consultant to undertake an extensive review of FGM work in Ireland; findings will be shared in 2021. Also, FGM photo exhibition donated by a student from Cork university was exhibited in DCU for 2 weeks.

The launch of the Manifesto in February created more awareness on FGM work, especially with interest from different parties based on the sentence of a couple who performed FGM type 1 on their 23-month-old daughter. The Manifesto highlighted key actions which are

- Establishment of an intergovernmental working group including the relevant government departments, civil society actors, frontline services, and representatives from affected communities.
- Developing a National Action Plan on FGM as part of the programme for government, which would outline and coordinate the response of governmental agencies, funding to support anti-FGM programmes, and key targets and indicators to measure progress towards eradication.
- Establishing funding for a network of Community Health Ambassadors who would work with affected communities, including youth and religious groups and men, in order to change attitudes to FGM at a grassroots level.
- Implementation as part of Ireland's obligations under the Istanbul Convention, promoting a holistic and integrated approach in relation to violence against women and FGM.
- Support the training for all professionals and services providers working with FGM-affected communities, including, for example, healthcare professionals, social workers, Gardai, and those who are working with asylum seekers.

Let's talk- Migrant women mental health

In January 2020, AkiDwA launched the report on mental health among migrant women. The organisation had commissioned the research and workshop on this subject, which took place between July and October 2019 and captured the lived experiences of women under the Refugee Resettlement programme and women living in Direct Provision. The research revealed that many migrant women struggle with the loss of agency and autonomy that comes with the asylum system here in Ireland. The research found that migrant women experienced significant stressors that have serious implications for their mental health and psychological well-being. It found personal distress was experienced on a daily basis and was inseparable from social, political, and institutional processes. Findings show that women's lives were characterised by stressors related to mainly three factors - practical challenges faced daily by migrant women, powerlessness and lack of agency, and grief and loss. Migrant women face many stresses in their home countries, on their journeys to Ireland, and in their daily life on arrival.



“ When I came here and I saw these rooms, we just got two rooms. I have three children. I was just crying, I told my husband how we would live here in these two rooms, small rooms. Yes, for me it was most stressful. We lived 6 months in these two rooms.

LET'S TALK PARTICIPANT

Women together for a better world.

To progress our work on women's peace and security, AkiDwA applied and received funding from the department of foreign affairs. The designed project Women together for a better world was late to commence due to covid 19. Two indigenous women organisation in county Clare and county Donegal will work with AkiDwA in this project. The project's aim is to create a platform where indigenous and migrant women will come together and dialogue on global justice issues, sharing their personal experiences and understanding of how global issues are also local issues and how peace and development impacts their day-to-day lives. The focus is on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals and Goal Number 5- Gender Equality will be the main focus for AkiDwA during the life span of the project. Meetings were held with the consultant, and an advert for the position of development coordinator was put up; the position was filled in August 2020. Clare women's network was contacted, and meetings were held online and physically in September; the training models were produced with the delivery of the training envisaged in 2021 February.

WOMEN TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD PROJECT



AkiDwA accelerating the 2030 Agenda through the sustainable development goals(SDGs)

AkiDwA will facilitate dialogue and discussions between indigenous and migrant women.
SDG Goal no. 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
2. Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls
3. Eliminate all harmful practices
4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work
5. Ensure women's full and effective participation, at all levels of decision-making in political
6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Did you know that there are 17 sustainable goals?
For more info : <https://sdgs.un.org>

For more information :
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Funded by DFA, the project will first be implemented in two counties and will work with women groups in County Clare and County Donegal.



It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

Based on a call for funding by UHCHR for the UN fellowson People of Africa Descent,AkiDwA submitted an interesting application for funding It takes a village to raise a child (an African proverb, meaning child-raising is a community effort) to promote the African culture.This is also a follow-up to a call AkiDwA made in 2013 in relation to a number of African children taken into state care, which in 2014 the interim report on the Child Law Reporting Project indicated that African families are 20 times more likely to end up in the child care courts. The report cited cultural differences involving members of ethnic minorities, neglect, physical chastisement - which is not acceptable within Irish society – as some of the main reasons featuredin state casesfor which childrenwere taken into state care. The project seeks to address misunderstandings of African culture in parenting and child-raising, which too often lead to many African children being taken into the care of the State, causing the break-up and dysfunction of families. The project will also raise awareness among African women about the Irish Children Act. By doing so, the project aims to address an important manifestation of racial discrimination faced by women of African descent in Ireland, which is prohibited under art. 2 of ICERD, and which has detrimental consequences on their children, families, and the communities at large. Four activities will be undertaken as part of this project-Activities for this project include- 1) Three workshops with the women,2) Two high-level round table discussions with senior governments staff, Agencies, and policymakers, 3) produce a book with stories of women and 4) National Conference. The projectwas delayed due to the outbreak of the Pandemic and willbe continued in 2021.

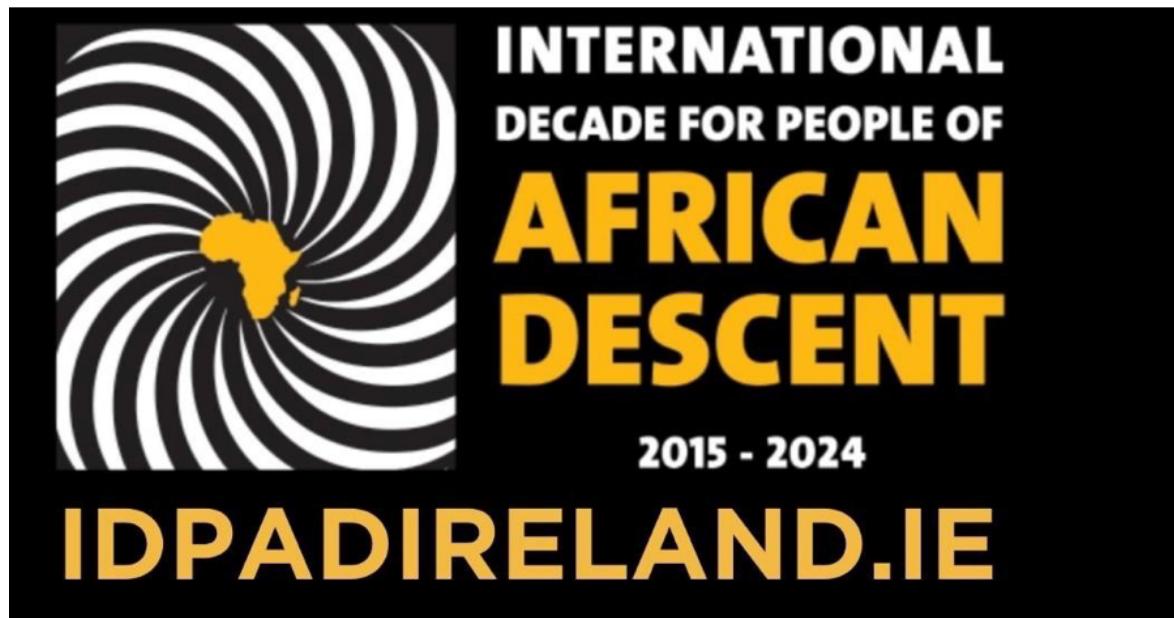
ASPIRE

AkiDwA, Maynooth University, and the Irish Traveller movement embarked on a research project on civic and political engagement of ethnic minority women. In the 2019 local elections, women made up 29% of all candidates, and 24% of those were elected. In the 2014 local elections, 3 identifiable racial migrant or ethnic minority candidates were elected, increasing in 2019 to 9, still less than 1%. Minority candidates were majority male, with 3 men and 6 women elected. Assessing Supports for the Political Inclusion of Racial and Ethnic (ASPIRE) for Minority Women in Ireland research will map supports for and experiences of REMW in local political processes (candidacy for local political office) and develop with NGOs, stakeholders, and academics a research consortium informed by international expertise to theorize Racial and Ethnic Minority Women political engagement/candidacy and design a future research programme on ERMW women's access to local politics in Ireland and beyond. The project activities will continue in 2021.



Decade for People of African Descent in Ireland

AkiDwA hosted funding for the implementation of the decade and continued to work with the national steering committee for the implementation. The employee working for the decade was enrolled in AkiDwA payroll. Meetings were held online, and three meetings were held with staff from the Department of Justice to progress discussions on the launch of the decade in Ireland. In support of the implementation of the International, Salome Mbugua helped in mobilising African organisations and groups in five counties, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, and Laois, and five regional meetings were held with over 100 African communities in these counties participating. Discussions focused on the three-key objective of the decade, which are recognition, justice, and equality. The steering committee is in the discussion of registering as an NGO for the period of the decade and managing money and activities without having to do through organisations that are also members of the national committee; this will be taken further in 2021.



Amplifying change

AkiDwA was involved in a project undertaken by the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), which has been working on the archives of the Atlantic Philanthropies, held by Cornell University Library; they have developed digital exhibitions that showcase the work accomplished by Atlantic grant recipients on the island of Ireland over the last 30 years, AkiDwA was one of the projects selected for exhibition and SM participated and spoke in the final event called. Amplifying change: A history of the Atlantic Philanthropies on the island of Ireland.

Carers Event

On 30th September, AkiDwA held a Conference entitled who cares for the carers; the aim of the event was to give a platform to migrant women who have been at the forefront of providing care during this difficult time of Covid 19 and as well to address the need for Carers to be Cared For, the discussions focused on people experiences, opportunities, and challenges facing carers and what they do to cope with the demands of their work.

Health Survey

The year ended up with AkiDwA conducting a health survey, and results were shared during an online event. The health survey was designed to get a sense of migrant women's experiences with different health services and supports in Ireland. The four main sections of the survey were: disability and long-term physical illness, mental health and stress, maternal health services, and Covid-19. Participants were asked to rate their experiences with healthcare providers and supports



**I think it's important to have
a GP who listens to you
and takes you seriously.
It's not always easy to
find the right one.**

Respondent, AkiDwA Health Survey.

Community

AkiDwA worked with migrant women and men so as to build and support the process of integration

On 23rd September 2020, AkiDwA, in collaboration with IOM, held an information day at Wynn's hotel. Various organisations were invited to provide information on the day. These include Dublin Therapy Centre, IOM, Dublin City Community Coop. The event was very successful despite restrictions imposed on social gatherings. 35 people from different backgrounds/nationalities, including Latino- Americans, Africans, Indians, Australians, and Americans, participated in the event. Financial support for the event was provided by IOM.



Young Migrant Women

The group organised for Young MigrantWomen Youth Summit on 8th November 2020 and had over 30 young people in attendance. The aim of the Youth Summit was to bring young African Migrant Men and women together to empower and inspire eachother. The summit was instrumental in deepening appreciation of values, culturaldiversity, and unique contribution to the community. It brought together communities and organisationsaround common issues of diversity and inclusion.



Organisational development

Running AkiDwA as an effective and efficient organisation and working towards sustainability.

In September, and through recommendation from AkiDwA, one migrant woman joined the board of Ireland online Magazine, and the organisation also supported migrant women joining the board of the NWCI.

The organisation produced and published 2 newsletters which were circulated to all stakeholders. Members were informed of planned activities through emails. Over 60 meetings were organised and held online.

There were four staff employed by the company during the year and four consultants undertaking several research projects to inform the work of the organisation. Interns and volunteers also supported the work of the organisation during the year. Team meetings were held on a weekly basis, and staff support and supervision were held on a fortnightly basis.

The board met 7 times during the year and policy and charity regulatory compliance was discussed in all meetings, annual general assembly was held in December with members been consulted to inform 2021 work plan for the organisation.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AKIDWA

Notice is given that the annual general meeting of AKINA DADA WA AFRICA LIMITED (the “Company”) will be held on SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2020 FROM 11AM -1.30PM.

Due to Covid 19 Pandemic and lockdown restrictions the meeting will be held online through Zoom and details will be provided.

AGM AGENDA

1. Minutes of last AGM
2. Impact Report for 2019
3. Financial Report for 2019
4. Appointment of Auditors
5. AOB

There will be information sharing and discussion on

- Domestic violence: Consent and Support for those affected by domestic violence
- Homelessness among migrant women



For further information visit AkiDwA website www.akidwa.ie or email info@akidwa.ie

New funding was sourced from UN level and corporate, and there was donation received from different sources. Communication remained key, especially due to the pandemic. AkiDwA produced videos and communicated widely through websites and social media.



Financial Statement

Akina Dada Wa Africa Company Limited By Guarantee STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Total 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Total 2019
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary Income	4.1	328,519	328,519	241,686	241,686
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	5.1	216,434	216,434	272,650	272,650
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		112,085	112,085	(30,964)	(30,964)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		112,085	112,085	(30,964)	(30,964)
Reconciliation of funds					
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020	13	91,010	91,010	121,974	121,974
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2020		203,095	203,095	91,010	91,010

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year.
All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 20 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


Beth Kinyua
Director


Porter Oluchi
Director

Balance Sheet

Akina Dada Wa Africa Company Limited By Guarantee BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	3,500	3,500
Cash at bank and in hand		214,077	98,013
		217,577	101,513
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(14,482)	(10,503)
Net Current Assets		203,095	91,010
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		203,095	91,010
Funds			
General fund (unrestricted)		203,095	91,010
Total funds	13	203,095	91,010

Approved by the Board of Directors on 20 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


Beth Kinyua
Director


Porter Oluchi
Director



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



AkiDwA
AKINA DADA WA AFRICA



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

