



# AKINA DADA WA AFRICA (AKIDWA)

Annual Report

## ABSTRACT

# AKIDWA Annual Report

## 2022

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

‘For more than two decades AkiDwA has been to the fore in championing the rights of migrant women in Ireland, highlighting the issues and raising awareness of intersectionality as a tool to achieving equity in society and empowerment of migrant women and girls in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our vision statement is core of how we function and underpins what we do at AkiDwA. All our projects as part of our Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 aim to build the capacity of migrant women and promote their socio-economic and cultural participation in communities, civic and political engagement as well as their contribution to government consultations and decision-making processes.

As a leading non-profit organisation AkiDwA continues to raise awareness of the crime of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and work in coalitions to ensure improved and sustained immigration provisions for migrant victims of domestic and gender-based violence. We will consolidate our strengths, embed sustainability across the work of AkiDwA and identify opportunities to further support migrant women at individual, collective and societal levels.

I am thankful to all staff, board members and volunteers of AkiDwA for their commitment to AkiDwA’s mission, delivering key outcomes that help ensure migrant women have equal opportunities and access to resources. I would also like to thank most sincerely everyone who engaged with and supported AkiDwA in fulfilling our core objectives in 2022 and I look forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholders on future projects.

In ensuring that migrant women are valued, and our voices heard we are closer to our goal of realising a more equitable and representative society in Ireland.’



## MESSAGE FROM CEO:

'AkiDwA strives to be open inclusive and cognitive platform for migrant women. In February 2022, we celebrated our 20th anniversary by recognising individual and organisations who have supported us over the years and those who continue to push the equality agenda in Ireland.

As an organisation we continue to stand strong and positive regardless of many challenges that we face. During the year as the country continued to struggle with the management of Corona virus pandemic, our organisation was busy supporting women and remained open throughout. We saw an increase in numbers of women seeking support on domestic violence, mental health and homelessness. Migrant women in Ireland were among the poorly affected, with a good proportion working on frontline services, mothers were heavily challenged especially those parenting in confined environments such as in direct provision centres. We continued to reach out to members and give them, making phone calls holding meetings online and putting valuable information on our website. As situation started to get better in June our team embarked on the much-needed outreach services, in 2022, AkiDwA reached migrant women in 22 counties. We also worked with Hapani from Northern Ireland on North South Project. AkiDwA launched a new strategic Plan in March.

We engaged with government departments and policy makers to inform and influence policy, we appeared before several committees in the Dail. Our struggle to represent and amplify voices and visibility of migrant women has not been in vain and we have seen changes in formulation of policies especially on DSGBV and Racism during the year. Our input and recommendations are reflected on the new National Action Plan



Against Racism and on the 3rd national strategy on DSGBV, this has been made possible and effective by contribution from our members and migrant women in general who participated in our focus group discussions and regional meetings during the year.

The organisation delivered a lot of activities during the year, we delivered training to migrant women, frontline services and healthcare professionals, we communicated about our work widely through social media and website, AkiDwA appeared on Billboard appearing in national media and on bust stops around the country. We collaborated with over 70 organisations during the year, referred women to other services for meaningful support.

I sincerely want to thank board, advisory committee staff and members, everyone brings added value and uniqueness in our work, we have worked hard and achieved so much together for a better Ireland over the year.

We will continue to work towards achieving better outcomes and meaningful results for migrant women in Ireland as indicated in our new strategic plan Moving forward bigger and better.'

In the rich tapestry of 2022, AkiDwA emerges as a vibrant thread, weaving a narrative of empowerment, equality, and unwavering commitment to migrant women in Ireland. Celebrating our 20th anniversary, this milestone served as a reminder of the remarkable journey we have undertaken, the lives we have touched, and the transformations we have brought about.

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND OVERVIEW:**

- **Celebrating Two Decades of Progress:** AkiDwA proudly commemorated its 20th anniversary, acknowledging the unwavering support of champions of equality who have joined us on this remarkable journey. Two decades of dedication and empowerment stood as a testament to our enduring commitment.
- **Empowering Over 3000 Lives:** In 2022, AkiDwA reached new heights, providing training and education to over 3000 individuals. These sessions covered a diverse array of topics, from fostering cultural competence to reproductive health awareness. We delved into discussions about FGM and ignited enthusiasm for global citizenship and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We built capacity and enriched lives.
- **Supporting 340 Clients:** Our commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need was evident as we provided vital support to 340 clients. This included individuals affected by crime, survivors of Domestic and Sexual Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), and those grappling with mental health challenges. AkiDwA stood as a lifeline in their time of need.
- **Publishing Insights:** AkiDwA's dedication to knowledge and empowerment was manifest through the creation of four impactful publications and reports. We crafted a compelling storybook, a comprehensive service providers guide, and an essential toolkit on cultural competence, designed to drive change, foster understanding, and elevate inclusivity.
- **Engaging with Policymakers:** AkiDwA actively engaged with policymakers, including 12 crucial meetings with esteemed figures such as Ivana Bacik TD. Through these dialogues, we shared insights, advocated for change, and advanced our mission of empowerment and equality.
- **National Conferences and Webinars:** AkiDwA set the stage for significant change with the hosting of four impactful national conferences and a dynamic webinar. These platforms became epicentres for discussions, knowledge sharing, and the pursuit of progress.
- **Global Advocacy:** Our dedication to global issues and inclusivity was underlined by our submission to the UN Committee on the Children's Rights Convention. Through this international outreach, we took a step closer to creating a more just and compassionate world.

- **Empowering Healthcare Professionals:** AkiDwA launched a groundbreaking FGM Guide for Healthcare Professionals. This invaluable resource aimed to enhance awareness and provide essential information to those on the front lines of healthcare.
- **EU Parliament: Leading Change:** AkiDwA took its advocacy to the European stage, launching a toolkit with six policy areas and 76 recommendations at the EU Parliament. We extended our mission's impact to a broader audience, setting the groundwork for meaningful change on a larger scale.
- **Honouring Excellence:** AkiDwA's remarkable CEO was bestowed with the prestigious Mayor of Dublin Award, a testament to the enduring dedication and outstanding leadership that continues to drive our mission forward.
- **Commemorating Savita's Legacy:** AkiDwA participated in the historic March to mark the 10th anniversary of Savita Halappanavar's legacy. We stood in solidarity, ensuring that her memory remains a powerful force for change.
- **Supporting Our Community:** Minister Joe O'Brien lent his support and attended AkiDwA's session on "Women Together for a Better World." This endorsement reinforced our mission to create a more equitable and inclusive society.
- **Spreading Festive Cheer:** A heartwarming gesture saw AkiDwA receive a generous donation of 40 boxes of food, which we distributed to our members, ensuring they could celebrate Christmas with joy and abundance.
- **Celebrating Mother Tongues:** In celebration of International Mother Tongue Day, AkiDwA reaffirmed its commitment to preserving and cherishing the rich diversity of languages within our vibrant community.

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## INTRODUCTION

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Founded in 2001, AkiDwA stands as a national network committed to enhancing the lives of migrant women residing in Ireland. At its core, AkiDwA is driven by a fundamental objective: to alleviate the challenges faced by immigrant women, particularly those from Africa, in their journey to Ireland. This mission is pursued by providing essential information, therapeutic support services for survivors of war, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), torture, and other disempowering experiences, and by fostering an enriched social environment.

### **Our Unwavering Mission**

At the heart of AkiDwA's existence lies a profound dedication to promoting equality and justice for migrant women.

Our vision is that of a society where parity and access to resources across every sphere of life—social, cultural, economic, civic, and political—is universal.

This annual report encapsulates the initiatives and projects embarked upon in the year 2022, all in alignment with AkiDwA's Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, succinctly entitled "Moving Forward Together Bigger and Better." This strategic framework underscores our steadfast commitment to progression and charts a course towards a future where every woman's voice resounds, and every woman's rights are upheld.

### **A Strategic Vision Unveiled**

The inception of AkiDwA's strategic plan for 2022-2025 was a meticulously planned journey marked by rigorous scrutiny and lofty aspirations. Initiated in late 2021, the process amalgamated a comprehensive document assessment with robust engagements with internal and external stakeholders, facilitated by an adept, independent consultant. Despite the challenges posed by the persistent global pandemic, remote meetings allowed us to engage with our stakeholders, ensuring their invaluable input remained central to our strategy.

Rooted in a commitment to inclusivity and an unwavering dedication to comprehensiveness, the stakeholder engagement process embraced a rich tapestry of voices. Our members, including our esteemed Board members and dedicated staff, assumed pivotal roles in shaping our strategic vision. Our Board, steeped in wisdom and experience, was extensively engaged in the strategy formulation process. Meanwhile, our dedicated team, consisting of staff and volunteers, contributed their perspectives from the field. We also extended our reach to internal stakeholders, conducting individual meetings and insightful interviews with Board members, staff, and volunteers.

Beyond the organization's boundaries, external stakeholders played an integral role. A series of semi-structured interviews with various external organizations and individuals, encompassing a spectrum from national and European NGOs to public sector entities and esteemed funding organizations, offered invaluable external perspectives to complement our internal reflections.

This annual report, traversing the year 2022, signifies the culmination of our aspirations and the manifestation of our endeavours. It conveys AkiDwA's unwavering commitment to migrant women and the communities we serve. Through our collective endeavours and unwavering determination,

we continue to pave a path towards progress, inclusion, and equality. Together, we aspire to craft a brighter, more equitable future for migrant women in Ireland.

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## 1. VOICE

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The year began with a grand spectacle. AkiDwA embarked on an unprecedented journey to combat the stigma surrounding mental health, especially among migrant women. Our groundbreaking mental health project featured larger-than-life billboard advertisements with photos of staff and members gracing bus stops across the country.

This project, generously funded by the Bank of Ireland through the Community Foundation, was instrumental in breaking the silence surrounding mental health issues, fostering conversations, and bringing attention to the unique challenges faced by migrant women.



#### **Leading the Conversation:**

Throughout the year, AkiDwA continued to lead vital discussions on an array of topics, fuelling progress and awareness. Notably, we established the "All Women Island Forum," which fostered dialogue and understanding among women from diverse backgrounds. We also took centre stage on the national platform, with an appearance on RTE News and their website, championing the International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on February 7th. AkiDwA consistently stood at the forefront of pivotal conversations, effectively bridging the gap between policymakers, local communities, and migrant women.



All Women Rally

#### **Publishing Progress:**

Research outcomes and meticulously crafted booklets played a pivotal role in amplifying the voices of migrant women. Our dedicated research initiatives delved into various aspects of the migrant experience, ranging from employment challenges to cultural integration of migrant mothers. These resources provided deep insights into the lives of migrant women and helped shed light on the challenges and opportunities they face.

As a cultural mediation agency, AkiDwA actively harnessed the power of these resources to build stronger and more harmonious communities, championing change, and advocating for the underrepresented.



## 2. EQUALITY

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### AkiDwA's Stand at the Dáil:

On the 5th of April, AkiDwA's leadership, represented by our Chair, CEO, and Migrant Women's Health Coordinator, graced the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Gender Equality at the Dáil. This pivotal moment in our journey was an opportunity to make our voices heard, focusing on Recommendations 37-41 of the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality, with a laser-sharp emphasis on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

AkiDwA brought to the fore an important argument, advocating for the inclusion of all forms of domestic sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV) in Ireland's third national strategy, reflecting the diverse lived experiences of women in modern Ireland.

### A Call for Justice: Transformative Recommendations

As advocates for support and access to justice for DSGBV victims, AkiDwA urged Ireland to opt into the EU Directive on Family Reunification and introduce the requisite implementing legislation, which would pave the way for autonomous residence permits.

Our call for the protection of undocumented women from domestic violence assumed greater urgency in the context of immigration reform. FGM, a harrowing reality for many women, stood at the forefront of our advocacy. We passionately underlined the need to recognize FGM as grounds for seeking asylum, emphasizing the importance of publishing gender asylum guidelines.

### Unmasking Barriers

AkiDwA's commitment to fostering civic and political participation knows no bounds. On the 31st of March, a momentous occasion unfolded as AkiDwA, Maynooth University, and the National Travelers Women Forum jointly launched the report "Different Paths, Shared Experiences: Minoritised Women and Local Politics in Ireland." The report's revelations cut to the heart of the matter, exposing the racism and sexism that women from ethnic minority backgrounds grapple with while participating in local elections.

### Transforming Local Politics

The report left no room for doubt; racialized identities bear a specific, unjust burden, imposing penalties upon individuals from Traveller, Roma, black, and other ethnic minority backgrounds. This burden finds expression both in-person and online, as migrant women face racism and sexism in the form of harassment, abuse, and intimidation.

AkiDwA's call for reform resonated through several key recommendations. We sought to extend the local election gender quota to include ethnic minority women, urged the establishment of a diversity panel in the Seanad with gender parity, and championed the need for State funding to diversify political party memberships and candidate lists. Furthermore, we pressed for the collection and publication of diversity data by political parties, creating transparency in funding and candidate selection.

### Cultural Competency as a Foundation

Ensuring cultural competency stands as a foundational principle in our quest for equality and justice. AkiDwA was invited by Maynooth University to review images and training modules on Cultural Competency, offered by the Department of Adult and Community Education.

The review was a testament to our commitment to ensure that the representations and messages within the training modules were devoid of offense and resonated with the communities they represented. The critique and enhancements provided by AkiDwA reflected the spirit of constructive collaboration. This project, aligned with the Diversity Erasmus initiative and funded by the EU, affirmed AkiDwA's commitment to sharing knowledge and advocating for a more culturally sensitive society.

### Empowering the Voices of the Youth: African Children in State Care

AkiDwA's pursuit of justice and equity extended to the littlest members of our society. Our project, funded by the United Nations, focused on capturing the experiences and insights of African children in state care.

Through six impactful sessions with migrant parents, ten compelling stories were extracted, shedding light on the upbringing of women and their experiences of raising children in their host country. Two high-level round table discussions with service providers, conducted in Dublin and Cork, grappled with the complex interplay between legalities and culture.

The project culminated in a transformative conference that unfolded on the 31st of May. Representatives from diverse sectors, including the Law Childcare project, congregated to discuss the critical issues faced by African children and their families.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD**

**REPORT LAUNCH:**  
**Children of African Descent in Irish State Care**

**SPEAKERS**



**DR SALOME MBUGUA**  
CEO  
AKIDWA



**SHARON ETOKHANA**  
RESEARCHER & PROJECT  
COORDINATOR  
AKIDWA



**CLLR URUEMU ADEJINMI**  
CHAIR  
AKIDWA



**DR MARIA CORBETT**  
CEO  
CHILD LAW PROJECT



**MR PATRICK COSTELLO**  
TD  
GREEN PARTY



**DR NIALL MULDOON**  
OMBUDSMAN FOR  
CHILDREN



**SCAN ME**

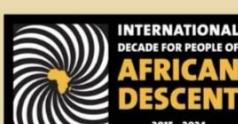
**REGISTER  
HERE!**

**THURSDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**2PM-3PM**

**OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE**  
MILLENNIUM HOUSE  
52 GREAT STRAND STREET  
DO1 5SP8



**AkiDwA**  
AKINA DADA WA AFRICA



INTERNATIONAL  
DECade for People of  
**AFRICAN  
DESCENT**  
2015 - 2024



### A Cultural Bridge: Cultural Conflict in Parenting

The insights gleaned from this project underscored the crucial role of AkiDwA, as a cultural mediation agency, in bridging the gap between the state, frontline services, and the African community. The essence of this partnership lies in realizing the best interests of the child and preserving migrant family unity in Ireland. The resultant recommendations, central to our final report, echoed the need for nationwide parental support services and continuous training in cultural competence and cultural sensitivities for frontline service providers. Collaboration with community organizations to support migrant communities was hailed as a critical way forward.

### **Inclusive Engagement with Oireachtas: A Platform for Equality**

Building upon AkiDwA's commitment to inclusivity, two crucial meetings were convened with the Oireachtas ED&I coordinator. These gatherings were dedicated to discussing how equality of access and inclusion in the Dáil can be attained through meaningful engagement and representation.

### **Diaspora Summit**

AkiDwA CEO played a prominent role in the Diaspora Summit on the 7th of April, an invitation extended by Irish Aid. The presentation introduced AkiDwA's pivotal work on Global Citizenship Education, with a focus on sustainable development goals.

This moment highlighted the importance of supporting the diaspora and addressing their multifaceted challenges, spanning resource constraints to facilitating meaningful contributions to their countries of origin in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

### **A Meeting with Ivana Bacik, TD**

On the 14th of September, AkiDwA seized the opportunity to meet with Ivana Bacik, TD. The meeting was marked by updates on our work, particularly in the realm of FGM, and a collective quest for support. AkiDwA took this opportunity to present Ivana Bacik with a well-deserved award, recognizing her contributions to our organization, and her continued support was enthusiastically affirmed.



### **Advancing Cultural Competency**

AkiDwA's commitment to cultural competency shone brightly as we extended our cultural competency training to 12 organizations, encompassing esteemed entities like Women's Aid, Ruhama, Rape Crisis Ireland, and the Gardaí.

This training, a critical need at a time when service providers are increasingly aware of their own limitations, especially in the realm of cultural consciousness, strives to bridge gaps and ensure that frontline services are culturally sensitive and accommodating to diverse populations.

### **Influence in Pre-Budget Advocacy**

In unity with other organizations, AkiDwA co-signed a compelling letter addressed to four ministers—Humphreys, McGrath, O'Donoghue, and O'Gorman. The letter articulated a pressing call for the Irish government to introduce child benefit for children in direct provision centers and increase the daily allowance, recognizing the urgent need for these policy changes.

### **A Path to Inclusion**

In September, a crucial meeting convened to discuss the inclusion of women from diverse backgrounds within the workings of the National Women's Council, paving the way for a more inclusive and representative future.

### **A Global Voice**

AkiDwA added its distinct voice to the international stage by submitting a report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This significant submission, made in September, leveraged insights drawn from our work on children in state care, a subject Ireland is set to be examined on in March 2023.



## Shaping Access

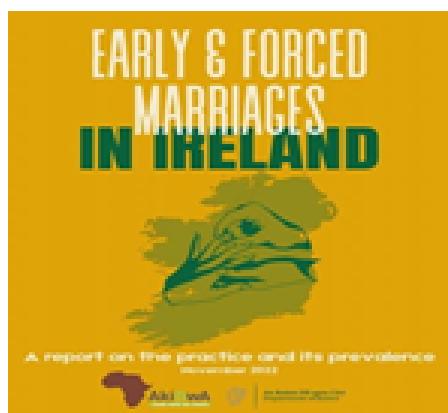
Our participation in a workshop hosted at the Department of Justice premises in the International Protection Office (IPO) was an opportunity to provide invaluable insights into the barriers faced by applicants. AkiDwA highlighted the need for language translation, instructional videos, process clarity, and accessible appointments. The Department of Justice and IPO expressed their intent to invite AkiDwA to present solutions to the participating organizations.

## A Vision for Human Rights: The Forum-EU Partnership Project

On the 13th of December, a momentous event marked the culmination of the Forum-EU Partnership Project. A press conference and march held at the European Parliament in Dublin highlighted the value of human dignity, equality, and human rights as EU values. The toolkit compiled in the form of a publication outlined six key issues and presented a total of 76 recommendations on policies, measures, and actions aimed at urgently addressing the rights violations and discrimination faced by migrants and refugees, particularly women and girls.

## Unveiling the Reality of Early and Forced Marriages

AkiDwA's pursuit of justice led to the launch of a report on early and forced marriages on the 3rd of November. The report uncovered the disturbing prevalence of early and forced marriages in the Republic of Ireland. Astonishingly, between 2004 and 2015, over 400 minors were married in the state, including one girl under the age of 16 who was married to a 26-year-old groom in 2015.



Despite limited awareness, these marriages remained a grim reality. AkiDwA's report spotlighted the distressing circumstances faced by victims, largely from migrant communities, including Afghan, Muslim, Indian, and others, where arranged marriage was an intrinsic part of the cultural fabric. Kidnappings and forced marriages were common, extending even to Irish citizens with dual citizenship. AkiDwA's report sounded an urgent call for reform and justice.

### **A Stand at the First Permanent Forum on PAD**

AkiDwA CEO's presence at the First Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PAD) in Geneva in December was a testament to our unwavering dedication to combat systemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance. The forum emphasized the need to include women and girls of African descent in these discussions, ensuring their experiences of violence and reproductive health were given the attention they deserved.

### **A Movement for Change: Remembering Savita**

AkiDwA played an active role in the movement commemorating the 10th anniversary of the tragic passing of Savita Halappanavar. The event, held on the 29th of October, marked a decade since Savita's untimely death, which fuelled a movement that ultimately led to the repeal of the abortion ban and the enactment of critical abortion legislation.

The march, organized by various organizations, called for justice not only for Savita but for all pregnant individuals. It advocated for an end to the need for overseas travel for abortion and gender-affirming healthcare, the removal of the Catholic Church's influence in public health and education, and a cease to the culture of misogyny, LGBTQ+ phobia, and racism.

### **Economic Empowerment of Migrant Women**

In May, AkiDwA introduced a groundbreaking report, "Unlocking the Potential of Women Seeking International Protection." This report delved into the impact of the right to work on women seeking international protection, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities they encounter.

### The Launch of the FGM Guide

On the 29th of November, AkiDwA joined hands with Rotunda Hospital to unveil the 3rd edition of the FGM Guide for healthcare professionals. The event, primarily attended by healthcare experts, was hosted by SATU at Rotunda Hospital and featured international speakers.



### 3. CAPACITY AND COLLABORATION

#### Caring is Sharing:

AkiDwA's collaboration with Hapani in the "Caring is Sharing" project served as a testament to our commitment to learning and knowledge exchange. This collaboration was not just about sharing information; it was about fostering a sense of unity among diverse communities. Engaging with migrants from a multitude of countries, we rekindled our mission to promote understanding, inclusivity, and collaboration in an increasingly interconnected world.



#### Global Conversations:

Beyond the borders of Ireland, AkiDwA's CEO represented the organization at the Diaspora Summit. This international platform allowed AkiDwA to advocate for global citizenship education with a focus on sustainable development goals. We actively supported the diaspora in making meaningful interventions in their countries of origin, embodying our commitment to driving positive change, not only locally but on a global scale.

#### Empowering Migrant Women:

Training sessions, conducted in collaboration with New Horizons, Athlone County West Meath, SafetyNet, Le Cheile Gym Galway, and Let's Match Mums, were pivotal in empowering migrant women within their communities. These sessions were not just about knowledge and skills; they were about fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment among participants. By building capacities in migrant women, AkiDwA laid the foundation for more resilient, self-reliant communities, effectively nurturing the strength within.



## 4. SERVICE PROVISION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Support for Victims



AkiDwA's Victim Support project emerged as a beacon of hope for those affected by domestic abuse, sexual assault, and early or forced marriage. This program reached out to 430 beneficiaries across nine counties, offering crucial support to 45 clients from diverse backgrounds. AkiDwA's commitment to promoting interagency collaborations ensured that victims of crime received the support and assistance they urgently needed. This initiative exemplified AkiDwA's dedication to being a lifeline for those in distress.

### Reproductive Health

Training sessions on reproductive health were a cornerstone of AkiDwA's efforts in 2022. We visited eight Direct Provision Centres, conducting educational sessions that reached over 250 women. The topics covered a spectrum, from contraceptives to menstruation and anatomy. This initiative was a testament to our commitment to not only raising awareness but also empowering women to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, recognizing knowledge as a powerful tool for autonomy and well-being.



### Building Support Groups

In response to the pressing issues of loneliness and isolation, AkiDwA created "WOMANDLA," an online women's support group. This initiative provided a safe, nurturing space for women to share their experiences, find solace, and foster connections. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by

Registered Charity Number: CHY 17227

Francophones and members of the LGBTQ+ community affected by gender-based violence, AkiDwA extended its support groups to cater to these specific needs, creating a more inclusive and compassionate environment.

## 5. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The launch of the AkiDwA Strategic Plan, titled "Moving Forward Together Bigger and Better," marked a significant milestone in our journey. This momentous occasion occurred on the 5th of April, featuring a distinguished lineup of speakers, including representatives from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) and the Department of Justice. The launch also witnessed active participation from various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during the panel discussion, with over 70 individuals joining us online.



AkiDwA's commitment to sharing its strategic vision extended to a second launch of the strategy in the beautiful city of Galway in June. This event was made possible with the support of several organizations and the prestigious National University Galway. Our collaboration with the Galway Partnership added a new dimension to our outreach.

The Galway launch was graced by notable speakers who provided invaluable insights and perspectives on our strategic plan. Their contributions added depth and resonance to the occasion.

A significant moment in our journey was the meeting with Ambassador Melanne Verveer, the Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute in Washington, DC, which focuses on Women, Peace, and Security. This meeting took place on the 18th of May 2022, during Ambassador Melanne Verveer's visit to Ireland.

Our CEO was honoured to be invited to this gathering of women peacebuilders. During her presentation, she shed light on AkiDwA's work and particularly highlighted the circumstances of women from armed conflict backgrounds who now call Ireland home.

As we move forward, we have not overlooked the importance of thorough planning. The year concluded with a dedicated staff planning day on the 16th of December, during which the work plan for the coming year was carefully formulated.

Our team meetings, a cornerstone of our collaborative efforts, were conducted with unwavering dedication. Throughout the year, we held 32 team meetings that provided a platform for sharing insights, fostering cooperation, and building a strong collective spirit. Additionally, support and supervision meetings were held regularly with all staff, ensuring their growth and well-being.

The Board of Directors, a vital governing body, played a pivotal role in steering our organization's course. In 2022, six board meetings and two training sessions were conducted. These sessions were supplemented by the efforts of four subcommittees focusing on HR, project and programs, and finances. Two strategic and review meetings were convened with the Board, Advisory Committee, and staff. These gatherings facilitated a comprehensive evaluation of our progress and the alignment of our activities with our strategic vision.

Throughout the year, AkiDwA actively participated in various events and forums that resonated with our mission. These included our presence at the All Women Rally held opposite the Dail on the 5th of March. Our involvement extended to participation in a conference on women's leadership in a changing Ireland, organized by Sinn Féin. We also had the privilege of contributing to several meetings and events, including an International Women's Day (IWD) gathering hosted by Fine Gael and the All Island Women's Conference in Enniskillen, attended by the President of Ireland. These events served as platforms to raise our voice and advocate for the rights and needs of migrant women.

AkiDwA's 20th Anniversary was celebrated with much enthusiasm, epitomizing the spirit of unity and resilience that has defined our organization. The vibrant celebration unfolded at the Hilton Hotel, Dublin Airport, and was graced by the presence of 136 attendees. It was a night filled with festivities, reflection, and appreciation.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of 17 out of 27 awards that had been specially crafted for the occasion. These awards served as tokens of recognition for the remarkable contributions and achievements of individuals who have been part of AkiDwA's inspiring journey. The event was a grand success, with tickets available for purchase through Eventbrite, ensuring that many could join in the

celebrations. As a testament to the strength of our community, we published a memoir featuring 20 captivating stories that encapsulate our organization's history and impact.

As we reflect on this remarkable year and look forward to the future, we remain committed to our vision of advancing the rights and well-being of migrant women in Ireland. Our journey continues, driven by the passion and dedication of our team and the support of our wider community. We are excited about the opportunities and challenges that the coming year will bring, and we are poised to embrace them with open hearts and unwavering resolve.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We remain committed to financial transparency and accountability as we work towards achieving our mission. Our financial performance reflects the trust and confidence of our donors and partners, and we are dedicated to stewarding these resources to create lasting impact for the communities we serve.

**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 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021
<b>Incoming Resources</b>							
Voluntary Income	4.1	-	350,909	350,909	-	255,429	255,429
Other income	4.2	-	(2,410)	(2,410)	-	-	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		-	348,499	348,499	-	255,429	255,429
<b>Resources Expended</b>							
Charitable activities	5.1	-	381,975	381,975	(2,500)	311,792	309,292
<b>Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers</b>		-	(33,476)	(33,476)	2,500	(56,363)	(53,863)
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds for the financial year</b>		-	(33,476)	(33,476)	2,500	(56,363)	(53,863)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds beginning of the year	14	2,500	146,732	149,232	-	203,095	203,095
<b>Total funds at the end of the year</b>		2,500	113,256	115,756	2,500	146,732	149,232

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 21 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Kinyua Beth  
 Director

Thais Muniz  
 Director

**Akina Dada Wa Africa Company Limited By Guarantee**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	9	3,500	3,500
Cash at bank and in hand	10	132,703	160,605
		136,203	164,105
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(20,447)	(14,873)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>115,756</b>	<b>149,232</b>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>115,756</b>	<b>149,232</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted trust funds		113,256	146,732
General fund (unrestricted)		2,500	2,500
<b>Total funds</b>	14	<b>115,756</b>	<b>149,232</b>

Approved by the Board of Directors on 21 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Kinyua Beth  
Director

Thais Muniz  
Director