



Preparation for Change

Annual Report

2014



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Introduction

2014 was a busy year for AkiDwA that saw key structural changes take place. The focus of the year was preparation for CHANGE.

AkiDwA'S former CEO and founder Salome Mbugua stepped down in November after serving the organisation for 13 years and Claudia Hoareau-Gichuhi was appointed as the new Manager for the organisation.

An intense process of review and evaluation was carried out by an independent consultant, Brian Harvey which aimed to rate the work of AkiDwA since its formation and look at the most efficient ways forward.

The outcome of this process was that AkiDwA remains as relevant as ever. It is the only women's and migrant-led organisation of its kind in Ireland and over the years has developed a strong reputation and gained the trust to keep representing the voice of the migrant community in Ireland. The report clearly showed that the continued existence and work of AkiDwA in Irish society was vital. It also highlighted the important role of the organisation in challenging and addressing inequality, racism, discrimination, integration, the rights of asylum-seekers, issues of domestic violence, FGM and many other health related issues. The outcome of this evaluation and review was incorporated in the development of AkiDwA's new strategic plan 2015-2018 that was completed in December 2014.

The organisation operated with limited resources during the year, which led to reduction of activities been delivered at regional and national level with only one full-time staff member, two part-time staff members covering health and community outreach, and a financial consultant. The organisation has always depended on the dedication and support of volunteers and interns, of which there were six. By the end of the year, AkiDwA secured core funding from The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for a period of two years.

This report covers activities carried out by AkiDwA in 2014 in its' final year under the leadership of Salome Mbugua, based on work plan agreed by the board and members reflecting the four key strategies and key themes as outlined in the organisation's strategic plan 2012-2015.



Salome Mbugua and Cladua Hoareau-Gichuhi

Capacity building

- 12 sessions on reproductive health were delivered to three groups in Dublin and Kildare. 60 women participated in these sessions. This project was funded by HSE, Crisis Pregnancy Programme who have been supporting the implementation of this project since 2009.
- AkiDwA proposed a motion to the AGM of the National Women's Council on the 6th of June which was passed. An AkiDwA member Yemi Adenuga - nominated by AkiDwA, was elected onto the board.
- With support from Dublin City Council, AkiDwA carried out the project: *Dublin Women for One city one people*. The objective of the project was to encourage active citizenship through engagement and dialogue between migrant and indigenous women and to challenge racism and discrimination. The project was launched by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Ois n Quinn on 2nd April. AkiDwA engaged with the organisation Catalyst to deliver these sessions, through various means such as Art and discussion.
- The CEO along with AkiDwA volunteers, participated in RTE feature on Audience Council, titled: Other Faces, Other Voices: Migrant Representation & Participation in RTE. Salome also appeared on the Vincent Browne show on TV3 on discussing how the liberation of Irish women had yet to be accomplished.
- Young Migrant Women's Group held their summer in August. They continued to meet three more times during the year and established a social media presence in the form of a Face Book page.
- AkiDwA in collaboration with BREAKFORTH organised a seminar in December with specific focus on migrant women entrepreneurs. The seminar highlighted the social-economic contributions made by migrant women entrepreneurs in Ireland and also looked into the challenges that they face. Fifty six people attended the seminar.

Awareness rising

- AkiDwA marked the International Day of Zero Tolerance on FGM on the 6th of February 2014 with a press release.
- To mark International Women's day in March, AkiDwA in collaboration with Africa Centre and Forum Polonia held a seminar, "GO to VOTE". The objective of the seminar was to facilitate and develop strategies with migrant community representatives, in order to ensure that they mobilise the wider community to come out and vote during elections. The seminar was held at European House and had over 90 people in attendance.
- Over twenty awareness raising sessions were delivered by the CEO and the then Migrant Women's Health Officer in Ireland and at European level during the year, including for the first time at Limerick University.
- The CEO also spoke for the 1st time at Electric Picnic 2014 in Stradbally, Co. Loais.
- AkiDwA was involved in the planning of Africa day and the CEO was selected to profile the week event through the media. She featured on TV3 and RTÉ and several Radio channels, she was able to highlight the work of AkiDwA in particular on RTÉ morning edition. AkiDwA distributed publications and raised awareness at Africa Day. Members of AkiDwA supported the organisation by braiding hair and applying henna at the stall, showcasing migrant culture
- Catherine Mahoro AkiDwA member was involved in a round table organised by OSCE/ODHIR based in Warsaw on Women of Africa descent- hate crime and racism.
- The CEO and seven women members of AkiDwA participated on a two days symposium conference organised by Galway University and Mary Robison Peace Centre. The conference was on Women's Leadership, Peace and Sustainable Livelihoods in Democratic Republic of Congo and Regions.
- The 5th annual Brain Gain event was held in July. The turnout for the night was very good and speakers were from different background were inspiring

February

6

International Day of Zero Tolerance
of Female Genital Mutilation

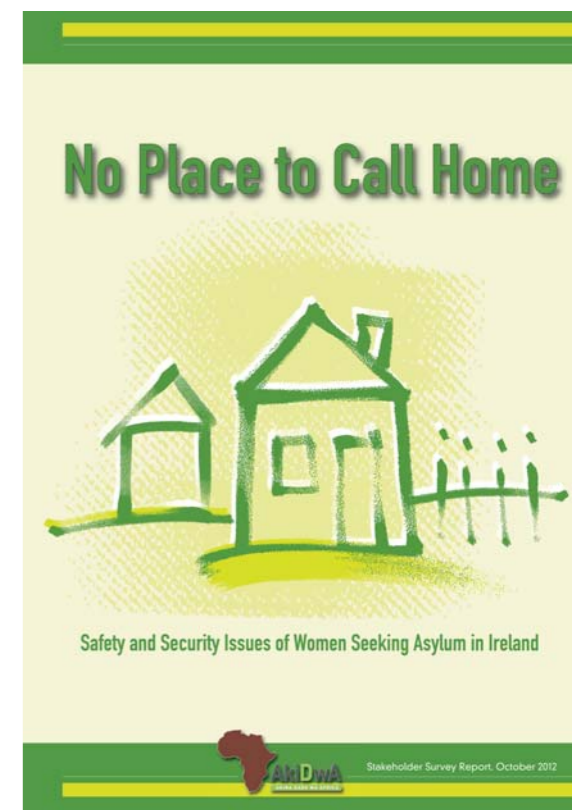


Members of AkiDwA's Young Migrant Women's Group
at a dressmaking workshop.



Influencing policy

- A policy document on Sexual and Gender Based Violence was produced by AkiDwA and the Reception Integration Agency. This is available on their website. This document included findings from AkiDwA's report, "No Place to Call Home; Safety and security issues of women seeking Asylum in Ireland" 2012. Recommendations from this report were made, particularly to develop policy and training on the area. While the policy has been developed it remains to be implemented and training has yet to be delivered to all the staff, management and residents of all the 35 accommodation centres for asylum seekers in Ireland.
- The then Migrant Women's Health Officer was selected as the secretary of End FGM Network in Brussels and CEO selected and joined the board of European Network of Migrant Women
- Latifat Olagoke, AkiDwA member and a master's student at Maynooth represented and spoke on behalf of AkiDwA at the annual conference of Repeal the 8th Amendment campaign.
- The CEO was involved on migration and diaspora conference in Romania in July, the conference explored activities and projects to be run during the international year of Development in 2015
- The CEO together with the chair of the monitoring group of Ireland National Action Plan on women peace and security overseen by department of foreign affairs conflict resolution unit, appeared before the Justice and Equality Committee in the Dail on 18th June. AkiDwA CEO input focused on the need for Ireland to have inter departmental collaboration in particular in supporting women from armed conflict zone that are now living in Ireland and in particular women seeking asylum.
- Sussan Nikoomanesh AkiDwA board member represented and gave a presentation on women refugee's behalf of AkiDwA during annual Consultations with NGOs organised by UNHCR that took place in Geneva on 17 June.
- AkiDwA CEO participated and chaired in a seminar organised by European network of migrant women in Brussels with a title "Promoting the Empowerment of Migrant Women in the European Union Precarious Workers: Migrant Women in the EU, the Fight for Labour Security. The seminar was held at the European Parliament in Brussels".
- With the invitation of Younous Omarjee and Jean-Jacob Bicep, Members of the European Parliament, CEO together with other actors of civil societies, artists and researchers from European countries met with members of the European Parliament on 6 March 2014 at the European Parliament in Brussels and discussed a manifesto against xenophobia, homophobia and racism and in defence of solidarity and justice



Organisation development



- AkiDwA developed and launched a new website.
- Two newsletters were published and sent to all members and affiliates.
- The organisation social media tools, twitter and Face Book were active during the year. These were used as a way of raising awareness on the work of the organisation.
- AkiDwA successfully completed the feasibility and sustainable study. The study looked into: Current status of the organisation, its relevance, restructuring and working towards sustainability. A new strategic plan was developed in line with the outcome of the study.
- Six board meetings and an AGM were held during the year. The CEO received monthly supervision and support meetings within the year. Staff meetings and supervision were held regularly during the year.
- A planning meeting was held in December 2014 with staff, volunteers and board members.
- Over twelve funding applications were submitted during the year, funding was received from seven of the applications.

FGM work

- With support from HSE AkiDwA published and printed 2nd Edition Handbook on FGM for healthcare professionals in Ireland. 5000 copies were printed. Over 3000 Copies have been disseminated to Hospitals and health care professionals throughout Ireland. A hand copy has been placed on AkiDwA website.
- Over twenty training and awareness raising sessions on FGM were delivered to healthcare professionals, third level students in teacher training college and global health trainees over the year.



FGM work at European level

- AkiDwA has been a member of European End FGM campaign led by Amnesty International since 2010, the campaign came to an end in 2013 and in 2014 12 EU countries including Ireland, that have been involved in the campaign came together and agreed to continue with the work built over the years at the European level. AkiDwA was involved with the working group and was later selected as the secretary of the new organisation however this opportunity ceased when AkiDwA Migrant Women's Health officer resigned from the organisation in October 2014. AkiDwA remained active in this group in 2014.
- AkiDwA lobbying led to the establishment of the first specialised support service for FGM survivors. The clinic that is based at the Irish Family Planning Association's Well women clinic and based in Dublin was opened by Minister Alex White in May 2014. AkiDwA continued collaboration with the IFPA for the planning of their outreach activities to promote the service during the year.
- FGM and the Law leaflets were updated and adapted to include details of the service. 5000 copies were printed with funding assistance from HSE.
- New community health ambassadors (CHA's) were recruited during the year. And training for the ambassadors was delivered in Dublin and Galway
- Meetings were held with members of the National Steering committee to discuss the development of the 2nd National Plan of Action on FGM. Four sub-committee were established to focus on four objectives; health, child protection, asylum, development aid.

AkiDwa board

There were nine board members in 2014. Maria Onyemelukwe and Frances Ituen resigned in October leaving the number of board members to seven.

1. Amel Yacef: Chairperson
2. Frances Soney Ituen: Vice Chair
3. Jules Buckley: Treasurer
4. Melatu Okorie: Board Secretary
5. Beatrice Mbogo: Board Member
6. Razieh Nikoomanesh: Board Member
7. Binta Obola: Board Member
8. Tina Akinola Jinad: Board member
9. Maria Onyemelukwe: Board Member

AkiDwa staff

Seven staff served the organisation during the year. Jessica O'Dowd left the organisation after her one year contract at the end of October and was replaced by Alwiye Xuseyn.

1. Salome Mbugua: CEO, fulltime
2. David McDonnell: Financial administrator, four hours a week
3. Jessica O'Dowd: Migrant Women Health Officer, part-time
4. Mercy Amaka Okonkwo: Development Officer, part-time
5. Alwiye Xuseyn: MWHO Part-time
6. Barbra Gervasutti: Office Administrator, part-time, CE scheme
7. Spaqz Nkaku: Social Media - part-time, TUS

Interns and volunteers

AkiDwa engaged a total of six interns and volunteers during the year to support the work of the organisation.

1. Egide Dhala: Volunteer
2. Niall Cremen: Volunteer
3. Hea Young Cho: Volunteer
4. Carissa Thomas: Intern USA
5. Alycia Chau: Intern USA
6. Lorena Espi Sancho: Intern, Trinity College Dublin

Financial statements

Akina Dada Wa Africa Limited

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2014

		2014	2013
	Notes	€	€
Income	3	169,452	120,136
Expenditure		(163,758)	(127,401)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	10	5,694	(7,265)

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the year. The results for the year have been calculated on the historical cost basis. The company's income and expenses all relate to continuing operations.

Financial statements

Akina Dada Wa Africa Limited

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Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2014

	Notes	2014 €	2013 €
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	3,500	3,500
Cash at bank and in hand		85,662	86,328
		89,162	89,828
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(15,418)	(21,778)
Net Current Assets		73,744	68,050
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		73,744	68,050
Reserves			
Income and Expenditure account	10	73,744	68,050
Members' Funds	11	73,744	68,050



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