

IDPAD IRELAND REPORT

These activities will span from October 2019 - October 2020

Section 1: Basic Information

Name of Organisation Holding Grant: AkiDwA- On Behalf of the Steering Committee on

People of African Descent

Name of Project supported by a grant: Decade for People of African Descent Ireland

Project Start Date: November 2019

Project End Date: October 2020

In October 2019 DJE confirmed funding support through a grant agreement with a total amount of 54700 Euros towards progressing work on the implementation of the International Decade for people of African Descent (IDPAD) in Ireland by the steering committee. The first payment of 38318 (70%) of the total funding was released into AkiDwA account in November 2019. This progress report covers activities which have been undertaken from November 2019 to March 2020. It also contains activities and programs that the IDPAD Steering Committee in collaboration with existing organisations, that can be designed to implement IDPAD in Ireland. Each proposed action will have an explanation as to why it is necessary for the fulfillment of the Programme of Activities to achieve the aims of Justice, Recognition and Development of People of African Descent (PAD).

Section 2: Project Expenditure

	Expenditure Item	Budgeted Euros	Actual spent	Balance
1	Staff	27000	6750	20,250
2	National meetings	14500		
3	Outreach meetings	6000		
4	Steering committee	3840		
5	Administration	5000		
6	Website/social media	1200		
7	Laptop	800	739.96	60.04
	Total	58340		

Section 3: Steering Committee's Work

The IDPADI committee which is made up of eleven organisations continue to hold monthly meetings and to date more than 8 steering committee meetings has been held.

The committee compiled CERD submission (see attached) and with the support from DJE representative from the committee travelled to Geneva for the hearing.

Recruitment for a project officer took place in late November/December and Nana Nubi the project officer commenced her role in January 2020.

On 15th December the committee held a public meeting with PAD in Ireland at the teacher's club. Participants were given an update on the work of the committee and future plans and activities that the committee had outlined. The funding proposals were shared.

The project officer continues to deliver the activities outlined.

Section 4: Project Officer's Work

January 2020 - Present

Read the Program of Activities created by the UN and dissected it to analyse how it can be implemented in Ireland.

Social media strategy

Created a social media strategy to be able to reach out to all PAD in Ireland and globally. And to inform the wider population and international community on IDPAD progress in Ireland.

Promotion

Contacting and informing relevant groups and organisations of IDPAD;

- a. Approximately 100 potential ally organisations.
- b. Approximately 200 African descent led groups
- c. All African students associations
- d. Over 70 religious organisations

Mapped the countries that need to be visited.

- a. Organised event to inform the public of IDPAD Ireland and to mark International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- b. Event postponed due to Covid-19
- c. Disseminated information about IDPAD Ireland via online avenues.

Research completed

- a. Listed International laws, legislations and policies that protects PAD in other countries. This will ensure diverse information is available and appropriate policy can be drafted and p
- b. roposed for implementation in Ireland.
- c. Listed cultural, economic, political and social rights according to the UN. This information will allow us to know what rights to ensure are protected.
- d. Curated a list of policy and legislation in Ireland that protect PAD; to ensure the Irish Government is informed of further laws and legislation required for the successful adherence to the requirements of the IDPAD.
- e. Identified projects implemented in other countries that can be applied to Ireland in achieving the IDPAD aims.
- f. Curating a list of local councillors in areas that have large PAD populations in their constituency - Reaching out to them to inform PAD of their local representatives whom they can bring their issues to. We will do the same for TDs and Senators when the new government is formed.

Program of Activities to be implemented in Ireland

These are suggestions of the activities we can act on to implement the Program of Activities. The activities needed in Ireland will be more clear when we do more field research, PhD research and collect aggregated data. We will carry out these programs with existing organisations who are already working in the relevant areas. We plan to also work with the relevant government departments to implement these programs.

Research to Do

A number of areas are to be researched in order to have aggregated data on PAD situations and create solutions to issues identified from said research. Guidelines on the areas to be researched from the Programme of activities are applied in this list.

- a. Research PAD experiences with the prison system; use the findings to make recommendations to stakeholders in the prison system. Work with Irish Prison Service to carry out this research.
- b. Commission research on PAD experience in healthcare; create racial diversity programs for healthcare professionals; using data aggregated from the research of PAD experiences to inform the program. Work with PAD researchers with experience and or healthcare qualifications.
- c. Commission research on Irish links to the slave trade and colonisation, including the Catholic churches missionaries; this will give historical context to the PAD relationship to Ireland. Work with interested Universities, PAD with historical research background in Ireland and or with relevant academics to carry out this research. For example Mark S Quintanilla, author of; *An Irishman's Life on the Caribbean Island of St Vincent 1787-90*, Mark S Quintanilla, Four Courts Press. Jonathan Jeffrey Wright, author of; *An Ulster Slave-Owner in the Revolutionary Atlantic*, by Jonathan Jeffrey Wright, Four Courts Press
- d. Research PAD economic power in Ireland; this will give context to areas in need of development or promotion of PAD potential where there is strong economic power and self-sufficiency. Work with the Central Statistics Office and other relevant stakeholders.
- e. Commission research on the books "General History of Africa" - The wealth of information there should be aggregated to create information packets at all educational levels. When it is completed it should be implemented in Ireland through existing diversity and inclusion programs in schools, e.g Yellow Flag programm
- f. Carry out a series of questionnaires of different PAD groups, design programmes and projects based on the response/needs of the community. This can be carried out by IDPAD Ireland.
- g. Draft a suggested National Action Plan Against Racism, it should highlight issues to do

with PAD and . Work towards adding to the existing one other organisation may have drafted for example Irish Network Against Racism Ireland (INAR).

- h. Research and identify any Laws, legislation and policy in Ireland or the EU which can leads to racism, xenophobia, discrimination; provide reccomendations on how to amend, repeal those provisions.
- i. Commission survey to identify percentage of PAD living in poverty or at risk of socio-economic hardship; design activities to tackle poverty. Work with social services to implement these activities and other relevant organisations e.g Social Justice Ireland.
- j. Research the educational progress of PAD and the prospective career path; to identify quality and type of education received; where issues are identified; solutions will be created. Working with the Department of Education will be useful for this.
- k. Carry out field research to discover, multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by PAD; Identify rules, legislation and laws that protect PAD. Promoted those protections by compiling them in a digital information booklet or animation elxplainer video etc.

Project implementation

- a. Programs to tackle Homelessness for PAD (can be applied to all homeless individuals)
- b. Programs to reduce unemployment e.g host a career event for PAD to engage in non-traditional work, e.g Gardai, Teaching, Trade.
- c. Providing information pack with guidelines on how to tackle discrimination in employment. Catered to employees and employers.
- d. Create and implement racial sensitivity training carried out by African descent diversity and inclusion experts in order to eliminate institutionalized stereotypes. This can be a programm all civil servants take part in and it can be available to private businesses nationwide.
- e. Collaborate with Universities and African students societies to organize national conferences and other events aimed at triggering an Intolerance.
- f. Introduction of Black studies nationwide. This can be done in association with the Department of Education and African Scholars Association.
- g. Mobilise PAD politicians and aspiring politicians, create a platform to staragise how they can improve the political participation of PAD. Work with relevant NGO's e.g Women for Election Ireland.

- h. Meet PAD led media outlets and Irish outlets and radio stations to disseminate positive things PAD are contributing/doing etc in Ireland.
- i. Contact all government departments and request for IDPAD Ireland to be on the mailing list for all public consultations to ensure there is a team of PAD who will attend these consultations to ensure the submissions are a reflection of Ireland's diverse population.
- j. Culture, history and heritage project e.g Festival with top African Descent artist in Ireland. In Music, poetry, art, etc. Afro Nation Ireland.
- k. Tackling racial profiling by the Gardai; by implementing systems where gardai record the description of individuals randomly stopped. This will enable supervisors to identify if there is an over representation of non-white Irish and thus recommendations will be applied.
- l. Identify how social housing are allocated working with housing authorities; recommendations will be made to ensure inadvertent segregation is not created in social housing - ie. PAD.
- m. Improving the programs provided in community centers to ensure PAD youth also engage with these centres i.e address their interests by introducing music and dance studios with space for creating and displaying art. This will ensure PAD youth are positively engaged and thus not be idle.
- n. Information packs to be created and distributed of parenting classes available and other social services to help parents parent children and teens etc. This should help tackle anti-social behaviour.

Dates for Events and Programs

Below are the recommend dates for the **outreach and national meetings**;

- May 26th, Africa Day,
- June 19th (world sickle cell awareness day)
- 20th (world refugee day),
- July 17th, International Justice Day
- July 18th Nelson Mandela Day.
- August 23rd, International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- September 21st, International day of Peace
- October 24th, United Nations day.

Due to Covid - 19 the events that were planned, where possible will be done via digital platforms. Thus we ask for an extension to effectively promote IDPAD in Ireland.