



Annual General Meeting
2023

2023 Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 2023.

The Annual General meeting is held every year where an annual report which includes a narrative of activities and a financial report are shared and discussed with stakeholders.

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Reference

Charity Number 20205848
Company Number 652991
CHY 22661
Social Enterprise: GOCOM Radio

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Administrative Information

Directors:

Ayodele Yusuf
Taofeeq Barry Kadejo
Ibrahim Muheeb, PhD.
Abayomi Adedeji

General Secretary

Mariam Muritala

Former Board Member:

Islammiyah Mojisola Saudique

Brief Description

AMDAF is a registered charity in Ireland established in 2019. We are also registered with the Charities Regulator.

AMDAF operates as a company limited by guarantee without capital share. The organisation is governed by a Board of Trustees and Administrative Executives from diverse backgrounds and professions. The board meets six times a year, likewise the Executives.

Social Enterprise - AMDAF has a social enterprise- GOCOM Radio, founded in 2021; an online community radio that bridges under-representation gap of new and marginalised communities in Irish mainstream media; aimed at making every voice heard and creating a more inclusive community.

Affiliate - Migrant Collective Galway - MCG Supports over 80 families each month with specific items requested via 250 strong volunteer network. Requests include household items, toiletries, clothing, school supplies etc. MCG also supports employers hiring from the Migrant Community and support migrants applying for roles to match experience and requirements for companies in the West of Ireland.

AMDAF is funded by:

- The Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth
- Galway City Council
- Galway County Council
- Irish Aid
- Galway Rural Development

AMDAF is supported by:

- AkiDwA
- SCULL Enterprise, Galway
- United Women Galway
- Be Fit with Fran
- Ukrainians Helping Ukrainians

- Africa Centre Ireland
- Africa United Galway
- ARD Youth Café
- ARD Family Resource Centre
- Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination

Vision

AMDAF envisions a future where migrant women and their families enjoy equal opportunity and are not judged based on race or gender. Our vision is that every family is recognised without discrimination, respected, and treated justly.

Mission

Our mission is to contribute to the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of migrant women and their families. We also aim to serve as advocate of their rights, promoter of their capacities and driving force of social change through community development projects, public educational campaigns, and awareness-raising programmes.

SDGs

We adopt Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, by promoting all actions to eliminate root causes of discriminations against women in public and private spheres - to achieve gender equality and empower them.

Values

- **Empowerment:** Committed to empowering migrant women and their families by providing resources, education, and opportunities to achieve their full potential.
- **Equality:** Striving for a society where migrant women have equal opportunities and are free from racial discrimination.
- **Advocacy:** Actively advocating for the rights and recognition of migrant women, ensuring their voices are heard in all spheres of society.
- **Inclusion:** Promoting inclusivity and cultural competence, ensuring that all community members feel valued and respected.
- **Community Engagement:** Building strong, supportive communities through social enterprises and initiatives that foster unity and mutual support.
- **Cultural Competence:** We respect and celebrate cultural diversity, providing culturally sensitive services and content to meet the unique needs of ethnic minorities.

The Charities Governance Code

AMDAAF fully complies with The Governance Code for the Small Volunteer-only Charities in Ireland, having completed our journey to compliance in March 2022.

Chair, Board of Trustees' Opening Remarks - Ayodele Yusuf

Dear members and invited guests,

It is another opportunity for us to meet for this year's Annual General Meeting of Amdalah Africa Foundation (AMDAAF), on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome and thank everyone present today. For us at AMDAAF, your presence is appreciated, and it means a lot to us at this meeting where we share information about AMDAAF and her activities for the year ended 2023.

A huge appreciation to everyone involved in the running of the organisation, under the leadership of Islammiyah. I would like to use this opportunity to commend Mrs Islammiyah Saudique-Kadejo AMDAAF's President for her bravery in standing for election at the concluded local election and for being outspoken on issues impacting the community especially migrant women, marginalised women and their families.

Throughout last year AMDAAF as in the previous year, has been able to set her mark in the community with different activities and projects in the areas of diversity, inclusion and integration. We as the board know there is still more to do and are on the right track however, because we depend on volunteers, we depend on fundings, it can be challenging.

Without doubt, AMDAAF has achieved a lot since her establishment through the unrelentless selfless efforts and commitment of everyone, and I would like to say as a proud mother - "the sky is her limit".

For the coming year 2024-2025, AMDAAF would continue to strive for a better outcome and continue to strengthen our partnership and networking across Ireland through collaboration in achieving our mission.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, a very big appreciation to our Funders for without whom most of the projects would not have been achieved. And to everyone involved in this beautiful journey with AMDAAF we on the Board of Trustees recognise and acknowledge you, your dedicated valuable time, knowledge, ideas and unwavering commitment and support to AMDAAF.

Thank you.

Ayodele Yusuf

For The Board of Trustees

President's Welcome Remarks – Islammiyah Saudique-Kadejo

Distinguished Board of Trustees, Esteemed Executives, Valued Funders, Supporters, Friends, Families, and Representatives from Various Organizations.

It is my great honour to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of AMDAF. Your presence here today reflects your deep commitment to our cause, and I am truly grateful for your support and participation.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our esteemed funders, whose generous support has been the bedrock of our initiatives:

- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth
- Galway City Council
- Galway County Council
- Irish Aid
- Galway Rural Development

Your contributions have empowered us to make significant strides in our mission, and we are profoundly grateful for your continued partnership.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the executives for their unwavering support in my role as President. Special thanks go to the Secretariat, the Vice President, and the Finance Team for their hard work and dedication, even amidst their busy schedules. Your efforts are the backbone of our organization, and I cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions.

This past year has been extraordinarily busy and challenging, particularly as it was an election year in which I had the honour of being a candidate. One of the primary reasons I chose to stand was to serve and make a meaningful impact on our beloved community, especially migrant women, marginalized women, and their families. It is crucial that we continue to advocate for these groups, as their voices are often unheard.

In this context, I must firmly call out the far-right movements and unequivocally condemn racism and discrimination in all its forms. To all the women in our community: do not be deterred by stereotypes or any form of prejudice. We are enough. Our failure to stand up for ourselves, to put ourselves forward, and to speak up will only negatively impact us and future generations. We have a significant amount of work to do in the areas of diversity, inclusion, and integration, and we must be resolute in our efforts.

I challenge our executives, board members, and volunteers to strive for even greater heights in the coming year. The upcoming year, 2024-2025, promises to be especially demanding with the International Protection Integration 2024 fund. We must give our best to "The IN Project - Integration Nexus Project" if we are serious about building a more inclusive Ireland where, as our motto proudly states, no one is left behind.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth for their support and funding. Your assistance is vital to our success, and we are deeply appreciative of your trust in our vision.

As we look to the future, I warmly welcome mentors, leaders, small local business owners, community organizations, and everyone willing to work with us on our 2024-2025 projects. Our project plan, which will be discussed in detail in the annual report, outlines our ambitious goals and the steps we need to take to achieve them. I am excited about the possibilities and the impact we can make together.

We are also at a point of transition, where we look forward to welcoming new executives and bidding farewell to some. I am confident that we will all seize the opportunities to serve and make the most of our collective potential.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. Together, we can and will make a difference.

Warm regards,

Islammiyah Saudique-Kadejo

President, AMDAF

Annual Report

1. AMDAF got International Protection Integration Fund 2022 -a €20,000 fund.

The funding was used for Talking Integration Project - a 5-part project in the following areas:

- Integration research
- Intercultural Awareness
- Health and Wellbeing workshop Series
- Employment capacity building workshops
- Youth Mentoring

➤ Integration Research

Integration Research The research explores needs of international protection applicants and empower them to make positive change by participating in research on issues that affect them and their communities. We worked with a focus group of 39-member committee of people with lived experiences, to address barriers they face

individually and as groups. Peer-to-peer discourse were held to make the research participatory. Report attached.

Impact:

- Explored the needs of international protection applicants and empowered them to make positive changes by participating in research on issues that affect them and their communities.
- **Outcome:**
 - Engaged a 39-member committee of people with lived experiences to address barriers they face individually and as groups.
 - Conducted peer-to-peer discourse sessions to make the research participatory, ensuring that the voices of those directly affected were heard and included.
 - The findings from this research provided actionable insights to inform policy recommendations and improve support programs for international protection applicants.

➤ **Women Roundtable & Intercultural Awareness Programme**

The Intercultural Awareness programme tagged AMDAF Women Roundtable is a safe network style event designed for international protection women applicants and their friends looking to talk in a non-judgemental unbiased space. Participants meet other women they would normally not relate with. The aim is to encourage them to break barriers, blaze trails, or otherwise be agents of change in their communities, towards a better integration. We had 140 women in attendance. Held at University of Galway, with resource persons from across Ireland.

Impact: Created a safe, network-style event for international protection women applicants and their friends to talk in a non-judgmental, unbiased space.

Outcome:

- Encouraged 140 women to break barriers, blaze trails, and be agents of change in their communities towards better integration.
- Facilitated networking among participants who might not typically interact, fostering a sense of community and mutual support.
- The event was held at the University of Galway with resource persons from across Ireland, providing a rich, diverse range of perspectives and expertise.

➤ **Health and Wellbeing Workshops:**

We had three Workshop series for Ukrainian community, muslim community and general refugees and asylum seekers, at intervals. They were practical workshops for wellness, wellbeing, fitness, and improved mental health. We also had Peer support and fitness class with HQ Gym for 9weeks. They were designed to be

relaxing, but importantly encouraging participants to form healthier habits, explore new diet, learn fitness skills, make new friends, maintain relationships, and learn about available services to aid integration. 135 participants took part all together.

Impact:

- Conducted practical workshops designed to improve wellness, wellbeing, fitness, and mental health for various communities.

Outcome:

- Held three series of workshops targeting the Ukrainian community, Muslim community, and general refugees and asylum seekers, with a total of 135 participants.
- Included a 9-week Peer Support and Fitness Class in partnership with HQ Gym, promoting the formation of healthier habits, exploration of new diets, learning of fitness skills, and building of new friendships.
- Provided information about available services to aid integration, contributing to the overall mental and physical health of participants.

➤ **Capacity Building:**

We had a 3-day outdoor capacity building camp for international protection applicant youth aged 19-25. The expedition was an opportunity to take on a personal challenge, reflect, develop an action plan for positive change, learn a range of outdoor, employability, social, and key life skills. It was done over 3 days, in Connemara, County Galway. 10 participants took part.

Impact:

- Organized a 3-day outdoor capacity building camp for international protection applicant youth aged 19-25.

Outcome:

- Provided participants with an opportunity to take on personal challenges, reflect, and develop action plans for positive change.
- Facilitated the learning of a range of outdoor, employability, social, and key life skills.
- The camp, held in Connemara, County Galway, saw participation from 10 youth, equipping them with essential skills for their personal and professional development.

➤ **Youth Mentoring:**

This is educational culturally competent mentoring programme for International protection applicants aged 19 -25.

Outcome:

- Supported the personal and academic development of young international protection applicants.
- Provided mentees with guidance, support, and career advice, helping them navigate their new environments and build a foundation for future success.
- **Ireland For All Solidarity March** (February 18th):
 - **Event:** Solidarity March from Parnell Square to the Custom House in Dublin.
 - **Impact:** Brought together diverse communities to stand united against inequality and promote solidarity across Ireland. The march fostered a sense of unity and collective strength among participants, enhancing community cohesion.
- **Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination Rally** (March 25th):
 - **Event:** Rally at Eyre Square, Galway, on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
 - **Impact:** Raised awareness about racism and discrimination, encouraging community members to stand against these issues. The rally highlighted the importance of inclusivity and equality, promoting a more harmonious and just society.
- **Annual Africa Day Youth Summit:**
 - **Date:** Sponsored by Galway City Council and Irish Aid.
 - **Theme:** EQUIP.
 - **Focus:** Tools and techniques to treat, cope, heal, and support oneself or anyone struggling with mental health challenges.
 - **Impact:** Empowered youth with critical skills to address mental health challenges, fostering resilience and well-being. The summit provided a supportive environment for young people to learn and share experiences, contributing to their personal and collective growth.
- **Dance Against Cancer 2023** (October):
 - **Event:** The 5th edition of the fundraising and dance event.
 - **Recipient:** Tuam Cancer Care.
 - **Impact:** Raised awareness about cancer and generated funds to support Tuam Cancer Care. The event not only provided financial aid to a vital cancer care organization but also united the community in the fight against cancer through a vibrant and engaging activity.
- **GOCOM Radio**

As we continue our mission through GOCOM Radio, our efforts have continued to yield significant impacts across various facets of our community.

Impacts:

- **Multilingual Programming:** GOCOM Radio broadcasts in multiple languages, ensuring all residents have access to vital information and cultural insights, regardless of their linguistic background.
- **Local Issue Coverage:** The radio station serves as a platform for discussing housing, healthcare, education, and more, keeping residents informed and engaged in issues crucial to their daily lives.
- **Impact on Community Engagement:** GOCOM Radio enhances community participation in civic activities, providing a platform for residents to voice concerns and collaborate on community development.
- **Cultural Exchange and Understanding:** Through diverse programming, the radio promotes intercultural dialogue and unity, fostering mutual respect among residents from different ethnic backgrounds.
- **Other areas of impact include** - Representing migrant voices, being a Community-led, Community-based, culturally competent media; Positive profiling of new and marginalised communities; Showcasing skills of marginalised groups; Inclusive, non-bias information hub; Media training; Job experience through volunteering/Internship.

Migrant Collective Galway:

Impacts:

- Direct Support for Families:
 - Migrant Collective Galway supports over 80 families each month through a dedicated volunteer network of 250 individuals.
 - Provides essential items such as household goods, toiletries, clothing, and school supplies based on specific requests from families, ensuring their basic needs are met.
- Employment Support and Integration:
 - Facilitates support for employers in the West of Ireland who hire from the migrant community.
 - Assists migrants in applying for roles that match their experience and qualifications, bridging the gap between job seekers and local employers.
- Community Fundraising Initiatives:

- Organizes fundraising efforts to support asylum seekers and refugees during Christmas and throughout the year.
- These initiatives provide crucial financial support for refugees and asylum seekers, helping them access necessary resources and support during festive seasons.
- Impact on Community Cohesion:
 - Promotes community cohesion and inclusivity by actively engaging volunteers and supporters from diverse backgrounds.
 - Fosters a sense of solidarity and mutual support among residents of Galway, contributing to a more integrated and supportive community environment.
- Long-Term Social Impact:
 - By addressing immediate needs and facilitating employment opportunities, Migrant Collective Galway contributes to the long-term social and economic integration of migrants in the region.
 - Empowers individuals and families to build stable lives and become active contributors to the local community and economy.

Challenges

- Volunteer Management: Recruiting and retaining a committed volunteer base.
- Legal Compliance: Navigating complex legal requirements affecting nonprofits.
- Diversity and Inclusion: Ensuring equal representation and support for all community groups.
- Capacity Building: Developing organisational capacity for sustainable growth.
- Media Perception: Addressing accurate portrayal of migrant issues in media.
- Partnerships: Building effective collaborations for program success.
- Impact Measurement: Demonstrating and communicating program impact effectively.
- Scaling.

2024 Plan

AMDAF's 2024 plan is based on the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 below, inspired by Government of Ireland's Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025.

Strategic Plan 2021-2025 - Towards a More Inclusive Ireland

- Tackling Social Exclusion, Racism and Discrimination through Media Representation

- Women Empowerment
- The Pandemic, Cancer, and Mental Health
- Poverty Alleviation for Entrepreneurs, Youth and Families in Direct Provisions
- Equality and Community Development through collaborations.

Objectives

- Promote activities that enhance inclusion, recognition, justice, development, and respect for marginalised groups.
- Inspire understanding issues affecting women of African descent, refugees, and marginalised groups. such as domestic violence, economic empowerment, personal development, mental health, gender equality and rights.
- Create support guidance, and opportunities for youth to guide and help them meet their goals and succeed with their vision.
- Strengthen links with established partners and collaborate with more organisations and individuals.
- Foster cohesion between migrants and host communities.
- Empower migrants through skills development and training.
- Promote cultural exchange and language proficiency.
- Monitoring and Evaluation**: Assess progress and adjust strategies as needed.
- Advocate for pro-integration policies at all levels.

2024 Projects/Activities

1. **The IN Project (Integration Nexus Project)** funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, under the International Protection Applicants Fund 2024/25.

Objective:

- The IN Project aims to support International Protection (IP) applicants in improving their health, wellbeing, and language proficiency, enhancing their quality of life and integration prospects.

IN Project Activities:

- Health and Wellness Programs: Structured programs focusing on physical exercise, nutrition education, and mental health support. Dedicated to enhancing health and wellbeing through a variety of

initiatives. Activities include health awareness talks, workshops, and events that focus on physical and mental health. We collaborate with healthcare professionals and organisations to provide comprehensive support and resources.

- English Language Lessons: Tailored lessons for adults in the IP system, incorporating discussions on health topics, symptom description, healthcare access, and healthy lifestyle habits.
- Social Integration Community event: Establishing trauma-informed support groups for victims of gendered violence and other vulnerable individuals within the IP system.
- Capacity Building: Providing training and resources to empower IP applicants in managing their health.
- Part-time employment for a Project Director – Job will be advertised, interview schedule by the Board and external Interviewer; while the successful applicant will commence work from 1st of September 2024. This a one-year contract job; renewable based on fund availability.

It is hoped that AMDAF will in future employ a full-time Project Director, part-time Project Assistant and Community Development Worker.

2. Annual Projects

- AMDAF Women Roundtable, Intercultural EPIC Award, and Business Expo, 22024 March)
- Youth Summit 2024 (April)
- Dance Against Cancer 2024 (October)
- Social Inclusion Projects, funded under Social Inclusion Grant 2024 (September)

-End of Annual Report-

GET INVOLVED / VOLUNTEER

We anticipate more tasking projects in 2024, we welcome volunteers and are currently looking for help with:

- Planning AMDAF Women Roundtable. We anticipate a bigger event this year.

- Planning and sourcing resources for Health and Wellbeing Workshops.
- Employment and Capacity Building Trainings – vacancy open for trainers and trainees.
- Planning Dance against Cancer fundraiser.
- Partners and collaborations.
- Community media enthusiasts to volunteers at GOCOM Radio.

Donate

We would like to thank all our Funders, Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers, without whose support, we could not uphold our objectives, and continuing the cause of social justice and ensuring no one is left behind.

By donating to AMDAF, you can be part of the incredible work creating a safe community for women of African descent and their families, integrating international protection applicants, making everyone's voice heard. Our vital services rely on the kindness of donors like you.

If you would like to support our cause, please consider [Donating with PayPal](#)

Financial Report