

AFRICA CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT 2011



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Introduction

Welcome to Africa Centre's Annual Report for 2011. Throughout the following pages you will learn about the broad range of activities undertaken by the organisation during 2011 and how we raised funds to carry them out.

2011 was a very proactive year for the Africa Centre. It was a year that saw the completion of our three year strategic plan, the conclusion of two multiannual funding projects (Irish Aid and Joseph Rowntree) and we moved into a larger premises on Stephen's lane, Dublin 2 from our previous office on Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1. We still continue to fulfill our commitments to our 3 year (2009 -2013) EC Development Education project.

At the end of the year we sought to review our current and future strategy and structure. This was informed by comprehensive consultations with African communities in Galway, Kilkenny, Sligo and Dublin. We were heartened by and grateful for the insight that the African community and our stakeholders across the sector and beyond brought to the consultation. It is clear that the public, our partners and other stakeholders place high value on the existence of the Africa Centre in Ireland.

At the time of writing, our new strategy is still under development. The principles underlying our future work are clear. Our consultation revealed a broad consensus that the Africa Centre exists primarily to serve the interests of the people of Ireland and predominately African people. We will therefore focus on our core aims of promoting community participation of Africans and facilitating multiple African perspectives of development education in Ireland. We will also work across sectors to develop a more proactive approach to identifying and mitigating the key risks facing African communities in Ireland.

While 2011 was anything but a 'business as usual' year, our day-to-day work has, of course, continued. It is a testament to the commitment and professionalism of the Centre's staff that, despite the very considerable uncertainty associated with the economic climate in Ireland and the reduction in funding for our work, we have nonetheless met some of our targets. But we are not complacent. We recognize that achieving higher levels of performance will require continued efforts to improve and streamline our services, a renewed vigorous dedication from the Board, and an increased motivation from our staff.

Even though we are experiencing challenges with growing our membership, we will endeavour to win the hearts and minds of the many Africans in Ireland who share the same vision with us to come and join us in full force in making Ireland a better place for all of us.

I wish to conclude by thanking our funders, the Board of Africa Centre, our staff, interns and volunteers for all their support, hard work and dedication in 2011.

Dr Sahr Yambasu
Chairperson
Africa Centre

Report on Activities

The year 2011 was a very exciting year for the Africa Centre. We came to the end of our strategic plan, which was reviewed and we commissioned work on our future strategic plan. The evaluation report concluded that the Africa Centre has established a clear role and presence in the area of Community Building and the related area of Development Education. The evaluation illustrated that Africa Centre tended to focus more on Development Education and therefore did not meet some of its commitments for Community Empowerment as outlined in the 2008 -2011 strategic plan. However the staff of Africa Centre display a refreshing commitment to their work in community engagement especially as the need for community engagement is even more acute in the current economic climate.

During 2011 the Africa Centre organised two training seminars one in Dublin and one in Limerick on the theme of “Engaging the Irish Political System” as part of its community engagement. A total of 40 people attended the seminars. The seminars focused on the skills attributes and commitment required by potential candidates if they were to have realistic expectations of being elected in Local Government elections. The Centre also moved headquarters to Stephens Lane Dublin 2 and opened a welcoming resources centre and a meeting space for communities in the new premises. The resource centre contains artefacts and information on supports for African communities, a library of books and articles which is open to members of the public, NGO personnel and students for the pursuit of research and education, whilst the meeting space is available to members to have their group meetings.

The unique contribution of the Centre to Development Education, bringing African perspectives to the discourse is recognised and valued in the Development Education Community (Murphy 2011). By reaching for excellence and embarking on a rigorous and enlightened planning, measurement and evaluation process that is focused on delivering the outcomes desired by constituents and funders, the Africa Centre can become an exemplar organisation in its field of operation and this we are hoping to achieved as the next step to 2011 activities (Africa Centre Evaluation Report 2011, p23).

The Africa Centre has identified the synergy and alignment between these core operational areas, this is particularly in evidence in the *‘Africa also Smiles’* initiative which fulfils an acute need in the DE sector for balance in the images and messages used about Africa while impacting positively on the local African Irish community engagement. The impact of this Africa Also Smile campaign was its appearance in the junior certificate examination 2011 as a key question and this has been welcomed by the development education sector and Irish Aid as the funder.

The Centre moved headquarters to 18 Stephens Lane Dublin 2 in May and opened The Toyosi Memorial Resource Centre. The Resource Centre consists of books on development written by African authors, African artifacts, DVD’s, children’s books and information on supports in Ireland for African communities. The Resource Centre is open to members of the public, NGO personnel and students for the pursuit of research and education .We also host Monthly movie nights, which are opened to the public.

2011/2012 also saw the development of a new strategic plan which will be launched at our 10th AGM. This new plan is the result of a thorough process that started with 3year review of the current strategic plan, a SWOT and stakeholder analysis, several consultation sessions with a variety of stakeholders at regional meetings and a strategic planning meeting attended by staff and Board.

This year’s report is based on our 2008 - 2011 strategic plan activities and highlights the work carried out since the last AGM. It is based on the work plan for the year January 2011 to December 2011 and the four core strategic aims which will be reported on here are:

- Promote personal and community empowerment of Africans in Ireland
- Contribute and promote an African perspective to Development Education,
- Proactively engage in policy, research and networking, and encourage interaction and debate in the wider society
- Build capacity and a strong organisational structure to support the work of the Africa

Activities completed under the Core Aims of the Strategic Plan

Aim1: Promote personal and community empowerment of Africans in Ireland

Community empowerment has been a key area of work of the Africa Centre in the last 10 years of its existence. Under the Personal & Community Empowerment Programme, the Africa Centre seeks to undertake activities aimed at enabling a holistic integration, understanding and due appreciation of African immigrants in Ireland. Activities undertaken were directed at African immigrants as well as individuals and institutions that interact with African immigrants professionally, socially and otherwise.

What we did under this aim:

Objective 1.1 - Provide information to Africans and referrals.

One of the key roles the Africa Centre played during last year was to provide information and referrals to the African community in Ireland. On daily basis Africans and interested persons would ring or call into the office looking for information on services in Ireland, about Africans or country specific issues.

Objective 1.2 Political Participation and leadership participation for Africans

The Centre held two seminars on Engaging the Irish Political System. The first was held on the 31st March in Wynns Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1 and the second in Limerick on 15th of July 2011 in Downtown Centre, George's quay, Limerick. The speakers at the Dublin event were Professor David Farrell, Head of School of Politics and International Relations and Anna Rooney, Clones Fianna Fail Councillor, Co. Monaghan. The Limerick event speakers were Dr Maura Adshead, head of Department of Politics, University of Limerick and Anna Rooney, Clones Fianna Fail Councillor, Co. Monaghan. Both seminars were attended by 40 participants in total and the events were funded by the Community Foundation of Ireland. The aim of both seminars was to highlight the Irish political system and how it operates to the immigrant community. Our focus was Africans and other immigrants with aims and ambitions to become politicians in Ireland either at the local or national elections. During the local elections in 2009, it became apparent that African candidates had very little or no political strategy during their campaigns.

Objective 1.3 Maintain our refugee programme

The Centre has worked with a number of people who are refugees and some who are asylum seekers looking for advice. The issues presented, varied and we are happy to report that four people who were having issues with visa extensions were successfully assisted and they have received their permanent residency. In addition, the centre continues to involve refugees and asylum seekers in various seminars and training courses as well as volunteer and internship positions in the centre. We hope that, for 2012/2013 we can successfully secure funding for the community participation programme to carry out activities with refugees and asylum seekers.

Objective 1.4 Celebrate African Diversity and Successes

The year 2011 was the 10th Anniversary of the Africa centre and the Centre managed to plan a few events to celebrate the 10 years of our existence. The Africa Centre launched the anniversary celebrations and the "Africa Tell It Like It Is" campaign on 6th September, 2011 from 6 to 9pm at the Irish Aid offices off O'Connell Street. The campaign is part of our European Commission funded activities. We produced posters on poverty, chocolate and coltan. The posters on chocolate and Coltan were illustrating how Europe depends on Africa for its resources. The campaign and the anniversary celebrations were launched by His Excellency Jeremiah Ndou, South African Ambassador to Ireland.

As part of the celebration also, we had a symposium featuring a founding member of the Centre on 18th October, 2011 was organised for the 10th anniversary. The symposium was titled '*Africans in Ireland, the Past, Present and Future*'. Speakers were Mr. Fidele Mutwarasibo, Sister Majella McCarron and Eric Yao, Coordinator of Africa Centre. The discussion at the symposium was centered on the 10 years of the Africa Centre, what has changed and where do we want to be as Africans in Ireland. It was attended by 82 people and was chaired by Anthony Murnane, Deputy Foreign Editor of RTE.

Africa Centre hosted a dinner party to thank members and funders at the Terenure College Concert Hall on the 21st of October. A total of about 80 guests were present including H.E. Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Ken-

yan Ambassador, H.E. Jeremiah Ndou, South African Ambassador to Ireland and H.E. Georges Alabi, Deputy Head of Mission, Nigerian Embassy to Ireland. To end the celebration of the 10th anniversary, we hosted an African music night in the Garda club on Harrington Street. It was well attended and about 150 people were in attendance. Discussions with people showed that this type of event was lacking within the African community. All these events had provided the centre publicity and that was the first time for many Africans who attended to know about the Africa Centre.

Aim 2: Contribute and promote an African perspective to Development Education

The Africa Centre has undertaken significant reflection upon what is multiple 'African Perspectives in Development Education'. It is more than just having multiple African perspectives expressing the same messages, but rather a process that challenges some of the perspectives still prevailing in Irish Society about Africa and Africans. Developing such a perspective involved a process of exploring African cultures, seeking to identify methodologies of communication, learning, reflection and action used in different parts of Africa and adapting these as part of the methodologies of development education in Ireland today. Under this aim we developed methodologies in public engagement such as "Africa Also Smiles" campaign, capacity building for the community and resource development.

What we did under this aim:

Objective 2.1 Promote good practice in the use of balance images and messages

The use of balance images and messages in the media, on fundraising and other promotional materials of the NGO sector in Ireland has been a challenge for the Africa Centre as they are in most cases portraying the only negative side of Africa and Africans in Ireland. The Africa Centre carried out the following activities in addressing the situation.

The Africa Centre in collaboration with Dóchas organised a seminar on the 15th March 2011, titled: - *Beyond the Picture – Uncovering the Grey Area of Images and Messages!* It was held at the Irish Aid Information and Volunteering Centre. The seminar was attended by the Media, DE groups, community groups, journalist, African diplomatic community, students, NGOs and the general public, 85 people attended the event. See report at http://www.africacentre.ie/images/publications/images_and_messages_seminar.pdf

The "Africa Also Smiles" teacher's educational resource pack for schools near completion. The educational resource for post primary schools is unique insofar that it simply informs student about Africa, its resources, tourist destinations and people. The resource is due to be launched by Joe Costello TD, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Trade and Development in September 2012 and we will engage the ministry of Education to provide us funding for the pack to be available to all secondary schools in Ireland .

The "Africa Tell It Like It Is" educational resources (posters) were launched on 6th September 2011 at the Irish Aid Information and Volunteering Centre. The event was attended by 35 people and the guest speaker was H.E. Jeremiah Ndou, South African Ambassador to Ireland.

Africa Centre staff still continues to work on the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages task group. 2011 saw the start of a review process of the code of conduct on images and messages with recommendations to follow for improving the implementation of the Codes principles. The negative use of images and messages by fundraising organisations affect Africans in Ireland and the Africa centre has to engage with the NGO sector to see a stop of the always negative portrayal of our people by NGO fundraisers.

Objective 2.2 Building a group of trained development educators

One of the resources the Africa Centre wants to develop is the African communities to stand for themselves and contribute to the debate about them and where they come from. In order to facilitate this processes, the Africa Centre engage the community in capacity building activities in the areas of development education, Africans having skills to express themselves linking issues in Africa to Irish context.

The Centre carried out 4day training for trainer's course in development education skills on 12th -13th April and 19th -20th April 2011, focusing more on African perspective in DE in Dublin. The course was designed

for Africa Centre members, African community, DE sector, students and NGOs. It was attended by 11 people. We also facilitated a refresher course on the 25th – 26th August (Planning for effective Development Education Practice) for our past participants. The refresher course was attended by 7 people. All the two courses took place at the Irish Aid Information and Volunteering Centre in Dublin.

Objective 2.3 Engage the media in mobilizing informed African voices in Ireland

Africa Centre carried out two “Working with the Media” trainings with African community Members. The training took place in Dublin and in Galway on the 13th – 14th June 2011 (Dublin) and 28th – 29th June 2011 (Galway). The target group for this training was African Community and Africa Centre members. The two courses were attended by 12 participants, 6 at each of the course. The participants are also expected to engage the media in Ireland in order to contribute to the debate about Africa and Africans in Ireland. Under this objective, two radio programmes took place encouraging Africans’ participation to discussions in the media.

The two radio programmes below were done in collaboration with Near90.3FM, a local Radio Station in North Dublin, which has a listenership of about 12,000 people.

On 6th July Mbemba hosted the Talking Africa Radio programme with Near90.3fm. The theme for the discussion was “the Myths and Realities of Migration”. The panelists were:

- Ann Nyambura- Student at Trinity College
- Eric Yao- Coordinator Africa Centre
- Fidele Mutwarasibo – An activist and a founding member of Africa Centre
- Grace Wilentz - Intercultural Dialogue through Community Media Coordinator

The second radio programme was on August 18th 2011 Mbemba hosted The Talking Africa Radio programme on the theme Aid Effectiveness. The panelists were:

- Dr Sahr Yambasu – Founding member of Africa Centre and Lecturer at UCD
- Dr Alfred Hickey M’Sichili- Trade Policy Officer, Comhlámh
- Richard Njoku- Member of Africa Centre
- Grzegorz Waliński – Former Polish Ambassador to Nigeria

See www.africacentre.ie and follow link Radio Show

Objective 2.4 Promote an African perspective to the wider Irish Society and in Europe, and engage them with African educational methodologies

Many African people living in Ireland have strong experiences of indignation at the imbalanced manner in which Africa is portrayed by the media in Ireland and also by development agencies. Both these groups regularly resort to stereotypical images and messages portraying Africans as dependent and lacking in innovation. While some of the messages are true, they are not balanced with messages of the richness of African culture, portraits of African people who risk their lives in the promotion of human rights and democracy, or images of the creativity with which people manage to cope under very difficult conditions. By simply getting some of the messages across to the wider public, the Africa Centre organized annual lectures, moonlight talks and Exploring Africa Course.

We held our Annual Lecture 21st September 2011 at Cultivate on St Andrews Street, Dublin 2. The Guest Speaker was Professor Augustus Nuwagaba (PHD), a Ugandan Academic and Economist, who has done lots of work on trade, aid and development. The Title for the 9th Annual Lecture was ‘*Development Policy, Aid and Poverty Reduction- Multiple views from the South*’. The lecture was chaired by Olive Moore of Trocaire and the respondent speaker was Olive Towey of Concern. The lecture was attended by African communities, NGOs, DE groups, Schools, media and the general public and it generated lots of debate around the failures of aid programmes, tax injustices in Africa by multinationals and lack of accountability by NGOs and their counterpart African governments in administering aid. The lecture was attended by 90 people.

We hosted two “Moonlight Talks” to facilitate conversations, a powerful aspect of the African traditional heritage. The moonlight talks were held on 24th February 2011 (Dublin) 19th May 2011 (St. Ann’s Senior School, Meadowbrook, Dublin 16). The event was attended by Africa Centre members, school children

and the general public. The two events were attended by 180 people (20 people in Dublin and 160 at St Atracta's Senior School).

One of the key platforms to get the African intellectuals contribution to our work is facilitation our exploring Africa Course. Exploring Africa Course was held in Dublin on the 23rd – 25th June 2011 Dublin. The courses introduced participants to the continent's contribution towards human civilization and the richness of its culture and resources. The course was attended by 6 people from development educators and the NGO sector.

In May we launched our Research '*Towards and African Perspective - Exploring Challenges and Considerations for Development Educators*' on African perspective in development education attended by 10 people. The aim of the research was to explore if, and how, Development Educators, on the island of Ireland, define and incorporate an African perspective within their work. The researcher sought to understand an African perspective within Development Education in line with post colonialism, which was synthesised with Giddens' structuration theory together with Freire's 'Pedagogy of the Oppressed'. See link for detail http://www.africacentre.ie/images/publications/african_perspective_development_education.pdf. Also in collaboration with Comhlámh we produced 1000 information leaflet titled '*Facing the Facts and Realities, Africans in Ireland*'. The leaflet sought to provide the Irish public with concrete facts on Africans living in Ireland so as to dispel any myths they may have about them.

Capacity Development

Mbemba attended the IDEA Summer school from June 14th -17th. The theme of the summer school was on examining the current and future influencers of change in development education. It was attended by 11 people from the development education sector. The course served as a platform for Africa Centre to share its activities with other stakeholders in the sector and learn from them what areas of interest that can influence the theory of change in the development education approach of the centre. Lessons learned were incorporated into the work of the centre during the year.

Rebecca attended the DEEEP Summer School in Finland on Quality and Impact in Development Education from June 13th – 19th. The Summer School was attended by 80 people worldwide, which provided a platform to share and exchange learning of how to measure the impact and ensure high quality of Development Education activities. As a result of the Summer School Africa Centre has put in place a rigorous monitoring and evaluation process whereby it can measure its own performance and identify areas that need improvement.

AIM 3: Proactively engage in policy, research and networking, and encourage interaction and debate in the wider society.

Many of the work under this area for the past year were around networking. The only research conducted was reported under development.

What we did under this aim:

Objective 3.2 strategically network with key stakeholders

The Africa Centre engaged in a number of activities to celebrate Africa Day this year. Since its launch in 2001, the Africa Centre has organised many successful events and activities aimed at advancing public education on intercultural issues and promoting links between Ireland and Africa that advance co-operation, dialogue and partnership on development issues. To help achieve these ambitions the Africa Centre organised a number of activities supported by Irish Aid to celebrate Africa Day 2011. The Africa Centre put together a consortium of organisations, which met on a weekly basis to plan several activities for this year's Africa Day celebration. The following events took place as part of the event:

A Soccer tournament 5 a side and family event took place on Saturday 21st May 2011 at the Old Belvedere Rugby and Football Club in Donnybrook. Originally earmarked and advertised to take place in Bushy Park, the venue had to be changed at the last minute due to difficulties that arose with the events department

of the Dublin City Council. The soccer tournament commenced in the morning with 7 teams and it was won by Spain, the same team that won last year's tournament. H.E. Jeremiah Ndou, the South African Ambassador to Ireland presented the trophy to the winning team.

There were a few caterers also at the venue to sell food and there was a children's area with a bouncy castle, sumo wrestling gear, a kite making tent run by Concern, as well as face painting. Indoor music was also provided with a DJ and rap artistes as well as the Rwandan dancers, Moribo Wa Africa from South Africa and a gospel choir. The Day was a relaxed one and it showed the cultural diversity between Africa and Ireland creating awareness and understanding of Africa through fashion, music and comedy encouraging interaction between Irish and African communities, especially the youth of these communities.

Another event for the celebration was the consortium hosting the 4th annual Cinemagic film festival in Dublin. A series of Africa themed films were screened in Cineworld, Parnell Street, Dublin 1. "Africa United" was screened at 10.30am on Friday 13th May and "Life Above All" was screened at 10.30am on Wednesday 18th May. The Africa Centre, together with Sports Against Racism Ireland (SARI) had a special screening of the film Africa United on Africa Day, 25th May, 2011 at the Screen cinema on D'Olier Street at 6:30pm. After the film, there was question and answer session with the director of the film Debs Gardner-Paterson.

Africa Centre also hosted African Music Night on Saturday, 28th May, 2011 at the Russell Court Hotel, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. The night commenced at 10pm due to the finals of the Champions League being screened live at the venue. The event was attended by about 65 people. There was a good mix of African, Irish and other nationalities. Two Disc jockeys performed at the venue and played a range of African music. The event ended at 2:30am.

Africa Centre, Concern Worldwide and Dóchas also hosted a meeting for all new TD's. The idea was to get them to engage with African issues related to development and trade. Among the speakers were the Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland, The CEO of Oxfam and the coordinator of the Africa Centre.

The successes of the events was due to an organising committee been set up by the Africa Centre to take responsibility of the planning and implementation of all events. The committee discussed every detail of the events and was at hand to provide support during the different events. Volunteers were recruited and a coordinating committee was set up to manage the different aspects of the days. An event management plan was put in place to ensure that the event run smoothly. The plan took various aspects of the event into consideration like Health and Safety, Insurance electric power, traffic management etc. After the events, a meeting was held by the members of the consortium and an evaluation of the activities was done.

Networking

The Centre continues to work closely with the African diplomatic missions in Ireland. Over the past three years, a lot work has been done regarding strengthening the relationship that exists between the Centre and the Embassies and this seems to be paying off.

Africa Centre held discussions with H.E. Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Kenyan ambassador, Dean of the African Ambassadors. Our discussions looked at ways of strengthening existing relations with the African Embassies. Key issues raised was the proposal for the Africa Centre to have a regular slot on its board for African Ambassadors and the embassies will be responsible to choosing who should represent them on the board.

The ambassador also highlighted the need to institutionalise the relationship where the Centre would also become a part of the meeting of the Ambassadors or possibly meet twice a year with the ambassadors. The Ambassador said the Centre should be the main umbrella body representing Africa in Ireland. We are yet to hear from them.

AIM 4: Build capacity and a strong organisational structure to support the work of the Africa Centre.

The centre continued strengthening the structure of the centre by new people been recruited to the Board, however membership recruitment was low and some of the working groups haven't been fully operational. The strength of the centre during the year was its staff and volunteers who were very engaged with the many activities carried out in the year.

What we did under this aim:

Objective 4.1 Develop an active and effective governing Board

The Centre's 9th Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 30th June 2011 at 4pm held at the Ireland Institute, 27 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Two Board members resigned; Nchedo Obi-Igweilo and Matthias Fiedler. All board members co-opted were elected, namely; Mary Coogan, David Nyaluke and Mireille Ndikumagenge. Three new nominations were also elected on the day; Peace Nukunzwe, Nobuhle Ncube and Richard Njoku. A number of new developments have taken place regarding the board since the AGM. Mireille Ndikumagenge and Bim Afolabi both have resigned and Selma Delta was absent due to illness. As a result, there was a need to co-opt new board members.

As at December 2011 the following working groups and sub committees exist on the board and it is expected that board members are on at least two of these:

Staff Sub Committee	Sahr,
Community Empowerment Working Group	Mary
Development Education Working Group	Selam, Mary,
Organisational Development working Group	Selam, Sahr
Finance Sub Committee	Sahr

The Centre's strategic plan ended in December 2011 and work had commenced regarding the drafting of a new plan from January 2012 – 2015. Gilbert Storrs and Anne Garvey of Developing Strategies were contracted to carry out an evaluation of the current plan and work on a new plan. The evaluation report was sent out to all board members. A number of consultations for the new strategic plan have been held with members of the African community, NGO's and other stakeholders in Galway, Kilkenny, Sligo and Dublin.

Objective 4.2 Maintain staff team to effectively implement the strategic work plan

The staff in 2011 are;

Eric Yao -	Coordinator
Mbemba Jabbi	Programme Officer, Development Education
Rebecca O'Halloran	Programme Assistant, Development Education
Ciaran Stewart	Accounts Officer
Liam Ryan	Accounts Officer

Volunteers/Interns

Sebit Iwa	Community Empowerment Project Officer
John Muringe	Graphic Designer
Kwame Afriyie	Web designer
Carly Dooly	Intern
Heather Jean Snyder	Intern
Chinenye Anameje	Intern
Una Kate DuVivier McDermot	Intern

Following the departure of Ciaran Stewart, the finance officer, Liam Ryan was recruited as the new admin and finance officer on 1st June 2011.

Objective 4.3 Develop and build active and participative membership

The membership drive for the Africa Centre has been weak this year. We have 25 members in the year and we are hoping to develop a membership strategy in the beginning of next year and have a dedicated membership drive staff. See appendix 1 for details of members.

Objective 4.4 Ensure the financial stability and resources including premises of the organisation

Africa Centre moved into a new premise on 18 Stephen's Lane, Dublin 2. The official opening took place after the AGM on the 30th of June, 2011.

Our application to Irish Aid was successful. Unfortunately we received €25,000.00 of the €53,000.00 requested and this left us a shortfall of €28,000.00 for our development education programme. We also received €8,000.00 from Irish Aid towards the Africa Day celebrations for 2011. Irish Aid is the main funders of our development education activities and these activities are listed on pages 6 to 8 of this report.

Application was submitted to Dublin city Council for Africa Day celebrations for €10,000.00 and we secured €8,500.00 from that application. Activities funded by Dublin city council are on page 8 of this report.

Our three year multi annual funding from JRCT came to an end in December 2011 and this was mainly for the salary of the coordinator and community empowerment activities. JRCT was not receiving new applications but have given existing organisations with grants the option to apply for a two year extension while they conduct changes to their priorities. An application for funding was sent to them requesting another 3 year funding, but was unsuccessful.

We received a total of €303,786.00 from our European Commission funding of which €121,357.00 was transferred to our partners and we were left with €182,429.00 for our programme activities. The programme experienced few difficulties with our partner in Slovenia to employ new staff as the contracts of the previous staff were terminated by their Board, but this was resolved with a new board in place and recruitment took place to replace the old staff. We had our second year partners meeting in Dublin on the 11th of July which was attended by Mr. Eyachew Tefera, President of the African Centre Slovenia (ACS), Alfred Abolarin, Programme Manager and Mr. Joe Ricketts, Project Officer all from African Caribbean Support Organisation of Northern Ireland (ACSONI) in Belfast, Eric Yao, Liam Ryan, Mbemba Jabbi and Rebecca O'Halloran all from the Africa Centre Ireland. Projects activities were reviewed and plans were laid out to complete the outstanding projects activities from year 1 and new activities in year 2.

With all the delays, the recruitment process started in Slovenia and the personnel from the two projects in Belfast and Dublin (Alfred Abolarin and Mbemba Jabbi) travelled to Ljubljana to help facilitate the process. Slovenia is now back on stream and are currently working to cover the backlog of work that exists there.

Objective 4.4 Develop effective communication and media strategies for the organisation externally

A media strategy was not developed in the course of this strategic plan, but plans are in place to develop one in future. However, the Centre has been actively using social network sites such as Facebook and twitter as well as redeveloping its website to improve its external communication. The network sites were used to communicate Africa centre's work and invites to its events.

The Africa Centre website has been updated with more features. It shows events of the Centre, news reels from African Newspapers and podcasts from Africa Centre's 'Talking Africa' Radio show. There is also an area dedicated to the Resource Centre. In effect the website reflects what the centre does which includes our development education and community empowerment programme activities. The website can be viewed at www.africacentre.ie. The Africa Centre has a Facebook account with 4902 friends and it has been a valuable resource for advertising our events and act as a forum for discussion on development issues among our friends. We also have a tweeter account which has 65 followers and we are following 92 people. The account was setup in 2011 and we already twitted 81 tweets and these are mainly on news related to Africa and Africans in a positive way. See appendix 2 for details.

Challenges and the way forward

The challenges for 2011 were many and varied. The centre had faced financial challenges as well as diminishing membership recruitment and retention. Most of the funding was reduced and members were not paying their fees and at the same time the centre experienced financial shortfall to meet its targets for the community empowerment programme. Another key change for Africa Centre like any ethnic minority organisation was to persuade the funders to fund its activities. Most of the funders were not interested to fund activi-

ties related to antiracism or interculturalism or employment creation for immigrants.

The way forward for the Africa centre is to have a vibrant community behind its work, have many paid up members, a dedicated staff responsible for fundraising and membership strategies for the centre to have financial self sufficiency. The centre needs to secure funds that will allow working with the community on antiracism, intercultural, asylum and the general community participation activities which are not the interest of the many funders funding the centre at the moment. The centre also needs supporters from the community to dedicate their time and serve on various committees/working groups to help in facilitating the work of the Centre. The centre also needs a sound board of management that will dedicate their time in providing support to the staff.

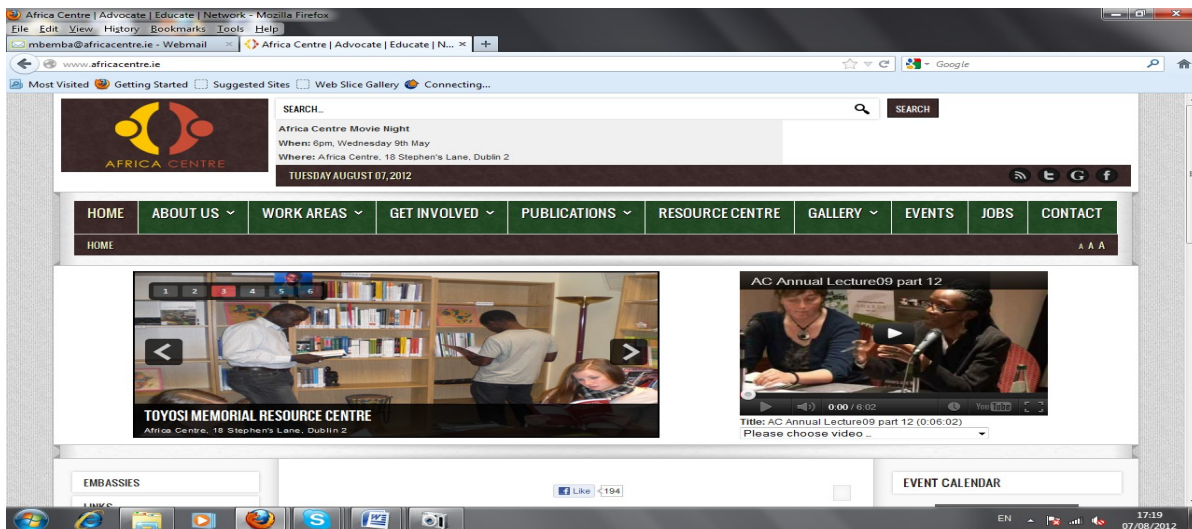
Appendix1 2011 Membership list

1. Alfred hickey M'sichili
2. David Nyaluke
3. Emeka Chukuworeh
4. Eric Yao
5. Evah Budala
6. Fleachta Phelan
7. Ian P. Calagy
8. Jamila El Zaruk
9. L G Kilgallen
10. Langa K. Tsimba
11. Malcolm O. Eremionkhale
12. Marie C. Tindill
13. Mbemba Jabbi
14. Nabuleh Ncube
15. Nchedo Obi_Igweilo
16. Oasis of Love
17. Peace Nukunzwe
18. Rebecca O'halloran
19. Richard Njoku
20. Sahr Yambasu
21. Sebit S Iwa
22. Sierra Leone Association Ireland *
23. Synzi Dadie
24. Wendy Cox
25. Winifred Akhine

*Organisation/group

Appendix 2 Africa Centre Website, Facebook and Tweeter accounts

Website



Africa Centre Facebook page



Africa Centre tweeter account



Appendix 3 Audited Accounts 2011

Registration number 350740

Charity number CHY 14980

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED

T/A AFRICA CENTRE

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Directors' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st December 2011

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
T/A AFRICA CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st December 2011

		Continuing operations	
		2011	2010
	Notes	€	€
Income	3	303,708	262,683
Expenditure		(302,651)	(248,106)
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation		1,057	14,577
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities		-	-
on ordinary activities after taxation		1,057	14,577
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		1,057	14,577
Balance brought forward		(2,515)	(17,092)
Balance carried forward		(1,458)	(2,515)

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.

On behalf of the board

Director

Director

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
T/A AFRICA CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Balance sheet
as at 31st December 2011

	Notes	2011		2010	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		2,381		4,119
Current assets					
Debtors	8	5,451		3,519	
Cash at bank and in hand		142,589		146,954	
		<u>148,040</u>		<u>150,473</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(151,879)</u>		<u>(157,107)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(3,839)</u>		<u>(6,634)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>(1,458)</u>		<u>(2,515)</u>
Deficiency of assets			<u>(1,458)</u>		<u>(2,515)</u>
Capital and reserves					
Income and expenditure account			<u>(1,458)</u>		<u>(2,515)</u>
Members' funds	10		<u>(1,458)</u>		<u>(2,515)</u>

On behalf of the board

Director

Director

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
T/A AFRICA CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Cash flow statement
for the year ended 31st December 2011

	Notes	2011 €	2010 €
Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash Inflow from operating activities			
Operating surplus		1,057	14,577
Depreciation		1,738	2,464
(Increase) in debtors		(1,932)	1,282
(Decrease) in creditors		(5,275)	91,869
Net cash Inflow from operating activities		<u>(4,412)</u>	<u>110,192</u>
Cash flow statement			
Net cash Inflow from operating activities		(4,412)	110,192
Capital expenditure	12	-	(2,436)
Increase in cash in the year		<u>(4,412)</u>	<u>107,756</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt (Note 13)			
Increase in cash in the year		(4,412)	107,756
Net cash inflow from issue of shares classed as financial liabilities		-	-
Net funds at 1st January 2011		146,659	38,903
Net funds at 31st December 2011		<u>142,247</u>	<u>146,659</u>

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2011

..... continued

3. Income

The total income of the company for the year has been derived from charitable grants, fund raising activities and voluntary donations. Where grants had specific conditions, these conditions have in general been adhered to.

	2011	2010
	€	€
Class of business		
Fees grants and donations	303,708	260,442
	<u>303,708</u>	<u>260,442</u>

4. Operating surplus

	2011	2010
	€	€
Operating surplus is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	1,738	2,464
Operating lease rentals		
- Office equipment	908	-
Auditors' remuneration	6,690	6,459
	<u>6,690</u>	<u>6,459</u>

5. Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the directors) during the year were:

	2011	2010
Directors	10	9
Administration	4	3
	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>

Employment costs

	2011	2010
	€	€
Wages and salaries	151,482	132,167
Social welfare costs	16,224	14,093
	<u>167,706</u>	<u>146,260</u>

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2011

..... continued

6. Directors of the Company

The present membership of the board is listed on the 'Directors and other information' page

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	€	€
Cost		
At 01/01/11	13,327	13,327
Disposals	(8,593)	(8,593)
At 31/12/11	<u>4,734</u>	<u>4,734</u>
Depreciation		
At 01/01/11	9,208	9,208
On disposals	(8,593)	(8,593)
Charge for the year	1,738	1,738
At 31/12/11	<u>2,353</u>	<u>2,353</u>
Net book values		
At 31/12/11	<u>2,381</u>	<u>2,381</u>
At 31/12/10	<u>4,119</u>	<u>4,119</u>

8. Debtors

	2011	2010
	€	€
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>5,451</u>	<u>3,519</u>

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2011	2010
	€	€
Bank overdraft	342	294
Payments received on account	121,623	137,240
PAYE/PRSI	18,886	12,501
Accruals and deferred income	<u>11,028</u>	<u>7,072</u>
	<u>151,879</u>	<u>157,107</u>

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31st December 2011

..... continued

10. Reconciliation of movements in members' funds	2011	2010
	€	€
for the year	1,057	14,577
Opening members' funds	(2,515)	(17,092)
Closing members' funds	<u>(1,458)</u>	<u>(2,515)</u>

11. Contingent liabilities

Restricted grant income is subject to certain conditions and restrictions. In the event of the conditions not being met the donors reserve the right to reclaim any or all of the unexpended portion of the grants advanced. The amount of unexpended restricted grants received included in creditors (Note 9) amounts to €121,622.

12. Gross cash flows

	2011	2010
	€	€
Capital expenditure		
Payments to acquire tangible assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,436)</u>

13. Analysis of changes in net funds

	Opening balance	Cash flows	Closing balance
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	146,954	(4,365)	142,589
Overdrafts	(294)	(48)	(342)
	<u>146,660</u>	<u>(4,413)</u>	<u>142,247</u>
Net funds	<u>146,660</u>	<u>(4,413)</u>	<u>142,247</u>

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
T/A AFRICA CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Detailed Income and Expenditure account
for the year ended 31st December 2011

	2011		2010	
	€	€	€	€
Income				
Donations		725		480
EU Development Education		139,983		115,523
Dublin Conference Income		-		2,241
Exploring Africa Course Income		80		2,400
Other Programmes Income		1,362		640
Mini World Cup		-		1,204
Membership donations		544		605
Irish aid		62,698		66,708
Trocaire grant		12,500		3,333
Joseph Rowntree charitable trust		50,000		50,000
Community foundation Ir		5,000		-
Concern		3,333		-
Dublin city council		8,500		10,000
Comlamh		1,000		-
Health Service Executive		2,000		-
Anniversary Dinner Income		965		-
Interest received		2,238		549
Irish Aid Africa day		8,000		9,000
Africa Day Other Funding		4,780		-
		<u>303,708</u>		<u>262,683</u>
Direct activities				
Africa day	18,088		8,428	
Participants expenses	818		1,775	
Annual lecture	2,622		10,623	
Organisational development	930		2,000	
Development education materials and activities	24,518		24,282	
Project Africa smiles	819		917	
Mini World Cup	-		4,551	
Employable Project	-		2,101	
Voter Education Report Launch	-		337	
African Health Initiative	1,515		-	
Irish Political System Training	5,584		-	
10th Anniversary Launch	5,942		-	
Myths and facts of migration	968		-	
		<u>(61,804)</u>		<u>(55,014)</u>
Gross surplus	80%	241,904	79%	207,669

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
T/A AFRICA CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Administrative expenses	240,847		193,092	
		(240,847)		(193,092)
Operating surplus	41%	1,057	38%	14,577

AFRICA SOLIDARITY CENTRE LIMITED
T/A AFRICA CENTRE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Administrative expenses
for the year ended 31st December 2011

	2011	2010
	€	€
Administrative expenses		
Wages and salaries	151,482	132,167
Employer's PRSI contributions	16,224	14,093
Volunteer expenses	6,417	4,375
Travel Expenses	10,166	9,810
Rent payable	12,452	8,400
Rates	3,855	-
Office Moving Costs	796	-
Insurance	913	748
Light & Heat	1,588	-
Legal Fees	908	-
Website and IT maintenance	7,114	2,293
Repairs, renewals & Cleaning	2,714	-
Printing, postage and stationery	3,241	2,606
Promotion	3,660	-
Telephone	4,453	4,529
Audit	6,690	6,459
Strategic Plan Evaluation	1,069	-
Bank charges	640	612
General expenses	4,727	4,536
Depreciation on FF & Equipment	1,738	2,464
	<u>240,847</u>	<u>193,092</u>

Appendix 4: Funders and auditors

Key Funders for 2010

- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- Irish Aid
- European Commission
- Dublin City Council
- Community Foundation Ireland
- Health Service Executive
- Trócaire
- Concern

Auditors

Gargan and Associates
1 Church View
Lower Main Street
Lucan
Co. Dublin

APPENDIX 5: BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS

Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| • Abimbola Afolabi | Chairperson |
| • Sahr Yambasu | Vice chair |
| • Nobuhle Ncube | Member |
| • Mary Coogan | Member |
| • Matthias Fielder | Member |
| • Nchedo Obi-Igweilo | Member |
| • Selam Desta | Member |
| • Mireille Ndikumagenge | Member |
| • David Nyaluke | Member |
| • Richard Njoku | Member |
| • Mary Coogan | Member |
| • Nchedo Obi-Igweilo | Member |

Staff

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • Eric Yao | Coordinator |
| • Mbemba Jabbi | Programme Officer, Development Education |
| • Rebecca O'Halloran | Programme Assistant, Development Education |
| • Ciaran Stewart | Accounts Officer |
| • Liam Ryan | Accounts and Admin Officer |

Volunteers and Interns

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Sebit Iwa | Community Empowerment Officer |
| • John Murinye | Graphic Designer |
| • Kwame Afriyie | Web designer |
| • Carly Dooly | Development Education |
| • Heather Jean Snyder | Community Empowerment |
| • Chinenye Anameje | Community Empowerment |
| • Una Kate DuVivier McDermot | Development Education |



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TROCAIRE



Irish Aid

Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gn th il Eachtracha

Joseph Rowntree
THE JOSEPH ROWNTREE CHARITABLE TRUST

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