



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

## International Protection Integration Fund 2023 Final Project Report

In accordance with Section 5.5 of the Grant Agreement signed by your organisation in respect of this grant, photographs should be included in this Report to illustrate the activities undertaken and the participants involved.

### Section 1: Basic Information

- 1.1 **Name of Organisation:** Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland (*Africa Centre Ireland*)
- 1.2 **Name of Project supported by a grant from the International Protection Integration Fund 2023:** Facilitating International Protection Applicants' Understanding of the Asylum Process Through the Provision of Legal Information and Host of Activities Supporting their Integration.
- 1.3 **Project Start Date:** 01/12/2023.
- 1.4 **Project End Date:** 31/10/2024

### Section 2: Project Activities

2.1 **Provide a brief description of the project activities: (300 words max.)**

This project was an additional support by the department to continue a supported service to the International Protection Applicants (IPAs), from third-country nationals, and other migrants including newly arrived in Ireland to support their integration process. The project was already undertaken in 2022-2023 through workshops at selected accommodation centres, community centres, and by walk-ins into our offices, as also providing telephone support in Dublin, Waterford, Limerick,

Carrickmacross, Longford, Cork, and Galway. However, due the project nature we had more centres seeking our services which led to visiting Co. Clare, Monaghan, Drogheda and information and materials on the International Protection processes and integration were again developed for the International Protection Integration Fund (IPIF) project which was delivered to the centres and participants.

The participants were provided with workshop sessions in their respective Centres and were given information around the meaning and understanding of who an asylum seeker is, getting the understanding of the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee (***including subsidiary protection and leave to remain, humanitarian terms and meanings***), and what are the main grounds to seek international protection in Ireland. Participants are given clear understanding and information on the decision-making bodies in the asylum process, the concept of the single procedure, and bringing them to light and understanding of the all-asylum processes in Ireland.

The workshops also enlightened participants about the length of the asylum process, the rights of the applicants, the duties, and responsibilities of the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), the appeal processes and the international protection appeal tribunal (IPAT), and how the concept of prioritisation works, withdrawal process, and the option to voluntary return home and how to get IOM and other services support if decisions were made to return safely and voluntarily home.

More importantly, participants were given the exercises of "***Who are you***", styles and tools for effective communication, strengths and weaknesses in communication, and conflict negotiations and resolutions. We also explored the concept of identity and the factors that shape it, techniques for self-reflection, and self-discovery, guided art activities focusing on expressing and exploring personal identity, and exercises in self-discovery using neurography. The IPAs were also trained about how to share and reflect on personal artwork, bibliotherapy exercises using selected resources on self-discovery, and introduction to the concept of "***composition of self***".

The project also equipped the international protection applicants with essential knowledge about practical mental well-being strategies, and a strong foundation of community support. Through structured discussions, hands-on exercises, and culturally responsive mental well-being and emotional intelligence techniques, participants developed resilience, strengthened community bonds, and gained a clearer understanding of their rights.

## 2.2 **How did these activities contribute to the International Protection Applicant/Asylum Seeker Community? (200 words max.)**

This project contributed a lot to the asylum communities and helped the participants make a significant difference in various areas of their lives, helping them to better integrate, find stability, and enhance their well-being during the challenging times they are going through by socially and peacefully living with one another at peace and mutually accepting differences and one another.

From what we have been providing them, these workshops also created a safe space and enable cultural events, social gatherings, and community-building initiatives that helped the participants to foster a sense of belonging. The carried activities provided opportunities for the asylum seekers to connect with others, build relationships, and reduce feelings of isolation.

It also encourage a cultural exchange during the art workshops, language exchanges, or food and help IPAs share their heritage and engage with the broader asylum community, promoting mutual understanding and respect.

Many of the asylum-seekers face trauma from past experiences and the uncertainties of their current situation were supported and provided with mental health services referrals, some therapies in coping with, dealing with the challenges, and support groups that provide essential coping mechanisms and mental health, well-being resources, self-care empowering practices, and fostered cultural understanding.

Families residing in these centres were provided with information on health topics, such as mental health, nutrition, and navigating through the healthcare services, and helped asylum seekers take better care of themselves and their families and many with alcohol, drugs, and family breakdown issues and challenges were supported and kept in touch with us for follow-up and further referral services.

In clear our workshops provide the asylum-communities with a unique understanding of the emotional mapping technique that helps individuals:

- *Identify, explore, and manage their emotions by creating visual representations of their feelings.*
- *Provides a tool for self-exploration and self-awareness.*
- *Helps identify and manage difficult emotions related to the refugee experience.*
- *Provides a means of communication and expression of complex emotions.*
- *Helps reduce anxiety and stress and encourages self-reflection and self-care.*
- *Promotes a sense of agency and control over emotional experiences.*
- *Fosters a sense of community and connection through shared experiences of emotional mapping.*

## Section 3: Project Beneficiaries

### 3.1 **Approximate Number of participants in your Project: (*do not include volunteers or paid project workers*)**

The Number of participants in your Project were: **693**.

#### **How have you determined the number of participants?**

Before each workshop, we contacted the Management of the various accommodation centres were contacted to pass the information after we have sent them the posters and information about the project, and they have circulated to the residents. Often, the residents get register their participation interest in the accommodation centre where workshops took place but however, some just drop in when they see the workshop going on, and it is how we determined the attendance.

Most of the accommodation centres had various meeting rooms with different sizes but however, got participants who often drop in even unregistered to participate. In Co. Clare, Limerick, Dublin City, and other accommodation centres we had venues with seating capacity about 25 to 30 participants, with many other centres with less capacities while interested participants were often over 30 and which was challenging in terms of seating and space capacities.

Therefore, many of the participants in the project walked-in and were people who did not have any pre-arranged and scheduled appointments with our office, and we made accommodation to attend them. We then continued our support after each workshop by using method of drop-in, telephone calls were possible and kept an ongoing services support to those reaching out to us.

#### 3.1.1 **How many participants were from the local International Protection applicant / Asylum Seeker community? (*Including second-generation migrants e.g. children born in Ireland to migrant parents*)**

The participants who were from the local International Protection applicant or from the Asylum Seeker community were around: **623**.

## Section 4: Project Volunteers

### 4.1 **Approximate Number of Project Volunteers (if any): 6**

4.1.1 **Approximate Number of International Protection Applicant Volunteers (if any), including second-generation migrants e.g. children born in Ireland to migrant parents:**

12 in total in the overall direct provision centres but we did get some centres' management and workers who were very friendly and supported the event during the workshops.

## Section 5: Project Expenditure

5.1 Provide a breakdown of how your organisation used the grant to support the project activities.

Expenditure Item	Cost
Community Engagement Officer	5975.00
Project Officer Travels	2685.00
Promotional Materials (A3 & A5 Posters) & Essential Steps Print	6450.00
Website Updates	750.00
Contribution towards Office rent and Administration	4140.00
<b>€Total</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>

5.2 **Is there an underspend of funds granted: No**  
**How much? N/A**

5.3 **What was the reason why there was an underspend of monies.**

**Important Note:** Unfortunately, this project was built on an existing, ongoing initiative that had high demand and received an extension. However, the budget initially estimated did not fully account for the increased service demands or the multiple locations required, which were underestimated. Optimistic assumptions and limited consideration of the project's expansion led to costs exceeding expectations as the project's scope grew beyond the original plan.

Additionally, there was a change in team due to the former program manager's unforeseen family emergency; he had to return to Africa after the passing of his mother. This shift contributed to challenges in project completion, particularly in identifying, planning, and managing potential cost increases due to unanticipated expenses.

These factors collectively led to delays in completing the project as planned and resulted in the additional expenses incurred.

## **Recommendations and Future Actions:**

In line with and the importance of these workshops, we recommend that the project is expanded in the field of “***Asylum Process and Legal Understanding Workshops***” as that will enable us to further conduct additional sessions focusing on specific legal topics like housing, employment rights, and family reunification as many are stranded in the accommodation centres for lack of information and understanding of how to navigate within the system.

- The Department must consider further funding and partnering with the Africa Centre Ireland on an “***Ongoing Mental Health and Well-Being Support***” by providing with further financial resources to better reorganise ourselves and upscale our services and provide consistent and regular mental health and mental well-being workshops to reinforce understanding and resilience practices of the asylum’s communities.
- Additionally, “***Cultural understanding and Integration Programmes***” must be further encouraged by the Department in providing with better financial resources to continue to carry and implement cultural understanding, better community engagement, orientation programmes for us to be able to tailor this support and create a better adaptation of these asylum communities within the Irish society.
- These services create “***Peer-Led Support Networks***” and encourage residents to form peer support groups to maintain community connections and mutual support which would not have been possible without the funding availability and our continued engagement with the residents of these centres.

## **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our request for additional financial support for this unique project. These activities are essential in helping International Protection Applicants and asylum seekers rebuild their lives, work toward self-sufficiency, and feel integrated into a welcoming community. They provide stability and equip asylum seekers with the tools to navigate social, legal, and economic challenges while fostering meaningful connections with local communities.

Participants gain a better understanding of the asylum process, adjust their expectations, and develop awareness of their mental well-being outcomes achieved through the empowering training sessions. Through legal guidance, mental health support, emotional intelligence development, and community building, Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland provides participants with the resources needed to navigate complex challenges. Continued funding would allow the program to expand and increase its impact, fostering a more inclusive society and resilient community for asylum seekers in Ireland.

## PHOTO GALLERY

### Visual Highlights: Documenting Impact and Progress




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Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

## FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS'

### UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASYLUM PROCESS AND PROMOTING MENTAL WELL-BEING

**VENUE:** KING THOMOND HOTEL, Co.Clare, Lisdoonvarna  
**DATE:** 26th October 2024  
**TIME:** 10 AM-1PM



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**FACILITATORS:** **CARINE MAMBOU & ABI FARONBI-LYNCH**

Reserve your spot at the reception!  
[www.afriacentre.ie](http://www.afriacentre.ie)



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## UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASYLUM PROCESS AND PROMOTING MENTAL WELL-BEING AGENDA

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> <li>Brief introduction of Carine MAMBOU, ASCI Programme Manager &amp; Abi Faronbi-Lynch Youth Intercultural &amp; Wellbeing Educator</li> <li>Introduction to the Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland (ASCI)</li> </ul>
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM	Understanding the Asylum Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitator: Carine MAMBOU</li> <li>Overview of the asylum application process</li> <li>Key stages and requirements</li> <li>Rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers</li> <li>Q&amp;A Session</li> </ul>
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Legal Rights and Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed information on legal rights, including the right to appeal</li> <li>Access to legal advice and representation</li> <li>Available legal resources and support services</li> <li>Information on upcoming events, seminars, and support groups</li> <li>Distribution of resource materials and contact information for local support services</li> </ul>
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Mental Health and Well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitator: Abi Faronbi-Lynch</li> <li>Importance of mental health and well-being during integration</li> <li>Identifying and managing stress and trauma</li> <li>Resources and support services available</li> <li>Final Q&amp;A and feedback session</li> </ul>
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Certificate Presentation and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of Certificates of Participation</li> <li>Closing remarks by Carine MAMBOU</li> </ul>

### MATERIALS PROVIDED!

- Workshop Handbook
- List of local support services and contacts
- Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland Flyer
- Intercultural Youth Society Flyer
- Certificates of Participation

Contact Information:  
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### TO-DO

Participants are encouraged to register in advance for adequate materials  
 Follow us: Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland  
 on: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn  
 Website: [www.afriacentre.ie](http://www.afriacentre.ie)




Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

## FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS'

### UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASYLUM PROCESS AND PROMOTING MENTAL WELL-BEING

**VENUE:** Red Cow Moran Hotel in Clondalkin  
**DATE:** 8th November 2024  
**TIME:** 2PM-5PM



**CONTACT US**  
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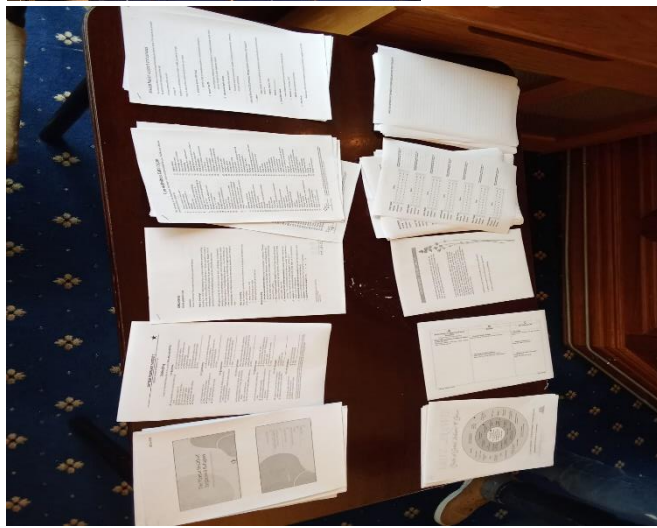
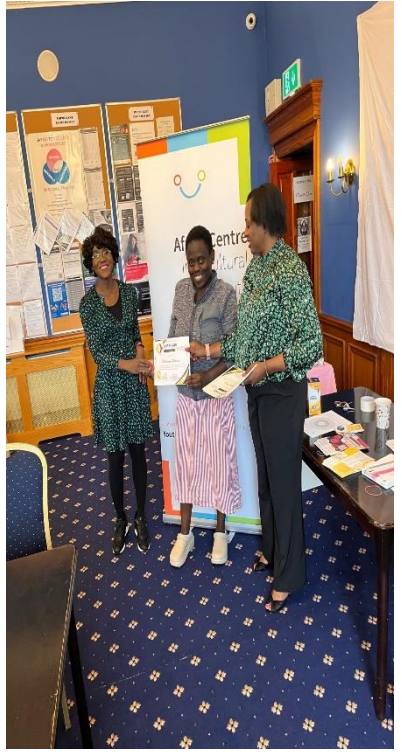
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**FACILITATORS:** **IVY BARRETO & ABI FARONBI-LYNCH**

Reserve your spot at the reception!









**Important Note:** These photos are only samples of those who accepted to be photographed and be identified. We have witnessed and had to deal with many residents who live with fear and kind of intimidation and unfortunately, worrying of being identified in these workshops or photos. Therefore, these photos were consented to be taken and used for our report.

## Section 6: Declaration

- 6.1 I hereby confirm that the International Protection Integration Fund grant was used solely to meet the necessary costs of the approved Integration Project and that the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement signed by (**my predecessor Dr. Daniel Antwi**) on behalf of (**Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland**) were complied with at all times.
- 6.2 I further confirm that all records and documents regarding the project and the expenditure, including receipts for all expenditure items charged to the project, are held by (**Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland**) and are available for inspection by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and/or its auditors in accordance with sections 5 and 6 of the aforementioned Grant Agreement.
- 6.3 I confirm that permission has been obtained by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the publication, including on-line publication of the images /photographs submitted with this report.
- 6.4 Signed on behalf of (**Africa Solidarity Centre Ireland (Africa Centre Ireland)**)

Name	Ms. METIEFENG MAMBOU Carine Laure
Position in Organisation	Programme Manager
Date*	08/11/2024

*\*Note: In accordance with Section 5.4 of the Grant Agreement signed by your organisation in respect of this grant, this Report must be submitted within 2 calendar months of the end of Project activities.*