



Engaging Women and New Communities through the Southside Partnership Women's Programme

SICAP Case Study October 2021



SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP DLR
COMHPHÁIRTÍOCHT an DHEASBHAILE
SUPPORTING PEOPLE. SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES.





1 INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

This case study presented by Southside Partnership outlines how its SICAP funded Women's Programme has engaged women and particularly women from New Communities in the DLR area in networking with other women, capacity building, personal development, education, engaging in a two-way integration process and in taking on leadership roles. It will demonstrate some of the challenges women and migrant women in DLR face including during periods of COVID restrictions, the role of SICAP in engaging with them, achievements and obstacles of the programme and how the programme will address issues arising in the future.

The case study used a mixed-methods approach, with data gathered through a variety of sources. The Women's Team is made up of four staff members (including a Community Employment participant) and a team approach was used in collating material for this case study. The Women4Women Local Community Group is also instrumental in its role in providing direction and volunteer support for the Women's Programme in Southside Partnership.

The data that the Women's Team used in writing this Case Study included the following:

- ❖ Analysis of IRIS data on the engagement of women in SICAP
- ❖ Observations of staff and informal discussions with participating women
- ❖ Women's Team meetings on the strengths of the Women's Programme throughout the COVID Restrictions period
- ❖ Analysis of feedback provided by women on their experiences of lockdown restrictions and the additional barriers they faced
- ❖ Interviews with participants and founding members of the Women's Programme, of which are included as videos in this case study
- ❖ Videos of events including the 2021 Intercultural Mini-festival and the 10 years anniversary video.

Informed consent was sought verbally and in writing from all participants in the videos and photos in line with Southside Partnership's data protection policies. The data was analysed collectively, and the case study was then written by the Women's Programme Project Leader and Development Worker, with some input from the Acting Manager for Social Inclusion Programmes.

2 BACKGROUND TO THE SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP WOMEN'S PROGRAMME



Women make up over half of the population of DLR (218,018, Census 2016) with the migrant population making up 12% and rising of the overall population. Women are underrepresented in decision making capacities, the majority of family care responsibilities fall to women, they face unequal and lower pay and experience more gender-based violence. The impact of these realities for many women is isolation and stunted opportunities for personal, career and employment development.

Some 33 Small Areas within DLR can be classified as 'Disadvantaged' or 'Very Disadvantaged'. A higher proportion of the county are women (53% of population). New Communities make up 11.6% (24,461 persons) of which 16,521 are female. The highest number of female migrants were British, Polish and Spanish and 4,393 of females in the county are Third Country Nationals (from outside the EU). The women who participate in the Women's Programme come from a wide range of countries including Ireland and the EU, with the most common third country nationals from:

- ❖ Iran
- ❖ China
- ❖ Russia
- ❖ India
- ❖ Brazil
- ❖ Venezuela
- ❖ Libya
- ❖ Egypt
- ❖ Morocco
- ❖ Kurdish women from Iraq and Syria
- ❖ Pakistan and others.

The Women's Programme at SSP DLR has sought to address the needs of women in the county in the following ways:

- ❖ organise networking events to create opportunities for women to meet, share and learn
- ❖ offer training, development, and capacity building courses
- ❖ support women in taking part in the Leadership Programme
- ❖ network, lobby, and advocate on local and national levels.

Southside Partnership DLR Women's Programme supports women and is inclusive of New Communities. The development of women's personal, social, education and employment skills represent some key areas of the programme. This is achieved through one-to-one support, the provision of networking events, access to counselling for those affected by domestic abuse together with opportunities to take part in community education and accredited courses. There is also access to English language and communication classes for migrant women. The Women's Programme puts a focus on empowering women with a view to ensuring that local and national policies include women. Courses and events include Personal Development, Job Seeking Skills, Health & Wellbeing, Leadership Skills, and Arts and Crafts (including sewing, upcycling and many art forms). The women who participate in the programmes are encouraged to share their skills and many have gone on to become volunteer tutors in the various programmes and some have successfully set up their own businesses or found employment in relevant areas.

One of our participants Belen was interviewed about her journey in the Women's Programme and how she engaged in a range of supports provided by the Programme and within Southside Partnership. Her video can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/LK5NsslmqkY>

'It started at the kitchen table' – how it all began

Leaders from communities met from 2008 in a series of workshops organised by the Southside Partnership to look at the role of women in the community. It was identified that women need a space to meet regularly to reflect on their leadership role in the community but also to celebrate, share and learn from each other. In March 2011 for International Women's Day Southside Partnership organised the first Multicultural Women's Breakfast funded by the DLR County Council. Shortly after the event the Southside Partnership Women's Programme was established.

This interview with Marese Hegarty, one of the founding members of the Women's Programme, a former staff member and current member of the Women4Women Steering Group outlines the background to the Programme and what it has achieved over the years.

To view the video, click: <https://youtu.be/0vI4PLPpsUY>

A video was also made to celebrate the 10-year anniversary in 2021 and it gives a flavour of the Women's Programme and how it has operated.

To view the video, click: <https://youtu.be/sFS0Q2WfB2s>

The underlying belief of our work is that all women have a right to equality, dignity and respect. Over the years women were facing a range of challenges in DLR:

- ❖ Little opportunity for integration between women from different social classes
- ❖ Very high housing and childcare costs
- ❖ Limited access to domestic abuse services
- ❖ Gender inequality in decision making at grass root level
- ❖ No support for migrant women
- ❖ Discrimination and racism

- ❖ Lack of county wide support for women

3 2021: THE ON-GOING IMPACT OF COVID-19

The pandemic has disproportionately affected women. Women's experiences at home, their health, their work and economic wellbeing have all been negatively affected. There has also been a marked increase in gender-based violence during the COVID restrictions period both in Ireland and globally (NWCI, 2021).

The challenges women face were reinforced with the start of the global pandemic and the restrictions that came with multiple lockdowns. Social isolation, a lack provision of childcare, closed schools and home schooling were consequences that fell disproportionately to women (Rethink Ireland, 2021). Mothers take on a greater share of tasks including their own work as well as facilitating learning for children and owning household responsibilities. Very often the pandemic also has an impact on their work - reskilling for different career tracks or blended (hybrid) work approaches were additional demands on women.

Covid-19 also has shone a further light on the crisis of domestic abuse in homes across Ireland. As we all retreated to our homes for safety, it became increasingly clear that home is not a safe place for everyone. Increased social isolation is creating more stress which can result in violent reactions. Social isolation has also caused circumstances where victims and aggressors cannot separate, and there are fewer options for women to escape their conditions specially in times of a housing crisis and in an area with less supports available.

3.1 FEEDBACK FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION CLASSES ON THE IMPACT OF THE LOCKDOWN IN 2021

The participants of two different English language and communication classes were asked about how they are feeling during this lockdown and what challenges they were facing. Migrant women who participated expressed that they were experiencing additional difficulties in relation to home sickness, worry about when they can visit family and additional struggles with homeschooling in a language and system they are not as familiar with. Two of the language teachers asked women during the online classes to express how they felt about living in Ireland during this period, what was difficult and what had helped them. They recorded some key quotes from the women, which are included here.

Some women were emotional about not being able to visit family members and missing out on key milestones such as the birth of a grandchild or the death of a family member.

I miss my family at home, I wanted to visit them last summer, but the flight was cancelled. I will go in the summer I hope for 2 months. I sometimes cry because I wanted to be there for my daughter when she had my first grandchild 2 months ago. I would like to be there to take care of her now and also to hold him in my arms and kiss him. I can only see him in pictures or on video on my phone.

I worry about my parents because they are old, and I want to be there to help.

Several women spoke about overall isolation, boredom and not having many outlets. This was sometimes compounded by having children at home.

I am new in Ireland, so I don't have any friends and I don't know anything about Dublin or where to go, and I am happy to learn about it in class. I miss my family, but I hope life will be better when the restrictions end. It was difficult for my son because he doesn't like online school and it's great the schools will open.

In winter it was dark, and I didn't want to go out, but now I want to do many things and I'm in a bad mood sometimes because of the restrictions.

My husband is blind and also one of my children has special needs, so I don't go out, only to buy food. I worry about my children not being normal growing up, they are also afraid, but I'm happy they are going to school now.

Many of the women were very happy that the English language and communication classes continued online, and this provided them with an outlet to mix with other women and keep up their English language skills.

I am lucky that my husband takes care of the children and gives me the time to attend the English classes. I am enjoying this time because I can be with my family now, but maybe when the weather is sunny, I feel like I want to go out and meet friends

I like to join many classes to keep me busy, so I don't feel bad and also it helps to improve my English language so I can then get a job. Although it's impossible now to find work because everything is closed.

It is difficult to get a job or make any friends, but I like to be in this class, and I hope we can meet face to face soon. I miss hugging my friends and doing things together.

All the women confirmed the particular difficulty of prolonged absence from their family, friends and home country. They felt homesick and anxious about older or vulnerable family members. They talked about feeling uncomfortable and uneasy with not knowing how long the lockdown was going to last. They found the weather had a major impact on how much they got out of the house- particularly when they had children.

Home-schooling was seen as particularly difficult when working through a second language, especially given they do not have any Irish at all. Many were worried about their teenagers, who were spending far too much time indoors, alone and on screens. They were resistant to family walks and activities. They were concerned about both their physical and mental health and their loss of social skills. On the plus side, they had discovered new activities, were having more time together as a family, and were being more creative.

4 THE SICAP CONTRIBUTION – ENGAGING DISADVANTAGED WOMEN & NEW COMMUNITIES

4.1 SICAP FUNDING

The Women's Programme receives core funding from SICAP towards its staff costs. This includes the following:

- ❖ Project Leader - 2 days per week
- ❖ Development worker 3 days per week
- ❖ Project worker – fulltime

The SICAP staff deliver many of the programmes and interventions themselves, including English language and communication teaching, personal development, leadership, sewing, upcycling and the facilitation of a large number of events including conferences, Women's Breakfasts etc. They currently have a base in small community centre Furry Hill, Balally and use this and a range of other venues to deliver their programmes.

The total SICAP budget for programme activities for the Womens' Programme was €1552 in 2021. Actual costs are much higher. The SICAP Programme staff have sought additional funding from a range of sources in the form of small one off grants to fund particular activities. These have included:

- ❖ Communities Integration Fund (for the Mini-festival in June 2021 and three breakfasts)
- ❖ Community Enhancement Programme of DLR County Council (for the refurbishment of Furry Hill Community Centre)
- ❖ DLR County Council contribution towards running the multi-cultural breakfast during Social Inclusion Week.

4.2 SICAP OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Southside Partnership Women's Programme works from the individual towards the collective engagement. We invite all women to join our programme but work particularly with women at grassroots level. We plan our programmes after consulting with women and hold courses and events in their communities. The programme is built around the self-identified needs of women based on their lived experience. The Women's Programme has received funding in previous years through an EU transnational Project called WEMIN on the integration of migrant women (2018-2019) [WEMIN – Migrant Women Empowerment and Integration \(wemin-project.eu\)](http://wemin-project.eu) and Repower which sought to improve access to the labour market [RePower Women's Programme - Building Capacity to Access Employment - Southside Partnership](#).

Since 2020, the SSP DLR Women's Programme has primarily been funded through SICAP. The main action through which it is funded is **Action 2C** of its annual plan. This action is to *provide integrated programmes that support the integration, language development and leadership skills of targeted women across DLR with a particular focus on migrant women*. In its 2021 annual plan, Action 2c is described specifically as follows:

Description

This action will focus on addressing gaps in capacity building opportunities for marginalised women across DLR, including migrant women. In particular it will concern itself with addressing issues of isolation and the needs of women with caring responsibilities and those that are not in employment, education or training. This action is designed to support women to access a range of educational activities, to engage with self-development and

language/conversation support workshops, to develop their skills, increase their confidence and enhance their personal independence. This action will support the work of the Southside Addressing Violence Effectively Forum in DLR and, in 2021 we will organise a workshop on issues of Power and Inclusion during the 16 Days against Gender Based Violence.

Rationale

Socioeconomic status can be a key determinant of educational outcomes for women and, women from more deprived backgrounds may be at higher risk of educational disadvantage. Cultural factors associated with the gendered division of labour, including the expectation that women assume the role of primary caregiver, only serve to compound this risk. Migrant women are often one of the most disadvantaged groups in Europe, especially in relation to labour force participation and social inclusion. Language acquisition is key to women's integration, and for women with children, it can improve their children's participation at school. Our recent participation in the EU transnational WEMIN Project highlighted the importance of integration activities and the sharing of culture between migrant and local women and developing commonalities. Migrant women are at additional risk of exclusion and language acquisition, personal development and cultural integration programmes can assist them to engage in social, economic and cultural life.

The action will facilitate women from different backgrounds and cultures to network through a number of Multicultural Women's Breakfasts. This action will involve close collaboration with the DLR Women4Women network, the DLR Migrants4Migrants network, the DDL ETB, Southside Addressing Violence Effectively Forum (SAVE) and the National Women's Council.

Specifically we will:

- Support 20 migrant women to engage with English Language Conversation Classes.
- Support 25 targeted women to engage with lifelong learning opportunities designed to support confidence building.
- Provide networking and social opportunities for 100 women (non-caseload) through various Multicultural Women's Breakfasts.
- Support 15 women (non-caseload) to access domestic violence support services.
- Continue to engage with local and national women's structures on issues affecting women's equal participation and engagement.
- Support the LCGs DLR W4W and the DLR Migrant4Migrant groups in their work around integration and equality.
- Continue to Chair Southside Addressing Violence Effectively (SAVE) Forum. This forum aims to ensure better coordination between service providers and agencies on supports for women facing domestic abuse.

Expected Outcomes

- Greater engagement by migrant women at a local level.
- Enhanced language skills for 20 migrant women.
- Increased access of training opportunities for 25 women.
- At least 3 Multicultural Women's Breakfasts
- Increased visibility of women's contribution to local and countywide forums.
- Women's Conference - Autumn of 2021.
- Two LCGs supported on issues to do with women and inclusion.
- Increased and improved joint planning, coordination and delivery between local service providers and agencies on issues affecting women's equal participation and engagement.

The objectives and outcomes of this action have largely been achieved, with the Programme engaging with 52 women through SICAP this year (and many more through non-caseload activities). They have continued to support the two original LCGs and have supported a new one (Women's Voice). As shown throughout this case study, a range of activities have been organised both online and in person to advance the inclusion, equality and progression of women in a range of ways.

4.3 SICAP ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

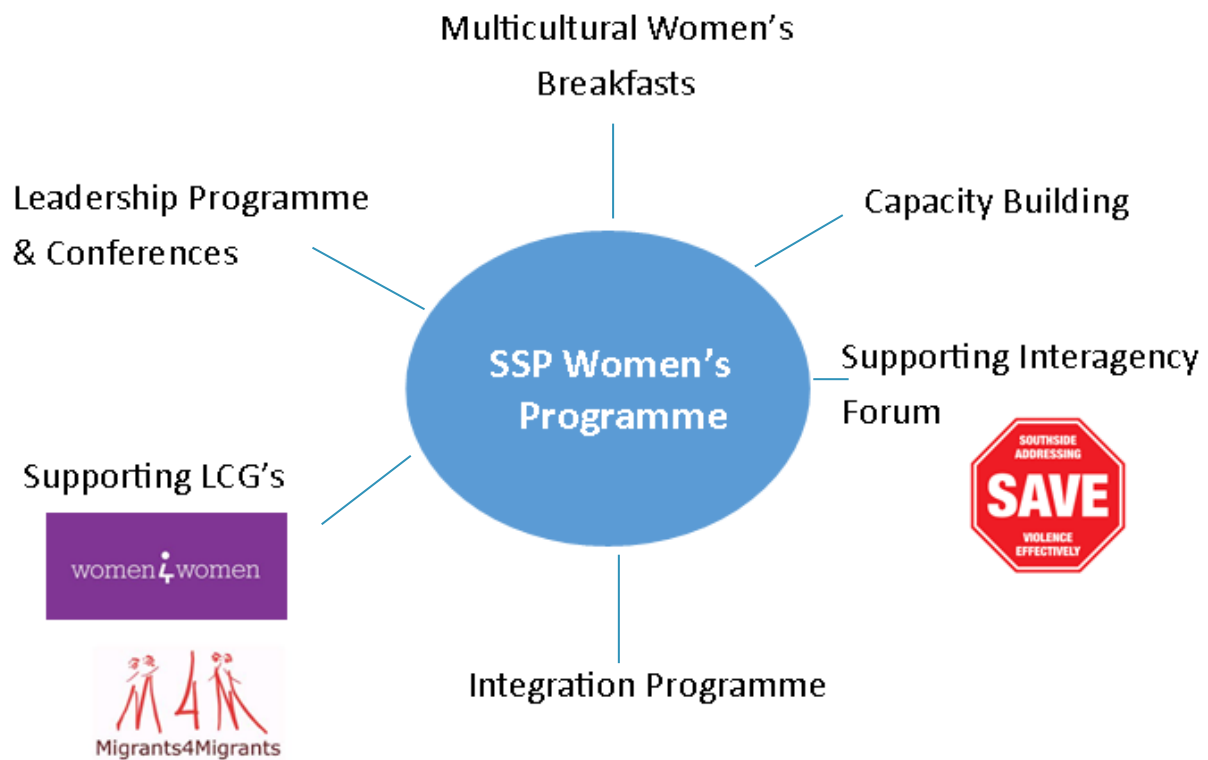
The engagement of women happens in a number of ways both through caseload, non-caseload and supporting LCGs. It includes individuals who participate in courses and engage in Personal Action Plans and individual interventions, non-caseload activities such as breakfasts and other large events, the

support for Local Community Groups (e.g., Women4Women, Migrants4Migrants and Women in Leadership) and a participation in a range of collaborations.

The work of SSP Women's Programme through SICAP is informed by the following principles.

- ❖ Collective Action and Collaboration
- ❖ Empowerment
- ❖ Participation
- ❖ Leadership and Capacity Building
- ❖ Social Justice
- ❖ Integrity and Accountability
- ❖ Social inclusion and equality

Over the last 10 years the SSP Women's Programme developed multiple engagement strategies, which are outlined in the infographic below:



4.4 MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS (MWB)

Figure 1 Flyer and photo of previous breakfasts



The Multicultural Women's Breakfast (MWB) is very often the entry point for a woman to engage in our SSP Women's Programme. These events are organised regularly up to seven per year in different community centres around the County. All women living in DLR area are invited to join and participate and we are joined regularly by Traveller women, women with disability, members of New Communities, and Lone Parents. We closely engage with the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland, the largest Muslim centre/mosque in Ireland, located in DLR.

The breakfasts are run in a themed workshop style and women engage in discussions in small groups around topics relevant to capacity building, integration, equality and inclusion. The women's programme aims to create a space where women can meet and discuss barriers they experience in life and how to overcome those. Women from all strata of society can celebrate, share, and learn from each other's experiences. This is fostering inclusion/integration amongst women from all socio-economic contexts. The women are encouraged to bring food for sharing from their own cultures and create a social space after the facilitated workshops. We are also celebrating International Women's Day and are highlighting the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in collaboration with the interagency group SAVE every year at a MWB.

Multicultural Women's Breakfasts (MWBs) are a low threshold measure to begin connecting women on a regular basis. From the workshop discussions we were able to identify their needs and plan our programme accordingly. For example - very quickly it was clear that women from New Communities were asking for more language learning support. In addition to ongoing language support, SICAP funded staff have since developed a programme to include capacity building, health and wellbeing, arts & crafts and leadership development.

The evaluation of Multicultural Women's Breakfast (MWBs) have demonstrated clear benefits, including:

- ❖ Intercultural learning and support of horizontal integration,
- ❖ Promotion of gender equality and inclusion,
- ❖ Identifying racism and raising awareness,

- ❖ Reduction of isolation through engagement of women from different communities/countries,
- ❖ Linking women to our programme or other programmes.

4.5 CAPACITY BUILDING, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

Twice a year the Women's Programme produces a programme booklet for women in the county, which outlines the courses and events that are on offer. We are usually offering capacity building courses like Personal Development and Job Seeking Skills, a creative space, and an integration programme with English Language and Communication courses. The leadership programmes look at our potential as leaders and widens the network of women who are working to influence decisions made on a local and county level.

The courses and workshops are conducted in different centres in the East and West of the DLR county so that women have easy access. Very often women coming to the MWB, or the leadership conference hear about the programme and then join a course or a group.

Additional ways to publicise the programme and events are:

- ❖ posters and programmes sent to community centres and other relevant NGOs
- ❖ information on women4women and Southside Partnership Website
- ❖ use of multiple social media channels (i.e., Facebook, Instagram)
- ❖ mailing list of participants already in the programme
- ❖ contacts to Home School Liaison Officers in DES schools
- ❖ publicising the programme in multiple community-based newsletters in DLR (e.g., SSP, PPN)
- ❖ word of mouth

Courses and workshops are often organised in conjunction with the ETB and funded by additional funding streams.

One of the participants in the Programme Ellie spoke about her own personal journey in the Women's Programme both prior to COVID, during COVID and returning now in person. She spoke about the difference it has made in her own life and how she now gives back by helping women who have recently arrived in Ireland and through volunteering with Women4Women.

The video of her interview can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/-L2VXzbzmJ8>

Figure 2 Sample flyers/brochure for upcoming courses



4.6 COLLABORATIONS

The Multicultural Women's Breakfast is usually organised in conjunction with the **Women4Women** network (LCG). The following organisations/groups are also collaborating regularly with the women's programme by facilitating workshops and providing the space for a breakfast and course and/or by inviting their local communities to participate in the Women's Programme:

- ❖ Balally FRC, Ballyogan FRC, Rosemount FRC, Hillview FRC,
- ❖ Other Southside Partnership departments,
- ❖ Islamic Cultural Centre Women's Department,
- ❖ DLR County Council Community Development, Social Inclusion Unit and Arts Office
- ❖ 2 LCG's - women4women; Migrant4Migrant,
- ❖ SAVE – Southside Addressing Violence Effectively.

5 DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME IN 2021 – CHALLENGES AND OVERCOMING THEM

5.1 CHALLENGES

2021 was an especially challenging year for engaging with people across all our programmes in SSP. For women, the usual challenges of involvement were compounded by overseeing schooling from home for several months at the beginning of the year. By the start of the year, women were well used to participating on Zoom for courses and events but when children are schooling from home the challenges are multiplied. Supervision of the schooling process primarily falls to the women. The

priority of devices for use go to the children for school, often leaving women with less-than-ideal devices to participate. In some cases, we gave out tablets. Internet bandwidth in the home is under strain from school use and often partners' use for work. There was definitely "screen fatigue" in most people by the start of 2021 as well as a strain on mental health.

We kept the structure of the Multicultural Women's Breakfasts (MWBs) and transferred it to an **online environment** on Zoom, including workshops in breakout rooms. Pre-Covid MWBs were drawing 60-100 women on a regular basis. When Covid forced us to take the breakfasts online, we continued to see 25-50 women attending – clearly this was meeting a need to combat isolation and build community, even through online platforms.

One of the benefits of courses and activities is the **community and interconnectedness** that occurs between participants. This not only happens during the activity but during informal spaces like the coffee breaks and before/after the activity or course. This does not happen in an online context where there is essentially no mingling between smaller groupings of women, independent of the facilitator. Consequently, less networking happened.

English as a second language being used by many women is an added challenge in a screen environment with limited ability to read body language and other non-verbal cues when communicating. Migrant women were cut off from natural life experience.

Despite those challenges for women, there was a heightened **desire for engagement to combat isolation** and to keep the mind stimulated during lockdowns. SICAP allowed us to keep our tutors and development workers available to run regular courses as well as some new ones. In 2021 so far, we have run four different creative arts workshops, two continuous English Language and Conversation courses, four personal development themed courses, and a women in leadership course.

We have hosted three **Multicultural Women's Breakfasts**, supported **two Local Community Groups** in their group development (women4women and Migrant4Migrant) and launched the start of the **Women's Voice DLR activist group**. All these courses and events have taken place online with good attendance. In June, with additional funding from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, we had our first in-person event since the start of COVID. **The Women's Mini-Festival** was funded by the Community Integration Funds under Covid restrictions and highlighted the diversity and richness of a multicultural society here in DLR.

Figure 3 Photos of Women's Mini Festival in June 2021



The video of that event can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/iabkNHGBIEg>

The Women's Programme staff also engaged in two national initiatives facilitated by National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) – '**Women in Public and Political Life**' and '**Women's Sector Working Group**' – looking at the impact of the Pandemic on women and the women's sector in Ireland. Part of the Project Leaders' work is also to support SAVE – the interagency group working around domestic abuse – and to organise domestic abuse crisis counselling. This programme is funded by Tusla and Healthy Ireland Community Engagement Funds (2021).

5.2 WHAT WORKED DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Women who may have been challenged by needing to travel to a venue were able to **participate in online courses and activities from their homes**. In some cases where partners were working from home, there was enough flexibility for them to even provide childcare so the woman could engage in a course. In these instances, a lack of childcare would normally have been an obstacle.

To conduct the programme, we also had to be creative. New formats of MWBs have been developed including a virtual Arts Exhibition of migrant artists and an online interactive cultural celebration in

International Women's Day. Conducting the programme online was also cost effective as venues did not need to be hired.

The Women's Programme also engaged in the Family Support Network meetings that was set up by Tusla, DLR County Council and SSP. It was very useful to talk about emerging needs in DLR.

6 THE ADDED BENEFITS OF THE SICAP CONTRIBUTION

The Women's Programme is part-funded by SICAP and other small funding streams like Community Integration Funds of the DCEDIY.

SICAP contributed to the funding of staff employed in the SSP Women's Programme such as:

- ❖ Part time Project Leader (partly funded by SICAP),
- ❖ Women's Development Worker (fully funded by SICAP),
- ❖ Part time Women's Education and Development Worker (fully funded by SICAP)

The role of SICAP staff includes providing strategic direction and vision, planning the programme (courses and events) and networking with collaborators. Staff had to upskill to be able to organise the women's programme online. The following skills had to be developed:

- ❖ Digital skills to use various meetings and communication platforms (Zoom and Teams),
- ❖ Skills to work with newly established Windows 365 in SSP,
- ❖ facilitation skills of groups in an online environment,
- ❖ one-to-one online coaching skills,
- ❖ collaboration/networking with other organisations, community centres and FRCs online
- ❖ Publicising the programme by developing materials for online marketing using social media,
- ❖ Digital event management incl. Eventbrite,
- ❖ in some cases, multiple language skills to support women at events and courses.

SICAP has also provided the staff of the Women's Programme to engage more with women individually and to undertake a complete analysis of their needs (through the SICAP registration process) and develop a Personal Action Plan, which is updated on a regular basis. Currently, there are 52 women who have been supported individually through SICAP with interventions in 2021, of which 42 belong to New Communities. The individual meetings have taken place by phone or on Zoom mainly and the SICAP staff have worked with women to identify training and support needs to assist the women in their personal journeys in education, training, pathways to employment, personal development, leadership and integration. This has brought added value to the Women's Programme as the pathways for women have become more individualised, in addition to the group supports, courses, workshops and events that are organised.

Figure 4 Some of the stalls at the Mini Festival June 2021



7 LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From the engagements we have had with women in our programme, they have a desire both to meet online and in person. Advantages of both have been recognised and the online space has enabled women with childcare responsibilities to engage more easily.

In the future the Women's Programme team will work through the SICAP Programme to deliver the following:

- ❖ Offer **blended learning opportunities** in autumn 2021 as a mix of online and face-to-face interaction depending on government restrictions
- ❖ Develop a **Buddy Scheme** where women will have the opportunity to link in with others, exploring ways to cultivate support between settled women and newcomers into Ireland, thus extending its supports to more members of New Communities
- ❖ Organise **regular walk and talk events** offering women a space to connect outdoors and to exercise
- ❖ Continue to support women **accessing leadership roles** in the community through our leadership courses and the supports to new Local Community Groups.

Figure 5 Excerpt of brochure for Women's Programme September to December 2021

Venues Used in DLR County

- **Ballybrack Project Centre**
Coolevin, Glengageary, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin - [A96 FX97](#)
- **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann**
32 Belgrave Square S, Montpelier, Monkstown, Co. Dublin - [A94 XV02](#)
- **Furry Hill Community Centre**
Furry Hill, Sandycroft Road, Dublin 14 - [D14 Y6X9](#)
- **Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland - Seminar Room/Hall**
19 Roeback Rd, Friarland, Dublin 14, [D14 YD91](#)
- **Mounttown Community Facilities**
Meadowlands, Fitzgerald Park Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin - [A96 KR65](#)
- **Myrtle Square - DLR County Council Outdoor Space**
35-36 George's Street Lower, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin - [A96 VK16](#)
- **Park House Community Centre**
Library Rd, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin - [A96 A721](#)

Details of Funder

SICAP - The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

Women & Leadership

Women's Voice DLR
This newly formed group focuses on bringing women's perspectives and voices to the decision making spaces in all aspects of our society. We are developing women's political understanding and looking at ways to engage with local government processes. If you are interested in joining us we would welcome more voices - please contact Marilyn as below.

Women's Conference - Leadership Pathways in the Community
As part of the Work4Change series starting in 2022 this conference will explore leadership projects and pathways available in the community.
Registration: please book on Eventbrite, the link will be available a few weeks ahead on [www.women4women.ie](#)
Location: the venue or online via Zoom will be confirmed closer to the date
Date & Time: 11th of November from 10am to 1pm
For more information contact Marilyn 087 219 8183 or email: marilyn.nyquill@spabio.ie

w4w Multicultural Events

The **women4women Network** organises regular Multicultural Women's Breakfasts in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown county in conjunction with Southside Partnership DLR Women's Programme. Women from different nationalities and cultures usually meet to celebrate, to learn and to share information and food. We had adapted to facilitating them online, but hopefully will get back to meeting face-to-face this term.

Multicultural Women's Breakfasts on Thursdays
From 10am to 1pm in person

- 23rd September 2021 at ICCI, Clonskeagh - Programme introduction
- 14th October 2021 at Myrtle Square, Dun Laoghaire - Social Inclusion week
- 9th of December at Comhaltas, Monkstown - 16 Days Campaign

Please note: changes may occur and will be confirmed closer to the date.
For more information please contact: galia.kelly@spabio.ie
or check: [www.women4women.ie](#)

8 SOURCES

CSO Ireland (2021), Census 2016. Available on www.cso.ie

National Women's Council of Ireland (2021), Women and COVID-19. Available on [Women and COVID-19 » The National Women's Council of Ireland \(nwci.ie\)](http://WomenandCOVID-19»TheNationalWomen'sCouncilofIreland(nwci.ie))

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Southside Partnership DLR (2021), Consultations on the Impact of the 3rd Lockdown on Programme Participants.

Southside Partnership DLR (2017), *A Social Inclusion Analysis of DLR*

Video Links

1. Interview with Belen about her progression in Women's Programme

<https://youtu.be/LK5NsslmqkY>

2. Interview with Ellie about participating in the Women's Programme during COVID

<https://youtu.be/-L2VXzbzmJ8>

3. Interview with founding member Marese

<https://youtu.be/0vl4PLPpsUY>

4. 10-year anniversary video made in 2021

<https://youtu.be/sFS0Q2WfB2s>

5. Women's Mini-festival June 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iabkNHGBIEg> (short version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlJAtZqmqqE> (long version)

