



New Year's Newsletter

❖ Opening of WFAD office in the DRC

We are happy to share that our office in the Democratic Republic of Congo has officially launched. The office has been set up after a study visit to Kinshasa in collaboration with the Swedish Embassy.

The DRC office has been very active while setting up and launching at the same time the project 'Sober Youth-Healthier Communities: Transforming the Violent Youth in Kinshasa' with the implementing partners, Living Peace Institute, Inter-Actions RDC, Synerige des Femmes and Dynamic Actions for Solidarity. At the same time, the office plans to support the DRC institutions' efforts to tackle drugs and alcohol issues in the country and ignite a strong dynamic within the civil society to promote the thematic with regards to illicit drugs consumption and alcohol abuse.

Read more about their activities on our [website](#)

Follow the office on their social media: [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

Meet the team:



Dandy Yela - WFAD-DRC Country Representative



Sarah Bitamazire - WFAD-DRC Deputy Country Representative



Josué Tschichibandji



Kams Kayembe



Bonheur Ebala



Madeleine Matayo



❖ Projects

The Tri-Balkan project

The Tri-Balkan project continues to work to strengthen the society's response towards people who use drugs and people affected by drug use. It was established in 2016 and is a collaboration between three member organisations: Izlazak, Celebrate Recovery, and Preporod. The organisations have established the structures of the project and increased the capacity in the organizations in order to improve the services and become stronger in the Balkan area. A free phone-line and Substance Abuse Community Counselling Centres, SACCC, have been developed in all three countries.

[Visit their Website](#)

Belarus

The organisation Kalegium in Pinsk, Belarus is running a project 'Youth People Against Drugs'. This three year project is coming to an end in the beginning of next year. The main focus has been on the young person, specifically girls. It has established cooperation with local authorities, peer to peer groups, girl and boys' groups, self-help club, and the SMART method. Even though, this year has been challenging for them due to the political situation in their country, they have tried their best to continue with the project.

Iran

We are part of two projects funded by the European Commission, deployed in Iran: "Targeted prevention, early detection and intervention to prevent drug dependence among female members of families with substance abuse problems" led by Asian Drug Demand Reduction NGOs Association (ADNA), and "Strengthening social support for homeless drug users in the Islamic Republic of Iran" led by Rebirth Charity Society, Iran. Both projects have held and are having their first successful training sessions in December 2020 where member WFAD organisations had the opportunity to partake as speakers.

❖ Conferences

We were fortunate to be able to organise and attend several conferences in the beginning of the year and would like to provide you with a short overview.

The 7th WFAD World Forum and Annual Congress 2020

During this World Forum, a new board was elected, a new strategic plan was created, and the new central focus on the Convention on the Right of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women led to the creation of a WFAD Gender Working Group.

[Summary of the World Forum](#)

[The Strategic Plan](#)

[More information on the WFAD Gender Working Group](#)



Our Gender Working Group is currently also collecting material from our members to get an insight in how to support the integration of Women's and Children's rights in all organisations. Please feel free to fill out the survey [here!](#)

The 63rd Commission on Narcotic Drugs

During the 63rd CND in Vienna, WFAD organised one side-event and co-organised three side-events together with partners.

[Summary of side-events](#)

East African Regional Forum

The second East African Regional Forum was organised in Kampala, Uganda. The two-day Regional forum dove into the strengths, needs, and capacities in the region's CSOs (within the field of drug and alcohol addiction). It resulted in The East African Network for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders (EANPTSUD) and a joint Declaration, named the Kampala Declaration.

[Summary of the East African Regional Forum](#)

❖ Webinars

Throughout the year, we want to make sure that we provide our members the opportunity to attend as many meetings as possible. In combination with the global pandemic and our international platform, we have organised several webinars online during this year. Some examples are described below:

Recovery Series

A series of webinars on Recovery has been conducted throughout the year. All webinars focussed on practical implications as well as theoretical knowledge.

In the first webinar, David Best introduced the concept of Recovery Cities. The second webinar highlighted Recovery Month and focussed on recovery within the discussion of addiction and treatment. Our third webinar, in these series, will be organised in the beginning of 2021. More information on the webinar and the official invitation will follow in the new year!

[Summary Recovery Cities Webinar \(1\)](#)
[Summary Recovery Month Webinar \(2\)](#)

Orange Day

To mark Orange day and the start of the 16 days of activism on November 25th, WFAD and its Gender Working Group organised a webinar to raise awareness on the importance to eradicate violence against women.



[Summary Orange Day Webinar](#)

Orange Day did not stop with a webinar. Throughout the world, famous local and national buildings shone in bright orange, and even WFAD and some of our members took the opportunity and time to dress up orange. Together we turned the world Orange!