

**Accomplishments of the
Itooro Akpan-Iquot-Led
2020 - 2024 AKISAN USA Administration**



It has been a whirlwind 4 years for the organization but the results have been clear for all to see – renewed trust in the organization, increased membership, more transparency, inclusiveness and accountability, introduction of projects to develop human capacity, more innovation in areas like fundraising among others, as well as an increase in outreach and publicity, both in Akwa Ibom State and the United States, especially via social media.

Of course, all this wouldn't be possible without you, the general membership, the sponsors and the donors. On behalf of AKISAN USA, I thank each and every one of you. You are because we are...and we are because you are.

Find below, the list of achievements the association has scored in the last 48 months:

- In 4 years, raised over \$700,000 in donations and sponsorships for AKISAN USA
- In 2022 and 2024, the AKISAN 1st Lady, Mrs. Edidiong Akpan-Iquot, has donated sewing machines to random fashion designers in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and Calabar, Cross-River State. In 2024, she donated over 100 AKISAN USA-branded backpacks to primary school students and scholarship awardees in Akwa Ibom State
- In partnership with the Akwa Ibom State Government (AKSG), groundbreaking of Akwa Ibom House in Atlanta, Georgia. The AKSG has a 23% stake in the project. Construction will start soon.
- The association's website, logo and letterhead were redesigned for the first time in years, as part of an overall rebranding strategy
- Founding member of the Forum of Akwa Ibom National Presidents Worldwide (now The Association of Akwa Ibom Presidents Worldwide), established in November, 2021. The purpose of this group is to gather Akwa Ibomites worldwide to speak with one voice, implement projects as one and to be a voice for the voiceless
 - In April, 2022, the group brought the attention of the world to the plight of Internally Displaced People (IDP) of Akwa Ibom State origin in Katsina State, Nigeria. We were able to raise \$5,000 for this group and also got the Akwa Ibom State Government to help relocate 39 individuals back to Akwa Ibom State
- Except for the 2022 medical mission, all other monies used to execute projects have been contributed by private donors

- 2022 medical mission carried out in 3 Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State that have never felt our presence (Itu, Uduang Uko and Uruan). 10,000 patients seen and treated, 150+ surgeries.
- AKISAN USA had a monthly radio program, “Akwa Ibom Abroad”, on XL106.9FM in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Each episode updated the public with the latest information, relative to what AKISAN USA is doing for the indigenes of Akwa Ibom State
- Revived the women’s wing of the organization. On August, 2022, the women’s constitution was ratified by the convention.
- Unsolicited mention on the “Amen Remix” music video, by Progress Effiong, featuring Ikpa Udo and Lybra Baba
- Paid regular visits to all our vocational training partners, to speak to the students and monitor their progress
 - Following up with the progress of the students. Full report available at akisan.org
- First Lady Commissioned an anthem for the association. Audio available at akisan.org and the association’s YouTube page.
- First Lady Commissioned a flag for the association
- Raised over \$80,000 for the 2024 AKISAN USA National Convention
- Helped raise funds to assist the victims of windstorm damage in Nung Asang Ikono, in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria in May, 2023
- Scholarships awarded to 400 students in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria in the amount of N25m.
- Scholarships awarded to 400 students in the United States, in the amount of \$10,000.
- Raised about \$15,000 in sponsorship money for the 2022 national convention
- Raised about \$20,000 in sponsorship money for the 2023 national convention
- Raised about \$19,000 in donations for our vocational training programs in IT, Culinary Arts, Agrobusiness, Fashion Design, Millinery, and Cosmetology

- Raised about \$2,500 in donations for our 2022 scholarship program
- Raised about \$10,000 in donations for the 2021/22 Mr. & Ms. AKISAN USA projects
- Raised about \$3,000 in donations for the 2022 medical mission
- Raised about \$11,000 in donations for various welfare programs (face masks, AKISAN-branded face caps, flowers for members who have lost loved ones, etc)
- Relunched a redesigned “Mbuk Akwa Ibom” quarterly magazine.
- **Bold, Fresh Ideas**
 - Projects are not funded directly from AKISAN’s purse but from private donations
 - Sourced for \$20,000 in private funding, to date and:
 - Added vocational training to the list of our projects. Currently, there are about 100 students who have been taught in Software/Web Development, Culinary Arts, Millinery, Fashion Design, Agribusiness and Cosmetology.
 - Introduced the SSG, at the 2021 convention, to “Books for Africa”, headed by an Akwa Ibomite, an organization that can provide books for any class and discipline at a fraction of the cost. A typical container contains 23,000 books and each book is valued anywhere between \$10 and \$50, depending on grade level and discipline.
 - Introduced to the SSG, at the 2021 convention, an Akwa Ibomite, Mr. Clement Udotong, who manufactures phones, laptops and tablets and is willing to set up a manufacturing plant in Akwa Ibom State
 - Partnership with Association of Movie Producers, Akwa Ibom Chapter and introduced “Movie Day” at the 2022 National Convention with proceeds split between both parties
 - In 2022, introduced an annual ping pong tournament at the national conventions
 - Partnership with TapTap Send, a money transfer company. First time users get additional \$10 with their first transfer. AKISAN USA gets a commission with every transfer

- Hosted several online webinars for the benefit of the general membership (Taxes for Entrepreneurs, How to Run a Non-Profit, etc.)
- Created a WhatsApp community group for all active AKISAN chapter members so that their members can get information, first hand, from the national body
- **Welfare**
 - Through a network of AKISAN members who are life insurance agents, instituted an individual policy life insurance program for the general membership
 - Provided various discounts to members for airfare, medical prescriptions and providing the ability for members to, from the US, order medical prescriptions for their loved ones in Nigeria, from over 6,000 board certified and approved pharmacies
 - Calling of chapters on a monthly basis and sending gift baskets to families of AKISAN members who have lost loved ones, all sponsored by the welfare committee members
 - Helped rally for funds to bury an Akwa Ibomite in the Dallas, Texas area whose corpse would have otherwise been buried in a pauper's cemetery
 - Helped locate an Akwa Ibomite who had gone missing since 1984 and reported same to his family to bring closure to them. Unfortunately, the individual had passed a couple of years ago
- Helped a family in Nigeria bring closure to the case of their brother, now deceased, whom they hadn't heard from in over 40 years.
- Paid self-sponsored trips to several AKISAN chapters
- Created a forum of national presidents of Akwa Ibom communities worldwide: There is strength in numbers. Together, we can all speak as one voice and combine to work on bigger, more impactful projects, help bring to light issues that otherwise have been overlooked.

Currently in the forum, there are national presidents from Nigeria, US, England, Ireland, Scotland, Benin Republic, Turkiye, Liberia, South Africa, India, Israel, Dubai, Canada, Finland, Ghana, Togo, Italy, Germany.

- Working with a beauty store owner, Mr. Idowu Etefia, in the United States who will award cash prizes to participants in the cosmetology training program, with the winner getting the opportunity to work with Mr. Etefia to export their products to the United States for sale

Currently, Mr. Etefia has worked with our trainer, in collaboration with our students, to export over 20,000 bars of natural soap to the US, for sale in Walmart, CVS pharmacies and beauty supply stores across the country.

- **Involved the youth in the running of the organization**
 - 2 cabinet members were under 40 at the time of their appointments
 - Included youth in all council meetings
 - Included youth in critical committees of the organization (constitution, finance, convention, health, etc)
 - Working to ensure the youth and their role are enshrined in our constitution
 - Webmaster role has been handed over to a youth member
- **Run an all-inclusive administration**
 - 2 cabinet members are women, including our 2nd ever National Vice President
 - All chapters are represented at the committee level
 - Council meetings are hosted by smaller chapters
- Youth and Board of Trustees are now a part of our WhatsApp chat rooms
- **Total transparency**
 - Financial reports are presented monthly
 - Every communication that's sent out is shared with everyone

- **Total accountability**
 - Every committee has been put to work and results are expected of them
 - Encouraging online payments (dues, donations, etc)

- **Finances**
 - Proper management of the association's finances
 - Digitized all our finances and financial reports via the use of QuickBooks
 - Seeking external funding, outside of convention, for projects and programs
 - Seeking partnerships with businesses and AKISAN chapters to save money
 - Even after budget approval, we don't spend money we don't have
 - Receipts for all expenses are made available to members, upon request
 - Development of financial reporting templates for convention and medical mission, for consistency

- **Making AKISAN run more efficiently**
 - Medical mission and scholarship processes are being reviewed
 - Partnering with other AKISAN chapters, nonprofits and corporations on projects
 - Constitution committee is currently working on amendments (voting at council meetings, elections, co-equal branches of government, youth, etc)
 - Proposing financial software for the association
 - Meetings and other events start and end on time
 - IT committee working on a database of members

- **Better communication**
 - Obtained an official phone number for the association. Created email addresses for all officers of the association
 - Taking more advantage of social media to market the association, our events and programs. The association now has presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube
 - Participated in various radio, television and print interviews in Akwa Ibom State to help sensitize the public about what AKISAN USA is and what we do.
 - Organized virtual roadshows, happy hours, and awareness programs to sensitize the membership on association programs and to foster a sense of community
- **Equity**
 - All chapters and their respective members are treated equally and with respect
- **Increased Membership**
 - As of November, 2022, we have added 2 new chapters to the fold - AKISAN Piedmont, North Carolina and AKISAN Katy, Texas