Regional Emigrant Support Agency (RESA)



See a human first before a citizen

Organisation Profile

Regional Emigrant Support Agency (RESA) is a Social Justice Philanthropy Organization that was founded and registered as a Non- Profit Organisation with the Department of Social Development South Africa on the 8th of February 2018 (203-485 NPO). RESA was established in response to the challenges immigrants and mostly, mobile populations face in transit or in foreign lands. The organisation commits to ensuring optimal stakeholder participation to immigrants wellbeing and work to challenge policies, structures and models that remove the dignity of humanity of immigrants. RESA believes **people are human beings first before they are citizens.**

Where We Work

Head quartered in South Africa, RESA is in the process of establishing programmes in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The programme selection criteria was based on various statistical data and the country profiles concerning immigration and immigrants' welfare. Progressively, RESA will also establish offices in Lesotho, Mozambique and Malawi as these are some of the most sending countries regionally.

Vision

RESA envisions a world where health is a life entitlement and in a society that recognises the value of life before they see the role of citizenry.

Mission

We believe in equal access to essential services by undocumented and all types of immigrants.

The organisation's goals are to:

- i. Establish effective partnerships for improving universal access to essential and comprehensive health support services (Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV and AIDS, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health) for all types of immigrants including immigrant key populations in the region.
- ii. Support the legislative frameworks and policies that ensure the general principle of equality for noncitizens and international standards protecting the rights of non-citizens are observed regionally and beyond.
- iii. Facilitate the provision of humane and safe regional repatriation and re-integration services for returning vulnerable immigrants.

The organisation's objectives are to

- i. Facilitate access to gender sensitive, sexual and reproductive health support services for immigrant adolescent girls, women, and vulnerable and key populations.
- ii. Support and advocate for safe motherhood, maternal, neonatal and child health services for all types of immigrants.

- iii. Participate in developing effective strategies for ensuring continual treatment, support and care for all types of immigrants affected by HIV and AIDS.
- iv. Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and partnership, and stakeholder participation in addressing human rights gaps for non-citizens in the region.
- v. Utilise International Conventions, Regional Bodies and National Constitutions as instruments to advocate, influence and campaign throughout the world on non-citizens' rights.
- vi. Provide reintegration assistance to vulnerable immigrants willing to repatriate to their place of origin.
- vii. Participate in the promotion of all types of immigrants' children's right to life, identity, quality health care, and education.

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viii. Contribute to the provision of evidence based information on regional immigrants' welfare.

Values

- Human Rights and Justice Our work is based on respect for the inherent worth and dignity of humanity, and the rights that follow from this knowledge.
- **Cooperation Beyond Borders** A shared responsibility to address the serious challenges confronting humanity, caused by artificial barriers of geographical demarcation, politics, race, and ethnicity that tend to separate people and their institutions.

- **Transparency and Accountability** We endeavour to give accurate, evidence based and reliable information. We are willing to hold ourselves to high standards and seek to hold others to similar standards as the ones we set for ourselves.
- **Sustainability** We are committed to development that meets the needs of the present, making improvements from the past, without incapacitating the generations to come towards a one world.
- **Mutual Partnership** We understand and believe that our combined effort is greater than the sum of our individuals in contributing towards a just world.
- Service Beyond Self While responsibly maintaining itself, RESA integrates self-development with public concerns, focusing on higher, broader, and more public levels of service. RESA conducts its activities for the sake of others.

Organization's financial health and integrity

Regardless of the fact that RESA is still being pre-financed by the Founder, a clean record of accounts and draft finance policy is in place.

Reputation and Organisational Integrity

Guided by the UN Charters, SADC protocols, and other Declarations, the programming climate is immune to the political climate of the countries in which the programmes will be implemented, However, greater cognisance will be taken with regards to the differences in national legislative framework each country has.

Governance Structure

The Organisation is managed by six Board of Directors (three from South Africa, two from Zimbabwe (one the founders) and one from Botswana. Taking cognisance that the Organisation has its main focus on women, girls and children, the composition of the Board has four females and two males with the following roles:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Board Member and Founder
- Board Secretary and Vice

The Organisational Progress

RESA is still at infancy and has not received any external funding. The establishment activities which are ongoing are prefunded by the founder, with some members of the board volunteering their skills and time.

RESA has had two Board Meetings and developed (still to be endorsed) organisational policies. A lot of regional travelling and review of legislative frameworks has been done. The founder member has since inception been self-financing for the setup of the organisation. Currently, a Communications Coordinator

has been working on Voluntary basis to ensure establishment progress, though reimbursed for work related expenditure against receipts. He will be fully employed as soon as funding is available.

The Organisation has in a short space of time stimulated a lot of interest from various entities including sponsors, academic, philanthropists and other departments. The Founder is a Development worker with 18 years of relevant experience and a health social scientist, the chair person and treasure are accountants by professions, and the vice chair is a lawyer, while the secretary and vice secretary have business administration qualifications and experiences.

The organisation has engaged with three potential funders so far and all have shown a keen interest in supporting the programmes. Also, some key stakeholders including individuals (philanthropies) have been engaged with regards to the objectives of the organisation. In Zimbabwe, the organisation has assisted illegal Somalian children/youth immigrants repatriate. The children and some of them youths, were incarcerated as criminals in one of Zimbabwean prisons (rather than placed at refugee camps). The Board Chair (who is a legal representative), engaged with the legislator and managed to get the group acquitted and repatriated to Somalia. Gratitude was shown by the youth Somalians phoning and apprising RESA of their safe arrival.

With regards to the thematic and ideological focus, RESA has gained a lot of credibility well before the onset. The programme focus is critical for various entities, and will alleviate a lot of strain on various platforms and entities, ranging from the States and governments, communities, individuals and society.



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