



## AFRICAN REFUGEE AND MIGRANTS AID (ARMA)



### ARMA PROFILE

African Refugee and Migrants Aid (ARMA) is a nonprofit organization led by refugee, asylum seekers and migrants, our aim is to advocate and defend the rights of refugee, asylum seekers, and migrants. This organization profile will give you the overview of mission and vision. The leadership and organizational culture and principals.

*“Nothing about refugee without refugee”.*

# ARMA

214-221 NPO

PBO No. 930067473

Tax reg no. 9582788189

*We are here for you!*

#### Mission Statement:

*To advocate, defend and protect the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers across the world without fear or prejudice.*

#### Vision Statement:

*To become a leading organization that promote, protect, and advocate the rights of migrants, refugee, and asylum seekers across the world.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The 'African Refugees and Migrants Aid' (ARMA), is a South African not-for-profit (NPO) refugee and migrants led organization, founded on the 1st of May 2018, located in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape. Registered as a no. **214-221 NPO** in terms of the Non-Profit Organization Act of 1997 (Act no. 71 of 1997), and Public Benefit Organization (PBO) No. **930067473** and Tax registration no. **9582788189**. “Organization in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 2022”.

The primary objectives of ARMA are the promotion, protection, and awareness building of the rights of asylum seekers, refugee, and international migrants throughout the Southern African region. Presently operating at national level through the assistance of founding members, volunteers, and public donations, all services and projects offered through and by ARMA are free of charge.

## BACKGROUND

A registered NPO, ARMA has a demonstrated and influenced commitment to providing sound and just legal, political, social, and emotive support particularly for those identified as asylum seekers, refugees, international migrants and their related communities. Within this scope, ARMA functions with districts of service implementation being Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage; local municipalities and wards of service are the Nelson Mandela Metro, Alfred Nzo, Amathole, Buffalo City Metro, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi, OR Tambo, and the Sarah Baartman Municipality. The activities, projects and services are currently practiced within these regions, although ARMA reach hundreds of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants through the online system. Hence, we are planning to expand our physical presence in other provinces of South Africa and the African continent, when possible, through a greater network, funding, and partnerships with relevant local and international alike organizations.

As is later discussed, ARMA rests on a foundation of members' personal experiences as asylum seekers and international migrants, granting the NPO an unique foothold of a

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## ARMA

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management board and individuals who are not only knowledgeable about the experiences of their target market for aid, but additionally have the competence, compassion, and expertise to holistically support those in need, and guide them towards sustainable livelihoods and positions in the South African community. This is a position that cannot be overlooked in the fulfilment of authentic, informed and impacting NPO, human rights, and community development aid, as it allows the organization a nuanced understanding of needs and expectations of the individuals, families, and communities.

## **MISSION AND VISION**

ARMA has a vision of just society free of xenophobic, racist, and sexist violence and behaviour, particularly that against asylum seekers, refugees, and international migrants in South Africa and worldwide.

In doing so, focus is placed upon the protection, empowerment, and upliftment of these displaced, disadvantaged, and vulnerable persons, assisting them in achieving human rights, safety, and a sustainable, sound livelihood and well-being. With an inherent understanding of the difficulties faced by these communities and families, ARMA seeks to dismantle the various forms of abuse and injustices experienced, to empower them towards objective survival in terms of economics and human rights endowed to them, but additionally to ensure their development, growth, and societal participation – these being towards a more subjective sense of well-being.

ARMA has a constitution founded upon the following mission statements:

### ***Mission Statement:***

*To advocate, defend and protect the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers across the world without fear or prejudice.*

### ***Vision Statement:***

*To become a leading organization that promote, protect, and advocate the rights of migrants, refugee, and asylum seekers across the world.*

1. Our mission is not limited to one community.
2. To reach communities, refugees, and migrants around South Africa and worldwide.

The above mission statements are supported through the following main objectives:

1. To educate communities about refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.
2. To assist the vulnerable, orphans, refugees and asylum seekers around South Africa and worldwide.
3. To assist refugees, asylum seekers and migrants on refugee and immigration acts.
4. To give love and support to those ill in the community
5. To provide educational support, repatriation, and community education regarding HIV / AIDS, TB, Ebola, and other chronic / communicable diseases.
6. To raise funds in order to fulfil the objectives of the community.

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- 7.To reduce hunger and malnutrition in the community.
- 8.To work in collaboration with all government departments, municipal and development agencies, as well as institutions of higher education / learning.
- 9.To provide psycho-counselling to victims of rape and sexual abuse.
- 10.To assist refugee and asylum seekers who want to return to their countries of origin voluntarily.
- 11.To create relevant professional networks between South Africans, refugee, and migrants.
- 12.To assist the government and inter-governmental organizations to formulate policy and improve support and services for refugees, migrants and people seeking asylum.
- 13.To provide educational support and assistance to refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers.

**Secondary objectives are:**

- 1.To reach refugees and migrants around the world with assistance and support.
- 2.To protect youth who are vulnerable to alcohol and drugs.
- 3.To provide protection, care, and support services to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.
- 4.To provide emotional support and empowerment programs to victims, survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.
- 5.To provide community care support services for the elderly.

This vision is achieved with the strategic implementation of the following intersecting present programmes and activities:

- Victim Empowerment
- Community Development
- Humanitarian Aid
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Social Cohesion
- Pro-bono Legal Assistance

Through the above projects and activities mentioned, ARMA strives towards fulfilling objectives of holistically inclusive youth mentorship and life skills development for those both within and out of school, the provision of mentorship and support for the homeless and orphaned; and, prevention orientated programmes concerning gender based violence, dismantling of gendered, sexuality and cultural stereotypes and injustices and, substance abuse and crime awareness and support. These initiatives work in tandem with greater community awareness on human rights, empowerment through life skills training, and the continued intersection of diverse stakeholders, individuals, and corporate partnerships.

## PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Since its formation ARMA has been an instrumental of change in the lives of migrants, refugee and asylum seekers and stateless people. Due, to this achievement in 2023, the organization was awarded with a. “Organization in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council”.

ARMA work in partnership with different organizations locally and at international level and government institutions in making sure that we achieved our mandate.

We are affiliated with the African Refugee Led Network (ARN) which is a continental network of refugee led organizations), we are permanent member of South African Refugee Led Network (SARLN) a network of refugee led organizations based in South Africa. ARMA is currently chairing South African Refugee Led Network Eastern Cape Province (SARLN EC) that has 10 organizations representing Eastern Cape province. We are working in partnership with Nelson Mandela University Refugee Rights Centre, International Committee of the Red Cross, Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI),

ARMA have made several submissions and contributions toward different organizations and State institutions such as Department of Home Affairs, South Africa Human Rights Commissioner(SAHRC). ARMA with the support of Mr Malipo Lukandamiza Mbalanga, the Executive Director drafted the ARN summit report that was held in Pretoria South Africa in November 2022.

In ambitions of serving the greater South African region in-line with international and other African similar NPO strategies, ARMA has several stakeholding members and collaborations, namely the *Nelson Mandela University Refugee Rights Centre (NMU RRC)* and *Students Volunteers team, United Nations (UNHCR), South African Department of Home Affairs and Social Development; Eastern Cape Refugee Centre (ECRC), Bidvest Bank, ABSA Islamic Bank, Congolese Community of Port Elizabeth, Somalian Community, and Door of Hope Children's Home*; and, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the *CoronaCare for South Africa*. The latter group supported ARMA with grants during the pandemic, supporting members of the Port Elizabethan community through grants(voucher) and food parcels. On the former, NMU, this collaboration is indicative of the recognition of ARMA and their efforts within the immediate community, as well as a valuable support specifically regarding partnership during refugee and asylum seekers' assistance, in human rights and law matters.

Another partner is the NPO *Shunammite Women of Valor*, based in Port Elizabeth, South Africa; this affiliation with a fellow community-based organisation provides a good networking base, as well as the potential for future collaborations to emerge.

## SERVICES WE OFFER TO COMMUNITY

As afore-mentioned, ARMA is committed to the sound and just treatment of asylum seekers, refugee, and international migrants, and towards a general cohesive experience within the greater South African community. To date, their work has assisted over 5000 people from different countries especially African and Asian, with services including matters of deportation, assisting illegal migrants, orphans' Christmas

present distribution, banking and financial matters assistance, and the process of solving a rejected asylum seeker claim. As stated above, the mandate of ARMA is towards the unification, peaceful integration, and consistent consideration of those either presently, or before, having been classed as vulnerable, displaced, or minority groups within South Africa.

More particularly, services offered to refugees, asylum seekers, and international migrants include, but are not limited to:

- Pro bono legal advice and representation; including representation in cases of unlawful arrest and detention due to an undocumented status, this extends to power of attorney and permissions granted to ARMA legal team.
- Attorney companionship at the Department of Home Affairs.
- Documentation access assistance, including Section 22 and 24 permits, ID's and passports, and birth and marriage certificates.
- Support throughout refugee status determination procedure.
- Refugee Appeals Board* (RAB) appeals against rejected status claims.
- Applications assistance claims and other submissions to *Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs* (SCRA); the application for SCRA certification and permanent residence status.
- Support in accessing civil, social, economic, and cultural rights.
- Free trainings on refugee rights, duties, and responsibilities in the South African context.

Beyond education offered for the vulnerable and displaced, ARMA services include offering free trainings nationally on refugee, asylum seekers and international migrants rights' and relevant law, to individual persons and stakeholders within the *South African Police Services* (SAPS) and municipal police, magistrates, *National Prosecuting Authority* (NPA), educators, and so forth.

Towards the advancement above-mentioned strategies and visions, ARMA formed the *United with Foreigners Campaign* (UFC), a flagship initiative committed to both community education and assistance, targeted towards those identified as asylum-seekers, refugees, or migrants, and the continued community educational efforts and social cohesion operations. With a humanistic and peaceful orientation, the UFC aligns with the African teachings of 'Ubuntu', prevention of xenophobic attacks, and needs identification. This project has found culmination in an awards and information event in February 2020, in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. With the collaborative attendance of the *Eastern Cape Refugee Centre* ('The Centre'), and keynote guest speakers from the Department of Home Affairs, SARS, Bidvest Bank, and ABSA Bank, the event allowed Q&A sessions, information sharing, and a greater awareness of the work undertaken. Although with an overall focus on the greater Port Elizabeth community, there was a particular focus on foreigners, students, and taxi drivers, and the dissemination of information and content concerning the definitions and experiences of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers, social cohesion encouragement, and on the valuation of foreigners within the South African economy. Furthermore, the event discussed the #SayNoToXenophobia usage,

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larger ARMA fund-raising efforts, and the opportunity for new membership. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, community members, and volunteers, the UFC event will be held annually.

Notable events in the short history of ARMA have included coming to the aid of Congolese and Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers arrested in Mozambique, in partnership with *Amnesty International South Africa*, including reporting the incident to the UNHCR South Africa, Secretary General of the NI, and the President of Mozambique. ARMA has assisted over 21 undocumented migrants from Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Malawi with deportation issues; and, has partnered with the NMU RRC and ECRC with refugee blood donations, coinciding with World Blood Donor day. During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, ARMA in collaboration with *CoronaCare for South Africa* was able to support 51 families in the Port Elizabeth area with food parcels and economic grants. Included in this were 17 Congolese, 14 South African, four Somalian, one Malawian, 12 Zimbabwean, and two Burundi families.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The founding member of ARMA is Mr Malipo Lukandamiza Mbalanga with an array support of asylum-seekers, professionals, and active citizens committed to bring change in the lives of refugee, asylum seekers and migrants. The present Executive Director and Chairperson is Malipo Lukandamiza, who was supported by South African citizens, Makhaya Ntanzu, Staci-Leigh Norma Hearne, Lunga Sybil Ndamase, and Esinathi Zamakhaba Biyela as well as Congolese refugees and asylum seekers, Mmassa Augustine, Manazigabe Buhendwa, with Fatuma Said, and Esther Zawadi Saidi; and, Bangladeshi Abul Mansor, from Nigerian Dr Mohammed Sanusi Yusufu (lecture), from Zimbabwe Dr Newlin Marongwe(lecture at WSU). With the brokering of these respective personal and professional expertise in matters pertinent to the work and vision of ARMA, these members are supported by part-time online and in-person volunteers towards data-driven, inclusive, and long-term sustainable intervention into community and individual lives.



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Mr. MALIPO LUKANDAMIZA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2004-2007, Vice-President & Co-founder of Hekima Salamu Club in DRC & Burundi.

2008, Teacher at Muungano Primary School at Musasa refugee camp Burundi

2012-2018, Spokesperson of The Congolese Community of Refugee of Port Elizabeth (CCRPE)

2015 – Present, Language Practitioner at Department of Justice (Court official)

2018 - Present, Founder, Chairperson and Executive Director of African Refugee and Migrants Aid (ARMA)

2019, Author of the Book “The Power of Understanding the Teachings”

2020 – Present, Chairperson of Foreign Languages Interpreters’ Association “FLIA” South Africa

2022, May – 2022, August 13, Acting Provincial Chairperson of the South African Refugee Led Network Eastern Cape (SARLN EC)

2022, August 13 - Present, Provincial Chairperson of the South African Refugee Led Network Eastern Cape (SARLN EC)

2023, Co-author of the report of African Refugee Led Network summit held in Pretoria South Africa.

Dr NEWLINE MARONGWE  
HEAD OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



*Dr Newlin Marongwe is a Senior Lecturer at WSU - Walter Sisulu University. She is a holder of a PhD in Educational Psychology. She has awarded several research accolades published substantially in the areas of higher education, education & psychology, education & technology, inclusive education and teacher education in different peer reviewed journals.*

*She has peer reviewed several manuscripts nationally and internationally. She participated and presented papers at national and international conferences. She has facilitated research workshops locally, nationally and internationally to academics and postgraduate students.*

*She has a couple of postgraduate students who graduated successfully and some cum laude in their research projects. She received an award for using technology successfully in her learning and teaching.*

*She has been recognised for contributing immensely and participating in Community Engagement by engaging in impactful community outreach jointly with African Refugee and Migrants Aid (ARMA). She is a registered member of different research boards. She is an external examiner, assessor and moderator in various SA universities. She is an Institutional Senate Member, Campus SoTL Chair and an Institutional Research Mentor.*

*She is also a PGCE Postgraduate Coordinator. She is supervising postgraduate students to PhD level. Currently, she is offering Introduction to Theories of Inclusive Education and Psychology of Learning and Teaching to postgraduate students. She believes in teamwork and that together we can make a difference.*

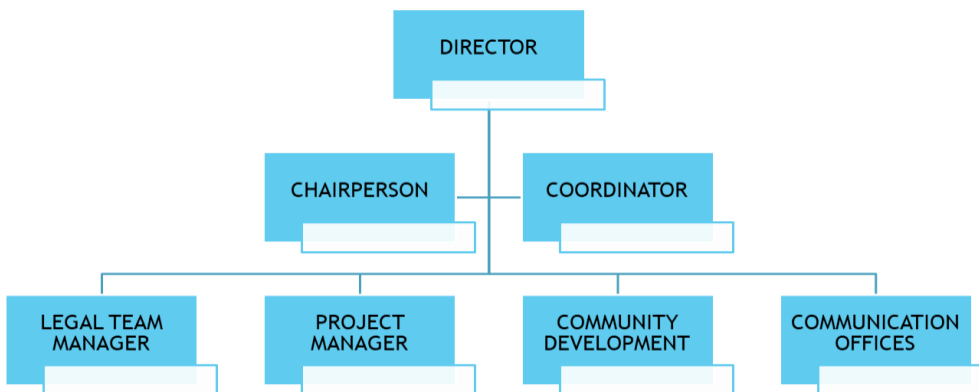
*Her philosophy is underpinned by a basket of theories such as, constructivist theory, critical theory, Humanism, sociocultural theory, connectivism, transformative pedagogies and inclusion theory.*

Dr MOHAMMED SANUSI YUSUF  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING OFFICER



*Dr Mohammed is the International Programming Officer at Africa Refugees and Migrants Aid (ARMA). He holds a National Diploma (OND), B.Sc., M.Sc., MSW from Kaduna Polytechnic, University of Ilorin and University of Ibadan, all in Nigeria, respectively. Mohammed S. Yusuf is a lecturer in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He holds Doctoral from the University of Fort Hare, East London, South Africa, with an interest in risks and support for elderly refugees in South Africa. His areas of interest include Social Welfare, medical social work, and refugees. He has more than 17 publications in local, national and international journals, including chapters contribution in a book.*

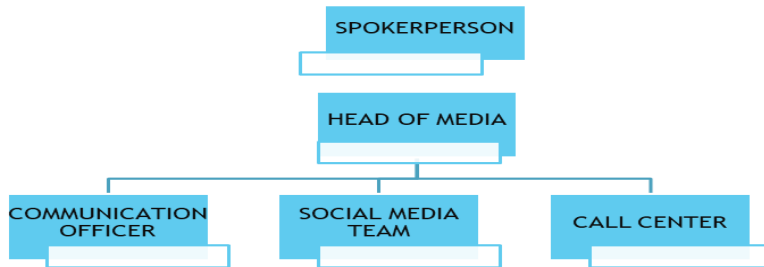
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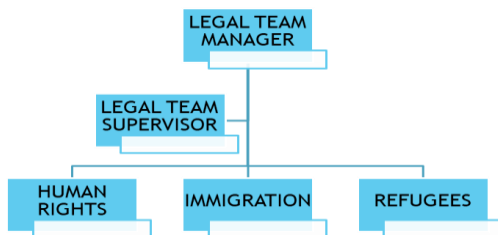
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## COMMUNICATION OFFICES



## LEGAL TEAM OFFICE



## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OFFICE



Through ARMA, there is the suggested opportunity of twelve full-time employment opportunities, 3 part-time, and an estimated 9 volunteers. The expected category of these opportunities is within administration, legal / lawyer, social work, and as educators. There is the planned expansion of the offices and services of ARMA to ultimately include sewing and computer classes with equipment and relevant / educated teachers, French, Swahili, English and isiXhosa language classes with professional teachers, and a greater network of full and part-time paid staff, and volunteers. Presently, volunteers are sourced either within the local Port Elizabeth area, countrywide, international or via online volunteering platforms, such as *GivingWay.com* and *forgood.co.za*, these public calls have proven to be successful, and the volunteers are currently working both in the office and remotely online.

## COMMUNITY TESTIMONIALS

*“I started working with ARMA the first week of April [2020], I got their information from forgood.co.za. I had called them seeking aid for fellow migrants. That was when Mr Malipo advised me to compile a data base containing the migrants information. I approached Mr Malipo (Chairperson), but he didn't have funds at moment. So I used my own money and bought food for about 27 families [in need]. Then after two weeks, I got a call from ARMA saying they now have funding [and] they can atleast help a few families. They bought huge humpers of the basics and fed part of people that needed assistance. It actually helped a lot. Working with ARMA was/is an honour [as] they fulfilled what they committed to.”*  
Kim Nyatsanga (Independent individual)

*“I want to use this medium to express my heart felt appreciation for the job well done. The discussion with the elderly refugee was well detailed. They cooperated well all through the discussion. But this wouldn't have been possible without your organisation's support and coordination. Once again, I appreciate you and looking forward to working with you in the future.”*  
Mohammed Yusuf Sanusi (Researcher)

## ONLINE PRESENCE

Website	<a href="http://www.armahumanitarian.org">www.armahumanitarian.org</a>
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