

AFRICA SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ASSA)



ASSA INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

1.0. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The African Social Security Association (ASSA), formerly known as the East and Central Africa Social Security Association (ECASSA), is a regional membership-based umbrella body which was established in March 2007 in Kigali - Rwanda with the mandate to foster cooperation and promote development of social security in East and Central Africa. The Association was registered under the registrar of Societies under section 10 of the Societies Act of 1968 of the Government of Kenya on 18th September 2007 and in 2016 it was officially headquartered in Arusha - Tanzania, which is the seat of the East African Community (EAC). ASSA was officially registered in the United Republic of Tanzania on 18th July 2023 with Registration Number 23656 under Societies Act (CAP. 337 RE.2022) as a replacement of ECASSA with a broad scope to its vision and mission towards implementing its mandate virtually to the entire content of Africa. The historic decision to transform ECASSA into ASSA was unanimously made during the 27th ECASSA Governing Council held on 26th April 2023 in Livingstone - Zambia.

2.0. VISION, MISSION & CORE VALUES

The vision of ASSA is to be *"the preferred Institution in the promotion, management and development of social security for all in the region"* and its mission is *"to foster cooperation and promote the management and development of social security for optimum stakeholder benefits"*.

The Association upholds the following core values and guiding principles which define how ASSA pursues its strategic objectives towards meeting the needs and expectations of its members and other relevant stakeholders;

- Commitment;
- Integrity;
- Teamwork;
- Equity;
- Creativity and Innovation.

3.0. THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF ASSA

The ultimate aim of ASSA is to bring together formal social security institutions all over Africa to share innovative experiences and best practices (with their deep-rooted common objectives) to work more closely in the interest of improving the quality and effectiveness of social security services delivery to the people of Africa and to contribute to the achievement of social security coverage for all. Since its inception (as ECASSA), ASSA has continued to play a significant role in fostering *cooperation, promotion and development* of social security and related matters in the Eastern and Central Africa region which have led into policy changes and institutional reforms in the sub-region.

Today, ASSA, which consists of a constellation of 20 social security institutions from eight countries in the sub-region, provides a concrete platform for its members and social security policy makers to engage in social security development through *policy influence, research, training and capacity strengthening*. The association works closely with National Governments, regional and international organizations plus key stakeholders in promoting good governance and best practices in the administration of social security systems, schemes and programmes.

4.0. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

ASSA's five-year strategic plan 2023 — 2027 provides detailed technical narrative of the implementation of ASSA's strategic vision and mission, objectives and strategies and forecasting of the resource's requirements for the realization of its strategic intent. ASSA's philosophy is built on five fundamental strategic functions;

- 4.1. Share innovative experiences and best practices to improve the quality and effectiveness of social security services delivery and to contribute to achieving social security coverage for all in Africa (i.e. this is also one of key priorities of AU Social Agenda 2063);
- 4.2. Engage in syndicate investment undertakings to contribute to National multiple socio and economic development goals in line with development visions of African countries through ASSA Investment Fund.
- 4.3. Disseminate information on matters of national, regional, continental and global social security development through research, consultancy and publication.
- 4.4. Provide platforms on which to exchange experiences on social security administration and networking opportunities both in the region and

internationally;

- 4.5. Conduct both short-term and long-term training to impart in-service and pre-service professionals with appropriate social protection knowledge and skills towards effective and efficient delivery of social security benefits and related services.

5.0. CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

5.1. *Member Schemes*

ASSA member institutions are categorized as Pension Benefit Schemes, Health Insurance Schemes, Workers Compensation Funds and Regulatory Authorities of these funds from member states. The funds are presented by country of origin as follows. However, this chronology does not imply any particular order of importance.

ASSA Member Schemes

S/N	COUNTRY	SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS
1.	TANZANIA, United Republic	Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF)
		National Social Security Fund (NSSF)
		National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)
		Workers Compensation Fund (WCF)
		Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) The Muhanna Foundation
2.	KENYA	National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF)
		Local Authorities Provident Fund (LAPFUND)
		County Pension Fund (CPF) - Financial Services
		National Social Security Fund (NSSF)
		Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA) Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) Pension Scheme
3.	UGANDA	National Social Security Fund (NSSF)
4.	RWANDA	Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB)
5.	BURUNDI	Institut National de Securite Sociale (INSS)
6.	ZAMBIA	National Pensions Scheme Authority (NAPSA)
		Workers Compensation Fund Control Board (WCFCB)
		Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF)
7.	ZIMBABWE	National Social Security Authority (NSSA)
8.	SOUTH SUDAN	South Sudan Pension Fund (SSPF)

Source: ASSA 2023

5.2. *Constitution*

ASSA is also governed by the constitution which stipulates among others the objectives of the Association, management structure, the function and responsibilities of the management and membership obligations.

5.3. *Governing Council*

The CEO's (Chief Executive Officers) of ASSA member institutions form the Governing Council, which is the supreme decision-making body of the Association mandated by Article 16 of the Constitution of the Association. At its helm, the Council has got the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Secretary General who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

Current Office Bearers

S/N	NAME	POSITION & PROFILE
1.	Mr. Muyangwa Muyangwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASSA Chairman Director General of the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) of Zambia
2.	Mr. Meshach Bandawe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASSA Acting Secretary General, Regional Manager of the National Social Security Fund in Tanzania, The Secretary General of Tanzania Social Security Association (TSSA), Coordinator of the Tanzania Government Capital Shift and the Construction of the Government City in the capital city of Dodoma, Former Diplomatic Team Member for the Establishment of SADC Anti-Terrorism Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Source: ASSA, 2023

5.4. *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee is a technical team of professionals which assists the Council in decision making, policy development and other progressive agenda of the Association. It also provides expert advice to the Secretariat on policy agenda and other functional responsibilities of the Association. The Standing Committee consists of two members from each member institution who are appointed by their CEOs.

5.5. *Secretariat*

ASSA Secretariat is composed of the Secretary General, the Finance and Administration Executive and Office Assistant. Under the leadership of the Secretary General, the Secretariat implements the obligations of the Association in accordance with the Constitution and the strategic plan. Further details of the role of the Secretariat are available in the Constitution, which is accessible at; www.ecassa.org.

5.6. *ECASSA Institute of Social Protection (EISP)*

ASSA manages an academic institution named ECASSA Institute of Social Protection (EISP) which aims broadly at bridging knowledge and skills gaps in the *design, implementation, management* and *reforms* of modern comprehensive social security policies towards extension of social security

entitlements to the vast majority of the populations in Africa. Through the institute, ASSA seeks to strengthen the institutional capacity of its member schemes, leverage on technology in enhancing policy agenda, embark on long-term projects and research on social protection policies and instruments, assist member schemes build credible databases for actuarial assessments (including mortality tables) as well as build credible partnerships towards achieving the long-term social and multi-development goals to, eventually, “achieving social protection for all in Africa.”

6.0. ACHIEVEMENTS

In summary, the contribution of ASSA (formerly ECASSA) in the ECA sub-region, Africa and the Global Community in its 16 years of existence is commensurate to none in terms of the following roles and responsibilities that the Association has continued to exert;

- 6.1. Regional voice in pension schemes management and administration i.e., sharing best practices, benchmarking and field visits which contribute immensely into comprehensive social protection policy developments in the region.
- 6.2. ASSA has managed to conduct thirteen (13) Annual Forums for policy makers which bring together Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, Permanent Secretaries, Board Members and Chief Executive Officers of these institutions from all over the region and other stakeholders from Africa and in the globe to deliberate on social security matters of common interest. Chief Guests to ASSA conferences have included the Vice Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ministers from host countries. The conferences have led to concrete resolutions adopted for implementation by the member states.
- 6.3. ASSA conducts a host of annual capacity building training programmes and workshops for in-service professionals and board members of social security institutions and other relevant stakeholders to enhance effective and efficient governance of social protection systems, schemes and programmes in Africa.
- 6.4. At the global level, ASSA collaborates with international social security organizations to advocate for comprehensive social security coverage in the globe. ASSA’s major partners in this frontier are the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and a host of social security academic institutions both from the global north and global south.
- 6.5. In recent years, ASSA has provided technical advisory role to the EAC on

policy and regulatory arrangements towards implementation of coordination and portability of social security benefits in the region.

- 6.6. Consistent with 6.5 above, in the face of the challenges of globalization and rapidly growing trends in international labour mobility, ASSA is undertaking bold steps to advise Governments and member schemes on finding appropriate mechanisms to address the issue of portability of social security benefits in Africa owing to the increasing trends in cross-border labour migrations. Towards that realization, the Association is aspiring to systematically provide technical advice and capacity strengthening on the reforms of comprehensive social security policies and legislations towards coordination of social security schemes across the RECs and virtually to the entire continent.

CONTACT PERSONS

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