**REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2022 – JUNE 2022**

Introduction

The association in Africa is trying to mobilize more schools to come on board and to be more visible in the continent. The process has started two years back where we intentionally made it our commitment to have as many schools as possible. We have come up with strategies of reaching out to more universities across the continent and we are seeing a slow progress, but we believe we are headed in the right direction. We are now trying to focus on how to bring on board the Francophone countries and the Portuguese speaking Universities in Africa.

1. **Regional Representations**

As a way of reaching out to more Universities, the executive looked into regions that were not functional and had call for show of interest in the West and Southern regions. There were very few people who showed interest, but we managed to have a panel to look at those who showed interest. Dr. Tracy from Benin University in Nigeria was selected to represent the West African Region and Dr. Mildred from Zimbabwe was selected to represent the Southern African Region. The association has now 4 regional representatives and we are hoping that we will start having regional activities to keep members active and interested in the association. The regional representatives will have to consider developing databases for schools of social work in their regions, the publications to develop a database of African scholarship.

1. **Payments**

We are experiencing resistance and unwillingness of members and or non-members to pay their dues. Despite the efforts made by our treasurer to contact the schools through emails, whatsapp messages, there is usually no response. This issue of finances is something that is crippling the association and makes it difficult to engage in some of the projects that we have planned for or even attend conferences and board meetings. In trying to make international payment easier, the executive has resolved to use an application from a south African bank called YOCO which will make payment from varies countries very simple. We have shared it with members, and we are hoping that we will not struggle anymore to have universities paying for affiliation.

1. **Partnerships**

We have been working hard to create our partnerships in the region and collaborations among universities in Africa. We have been trying to have conversations with the regional bodies such as the African Union, SADC, and UNICEF to see how we can collaborate especially looking at our upcoming conference and AGM. This is still at the initial stage, but we are hoping that when we report in the January meeting there will be better progress. In addition to the above, we have seen some partnerships for activities such as World Social work’s day with Edinburgh University, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (India) and University of Johannesburg.

1. **Website**

The concerns about the poor financial status of ASSWA have been highlighted, hence its inability to hire any expensive human resource to work on the website. However, given the amount of work needed to be added on the website which one person cannot do, the team agreed that a student administrator be contracted to work and get paid on task-contract basis. The student can start with compiling UpToDate literature/with links to the publications by social workers in universities in Africa; also compiling and contacting heads of staff at different African universities to mobilise them to pay up their fees and to join ASSWA.

**Conclusion**

It has been a very slow first half of the year and we are hoping that we will get the ball rolling in some of the activities that we are planning to have especially the AGM this coming October. We will decide whether it will be hybrid or only virtual considering that there is still threat of Covid-19.