



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

Rata Social Services is celebrating **70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE** during 2018! Our main focus as a welfare organisation is the protection of vulnerable individuals, families and communities. We are also registered as a child protection organisation that strives to safeguard children against all forms of abuse; including removal from parental care, children's court attendance and investigation and placement of these children in alternative care.

2. SERVICES RENDERED

2.1 Case work

During the past year the organisation reached 12 188 individuals, most of them children, through its services.

The service delivery focused mainly on the protection of children who were being abused, neglected or sexually molested. Abandoned and orphaned children were also included, as well as those whose well-being was being threatened by alcohol abuse, unemployment and financial need on the side of their parents.



Of the children involved in Children’s Court cases, 459 were physically, emotionally and sexually abused or neglected and includes orphaned and children with uncontrollable behaviour. A great part of our services are focused on women, especially grandmothers fostering their grandchildren.

A total of 7 506 individuals are linked to preventative services. In the provision of the preventative services, 664 children were victims of abuse. Preventative services also included to support children to complete their education.

Rata currently delivers foster care supervision services to 1 520 foster children and their foster parents.

2.2 Group work

Rata is involved with 26 projects which bring individuals together in groups to address a common problem or to provide them with training and education. 796 individuals were involved.

Groups that are presented include, amongst others, educational group for sexually active children, life skills programs (children, youth and women), enhancement of reading skills of primary school children, job creation projects (needlework) for women, therapeutic children’s groups, training and HIV/Aids information sessions for children and adults. Two recreational and motivational camps were organized where the youth were empowered with life skills programmes and the focus was also to enhance their self-image and inner motivation.



2.3 Community work

An important component of Rata's activities is projects aimed at community development. 6226 individuals were reached.

Our projects include, amongst others: recruitment, selection and training of volunteers, holiday projects to keep children constructively engaged and to impart life skills, numerous feeding schemes and clothing banks, recreational and material assistance for vulnerable elderly, marketing awareness campaigns during Child Protection Week, prevention programmes regarding teenage pregnancy, school supply projects, Christmas functions, recreational camps, HIV/Aids prevention projects and empowerment of women and the youth.



3. ACHIEVEMENTS

Rata is rightfully proud of its achievements:

- **Statutory services:** The organisation rendered statutory services to 4 682 individuals during the past year. Statutory services are ongoing services that include children's court investigations, foster care supervision services, family reunification services and alcohol and drug rehabilitation. Prevention services were rendered to 7 506 individuals with the aim to keep family structures intact. The main focus is always the protection of children against all forms of abuse.
- **Integrated services:** Our 28 offices and satellite offices render integrated services to beneficiaries irrespective of race or gender. Most of the offices render services according to working agreements with the Department of Social Development and other welfare organisations to ensure services are available to the whole

community, especially in rural areas. Where possible the offices provide a one-stop service to the community.

- **Establishment of satellite offices in rural areas:** Rata Social Services strives to enhance the shifting of services and resources to the underprivileged communities in order to ensure equity. At present Rata Social Services has 13 satellite offices to deliver services in rural areas.
- **Focus on poverty alleviation:** Of the 69 current projects of this organisation, 18 of these projects are focused on poverty alleviation. Nearly 40 000 meals were provided for families in need.



- **Personnel development:** One of the main objectives of this organisation is to develop skills and train personnel on a continuous level with the aim to ensure effective service delivery.

4. CHALLENGES

- The biggest challenge experienced is staff turnover as a result of better employment opportunities for staff and as a result of our high caseloads in certain offices. Staff turnover results in added pressure for the program managers.
- Intensity and complexity of the caseloads still remain a challenge.
- There is an increased demand on administrative tasks relating to workload.
- Lack of resources within the working area remains a challenge.
- Working hours and the workload not being in balance adds to additional pressure.

5. THANKSGIVING

- Thank you to our Heavenly Father for giving us strength and perseverance to conduct our duties in His name.
- Thank you to our funders whose unwavering support sustains us through difficult times. Your faith in our work empowers us to fulfil our vision.
- Thank you to the members of the Annual General Meeting and to all congregational members for their ongoing support to all our offices. Without them we would undoubtedly have had many more challenges to render services effectively.
- Thank you to the Board of Directors and the Rata personnel for their hard work, loyalty and dedication under difficult circumstances. Thank you for your dedication to help the people in need.

Mariaan Steenkamp
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Reach out, Touch"

