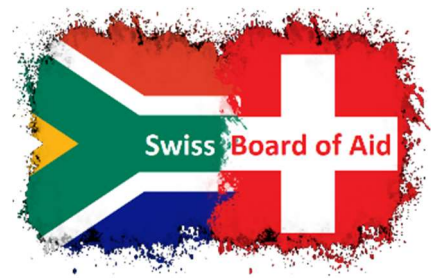


Swiss Board of Aid



The beginning of the Swiss Board of Aid

My name is Ranjana Gigi and I grew up in Winterthur, Switzerland. After volunteering in a small rural hospital in the Eastern Cape in South Africa in 2012 at the age of 19 years, I founded the Swiss Board of Aid.

I wanted to do something different than the big, well-known charity organisations. I wanted a charity organisation where I can guarantee that 100% of all donations are used for the direct costs of our projects. In our organisation no money goes to admin work. I do the very time-intensive admin by myself without any financial compensation.

I am a young Swiss doctor and currently live and work in the Eastern Cape in South Africa. I quickly became aware of the poverty affecting the hospitals and the schools and the misery of the many children in need. Accordingly, we started to focus on these areas. Besides working full time and taking care of up to 4 foster children in the iThemba Family (one of our projects), I run all the projects myself in South Africa.

The people and the purpose of the Swiss Board of Aid

The Swiss Board of Aid is registered and tax-exempted in South Africa and Switzerland. In South Africa we are registered as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO 267-206) and donations are tax-exempted as a public benefit organisation (PBO number 930070562).

Our board consists of 6 members from Switzerland and South Africa with different professional backgrounds. I, Ranjana Gigi, am a Swiss doctor but live most of my time in South Africa. My husband, Sibusiso Gigi is a civil engineer living in South Africa. My parents Peter (retired pilot) and Marie-Louise Briner are based in Switzerland. Elaine Brenkman from South Africa runs, since several years, different homes for children in need. Ilse Marais is a social worker from South Africa.

The projects of the Swiss Board of Aid

The Swiss Board of Aid offers a wide range of help in South Africa focusing on the Eastern Cape, the poorest province, and on children and health care.

The heart of the Swiss Board of Aid is to give children in need a home and a future with good education. Therefore, the iThemba projects were started. iThemba translates from isiXhosa, the most spoken language in the Eastern Cape, as hope - hope for children and families in need for a good, independent, and successful future.

Supporting hospitals	Supporting the community	iThemba Family	In progress: iThemba Home	Future: iThemba School
• Transportation of medical material to South Africa • Minor constructions and alterations at hospitals	• Laptops for schools • Clothes for people in need • Children's items for children's homes	• Home for 4 children in need in a private household • School education for the children	• Home for children in need • Home for mother/father and child in need	• Education for children in need • Education for their families

Besides the support that we offer to the hospital and community, and the iThemba Home in which up to 4 children in need can live in a safe home, we are in the process of building the iThemba Home. In the iThemba Home up to 50 children in need of care and protection will be able to live in a safe and loving home which will offer good school education.

A large piece of land is already available for the iThemba Home just outside East London in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

The iThemba Home will offer orphans, abandoned or abused children and other children in need of temporary or long-term care a safe home. The iThemba Home will welcome children in need of any age or with any challenges or disabilities. Additionally, we will offer a mommy-baby unit where an underaged parent and their child can be raised and educated in a family-orientated environment. Health knowledge will be thought, love learned, and violence prevention trained. Everyone should learn to take responsibility and learn everyday knowledge by assisting in the kitchen, doing their own housework, help growing their own food and take care of the animals. iThemba Home should be a school of life for everyone and offer parents and caregivers an opportunity to get their lives on the right track.

The extension from the iThemba Family to the iThemba Home is urgently needed. The number of children in need of a safe home in and around East London due to the death of the parent, abuse, neglect or other (mostly terrifying) reasons is massive. The currently existing children's homes and places of safety are permanently overcrowded. The corona pandemic has aggravated this situation.

Our very good network to local social workers, authorities and other children's homes which advise us where needed, is a solid foundation for a successful iThemba Home. Additionally, by my husband knowing the local culture and being fluent in the local language isiXhosa, makes communication with all involved parties easier.

Our commitment and motivation are huge for this large project. We are aware though, that we need more good-hearted people to make the building and later the running of the iThemba Home a success. We are thankful for every contribution towards the iThemba Home.

Kind regards



Ranjana Gigi
Founder and President

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