

South Africa

Country Overview



Language: English (official) & 10 Bantu languages (official)

Religion: Protestant (36%), Catholic (7%), other Christian (36%), Muslim (2%)

Capital: Pretoria (administrative), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial)

Currency: Rand

Government: Parliamentary Republic

President: Jacob Zuma

Population below poverty line: 17%

Willow Creek Partner: Genesis Trust

Location: Port Shepstone

Environment: Urban

Want to learn more about South Africa?

www.willowcreek.org/global/countryinfo

Background

One of the most influential events in South Africa was the apartheid that started in 1948 when the Afrikaner National Party gained power with the intentions of separating South Africa's white minority from its non-white majority. The party passed discriminatory legislation to segregate public facilities, employment opportunities, and housing options to favor the white minority. Eventually, resistance groups formed to protest the end of apartheid and started to gain attention and power. The international community increasingly became aware of the discrimination and imposed sanctions. Even though apartheid officially ended in 1994, the ongoing ramifications of discrimination can still be seen today in society. The legacy of apartheid still has an impact on the education system today and has caused lasting discrimination in the education system

Education & Vulnerable Children

- ◆ South Africa has the highest number of people in the world living with HIV/AIDS: 7,100,000
- ◆ The HIV/AIDS epidemic has dramatically increased the number of orphans and vulnerable children; There are an estimated 3.7 million orphans & almost half are HIV/AIDS related
- ◆ 18.9% of the adult population is living with HIV/AIDS

Environment

- ◆ 19% of the rural population lacks access to a reliable water supply and 33% does not have basic sanitation services
- ◆ South Africa has an abundance of natural resources that promote economic growth but also cause exploitation and a large gap between the rich and poor

About Willow's Partner: Genesis Trust

The Genesis Trust is involved in a diverse range of outreach projects to their local communities. Each project they have is aimed at empowering individuals to be an agent of change in their own communities. They have a medical care center that provides services to patients with HIV/AIDS, leadership training, and services for youth and vulnerable children.

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Willow Creek Partner: Limpopo Church Network

Location: Limpopo, Northern province

Environment: Rural

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About Willow's Partner: Limpopo Church Network

The Limpopo church network has 33 churches that are involved in addressing development issues that South Africa is facing. Each church reaches out to their community to serve the needs of their people. Specifically, the churches focus on reaching orphans and vulnerable children through after school drop in programs and other initiatives. They are also involved in decreasing the HIV/AIDS epidemic through prevention and education programs.