



# Swaziland



## Introduction to SWAZILAND

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND, a tiny monarchy nestled between South Africa and Mozambique, was granted independence from Britain in 1968, though it enjoyed autonomy long before that. The nation has close economic ties to South Africa, and charts the highest percentage of people with HIV/AIDS in the world.

## The SWAZI people

<b>Total population:</b>	1,123,913
<b>Children under 15:</b>	442,840
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	31.99 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$4,400
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	87.01%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	10 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	81.6%
<b>Internet users:</b>	48,200
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	457,000

**Major/official language(s):** English, siSwati

### Risk issues impacting children:

- Many children are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. AIDS has created a vicious cycle by breaking down the institution of the family.
- Orphans often fall into poverty and hunger, drop out of school, and become vulnerable to violence, rape and abuse.

## More about SWAZILAND

<b>Capital city:</b>	Mbabane
<b>Type of government:</b>	Monarchy
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	17,364
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly mountains and hills, some moderately sloping plains
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Coal, wood pulp, sugar, textiles
<b>National motto:</b>	"We are the fortress"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Matsapha International

## Reaching SWAZILAND

*Currently classified as World C: Christian*

### Major religions:

- Zionist - 40%
- Roman Catholic - 20%
- Muslim - 10%
- Other Judeo-Christian - 10%

### Christian groups:

- Independent - 73.8%
- Protestant - 13.9%
- Roman Catholic - 5.7%
- Other - 5.6%
- Anglican - 0.9%

**Unreached People Groups:** 1 (0.1% of pop)

**Average annual Christian growth:** 0.068

**Average annual baptisms:** 27,464

**Foreign missionaries:** 840

**Per million:** 746.98

**National Christian workers/pastors:** 2,000

**Per million:** 1,778.52

**Number of churches/congregations:** 5,988

## Children's ministry in SWAZILAND

- Overview:** • The need to develop more mature, meaningful children's ministry in Swaziland is great. Many in the church do not see reaching children as a priority, and there are very few qualified ministry workers to teach children.
- Many churches have established Sunday Schools. There are a few well-trained, passionate teachers working in certain churches; other churches see Sunday School merely as babysitting.
  - Many children come from one- or no-parent households, making ministry to and within families difficult.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**5,988** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**442,840** children for Christ