

General Overview of Swaziland

- **Demographics:**

- Population: 1,173,900
- Population Growth: 2.8%
- Median Age: 18 Years
- Infant Mortality: 69/1000 live births
- Life Expectancy: 33 Years
- HIV/Aids Rate: 40% plus - Highest in World
- Literacy: 81 %
- Below Poverty Line: 40 - 60 %

- **Political:**

- Type: Monarchy
- Executive: King, Prime Minister, Cabinet
- Legislative: Senate and House of Assembly
- Judicial: High Court, Appeal Court – By King
- Legal System: Roman Dutch
- Languages: English and siSwati

- **HIV/AIDS**

- Population Infected: 42%
- Number of Orphans: 60,000
- Orphaned by 2010: 120,000
- Up to 56 % of Pregnant women in late 20's are HIV positive
- By 2010, 1 in 6 children will be a child under 15 who has lost both parents to HIV/Aids

- **Other Notes:**

- 66% of Swazis live below the poverty line
- Approximately 10% of Swazi households are headed by children. Many more are headed by grandmothers caring for orphan grandchildren
- Some 25% of children can not attend school; however, Swaziland does have one of the highest literacy rates in Africa
- Nearly half of the population is under 15, and roughly 35,000 children have lost parents due to HIV/AIDS. With the loss of so many adults, family income and food production have fallen dramatically.
- More than 80% of the people survive through subsistence agriculture. Thus the combination of severe weather, drought, and the loss of healthy farm workers due to HIV/AIDS is crippling the chances of survival for families and children in particular.