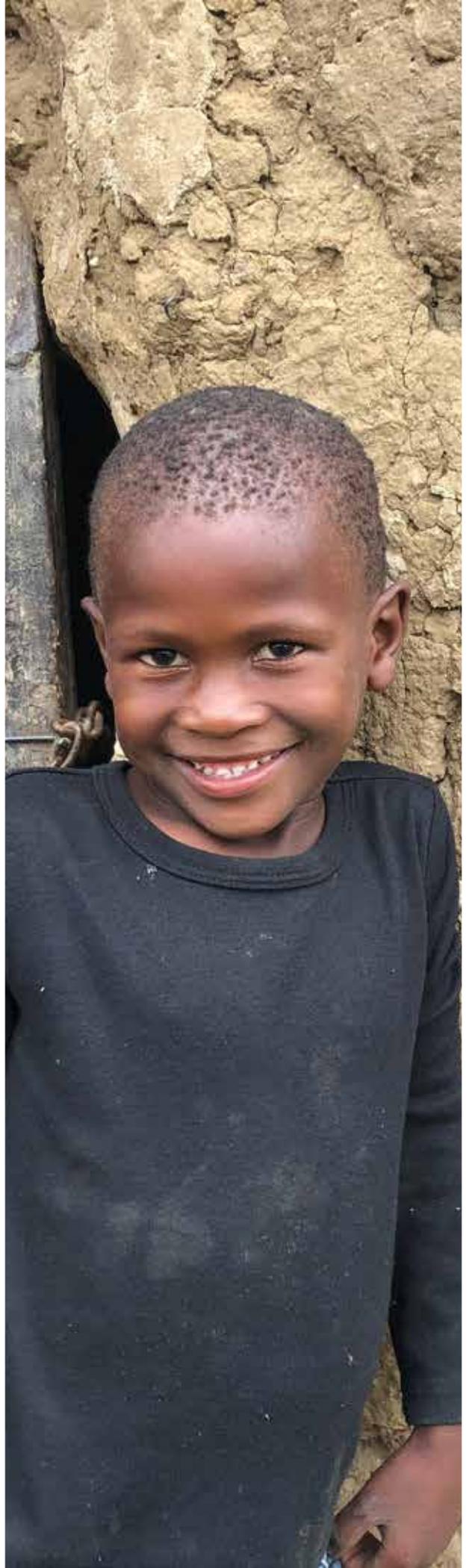




Preventing Orphanhood in South Africa

2018-2019





Impact Area

CERI provides programs and services in South Africa, a country known for its natural beauty, history of apartheid and cultural diversity. Nelson Mandela's home country continues to struggle as it deals with one of the highest inequality rates in the world.

South Africa



Executive Summary

2019 has been monumental for our work in South Africa. After completing a major grant-funded project in 2011, CERI has led numerous donor-funded activities over the past eight years focused on helping the most vulnerable. Through the work of hundreds of volunteers, single mothers were provided household gardens that continue to nourish families today.

We believe that all children deserve equal access to opportunity in life. With this goal in mind, we have reestablished a local office to expand services to families served by the annual gardening mission trip. Parents will now receive counseling and individual support as they focus on raising healthy and happy children.

Through local partnerships, we are building on the work of volunteers to ensure children reach their full potential.

It takes systemic and concerted effort, from all of us, to change societies and shape a safer world for all children. By working together, we will ensure that all children have a chance to thrive in a loving family.



Connie Belciug, PhD
Executive Director

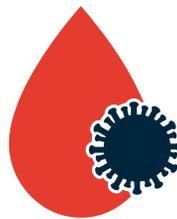
““Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? [...] The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:37, 40

Context



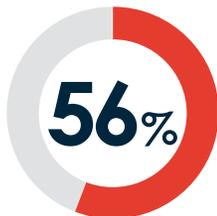
27% of South African children under 3 are stunted due to chronic nutritional deprivation

Source: Children's Worlds, 2014



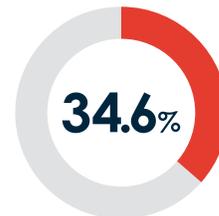
2.4% of all South African children are diagnosed with HIV, with higher prevalence in rural areas

Source: Human Sciences Research Council, 2012



of children in South Africa live below the poverty line

Source: Children's Worlds, 2014



of parents in South Africa are unemployed

Source: Children's Worlds, 2014



In South Africa, only **36%** of children **aged 0-4 years** live with both biological parents

Source: Republic of South Africa, 2013

Key Initiatives

Gardening

- Since 2012, CERI volunteers planted household gardens for more than 30 families living in economically disadvantaged areas around Ladysmith.
- A 2018 evaluation of planted gardens found that most of the gardens were still producing vegetables and were an important source of food for families.
- This year, families received case management, counseling, training and referrals to relevant community services, as a result of a new program focused on self-sustainability and child well-being.



Family Strengthening

- Our family strengthening program in Ladysmith serves 30 families affected by HIV/AIDS. Families receive numerous services aimed at increasing their economic and psychological resiliency as well as prepare them to meet their children's full needs.
- Approximately 70 children, raised primarily by relatives are helped by CERI.



The Need for Advocacy

Our goal is to promote policy and programs that strengthen families, prevent orphanhood and create family-based solutions for children who need care and protection.

- There are more than 416,000 children in the foster care system in South Africa.
- Once a court order is issued, the child is placed with a foster family for 2 years, which receives modest financial benefits for the care of the child.
- Due to a dysfunctional system, there are close to 100,000 expired court orders.

“...we don’t know whether those children are still safe or whether the situation has improved with regards to reuniting such children with their families... the department has not visited the child nor monitored their situation in two years. The foster-care system is failing many of South Africa’s vulnerable children.”- Bridget Masango, Parliament Member, Republic of South Africa

- KwaZulu Natal, where CERI is located, has the highest number of outstanding court orders - over 29,400.
- Meanwhile, 100,000 children are still institutionalized in South Africa's orphanages, with the majority having either one living parent or living relatives that could care for them in a family environment.



Opportunities for Growth

Investments that create lasting change.



Family Home

\$5,000

Construct a home for one vulnerable family



Case Management for Children

\$12,000

Provide ongoing case management to 30 more vulnerable families



Children's Education

\$15,000

Cover school fees and supply books and educational supplies for 30 kids



Community Center

\$16,750

Establish a community center that provides critical services to families



Foster Care Training

\$18,300

Train more social workers, nonprofits and orphanages in foster care across South Africa



Vehicle

\$25,000

Reach more people in the suburban areas of Ladysmith



Changing Futures

Zama's Garden

Zama, a mother of 6, lived in a one room mud house with a mud floor, near Ladysmith, South Africa, with five of her children, all boys. Inside the house, through the cracks of the wooden door, we could see one bed and a few half-burned candles. Nothing more. No heating. No electricity. The construction looked like it could collapse any moment.

Zama's neighbor, Hope, who would sometimes take her to church on Sundays, told us Zama is a believer and helped us find her in the community. Our conversation with Zama was hard. She told us about her life and that she had HIV. Zama collected cardboard and plastic from the town landfill to sell at a nearby recycling plant, but the income was not sufficient for buying food for everyone. Her sons, aged 18, 15, 10, 7 and 3, helped with collecting plastics as well.

The house she lived in belonged to her grandmother which died long ago. The land was donated by a neighbor. She had no paperwork to demonstrate her ownership of her house or land. She did not have an ID, which prevented her from receiving any Government assistance, as well as from enrolling her children in school. The local school allowed only her older boys to attend classes informally.

Her six children had three different fathers. Her oldest daughter didn't live with her anymore. One of the boys' fathers lived in the same village and would sometimes bring food to the house. Zama said: "I love him."

As a single parent and a person living with HIV, she struggled with her daily task of feeding her boys. At times, the family was going without food for days. Because of their poverty, she felt it difficult to keep their family together.

Fast-forward to one year later, after an intervention by Mpilonhle and CERI, Zama and her boys now live in a brick house with electricity, accompanied by a fenced-in vegetable garden. Water tanks, gutters that direct water into the tanks during rainy seasons, seedlings and trees – everything nicely arranged around though. With help from their case manager, the family is making progress towards obtaining their IDs, documenting their land, enrolling the children in school, and strengthening their chances for a better future.





1506 Bexar Crossing | San Antonio, Texas 78232
Phone: (210) 801-7300 | Web: www.cerikids.org
Email: info@cerikids.org

 [Facebook/cerikids](https://www.facebook.com/cerikids)

 [Twitter/cerikids](https://twitter.com/cerikids)

 [Instagram/cerikids](https://www.instagram.com/cerikids)

 [LinkedIn/cerikids](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cerikids)