



# Community Report

Girls and Boys Town  
Tongaat  
South Africa

September 2018 – August 2019

John Buchanan

# To be Zulu

By John Buchanan



## The largest Mzansi culture

\*Mzansi - slang term for South Africa



## My Year

Probably a good way to start this community report is to talk about Boys Town and my year working for them. All of the contents of this report come from my own experiences and from what I learnt from the locals at my project.

Boys Town is a care home for boys with behavioural issues and/or boys who come from neglectful or abusive backgrounds. They are all between the ages of 12 and 19, and almost all come from a place of severe poverty. I arrived at Girls and Boys Town Tongaat on the 10th September 2018. There wasn't a defined job description for us but over the course of the year we took on responsibilities for a variety of different things.

A Typical routine for the boys is waking up at 5am, then doing chores and having breakfast before going to school at 7am. Whilst they were at school we would do manual work. As Boys Town is a fairly poorly funded charity a lot of the construction and repairs are done by volunteers. Throughout the year I worked closely with a mentor, who became like a father to me, to fix up the campus and make it as nice as possible. From a place of knowing next to no manual skills and limited DIY capability, I can now do fairly complex plumbing, carpentry, painting etc. When the boys returned from school at around 3:30pm I would spend the rest of the day working with them. 4-5pm was homework time where we would sit down with small groups of the children and assist them in school work or revision. 5-6pm was activities time, this was a time for them to go outside and play sports or go swimming. I often used this opportunity to swim with the boys or teach them rugby. The entire day they are locked inside as it is a semi correctional institution and so this hour is a very important time. At the beginning of the year I found two drum sets and loads of guitars and so my partner and I began regular music lessons everyday. It was such a privilege to teach these boys, I would constantly be finding natural talent that previously had never been noticed. Almost every evening I would supervise the Boys Town gym. This was an opportunity to have a really fun relaxed evening, I would let the boys choose music to play on my phone and many of them wouldn't stop dancing until I closed up at 9 that evening. There was so much stress in the lives of these boys and I think the gym was a perfect place to forget about all that and have fun as kids together.

After a year of living and working with these boys I feel such a deep connection to them, and can genuinely say I have made relationships close to that of brothers. I was an intermediate between an adult to rely on and respect, and a friend to have fun with and chat to. Because of this close bond I had with the boys and other staff my community report is going to be focused on them. I want to explore the different aspects of Zulu culture and touch upon some of the beautiful things that make this group of people so happy and warm.



## Zulu Food



In this section I will talk about some of my absolute favourite Zulu recipes. One of the chefs here at Boys Town is a Zulu man called Lucky who is a wizard in the kitchen, and so I have had the pleasure of trying some of the very traditional dishes from his culture. Zulu cooking is often very carbohydrate and meat-focused. The common carbs are pap and phuthu (a dryer crumbly pap) and the meat is usually either chicken or mutton/lamb. The reason for these incredibly simple ingredients is because they are very cheap and plentiful, and Black South Africans (of which Zulus make up the majority) are the poorest people in the country by far.

### uJeqe (jeqe) - Steamed Zulu Bread

I must start this with the most delicious meal we get here at Boys Town. It is always something we look forward to, and we demolish it as soon as it comes out of the kitchens. uJeqe is a steamed bread which has a slightly sweet taste to it. Here at Boys Town it comes with sugar beans curry, an Indian staple meal. Unless you are familiar with the Zulu language you will most likely struggle with the pronunciation, hopefully my Zulu language section will clear that up. When Lucky cooks this he has to cook for 20+ people and so creates these amazing enormous loaves of jeqe.

#### Ingredients:

7 cups flour  
1 cup sugar  
1/4 cup oil  
1 packet yeast  
1 tsp salt  
water

#### Method:

1. Add all the ingredients to a large mixing bowl. Include enough water to make the mixture into a soft dough when kneaded, this will just come with practice :)
2. Knead the dough very well until it's soft and sticky. Let it prove for up to an hour in a warm place. Knead it down and then let it prove once more.
3. To cook the jeqe we will have to do a bit of DIY. Lucky has a huge vat in which he cooks his mega loaves ; I managed to find something small scale and easy to make online. Find a strong, clean, plastic bag without holes in it, like a grocery bag. Put a spoonful of cooking oil in the bag and spread it around (so the dough doesn't stick to the inside of the bag).
4. Find a large saucepan and fill it with water. Bring the water to a boil, loosely tie up the bag of dough and put it inside the pot with the lid on. If the dough has risen well it should float nicely on the water due to all the air inside.
5. It should take around an hour to cook your ujeqe. It should have a very slightly crusty outside with a light brown colouration.





## Zulu Food



### Pap and Phuthu

Good old pap. There are many names for this dish throughout Africa. In Zambia its called nshima, in Malawi its nsima, in Zimbabwe they call it sadza but in South Africa it is pap. I have eaten pap almost everyday since living in Kwa Zulu-Natal, that or rice. It's a carbohydrate eaten all over Africa and is very popular amongst South Africans. Pap is not so much a Zulu thing as an African thing but it is such an important staple it has to be included. It can be eaten for breakfast, lunch or dinner as it's so versatile. This recipe and method is for the basic pap and phuthu, but both of these can be added to or changed.

#### Ingredients for Pap:

2 cups water  
4 cups maize meal  
1-2 tbsp. butter  
salt



#### Method for Pap:

1. In a large saucepan, bring the 2 cups of salty water to the boil. Add 4 cup of maize meal and cover. Reduce the heat to medium/low and leave the pap for 8 to 10 minutes. If you don't reduce the heat the pap can sometimes spit violently.
2. Remove the lid and stir vigorously for 1 minute.
3. Repeatedly mash the pap against the side of the saucepan to get rid of any lumps.
4. Return the lid and let the pap steam for 10 minutes.
5. It should be fairly runny in consistency, if too dry add more water. Add the butter and serve.

#### Ingredients for Phuthu:

Maize meal  
Water (1 1/2—2 cups per cup of maize meal)  
salt

#### Method for Phuthu:

1. Pour the water in the sauce pan and bring it to a boil.
2. Pour the maize meal into the centre in a heap without stirring and cover the pot tightly.
3. Turn down the heat and allow it to steam for 5 or 10 minutes.
4. Once a skin has formed over the pile of maize meal mix it all very quickly with a fork. Don't try to incorporate everything into a uniform mass, just agitate the pile to break it up a bit. There will be very little 'free' water.
5. Replace lid and allow to steam very slowly for another 5 or 10 minutes. At this point the mixture will be quite dry and there may be a small amount of dry maize meal remaining.
6. Pour 1 or 2 tablespoons of water around the sides of the pot and then mix again. Be sure to redistribute and clumps of dry maize meal remaining. Again, don't over-mix.
7. Replace lid and allow to steam very slowly for at least another 15 minutes (for a total of at least 40 minutes) and longer if possible.
8. Remove lid, mix and salt. Most of the content will be crumbly.



## Zulu Food



### Amasi

We don't eat this dish very often at boys town but the boys will make it whenever possible as it's very simple. Mas is a dessert with the consistency of thick porridge and is very popular amongst most black African communities. The simplicity of this dish is probably why it is so popular, it can easily be made using left over phuthu. I have eaten this a couple of times and, although I wasn't a fan initially, it does grow on you. I haven't been able to find much online about this dish in particular. Phuthu based dishes are very popular all around Africa and vary massively, based on what is available locally. This 'recipe' is just what I have observed and can totally change based on personal preference.

#### Ingredients:

Phuthu

Sugar

Sour Milk

(All quantities up to personal preference)

#### Method:

1. Thoroughly mix together the Phuthu, sugar and sour milk until fully combined. I would recommend quite a lot of sugar to counter the sourness of the milk.
2. The mixture should be like thick porridge. Serve and eat as it comes.



### Chicken Feet Curry

I wanted to include an example of Zulu cooking that isn't just carbohydrates. One common dish we got at Boys Town was this chicken feet curry. Full disclosure, I didn't like this meal at all, but it is a very popular Zulu dish. Maybe it takes some getting used to? In South African supermarkets you can find enormous bags of chicken feet and heads called 'walkie talkie', they don't waste anything here. Most South Africans can't afford to.

#### Ingredients:

1 onion

1 green pepper

2 chicken stock cubes

1 tspn chicken spice, 1 tspn curry powder

2 cups water

1kg chicken feet

#### Method:

1. Rinse the chicken feet thoroughly then put in a pot with the 2 cups of water to boil.
2. Add chopped onion and green pepper.
3. Then add all the remaining ingredients and cook until soft and tender.
4. Serve on phuthu for the full Zulu experience :)





# Zulu Language

## isiZulu



If we were to rank languages on how difficult they were to learn I imagine zulu wouldn't be too difficult. Many of their words are similar to each other and they often combine words to make new ones. There are a few unusual rules, patterns and sounds but once you have them it isn't so hard to learn. Now I want to say I am by no means fluent at Zulu. In my time at Boys Town I picked up enough command words, greetings and phrases to get by but I couldn't sustain a conversation. This is largely due to the fact that almost everyone in the country can speak English to some degree. There are 10 official languages and at least 35 unofficial languages in South Africa and so English (which is the defacto 11th official language) regularly becomes the go to spoken language. The boys I lived with were pretty fluent in English, with a couple of exceptions, and so they would speak to me in English almost all the time.

### Zulu Sounds:

Two very difficult sounds to get your head around are -hl- and -dl- as they are very similar.

For -hl- place your tongue on the roof of your mouth and blow. It doesn't use your voice box and should come out a bit like a hiss. -dl- is similar but has a vocal z sound over it.

Isi**hl**ahla — Tree

Ukud**l**a — Food

### Zulu Clicks:

Probably the most difficult thing in the Zulu language for non-native speakers are the clicks in the Zulu alphabet. There are three clicks that Zulus use, the c click, q click and x click. Locals and fluent speakers can beautifully and smoothly weave these clicks into words. They aren't so hard to create but the use in actual words and the flow is difficult and requires a lot of practice.

C click — comparable to sucking your teeth, uses your tongue and top teeth.

Q click — comparable to a bottle top pop or a clip clop of hooves, uses the tongue and the roof of your mouth

X click — comparable to a click for walking a horse, uses the side of your mouth

uJe**q**e — Zulu steamed bread

Esicab**h**eni — the door

Ngiyaxolisa — I'm sorry

# Zulu Language

## isiZulu



### My little Zulu dictionary:

#### Numbers:

- 1 - one - kunye
- 2 - two - kubili
- 3 - three - kuthathu
- 4 - four - kune
- 5 - five - kuhlanu
- 6 - six - isithupa
- 7 - seven - isikhombisa
- 8 - eight - isishiyagalombili
- 9 - nine - isishiyagalolunye
- 10 - ten - ishumi

#### Command words:

- Asambeni - Let's go
- Woza - Come (singular)
- Wozala - Come here (singular)
- Wozani - Come (plural)
- Wozanila - Come here (plural)
- Hamba - Go (singular)
- Hambani - Go (plural)
- Hamba uyolala - Go to sleep
- Hamba mange - Go now
- Ngisize! - Help!
- Ngiyeke - Leave me

Sawubona - Hello (singular)

Sanibonani - Hello (plural)

Ubani igama lakho? - What is your name?

Ngiyabonga - I thank you

Siyabonga - We thank you

Ngiyabonga kakhulu! - Thanks a lot!

Unjani? - How are you?

Ngiyaphila - I'm fine

Siyaphila - We're fine

Ngidiniwe - I'm angry

Ngikhathele - I'm Tired

Uphilile? - Are you feeling well?

Sala kahle - Goodbye (you going)

Hamba kahle - Goodbye (them going)

Uyaphila? - Are you okay?

Belunjani usukulwakho? - How was your day?

Belumnadi - It was good

Ayikho inking - No problem

Uyaphi mange? - Where are you going now?

Ubani ongqongqozayo esicabheni? - Who's knocking on the door?

Uyathanda ukucula? - Do you like to sing?

Ubenosuku oluhle - Have a nice day



# Values and Customs



## Values

It is from my experience that Zulus all hold certain values of respect and generosity. One such value is the necessity of sharing. The boys who I lived with would regularly get crisps or snacks as rewards for good behaviour and would, almost without exception, generously share it with me. It didn't matter that I was white and from a very different background to them, it was instinctive. I lived next to a lovely Zulu man called Mr Dumisani for a long time. Whenever he received special food from the kitchens he would offer some to us, or if we needed to use something of his he would lend it to us without question. I think there is a great sense of teamwork amongst Zulu people, many of them have very little but they will always be willing to help out. This seems to be instilled from a very young age.

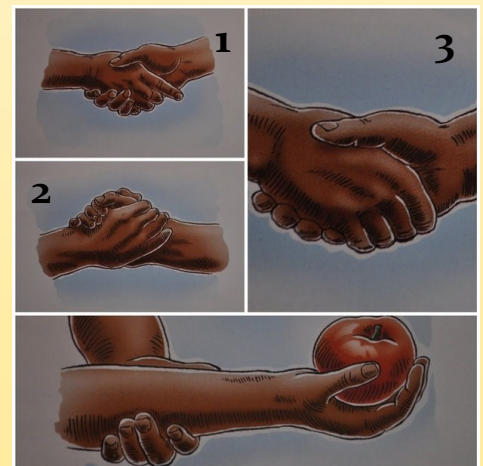
Another value that my boys held very highly was the importance of keeping promises and sticking to your word. The word of a Zulu person is incredibly important, if they promise to do something it will happen. There is great respect and honour within these communities, so much so that if you accidentally question their honour or trustworthiness it could cause offence.

## Customs

A very prominent custom amongst all Zulu people happens when giving or receiving from another person. If I were to hand anything to my neighbour Mr Dumisani he would always take it with his right hand, whilst gripping the underside of his right arm with his left hand. This seemed quite odd at first but after doing a little research into it I discovered that it's to prove they aren't carrying any weapons.

The typical Zulu handshake begins like the western handshake, then you clasp the thumbs and return to the original position. This handshake is more formal and will usually be used when greeting someone of higher authority or a stranger.

Sometimes if conversation is sustained this handshake can last for ages, going back and forth until someone breaks it off.



## Traditions



### Umemulo

Near the end of my year out in South Africa I had the privilege of experiencing a traditional Zulu ceremony. The official name for this ceremony is Umemulo, it is a coming of age ceremony for women usually held when they turn 21. The idea is that it signifies when a Zulu woman is ready for marriage. One of the youth care workers at Boys Town called Wendy, and one of my closest friends by the end of the year, was having this ceremony. She was definitely older than 21 but apparently that's more of a guideline, she had never had the event before and so decided to have one now. The day before the event Wendy had to witness a cow being slaughtered, she wore the skin of that same cow for the ceremony. She had been asking us constantly to buy some Zulu traditional clothes to wear to the ceremony and so we did. Little did we know arriving dressed as Zulu men meant we had to join the Zulu men in their traditional dance, ukusina. The dancing was incredible and, although I wasn't much good, I got stuck right in as everyone was so inclusive and fun.

One tradition within the ceremony was that Wendy, and some of the other women in the dance, had hair nets with pins in for money to be attached to. Every now and then the women would run towards a man and stab a spear or a knife by his feet, which he then had to return and put money in the hair nets.

The Ceremony was followed by an enormous meal in which we ate the cow that had been killed the day before. Unfortunately we have to leave before the after party but this day will stay with me forever, and so will these wonderful pictures.

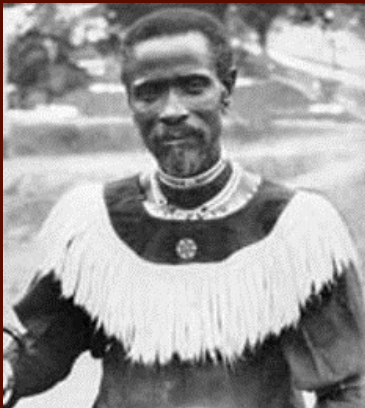
### Ukulobola

When a woman does marry a man the process is very different from what we know in the western world. Obviously some modern Zulu women don't partake in all the old traditional ceremonies and rituals but many still do, as it's deeply apart of their identity. Ukulobola, often butchered as lobola, literally means 'paying the bride wealth'. The husband to be would 'pay' the brides family in cattle, the wealthier or more important the family, the more cattle. Cattle is often seen as a measure of wealth in Zulu communities. Technically the husband is compensating the family for the trouble of bringing up the woman and the labour, as after marriage the woman joins the husbands family. He is also 'buying' her reproductive capabilities. I never got to witness a Zulu wedding, although I would've loved to, but it is apparent that Zulu culture and society is still very patriarchal. The man is the leader of the house and of the family, men are respected to a far greater extent than women and young zulu men are often encouraged to take more than one girlfriend or partner.





## Beliefs



## Unkulunkulu

Nowadays the majority of Zulu people are Christian, as are the majority of South Africans. In classical pre-colonial myth, however, we have some very different beliefs. People believed that there was a supreme creator called Unkulunkulu, who came from reeds and plants but took human form. To the old Zulus he was the creator of everything, the father of all Zulus and the first human. Unkulunkulu was the one who taught Zulus survival skills and the arts of hunting and gathering.



## Shembe

A prominent branch of Christianity in South Africa and amongst Zulus is Ibandla lamaNazaretha, commonly referred to as Shembe. Isaiah Mloyiswa Mdlwamafa Shembe was a self-styled Zulu prophet born in 1865 who created the largest African initiated church. He started out as a faith healer but due to his electric presence and ability to gather a congregation he became a leader in 1910. When he arrived in Durban in 1910 he was preceded by messengers who proclaimed that a 'man of heaven' had arrived to preach to the African people.

At Boys Town, my neighbour and senior youth care worker, Mr Dumisani was a devout Shembe man. He would go to his temple every Saturday to pray for hours with other Shembe members of the community. The Temples were distinctive as they were simply circles of white stones, and the attendees would wear only long draping white robes. One of the boys who was a recent Shembe convert would describe Shembe himself as the 'African Jesus', and took great pride in his faith. It was amazing to see Mr Dumisani and the boy praying together, which they have to do 4 times a day every day by the way. They are also not allowed to eat any food cooked on Saturday and so have to prepare it all.

## Ancestor worship

Ancestor reverence plays a big part in Zulu spiritual life. Ancestors are seen as intermediaries between the living and the spirit world, protecting the living from evil spirits and asking God for help during tough times. When praying one may not talk to God directly but instead to one's ancestors who then speak directly to God. As a social function, ancestor worship links family members spiritually, creating cultural continuity across generations.



## Zulu Music and Dance



One of the things I will miss most about Boys Town is the dancing. Zulus, and I think most Africans in general, are incredible dancers and seem to all be able to do it. The boys were so expressive and every single one of them would give it a go. If I were in the gym and played a particular song I could guarantee that all the boys would form a crowd and they would start what could only be described as a dance battle. Boys would take it in turns to show off their moves and try to one up each other as it goes on. Dancing was one of the only times that they wouldn't be arguing with each other but instead sharing in the infectious energy and happiness.

### Gqom

If you can correctly pronounce this word I'll be impressed because it took me the whole year and I still can't get it right. Gqom is a new style of music in Durban which is very popular with the youth at the moment. It began in the early 2010s and could be described as electronic dance music mixed with house music. The simplicity of this music is why it's so brilliant. It uses minimal, raw and repetitive sounds with heavy base beats, and each track tends to be very long. This is most commonly what my boys would listen to in the gym, it is the music of their generation and meant they would show off their skills.

Examples of popular Gqom songs:

'Huku' - by Sho Madjozi

'Banomoya' - by Prince Kaybee ft Busiswa & TNS

### Maskanda

This is a very popular type of Zulu folk music, listened to by rural communities and migrants in the larger cities. Ethekwini (Zulu for Durban) Online describes Maskanda as, "The music played by the man on the move, the modern minstrel, today's troubadour. It is the music of the man walking the long miles to court a bride, or to meet with his Chief; a means of transport. It is the music of the man who sings of his real life experiences, his daily joys and sorrows, his observations of the world. It's the music of the man who's got the Zulu blues." Although it is typically seen as irrelevant by city dwellers, Maskanda (or Maskandi) has deep roots in Kwa-Zulu Natal culture and is actually the second most popular genre in South Africa after gospel.

### Traditional Zulu Dance

Traditional Zulu dance is incredible to watch. Full of high kicks and stamps, it looks as if the dancer is in war. If you imagine a New Zealand Haka, that is quite similar to what you could expect from a tribe of Zulus dancing together. People carry spears, mallets and the famous Zulu shield whilst they dance and are constantly hitting the shield and flailing their weapons. Although the dance looks violent, no one will actually fight (or even pretend to fight) as it's very disrespectful.





## Zulu interview



During my year I had the privilege to interview one of the youth care workers who became a good friend of mine. Her name is Mam Slindile, shortened to Sli. The initial portion of the interview is in Zulu, not for any reason other than to practice my Zulu and have a bit of fun. I asked her some tough questions about life in Kwa-Zulu Natal, working at Boys Town and the state of South Africa as a whole. The interview was important to help me understand what a local thinks about the current affairs of the country and the direction it is heading in.

**Me:** *Sawubona nkosazane, unjani?*

**Sli:** (laughs at my shoddy Zulu pronunciation)

**Me:** *Unjani?*

**Sli:** *Ngiyaphila unjani john?*

**Me:** *Ngiyaphila*

**Me:** *Ngiyajabula ukuhlangane nawe, ubani igama lakho?*

**Sli:** *Igama lami ngu Slindile, your name?*

**Me:** (Taken aback by the switch to English) *John... My name's John*

**Sli:** *Ngiyajabula ukukwaze John!*

**Me:** *Nice to meet you*

[we shake hands]

**Me:** *Ngiyaxolisa ukukubuza eminyaka yakho, kodwa ngingajabula ukukwaze eminyaka yakho?*

**Sli:** *ahhhhhh you are not serious ... 29* (as with us British it's not the best to ask a woman her age, but I asked it as politely as possible)

**Me:** *Now onto English, that was enough Zulu... I'm not very good.*

Basically with this introduction I ask, 'How are you?', 'What is your name?', and 'How old are you?'.

## Zulu interview (continued)



**Me:** Starting nice and easy, what hobbies do you have? Any favourite pastimes?

**Sli:** Okay ummmm, hobbies... I like going out with friends, I like pubs, I like movies, I like chilling at the park... you know having a, what you call, picnic. Just me and my family or friends.

**Me:** What about jogging mam, don't you enjoy that?

**Sli:** Yes I enjoy jogging, thanks for reminding me!

**Me:** Could you please briefly describe your role here at Boys Town?

**Sli:** I am a child and youth care worker who works as a floater... so basically a floater for family homes which is Verulam and Glenwood, however I also work here at Tongaat. But now that we're short staffed, I'm here most of the time. At Tongaat.

**Me:** Which we're very thankful for!!!

**Me:** And how long have you worked here? Boys Town in general not just Tongaat?

**Sli:** Boys Town in general, this should be the fourth year. But I recently relocated to Durban because I was in Joberg.

**Me:** What would you say you enjoy most about working here, at Boys Town?

**Sli:** Yooooo ah, the energy of the youth! Absolutely amazing despite the challenges here and there. They've got so much energy and each person has their own character which is just special in their own way. So that just amazes me, and the fact that they love sports... I like that. And the fact that they follow their routine so when its activities time they know and they want to go out there and do whatever sporting activity they're supposed to be doing at the time.

**Me:** So that question leads me onto the next one... What do you find most difficult about working here?

**Sli:** The most difficult thing about working here would definitely be when youth are abusing substances because we then don't always know how to handle that. It becomes a bit of a challenging situation. And then, yah, because we're not sure how to handle such youth that are using the substances. At times we've managed to... like one boy in this cottage we've managed to get him something like a rehab that he attends which is doing quite well.



## Zulu interview (continued)



**Me:** So that's all the questions about you done, so you can now breathe. In general what would you say are the major difficulties that youth in South Africa, or more specifically Kwa-Zulu Natal, face? What are the big problems?

**Sli:** That would definitely be job opportunities, for South Africans they're very scarce and it's not easy to get a job and even when you do get a job, especially in KZN, then the salary is not the same. Back in joberg the salary is kinda different. I have heard people that works for the government mentioning something like teachers that work here earn a certain amount which is a bit less, teachers that work in joberg they earn a bit more. So job opportunities and then if you do get a job you don't get enough salary.

**Me:** Would you say it's harder to get a job in KZN than other provinces maybe?

**Sli:** Yes...yes the opportunities are more in joberg. This side its quite hard.

**Me:** So what is Boys Town doing to help with, you mentioned job opportunities? What are they doing to help relieve that?

**Sli:** Yo, I would say they are doing a good job because some of the youth, in fact most of the youth that are here, we're looking at getting them jobs at certain stores. So already we've spoken to a specific store they're going to be working at, some of the youth who are getting released this year they will still continue working for that specific store we have chosen for them. Some of the youth who are still going to be here next year, they are going to be working maybe weekends and holidays, and some already have jobs. Boys town also create small jobs for other people, because you do find there are other people who are not employed by boys town but do small weekly or one of jobs.

**Me:** Okay, now in terms of South Africa as a whole, what would you say are the three biggest issues that need tackling? The three biggest problems in South Africa?

**Sli:** That would be... getting a cure for HIV and AIDS, the biggest problem. And also creating job opportunities or rather equipping people with skills that would create job opportunities for themselves. And what is it, what's the third one?... Oh the shacks! I believe the government is working on that, they have been for years, however they just never get finished these shacks. The government build these RDP houses, the government houses that they build for people living in shacks, then they get rid of the shacks. However eventually you start seeing these shacks again, so that's another challenge. Maybe they also need to be strict, the law or constitution is very lenient on the people, because its also very lenient on the... on foreigners. They can come here and just start their own business without papers and whatnot.

**Me:** And you do see a lot of these informal settlements wherever you look, they're everywhere!

## Zulu interview (continued)



**Me:** *Do you think, because obviously Ramaphosa has come in recently, do you think South Africa is going in the right direction?*

**Sli:** *Yooo, that's a tough one! With some of the things, yes he is trying, however now with legalising dagga, people have been speaking about that but that's the biggest challenge.*

**Me:** *For those who don't know dagga is weed or marijuana.*

**Sli:** *Marijuana yes, he just legalised it. The main worry months ago was the youth abusing the substance, they were using a lot of marijuana in schools. And that was before it was legalised. So now can you imagine when its legal? It's it's just.... And now another challenge is that you often find teachers being abused by the students. Already we've got two teachers who have died because they we're stabbed to death by learners. We're not sure now if legalising it was a good thing because it's causing a lot of problems. Did I answer that question properly John?*

**Me:** *You did, thank you so much! I have one last question for you, in a sentence or two please could you sum up what South Africa means to you and your feelings towards your country?*

**Sli:** *oh yah, South Africa is a beautiful place, I love it here! I don't know if that's because I've never been to other countries but I love it here, and I believe South Africa is full of diversity that's another thing. A beautiful rainbow nation, a country with different cultures that embraces everyone. We've got The Spirit of Ubuntu, I believe you know what I'm talking about? That's humanity, we call it 'The Spirit of Ubuntu'. We're welcoming to visitors, whether we know you or we don't know you we welcome you with warm hands.*

**Me:** *Well you have been very welcoming to me!*

**Sli:** *We embrace everyone, whether they white, black, green or whatever colour we believe that we need to unite and be one. I like the Zulu culture, I like the Xhosa culture, I like the Indian culture, I like the Afrikaans culture, I like all the cultures. All of them have different things that they do and the different beautiful dress codes, the different meals they do. AHH I am telling you South Africa is beautiful.*

**Me:** *I love your country as well, I've only been here two months (at the time of the interview) but I'm loving it.*

**Sli:** *Do you feel welcomed here?*

**Me:** *I do, I really do!! There's something about KZN, I haven't been to many other places, but everyone seems so happy and so jolly and so warm. Whenever I go out everyone is smiling... a lot of energy!!!*

**Sli:** *Well I can't wait to do to your country and explore!*

**Me:** *Yes definitely, then you can interview me!*



# Poverty in SA

## statistics

<https://africacheck.org/factsheets/factsheet-south-africas-official-poverty-numbers/>

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SNo7096>



## Poverty

South Africa have three poverty lines. There is the Food Poverty Line, the Upper-bound Line and the Lower-bound Line.

The Food Poverty Line represents the amount of money that a person needs every month to purchase enough food to consume around 2,100 calories per day. Stats SA uses the figure of 2,100 calories per day as it is the United Nations threshold for the minimum daily energy requirement for someone living in an emergency situation. People living below this poverty line are considered to live in “extreme poverty”, as they are not able to afford to eat enough food to meet their basic physical needs. In 2015 the value of this line was R441 (£24.5) per month and it was raised to R531 (£29.5) per month. Shockingly around 25% of South Africa's population fall below this line, meaning a quarter of all South Africans are in extreme poverty.

The upper-bound poverty line (UBPL) and lower-bound poverty line (LBPL) take into consideration the cost of basic food as well as the cost of other basic living needs. This includes costs related to shelter, clothing and transportation. In 2015 the LBPL was valued at R647pm (£35.9) with 40% of South Africans below it and the UBPL was at R992pm (£55.1) with 55.5% of South Africans below it. In 2017 both of these values were raised, the LBPL to R758pm (£42.1) and the UBPL to R1138pm (£63.2).

What these figures tell us is that over half of the entire population live in poverty. In relation to the UK, only 17% of our population live in ‘Relative Low Income’ which is far from any of South Africa's poverty lines. Even more shocking is that 93% of all poor people, people below the UBPL, are black. Although apartheid ended 25 years ago it is clear that the effects of it are still being felt and it looks as though it is going to be a long time before any of that is corrected.

This brings me to the end of the community report. I should probably conclude this but I don't know if I can. Zulu culture is so diverse and so ancient that I have barely scratched the surface of what it means to be Zulu. Living amongst native Zulu people for the duration of last year has really opened my mind to the daily struggles that they face. Before this year I would throw away food if it was slightly past its sell by date and I was way too attached to material possessions. I would now say I am not materialistic at all, I now put an increased worth on sentimental and meaningful things as opposed to expensive or flashy things and I haven't once looked at the date on food. I definitely noticed many differences between my life and the lives of my boys, don't get me wrong we are from totally different worlds, but we are actually far more similar that you would imagine. Its only in living with other cultures you realize that despite our differences and uniqueness, we are all similar in the fact that we are human. This year has totally changed me and my perspective of the 'outside world'. I have overcome challenges and built relationships that never thought would've been possible.

## Conclusion?

