

## **Living in Khayelitsha in South Africa**

Khayelitsha is the largest and fastest-growing township in Cape Town. While many residents live in formal housing, there are many who are still living in shacks.

Khayelitsha has an 'official' population of around 400,000 but there is broad consensus that this is a serious under-estimation, and that the true figure is around 1 million. The ethnic makeup of is approximately 90.5% Black African, 8.5% Coloured and 0.5% White, with Xhosa being the predominant language of the residents.

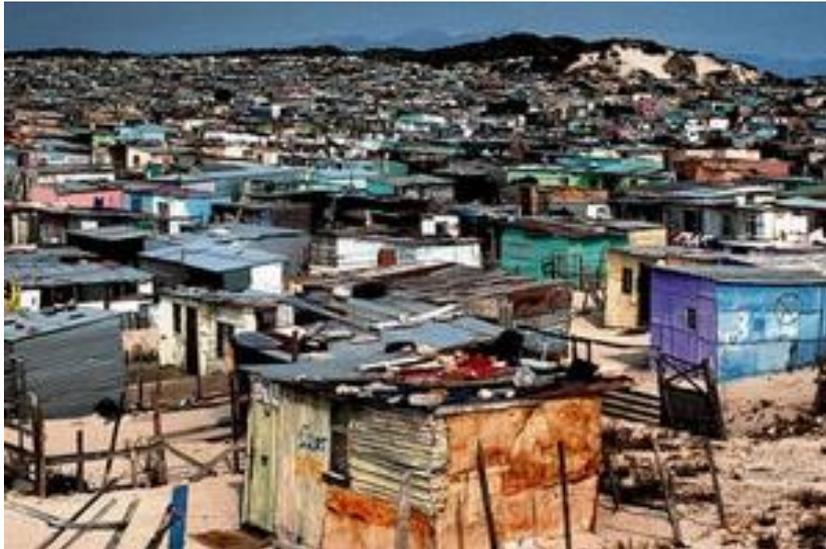
The housing stock—formal and informal—has grown faster than the population, resulting in declining household size, as in South Africa as a whole. A large minority of households are headed by women. The state has an extensive reach across much of Khayelitsha. Access to public services (water, electricity and sanitation) has expanded steadily, but a significant minority of residents continue to rely on communal, generally unsatisfactory facilities.

Children attend schools, and large numbers of residents receive social grants (especially child support grants). Poverty is widespread in Khayelitsha: Half of the population of Khayelitsha falls into the poorest income quintile for Cape Town as a whole, with most of the rest falling into the second poorest income quintile for the city. The median annual household income in 2011, according to Census data, was only about R20,000 (or R6,000 per capita).

The low employment rate and especially a high unemployment rate underpin this poverty. More than half of the young adults in Khayelitsha failed to complete secondary school and face poor prospects of finding stable employment in a labour market characterised by the paucity of unskilled employment opportunities.

Khayelitsha is not homogeneous, however. Unemployment and poverty are more pervasive in informal settlements, and in the northern (and oldest) and southern (and youngest) parts of Khayelitsha than in the central part. Khayelitsha is differentiated economically: people who have completed secondary school face better prospects of accessing skilled or semi-skilled white-collar employment; there are also opportunities for professional or semi-professional employment for people with tertiary educational qualifications.

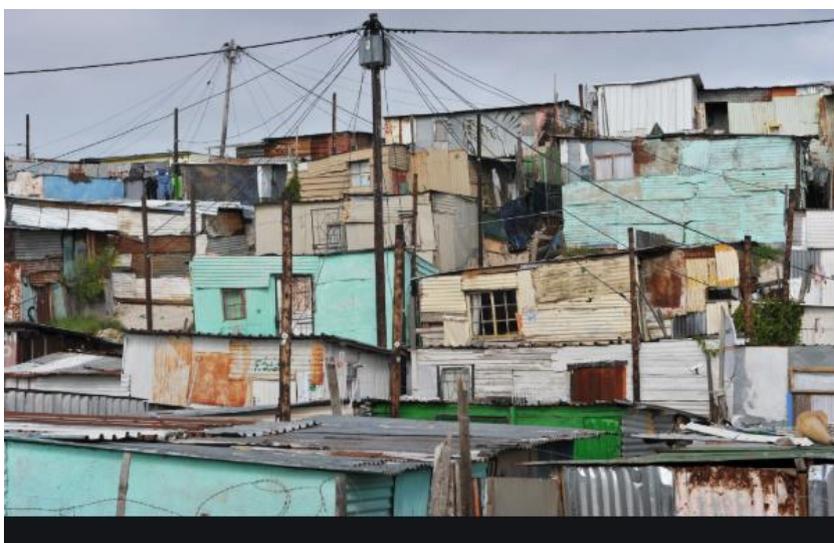
Khayelitsha is a high-crime area, with the dubious distinction of being in the top ten South African communities in terms of reported violent crimes. Crime is a major constraint on self-employment. Khayelitsha's streets are dangerous at night, and in many cases are considered dangerous in daytime also. The police are not trusted and there is considerable dissatisfaction with them—but mistrust is widespread generally, and residents are dissatisfied with many public service.



Half of Khayelitsha residents live in overcrowded and under-serviced informal settlements



In winter, much of Khayelitsha floods because the community is built on land which has a high water table.



Electricity connections in the informal areas of Cape Town. Many of these connections are illegal



Communal toilets  
in an informal  
settlement