

Where We Work

These are the current living conditions of the Rietvlei Bush community in Melkbosstrand, Cape Town.

As can be seen from the photos, the dwellings are of a makeshift construction and as a result these shacks are often damaged or destroyed by the harsh Cape wind and storms. Due to there being no council electricity available paraffin and small fires are used for heat and cooking. This often leads to shacks burning down with injury and death resulting.

There are limited toilet facilities and refuse control, because of this there are areas of accumulating food decomposition and fecal matter.

There are currently about 40 households/shacks in Rietvlei Bush, and approximately 45 children. Many within the community are infected with the HIV, TB and other viruses. Many of the children's parents are illiterate and dependant on alcohol and substances. The children endure a very erratic home life often filled with emotional and physical abuse.

Many of the children's parents are stuck in this cycle of poverty and substance abuse, which helps sustain an environment of hopelessness. We believe that if the children of the Rietvlei Bush are taught and mentored to believe in themselves and for a better future, this cycle can be permanently broken.