



ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

2026

Faith in action | Justice with dignity | Communities at the Centre

More than a development organisation

Caritas Zambia is the social development and justice arm of the Catholic Church in Zambia, operating within the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB). Since 1984, we have accompanied communities, strengthened institutions and engaged public authorities to advance a society in which every person can live with dignity and attain integral human development.

Our mandate is both practical and transformative. We respond to human need, but we also ask why that need persists. We support communities facing poverty, climate shocks, injustice, exclusion and vulnerability while working to transform the structures, policies and practices that reproduce those conditions. This combination of accompaniment, evidence, advocacy and institutional engagement defines who we are.

We are rooted in communities, connected to national decision-making, and part of a global Caritas family.

OUR DISTINCTIVE POSITION

Our distinctive strength is the reach and trust of the Catholic Church. Through dioceses, parishes, out-stations and Small Christian Communities, Caritas Zambia connects national policy engagement with lived realities at community level. This enables us to listen locally, act practically, generate evidence and bring community voices into spaces where decisions are made.

40+ years

of accompaniment, advocacy and development action

Nationwide reach

through Catholic Church structures across Zambia

One purpose

integral human development for every person

Through the Catholic Church structure - dioceses, parishes, out-stations and Small Christian Communities - Caritas Zambia has a trusted grassroots presence that allows us to listen to people where they live, understand the realities behind national statistics, and connect community experience to policy dialogue. Our work is therefore not designed from a distance: it begins with people and returns to people.

ROOTED

Faith and Catholic Social Teaching shape our commitment to human dignity, justice, solidarity, subsidiarity and care for creation.

REACHING

Church structures give us a platform for community mobilisation, learning and action across Zambia.

INFLUENCING

Evidence from communities informs our advocacy, policy engagement and accountability work at national and sub-national levels.

Vision, mission and values

“A Zambian society where every person attains integral human development.”

OUR VISION

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Word of God and Catholic Social Teachings, Caritas Zambia, a department of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops, is dedicated to the promotion of integral human development through witnessing, animation, conscientization and institutional strengthening.

OUR PURPOSE

We respond to people’s basic, social, economic and spiritual needs while working to transform the structures that hinder people from realising their rights, dignity and full human potential.

THE VALUES THAT SHAPE OUR CHOICES

Human dignity, justice & solidarity

We stand with people who are poor, excluded or denied their rights.

Care for creation

We promote environmental integrity, biodiversity and responsible stewardship of our common home.

Commitment to duty

We bring discipline, service and perseverance to the work entrusted to us.

Accountability & transparency

We practise responsible stewardship and remain accountable to communities, partners and the Church.

Gender equality & equity

We support equal opportunity, voice, access to resources and participation.

Mutual trust & honesty

We seek truthful, respectful and principled relationships in all we do.

Five programmes. One integrated mission.

Our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan organises our work around four core programmes, enabled by Organisation Development. Together, they connect accountable institutions, protected communities, resilient livelihoods and strong organisational systems.

01 Economic & Social Accountability

Fair and accountable management of public resources and natural wealth.

Extractives • budgets • debt & trade • tax • SDGs • health & education

03 Democracy & Governance

Citizen participation, accountable governance and respect for the rule of law.

Elections • civic participation • decentralisation • constitutionalism • Parliament

05 Organisation Development

Strong people, systems, partnerships and resources for quality and sustainability.

Resource mobilisation • systems • quality • capacity • knowledge • visibility

02 Livelihoods & Climate Change

Resilient livelihoods that protect people and the ecological systems they depend on.

Agroecology • climate resilience • loss & damage • climate finance • humanitarian response

04 Child Protection & Peacebuilding

Safer children and communities, access to justice and peaceful conflict transformation.

Safeguarding • anti-trafficking • MHPSS • justice • peacebuilding

ONE INTEGRATED MISSION

Each programme reinforces the others so that community-level change and institutional reform move together.

OUR MODEL

From lived reality to structural change

Caritas Zambia works at the intersection of community action and systems change. We do not treat communities as passive beneficiaries. We work with people as rights-holders, partners and agents of change, strengthening their ability to organise, participate, claim rights and shape the decisions that affect their lives.

LISTEN & ACCOMPANY

We begin with the lived realities, priorities and knowledge of communities.

BUILD CAPACITY & AGENCY

We strengthen knowledge, skills, organisation and confidence for sustained local action.

GENERATE EVIDENCE

CONVENE & ENGAGE

Research, monitoring, social accountability and community experience help us understand what must change.

We create constructive spaces for communities, government, Church leaders, traditional leaders, civil society and the private sector to engage.

ADVOCATE & INFLUENCE

We translate evidence into policy dialogue, submissions, campaigns and reform proposals.

LEARN & SUSTAIN

We track results, strengthen systems, safeguard people and steward resources responsibly.

This approach allows us to connect the local and the national: community realities become evidence for reform, while national commitments are followed through to the places where their impact should be felt.

Accompaniment + evidence + citizen agency + policy influence = lasting change

OUR CHANGE LOGIC

Faith that listens. Development that transforms.

For Caritas Zambia, integral human development means more than improving material conditions. It means enabling every person to live with dignity, participate in decisions that affect their life, enjoy their rights, contribute to the common good and flourish within a healthy environment.

This is why we remain both a development actor and a prophetic voice: accompanying communities in practical ways while challenging the conditions that keep people poor, excluded or unheard. We seek solutions that are locally rooted, evidence-informed, peaceful, inclusive and sustainable.

Faith that listens. Development that transforms. Justice that restores dignity.

OUR COMMITMENT

WHY CARITAS ZAMBIA

A trusted platform for principled, practical change

Caritas Zambia brings together assets that are difficult to replicate in a single institution: a long-standing national identity, grassroots Church structures, technical programme expertise, a values-based mandate, convening power and access to public-policy spaces. This positions us to help partners move beyond isolated activities towards change that is locally owned and institutionally sustained.

- **A trusted community presence-** Our relationships are built through enduring Church and community structures, not temporary project footprints.
- **A bridge between people and power-** We can bring community realities into policy spaces and help translate policy commitments into local accountability.
- **A justice-centred development lens-** We combine practical development action with attention to rights, power, institutions and the structural causes of poverty.
- **Evidence with a human face-** We pair research and policy analysis with lived experience, making advocacy grounded, credible and relevant.
- **Convening across sectors-** Our faith identity and institutional relationships enable dialogue among communities, government, civil society, traditional leaders and private actors.
- **Stewardship and institutional strengthening-** We invest in accountability, safeguarding, learning, financial stewardship and the capacity of diocesan partners so results can endure.

WHO WE WORK WITH

- Communities and community-based organisations • diocesan Justice and Peace and Development structures • government ministries and local authorities • Parliament and oversight institutions • traditional and religious leaders • civil society networks • academia and media • private-sector actors • cooperating partners • Caritas Africa • Caritas Internationalis



OUR AMBITION

The Zambia we are working towards

Our work is ultimately measured not by the number of activities delivered, but by whether people experience greater dignity, justice, voice, safety, resilience and opportunity. Across our programmes, we seek to contribute to:

- Public institutions that are more accountable, transparent and responsive to people's needs.
- Communities that participate meaningfully in governance and development and are able to claim their rights.
- Natural resources and public finances managed for the common good and for improved public services.
- Children and vulnerable people who are safer, protected and able to access justice and support.
- Communities that resolve conflict peacefully and strengthen social cohesion.
- Climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems that protect people and our common home.
- A strong, sustainable and learning Caritas network capable of delivering quality programmes with integrity.

CARITAS ZAMBIA AT A GLANCE

Institutional home	Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB)
Established	1984
Strategic period	2025-2029
Programme architecture	4 core programmes + Organisation Development
Geographic platform	Catholic diocesan, parish, out-station and Small Christian Community structures across Zambia
Global family	Caritas Africa and Caritas Internationalis

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