



**Caritas**  
**Zambia**

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**CARITAS ZAMBIA'S SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ON  
BUDGET ANALYSIS HEAD 86 MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK  
AND HEAD 89 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**1. Introduction**

We would like to recommend the Zambian Government for their tireless effort in ensuring that it provides needed resources to bring about development in the country and improve the welfare of the people of Zambia. The 2025 budget has notably seen an increase in so many sectors and most importantly to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock including Ministry of Agriculture.

Caritas Zambia in this submission will analyse the Financing of the 2025 budget and allocation of funds per Head and its programmes and the implications of such allocation.

**2. Financing of the 2025 Budget;**

2.1.1 Head 86 Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock can take advantage and get revenue by introducing levy to private sector and or individuals owning fish ponds. It would further be good to introduce pond levy in order to regulate environmental protection and public safety on the fish being produced.

2.1.2 Financing of Head 89 Ministry of Agriculture can consider taking advantage of the proceeds from sales of crops to be part of financing in the 2025 budget because Zambia produces enough for consumption and sale as long as weather conditions are favourable. We have realised that crop sale has not been included in the financing of the 2025 budget



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### **3. Budget analysis**

#### **3.1 Head 86 Ministry of fisheries and Livestock.**

Caritas Zambia is happy that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock will implement programmes in line with the objectives of the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP). Further appreciates that the Ministry has a total budget estimate of K1.8 billion for 2025 having assets put at 24.1%, goods and services at 49.8%, personnel emoluments at 22.3% and transfers at 3.8%. It is good that the ministry will aim at achieving Livestock Production and Productivity Improvement, Fisheries Production and Productivity Improvement, Animal Health Services, Technical Support Services, and Management and Support Services.

However, the budget allocation for Small Holder Livestock Investment is low and this will not contribute to the positive achievement of the ministerial objective of ensuring that there is livestock production and productivity improvement, although we appreciate that the budget allocation has been increased to K88,244,268 for 2025 budget from K2,500,000 in 2024 budget. If more money is allocated to livestock investment even the financing towards the National budget in the coming years will greatly improve. With the situation experienced during the 2023/2024 farming season where 84 out of the 116 districts experienced severe drought, this should be a wake-up call to the Ministry of Finance to work towards the resilience of the Livestock investment by ensuring that all animals planned for in the investment plan have the needed pasture throughout the year by allocating more finances that will help in the establishment of pasture under irrigation during off season. However, we do recognise that the budget allocation has been increased from K2,000,000 to K68,299,997 for Livestock Pasture and Rangeland Management these finances may not be enough looking at the number of livestock that would benefit from this pasture especially if the animals are on zero grazing.

Although K88.2 million has been set aside for the Small Holder Livestock Investment Sub-programme. With very good intentions, the amount allocated is very low considering that the country in 2024 was badly hit by anthrax and Foot and mouth disease and currently anthrax is still affecting animals among small holder farmers e.g. in Sinazongwe it is important to allocate more funds towards this sub programme to address the challenges of high mortality due to anthrax and CBPP and contribute positively to the achievement of the small holder livestock initiative programme.

- 3.2 Fisheries Statistics and Information Management-** We are very much concerned as Caritas Zambia that no funds have been allocated towards fisheries statistics and information management, further; we are wondering how you are going to realise revenues from this sector without having accurate statistics and



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information management regarding the fish stock. This was the same with the 2024 budget where no allocation was made although in 2023 there was an allocation of K282,756 which was also minimal. We foresee a situation where; permits will be issued to traders and yet fish sources are completely depleted and this will bring about conflict between parties and unsustainable source of protein and revenue in the country.

- 3.3 **Animal Health Surveillance and Early Warning Services-** Sub-Programme in 2023 received a budget allocation of K1,445,000 and in 2024 there was an increase in budget allocation up to K10,600,000, Caritas Zambia is wondering why the budget allocation has now been reduced to K9,500,000 instead of being increased and yet they say prevention is better than cure. The fact that Zambia experienced severe drought in most of its districts which means that there will be high risks as a result of livestock diseases in the country due to non-availability of pasture and water just to mention a few. There will be also more tick infestation and other vectors the fact that the high temperatures that the county is experiencing now, provides a very conducive atmosphere for breeding and this will affect negatively the livestock investment plan that the Government is trying to promote if animal health surveillance and early warning services budget allocation does not receive sufficient funds.
- 3.4 **Tsetse Control Services-** In 2023 there was a budget allocation of K 5,150,000 which was very positive and in 2024 there was a reduction of funds to K 2,000,000 and this had a very negative effect on the operations especially in providing extension services regarding tsetse control in most highly infested Districts such as Chirundu and Mfuwe just to mention a few. Caritas Zambia appreciates that there has been an increase in the 2025 budget allocation up to K3,471,000 although our expectation was more than this, the fact that the districts that are affected by Tsetse flies are many and the radius in terms of the distances within the camps are too long. This calls for recruiting of more officers that would help in providing extension services regarding Tsetse flies eradication and also provide adequate transport and other needed facilities for tsetse control.
- 3.5 **Disease Control Fund-** These funds play a very important role in ensuring that there is achievement in the Livestock investment because it provides resources for controlling diseases in the country, having an allocation of K200,000 from the K1,000,000 in the 2024 budget is way much below because due to the low budget allocation in the disease control sub- programme will lead to ineffectiveness in controlling some disease especially anthrax and CBPP in the country. We also find the total amount of K522.1 million allocated to Livestock Production and Productivity Improvement Programme not to be sufficient if we are to realise the full potential of the livestock production in the country. This means that, Livestock Production, Extension and Advisory Services will not be



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effective because the ministry will not manage to employ more personnel to service farmers in the already existing huge camps.

2025 targets under Livestock Production and Productivity Improvement programme are well elaborated and Caritas Zambia appreciates setting up of these targets however, some targets are very low to positively contribute to the sector as observed in the following sub-programmes;

**3.5.1 Number of Irrigated Pastures at Breeding Centres Established-** this has only been concentrated in the three research stations according to the outputs and yet the plan is to support four research stations which are Misamfu, Mochipapa, Mukulaikwa and Mazabuka. Therefore, it would be good to revisit the output and increase the number to four (4) research stations and not three although the number will still be very low for the achievement of the objective. At the same time, we appreciate 2025 budget allocation recognises the support for these research stations as opposed to 2023 and 2024 budgets.

**3.5.2 Number of dams rehabilitated-** we express great concern on having only one (1) dam to be rehabilitated despite the huge negative impact of climate change that was experienced in the 84 district and where will the livestock that will be supported to small holder farmers going to be getting their water from? Caritas Zambia also wonders the criteria that was used to come up with this one dam because we are very much previewed to a number of dams that seriously need rehabilitation so that they can provide water to both human and animals. This also applies to the one of grading standards for livestock products and by products that is planned to be developed. In order for the sector to provide and sustain quality standards in the livestock industry it is very important to develop more grading standards and not only one.

**3.5.3 Number of farmers receiving trainings in herd health programmes-** no target has been set on this one meaning that even those small holder farmers that will be supported with poverty alleviating livestock will not receive any training. This will lead to high mortality among livestock, it is important to draw lessons from the previous restocking programme that did not yield positive results but had most of the animals dead because of not providing needed trainings to the recipients of livestock Amidist high prevalence of livestock diseases.

#### **4. Head 89 Ministry of Agriculture**

Caritas Zambia recognises the efforts of the Government through the Ministry of Finance for mobilising resources that saw the increase in allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture from K12,752,109,812 to K13,561,831,810 (809721998) and the increase has been noticeably seen increasing every year since last year.



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However, Caritas Zambia has the following observations to make regarding budget allocation and targets for sub programmes under Head 89.

- 4.1 **Farmer support input**, it is great that the sub programme has received another increase in the 2025 budget allocation of K 9,270,982,106 from K 8,561,421,253 in the 2024 budget although the use of this huge amount of money is more prescribed than giving the independence to small holder farmers to decide the kind of package of Farmer input support Programme, they would want to have bearing in mind that we are living in a world where climate change negative effects cannot be ignored.
- 4.2 **Expansion of Community Based Small Scale Irrigation (E-COBSI)**- has no budget allocation and this may negatively affect the food security among communities because of not having all year-round cropping
- 4.3 **Agriculture Standards and Regulation**- Under this Programme there is Seed Control and Certification, and Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services. A total amount of K35.0 million has been allocated to the Seed Control and Certification Sub-programme to facilitate seed exports and the registration and inspection of seed crops. Further, K19.7 million has been allocated to Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Sub-programmes.

Seed is a very important component of our lives and it defines who we are as Zambia and the kind of food systems we want to have as a country. Therefore; this should be a country's first priority and have more money allocated to it so that more researches and regulations can be done so as to protect our seed and not so much depending on foreign seed. It is also imperative to have budget allocation for research that will inform the nation whether our food system in the country is free from GMOs so as to protect peoples' good health and safety. Insufficient funds in this sector will compromise with the outputs on targets in the number of seed crop registered and inspected which is not a priority in this budget, number of soil samples analysed the output no any target to be met despite having a heavily chemicalised farming system in the country.

We appreciate Government that has prioritised to review one Seed Law during the 2025 fiscal year and we hope that the law will be tailored toward benefiting the majority smallholder farmers.

## **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 We recommend that the Government introduces fish (those from the ponds) and pond levy as a source of revenue for the Government
- 5.2 Government being a signatory to Malabo declaration on agriculture, there is need to have agriculture budget allocated funds in line with what was signed for as a country
- 5.3 Introduce an agroecology food security pack, and also consider giving another ministry to manage FSIP for better results
- 5.4 Increase number of Dams to be constructed and rehabilitated especially in the districts that were badly hit by drought



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- 5.5 To have allocate fund for trainings in animal healthy for smallholder farmers
- 5.6 More funds to be allocated to Animal Health Surveillance and Early Warning Services so that all diseases are detected and prevented from spreading early.
- 5.7 To invest more in research especially in the area of seed that will give a small holder farmer independence
- 5.8 To have an all-inclusive process during the review of the seed law
- 5.9 To have an all-inclusive process to consult all stakeholders at every level in the annual budget process formulation before the final budget is out
- 5.10 Recruitment of more extension Officers
- 5.11 Delimitation of camps.
- 5.12 Increase funds and the number of animals to be vaccinated against diseases of national interest
- 5.13 Provision of transport to all districts and camp level, more fund allocation

## **6. Conclusion**

The budget is very good in terms of the amount allocations that have been increased at Ministerial and Programme level however; Caritas Zambia feels that budget allocation at sub- programme level is not sufficient in most areas.

When giving recommendations for budget allocation there is need to suggest where we can get money from other budget lines.