

TOGETHER FOR A JUST ZAMBIA

JCP ZAMBIA COUNTRY STRATEGY

2020-2024



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
actalliance



DCA
actalliance

JOINT COUNTRY PROGRAMME **ZAMBIA**



FOREWORD

The world we live and work in is rapidly changing. The effects of climate change, the global economic crisis, widening inequalities, conflict, political instability, hunger, poverty, corruption and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic affect us all. However, it is amongst vulnerable and marginalised communities where the impact is felt most keenly. When voices are raised to demand the delivery of justice and human rights, they are often met with attempts to limit civil society space, and to reduce aid organisations to the provision of services that ought to be provided by governments themselves.

Currently Zambia is considered one of the most unequal countries in the world in terms of wage and gender inequality. The vast majority of Zambians are not benefitting from the countries considerable resources, but are struggling to survive through subsistence farming, while most women and girls face significant barriers which limit their ability to enjoy economic and social rights and freedoms.

Norwegian Church Aid and DanChurchAid, recognising the many synergies in both our missions and our identities as diaconal and ecumenical international faith-based organisations, have combined forces in Zambia to create a Joint Country Programme (JCP). We have developed the 2020-2024 strategy which you are reading, to focus our work on some of the most critical challenges in Zambia today.

We focus on three interlinked areas: Firstly, using climate smart approaches to economically empower small-holder farmers, especially women and youth, who are working in some of the poorest regions of Zambia. Secondly, by fighting extreme inequality, through programmes which empower the most vulnerable and marginalised communities to hold duty

bearers accountable for the delivery of economic justice, climate justice and human rights. And thirdly, by promoting gender equality and addressing both the causes and effects of sexual and gender-based violence, because we recognise that if only half the population can benefit from development, and live in peace, then there can be no true justice.

The JCP prioritises working in support of secular and faith-based Zambian partners who share our purpose. We strengthen their institutional capacity and support them to push back on attempts to limit civil society space.

The problems are many, the challenges abound, but our tenacity, ambition and the commitment to a just and equal Zambia will see us jump hurdles, cross rivers and climb mountains to ensure that we live in a better, equitable and just country. We are together for a just Zambia.



Jonathan Lea-Howarth

Country Director

The Joint Country Programme of Norwegian Church Aid and DanChurchAid



INTRODUCTION

The 2020-2024 Strategy, entitled “Faith in Action: Together for a Just Zambia” is a commitment that we, the Zambia Joint Country Programme (JCP), comprising Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and DanChurchAid (DCA) have made over the next five years in response to a number of factors including high poverty levels, inequalities, sexual and gender Based violence, a lack of accountability and transparency in the use of national resources, the negative effects of climate change and the most recent global health pandemic of Covid-19 which has set back the progress of development and equality.

We have developed a strategy that is rooted in a local context within the framework of Zambia’s Vision 2030, and draws inspiration and synergy from our two coordinating agencies, NCA as the lead implementing agency and DCA as a co-implementer; this is a strategy with a global reach, committed to contributing to global strategic goals such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our strategy contributes to the following SDGs:



SDG 1
Poverty



SDG 2
Hunger



SDG 5
Gender Equality



SDG 8
Decent work and Economic growth



SDG 10
Reduced inequality



SDG 12
Responsible Consumption and Production



SDG 13
Climate Action



SDG 15
Life on Land



SDG 16
Peace and Justice strong institutions



SDG 17
Partnerships to achieve the goals.

Who we are

In 2011 DanChurchAid (DCA) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) joined forces to create the Zambia Joint Country Programme (JCP), with an integrated approach to program implementation; monitoring, evaluation and learning; fundraising; communications and advocacy shared and coordinated between the two agencies. Both organisations share a similar history, identity, mandate and mission to save lives and seek justice, and so there is a natural 'fit', which allows this partnership to work effectively and efficiently, and to increase both our impact and our support to our partners. This union has given the JCP a stable base on which to build in Zambia, as we deliver both humanitarian, advocacy and long-term development programmes through partnerships with like-minded secular and faith-based civil society organisations (CSOs).

Vision

Together for a Just Zambia

Mission

To equitably empower rights holders in situations of poverty and extreme inequalities, exclusion and vulnerability to enjoy civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and environmental rights and challenge systems and those with power and authority (duty bearers) to uphold human rights for a just Zambia.

Through joint actions with civil society organizations, particularly faith actors, we will identify and redress root causes of poverty and inequality by promoting economic justice, gender justice and climate smart resilience.

Values

Integrity of creation, human dignity, global justice, inclusive communities, and compassion are key values for JCP and our work in Zambia.





ISSUES WE SEEK TO ADDRESS

Although Zambia is a middle-income country, its citizens have over the years continued to suffer extreme poverty and inequalities affecting their dignity. The number of people living in extreme poverty in Zambia has continued to grow over the years despite Zambia being endowed with abundant national and natural resources. Despite Zambia being one of the countries with laws and policies that seek to address poverty such as Vision 2030 and the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) on fighting inequality in an integrated and coordinated manner, most of the policies are not fully implemented.

The overall public finance and natural resource management in Zambia is characterised by corruption, wastage of public resources, illicit financial flows, a narrow tax base, and an increasing debt burden. The shrinking CSO space in Zambia has been evidenced by state application of oppressive laws such as the Public Order Act to suppress citizens' freedom of assembly, association and speech.

Zambia's neo liberal economic models of development have increased levels of socioeconomic, cultural, and political inequalities among its citizens, especially women and girls. The country continues to be plagued by rampant gender inequalities, early marriages, teenage pregnancies (all of which increase high school dropout rates among girls), high infant and maternal mortality rates, high unemployment levels and the adverse effects of climate change.

In responding to these and many other challenges, we are continuously looking for innovative ways in which we can help to make Zambia a more equitable and just country by pioneering innovative programmatic interventions, using advocacy as tool for better resource allocation and spending, advocating for the scale-up of tried and tested intervention models and working in partnership with like-minded stakeholders, including government and the private sector, to scale up impact.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Our vision of “Together for a Just Zambia” is anchored on a rights-based approach (RBA) that promotes and safeguards citizens’ rights for their dignity. Given that development is a right, our overarching objective is fighting economic and gender inequalities. To achieve this objective, our strategy has three overlapping and interrelated themes:



GENDER JUSTICE

The GJ program aims to prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by challenging and changing beliefs, attitudes and practices in the target areas, and by increasing SGBV survivors’ access to and use of comprehensive SGBV support services.



FIGHTING INEQUALITY

The FI programme seeks for a fair and equitable financing and redistribution of resources across society. This overall goal is pursued by influencing duty bearers to increase finance for and spending to reduce poverty and inequality; empowering rights holders to hold duty bearers accountable for just resource governance; and by promoting alternative, sustainable and just economic development models among rights holders and duty bearers.



CLIMATE SMART ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (CSEE):

The CSEE programme empowers people to lift themselves out of poverty while building communities’ resilience. To achieve this, we work with small-scale producers and service providers to empower them to master climate resilient production and service systems which can increase their production, and to further increase their income through fair access to value chains and markets. The CSEE programme also creates jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities for young men and women.

With this background, we believe that, if core faith based and resource partners’ institutional capacities are strengthened; women and girls live empowered lives free from GBV; fair and equitable finance and redistribution of resources and people are enabled to lift themselves out of poverty while building communities’ resilience, then JCP and partners shall contribute to a greater impact of a just Zambia in which women, men, girls and boys on equal terms, regardless of race, gender or creed, enjoy civil, political, economic, social, and environmental rights.

This is based on the assumption that Government is tolerant and receptive to creating an enabling environment in which policies, legal frameworks, standards and systems and procedures foster constructive civic engagements and respect of rule of law. Furthermore, that if CSOs are empowered and their institutions strengthened, then CSOs shall be able to carry out their mandate fully, and scale-up impact, while holding duty bearers accountable towards an equitable society, in which rights for all are respected and upheld.

LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

For the JCP, the agenda towards poverty reduction and fighting the causes and effects of inequalities in communities is best addressed through partnerships. Therefore, behind our thematic focus, and in line with a Rights Based Approach, is a commitment to work in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) whenever possible.

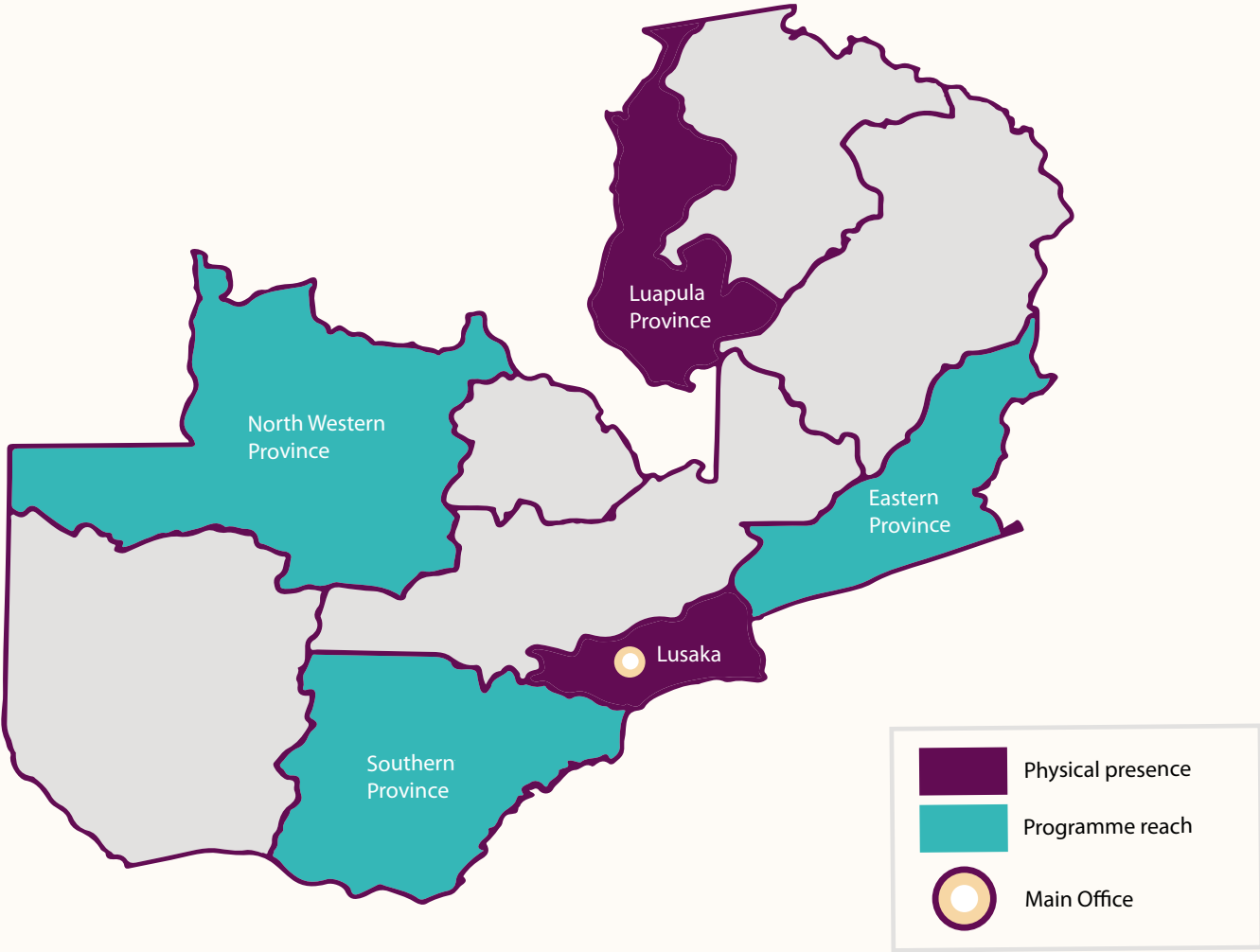
JCP has over the years collaborated with partners who share common values and principles in the fight against various injustices. We have developed trust and mutual respect and responsibilities towards the poor and vulnerable. The partnership approach seeks to build vibrant, professional, transparent and accountable civil society organisations to increase local ownership and sustainability and to enable effective delivery of civil society's mandate.

We recognise the barriers that CSOs and FBOs face in a relatively hostile environment to demand accountability, access information and efficiently programme for better impact, therefore, embedded in our approach and focus, are programmes to strengthen civil society space and its actors. We believe this approach is essential to foster human rights and dignity and empower people to actively participate in their own development.

In addition to partnerships with more traditional FBO and NGOs who work at grassroots level, we seek to explore and invest in private sector partnerships, particularly for our programme on Climate Smart Economic Empowerment. Private sector partnerships shall be explored as an opportunity to foster strategic, mutually beneficial entrepreneurial/business relationships for change.



WHERE WE WORK



GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS AND CO-LOCALISATION

For the 2020-2024 strategic period, we will work in four provinces; Eastern, Southern, Luapula and North Western. The provinces were selected using indicators of marginalisation, number of GBV cases and levels of vulnerabilities. We also operate in three districts of Central Province in partnership with Christian Aid, through Scottish Government (SG) funding, up to 2022 but will not initiate further initiatives in this province after the end of the SG funding agreement and for the duration of this strategy. We shall also continue to work in Copperbelt as a satellite province on issues related to mining under the Fighting Inequality theme, and will network with stakeholders working in this province on public policy advocacy.

ADVOCACY

Our strategic plan, while relevant and needed, is not something that can cover all the needs of Zambians. For sustainability, and to see that impactful development is replicated across the country, leaving no one behind, we also work on public policy influencing, improving legal frameworks, attitude change for widespread institutional and behavioural changes at various levels.

We also recognise that communities and rights holders are powerful agents of change and shall seek to empower them to claim their rights, hold duty bearers accountable and push for equitable resource allocation, distribution and prudent management for enhanced accountability.



SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

JCP shall work with the following sustainability standards:

Rights Based Approach

This invests in beneficiaries as 'rights-holders', creates a legitimate channel for their voices to be heard, and enables them to play an active role in the response to tackling economic and gender inequalities. A rights-based approach challenges individuals and leaders to examine and assess their value system, empowers them to make meaningful and sustainable change and is sustainable as it empowers rights-holders to claim their rights.

Core Humanitarian standards

JCP is part of the ACT Alliance that is committed to delivering quality long-term development and humanitarian work and be accountable both vertically and horizontally. We will work towards adhering to CHS standards aiming at investing and promoting lasting positive change.

Gender Mainstreaming

The programme follows the ACT Alliance and NCA Gender Policies that commit to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in our programme interventions.

Conflict sensitivity and “Do no Harm”

When designing and implementing our programmes NCA is committed to the principle of 'Do No Harm' in all we do. NCA also takes a conflict sensitive approach to seek positive peace dividends from all our programs, and to reduce the risk that conflict can compromise their results.

Anti-corruption

Zero tolerance to corruption, fraud, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment is a core principle for the JCP and its partners. JCP has robust systems, procedures and mechanisms for prevention and detection of breaches of the ACT Alliance Code of Conduct, or any national or international law by our staff or partners, including a contextualised complaints response mechanism (a mandatory requirement in all our projects), and a whistle-blower policy to protect those disclosing any suspected breach.

Environmental Sustainability

NCA seeks to minimise its impact on the environment and increase its resilience to climate change. NCA is held accountable to environmental sustainability in programming and operations through international humanitarian and development standards to which it is committed, including The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, The Sphere Standards, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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