CIVICUS: Civil Society Index
Zambia Council for Social Development

# An Assessment of civil society's impact on the national budgeting process in Zambia

A Case Study for The Civil Society Index

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**Acronyms**

CBO.....Community Based Organisation

CCPJ.....Catholic Commission for Peace, Justice and Development

CCJP.....Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace

CSO.....Civil Society Organisations

CSPR.....Civil Society for Poverty Reduction

CYDF.....Constituency Youth Development Fund

DFID.....Development for International Development

EAZ.....Economic Association of Zambia

FNDP.....Fifth National Development Plan

FODEP.....Forum for Democratic Process

FBOs.....Faith Based Organisations

HIPC.....Highly Indebted Poor Country's Initiative

JEC.....Joint Estimates Committee

JCTR.....Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection

MFNP.....Ministry of Finance and National Planning

MMD.....Movement for Multi-party Democracy

MTEF.....Medium Term Expenditure Framework

NGOCC.....Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Committee

NGO.....Non-Governmental Organisation

PRSP.....Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

SAGs.....Sector Advisory Groups

TIZ.....Transparency International Zambia

UNDP.....United Nations Development Programme

UNZA.....University of Zambia

VAT.....Value Added Tax

ZACCI.....Zambia Association of Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ZCTU.....Zambia Congress of Trade Unions

ZICA.....Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants

ZNBC.....Zambia National Broadcasting Cooperation

ZRA.....Zambia Revenue Authority

## 1.0 Introduction and background

Civil society can play a very important role in complementing the state and the market in influencing national development policy processes. According to Matenga, (2010: 64) civil society organisations (CSOs) are generally perceived to be closer to the intended beneficiaries of development policies. This is because they operate at grassroots' level. Due to their closeness, they can be seen as a medium for the expression of the poor and marginalised, who often are less able to influence policy processes, or to make their voices heard. In democratic societies, ideally national development requires a shared sense of purpose and ownership among all stakeholders, including government, the business sector and civil society. Any attempts by government to formulate and/or implement policies without broad-based support are likely to be unsuccessful, due to apathy, or to generate confrontational dynamics that undermine the achievement of the overall development objectives (Matenga, 2010: 63).

A national budget is the most important economic policy tool for macroeconomic management and resource allocation for any government throughout the world. It provides a comprehensive statement of the nation's priorities. Over the years, the budget has evolved from being a simple accounting tool into a comprehensive planning and governance system, upon which the success or failure of government policies can be evaluated (Mudenda, Ndulo and Wamulume, 2005). Budgets reflect the vision of economic and social development of the governments currently in power, and more generally, the values of the society at large. They also reflect the choices governments have to make in order to realize their own social and economic agenda. A budget represents the choices made by government about which sectors and programmes deserve more, or less, funding and priority attention at any given point in time (Mudenda, Ndulo and Wamulume, 2005). The budget reflects the actual priorities of the government in a practical sense, as opposed to political promises made on development goals. It affects the lives of individuals in very real and long term ways. It also outlines how government revenue will be raised and apportioned among the various ministries and quasi-government agencies present for their selected various purposes (Liywalii, 2005: 2).

## 2.0 Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to assess the impact of civil society on the national budgeting process in Zambia. This examines the potential influence of CSOs on all stages of the

budgeting process, from drafting through to implementation, and also examines whether governments actually take these interventions and influence seriously.

## 3.0 Methodology

This study took a case study approach and used a combination of primary and secondary sources of data. Secondary data was gathered from various Zambian government institutions and CSOs, including relevant libraries and documentation. The adoption of a case study approach was prompted by the desire to get deeper, richer insights into civil society involvement in the national budgeting process in Zambia. Yin (1984) defines a case study as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident. Case study approaches are used in many disciplines to build upon theory, to produce new theory, to dispute or challenge theory, to explain a situation, to provide a basis to apply solutions to situations, to explore, or to describe an object or phenomenon.

However, case studies also come with criticisms, and the researchers of this particular study are aware of such. Most criticisms are based on the notion that case study designs are usually levelled on the smallness of the samples, thus posing challenges on offering grounds for establishing reliability or generality of findings. However, researchers have continued to use case study research methods, owing to the rich and substantive nature of the information they are able establish. When carefully planned and crafted, case studies reveal a lot of information about real life situations that can then help to make complex issues and problems more understandable. Above all, case study results relate directly to the common reader's everyday experience, therefore facilitating a deeper understanding of the complex reality of life situations (Yin, 1984).

Various documents were reviewed for this case study literature search. These include Annual Budget reports, the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP), various budget tracking reports, press releases and commentaries on the budget formulation process, as well as budget proposals from various civil society institutions and organisations interested in economic development issues in Zambia. As a way for cross-checking documentary reviews, the researchers used a triangulation method by conducting interviews with key informants in the field. Primary data was gathered through interviews with four prominent CSOs in Zambia which were purposively selected. Purposive

sampling uses value judgement of the researcher in identifying key informants; people or institutions that are perceived to be more knowledgeable on matters of interest on the concerned research. In this case, all the four CSO institutions, namely the Economic Association of Zambia (EAZ), Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) and Caritas Zambia, which were interviewed in Zambia, were selected due to their influence on national economic policy matters.[1]

Besides these institutions, the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP) was also purposively selected. This ministry was chosen on the basis as it is the government institution charged with overall responsibility for the national budgetary processes and all related issues. In Zambia, line ministries are tasked to prepare the budget. However, the MFNP is ultimately responsible for broad macroeconomic policy, the budget and management of the budgetary process. It is empowered to handle the entire planning, coordination, and organisation of the budgeting process (Mudenda, Ndulo and Wakumelo, 2005). Lusaka was chosen as a study area because it is the capital city of Zambia. As the capital city, Lusaka is the 'power house' of Zambia, with all government ministries, departments and head offices located within Lusaka. Consequently, all major national decisions are made in Lusaka. Even with regards to CSOs, and other major organisations, including all those selected for this study, have their national offices in Lusaka although many also have representation in various parts of the country.

The data was analysed using qualitative techniques. The data was processed according to themes, concepts, ideas, interactions and processes that emerged from the field, as well as through the reviewed literature. Explanations and interpretations were made from the resulting texts using a combination of content and narrative analyses. Being a case study,

[1] EAZ is a nationwide registered professional association functioning as a think tank on economic matters in Zambia. Its membership is drawn from individuals, many of whom are important players in the economy of Zambia. EAZ has been very influential on economic and development policy matters at national level through organising public debates and information dissemination through the media (private and public) and its own professional publications such as Annual Economic Reports. Its membership also has a national coverage. JCTR and Caritas Zambia are two influential Catholic oriented faith-based organisations (FBOs) whose objective is to provide social economic and political analyses (reflections) on issues affecting society. CSPR is a loose alliance of all CSOs addressing issues of poverty in Zambia. All the CSOs above that have contributed greatly in influencing economic policy issues for a long time now in Zambia. Except for CSPR, the other three CSOs had their presence and impact was felt even during the one-party state, when the government of the day would not easily tolerate or accommodate dissenting views.

the researchers ensured that the findings remained within the everyday language of the participants.

## 4.0 Conceptual Definitions

This study made use of the following key concepts: civil society, the national budget, and participation. Civil society is extremely a broad and complex concept, which bears no universally agreed upon definition.

### 4.1 Civil Society

According to CIVICUS (2008; 16) 'civil society' is defined as "the arena, outside of the family, the state, and the market, which is created by individual and collective actions, organisations and institutions to advance shared interest". Whereas Rakner (2003; 4) states that "civil society organisations include movements, networks and other entities which are autonomous from the state, are not intergovernmental and do not represent the private sector, and in principle are non-profit making ...[and] act locally, nationally and internationally, in defence and promotion of social, economic and cultural interest for mutual benefit".

Mamdani (1996) argues that the vestiges of the traditional and colonial structure have had inhibitive consequences on the full development of civil society in Africa. Nonetheless, even under subjugated conditions, there has been some form of societal self-organisation, independent of the state, which has been able to articulate public interest and influence the decisions of the state in matters of public concerns. Similar to many other countries that were formally colonised, in Zambia the environment was not conducive for the emergence and development of civil society, as it is perceived to be in liberal democracies. It has been observed that political leaders in Zambia tend to manipulate institutions to suit their own advantages, (Rakner, 2003). In the past, where civil society managed to influence national policy, it had either been by way of imposing itself using confrontational means, or where the state created certain patronage-based structures within the existing government machinery, (Sichone, 1996). This paper, however, acknowledges the fact that following the re-introduction of multiparty politics in the early 1990s, Zambia now seems to embrace civil society shaped in the more liberal sense, although there is need for more interrogation currently to delve beyond the surface structures evident. Civil society in

Zambia has lately been more active, robust and better organised in pursuit of furthering their own interests.

### 4.2 National Budget

Sullivan (2003; 502) defines a budget generally as a list of all planned expenses and revenues, or a plan for saving and spending. A national budget is an annual plan which shows how much money government wishes to receive and spend in a given period. The budget has two sides; namely revenue and expenditure. Revenue shows where government intends to get the money to spend on various programmes. Sources of revenue may include taxes, customs, duties, overseas loans, grants and donations. Expenditure, in direct contrast, shows priorities in resource allocations by government, or in other words, where they intend to spend the money (Liywalii, 2005; 6).

### 4.3 Participation

The concept of participation, according to Rowe and Frewer (2004: 514), has been associated by various authors on the movements of pluralism and direct democracy, which have risen over the last century or so, at the expense of the managerial model of public administration. They argue "in part, this rise is attributable to declining public confidence in the processes that develop policy decisions...". Participation is a process through which stakeholders influence priority setting, policy making, resource allocations and access to public goods and services. Participation is meaningful when there is true communication and reciprocal dialogue among those involved. The important point that is evident is that governments and their various agencies have, whether as a result of legislation or inclination, increasingly sought public views on policy issues in a more direct and specific manner. This is more so than dictated by the traditional model of governance through which decision makers are periodically elected to set policy (often doing so with the help of chosen experts) without further public input (Rowe and Frewer, 2004). The ultimate aim of participation is the need to increase accountability to people in decision-making positions, thus improving overall governance and economic efficiency in development activities (UNDP, 1993:21).

## 5.0 Stages of the National Budgeting Process in Zambia

Budgeting in Zambia is an annual exercise, done as provided for in the Zambia constitution (1996) and the Budget Act. There are also other legal instruments to this

process, as supplemented by the Public Finance and Accountability Act and the Financial and Accounting Regulations. The national budget is further guided by the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The Zambian budget process has four stages; namely Drafting, Legislative and Approval, Implementation and Auditing stages (Mudenda, Ndulo and Wamulume, 2005: 9-15). According to Rakner (2003), the Drafting stage is where the Minister of Finance considers possible levels of revenues and the ways of financing the budget. Once this is determined, the total expenditure level is calculated and the draft estimates are debated by the controlling officers, namely the permanent secretaries from various government ministries.

At this stage, adjustments are made in order to adhere to the general policy. This is followed by the Legislative stage, at which the budget is presented to the National Assembly for approval. The National Assembly is only permitted to propose savings in the budget and not additional spending for a particular head of expenditure. The Implementation stage follows this, and the implementation of the budget in Zambia is an executive function. The MFNP at this stage informs other Ministries to start spending as it disburses funds. In practice, there are two budget processes that influence spending during the fiscal year. Firstly, several supplementary expenditures are passed during the fiscal year and secondly, a regular internal committee of funding from spending agencies is given and the cash available from revenue receipts gets to be known. The last stage in the process is the Audit stage. This includes a number of activities aimed at measuring the effective use of public resources, led by the Auditor General's office, is who is tasked to audit and evaluate the public accounts.

## 6.0 Civil society involvement in the budget process

Mudenda, Ndulo and Wakumelo (2005) argue there are many CSOs that are actively involved in the budget process in Zambia. Mwanawina (2002) agrees with this observation, although he argues that civil society has been quite influential especially on issues that deal with poverty, education and health in the national budget. Foscher (2003:30) observes that CSOs that engage in the budget process in Zambia are those that are mostly located in the urban areas. Mudenda, Ndulo and Wakumelo (2005) further contend that civil society participation depends on their own capacity and ability to organise themselves. The Zambian government policy is said to be ambiguous on the role of the civil society in the budgetary process. Government does provide an opportunity to

civil society to submit proposals to the budget, but it is not obliged to take CSOs submissions into account. CSOs also lack information on the processes and capacity to effectively interact with the public institutions, in order for them to make meaningful submissions (Mudenda, Ndulo and Wakumelo, 2005).

## 7.0 Framework for CSO participation in the budgeting process

This section looks at the actual modalities for civil society engagement in the national budget processes.

### 7.1 Drafting stage

The first stage of the budgeting process is open to civil society, however, that is just to a certain degree. It begins with a call and a public notice for engagement and participation. The media is mostly used to disseminate issues deliberated on the national budget process by CSOs. According to an MFNP representative, CSOs do not take part in the drafting stage nor are they allowed to be part of the related meetings. They only participate directly through Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs) which consists of representatives from government, civil society, private sector and cooperating partners. Issues on what civil society want included in the budget are discussed in these meetings and line Ministries take note of them at the drafting stage. SAGs are perceived to be the most desirable and consultative forums by which to anchor the preparation of the budget plan and civil society is expected to play a crucial role in the formulation of the budget and the implementation processes (Lungu, 2005: 5).

However, what should be noted here is that the relationship between government and civil society is good with regard to issues of service delivery, but it has been confrontational - or fragile, at least - with regard to issues of governance, participation, human rights and the rule of law (Fiedler-Conradi, 2003). Suspicion, fear and mistrust tend to characterize the way the two institutions have interacted with each other. Even amidst so many changes, which could ordinarily have led to improved relations, there seem not to have been serious reconfiguration of power relations. Government appear to exhibit unwillingness to negotiate with civil society on equal terms. This is what seems to be

taking place, even in the SAG meetings.[2] Even where spaces are being opened for civil society,[3] sometimes government tends to limit possibilities for alternative proposals to go through[4], (Lungu, 2005: 5).

Matenga (2010:71-72) observes that the SAG meetings are associated with a lot of challenges; meetings are neither held regularly nor taken seriously, and at most, are characterized by poor attendance due to bad organisation and/or a lack of incentives, such as no transport allowances. In his research, Matenga (2010) found that in a number of cases, there is irregular attendance at meetings by the chairpersons.[5] Instead, chairpersons delegate the functions of the chair to less senior staff. He also notes that a bigger problem for SAGs is lack of clearly defined responsibilities for the group. Their current role is generally taken to be 'advisory' such that central government may not be compelled to act upon recommendations arising out of SAGs reports. He furthermore notes that SAGs operations are not anchored on any law.

However, it was revealed through interviews with respondents from JCTR conducted for this case study that one of the ways CSOs contribute to the drafting stage is by drafting proposals and submitting them through SAGs. For instance, in 2009, CSPR, JCTR and Caritas Zambia made a joint proposal and submission for the 2010 budget. They advocated for a budget under the theme "Economic Growth with Equity: Investing in the dignity of the people". Although this theme was not considered by the MFNP, CSOs' views urging government to consider the health sector and social protection were taken on seriously. The 2010 Budget (2009:19), under the theme of "Enhancing Growth through Competiveness and Diversification" outlines that the Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) included the construction and rehabilitation of the health sectors. A total of about USD 29 billion (United States Dollars) was allocated to the construction and rehabilitation of 16 district hospitals and construction of staff houses. In the 2010 budget, Caritas Zambia also analysed the impact of the financial crisis on the mining sector, income tax, value-added tax (VAT) and excise duties, macro-economic stability in

[2] SAGs have a wide representation with members ranging from fifteen to twenty-five members drawn from government, civil society, academia, private sector and cooperating partners, who are invited from time to time by government to form part of planning and budgeting meetings for the various sectors or ministries.
[3] Instances where donor agencies press government to do wider consultations such as in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP).
[4] One good case is the debate on the mechanisms for adopting the Republican constitution.
[5] SAGs chairpersons are Permanent Secretaries for each line ministry.

Zambia, as well as looking at the disbursement of the Constituency Youth Development Fund (CYDF). According to the respondents in the interview with Caritas personnel most proposals Caritas Zambia made before the Joint Estimates Committee (JEC) were taken on board and used. One of the important recommendations was that the national budget should be announced three months before the beginning of a fiscal year; in 2009, this came into effect.

However, not all submissions or recommendations made by CSOs are used, or addressed. The MFNP confirmed this in an interview, arguing that "they have limited time to incorporate budget submissions made by civil society". This has resulted in few CSOs making submissions, as compared to previous years. It was also established that although government receives submissions made by civil society, CSOs are not given the chance to see the drafted document of the budget before it is presented to parliament. One of the complaints given by CSOs was that there is too much secrecy in the way government conducted the budgeting process (Mudenda, Ndulo and Wakumelo, 2005).

### 7.2 Legislative Stage

During this stage, the budget is presented to the National Assembly for approval. The National Assembly is only permitted to propose savings in the budget, and not additional spending. CSOs are able to participate by analysing the budget and making submissions before the JEC. However the proposals made by civil society are not always taken into consideration, and CSO representatives are only allowed to hear the budget presentation in parliament. However, Wehner (2003:4) contends that this should a very critical stage for CSOs to influence the budget, as it is at this stage that policies are translated into programmes, prioritisation of programmes are made and the resource figures established.

### 7.3 Implementation stage

After the national budget has been approved or enacted by parliament, it must be implemented. The implementation phase is a period when budget policies are carried out by the responsible government departments. During this phase, monitoring and control also occurs to ensure that spending and revenue collection adhere to the plan as set by the budget. Implementation begins when the permanent warranties are granted to line ministries. MFNP stated in their interview that CSOs conduct independent evaluations on how projects are done. Interviews with CSO representatives also acknowledged that they

do conduct budget tracking and monitoring activities on allocated amounts, especially focusing on poverty reduction funds in rural areas. However, they complained that they were facing challenges of a lack of information on disbursements of allocations from the national to district levels. These restrictions to information made the task of monitoring government expenditure, at provincial and district levels, particularly difficult.

### 7.4 Audit Stage

This is the last stage in the budget cycle, and includes a number of activities intended to measure the effective use of public resources, which is done by the Auditor General's office who audits or evaluates the public accounts. Civil society does not play any role in the audit. All the work is done by the Auditor General and the related ministries. However, it was revealed that civil society has been advocating for a revival of this system, and inclusion on the Public Expenditure Review Framework in the budgeting process but government has been reluctant in implementing this process. However, respondents from MFNP indicated that some prominent CSOs, including EAZ, Caritas Zambia, Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) and the Forum for Democratic Process (FODEP), have been able to hold discussions with the Auditor General's Office, in order to review the Auditor General's report. They also employ different strategies including press releases, information campaigns and coalition building, among others, to make the public aware of their position with regards to some revelations in the Auditor General's reports, especially where public officials would have transgressed in their duties (Elemu, 2010: 32).

## 8.0 Challenges CSOs face during the Budget processes

Despite the space civil society has found to engage in the budgeting process, there are still major challenges that need to be overcome if it is to consolidate and scale up the gains made thus far. Among these include a lack of official policy and legal frameworks to guide their engagement with government on the budgeting process. Government policy is said to be ambiguous on this matter. There is no official access point for CSOs to impact this process and the role of civil society is only defined to a limited extent, resulting in civil society being uncertain on what its potential role is or should be. This could possibly explain why government does not feel obliged to take CSOs' submissions into account. From the interviews, it was also established that CSOs face financial constraints getting to remote areas for sensitisation of these issues and budget tracking. CSOs also lack

information on certain processes in order for them to make meaningful submissions. The lacking access of freedom of information means that civil society can only access information that the government institutions choose to release, making it more difficult for CSOs to effectively interact and meaningfully engage. Civil society is also highly dependent on donors for financing their activities. It was also established from interviews that in some instances, CSOs also lack technical capacity. Capacity constraints tend to limit their contributions to budgetary and legal processes (Matenga, 2010).

## 9.0 Recommendations

In view of the observed challenges faced by civil society, this paper proposes the following recommendations in order to enhance civil society participation and influence over the national budgetary processes.

- A legal and policy framework should be developed for civil society participation in the budget process. This should help to clarify the extent of civil society's role in the budget process and how they can participate meaningfully.
- There is a need to enhance CSOs' capacity for effectively campaigning and influencing the budgetary process.
- CSOs campaigns should be broadened to include the participation of community based organisations and this is in order to widen participation levels, as well as to capture specific areas of need.
- There is a need to build stronger alliances among CSOs in order to strengthen their advocacy initiatives.
- Advocacy campaigns over issues of the budget must be done collectively to avoid uncoordinated campaigns that have proved ineffective.
- Government Ministries should make deliberate efforts to ensure that the information included in the budget is open and freely available, in order to encourage full participation.
- There is also a need to scale up awareness campaigns on the budget, to ensure that people know the impact that the budget has on their lives.

## 10.0 Conclusion

The study attempted to assess civil society's impact on the budgeting process in Zambia. It establishes that currently civil society, to a limited extent, has been involved in the

budgetary processes in Zambia. This is notably evident in the drafting stage, however it is up to the MFNP to take up these submissions. The research has also revealed that government policy on civil society's role in the budget process is not clear. There are neither laws, nor regulations, binding government to involve civil society in the budget process. There is also a severe lack of up-to-date and comprehensive information to allow civil society to effectively interact with relevant public institutions. CSOs also face large technical challenges which affect their engagement abilities. CSOs that do engage in the budgeting process, are those situated in urban areas.

Despite the challenges civil society face in the budget work, it has been successful in registering some concerns in the budget. One of the successful changes that can be attributed to civil society intervention on budgetary issues has been the inclusion of poverty issues and in increased resource allocation to the social sector. Civil society has also, to some extent, contributed to improved public expenditure management and oversight. CSOs have facilitated discussions and debates on budgetary issues, helping to create dialogue and discussion on these issues. However, this study has also illustrated that there is much room to improve civil society's impact in the budgeting process and has provided recommendations for doing so. It is in the hands of all parties involved- Civil Society, government and the public, to make the necessary changes.

**Annex 1**

**Interview questionnaire for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)**

1. Is the national budget process inclusive of CSO participation?

| YES | NO |
|---|---|

2a. Has your organisation made submissions in relation to the budgeting process?

| YES | NO |
|---|---|

2. Mention at least five issues you have submitted.

a. What has been your outcome of your submission?

2. How effective are CSO's campaigns in the budgeting process?

3. Are participatory approaches in the national budget effective? If not how can they be improved?

| YES | NO |
|---|---|

4. How effective is the role of CSOs in the budgeting process as a watch dog?

5. How influential is CSO in Zambia in setting the agenda of the budget?

6. Are you engaged in all the stages of the budget (drafting, legislative, implementation and audit stages)?

| YES | NO |
|---|---|

**Annex 11**

**Interview Guide for Ministry of Finance and National Planning**

1. Is the current legal framework enabling for CSO participation in the National Budget?

| YES | NO |
|---|---|

2. Cite some challenges faced by CSO in Zambia as they participate in the National Budget.

3. At what stage in the National Budget process do you regard CSO submission of most value?

4. Cite certain submissions made by CSO in the budgeting process that have been considered.

**Annex III**

**Biography**

The Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP) coordinates the national planning and economic management in Zambia. It ensures that the strategic version of the public service is attained through timely mobilisation, disbursement and control of resources for smooth operations of ministries, provinces and spending agencies.

The Economic Association of Zambia (ECZ) is a non-partisan body whose membership includes experts in the areas of economics, business administration and allied fields. It contributes to social economic development through the promotion of advocacy and sound economic policies. It provides effective input into public policy decision making, research in economics and related disciplines, strengthens public information and outreach on economic and related issues.

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is an anti-poverty advocacy network of over 140 organisations working for pro-poor development in different parts of Zambia. It actively and effectively contribute to poverty eradication and pro-poor development in Zambia through advocacy for responsive policy formulation and implementation, promotion of civic engagement in development

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) is a research, education and advocacy team that promotes study and action on issues linking faith and social justice in Zambia. Jesuit Centre engages in research on key social issues like cost of living, social implications of debt servicing, accessibility of health care and education, advocacy and consultation.

Caritas Zambia is formerly known as the Catholic Centre for Justice for Development and Peace (CCJDP) which oversees the implementation of projects and programs for integral development. The project Caritas Zambia does are in the arena of lobbying and advocacy, human rights, development education, food security, healthy, education and poverty reduction.

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