

The situation in Zimbabwe is extremely difficult right now.

In August the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC) in a pastoral letter described the situation as, "a multi-layered crisis of the convergence of economic collapse, deepening poverty, food insecurity, corruption and human rights abuses among other crises."

Government corruption, and ongoing restrictions and suffering led to protests from the Zimbabwean people. The government has responded with lamentable disregard for alternative voices. Their heavy-handed response has been characterised by arbitrary arrests and violence against activists or those related or connected to them. Journalists have been abducted and tortured as ransom for those in hiding.

The statement from the ZCBC and other faith leaders and groups in Zimbabwe caused recriminations from the government. Zimbabwe's context remains complex and precarious. The recent attacks on all who have voiced concern over injustices, corruption and violence, including the church, has simply reinforced the reality that coexistence, tolerance and accountability remains contentious issues in the country.

Christian Aid Zimbabwe works with several faith-based organisations including the Catholic Church through a partnership with Silveira House, a Catholic Jesuit institution and stands in solidarity with the Bishops. Christian Aid Zimbabwe is supportive of statements issued by fellow church umbrella organisation that is the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) (EFZ), who are its partners. Christian Aid's CEO, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi sent a letter of solidarity.

The Christian Aid Zimbabwe team are continuing to speak out for justice and support our partners while treading a careful line as an international NGO, mindful that our partners rely on our ability to operate within the country.

COVID-19 Response

In Zimbabwe, we continue to ensure that 15,000 people have enough water to wash their hands regularly. We are also supporting communities in Mudzi and Mutoko whose livelihoods have been impacted by Covid-19.

Thanks to the support from lovely **Commitment for Life** congregations just like yours, we are able to

provide food hampers for around 5,400 people. Thank you.



Ben Masora: Unsplash

Global Justice Now (GJN)

Debt is too often a mechanism of control imposed on the poor by the rich. COVID-19 has torn away the claims that the system work for the most vulnerable in the world.

GJN is calling for the immediate [cancellation of huge swathes of debt](#) in the global south, along with a wealth tax to stabilise and improve health services. Add your voice to this call!