



For immediate release

Monday, 5 May 2025

Catholic Mission Deepens Commitment to Maternal and Child Health in Zambia

Catholic Mission has taken an important step forward in supporting maternal and child health in Zambia through our growing partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Mpika, reflecting the ongoing commitment to build life-giving programs that respond to community needs and contribute to Zambia's national development goals.

As the Pope's international mission agency in Australia, Catholic Mission is proud to be working with Rt. Rev. Edwin Mwansa Mulandu, Bishop of Mpika, to improve healthcare outcomes for mothers and babies in remote communities. Our shared vision is rooted in mission, supporting human dignity and empowering local communities to take ownership of their development.

In March 2025, Catholic Mission marked its first major initiative in Mpika with a groundbreaking ceremony in Chalabesa. This moment launched the construction of a dedicated mother's shelter and ten maternal, neonatal, and child health posts. These facilities will provide safe, supportive spaces for women to give birth and receive vital care, helping reduce maternal deaths and promote healthy beginnings for newborns.

"This project is not just about infrastructure, it is about building relationships, empowering women, and standing in solidarity with communities striving for a better future," said Conor Nolan, Catholic Mission's Program Officer. "Together with Bishop Mulandu and the people of Mpika, we are working to ensure every mother can access quality care, especially in rural and underserved areas."

The project has also been strengthened through engagement with the Zambia High Commission to Australia and New Zealand. We're grateful for the support of Zambia's High Commissioner, Dr Elias Munshya, who has welcomed our growing presence in Mpika and recognised the potential of Church-based partnerships to support sustainable development.

Mpika District, located in Muchinga Province, plays a key role in Zambia's northern region, yet many local communities still face barriers in accessing healthcare. Through this partnership, Catholic Mission is supporting efforts to address these challenges and ensure that no one is left behind.

At the heart of our mission is listening, hearing the hopes of our brothers and sisters and responding with compassion. This initiative in Mpika is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when we work together in solidarity, with respect and a shared vision for human flourishing.

We invite you to join us on this important journey to stand with the Diocese of Mpika, the people of Zambia, and all the people of mission who are working to bring hope and healing to communities in need.

Donate today at www.catholicmission.org.au/mothers

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About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church’s global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ’s mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation, and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.