Global Psoriasis Atlas (GPA): Zambia Country Update and Progress Report

23rd November 2026 | Prepared by: Dr Malan Malumani -**GPA National Coordinator and Psoriasis Care Network (PCN) Board Chairperson -Zambia**.

1. Executive summary

Zambia is making significant progress in strengthening psoriasis awareness, patient representation, advocacy, and community support. A major milestone in this effort is the establishment of the **Psoriasis Care Network (PCN)**, Zambia's first dedicated non-governmental organization committed to supporting people living with psoriasis.

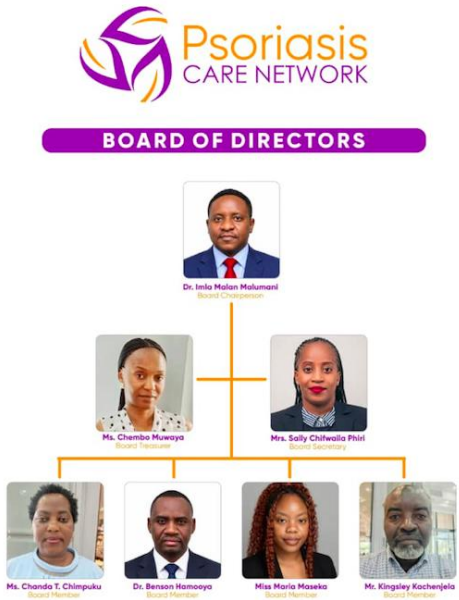
The initiative represents an important step towards addressing the social stigma, limited public awareness, social isolation, and barriers to appropriate care experienced by people living with psoriasis in Zambia. The launch of the PCN, scheduled to coincide with **World Psoriasis Day on 29 October 2026**, under the theme **"Look Beyond My Skin,"** marks a significant milestone in advancing psoriasis care, advocacy, and patient support in the country.

The planned launch event brought together psoriasis awareness activities, community engagement, and the introduction of a national patient-support and advocacy platform. These developments provide a foundation for strengthening collaboration among patients, dermatologists, healthcare professionals, civil society organizations, and international partners, including the Global Psoriasis Atlas (GPA).

PCN also received an invitation to participate in a policy meeting scheduled for **13–15 October 2026**, providing an opportunity to explore ways of integrating psoriasis advocacy and patient-support initiatives into Ministry of Health structures and priorities. During this engagement, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Health and PCN**, formalizing a framework for collaboration between the patient organization, dermatology services, and policymakers.

As Zambia's GPA country coordination activities progress, the emerging patient organization offers an important platform for strengthening patient engagement, identifying gaps in access to care, raising national awareness, and supporting future evidence generation on psoriasis, psoriatic disease, and associated comorbidities.

2. Key developments and progress



2.1. Establishment of the Psoriasis Care Network

The Psoriasis Care Network (PCN) was officially launched on 29 October 2026 as a dedicated national platform for supporting people living with psoriasis and related psoriatic diseases in Zambia. The organization is formally **registered and gazetted** by **the Registrar of Societies of Zambia.**

PCN's key priorities include raising public awareness through education, reducing stigma and discrimination, providing support to patients and caregivers, promoting access to appropriate treatment and care, and fostering an inclusive community where people affected by psoriasis feel supported and do not face the condition alone.



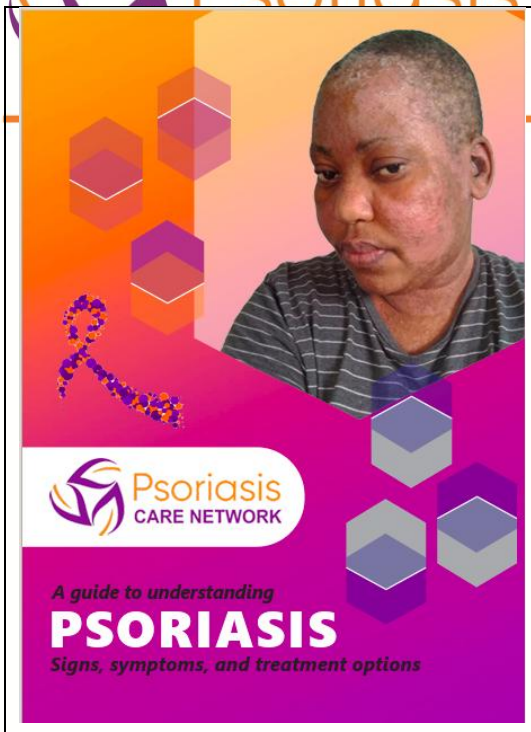




2.2. National World Psoriasis Day activities in Zambia

Zambia commemorated **World Psoriasis Day on 29 October 2026** with a **combined public awareness event and the official launch of the PCN**. The event took place at Bellevue Events, along Katima Mulilo Road in Lusaka, from 10:00 to 13:00.

As part of the commemoration, a solidarity and awareness march was organised from Manda Hill to Bellevue Events along one of Lusaka's busy public routes. The march provided an opportunity to increase public visibility of psoriasis, challenge misconceptions and stigma, and promote the inclusion and well-being of people living with the condition. The activities were held under the theme "**Look Beyond My Skin**," which highlights the importance of looking beyond the visible manifestations of psoriasis and recognising the experiences and needs of those affected**.**



2.3. Strengthening patient visibility and representation

PCN's awareness materials feature people living with psoriasis and call for greater public support, an important approach to strengthening patient visibility and representation in Zambia. The initiative aims to provide a platform for patients, caregivers, and advocates to share experiences, access information, and participate in advocacy and community engagement.

PCN has active social media platforms:

TikTok @psoriasis.care.ne

Psoriasis Care Network



2.4. Advocacy for equitable access to care

The Psoriasis Care Network identifies access to specialised medical care and treatment as an advocacy priority, while also highlighting the need for counselling, safe spaces, and community support.

These priorities align with the GPA's broader interest in understanding psoriasis healthcare provision, access to treatment, and inequalities in care across different settings.

3. Organizational development and community engagement

The launch of the Psoriasis Care Network (PCN) represents an important milestone in strengthening organized psoriasis advocacy and community engagement in Zambia. The initiative provides a structured platform for addressing the needs of people living with psoriasis and related psoriatic diseases through four key areas of activity:

- **Education and awareness**: Raising public awareness, dispelling myths and misconceptions, and addressing stigma and discrimination associated with psoriasis.
- **Patient support**: Promoting counselling, peer support, safe spaces, and community-based engagement to improve the social and emotional well-being of patients and their caregivers.
- **Treatment advocacy**: Advocating for equitable access to appropriate medical assessment, specialist dermatological services, and evidence-based treatment.
- **Community building and partnerships**: Establishing patient networks through online engagement and participation in international psoriasis advocacy platforms and forums, including initiatives associated with the International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) and the Global Psoriasis Atlas (GPA).

The Ministry of Health identified Chanda Chimpuku as the organization's Executive Director and provided contact details to facilitate engagement by individuals, healthcare professionals, and organizations interested in supporting the initiative.

This organizational development provides an important opportunity to establish stronger and more structured collaboration between the dermatology community, patient representatives, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders. It will also help ensure that the experiences, needs, and priorities of people living with psoriasis inform future advocacy efforts, community-based interventions, and national psoriasis care initiatives.

4. Relevance to the Global Psoriasis Atlas

The developments in Zambia are relevant to the GPA's work in understanding the global burden of psoriasis and improving the visibility of unmet needs.

GPA priority area	Emerging opportunity in Zambia
Patient engagement	Establish structured engagement with the Psoriasis Care Network and people living with psoriasis.
Healthcare access	Document patient-reported barriers to dermatology services, medicines, and long-term follow-up.
Awareness and stigma	Evaluate public knowledge, misconceptions, and the social impact of psoriasis.
Healthcare service mapping	Work with dermatology services to document available diagnostic, treatment, and referral pathways.
Research and evidence generation	Develop collaborations to identify gaps in epidemiological and health-services data.
Advocacy and policy	Use emerging evidence and patient experiences to inform national priorities for psoriasis care.

An important distinction is that the organizational and awareness developments described here are indicators of progress in advocacy and community mobilization, not measurements of psoriasis prevalence or national disease burden. These require separate epidemiological and health-services research.

5. Current challenges and gaps requiring attention

Despite these encouraging developments, several areas require further work.

5.1. Limited national epidemiological evidence

The materials reviewed do not provide a nationally representative estimate of psoriasis prevalence, incidence, severity, or distribution across Zambia. Establishing the magnitude of the condition remains an important research priority.

5.2. Access to diagnosis and treatment

Further assessment is needed to understand access to dermatologists, diagnostic services, topical treatments, phototherapy, systemic therapies, and biologic medicines where indicated. Availability, affordability, and geographic accessibility should be assessed rather than assumed.

5.3. Patient identification and representation

The development of a national patient network provides a starting point for engagement. However, further efforts are needed to ensure that people from rural communities, lower-income households, and underserved populations can participate in advocacy and research.

5.4. Psychosocial burden and stigma

Public education should address not only the visible skin manifestations of psoriasis but also its effects on psychological wellbeing, relationships, education, employment, and quality of life.

5.5. Integration of patient advocacy with research

A mechanism is needed to connect patient-reported experiences with clinical research, healthcare-service assessments, and national advocacy priorities while protecting confidentiality and obtaining appropriate consent.

The above gaps will be addressed by a research team that is being constituted. The board chair, Dr. Malan Malumani, and Dr. Benson M. Hamooya will serve as leads through a comprehensive multicentric epidemiological study, hopefully under the umbrella of Mulungushi University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

6. Priorities for the next reporting period

The following activities are proposed for the Zambia GPA /PCN coordination programme.

Priority 1: Document the World Psoriasis Day launch and yearly cerebrations of World Psoriasis Day. Record attendance, participating organizations, patient involvement, key messages, media reach, and commitments arising from the 29th October event and PCN launch.

Priority 2: Establish a patient–clinician collaboration framework

Develop a regular engagement mechanism between the Psoriasis Care Network, dermatologists via the Ministry of Health, and other relevant stakeholders, with clear roles and patient-centered priorities.

Priority 3: Assess the national psoriasis healthcare landscape

Explore the feasibility of documenting specialist services, treatment availability, referral pathways, and geographic inequalities in access to care, aligned with relevant GPA activities.

Priority 4: Develop a research and evidence-generation agenda

Identify opportunities for prevalence research, patient-reported outcome assessment, evaluation of stigma, and investigation of barriers to treatment. We shall heavily depend on GPA for support and guidance.

Priority 5: Strengthen partnerships

Explore collaboration with the Ministry of Health, universities, professional associations, patient organizations, GPA, IFPA, and international dermatology partners through various joint research activities and conference presentations at both local and international levels.

7. Suggested indicators for monitoring progress

To strengthen future GPA country reporting, Zambia could track the following indicators:

- Number of people participating in World Psoriasis Day activities.
- Number of patients and caregivers engaged through the Psoriasis Care Network.
- Number of public education and awareness activities conducted.
- Number of healthcare professionals and institutions participating in psoriasis initiatives.
- Availability of documented information on psoriasis services and treatments.
- Progress towards a national psoriasis research protocol or healthcare-access assessment.
- Patient-reported experiences of stigma, quality of life, and barriers to care.
- Major research activities carried out with subsequent publication and dissemination of findings.

Baseline values will be established before reporting numerical achievements. Targets can then be agreed with the relevant stakeholders.

8. Conclusion

Zambia is entering a promising new phase of psoriasis advocacy, marked by the launch of the Psoriasis Care Network (PCN) alongside the commemoration of World Psoriasis Day 2026. This initiative represents an important step towards amplifying the voices of people living with psoriasis, improving public understanding of the condition, reducing stigma, and establishing a stronger foundation for patient-centred advocacy and support.

From the perspective of the Global Psoriasis Atlas (GPA), the immediate priority is to build on this growing community momentum by strengthening partnerships among patients, dermatologists, researchers, healthcare professionals, and policymakers. The next phase will focus on translating increased awareness and community engagement into measurable improvements in patient participation, health-service information, research capacity, and equitable access to appropriate care and treatment.

Overall, Zambia has made encouraging progress in establishing a platform for psoriasis awareness, patient support, and advocacy. The launch of PCN and the commemoration of World Psoriasis Day in October 2026 represent important milestones. However, strengthening the evidence base through systematic epidemiological data collection and documented assessments of healthcare-service availability, affordability, and accessibility remains essential to informing national priorities and guiding future improvements in psoriasis care.

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