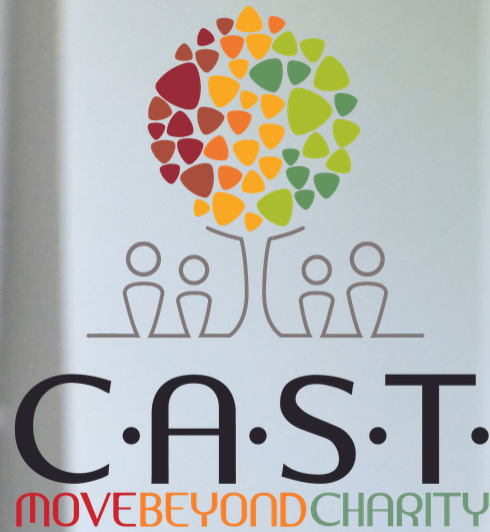


The Church Alliance for Social Transformation



Annual
Report
2025



CAST Leadership & Chairperson Report

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with deep gratitude for the faithfulness of God and the courage of the churches, leaders, and communities who continue on the journey towards bringing the Kingdom of God 'on earth as it is in heaven'.

This year, our guiding scripture came from the book of Isaiah 43:19:

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." These words became an invitation to both pray for- and pay attention to the new possibilities God is awakening among churches in the Durban area.

At CAST (the Church Alliance for Social Transformation), our vision remains to walk alongside churches to bring about the peace and justice of God in the world. In a time marked by uncertainty, inequality, and division, we have witnessed communities choosing hope, courage, and collaboration.

One of the great highlights of the year was the graduation of 24 leaders through our Just Leaders Course. These leaders committed themselves to deep learning and courageous conversations. We celebrate the growth, resilience, and prophetic imagination that emerged through this journey, and we look forward to seeing how these leaders continue to shape spaces of justice, compassion and faithful action within their churches and communities.

Another significant moment was our Ibandla Malivuke Conference, where 220 delegates gathered around the table to explore questions of inclusivity and diversity in the way of Jesus. The conference created a space for honest dialogue, listening, worship, and learning across difference. We were reminded again that the Church is strongest when it reflects the radical welcome and love of Christ.

Through our Masihambisane Programme, we had the privilege of journeying alongside 18 churches this year. These partnerships continue to remind us that transformation happens best through relationships, shared discernment, and communities willing to walk together through both challenge and possibility.

December 2025, marked a fond farewell to one of our dear team members, Godfrey Mokoena. Godfrey has been an invaluable church facilitator and MC extraordinaire at many of our CAST gatherings. With his trademark laugh and charisma he has left a gap in our hearts. We are, however, so excited for the new opportunities that have opened for him in Gauteng and our prayers are with him and his family in this new venture.

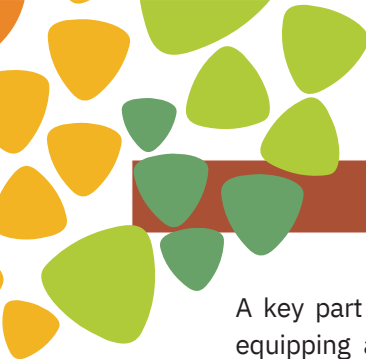
As Chairperson, I remain deeply encouraged by the commitment of our staff team, board members, volunteers, partner churches, and supporters. Thank you for your humility, faith and perseverance. We are grateful to be on this journey with each of you.

We believe God is indeed "doing a new thing." May we continue to perceive it, participate in it, and trust God to make pathways of hope where they once seemed impossible.

With gratitude and hope,

Chairperson Deb Austwick on behalf of The Strategic Leadership Team





Alliance-Building

A key part of our strategy is built around network or alliance building. This work is about supporting, equipping and activating a movement of Christians in partnering with Jesus in his work of “your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven”. There are two key projects which support this (Ibandla Malivuke and Imbizos) which work together with more informal relationship building which happens over the course of year.

Ibandla Malivuke (Let the Church Arise) is CAST’s annual two-day gathering where partners pause from their ministries and community work to connect. It is a time of refreshment for the weary, a chance to build friendships and partnerships, and an invitation for new people to join the work of peace and justice. This gathering is powerful because it gives participants the chance to wrestle with scripture themselves, connect it to real struggles like poverty and injustice, and be renewed for the work ahead. In 2025, 220 people attended IM from local churches, organisations and communities. Cumulatively, 618 people have attended Ibandla Malivuke since we relaunched this time of gathering in 2023.

A second space for alliance building in our calendar are our Imbizos. In 2025, we held 2 day-long imbizo. In the first one, which was coupled with our AGM, we heard from several speakers who have been involved in innovative community work and who spurred our imaginations for action. In the second, which was 6 weeks after Ibandla Malivuke, we continued our study of Luke and were wrestled with a well-known parable in that Gospel which challenged us about “which King” we were following in our missions and community work. Both times were a time of significant renewal and reenvisioning for our alliance and our work.

Some stories from our alliance building moments of 2025...

*One of the highlights of Ibandla Malivuke this year was having members of **CAST Kenya**, our sister organisation, make the journey from Nairobi to be part of the gathering. Joseph, Mercy, and Elsay embodied the conference theme of being “invited and included” from a foreign land, united by faith amongst fellow believers at the Table with Jesus. “It was inspiring,” Joseph shares, “and we explored several impactful projects while engaging deeply with the Scriptures.”*

Roger Dickinson, Founder of A Better Africa Foundation based in Johannesburg, served as one of our MCs at Ibandla Malivuke, and an integral part of our content planning committee. “I love being with fellow Christian activists who are looking at how we can really make the Bible real in our world,” he says. It was his hope for the unconventional style of seating and interaction at the conference to reposition the attendees as knowledge-bearers rather than simply receiving expertise from speakers, because “we all have the Spirit, and God wants to work through us as normal people...and hopefully people will see that there’s a new, different way of meeting that can go into our churches.” His personal ‘take away’ from the Contextual Bible Studies was a calling to “make some major transformations in [his] own life...and inspire other people to do that.”

*It was also a joy reconnecting with old friends at our alliance building times. **Pastor Sibusiso Mtakati** from KwaMashu attended both Ibandla Malivuke and our Imbizos this year following his participation in our Just Leaders course in 2024. It was wonderful to hear how he is taking his Just Leadership forward; In 2025, he trained further at the Southern African School of Reconciliation in Zimbabwe to become a facilitator for “Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations”. He is committed to serving the marginalised in his neighbourhood, and reflects on his transformed approach inspired by our discussions around Luke 19:11 at our last Imbizo of the year: “I am cautious of not becoming their ‘king’. They have one king which is Jesus Christ. [I], as their Pastor, am just connecting God’s people to Him.”*

The Journey with Churches

Masihambisane – “let’s journey together.” This idea sits at the heart of CAST’s work. We long to see God’s peace and justice alive in our neighbourhoods, and so we journey with churches as they discover, discern, and act on ways to make this real. Masihambisane is both our mission and the name of our flexible process which can be adapted to the needs and questions of a local church or Christian organisation.

The process generally starts with a time of envisioning (and vision alignment) rooted in scripture, followed by a process of community immersion and analysis to “listen to the world” and then a process of discernment, “listening to God and each other”, where community action is planned – and finally enacted. We then support churches through an action and reflection (praxis) process to continually move their work towards greater measures of peace and justice in their neighbourhoods.

In 2025, we journeyed closely with 13 churches from 5 denominations, across contexts ranging from cities and suburbs to townships and rural areas. A key output was the development and piloting of the Purple People toolkit.

Purple People is a discipleship journey that helps churches live out Jesus’ prayer: “Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Using sermons, contextual Bible studies, small groups, and prayer, it explores how God’s Kingdom values can shape everyday life in families, workplaces, churches, and neighbourhoods. The image of purple (where heaven’s pink meets earth’s blue) captures this vision of heaven and earth meeting in practical, transformative ways.

LifeSpring Community Church is one of our partner churches based in Waterfall led by Pastor Sandile and Abby Mkhwanazi. This diverse congregation sought to establish their church as a bridge between different communities, and a conduit for healing brokenness and restoring justice in their neighbourhood.

We first began our Masihambisane journey together with the leadership who then used the Purple People material within their Sunday morning services. This series provided language and theological groundings that helped the whole church to discern who they wanted to be in the world. They used the material in sermons, discussion groups, as well as play and creativity as mediums to illustrate what it means to be a “purple person” - or a Kingdom citizen.

Pastor Sandile shares that “Purple People was both empowering and uncomfortable for some of our community. The gospel was personal, emotions were touched, and we learned more about how the scriptures teach us to relate to each other.” The reflection and insight that arose through this journey has since led to an exciting development of the church’s vision, and we look forward to seeing how Jesus continues leading this vibrant congregation to experience shalom in their community!



- Engaged with **5** new churches
- Helped **4** churches clarify their vision for community work
- **6** churches piloted Purple People



Leadership





Leadership

If we want to see more of God's peace and justice in our world, our province and our neighbourhoods, then we believe that leaders are critical to this happening. At CAST, we call such leaders, Just Leaders; and in 2025 we moved into our third year of running a course to equip and journey alongside such leaders.

For us, a just leader is someone who can look carefully at the situation around them, understand it, and respond in a fair and good way – in other words with justice. This means they can see where people are hurting and where things are broken. They can also see where there is hope and new life. Then they guide others to face these problems and work towards something better. A just leader knows how to connect their faith to real-world problems, and has the tools to know how to respond.

In 2025, with 24 registered participants and 16 graduates (taking our cumulative graduates since year 1 to 47), the programme continued to have a profound impact on leaders from diverse communities, denominations and age groups; (15 communities represented; 10+ denominations; participant's ages ranged from 21-70). As one Just Leader put it, "This course covers context that is skipped over and not brought up in many Christian spaces and is an amazing opportunity to renew your mind."

Some stories from our Just Leader Alumni...

Raihaan Gordon was in the Just Leaders Class of 2024. A grade 11 pupil from Bechet High School, Raihaan was the youngest Just Leader of the year – and in fact the youngest participant ever to take place in Just Leaders. It was fantastic watching him grow and develop over the year and to witness the critical youth voice he brought to our discussions. At the JL graduation Raihaan noted, "this programme made me realise that we need to start small, because sometimes those are the things that make the biggest impact."

Then in 2025 Rai was able to use his Just Leaders skills in the real world when he was elected as Head Boy. Rai shared that: "Becoming Head Boy is a big leadership role in the school environment and I am overjoyed by this achievement. Thank you to ALL the Just Leaders, from our facilitators to ALL you guys for playing a role in my growth as a leader. I am deeply honoured and grateful for what God is doing in my life." Working alongside young leaders like Rai is critical for our South African future and we are so excited to see more young people actively working towards God's peace and justice in our world.

Another alumnus from our Class of 2024, **Mqondisi Ndlovu**, continues to use the theological tools and insights from the programme in shaping his leadership in children's ministry based in Umlazi, Durban.

"Since the Just Leaders Course my faith has grown, and I have been zealous about seeing and preserving the Shalom of God around in my context. As an organization we have [gathered] children from different churches to help teach them about the peace of God. The Contextual Bible Study skills that were taught to me during the course have been beneficial in ensuring that the kids understand the importance of preserving peace in the world. We facilitate this alongside teaching performing arts as a tool to worship God and as an alternative to unemployment in the younger generation."

Mqondisi and the young people in his organisation had the opportunity to showcase their talent and devotion to spreading the Gospel through their performance at our 2025 Ibandla Malivuke Conference, a joyful reminder of Jesus' teaching that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these children." (Matthew 19:14).

Leadership

We long to see God's peace and justice alive in the world. To reach this vision, we believe leaders from every part of life must be involved. The church is not only a building or a Sunday service, it is the whole body of Christ. We want leaders from this body to bring God's peace and justice wherever they are: in churches, businesses, families, schools, and communities. That is why CAST invests in just leadership: We support and develop leaders who are rooted in faith, committed to fairness, and ready to guide others toward justice & build communities that reflect God's love and bring lasting change.

Theology

Theology is careful thinking about God, faith, and the meaning of life in relation to God. For CAST, walking with churches toward God's peace and justice must be rooted in strong theology. That is why we partner with theologians, pastors, and practitioners to create resources that help churches ground their work in scripture and faith. This is more than study; it is the foundation for transformation. By shaping how churches think and act, theology becomes a tool for justice, guiding communities to resist harmful systems and live out God's peace in every part of life.

The Journey with Churches

At the centre of all we do towards our vision is our work with churches - or "Masihambisane" as we call it. Here we walk alongside churches who are interested in local mission, community transformation or seeing the peace and justice of God in the world around them. We use a learning, reflection and action process known as the "praxis cycle" in this work. Journeying with churches is not a quick fix but a long-term relationship.

Project Support

As churches move through the praxis cycle in our journey with them, they very often decide to respond to various injustices that are present in their community. For example, they may start a project to respond to hunger or quality education. Our offer is then to walk alongside them (and bring practical support and guidance) as they do this so that we can move closer and closer to the peace and justice of God within these projects.

Local Advocacy

As we move towards peace and justice within neighbourhoods, very often transformation requires more than just projects; we find that we need to influence and include those with power to act more justly. Here we support local church groups to develop advocacy strategies and coalitions to be able to do this.

C.A.S.T.
MOVEBEYONDCHARITY

C.A.S.T.
MOVEBEYONDCHARITY

Alliance-Building

CAST is the Church Alliance for social Transformation; it is an alliance of like-minded churches, individuals and faith-based organisations committed to seeing the good news of Jesus justice and peace at work in the world, reconciling and restoring all things. Our work is built around this idea of building and supporting a "movement" of people on this journey together - sharing with, learning from, encouraging and inspiring each other.



Project Support

As churches go through the Masihambane process of envisioning, immersing in the brokenness and pain of the community and discerning how to respond, a natural outcome is the decision to start initiatives to respond and bring Jesus' light and love to those areas. 2025 was a year of starting to see the first practical shoots of our work with churches in the form of the birth of a number of practical projects.

For any church, the process of designing a project takes them through a second "praxis cycle" - if for example, in the first phase of envisioning they identified hunger as a major community need that they were feeling called to respond to, the second round of praxis would take them through a process of really analysing and understanding what hunger looks like in their community and then a time of envisioning, through studying scripture (or what we call "prophetic imagination"), and discernment, to design a response which is rooted in peace and justice. Where technical expertise is required to support the project, our role as an alliance then allows us to connect them to other NGOs or service providers who offer this support.

Stories from the year:

Pastor Henry Mhlanga, the Pastor at Savannah Park Baptist Church has been journeying with CAST since 2022 through our emergency relief initiative to assist flood victims in the area with food, clothing, and other essential items.

In 2023, a number of young people from Pastor Henry's church took part in the Just Leader course and then in 2024 the church started the Masihambane process with us. In 2025 the church leadership (including some of the young Just Leaders) and congregation put their plans into action to establish a programme for addiction recovery offering support to those in need.

As a part of our envisioning (or "prophetic imagination") work, we sat in the story of the Exodus and considered what God's journey of liberation and freedom looked like for the Israelites being set free from Egypt. We let this shape our conversations and dreaming for what a process of liberation could look like for those recovering from addiction in Savannah Park.

Then, partnering with Project Exodus together with learning from other churches who've set up similar programmes and listening deeply to the lived experiences of youth in their neighbourhood, Pastor Henry and his team developed something truly exciting. This project is in its early days of start-up and so we'd love to invite you to join us in praying for them as they reach out into their neighbourhood.



Project Support





Theology

At CAST, theology is not only something we think about but something we do. We read the Bible and reflect on the role of the church with open eyes, asking hard questions and connecting it to real life. That is why every part of our work (whether through Masihambisane, Just Leaders, Ibandla Malivuke, or Imbizos) begins with theology. By creating space for partners to engage scripture critically and connect it to real life, we help faith become a source of healing and transformation rather than a tool that sustains harmful systems.

In 2025, we worked with pastors, theologians, activists, and community leaders to develop theological resources that partners can use in their work and ministries. The most significant outcome was four Bible studies from Luke's gospel, focused on Jesus sharing meals with different people, which were used at the 2025 Ibandla Malivuke gathering. These studies explored themes of invitation, inclusion, conversation, and disruption as pathways to transformation. To create them, a demographically diverse group of ten, (five CAST staff and five colleagues with background in theology and social development) met weekly for six months. Using Contextual Bible Study (CBS) tools (a method developed by the Ujamaa Centre at UKZN) we wrestled with scripture and asked how the world of the text speaks into our world today. This unique, deeply collaborative process, rooted in discussion and critical questioning, produced material that speaks directly to issues of poverty, injustice, and community life, giving our partners practical tools to themselves, grapple with scripture and in turn allow this to fuel change and renewal in their contexts.

2025 also saw the development of 2 additional contextual bible studies around the themes of addiction and food/hunger. These are invaluable in the work of prophetic imagination as church groups develop projects on these themes.

Stories from those involved in our theological work...

Zamalinda Xulu was part of our 2025 Ibandla Malivuke working group that created the Luke material for the gathering. Coming from 25 years of ministry and church leadership, she shared these reflections on the theological process we used to create the material: "The collaborative work of Ibandla Malivuke was not only fascinating but life-changing. To sit with like-minded people, share insights, and challenge each other was inspiring and transformative. The process opened my eyes to how easily we impose our own experiences on scripture. Learning to set aside those lenses and read the text anew—so we could see, judge, and act—was powerful. Through the CBS method we engaged both the mind and heart of Christ and the gospel, shaping a programme that allowed people to encounter the true intention of scripture in real time. I am grateful to have been part of this work and to see its power reaching communities in tangible ways. Gathering at the table with many leaders, as Jesus did, showed us how his example can shape our modern tables today."

Another place where theological material was used to shape thinking on action was in Savanna Park. Here, together with church leaders, we looked at the Exodus story to think about freedom from addiction and what liberation means. Mthobisi Mbutho of our 2023 Just Leaders, and a leader at the local church there commented, "Ayi I really learnt a lot. When I did the Bible Study, I got a chance to really notice and see how the false gods [of addiction] have been controlling me, and the people out here." He went on to share how reading scripture together has given him a fresh understanding of tackling the challenge of addiction in their area.



Theology



In summary, CAST remains in a sound and secure financial position. Income reduced by design as the organisation refocused away from running programmes toward building community capacity, and disciplined cost control matched it. The Trust delivered a **surplus of R317,376** for the year (2024: R289,586), grew reserves to **R6.32 million**, and carries almost no debt (liabilities of just R29,139).

1. Two years of strategic refocus

2025 marked the second year of a deliberate, multi-year repositioning for CAST. Over the past two years the organisation has steadily moved away from a project-based model, in which CAST designed and ran outreach programmes directly, towards a justice focused model that aligns, equips and empowers local churches to transform their own communities from within.

This shift is intentional and mission led. Rather than delivering programmes on behalf of communities, CAST is now investing in building lasting capacity inside the churches it journeys alongside, so that change is owned and sustained locally. As the sections below show, this strategy explains both the planned reduction in income and the matching reduction in costs over this period, while the underlying financial health of the Trust has continued to strengthen.

2. Income

Donation and fundraising income was R2.99 million, down from R3.78 million in 2024 (a reduction of 21%). This decline is largely the expected outcome of the refocused strategy: as CAST steps back from running standalone projects, the dedicated project funding attached to those programmes naturally reduces.

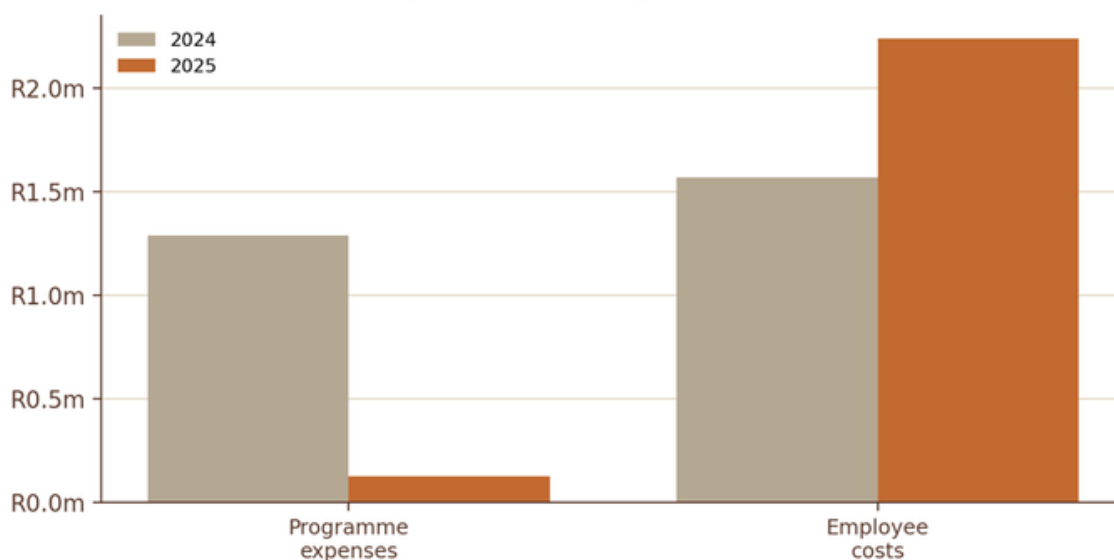
Encouragingly, core local support strengthened. Giving from Westville Baptist Church increased to R509,553 (2024: R373,275). The reduction was concentrated in project specific and certain foreign streams, including the conclusion of the long-standing Mission Hills Church partnership. Beyond donations, the Trust's investments contributed strongly: fair value gains of R815,399 (2024: R558,541) and investment income of R116,479 (2024: R86,532) from interest and dividends.

3. Expenses

Operating expenses fell to R3.60 million (2024: R4.14 million), a reduction of 13%. This was driven predominantly by the wind-down of programme expenses, which dropped by around 90%, from R1.29 million in 2024 to just R0.13 million in 2025, as CAST moved away from direct programme delivery.

At the same time, employee costs rose to R2.24 million (2024: R1.57 million). This is a deliberate, strategic investment: under the new model, CAST's people are how capacity is built within partner churches. In other words, spending has shifted from running programmes towards equipping and empowering people. This is exactly the change the strategy intends.

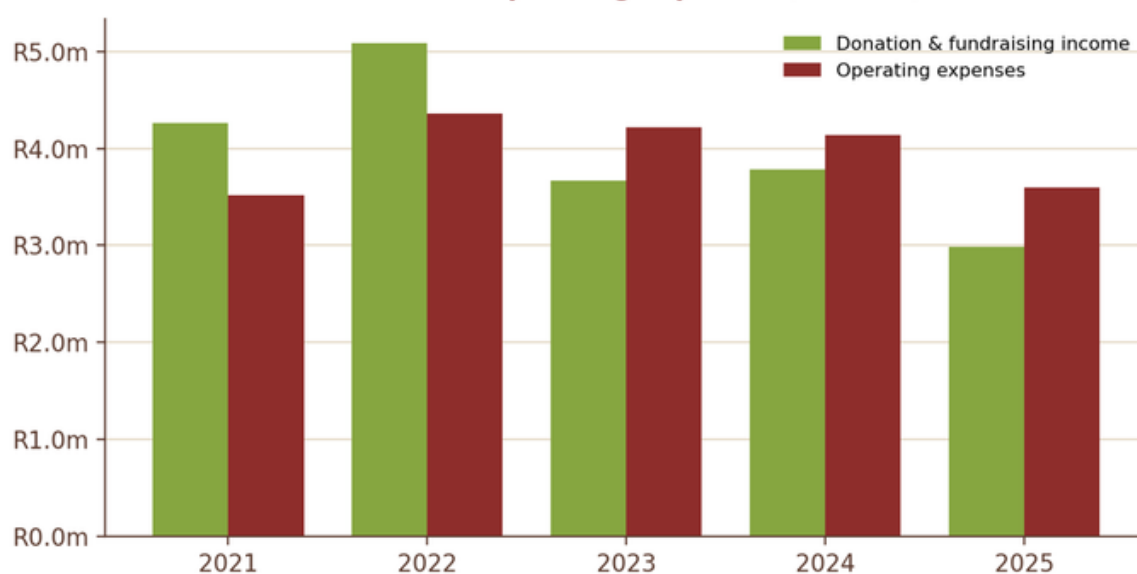
Strategic Refocus: Programmes vs People



4. Surplus for the year

Despite lower income, careful cost management delivered a surplus of **R317,376** for the year, which is higher than the R289,586 surplus in 2024. Strong expense discipline remains a hallmark of CAST's governance, and the Trust continued to operate within its means while reshaping its mission.

Income vs Operating Expenses (audited)



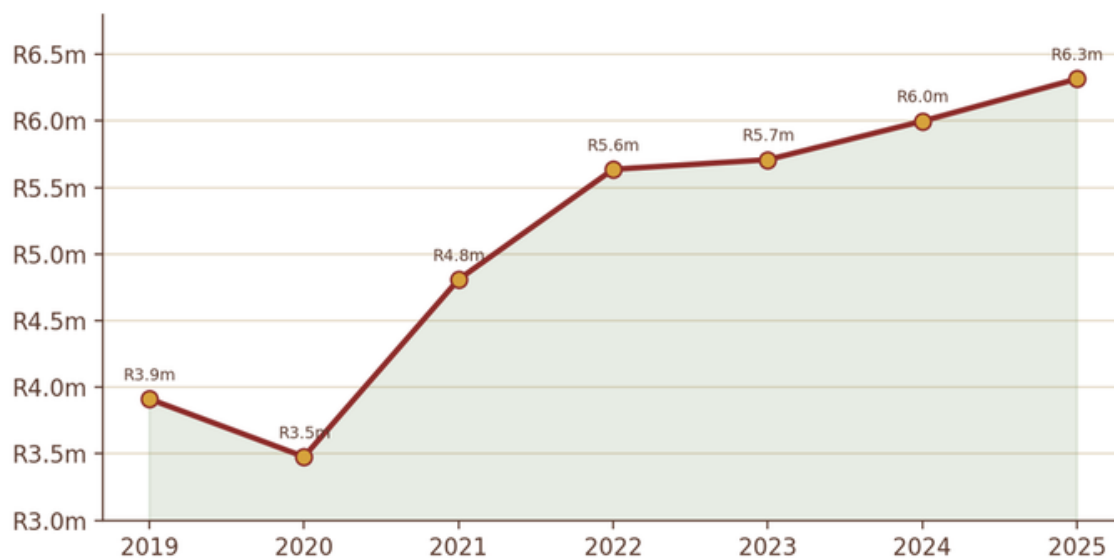
5. Financial position: sound and secure

The financial position of CAST is sound. Total assets stood at R6.35 million at year-end, against total liabilities of only R29,139, all of which are short-term and arise in the ordinary course of operations. The Trust has no borrowings.

Accumulated funds (reserves) grew to R6.32 million (2024: R6.00 million). These reserves represent roughly 1.75 years of operating expenditure, giving CAST a strong financial cushion and the freedom to pursue its refocused mission without short-term funding pressure. Current assets cover current liabilities many times over, confirming healthy liquidity.

Statement of Financial Position (R)	2025	2024
Investments	5,985,207	5,137,048
Property, plant & equipment	46,900	48,700
Trade & other receivables	33,964	62,133
Cash & cash equivalents	279,061	769,247
Total assets	6,345,132	6,017,128
Current liabilities	(29,139)	(18,511)
Net assets (accumulated funds)	6,315,993	5,998,617

Accumulated Funds (Reserves)



6. Investments

The Trust's investment portfolio grew to R5.99 million (2024: R5.14 million). This reflects both a deliberate transfer of R848,159 from cash into investments during the year and favourable market movements (fair value gains of R815,399). The funds are diversified across a range of balanced unit trusts (including Allan Gray, Coronation, Foord, Ninety One and Alexander Forbes funds), and the risk profile is reviewed regularly with Alexander Forbes.

7. Cash flow

Cash and cash equivalents reduced to R279,061 (2024: R769,247). This reduction is not a sign of operating strain. It is the result of a deliberate decision to move surplus cash into the investment portfolio, where it earns a better return. In fact, cash generated from operations improved markedly to a positive R357,973 (2024: an outflow of R103,238), reflecting the leaner cost base.

8. Conclusion and outlook

CAST enters the next financial year debt-free, well-reserved and financially stable. The reductions in income and expenditure during 2025 are the planned consequences of a thoughtful strategic shift, moving from delivering programmes to building lasting capacity for justice within local churches. The Trust's strong reserves and well-managed investments provide a secure foundation to sustain this mission for the foreseeable future.

Summary of results

Statement of Comprehensive Income (R)	2025	2024
Donation & fundraising income	2,985,940	3,781,991
Other income (investment fair value gains)	815,399	558,541
Operating expenses	(3,600,442)	(4,137,478)
Operating surplus	200,897	203,054
Investment revenue (interest & dividends)	116,479	86,532
Surplus for the year	317,376	289,586

Note: all figures are drawn from the trust's audited annual financial statements (Hodkinson Incorporated). The 2025 statements were issued on 23 May 2026; prior years are shown for comparison.

2025 MAJOR DONORS

The Trustees, Board, Staff and Clients of CAST wish to thank all our volunteers, donors and partners for every gift of time, resources and finances in 2025.



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The Church Alliance for Social Transformation (CAST) is a registered NPO (085-077 NPO) operating in 14 communities in KZN with the mission to align, equip and empower the local churches to transform their communities.

Board of Trustees: John Benn, Peter Clark, Patricia Sibanyoni **Board of Directors:** Debbie Austwick (Chairperson), Neville Dunn (Treasurer), Terri Clapperton, Candace Davidson-Moolman

Cover Photo: A candid moment of alliance-building at our Ibandla Malivuke Conference. Photo by: Darren Stewart