

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

March 2007

## (A) COST OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS FOR A FAMILY OF SIX IN LUSAKA

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	34,900	3 x 25 Kg bags	104,700
Beans	7,200	2 Kgs	14,400
Kapenta (Siavonga)	44,300	2 Kgs	88,600
Dry Fish	35,500	1 Kg	35,500
Meat (mixed cut)	15,200	4 Kgs	60,800
Eggs	5,200	2 Units	10,400
Vegetables (greens)	2,500	7.5 Kgs	18,750
Tomato	2,600	4 Kgs	10,400
Onion	2,500	4 Kgs	10,000
Milk (fresh)	8,500	1 x 2 litres	8,500
Cooking oil	14,600	2 x 2 litres	29,200
Bread	2,400	1 loaf/day	72,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	1,800	1 Kg	1,800
Tea (leaves)	8,900	1 x 500 g	8,900
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K509,950</b>

## (B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	60,500	2 x 90 Kg bags	121,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,200	10 tablets	12,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,500	4 x 400 g	10,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	5,600	1 x 500 ml	5,600
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K1,050,100</b>

**Total for Basic Needs Basket** **K1,560,050**

Totals from previous months	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07
Amount	1,408,050	1,408,700	1,421,850	1,379,650	1,376,300	1,421,650	1,450,250	1,422,950	1,436,400	1,442,350	1,541,050	1,543,650

## (C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K250,000 – K270,000	Chilenje-Town	K4,800
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K300,000 – K410,000	Chelston-Town	K5,400
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K70,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K4,200
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Petrol (per litre)	K5,943
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K5,183
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,124

**“Most people in the compounds don’t like going to government health centres for treatment. They would rather prescribe drugs for themselves and buy from a local drug store. They would only come to a clinic when the disease persists. Treating such cases is a challenge and it has led to drug resistance.” – Healthcare Provider in Garden**

## (D) SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF WAGES--"TAKE HOME PAY"

	Teacher	Nurse	Guard with Security Firm	Secretary in Civil Service	Average Monthly Income in Urban Low-Cost Area - CSO	Pieceworker on a Farm
Pay Slip	K672,000 to K1,193,000	K748,000 to K2,105,000	K250,000 to K750,000	K653,000 to K1,190,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007 by the Social Conditions Research Project of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Average prices were calculated on the basis of prices gathered from retail outlets at Northmead, Town Centre (Shoprite), City Market, Chawama, Chainta, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The March Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$361** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4325 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of March.

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