

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

January 2009

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

| Commodity | Kwacha | Quantity | Total |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|
| Mealie meal (breakfast) | 53,800 | 3 x 25 Kg bags | 161,400 |
| Beans | 11,400 | 2 Kgs | 22,800 |
| Kapenta (Siavonga) | 45,500 | 2 Kgs | 91,000 |
| Dry Fish | 70,000 | 1 Kg | 70,000 |
| Meat (mixed cut) | 17,400 | 4 Kgs | 69,600 |
| Eggs | 6,700 | 2 Units | 13,400 |
| Vegetables (greens) | 7,500 | 7.5 Kgs | 56,250 |
| Tomato | 4,200 | 4 Kgs | 16,800 |
| Onion | 4,400 | 4 Kgs | 17,600 |
| Milk (fresh) | 10,100 | 1 x 2 litres | 10,100 |
| Cooking oil | 30,000 | 2 x 2 litres | 60,000 |
| Bread | 3,800 | 1 loaf/day | 114,000 |
| Sugar | 5,100 | 8 Kgs | 40,800 |
| Salt | 2,200 | 1 Kg | 2,200 |
| Tea (leaves) | 15,600 | 1 x 500 g | 15,600 |
| Sub-total | | | K761, 550 |

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| Charcoal | 57,500 | 2 x 90 Kg bags | 115,000 |
| Soap (Lifebuoy) | 1,800 | 10 tablets | 18,000 |
| Wash soap (Boom) | 4,200 | 4 x 400 g | 16,800 |
| Jelly (e.g., Vaseline) | 8,100 | 1 x 500 ml | 8,100 |
| Electricity (medium density) | 53,000 | 300 units | 125,000 |
| Water & Sanitation (med - fixed) | 114,530 | | 114,530 |
| Housing (medium density) | 1,100,000 | | 1,100,000 |
| Sub-total | | | K1, 425,430 |

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K2, 186,980

| Totals from previous months | Jan 08 | Feb 08 | Mar 08 | Apr 08 | May 08 | Jun 08 | Jul | Aug 08 | Sep 08 | Oct 08 | Nov 08 | Dec 08 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Amount | 1,835,300 | 1,870,650 | 1,880,300 | 1,939,800 | 1,931,350 | 1,941,350 | 1,893,150 | 1,834,100 | 1,828,100 | 1,854,850 | 1,914,450 | 1,934,950 |

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

| Item | Kwacha | Item | Kwacha |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Education | | Transport (bus fare round trip): | |
| Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year) | K300,000 – K420,000 | Chilenje-Town | K5,600 |
| Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year) | K500,000 – K720,000 | Chelston-Town | K6,800 |
| School Uniform (grades 8-12) | K90,000 – K180,000 | Matero-Town | K5,000 |
| Health (clinic) | | Fuel (cost at the pump) | |
| 3 Month Scheme (per person) | K5, 000 | Petrol (per litre) | K5, 818 |
| No Scheme Emergency Fee | K5, 500 | Diesel (per litre) | K5, 417 |
| Mosquito Net (private) | K15, 000 – K20, 000 | Paraffin (per litre) | |

“The government should introduce Community Hammer Mills to address high mealie meal prices”... Kanyama resident

(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 | Piecoworker on a Farm |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Pay Slip | K1,145,300 to K1,631,600 | K1,121,000 to K2,624,000 | K300,000 to K750,000 | K915,000 to K1,480,000 | 645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005) | K3,000 to K15,000 per day |

This survey was conducted on 30th January 2009 by the Social Conditions Programme of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Average prices were calculated on the basis of prices gathered from retail outlets at Northmead, Shoprite (Kafue Road), City Market, Chawama, Chaidinda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The January Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$427 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 5121 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of January.

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