

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

December 2007

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	34,400	3 x 25 Kg bags	103,200
Beans	8,300	2 Kgs	16,600
Kapenta (Siavonga)	48,000	2 Kgs	96,000
Dry Fish	50,000	1 Kg	50,000
Meat (mixed cut)	16,600	4 Kgs	66,400
Eggs	5,300	2 Units	10,600
Vegetables (greens)	3,200	7.5 Kgs	24,000
Tomato	2,600	4 Kgs	10,400
Onion	2,300	4 Kgs	9,200
Milk (fresh)	9,100	1 x 2 litres	9,100
Cooking oil	17,400	2 x 2 litres	34,800
Bread	3,100	1 loaf/day	93,000
Sugar	4,400	8 Kgs	35,200
Salt	2,000	1 Kg	2,000
Tea (leaves)	9,000	1 x 500 g	9,000
Sub-total			K569,500

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	66,300	2 x 90 Kg bags	132,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,600	10 tablets	16,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,600	4 x 400 g	10,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,900	1 x 500 ml	6,900
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
Sub-total			K1,067,400

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1,636,900

Totals from previous months	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07
Amount	1,442,350	1,541,050	1,543,650	1,560,050	1,550,700	1,545,450	1,517,100	1,519,700	1,530,950	1,534,550	1,582,750	1,598,450

(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)	K7,207
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K6,064
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,250

“We normally have only two meals each day during the month except on weekends” – family in Kanyama

(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	K841,000 to K1,485,000	K936,000 to K2,624,000	K250,000 to K750,000	K817,000 to K1,480,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 29th to 31st December 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 December Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$427 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3835 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of December.

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