

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

December 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	61,000	3 x 25 Kg bags	183,000
Beans	11,900	2 Kgs	23,800
Kapenta (Siavonga)	42,300	2 Kgs	84,600
Dry Fish	42,500	1 Kg	42,500
Meat (mixed cut)	19,000	4 Kgs	76,000
Eggs	6,400	2 Units	12,800
Vegetables (greens)	7,500	7.5 Kgs	56,250
Tomato	4,900	4 Kgs	19,600
Onion	4,200	4 Kgs	16,800
Milk (fresh)	10,000	1 x 2 litres	10,000
Cooking oil	32,700	2 x 2 litres	65,400
Bread	3,600	1 loaf/day	108,000
Sugar	5,100	8 Kgs	40,800
Salt	2,300	1 Kg	2,300
Tea (leaves)	9,800	1 x 500 g	9,800
Sub-total			K751, 650

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	58,300	2 x 90 Kg bags	116,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	2,000	10 tablets	20,000
Wash soap (Boom)	3,700	4 x 400 g	14,800
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	7,500	1 x 500 ml	7,500
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
Sub-total			K1, 183,300

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1, 934,950

Totals from previous months	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08
Amount	1,636,900	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

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K252,000 – K380,000	Chilenje-Town	K5,800
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K465,000 – K600,000	Chelston-Town	K6,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K75,000 – 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	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 26th and 27th December 2008 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, Chainda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The December Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$396 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4887 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of December.

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, P.O. Box 37774, 10101 Lusaka, Zambia
 Tel: 260-211-290-410 Fax: 260-211-290-759 E-mail: socialjctr@jesuits.org.zm Internet: www.jctr.org.zm
 Location: Luwisha House, Plot 5880 Great East Road (opposite UNZA main gate), Lusaka