

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

March 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	41,500	3 x 25 Kg bags	124,500
Beans	11,600	2 Kgs	23,200
Kapenta (Siavonga)	62,300	2 Kgs	124,600
Dry Fish	60,000	1 Kg	60,000
Meat (mixed cut)	17,000	4 Kgs	68,000
Eggs	5,500	2 Units	11,000
Vegetables (greens)	4,400	7.5 Kgs	33,000
Tomato	3,600	4 Kgs	14,400
Onion	3,400	4 Kgs	13,600
Milk (fresh)	9,900	1 x 2 litres	9,900
Cooking oil	26,900	2 x 2 litres	53,800
Bread	3,400	1 loaf/day	102,000
Sugar	4,400	8 Kgs	35,200
Salt	2,000	1 Kg	2,000
Tea (leaves)	8,500	1 x 500 g	8,500
Sub-total			K683,700

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	68,800	2 x 90 Kg bags	137,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,600	10 tablets	16,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,900	4 x 400 g	11,600
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	7,000	1 x 500 ml	7,000
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
Sub-total			K1,196,600

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1,880,300

Totals from previous months	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08
Amount	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	1,636,900	1,835,300	1,870,650

(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	K5,200
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K465,000 – K600,000	Chelston-Town	K5,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K75,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K4,600
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

(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 31 March 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 March Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$508 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3700 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of March.

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