

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

March 2009

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	64,000	3 x 25 Kg bags	192,000
Beans	13,900	2 Kgs	27,800
Kapenta (Siavonga)	43,100	2 Kgs	86,200
Dry Fish	70,000	1 Kg	70,000
Meat (mixed cut)	18,300	4 Kgs	73,200
Eggs	6,800	2 Units	13,600
Vegetables (greens)	4,200	7.5 Kgs	31,500
Tomato	4,700	4 Kgs	18,800
Onion	5,000	4 Kgs	20,000
Milk (fresh)	10,500	1 x 2 litres	10,500
Cooking oil	29,200	2 x 2 litres	58,400
Bread	3,700	1 loaf/day	111,000
Sugar	5,100	8 Kgs	40,800
Salt	2,300	1 Kg	2,300
Tea (leaves)	10,400	1 x 500 g	10,400
Sub-total			K766, 500

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	67,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	134,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	2,100	10 tablets	21,000
Wash soap (Boom)	4,100	4 x 400 g	16,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	8,500	1 x 500 ml	8,500
Electricity (medium density)	53,000	300 units	53,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	114,530		114,530
Housing (medium density)	1,100,000		1,100,000
Sub-total			K1, 447,430

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K2, 213,930

Totals from previous months	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09	Feb 08
Amount	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	2,186,980	2,199,880

(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 29th & 30th March 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 (Katue Road), and City Market, Chawama, Chaidna, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The March Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$398 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 5563 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of March.

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