

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

May 2009

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	62,500	3 x 25 Kg bags	187,500
Beans	11,600	2 Kgs	23,200
Kapenta (Siavonga)	47,800	2 Kgs	95,600
Dry Fish	40,000	1 Kg	40,000
Meat (mixed cut)	19,500	4 Kgs	78,000
Eggs	8,500	2 Units	17,000
Vegetables (greens)	7,500	7.5 Kgs	56,250
Tomato	10,500	4 Kgs	42,000
Onion	10,200	4 Kgs	40,800
Milk (fresh)	10,500	1 x 2 litres	10,500
Cooking oil	29,100	2 x 2 litres	58,200
Bread	3,600	1 loaf/day	108,000
Sugar	5,800	8 Kgs	46,400
Salt	2,000	1 Kg	2,000
Tea (leaves)	10,400	1 x 500 g	10,400
Sub-total			K815, 850

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	55,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	110,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	2,100	10 tablets	21,000
Wash soap (Boom)	4,200	4 x 400 g	16,800
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	9,100	1 x 500 ml	9,100
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, 424,430

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K2, 240,280

Totals from previous months	May 08	Jun 08	Jul	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09	Feb 09	Mar 09	Apr 09
Amount	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	2,213,930	2,219,230

(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 seriously address the high mealie meal prices ... our children are starving”-
Garden Compound 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 31st May/ 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, Chainta, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The May/ Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$431 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 5195 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of May.

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