

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

November 2006

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	32,900	3 x 25 Kg bags	98,700
Beans	6,000	2 Kgs	12,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	30,000	2 Kgs	60,000
Dry Fish	43,300	1 Kg	43,300
Meat (mixed cut)	15,100	4 Kgs	60,400
Eggs	4,900	2 Units	9,800
Vegetables (greens)	1,800	7.5 Kgs	13,500
Tomato	2,300	4 Kgs	9,200
Onion	2,500	4 Kgs	10,000
Milk (fresh)	7,900	1 x 2 litres	7,900
Cooking oil	12,900	2 x 2 litres	25,800
Bread	2,400	1 loaf/day	72,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	1,900	1 Kg	1,900
Tea (leaves)	9,700	1 x 500 g	9,700
Sub-total			K470,200

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	43,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	86,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,300	10 tablets	13,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,500	4 x 400 g	10,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	5,700	1 x 500 ml	5,700
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	650,000		650,000
Sub-total			K966,200

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1,436,400

Totals from previous months	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	June 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06
Amount	1,345,550	1,368,700	1,415,650	1,413,150	1,408,050	1,408,700	1,421,850	1,379,650	1,376,300	1,421,650	1,450,250	1,422,950

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education (PTA/user fee per year)		Health (clinic / hospital fee)	
Upper Basic (grades 8-9)	K220,000-K350,000	Monthly Scheme (per person)	K1,500
Secondary (grades 10-12)	K220,000-K380,000	No Scheme Emergency Fee	K8,000
Transport (bus fare round trip):		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
Chilenje-Town	K3,800	Petrol (per litre)	K5,130
Chelston-Town	K4,400	Diesel (per litre)	K4,805
Matero-Town	K3,600	Paraffin (per litre)	K3,738

“Ndalama zinativuta mwezi wasila, so nakudya kunali kowayawayaya” – Woman in Mandevu

(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	Pieceworker on a Farm
Pay Slip	K672,000 to K1,193,000	K748,000 to K2,105,000	K250,000 to K750,000	K653,000 to K1,190,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 28th to 29th November 2006 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 November Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$360 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3995 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of November.

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