

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

February 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	41,000	3 x 25 Kg bags	123,000
Beans	12,000	2 Kgs	24,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	57,800	2 Kgs	115,600
Dry Fish	50,200	1 Kg	50,200
Meat (mixed cut)	16,700	4 Kgs	66,800
Eggs	5,200	2 Units	10,400
Vegetables (greens)	3,900	7.5 Kgs	29,250
Tomato	4,400	4 Kgs	17,600
Onion	5,100	4 Kgs	20,400
Milk (fresh)	10,400	1 x 2 litres	10,400
Cooking oil	23,000	2 x 2 litres	46,000
Bread	3,200	1 loaf/day	96,000
Sugar	4,400	8 Kgs	35,200
Salt	2,000	1 Kg	2,000
Tea (leaves)	7,900	1 x 500 g	7,900
Sub-total			K654,750

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	78,800	2 x 90 Kg bags	157,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,600	10 tablets	16,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,800	4 x 400 g	11,200
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,700	1 x 500 ml	6,700
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
Sub-total			K1,215,900

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1,870,650

Totals from previous months	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08
Amount	1,543,650	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

(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 27th to 29th February 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, Town Centre (Shoprite), City Market, Chawama, Chainda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The February Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$498** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3760 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of February.

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