

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

May 2007

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	35,000	3 x 25 Kg bags	105,000
Beans	7,200	2 Kgs	14,400
Kapenta (Siavonga)	43,500	2 Kgs	87,000
Dry Fish	34,100	1 Kg	34,100
Meat (mixed cut)	16,200	4 Kgs	64,800
Eggs	5,500	2 Units	11,000
Vegetables (greens)	2,700	7.5 Kgs	20,250
Tomato	2,300	4 Kgs	9,200
Onion	2,100	4 Kgs	8,400
Milk (fresh)	7,900	1 x 2 litres	7,900
Cooking oil	15,300	2 x 2 litres	30,600
Bread	2,400	1 loaf/day	72,000
Sugar	4,400	8 Kgs	35,200
Salt	1,900	1 Kg	1,900
Tea (leaves)	9,900	1 x 500 g	9,900
Sub-total			K511,650

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	51,300	2 x 90 Kg bags	102,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,300	10 tablets	13,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,600	4 x 400 g	10,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,300	1 x 500 ml	6,300
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
Sub-total			K1,033,800

Total for Basic Needs Basket

K1,545,450

Totals from previous months	May 06	Jun 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07
Amount	1,421,850	1,379,650	1,376,300	1,421,650	1,450,250	1,422,950	1,436,400	1,442,350	1,541,050	1,543,650	1,560,050	1,550,700

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K250,000 – K270,000	Chilenje-Town	K4,800
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K300,000 – K410,000	Chelston-Town	K5,400
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K70,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K4,200
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Petrol (per litre)	K6,742
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K5,513
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,319

“Ndalama zoika pamwamba pobweza loan zinkala zambili, zichita monga nikaloba”—

Lusaka market trader

(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	-	-	K250,000 to K750,000	-	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 28th to 30th May 2007 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 May Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$377** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4100 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of May.

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, P.O. Box 37774, 10101 Lusaka, Zambia

Tel: 260-1-290-410 Fax: 260-1-290-759 E-mail: socialjctr@jesuits.org.zm Internet: www.jctr.org.zm

Location: Luwisha House, Plot 5880 Great East Road (opposite UNZA main gate), Lusaka