

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

September 2007

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	35,500	3 x 25 Kg bags	106,500
Beans	7,000	2 Kgs	14,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	42,000	2 Kgs	84,000
Dry Fish	32,900	1 Kg	32,900
Meat (mixed cut)	16,000	4 Kgs	64,000
Eggs	5,100	2 Units	10,200
Vegetables (greens)	2,300	7.5 Kgs	17,250
Tomato	2,700	4 Kgs	10,800
Onion	2,200	4 Kgs	8,800
Milk (fresh)	8,400	1 x 2 litres	8,400
Cooking oil	15,900	2 x 2 litres	31,800
Bread	2,500	1 loaf/day	75,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	1,900	1 Kg	1,900
Tea (leaves)	9,500	1 x 500 g	9,500
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K511,050</b>

## (B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	46,200	2 x 90 Kg bags	92,400
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,300	10 tablets	13,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,500	4 x 400 g	10,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,600	1 x 500 ml	6,600
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K1,023,500</b>

Total for Basic Needs Basket

**K1,534,550**

Totals from previous months	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07
Amount	1,450,250	1,422,950	1,436,400	1,442,350	1,541,050	1,543,650	1,560,050	1,550,700	1,545,450	1,517,100	1,519,700	1,530,950

## (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)	K7207
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K6064
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4250

“Nimapepeta milisi ku maindustry, penango kupitilila 10 bags,  
koma ndalama yamene banipatsa n’gono, 5 pin” – Woman from Chibolya Compound

## (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 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 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 September Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$384** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4000 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of September.

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