

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

August 2007

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	34,900	3 x 25 Kg bags	104,700
Beans	7,200	2 Kgs	14,400
Kapenta (Siavonga)	43,500	2 Kgs	87,000
Dry Fish	26,700	1 Kg	26,700
Meat (mixed cut)	16,000	4 Kgs	64,000
Eggs	5,300	2 Units	10,600
Vegetables (greens)	2,100	7.5 Kgs	15,750
Tomato	2,500	4 Kgs	10,000
Onion	2,500	4 Kgs	10,000
Milk (fresh)	8,400	1 x 2 litres	8,400
Cooking oil	16,500	2 x 2 litres	33,000
Bread	2,500	1 loaf/day	75,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	1,800	1 Kg	1,800
Tea (leaves)	9,600	1 x 500 g	9,600
Sub-total			K506,950

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	46,300	2 x 90 Kg bags	92,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,300	10 tablets	13,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,600	4 x 400 g	10,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,500	1 x 500 ml	6,500
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
Sub-total			K1,024,000
Total for Basic Needs Basket			K1,530,950

Totals from previous months	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07
Amount	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	1,545,450	1,517,100	1,519,700

(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

“The government should consider improving the quality of health delivery to the public” – Woman in Matero

(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 25th to 30th August 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 August Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$373** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4100 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of August.

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