

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

January 2007

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	34,300	3 x 25 Kg bags	102,900
Beans	7,500	2 Kgs	15,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	45,000	2 Kgs	90,000
Dry Fish	34,200	1 Kg	34,200
Meat (mixed cut)	14,500	4 Kgs	58,000
Eggs	5,100	2 Units	10,200
Vegetables (greens)	2,700	7.5 Kgs	20,250
Tomato	2,400	4 Kgs	9,600
Onion	2,400	4 Kgs	9,600
Milk (fresh)	8,300	1 x 2 litres	8,300
Cooking oil	14,900	2 x 2 litres	29,800
Bread	2,400	1 loaf/day	72,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	1,600	1 Kg	1,600
Tea (leaves)	8,800	1 x 500 g	8,800
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K506,250</b>

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

Charcoal	53,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	106,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,200	10 tablets	12,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,500	4 x 400 g	10,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	5,300	1 x 500 ml	5,300
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>K1,034,800</b>

Total for Basic Needs Basket

**K1,541,050**

Totals from previous months	Jan 06	Feb 05	Mar 06	Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sep 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06
Amount	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	1,436,400	1,442,350

## (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)	K6,123
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K5,379
Malaria Slide	K500	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,277
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000		

“Mvula na kukwela kwa mafuta kwalenga kukwela kwa zinthu” – Charcoal Trader 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	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 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 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 January Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$363** based upon an average middle exchange rate of **4245** Kwacha per US\$ at the end of January.

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