

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

March 2012

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie Meal (breakfast)	40,100	2x25 Kg bags	80,200
Beans	10,800	3 Kgs	32,400
Kapenta (Siavonga)	92,700	2 Kgs	185,000
Dry Fish	48,300	1 Kg	48,300
Meat (mixed cut)	26,300	4 Kgs	105,200
Eggs	7,000	2 Units	14,000
Vegetables (greens)	4,800	4 Kgs	19,200
Tomato	6,500	4 Kgs	26,000
Onion	6,000	2 Kgs	12,000
Milk (fresh)	15,300	1 x 2 litres	15,300
Cooking oil	33,400	3 litres	40,080
Bread	4,600	1 loaf/day	138,000
Sugar	13,500	6 Kgs	40,500
Salt	3,100	1 Kg	3,100
Tea (leaves)	40,300	1 kg	40,300
Sub-total			K799, 980

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	120,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	240,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	2,800	10 tablets	28,000
Wash soap (Boom)	4,400	4 x 400 g	17,800
Jelly	10,100	1 x 500 ml	10,100
Electricity (medium - fixed)	130,000		130,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	210,000		210,000
Housing (3 bedroom)	1,500,000		1,500,000
Sub-total			K2, 135,700

Total for Basic Needs Basket **K2, 935,680**

**Note that the cost of housing has not been adjusted because research and consultations are still ongoing*

Totals from previous months	Mar 11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11	Jan 12	Feb 12
Amount	K3,008,800	K3,003,550	K2,917,350	K2,928,750	K2,922,800	K2,922,950	K2,915,200	K2,917,150	K2,904,550	K2,904,150	K2,968,280	K2,996,120

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User + PTA/year)	K400, 000 – K600, 000	Chilenje-Town	K7, 200
Grades 10-12 (User + PTA/year)	K650, 000 – K1,000,000	Chelston -Town	K7, 800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K100, 000 – K200, 000	Matero-Town	K7, 000
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
Registration (book)	K3, 000 - K5, 000	Petrol (per litre)	K8, 155
Self referral (Emergency Fee)	K 5, 500	Diesel (per litre)	K7, 566
Mosquito Net (private)	K30, 000 – K120, 000	Paraffin (per litre)	K5, 154

(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	K1,300,300 to K2,200,600	K1,300,000 to K3,450,000	K250,000 to K850,000	K1,390,500 to K1,900,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K5,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 26th March, 2012 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, Shoprite (Cairo Road), and City Market, Chawama, Chainta, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The March Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$559 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 5250 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of March.