

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

August 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	48,300	3 x 25 Kg bags	144,900
Beans	9,700	2 Kgs	19,400
Kapenta (Siavonga)	50,800	2 Kgs	101,600
Dry Fish	60,800	1 Kg	60,800
Meat (mixed cut)	16,400	4 Kgs	65,600
Eggs	5,600	2 Units	11,200
Vegetables (greens)	2,000	7.5 Kgs	15,000
Tomato	4,000	4 Kgs	16,000
Onion	5,200	4 Kgs	20,000
Milk (fresh)	9,400	1 x 2 litres	9,400
Cooking oil	24,700	2 x 2 litres	49,400
Bread	3,400	1 loaf/day	102,000
Sugar	5,300	8 Kgs	42,400
Salt	1,200	1 Kg	1,200
Tea (leaves)	5,000	1 x 500 g	5,000
Sub-total			K664, 700

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	53,800	2 x 90 Kg bags	107,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,800	10 tablets	18,000
Wash soap (Boom)	3,200	4 x 400 g	12,800
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,600	1 x 500 ml	6,600
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
Sub-total			K1, 169,400
Total for Basic Needs Basket			K1, 834,100

Totals from previous months	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul
Amount	1,530,950	1,534,550	1,582,750	1,598,450	1,636,900	1,835,300	1,870,650	1,880,300	1,939,800	1,931,350	1,941,350	1,893,150

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K252,000 – K380,000	Chilenje-Town	K5,800
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K465,000 – K600,000	Chelston-Town	K6,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K75,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K5,000
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Petrol (per litre)	K9,496
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K8,387
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K6,027

(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

Please note that the above comparative figures of wages will soon be updated in light of the revised Pay As You Earn (PAYE).

This survey was conducted on 26th to 27th August 2008 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 (Kafue Road), City Market, Chawama, Chainta, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The August Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$522 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3515 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of August.

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