

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

October 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	54,400	3 x 25 Kg bags	163,200
Beans	10,800	2 Kgs	21,600
Kapenta (Siavonga)	38,300	2 Kgs	76,600
Dry Fish	44,000	1 Kg	44,000
Meat (mixed cut)	16,600	4 Kgs	66,400
Eggs	5,600	2 Units	11,200
Vegetables (greens)	5,300	7.5 Kgs	39,750
Tomato	5,500	4 Kgs	22,000
Onion	4,400	4 Kgs	17,600
Milk (fresh)	9,800	1 x 2 litres	9,800
Cooking oil	29,800	2 x 2 litres	59,600
Bread	3,400	1 loaf/day	102,000
Sugar	5,100	8 Kgs	40,800
Salt	1,700	1 Kg	1,700
Tea (leaves)	10,100	1 x 500 g	10,100
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K686, 350</b>

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

Charcoal	55,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	110,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,400	10 tablets	14,000
Wash soap (Boom)	3,200	4 x 400 g	12,800
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	7,300	1 x 500 ml	7,300
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K1, 168,500</b>

**Total for Basic Needs Basket K1, 854,850**

Totals from previous months	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul	Aug 08	Sep 08
Amount	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	1,834,100	1,828,100

## (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)	K7,699
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K7,262
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,995

## (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 be updated in light of the revised Pay As You Earn (PAYE).

This survey was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 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, Chainda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The October Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$396** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4685 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of October.

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, P.O. Box 37774, 10101 Lusaka, Zambia

Tel: 260-211-290-410 Fax: 260-211-290-759 E-mail: [socialjctr@jesuits.org.zm](mailto:socialjctr@jesuits.org.zm) Internet: [www.jctr.org.zm](http://www.jctr.org.zm)

Location: Luwisha House, Plot 5880 Great East Road (opposite UNZA main gate), Lusaka