

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

May 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	44,900	3 x 25 Kg bags	134,700
Beans	12,500	2 Kgs	25,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	66,700	2 Kgs	133,400
Dry Fish	53,400	1 Kg	53,400
Meat (mixed cut)	17,900	4 Kgs	71,600
Eggs	5,600	2 Units	11,200
Vegetables (greens)	3,500	7.5 Kgs	26,250
Tomato	4,400	4 Kgs	17,600
Onion	5,200	4 Kgs	20,800
Milk (fresh)	10,100	1 x 2 litres	10,100
Cooking oil	25,800	2 x 2 litres	51,600
Bread	3,500	1 loaf/day	105,000
Sugar	8,300	8 Kgs	66,400
Salt	1,900	1 Kg	1,900
Tea (leaves)	10,500	1 x 500 g	10,500
Sub-total			K739,450

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	66,300	2 x 90 Kg bags	132,600
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,600	10 tablets	16,000
Wash soap (Boom)	3,000	4 x 400 g	12,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,900	1 x 500 ml	6,900
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
Sub-total			K1,191,900

Total for Basic Needs Basket **K1,931,350**

Totals from previous months	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08
Amount	1,545,450	1,517,100	1,519,700	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

(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	K5,200
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K465,000 – K600,000	Chelston-Town	K5,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K75,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K4,600
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Petrol (per litre)	K7,725
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K6,453
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,714

(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 29th and 30th May 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, Chinda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The May Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$570 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3390 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of May.

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