

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

November 2007

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	34,700	3 x 25 Kg bags	104,100
Beans	7,700	2 Kgs	15,400
Kapenta (Siavonga)	42,800	2 Kgs	85,600
Dry Fish	40,000	1 Kg	40,000
Meat (mixed cut)	16,800	4 Kgs	67,200
Eggs	5,100	2 Units	10,200
Vegetables (greens)	3,300	7.5 Kgs	24,750
Tomato	3,000	4 Kgs	12,000
Onion	2,700	4 Kgs	10,800
Milk (fresh)	9,400	1 x 2 litres	9,400
Cooking oil	16,700	2 x 2 litres	33,400
Bread	2,900	1 loaf/day	87,000
Sugar	4,700	8 Kgs	37,600
Salt	2,000	1 Kg	2,000
Tea (leaves)	10,700	1 x 500 g	10,700
Sub-total			K550,150

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	57,500	2 x 90 Kg bags	115,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,500	10 tablets	15,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,600	4 x 400 g	10,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,400	1 x 500 ml	6,400
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	88,500		88,500
Housing (medium density)	700,000		700,000
Sub-total			K1,048,300

Total for Basic Needs Basket K1,598,450

Totals from previous months	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07
Amount	1,436,400	1,442,350	1,541,050	1,543,650	1,560,050	1,550,700	1,545,450	1,517,100	1,519,700	1,530,950	1,534,550	1,582,750

(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)	K7,207
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	Diesel (per litre)	K6,064
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 – K20,000	Paraffin (per litre)	K4,250

“It is unfortunate that Cholera outbreaks affect the nation year after year. The Government should find a lasting solution to this problem. Safe water supply should not be left to NGOs alone.” – Trader in Chawama

(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	Pieceworker 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

This survey was conducted on 23rd to 24th November 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 November Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$421** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3800 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of November.

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 Internet: www.jctr.org.zm
 Location: Luwisha House, Plot 5880 Great East Road (opposite UNZA main gate), Lusaka