

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

May 2006

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	38,700	3 x 25 Kg bags	116,100
Beans	6,300	2 Kgs	12,600
Kapenta (Siavonga)	36,700	2 Kgs	73,400
Dry Fish	49,000	1 Kg	49,000
Meat (mixed cut)	13,400	4 Kgs	53,600
Eggs	4,800	2 Units	9,600
Vegetables (greens)	1,700	7.5 Kgs	12,750
Tomato	3,400	4 Kgs	13,600
Onion	3,500	4 Kgs	14,000
Milk (fresh)	9,300	1 x 2 litres	9,300
Cooking oil	14,400	2 x 2 litres	28,800
Bread	2,400	1 loaf/day	72,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	2,100	1 Kg	2,100
Tea (leaves)	8,700	1 x 500 g	8,700
Sub-total			K511,550

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	43,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	86,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,200	10 tablets	12,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,500	4 x 400 g	10,000
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	5,300	1 x 500 ml	5,300
Electricity (medium density)	113,000		113,000
Water (medium density)	34,000		34,000
Housing (medium density)	650,000		650,000
Sub-total			K910,300

Total for Basic Needs Basket **K1,421,850**

Totals from previous months	May 05	Jun 05	July 05	Aug 05	Sept 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06	Apr 06
Amount	1,352,130	1,349,650	1,361,770	1,358,990	1,353,790	1,348,860	1,345,550	1,368,700	1,415,650	1,413,150	1,408,050	1,408,700

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education (PTA/user fee per year)		Health (clinic / hospital fee)	
Upper Basic (grades 8-9)	K220,000-K350,000	Monthly Scheme (per person)	K1,500
Secondary (grades 10-12)	K220,000-K380,000	No Scheme Emergency Fee	K8,000
Transport (bus fare round trip):		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
Chilenje-Town	K3,800	Petrol (per litre)	K5,450
Chelston-Town	K4,400	Diesel (per litre)	K4,667
Matero-Town	K3,600	Paraffin (per litre)	K3,653

“Nchito yo pwanya myala ni yobvuta. Penango myezi ibili imapita osagulisapo” – Woman in Kalingalinga

(D) SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF WAGES--"TAKE HOME PAY"

	Teacher	Nurse	Guard with Security Firm	Secretary in Civil Service	Police Officer (Constable-Chief Inspector)	Piecoworker on a Farm
Pay Slip	K407,000 to K913,000	K577,000 to K1,861,000	K120,000 to K715,000	K493,000 to K989,000	K375,000 to K679,000	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 29th – 31st May 2006 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, Chanda, Kabwata, Materso and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The May Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$410 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3,470 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of May.

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