

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

February 2009

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	60,000	3 x 25 Kg bags	180,000
Beans	7,900	2 Kgs	15,800
Kapenta (Siavonga)	45,500	2 Kgs	91,000
Dry Fish	80,000	1 Kg	80,000
Meat (mixed cut)	17,400	4 Kgs	69,600
Eggs	6,700	2 Units	13,400
Vegetables (greens)	7,500	7.5 Kgs	56,250
Tomato	5,200	4 Kgs	20,800
Onion	4,400	4 Kgs	17,600
Milk (fresh)	10,000	1 x 2 litres	10,000
Cooking oil	28,400	2 x 2 litres	56,800
Bread	3,700	1 loaf/day	111,000
Sugar	5,000	8 Kgs	40,000
Salt	2,000	1 Kg	2,000
Tea (leaves)	10,000	1 x 500 g	10,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K774, 250</b>

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

Charcoal	57,500	2 x 90 Kg bags	115,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,800	10 tablets	18,000
Wash soap (Boom)	4,100	4 x 400 g	16,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	8,700	1 x 500 ml	8,700
Electricity (medium density)	53,000	300 units	53,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	114,530		114,530
Housing (medium density)	1,100,000		1,100,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K1, 425,630</b>

**Total for Basic Needs Basket K2, 199,880**

Totals from previous months	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09
Amount	1,870,650	1,880,300	1,939,800	1,931,350	1,941,350	1,893,150	1,834,100	1,828,100	1,854,850	1,914,450	1,934,950	2,186,980

## (C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K300,000 – K420,000	Chilenje-Town	K5,600
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K500,000 – K720,000	Chelston-Town	K6,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K90,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K5,000
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5, 000	Petrol (per litre)	K5, 818
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5, 500	Diesel (per litre)	K5, 417
Mosquito Net (private)	K15, 000 – K20, 000	Paraffin (per litre)	

*“The government should introduce Community Hammer Mills to address high mealie meal prices”... Kanyama resident*

## (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	K1,145,300 to K1,631,600	K1,121,000 to K2,624,000	K300,000 to K750,000	K915,000 to K1,480,000	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K3,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on **28<sup>th</sup> February 2009** 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 February Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$393** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 5601 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of February.

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