

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

December 2009

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

| Commodity               | Kwacha | Quantity       | Total            |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------|
| Mealie meal (breakfast) | 62,300 | 3 x 25 Kg bags | 186,900          |
| Beans                   | 12,700 | 2 Kgs          | 25,400           |
| Kapenta (Siavonga)      | 68,600 | 2 Kgs          | 137,200          |
| Dry Fish                | 60,400 | 1 Kg           | 60,400           |
| Meat (mixed cut)        | 21,200 | 4 Kgs          | 84,800           |
| Eggs                    | 7,600  | 2 Units        | 15,200           |
| Vegetables (greens)     | 3,800  | 7.5 Kgs        | 28,500           |
| Tomato                  | 4,500  | 4 Kgs          | 18,000           |
| Onion                   | 5,000  | 4Kgs           | 20,000           |
| Milk (fresh)            | 12,000 | 1 x 2 litres   | 12,000           |
| Cooking oil             | 28,400 | 2 x 2 litres   | 56,800           |
| Bread                   | 3,800  | 1 loaf/day     | 114,000          |
| Sugar                   | 6,100  | 8 Kgs          | 48,800           |
| Salt                    | 3,100  | 1 Kg           | 3,100            |
| Tea (leaves)            | 11,000 | 1 x 500 g      | 11,000           |
| <b>Sub-total</b>        |        |                | <b>K822, 100</b> |

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

|                                  |           |                |                    |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| Charcoal                         | 61,000    | 2 x 90 Kg bags | 122, 000           |
| Soap (lifebuoy)                  | 2,500     | 10 tablets     | 25,000             |
| Wash soap (Boom)                 | 4,100     | 4 x 400 g      | 16,400             |
| Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)           | 6,700     | 1 x 500 ml     | 6,700              |
| Electricity (medium density)     | 70,000    | 300 units      | 70,000             |
| Water & Sanitation (med - fixed) | 114,530   |                | 114,530            |
| Housing (medium density)         | 1,100,000 |                | 1,100,000          |
| <b>Sub-total</b>                 |           |                | <b>K1, 454,630</b> |

**Total for Basic Needs Basket K2, 276,730**

| Totals from previous months | Dec 08    | Jan 09    | Feb 09    | Mar 09    | Apr 09    | May 09    | Jun 09    | Jul 09    | Aug 09    | Sep 09    | Oct 09    | Nov 09    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Amount                      | 1,934,950 | 2,186,980 | 2,199,880 | 2,213,930 | 2,219,230 | 2,240,280 | 2,168,730 | 2,226,930 | 2,235,730 | 2,260,680 | 2,200,630 | 2,254,630 |

## (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)             |         |

## (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 | K250,000 to K750,000     | K653,000 to K1,320,127     | 645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)     | K5,000 to K15,000 per day |

This survey was conducted on 31<sup>st</sup> December 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), and City Market, Chawama, Chainta, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The December Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$4593** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4960 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of December.