

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

February 2010

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	64,600	3 x 25 Kg bags	193,800
Beans	12,800	2 Kgs	25,600
Kapenta (Siavonga)	81,700	2 Kgs	163,400
Dry Fish	62,400	1 Kg	62,400
Meat (mixed cut)	19,300	4 Kgs	77,200
Eggs	7,600	2 Units	15,200
Vegetables (greens)	4,700	7.5 Kgs	35,250
Tomato	4,900	4 Kgs	19,600
Onion	5,100	4Kgs	20,400
Milk (fresh)	12,100	1 x 2 litres	12,100
Cooking oil	28,600	2 x 2 litres	57,200
Bread	3,800	1 loaf/day	114,000
Sugar	6,200	8 Kgs	49,600
Salt	3,300	1 Kg	3,300
Tea (leaves)	11,200	1 x 500 g	11,200
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K860, 250</b>

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

Charcoal	61,300	2 x 90 Kg bags	122, 000
Soap (lifebuoy)	2,300	10 tablets	23,000
Wash soap (Boom)	4,100	4 x 400 g	16,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,800	1 x 500 ml	6,800
Electricity (medium density)	70,000	300 units	70,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	114,530		114,530
Housing (medium density)	1,500,000		1,500,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K1, 853,330</b>

**Total for Basic Needs Basket**

**K2, 713,580**

Totals from previous months	Feb 09	Mar 09	Apr 09	May 09	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09	Sep 09	Oct 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 10
Amount	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	2,276,730	2,696,030

## (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	K6, 000
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K600, 000 – K900, 000	Chelston-Town	K7, 000
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K90, 000 – K180, 000	Matero-Town	K5, 400
Health (clinic)		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5, 000	Petrol (per litre)	K6, 691
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5, 500	Diesel (per litre)	K6, 300
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 K1,831,600	K1,221,000 to K2,874,000	K250,000 to K850,000	K780,000 to K1,520,127	645,326 (between October 2004 and January 2005)	K5,000 to K15,000 per day

This survey was conducted on 27 & 28 February 2010 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, Chanda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The February Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$574 based** upon an average middle exchange rate of 4730 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of February.

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**JCTR Repository**

**<https://repository.jctr.org.zm>**

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