

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET: LUSAKA

January 2008

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

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity	Total
Mealie meal (breakfast)	36,300	3 x 25 Kg bags	108,900
Beans	10,000	2 Kgs	20,000
Kapenta (Siavonga)	63,000	2 Kgs	126,000
Dry Fish	34,400	1 Kg	34,400
Meat (mixed cut)	17,300	4 Kgs	69,200
Eggs	5,300	2 Units	10,600
Vegetables (greens)	2,800	7.5 Kgs	21,000
Tomato	4,000	4 Kgs	16,000
Onion	2,900	4 Kgs	11,600
Milk (fresh)	8,500	1 x 2 litres	8,500
Cooking oil	18,100	2 x 2 litres	36,200
Bread	2,900	1 loaf/day	87,000
Sugar	4,500	8 Kgs	36,000
Salt	2,200	1 Kg	2,200
Tea (leaves)	9,900	1 x 500 g	9,900
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K596,000</b>

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

Charcoal	91,000	2 x 90 Kg bags	182,000
Soap (Lifebuoy)	1,500	10 tablets	15,000
Wash soap (Boom)	2,600	4 x 400 g	10,400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	7,500	1 x 500 ml	7,500
Electricity (medium density)	125,000		125,000
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	99,400		99,400
Housing (medium density)	800,000		800,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>K1,239,300</b>

**Total for Basic Needs Basket** **K1,835,300**

Totals from previous months	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07
Amount	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	1,598,450	1,636,900

## (C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Item	Kwacha
Education		Transport (bus fare round trip):	
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K252,000 – K380,000	Chilenje-Town	K5,200
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K465,000 – K600,000	Chelston-Town	K5,800
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K75,000 – K180,000	Matero-Town	K4,600
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

## (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	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 between 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 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, Town Centre (Shoprite), City Market, Chawama, Chainda, Kabwata, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. The January Basic Needs Basket is approximately **US\$477** based upon an average middle exchange rate of 3847 Kwacha per US\$ at the end of January.

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**Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)**

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