

# JCTR BASIC NEEDS BASKET PILOT: CHOMA

March 2014

## (A) COST OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE IN CHOMA

Commodity	Quantity	Kwacha	Total	Kwacha
Mealie meal (breakfast)	2 x 25Kgs	68.63	137.26	
Beans	3 Kgs	14.50	43.50	
Kapenta (dry)	2 Kgs	86.20	172.40	
Bream, smoked	1Kgs	50.00	50.00	
Beef, mixed cut	4Kgs	24.25	97.00	
Dark green vegetable	4 Kgs	2.31	9.24	
Tomatoes	4 Kgs	5.31	21.24	
Onion, large	2 Kgs	5.75	11.50	
Cooking oil (2.5 Ltrs)	3 Ltrs	36.25	43.50	
Bread wheat, refined floor, baked	1loaf/day	5.63	168.90	
Sugar	6 Kgs	16.65	49.95	
Milk long life (500ml)	500 mL	5.83	23.32	
Tea, powder	1 Kgs	15.70	15.70	
Eggs	2units	8.80	17.60	
Salt	1 Kgs	4.35	4.35	

**Sub total**

**865.46**

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

Charcoal	2x 90Kg bags	63.00	126.00
Soap (Lifebouy)	10 Tablets	3.38	33.80
Wash soap (Boom)	4x400g	5.45	21.80
Jelly (e.g. Vaseline)	1x500ml	13.71	13.71
Electricity (medium density - fixed)		223.00	223.00
Water & Sanitation (medium cost - fixed)		85.00	85.00
Housing (medium density - 3 bedroom)		950.00	950.00

**Sub total**

**1,453.31**

**Total for Basic Needs Basket**

**2,318.77**

Totals from previous months	Feb 13	Mar 13	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13	Jul 13	Aug 13	Sep 13	Oct 13	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14
Amount (K)			1,993.36	2,136.92	2,112.22	2,114.01	2,102.06	2,246.42	2,241.39	2,245.34	2,283.31	2,316.05	2,311.62

## (C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COST

Item	K	Item	K
Education		Health	
Grades 1-7 (PTA+Project/year)	K180.00	Consultation Fee	Free
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K750.00	Mosquito Net	K25.00
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K1, 350.00	Malaria Tests (private)	K50.00
School Uniform	K320.00 – K450.00	CD4 count (private)	K50.00
Transport (bus fare round trip):		Fuel (cost at the pump)	
Shampande -Town	K8.00	Petrol (per litre)	K9.91
Macha Road-Town	K7.00	Diesel (per litre)	K9.20
Show grounds	K30.00	Paraffin (per litre)	K6.15

## (D) A COMPARISON OF COSTS (in Kwacha) OF BASIC NEEDS ACROSS ZAMBIA IN MARCH

Lusaka	Kasama	Solwezi	Monze	Chipata	Kabwe	Livingstone	Mpika	Luanshya
3,687.72	2,361.74	2,560.01	2,240.32	2,269.13	2,540.23	2,765.92	1,612.48	2,373.32

This survey was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 by the Social and Economic Development Programme of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. Average prices were calculated on the basis of surveys conducted at Macha road market, Makalanguzu market, Kalukungu market and Spar. Additional information was obtained from ZESCO, the Southern Province Water and Sewerage Company and schools, clinics and houses around Choma. The March Basic Needs Basket is approximately US\$376 based upon the exchange rate of K 6.1714 per US\$ prevailing on the days of data collection. Please note that other monthly costs would include personal care, clothing, recreation, etc.

Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, P.O. Box 37774, 10101 Lusaka, Zambia

Tel: 260-211-290-410 Fax: 260-211-290-759 E-mail: [basicjctr@jesuits.org.zm](mailto:basicjctr@jesuits.org.zm) Internet: [www.jctr.org.zm](http://www.jctr.org.zm)

Location: 3813 Martin Mwamba Road, Olympia Park, Lusaka

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

**JCTR Repository**

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