

Harare Basic Needs Basket for January 2011¹

Introduction

This issue presents the findings of the second Basic Needs Basket (BNB) survey conducted by Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT) in Harare. This survey was conducted during the third week of January with the aim of assessing how the cost of basic needs for an average household in Harare has changed since the last BNB report in November 2010. Table 1 below represents the findings of the survey;

Table 1: January 2011 Basic Needs Basket for Harare

Item	Preferred brand	Unit available	Quantity	Harare Average (US\$)
A. Essential Food Items:				
Mealie Meal	Red Seal (Roller meal)	20kg	2	18.20
Cooking oil	D'lite	2Ltrs	2	8.11
Beef	Mixed	1kg	5	27.40
Chicken	Suncrest cuts	2kg	1	7.13
Beans	Sugar beans	500g	4	4.53
Fish	fresh	1kg	2	9.03
Kapenta	dried	500g	2	11.63
Salt	Pro-brands	2kg	1	0.92
Bread	Bakers Inn	1loaf	30	30.00
Eggs	Standard	1 crates	2	9.89
Sugar	Gold star (white)	2kg	4	7.36
Tea (leaves)	Stella	250g	4	8.13
Milk	Steri	500ml	12	10.63
Margarine	Buttercup	2kg	1	13.18
Onions		1kg	10	12.75
Tomatoes		1kg	10	12.27
Vegetables (greens)	rape	1kg	22.5	28.26
Sub-total				219.41
B. Essential Non-food items				
Washing soap	Green bar	1kg	5	7.10
Bathing soap	Geisha tablets	250g	5	4.03
Toothpaste	Colgate	100ml	2	2.50
Toilet paper	Softex	4 rolls/pack	6	7.31
Jelly	Vaseline	250g	2	4.49
Sub-total				25.43
C. Rates and other services				
Water & Sanitation	Water	fixed		10.00
	Average usage/month	m ³	40	19.20
	Sanitation (Sewage)	fixed		11.50
Monthly rent (4 roomed house)	Basic accommodation	Rooms	4	200.00
Electricity	Fixed			6.08
	Average usage/month	KW	420	22.70
Sub-total				269.48
Total BNB for Harare				514.32
D. Other Costs				

¹ The following are the shops and markets where PRFT collected data on prices of basic commodities for the January 2011 BNB: City Center (TM Robson Manyika and Montana Meats); Epworth (Domboramwari shopping centre); Hatcliffe (Kudenga Spar and surrounding market stalls); Mbare (OK and Mbare musika market stalls); Mabvuku (Mabvuku Shopping Centre); Waterfalls (Zindoga shopping centre); Mabelreign (OK and Spar); Belvedere (OK); Newlands (TM); Helensvale (Helensvale Spar)

Telephone/Communication		1\$/day	\$30/month
School Fees:			
Tertiary	University (UZ)		\$420/Semester
	Technical/Colleges (Harare Polytechnic)	National certificate level	\$175/term
		National Diploma level	\$225/term
	Secondary		\$80/term
	Primary		\$40/term
	Creche		\$30/term
School Uniforms	Girls		\$45 (complete uniform)
	Boys		\$50 (complete uniform)
Health care	CIMAS Basicare Package	\$8/person	\$40/month
Fuel & Lighting	Paraffin		\$0.86/Litre
	Diesel		\$1.33/Litre
	Petrol		\$1.37/Litre
	matches		\$1.00/pack of 12
	Candles		\$1.25/pack of 6

The Basic Needs Basic (BNB) for ordinary Zimbabweans living in Harare has risen up by 6.56% in the last two months (from US\$482.64 in November 2010 to US\$514.32 in January 2011). From the basket, an average household of five needed US\$219.41 (43%) for essential food items, US\$269.48 (52%) for rates and other services and approximately US\$ US\$25,43 (5%) for essential non food items like soap, jelly and toothpaste.