Global Living Wage Series
Malawi

Monthly and Daily Living Wages calculated for Jan 2014 and not updated here for inflation
Synopsis of Living Wage Study Conducted By: Richard Anker and Martha Anker

Malawi - Rural South

Non-Food, Non-Housing
K 13,365
US$ 31

Provision for Needy Relatives
K 1,500
US$ 3.5

Provision for Unexpected Events
K 2,595
US$ 6

Monthly Living Wage
K 35,222
per worker
for a family with 1.59 workers

Food
K 32,043
US$ 75
K 211, US$ 0.49 Per Person/Day

Housing
K 6,500
US$ 15

US$ 82
Per Month
US$ 3.60
Per Day

Local Housing Standard for Family
- cement floor
- brick walls
- durable roof of zinc or cement without leaks
- ceiling at least 2 meters at lowest point
- sufficient number of windows for adequate lighting and ventilation
- potable drinking water in relatively close proximity to house
- pit latrine in good condition in close proximity to house
- 3 rooms (living room, 2 bedrooms)
- around 30 square meters of floor space
- building in reasonable condition

Model Diet
Grams Per Person Per Day
- 450g maize (includes grinding charge)
- 40g beans (20g cow pea, 20g pigeon pea)
- 60g cassava (least expensive root/tuber)
- 12g dried or smoked small fish (2 fish meals per week)
- 27g powdered milk (1 cup for children 2-5 and pregnant women
- 63g fruit (banana)
- 189g vegetables (126g green leafy vegetables, 63g eggplant)
- 24g brown sugar (6 tsp)
- 24g cooking oil (2 tbsp)
- 3 cups tea for adults

Assumptions
Family Size 5 | 2 Adults, 3 Children | 1.59 Workers Per Family

Photo Courtesy of Fairtrade International

UPDATE of Monthly Living Wage Estimate for July 2016
K 58,567
(July 2016)
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Rural South

Context Provided for Tea Wages

Wage Ladder for Malawi in Kwacha

Common In-kind Benefits
Per Worker Values

- Meals: K 1,625/ Month, US $3.80
- Health Care: K 700/ Month, US $1.60
- Creche and School Maintenance: K 2,000/ Year, US $4.60
- Recreation (futbol team): K 4,200/ Year, US $9.80
- Burial Expenses for workers’ deaths: K 2,200/ Year, US $5.00

Uncommon In-kind Benefits
Per Worker Values

- Housing: K 4,500/ Month, US $10.50
  - Most estate housing does not meet Rainforest Alliance/TAML standard and so cannot be valued toward the living wage.
  - Acceptable housing can be valued when provided.
- Maize: K 5,300/ Year, US $12.30
  - Minority of estates sell maize at reduced price before new harvest when maize prices increase. Can be valued toward living wage when provided.

www.globallivingwage.org

The Global Living Wage Coalition Members:
In Partnership with the ISEAL Alliance and Richard Anker and Martha Anker

Register for Regular Benchmark Updates from the GLWC at http://eepurl.com/b6Jlyf

With thanks for field support from Ethical Tea Partnership and Oxfam

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