

THE ROAD TO RUIN?

Electric vehicles and workers' rights abuses at DR Congo's industrial cobalt mines

ANNEX 1: LIVING WAGE CALCULATION FOR KOLWEZI – 2023 UPDATE*

NOTE: This calculation is based on the Minimum Expenditure basket (MEB) methodology and uses as a reference the UNICEF MEB conducted for Congo in 2016. It has been adapted for the Kolwezi context in consultation with Lualaba based organizations and in-person assessments of prices in the local markets in Kolwezi. It assumes an average household of 6 people (2 adults and 4 children). In October 2021, RAID and CAJJ calculated the living wage to be \$402.65. The table below provides an updated calculation based on prices in Kolwezi markets in January 2023.

RAID and CAJJ adjusted the MEB as follows:

- (1) We modified the “education” criteria to cater for the fact that Congo made access to primary school education free in 2019, although the practice remains that parents provide some subsidy.
- (2) We adapted the “food” category to portray more accurately eating habits in Kolwezi.
- (3) We added a “transportation” category which was calculated considering public transport between Kolwezi and the Lululu neighbourhood where most mine workers live.
- (4) We added a small amount for “leisure activities” because the MEB applies only to the very minimum needs in situations of humanitarian emergencies. This was also an item added by other civil society groups when determining the living wage of artisanal miners in Congo's Kivu provinces.

*Exchange rate (on January 25th, 2023): \$1 = 2 045 FC



January 2023

Item	Average cost per item	Cost per month per household (Fc) ¹	Cost per month per household (\$)	Assumption
FOOD				
<i>Manioc</i>	<i>1,500 Fc or \$0.73 per kg</i>	<i>108,000</i>	<i>52.81</i>	<i>12 kg per person per month</i>
<i>Maize</i>	<i>2,500 Fc or \$1.22 per kg</i>	<i>180,000</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>12 kg per person per month</i>
Staple crops (average of manioc and maize)²		288,000	140.83	12 kg per person per month
Vegetables (not tomatoes or onions)	1,500 Fc or \$0.73 per kg	32,400	15.84	3.6 kg per person per month
Tomatoes	5,500 Fc or \$2.69 per container (approx. 3 kg)	33,000	16.14	1 container per person per month
Onions	22,500 Fc or \$11.22 per container	22,500	11.22	1 container per month
Chicken legs	5,500 Fc or \$2.69 per kg	52,800	25.82	1.6 kg per person per month
Fresh fish (Thomson)	3,500 Fc or \$1.71 per kg	33,600	16.43	1.6 kg per person per month
Small fish (fretin)	6,500 Fc or \$3.18 per small container	26,000	12.71	4 small containers per month
Cooking oil	6,000 Fc or \$2.93 per l	32,400	15.84	0.9 litres per person per month

¹ Congolese Francs.

² This is the amount considered in the total calculation; the standalone “Manioc” and “Maize” items are only indicative.

Salt	1,500 Fc or \$0.73 per kg	1,350	0.66	0.15 kg per person per month
Sugar	16,000 Fc or \$7.82 per bag (approx. 5.5 kg)	2,909	1.42	Approx. 0.15 kg per person per month
Tea	4,000 Fc or \$1.96 per kg	4,000	1.96	1 small container per month
HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
Rent/living quarters	100,000 Fc or \$48.90	100,000	48.90	Once a month
5-litre pan	22,000 Fc or \$10.76	1,833.33	0.90	Replacing it once a year
Kitchen knife	2,500 Fc or \$1.22	416.67	0.20	Replacing it twice a year
Bar of soap	1,250 Fc or \$0.61	7,500	3.67	1 bar per person per month
Mattress	85,000 Fc or \$41.56	7,083.33	3.46	Median costs, 1 mattress per 2 persons, replacing it every 3 years
Blanket	22,000 Fc or \$10.76	5,500	2.69	1 per person, replacing it every 2 years
Pagne/cloth	8,000 Fc or \$3.91	2,000	0.98	1 per 2 persons, replacing it once a year
Jerry can	2,500 Fc or \$1.22	416.67	0.20	2 per household, replacing them once a year
Washing basin	38,000 Fc or \$18.58	3,166.67	1.55	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Bag of charcoal (60/80 kg)	28,500 Fc or \$13.94	28,500	13.94	1 per month per household
7-litre pan	30,000 Fc or \$14.67	2,500	1.22	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Mug	2,000 Fc or \$0.98	1,000	0.49	1 per person, replacing them once a year
Small spoon	750 Fc or \$0.37	750	0.37	1 per person, replacing them twice a year

Large spoon	2,500 Fc or \$1.22	416.67	0.20	1 per household, replacing it twice a year
Small bowl	2,000 Fc or \$0.98	500	0.24	3 per household, replacing them once a year
Big bowl	28,600 Fc or \$13.98	2,383.33	1.17	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Large bag	1,800 Fc or \$0.88	300	0.15	2 per household, replacing them once a year
Tarp	21,500 Fc \$10.51	1,791.67	0.88	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Clothing items	11,000 Fc or \$5.38	11,000	5.38	2 pieces per person, replacing them once a year
SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Latrine maintenance	7,600 Fc or \$3.72	633.33	0.31	Once a year
Hygiene kit (toothbrush, soap, etc.)	20,000 Fc or \$9.78	10,000	4.89	1 per household, replacing it every 2 months
Water treatment tablets	2,000 Fc or \$0.98	2,000	0.98	Once a month
Fees for potable drinking water (town supply or public taps)	50,000 Fc or \$24.45	50,000	24.45	Once a month
EDUCATION				
School fees	30,000 Fc or \$14.67	90,000	44	Once a month per child (4) for 9-month academic year
Uniform	15,000 Fc or \$7.33	5,000	2.44	Once a year per child (4)

School materials	27,800 Fc or \$13.59	9,266.67	4.53	Once a month per child (4)
HEALTH				
Health expenses at dispensaries/hospitals	66,000 Fc or \$32.27	16,500	8.07	Cost of an admission for a serious disease, 3 times per year for 1 household
Painkillers and other medicines	1,000 Fc or \$0.49	12,000	5.87	12 packages per month
Mosquito net	3,000 Fc or \$1.47	250	0.12	1 for 2 persons, replacing it every 3 years
Anti-malaria tablets	4,000 Fc or \$1.96	666.67	0.33	1 package every 6 months
TRANSPORTATION				
Public transport	3,000 Fc or \$1.47 per return trip	30,000	14.67	5 times a month for two persons travelling
OTHER				
Cheapest mobile phone in the market	23,000 Fc or \$11.25	1,277.78	0.62	2 per household, replacing them every 3 years
Average phone credit	2,500 Fc or \$1.22	40,000	19.56	Credit for 2 phones per household, recharged twice a week
Leisure (meal out, cinema, public holiday or other)	50,000 Fc or \$24.45	8,333.33	4.07	Average for two outings a year for the household
TOTAL		981 945.12	480.37	45