

THE ROAD TO RUIN?

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

ANNEX 1: LIVING WAGE CALCULATION FOR KOLWEZI*

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 in October 2021. It assumes an average household of 6 people (2 adults and 4 children).

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 Lulu 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: \$1 = 1,979.11 FC



Item	Average cost per item	Cost per month per household (Fc) ¹	Cost per month per household (\$)	Assumption
FOOD				
<i>Manioc</i>	<i>642.85 Fc or \$0.32 per Kg</i>	<i>46,285.20</i>	<i>23.39</i>	<i>12 Kg per person per month</i>
<i>Maize</i>	<i>740.74 Fc or \$0.37 per Kg</i>	<i>53,333.28</i>	<i>26.95</i>	<i>12 Kg per person per month</i>
Staple crops (average of manioc and maize)²		49,809.24	25.17	12 Kg per person per month
Vegetables (not tomatoes or onions)	1,000 Fc or \$0.50	21,600	10.91	3.6 Kg per person per month
Tomatoes	5,000 Fc or \$2.53 per container (approx. 3 Kg)	30,000	15.16	1 container per person per month
Onions	20,000 Fc or \$10.10 per container	20,000	10.11	1 container per month
Chicken legs	5,000 Fc or \$2.53 per Kg	50,000	25.26	1.6 Kg per person per month
Fresh fish (Thomson)	2,700 Fc or \$1.36 per Kg	27,000	13.64	1.6 Kg per person per month
Small fish (fretin)	5,000 Fc or \$3.54 per small container	20,000	10.11	4 small containers per month
Cooking oil	5,000 Fc or \$2.53 per Kg	27,000	13.64	0.9 Kg 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	1,000 Fc or \$0.50 per Kg	900	0.45	0.15 Kg per person per month
Sugar	13,000 Fc or \$6.57 per bag (approx. 5.5 Kg)	2,364	1.19	0.15 Kg per person per month
Tea	3,000 Fc or \$1.52 per Kg	3,000	1.55	0.15 Kg per person per month
HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
Rent/living quarters	90,000 Fc or \$45.47	90,000	45.47	Once a month
5-litre pan	20,000 Fc or \$10.10	1,666.67	0.84	Replacing it once a year
Kitchen knife	2,500 Fc or \$1.26	416.67	0.21	Replacing it twice a year
Bar of soap	1,000 Fc or \$0.50	6,000	3.03	1 bar per person per month
Mattress	110,000 Fc or \$55.58	9,166	4.63	Median costs, 1 mattress per 2 persons, replacing it every 3 years
Blanket	80,000 Fc or \$40.42	20,000	10.11	1 per person, replacing it every 2 years
Pagne/cloth	15,000 Fc or \$7.58	3,750	1.89	1 per 2 persons, replacing it once a year
Jerry can	2,500 Fc or \$1.26	416.67	0.21	2 per household, replacing them once a year
Washing basin	35,000 Fc or \$17.68	2,916.67	1.47	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Bag of charcoal (60/80 kg)	25,000 Fc or \$12.63	25,000	12.63	1 per month per household
7-litre pan	28,000 Fc or \$14.15	2,333.33	1.18	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Mug	1,500 Fc or \$0.76	750	0.38	1 per person, replacing them once a year
Small spoon	500 Fc or \$0.25	500	0.25	1 per person, replacing them twice a year

Large spoon	2,000 Fc or \$1	333.33	0.17	1 per household, replacing it twice a year
Small bowl	6,000 Fc or \$3	1,500	0.76	3 per household, replacing them once a year
Big bowl	20,000 Fc or \$10.10	1,666.67	0.84	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Large bag	1,745.44 Fc or \$0.88	297.52	0.15	2 per household, replacing them once a year
Tarp	19,715.53 Fc \$9.96	1,646.27	0.83	1 per household, replacing it once a year
Clothing items	40,000 Fc or \$20.21	40,000	20.21	2 pieces per person, replacing them once a year
SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Latrine maintenance	6,000 Fc or \$3	500	0.25	Once a year
Hygiene kit (toothbrush, soap, etc.)	20,000 Fc or \$10.10	10,000	5.05	1 per household, replacing it every 2 months
Water treatment tablets	2,000 Fc or \$1	2,000	1.01	Once a month
Fees for potable drinking water (town supply or public taps)	50,000 Fc or \$25.26	50,000	25.26	Once a month
EDUCATION				
School fees	30,000 Fc or \$15.16	90,000	45.47	Once a month for 9-month academic year
Uniform	31,250 Fc or \$15.79	10,416.67	5.26	Once a year for 4 children
School materials	25,000 Fc or \$12.63	75,000	37.90	Once a month

HEALTH				
Health expenses at dispensaries/hospitals	60,000 Fc or \$30.32	15,000	7.58	Cost of an admission for a serious disease, 3 times per year for 1 household
Painkillers and other medicines	1,000 Fc or \$0.50	12,000	6.06	12 packages per month
Mosquito net	3,000 Fc or \$1.52	250	0.13	1 for 2 persons, replacing it every 3 years
Anti-malaria tablets	3,000 Fc or \$1.52	500	0.25	1 package every 6 months
TRANSPORTATION				
Public transport	3,000 Fc or \$1.52 per total trip	30,000	15.16	5 times a month for two persons travelling
OTHER				
Cheapest mobile phone in the market	23,000 Fc or \$11.62	1,277.77	0.65	2 per household, replacing them every 3 years
Average phone credit	2,000 Fc or \$1	32,000	16.17	Credit for 2 phones per household, recharged twice a week
Leisure (meal out, cinema, public holiday or other)	47,600 Fc or \$24	7,917.55	4	Average for two outings a year for the household
TOTAL		796,895.03	402.65	46