

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CONCERN

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

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The Rural Basic Needs Basket (RBNB)

The RBNB is the project under the Social Conditions Research Programme of CFSC. RBNB is the tool the CFSC is using for assessing the living conditions of the people in the rural areas to raise the profile of rural areas.

It helps the centre to assess household food security. It also looks at how much access do communities have to socio-economic services such as health services, markets, roads, education and others as these have a bearing on improving the socio-economic status of rural communities. The gaps in food and nutrition security and socio-economic services are highlighted and shared with the government and other stakeholders for action through advocacy work.

Rural BNB is currently being implemented in a total 18 villages in Lilongwe (Traditional Area (T/A) Khongoni); Dedza (T/A Tambala); Zomba (T/A Mlumbe) and Chikhwawa (T/A Maseya). In total, there are 180 households.

What does RBNB do? It is used in:

- **Assessing household food food security.**
 - ✓ Participating hhs are involved in recording anything each hh member consumes on daily basis.
 - ✓ Food consumption tables are used to calculate calorie/energy intake.
 - ✓ This is compared with the recommended figure of 2400 Kcal/person/day, according to WHO
 - ✓ Persistent consumption of Kcal less than 2400 is one indicator that the household is food insecure.
 - ✓ Any food consumed, be it from own production or purchased, is valued using current prices on the market. This is done on monthly basis.
- **Assessing monthly household incomes**
 - ✓ There are different sources of income which help households to money for purchasing basic needs. The common examples of incomes sources are as follows:
 - Casual labour
 - Small scale businesses
 - Crop sales
 - Livestock and livestock products sales
 - Remittances etc
- **Assessing monthly household expenditures**

- Money realised from different sources of incomes are used to purchase both goods and services
- **Assessing the access to social services** such as education, health, markets, other infrastructures such as roads and bridges by looking at the following:

EDUCATION

- Teaching and learning materials
- Quality of classrooms
- Teacher:pupil ratio
- Distance children walk to school
- Number of classrooms Vs number of pupils etc

******All the above affect quality of education.******

HEALTH

- Distance to the hospital
- Availability of essential drugs
- Number of health workers
- Relationship between health workers and patients

MARKETS

- Access to profitable markets
- Availability of agricultural inputs
- Distance to the markets.

- ❖ This information is intended to be shared with stakeholders at community, district and national level and with policy makers
- ❖ The government, and other right holders, as duty bearers, are held accountable to bring development to the rural areas.
- ❖ The Rural BNB is therefore used to advocate for and lobby government for policy changes.

BASIC NEEDS BASKET is an important:

INDICATOR of the socioeconomic situation across Malawi

HIGHLIGHT of the gap between the recommended calorie and the actual intake

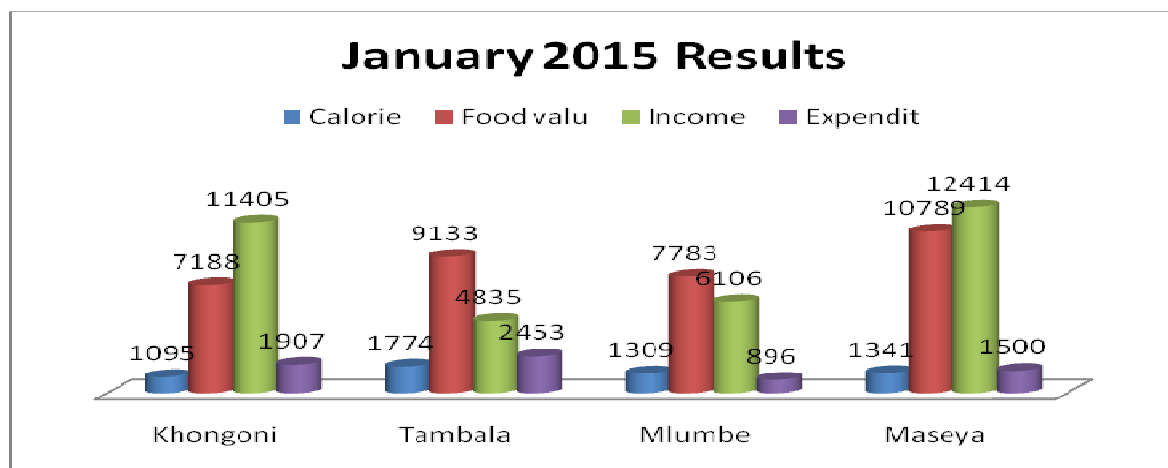
HIGHLIGHT the typical monthly income and expenditure levels of the ordinary Malawian rural families

TARGET for all of us to aim for when working towards a just and dignified society.

TOOL to use when advocating for change, justice, a fairer policy or a dignified existence.

GUIDE for all rural households in deciding how best to do food and income budgeting to meet their basic needs.

The Rural BNB is useful for everyone in understanding how the food security, access to social services and cost of living in rural areas affect us all.



Key: *Calorie*: this is the same as ‘energy’ one gets from food(Kilocalories)

Food valu: Food value in Malawi Kwacha(MK)

Income: Average income from different sources of income/month

Expendit: Average household monthly expenditure on basic food and non food items (in Malawi Kwacha-MK)

Exchange rate: 1USD= MK450

JANUARY 2015.

Calorie Intake

During the month on January 2015, all households in areas under study did not manage to reach the recommended 2400 Kilocalories as follows:

- T/A Khongoni: 1095 Kcal(Kilocalories)
- T/A Tambala: 1774 Kcal
- T/A Mlumbe: 1309 Kcal and
- T/A Maseya: 1341 Kcal

Food Value in Malawi Kwacha

Households consumed food from two combined sources;own production and through purchases. During the month of January, households consumed food with the following values:

- T/A Khongoni: MK7,188
- T/A Tambala: MK9,133
- T/A Mlumbe: MK7,783 and
- T/A Maseya: MK10,789

Average monthly Income

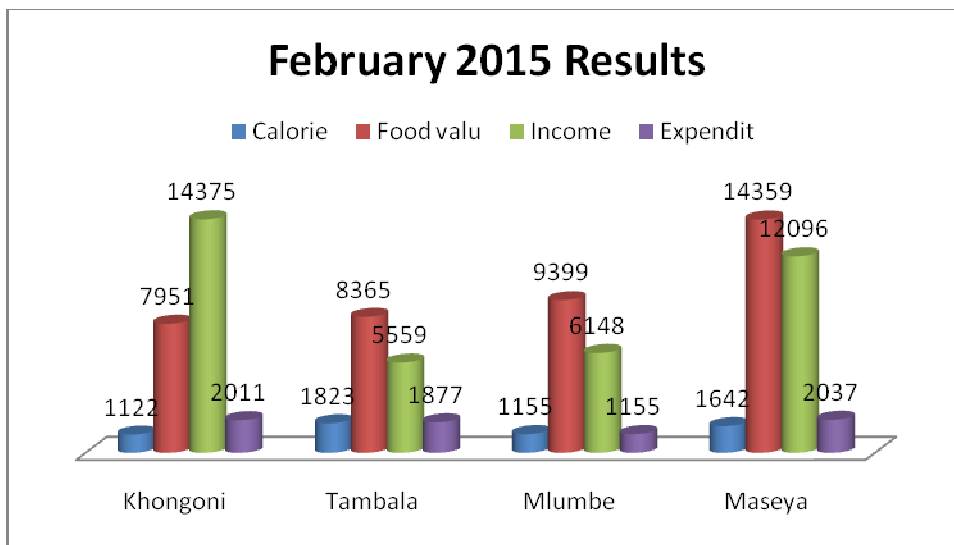
Households acquired the following income from different sources:

- T/A Khongoni: MK11,405
- T/A Tambala: MK4,835
- T/A Mlumbe: MK6,106 and
- T/A Maseya: MK12,414

Average household monthly Expenditure

Households spent money on goods and services as follows:

- T/A Khongoni: MK1,907
- T/A Tambala: MK2,453
- T/A Mlumbe: MK896 and
- T/A Maseya: MK1,500



Calorie Intake

- T/A Khongoni: 1,122 Kcal
- T/A Tambala: 1,823 Kcal
- T/A Mlumbe: 1,155 Kcal and
- T/A Maseya: 1,642 Kcal

Food Value

- T/A Khongoni: MK7,951
- T/A Tambala: MK8,365
- T/A Mlumbe: MK9,399 and
- T/A Maseya: MK14,359

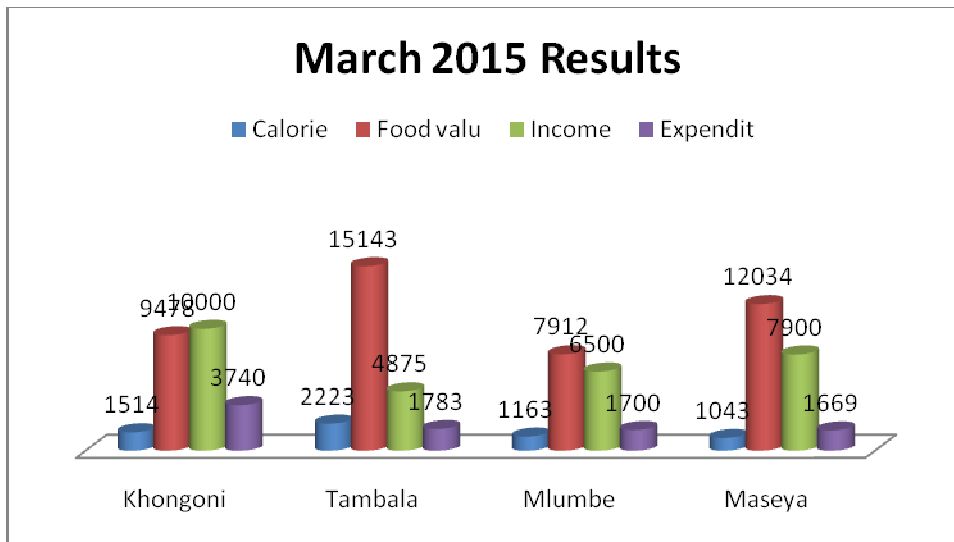
Average household Income

- T/A Khongoni: MK14,375
- T/A Tambala: MK5,659
- T/A Mlumbe: MK6,148 and
- T/A Maseya: MK12,096

Average monthly Expenditure

- T/A Khongoni: MK2,011
- T/A Tambala: MK1,877

- T/A Mlumbe: MK1,155 and
- T/A Maseya: MK2,037



Calorie Intake

- T/A Khongoni: 1,514 Kcal
- T/A Tambala: 2,223 Kcal
- T/A Mlumbe: 1,163 Kcal and
- T/A Maseya: 1,043 Kcal

Food Value

- T/A Khongoni: MK9,478
- T/A Tambala: MK15,143
- T/A Mlumbe: MK7,912 and
- T/A Maseya: MK12,034

Average household Income

- T/A Khongoni: MK10,000
- T/A Tambala: MK4,875
- T/A Mlumbe: MK6,500 and
- T/A Maseya: MK7,900

Average monthly Expenditure

- T/A Khongoni: MK3,740
- T/A Tambala: MK1,783
- T/A Mlumbe: MK1,700 and
- T/A Maseya: MK1,669

CFSC focuses on the right to development. According to Section 25(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi it States that `The State shall take all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development. Such measures shall include, amongst other things, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, shelter, employment and infrastructure.(Malawi Government,2000).The Government has the duty to

formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active free and meaningful participation in development in their fair distribution of the benefits resulting there from. We, therefore, promote the full realization of social, economic and cultural rights of the most vulnerable people, especially women, in the poor rural communities. CFSC uses the rights-based approach in its effort to advocate for economic and social justice. It uses the concepts of “right-holder” and “duty bearers”. Because social-economic and cultural rights are so diverse.