

## PACSA Monthly Food Price Barometer: FEBRUARY 2018

## MEDIA STATEMENT

**No media statement. See key data from the PACSA Monthly Food Price Barometer February 2018.**

### Key data from the February 2018 PACSA Food Price Barometer:

- **Month-on-month** the PACSA food basket increased by **R4.12 (0.1%)** from R3 110.95 in January 2018 to R3 115.07 in February 2018.
- **Over the past quarter** the PACSA food basket increased by **R93.68 (3.1%)** from R3 021.39 in December 2017 to R3 115.07 in February 2018.
- **Over the past six months** the PACSA food basket increased by **R229.34 (8%)** from R2 885.73 in September 2017 to R3 115.07 in February 2018.

*Note that PACSA updated its basket as part of a new three-year review cycle in September 2017. The year-on-year data will only be available from September 2018.*

### Key data from the February 2018 PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket (the difference in cost between the foods which families living on low-incomes try and buy each month vs. what they would like to buy and should buy to meet basic nutrition):

- In February 2018, the difference in cost between the PACSA Food Basket (not nutritionally complete) and the PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket (nutritionally complete) is R1 045.97 (R3 115.07 vs. R4 161.04).
- In February 2018 the cost of the PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket for a family of 4 is R3 378.75, for a family of 5 is R3 004.88 and for a family of 7 is R4 161.04.
- In February 2018 the cost of feeding a small child (aged 3-9 years) a diet complete in minimum nutrition is R540.58 per month. The cost of feeding a girl/boy child (aged 10-13 years) or an adult woman (aged 19-64 years) or an elderly woman (aged >65 years) a diet complete in minimum nutrition is R583.35 per month. The cost of feeding a girl child (aged 14-18 years) or a very active woman (aged 19-64 years) or an adult man (aged 19-64 years) or an elderly man (aged >65 years) a diet complete in minimum nutrition is R615.58 per month. The cost of feeding a boy child (aged 14-18 years) or a very active man (aged 19-64 years) or a pregnant or breastfeeding woman a diet complete in minimum nutrition is R682.01 per month.

### The cost of an adequate but basic nutritious diet vs. the value of the Child Support Grant:

- In August 2017 12.1 million children<sup>i</sup> received a Child Support Grant. For the majority of mothers accessing the grant, the CSG is their only reliable source of monthly income.
- The Child Support Grant [CSG] is currently valued at R380 per child per month.
- Statistics South Africa's inflation adjusted Food Poverty line is R531 per capita per month (latest April 2017).<sup>ii</sup>
- The Child Support Grant is set below the food poverty line.
- The value of the CSG is even further below the actual cost which allows mothers to feed their children a basic but proper monthly nutritious diet.
- In February 2018 the cost of securing a basic but nutritionally complete diet for a boy/girl child between the ages of 3-9 years is R540.58 per month; for a girl/boy child (aged 10-13 years) is R583.35 per month; for a girl child (aged 14-18 years) is R615.58 per month; and for a boy child (aged 14-18 years) is R682.01 per month.
- This data shows that the CSG is **28%** below the food poverty line, and **35%** below the actual cost of a basic but nutritionally complete diet for a girl/boy child aged 10-13 years (this percentage deficit increases for older children).
- In 2016, Statistics South Africa found that nearly a third (30%) of boy children under the age of five years were stunted and a quarter (25%) of girl children were stunted.<sup>iii</sup> Stunting has immediate and long term health and developmental consequences.
- Setting the CSG below the food poverty line directly undermines children's health, growth and development and our future education, health, social and economic outcomes.

### The cost of an adequate but basic nutritious diet vs. the value of the Old-age Grant:

- The majority of Black South African workers work their entire lives only to retire into poverty. This is because baseline wages are too low. Workers cannot buy the goods and services they need whilst saving for retirement. On reaching retirement age, workers are forced onto the old-age grant.
- The hegemonic narrative around grants has been purposively disconnected from the economy that has created the need for them and continues to reproduce them.
- The old-age grant, a financial asset to support families, (like the low wage that came before it, but even lower) must be used to absorb shortfalls in wage income and therefore continues to subsidise the state's failure to substantively deal with the employment crisis and low-wage regime. Pensions must contribute to securing many of the critical expenses required to keep households functioning including to teach, clothe and feed children.

- Statistics South Africa's Social Profile of Older Persons Report for 2015 released on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017<sup>iv</sup> shows that in 2015 3.1 million (70%) out of 4.4 million of people aged 60 years and above received an old-age grant. It shows that of the total 4.4 million older persons; 2.3 million or 50.7% live in households without an employed adult.<sup>v</sup> This means that for half of our elderly citizens; the old-age grant is shared within a family. It is a critical income to support families: it is not just for the pensioner.
- The old-age grant-value is R1 600 per month. Setting the old-age grant at a poverty level means that on reaching retirement age pensioners and their families are thrust into even deeper levels of poverty.
- In August 2017 3.4 million pensioners<sup>vi</sup> received an old-age grant.
- The state has created the necessity for grants because it has not transformed the economy and the low-baseline wage regime. However setting social grants at poverty levels removes most if not all possibilities to impact positively on health, well-being and productivity, education, society and the economy. Poverty-level grants, insufficient even to meet very basic consumption levels, not only actively undermine our social and economic base and institutions but provide no way out for families because they offer no surplus money to invest in production or support the building of local economies. Grants are well targeted and well spent; they are a very effective usage of our resources – if increased they provide the possibility to substantially change the trajectory of our development outcomes.
- Increasing the value of social grants offers additional benefits which could find traction within a country that is struggling to stimulate growth and re-generate its economy: the effects of our unchanged economic framework which is driving our economic crisis mean that people do not have money to spend or invest. Our pockets are starved. Putting more money into the pockets of citizens directly, through increased social spending and higher wages, could stimulate demand at the local level and draw more people into economic activities where they are located. This kind of investment would decentralise economic activity, create work and stronger growth. It would be more inclusive, broad-based, more resilient and under local control. It will respond directly to our current economic crisis and offer millions of people a different pathway to secure a livelihood and a life of dignity.

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#### South Africa's poverty indicators:

- Statistics South Africa's inflation adjusted poverty lines in April 2017<sup>vii</sup> put the food poverty line [FPL] (the level below which individuals cannot secure enough food) at R531 per month and the upper bound poverty line [UBPL] (the level below which individuals cannot secure food and non-food items) at R1 138 per month.
- Statistics South Africa's latest Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2015 Report (2017) shows that one quarter of South Africa's population (25.2% or 13.8 million people) live below the food poverty line; and 55.5% (30.4 million people) live below the upper bound poverty line.<sup>viii</sup> For Black South Africans, 64.2% (around 29 million people at mid-year population estimates for 2017) live below the upper bound poverty line.<sup>ix</sup> Poverty levels have undergone a reversal since 2011, with the latest figures from 2015 showing that cycles of poverty are now escalating and accelerating. Households are under severe financial strain and the affordability crisis is deepening. Rising poverty levels cannot be disconnected from a deepening economic crisis.
- PACSA's February 2018 food basket of R3 115.07 for a family of seven is broken down as R445.01 per capita per month. It means that households are spending below the food poverty line.

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#### South Africa's labour market, economic indicators and PACSA's affordability data:

- Statistics South Africa's Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017 shows that the unemployment rate for Black South African workers is 30% and the expanded unemployment rate is 40.7%.<sup>x</sup> 8.3 million Black South Africans of working age are unemployed. Of 30.1 million Black South Africans of working age; only 12.1 million are employed. It means that out of 10 Black South Africans of working age; only 4 have a job (the labour absorption rate is 40.1%).<sup>xi</sup>
- The wages of 12.1 million Black South Africans support 45.7 million persons<sup>xii</sup> who live in 13.5 million households.<sup>xiii</sup> It means that Black South African households typically rely on just one wage earner and this wage must support an average of 3.8 persons. For lower income households the wage must spread further.
- In this context the level of the wage paid to the employed worker becomes extremely important. Baseline wages for the majority of Black South African workers, when dispersed through a family is a poverty wage. The median wage for Black South Africans is R2 900 a month,<sup>xiv</sup> dispersed through a family of 3.8 the wage is R763.16 per capita per month (the upper bound poverty line is currently R1 138 per capita per month). This figure is extremely low if we consider that the monthly cost of a basic but proper nutritious diet for a very active man is R682.01 in February 2018. Poverty wages do not allow workers and their families to eat properly as transport, electricity; education expenses and other essential costs compete viciously with the food budget. Poverty wages have severe implications for productivity and the ability of workers to resist illnesses; including the ability of workers to buffer shocks, and save for retirement and invest in production.

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#### The cost of an adequate but basic nutritious diet vs. the value of the proposed National Minimum Wage:

- The National Minimum Wage [NMW] is only a useful instrument depending on the level at which it is set. If set too low it risks institutionalizing a low wage regime; maintaining our current levels of wage inequality; and entrenching poverty within a very large portion of workers and their families. Setting the NMW at a maximum of R20 an hour will do exactly that. It is important to further note that many workers will be exempted from this maximum R20 amount *viz.* the NMW for farm workers is set at R18 an hour, domestic workers R15 an hour and expanded public works workers R11 an hour. The NMW Bill also does not guarantee a national monthly minimum wage or a guaranteed number of working hours. It means that the calculations which

tallied up the R20 an hour by 8 hours over 21.875 days arriving at a monthly figure of R3 500 is, for millions of the most vulnerable workers, extremely unlikely.

- **Retaining this unlikely maximum of R3 500 a month is however useful to show just how deficient the NMW value is.** In May 2018, when dispersed through a family of 3.8 persons the maximum R3 500 will be R921.05 per person. This amount is below the April 2017 upper bound poverty line figure of R1 138. It shows that even at its maximum, R3 500 is below the poverty line, hence a poverty wage. Using another measurement, that of some basic household expenses expected to be covered by the wage of a worker, this point is further emphasised: For Black South African households, the February 2018 PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket for a family of 4 persons (R2 378.75) would take up **68% of R3 500**. If we add just two critical household expenditures to the food costs: municipal services of water and electricity (R595.24 at Pietermaritzburg 2017/18 tariffs) and transport to get to work (22 direct return trips at R24 = R528 at Pietermaritzburg 2017/18 tariffs), **combined these total R3 501.99 a month in February 2018** (R2 378.75 + R595.24 + R528).
- The greatest safeguard to economic crisis is ensuring that workers are paid a living wage; including supporting alternative paths to attain a livelihood when jobs do not come so people can create work. With 9.2 million people unemployed; it seems to us that shifting the wage upwards for those who do have a job should be an urgent intervention to both assist workers and their families (who include unemployed members) to better absorb the economic crisis whilst injecting money into pockets so workers can spend and therefore support the economic activity that remains. This is a critical intervention whilst other longer-term changes to the economic framework are made.
- If the NMW is to be an important intervention to deal with the current economic crisis then setting the NMW at a very low R20 or less an hour and with no guaranteed national monthly minimum wage or guaranteed hours of work raises serious questions as to the intentions, credibility and honesty of the NMW project in meeting its stated objectives to reduce high levels of inequality, poverty and promoting social justice. It seems to us that setting the NMW at such low levels will trap working families in ever deeper cycles of poverty; ill-health and debt (see affordability scenarios: Table 7, page 9). We expect that the NMW Bill together with the amendments to the Labour Relations Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act will also have the effect of making it ever more difficult for workers to fight to increase the NMW to that of a living wage, allowing the massive racial wage inequalities and scandalous levels of wealth to continue.

<sup>i</sup> SASSA (2017). Fact sheet: Issue no 8 of 2017 – 31 August 2017. **A statistical summary of social grants in South Africa.** SOCPEN system. See link:

[http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwiagv\\_z3dnWAhVHC8AKHTc\\_AR8QFggrMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sassa.gov.za%2Findex.php%2Fknowledge-centre%2Fstatistical-reports%3Fdownload%3D676%3Astatistical-report-8-of-2017-31-august-2017&usq=AOvVawOz4QWAgJFvSHxgvWKLmHv1](http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwiagv_z3dnWAhVHC8AKHTc_AR8QFggrMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sassa.gov.za%2Findex.php%2Fknowledge-centre%2Fstatistical-reports%3Fdownload%3D676%3Astatistical-report-8-of-2017-31-august-2017&usq=AOvVawOz4QWAgJFvSHxgvWKLmHv1)

<sup>ii</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2015.** Report No. 03-10-06. Statistics South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa. P8.

See link: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-06/Report-03-10-062015.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Statistics South Africa (2017). **South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2016: Key Indicator Report.** Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P27-28. See link: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report%2003-00-09/Report%2003-00-092016.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Vulnerable Groups Indicator Report, 2015.** Report 03-19-02. Statistics South Africa. P77. See Link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-19-02/Report-03-19-022015.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Vulnerable Groups Indicator Report, 2015.** Report 03-19-02. Statistics South Africa. P79. See Link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-19-02/Report-03-19-022015.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> SASSA (2017). Fact sheet: Issue no 8 of 2017 – 31 August 2017. **A statistical summary of social grants in South Africa.** SOCPEN system. See link:

[http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwiagv\\_z3dnWAhVHC8AKHTc\\_AR8QFggrMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sassa.gov.za%2Findex.php%2Fknowledge-centre%2Fstatistical-reports%3Fdownload%3D676%3Astatistical-report-8-of-2017-31-august-2017&usq=AOvVawOz4QWAgJFvSHxgvWKLmHv1](http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0ahUKEwiagv_z3dnWAhVHC8AKHTc_AR8QFggrMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sassa.gov.za%2Findex.php%2Fknowledge-centre%2Fstatistical-reports%3Fdownload%3D676%3Astatistical-report-8-of-2017-31-august-2017&usq=AOvVawOz4QWAgJFvSHxgvWKLmHv1)

<sup>vii</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2015.** Report No. 03-10-06. Statistics South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa. P8.

See link: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-06/Report-03-10-062015.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2015.** Report No. 03-10-06. Statistics South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa. P14.

See link: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-06/Report-03-10-062015.pdf>

<sup>ix</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Poverty Trends in South Africa: An examination of absolute poverty between 2006 and 2015.** Report No. 03-10-06. Statistics South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa. P58.

See link: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-06/Report-03-10-062015.pdf>

<sup>x</sup> STATSSA (2018). **Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4, 2017.** Statistical release P0211. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P21 & 39. See Link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02114thQuarter2017.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup> STATSSA (2018). **Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4, 2017.** Statistical release P0211. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P39. See Link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02114thQuarter2017.pdf>

<sup>xii</sup> STATSSA (2017). **Mid-year population estimates 2017.** Statistical release P0302. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P8. See link: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022017.pdf>

<sup>xiii</sup> STATSSA (2017). **General Household Survey 2016.** Statistical Release P0318. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P166. See Link <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182016.pdf>

<sup>xiv</sup> STATSSA (2016). **Labour market dynamics in South Africa, 2015.** Report no. 02-11-02 (2015). Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P4-24. See Link <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-02-11-02/Report-02-11-022015.pdf>

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TABLE 1: PACSA Food Basket showing prices month-on-month and over the last three months.

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Dec_2017 Price	Jan_2018 Price	Feb_2018 Price	m/m change (ZAR)	Quarterly change (ZAR)	Quarterly change (%)
Maize meal	25kg + 10kg	↓ R 245.15	↑ R 249.98	↓ R 246.81	-R 3.17	R 1.66	1%
Rice	10kg	↓ R 75.82	↑ R 78.66	↑ R 79.82	R 1.17	R 4.00	5%
Cake Flour	10kg	↓ R 73.49	↓ R 72.66	↑ R 76.32	R 3.67	R 2.83	4%
Samp	5kg	↓ R 29.49	↑ R 30.99	↑ R 31.32	R 0.33	R 1.83	6%
White sugar	10kg	↓ R 130.82	↑ R 140.66	↓ R 140.16	-R 0.50	R 9.34	7%
Sugar beans	5kg	↔ R 91.49	↓ R 89.66	↓ R 87.49	-R 2.17	-R 4.00	-4%
Cooking oil	5L	↓ R 75.66	↑ R 77.82	↑ R 81.99	R 4.17	R 6.33	8%
Maas	4L	↓ R 37.32	↑ R 42.32	↓ R 39.49	-R 2.83	R 2.17	6%
Eggs	60 eggs (2 trays)	↑ R 96.66	↑ R 98.16	↑ R 101.49	R 3.33	R 4.83	5%
Frozen chicken portions	10kg	↓ R 314.99	↑ R 330.00	↑ R 337.49	R 7.49	R 22.50	7%
Chicken feet	5kg	↑ R 152.48	↑ R 158.49	↑ R 159.72	R 1.24	R 7.24	5%
Gizzards	2kg	↓ R 53.49	↓ R 52.44	↓ R 49.48	-R 2.96	-R 4.01	-7%
Beef	2kg	↑ R 141.98	↑ R 152.94	↓ R 150.44	-R 2.50	R 8.46	6%
Wors	2kg	↓ R 67.48	↑ R 88.48	↓ R 81.98	-R 6.50	R 14.50	21%
Inyama yangapakhathi	2kg	↑ R 70.98	↔ R 70.98	↓ R 69.98	-R 1.00	-R 1.00	-1%
Potatoes	10kg	↑ R 55.96	↑ R 58.56	↑ R 59.13	R 0.57	R 3.17	6%
Onions	10kg	↑ R 54.39	↑ R 66.73	↑ R 79.99	R 13.26	R 25.59	47%
Tomatoes	10kg	↑ R 107.07	↓ R 104.42	↑ R 113.58	R 9.16	R 6.51	6%
Carrots	5kg	↑ R 20.99	↑ R 25.19	↓ R 23.79	-R 1.40	R 2.80	13%
Butternut	10kg	↑ R 57.84	↓ R 57.14	↓ R 37.37	-R 19.77	-R 20.48	-35%
Spinach	8 bunches	↓ R 38.32	↔ R 38.32	↑ R 39.92	R 1.60	R 1.60	4%
Cabbage	1 head	↔ R 10.83	↑ R 11.33	↓ R 10.59	-R 0.74	-R 0.24	-2%
Salt	1kg	↔ R 13.25	↔ R 13.25	↓ R 13.08	-R 0.17	-R 0.17	-1%
Stock	24 cubes x2	↓ R 30.82	↑ R 30.98	↑ R 31.98	R 1.00	R 1.16	4%
Soup	400g x2	↓ R 21.31	↑ R 22.31	↓ R 21.48	-R 0.83	R 0.17	1%
Curry powder	200g	↓ R 25.82	↔ R 25.82	↑ R 26.32	R 0.50	R 0.50	2%
Tea	250g (100 bags)	↑ R 22.16	↓ R 19.32	↑ R 19.66	R 0.33	-R 2.50	-11%
Cremora	800g	↓ R 30.49	↓ R 30.16	↓ R 29.16	-R 1.00	-R 1.33	-4%
Tinned pilchards	400g x6	↑ R 92.78	↓ R 91.80	↑ R 94.97	R 3.17	R 2.18	2%
Canned beans	410g x6	↑ R 58.47	↓ R 58.31	↔ R 58.31	R 0.00	-R 0.16	0%
Bananas	2kg	↔ R 22.31	↓ R 21.98	↓ R 21.31	-R 0.67	-R 1.00	-4%
Apples	1.5kg	↑ R 17.99	↑ R 18.16	↓ R 16.16	-R 2.00	-R 1.83	-10%
Margarine	1kg	↓ R 31.49	↓ R 29.66	↓ R 29.32	-R 0.33	-R 2.17	-7%
Peanut butter	400g	↓ R 22.82	↑ R 24.32	↑ R 25.32	R 1.00	R 2.50	11%
Polony	2.5kg	↔ R 49.66	↔ R 49.66	↑ R 50.16	R 0.50	R 0.50	1%
Apricot jam	900g	↓ R 22.32	↔ R 22.32	↑ R 22.49	R 0.17	R 0.17	1%
White bread	30 loaves	↔ R 291.25	↔ R 291.25	↔ R 291.25	R 0.00	R 0.00	0%
Brown bread	30 loaves	↔ R 265.75	↔ R 265.75	↔ R 265.75	R 0.00	R 0.00	0%
<b>Total cost of PACSA Food Basket</b>		<b>R 3 021.39</b>	<b>R 3 110.95</b>	<b>R 3 115.07</b>	<b>R 4.12</b>	<b>R 93.68</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

**Month-on-month:** the basket increased by R4.12 or 0.1% ( R3 110.95 in Jan 2018 to R3 115.07 in Feb 2018).

**Over the last 3 months:** the basket increased by R93.68 or 3.1% (R3 021.39 in Dec 2017 to R3 115.07 in Feb 2018).

#### What is the PACSA Food Basket?

The *PACSA Food Basket* tracks the monthly prices of a basket of 38 basic foods which households living on low incomes, with 7 family members - the average household size for low-income urban households in Pietermaritzburg - said they try to buy every month. It is specifically designed to measure food price inflation as experienced by households living on low incomes. Households living on low incomes prioritise their expenditures on the basis of what is non-negotiable first and then see what money remains for the other expenses. Food is not prioritised first. Instead, being one of the few expenses women have some level of control over, the food budget arises out of the money left over only after other non-negotiable expenses have been paid. Because of the way women prioritise their expenditures (and because food is core to life), the foods on our plates and in our trolleys offers the crudest lens to analyse the types of political choices that are being made and how the economy is performing. In a sense we have found that you can't look at food prices outside of the economy but similarly you can't analyse the economy outside food prices.

Price data is collected on the same day between the 1st and 4th of each month, on the sales days from Thursday to Sunday from six supermarkets and four butcheries which target the lower-income market in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. The *PACSA Food Basket* is not nutritionally complete; it is a reflection of actual food expenditure patterns of households living on low incomes. It tracks the foods women buy, in the quantities they buy them in, from the supermarkets and butcheries they buy them from; and mirrors how women actually make decisions at the supermarket shelves.

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TABLE 2: PACSA Monthly Minimum Nutritional Food Basket for February 2018.

				Energy Group 1		Energy Group 2		Energy Group 3		Energy Group 4	
				6 500 kJ		8 500 kJ		10 500 kJ		12 000 kJ	
				Girls/Boys 3 - 9 yrs		Girls/Boys 10-13 yrs Adult women 19-64 yrs Elderly women > 65 yrs		Girls 14-18 yrs Very active women 19-64 yrs Adult men 19-64 yrs Elderly men > 65 yrs		Boys 14-18 yrs Very active men 19-64 yrs Pregnant & lactating women	
Food group	Foods tracked	Unit	Price	AP Weight	Cost	AP Weight	Cost	AP Weight	Cost	AP Weight	Cost
Starchy Foods	Maize meal	Kilogram	R 7.05	3.2	R 22.74	3.9	R 27.50	5.7	R 40.20	6.0	R 42.31
	Oats porridge	Kilogram	R 25.99	0.2	R 6.24	0.2	R 6.24	0.4	R 9.36	0.4	R 9.36
	Brown bread	Loaves	R 8.86	1.8	R 15.95	3.0	R 26.58	3.6	R 31.89	5.7	R 50.49
	Rice	Kilogram	R 7.98	0.9	R 7.10	1.3	R 10.65	1.9	R 15.38	1.9	R 15.38
	Samp	Kilogram	R 6.26	0.4	R 2.71	0.8	R 4.74	0.9	R 5.41	1.0	R 6.09
	Potatoes	Kilogram	R 5.91	0.4	R 2.18	0.7	R 4.36	0.7	R 4.36	0.7	R 4.36
Vegetables	Onion	Kilogram	R 8.00	2.8	R 22.30	2.8	R 22.30	2.8	R 22.30	2.8	R 22.30
	Tomato	Kilogram	R 11.36	1.4	R 15.60	1.4	R 15.60	1.4	R 15.60	1.4	R 15.60
	Carrot	Kilogram	R 4.76	0.1	R 0.66	0.1	R 0.66	0.1	R 0.66	0.1	R 0.66
	Spinach	Kilogram	R 4.99	0.5	R 2.43	0.5	R 2.43	0.5	R 2.43	0.5	R 2.43
	Cabbage	Kilogram	R 10.59	2.3	R 24.88	2.3	R 24.88	2.3	R 24.88	2.3	R 24.88
	Green pepper	Kilogram	R 17.66	1.2	R 21.14	1.2	R 21.14	1.2	R 21.14	1.2	R 21.14
	Butternut	Kilogram	R 3.74	0.4	R 1.31	0.4	R 1.31	0.4	R 1.31	0.4	R 1.31
Fruit	Orange	Kilogram	R 10.99	1.9	R 20.42	1.9	R 20.42	1.9	R 20.42	1.9	R 20.42
	Apple	Kilogram	R 10.77	1.3	R 14.06	1.3	R 14.06	1.3	R 14.06	1.3	R 14.06
	Banana	Kilogram	R 10.66	2.7	R 28.39	2.7	R 28.39	2.7	R 28.39	2.7	R 28.39
Dry beans, canned beans	Sugar beans	Kilogram	R 17.50	0.7	R 11.65	0.7	R 11.65	0.7	R 11.65	2.0	R 34.96
	Baked beans	Kilogram	R 23.70	0.6	R 13.33	0.5	R 10.67	0.5	R 10.67	1.4	R 32.00
Fish, chicken, lean meat, eggs	Eggs	per egg	R 1.69	24.0	R 40.60	24.0	R 40.60	24.0	R 40.60	24.0	R 40.60
	Beef, neck, stewing	Kilogram	R 75.22	0.4	R 30.15	0.4	R 30.15	0.4	R 30.15	0.4	R 30.15
	Pilchards, tinned	Kilogram	R 39.57	0.6	R 25.11	0.6	R 25.11	0.6	R 25.11	0.6	R 25.11
	Chicken pieces	Kilogram	R 33.75	1.0	R 33.82	1.0	R 33.82	1.0	R 33.82	1.0	R 33.82
	Chicken livers	Kilogram	R 25.74	0.2	R 4.44	0.3	R 8.88	0.3	R 8.88	0.3	R 8.88
Milk, maas	Low fat milk	Litre	R 13.58	4.2	R 57.03	4.2	R 57.03	4.2	R 57.03	4.2	R 57.03
	Maas	Litre	R 9.87	7.8	R 77.01	7.8	R 77.01	7.8	R 77.01	7.8	R 77.01
Fat, oil	Margarine, soft tub	Kilogram	R 29.32	0.2	R 5.28	0.2	R 7.04	0.3	R 8.80	0.3	R 9.68
	Oil, sunflower	Litre	R 16.40	0.3	R 5.17	0.5	R 8.61	0.8	R 12.54	0.7	R 12.05
	Peanut butter	Kilogram	R 63.31	0.03	R 1.90	0.03	R 1.90	0.03	R 1.90	0.03	R 1.90
	Mayonnaise	Kilogram	R 26.21	0.2	R 4.72	0.2	R 6.29	0.2	R 6.29	0.2	R 6.29
Sugar	Sugar, white	Kilogram	R 14.02	0.3	R 3.53	0.8	R 11.60	0.8	R 11.60	0.8	R 11.60
	Jam	Kilogram	R 24.99	0.1	R 3.00	0.2	R 6.00	0.2	R 6.00	0.2	R 6.00
Miscellaneous	Tea	per bag	R 0.20	60.0	R 11.79	60.0	R 11.79	60.0	R 11.79	60.0	R 11.79
	Salt	Kilogram	R 13.08	0.1	R 1.57	0.1	R 1.57	0.1	R 1.57	0.1	R 1.57
	Soup powder	Kilogram	R 26.85	0.1	R 2.42	0.1	R 2.42	0.1	R 2.42	0.1	R 2.42
<b>Total cost per person per month</b>					<b>R 540.58</b>		<b>R 583.35</b>		<b>R 615.58</b>		<b>R 682.01</b>
<b>Total cost per person per day</b>					<b>R 18.02</b>		<b>R 19.45</b>		<b>R 20.52</b>		<b>R 22.73</b>

\*Note that AP Weight means As Purchased Weight (dry weight) – the figure is rounded off.

### What is the PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket?

Households living on low incomes change their purchasing patterns in response to changes in affordability conditions. In 2014 we recognised that the gap between what households are able to buy and what they would like to and indeed should be buying for proper nutrition was widening dramatically. In response to this, PACSA, in consultation with a Registered Dietician, formulated a Minimum Nutritional Food Basket for households living on low incomes. The rationale was to keep tracking what households are actually able to afford to buy but not to lose sight of the actual cost of foods required in terms of balanced nutrition, in order for families to ensure their health and nutrition and for children to grow and develop properly.

February 2018  
PACSA Monthly Food Price Barometer

**What is the PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket?** *(continued)*

The *PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket* is an index on which we can start talking realistically about the inadequacies of wages and social grants. Importantly it ensures that current food expenditure patterns are not conflated with the food expenditure required to secure proper nutrition.

The *PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket* includes a greater variety of better quality nutritionally-rich foods and in higher quantities to provide a family with a basic but nutritionally complete monthly diet. The basket can be amended to respond to families of various sizes, genders, ages and life stages through its connection to 4 energy groups. Food price data for the *PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket* is collected with the PACSA Food Basket and conforms to the same methodology.

**TABLE 3: Monthly costs of PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket for families of various sizes, ages and life stages for February 2018.**

Total family size		4	5	7
Number of adults and children in family		2 Adults and 2 Children	3 Adults and 2 Children	3 Adults and 4 Children
Ages and lifestyles of family members	Energy group 1	2 children (3-9 years)	1 child (3-9 years)	2 children (3-9 years)
	Energy group 2	None	1 child (10-13 years) 1 elderly woman	1 child (10-13 years) 1 elderly woman
	Energy group 3	1 very active woman	1 very active woman	1 girl (14-18 years) 1 very active woman
	Energy group 4	1 very active man	1 very active man	1 very active man
Number of members in Energy group 1: 6 500 kJ		2	1	2
Number of members in Energy group 2: 8 500 kJ		0	2	2
Number of members in Energy group 3: 10 500 kJ		1	1	2
Number of members in Energy group 4: 12 000 kJ		1	1	1
Total cost of food to meet basic nutritional requirements per family per month:		<b>R2 378.75</b>	<b>R3 004.88</b>	<b>R4 161.04</b>

**TABLE 3** provides an example of how the data in the *PACSA Minimum Nutritional Basket* can be used. By changing family member variables and linking these variables to the energy groups, it is possible to calculate the monthly costs of a basic but nutritional basket of food for any family.

February 2018  
PACSA Monthly Food Price Barometer

TABLE 4: PACSA Personal and Domestic Hygiene Products Basket showing prices month-on-month and over the last three months.

Foods tracked	Quantity tracked	Dec_2017 Price	Jan_2018 Price	Feb_2018 Price	m/m change (ZAR)	Quarterly change (ZAR)	Quarterly change (%)
Toilet paper	24 rolls	↑ R 78.32	↔ R 78.32	↑ R 79.66	R 1.33	R 1.33	2%
Bath soap	500g x 2	↑ R 21.48	↑ R 24.98	↓ R 22.65	-R 2.33	R 1.17	5%
Toothpaste	100ml x3	↓ R 26.64	↑ R 29.97	↓ R 28.97	-R 1.00	R 2.33	9%
Vaseline	500g	↑ R 26.66	↑ R 26.82	↔ R 26.82	R 0.00	R 0.17	1%
Cream	big bottle x2	↑ R 36.98	↓ R 35.65	↓ R 33.65	-R 2.00	-R 3.33	-9%
Roll-on deoderant	x4	↓ R 61.96	↓ R 60.97	↓ R 55.97	-R 4.99	-R 5.99	-10%
Spray-on deoderant	big spray x 3	↔ R 70.97	↑ R 73.81	↑ R 74.97	R 1.16	R 4.00	6%
Sanitary pads	2 big packs	↑ R 80.98	↔ R 80.98	↔ R 80.98	R 0.00	R 0.00	0%
Shoe Polish	100ml	↓ R 21.32	↑ R 21.66	↓ R 20.66	-R 1.00	-R 0.67	-3%
Green bar soap	8 bars	↓ R 47.98	↑ R 48.31	↓ R 46.98	-R 1.33	-R 1.00	-2%
Washing powder	3kg	↓ R 63.83	↓ R 60.33	↓ R 60.16	-R 0.17	-R 3.67	-6%
Dishwashing liquid	750ml	↓ R 21.49	↑ R 21.99	↑ R 22.66	R 0.67	R 1.17	5%
Handy Andy	750ml	↓ R 21.49	↑ R 21.82	↑ R 22.16	R 0.33	R 0.67	3%
Jik	750ml	↓ R 20.16	↓ R 19.99	↔ R 19.99	R 0.00	-R 0.17	-1%
Jeyes Fluid	500ml	↔ R 32.16	↔ R 32.16	↑ R 32.99	R 0.83	R 0.83	3%
<b>Total cost of PACSA Personal and Domestic Hygiene Products Basket</b>		<b>R 632.41</b>	<b>R 637.75</b>	<b>R 629.26</b>	<b>-R 8.50</b>	<b>-R 3.16</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>

**Month-on-month:** the basket decreased by R8.50 or -1.3% ( R637.75 in Jan 2018 to R629.26 in Feb 2018).

**Over the last 3 months:** the basket decreased by R3.16 or -0.5% (R632.41 in Dec 2017 to R629.26 in Feb 2018).

**What is the PACSA Personal and Domestic Hygiene Products Basket?**

The *PACSA Personal and Domestic Hygiene Products Basket* tracks the monthly prices of a basket of 15 basic personal and domestic household hygiene products which women living on low incomes tell us they try and buy each month. Women tell us that money for personal and domestic hygiene products comes out of the food budget. Personal and domestic hygiene products are critical expenses for household health, well being and for dignity. Data for the *PACSA Personal and Domestic Hygiene Products Basket* is collected with the *PACSA Food Basket* and conforms to the same methodology.

February 2018  
Key indicators and commodities

TABLE 5: Key indicators.

Indicators	Oct_2017	Nov_2017	Dec_2017	Jan_2018	Feb_2018
Total PACSA food basket	↑ R 2 996.89	↓ R 2 963.59	↑ R 3 021.39	↑ R 3 110.95	↑ R 3 115.07
PACSA month-on-month change (ZAR)	R 111.16	↓ -R 33.30	↑ R 57.80	↑ R 89.56	↑ R 4.12
PACSA month-on-month change (%)	3.9%	↓ -1.1%	↑ 2.0%	↑ 3.0%	↑ 0.1%
PACSA year-on-year rates change (ZAR)	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available
PACSA year-on-year rates (%)	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available	Not yet available
CPI-Food & NAB month-on-month rates	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	1.3%	Not yet available
CPI-Food & NAB year-on-year rates	5.3%	5.2%	4.8%	4.5%	Not yet available
CPI headline year-on-year rates	4.8%	4.6%	4.7%	4.4%	Not yet available

CPI data sourced from: Statistics South Africa. Consumer Price Index. <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0141/P0141January2018.pdf>

### Key indicators

The Consumer Price Index [CPI] measures the changes in prices of consumption goods and services over time. It is South Africa's primary instrument to measure inflation's impact on households and is used for macroeconomic analysis and monetary policy, including as the basis on which wage negotiations and adjustments to social grants are made.

The CPI is made up of a basket of 412 products which are divided into 12 groups, with each group weighted relative to consumption expenditure of households. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverage group is weighted at 17.24% of the CPI basket. This weighting is far lower than the proportional spend by households living on low incomes. Our data suggests that households living on low incomes spend 55% to 70% of their incomes on food per month. It means that the weighting in the CPI basket underestimates the impact of food price inflation for households living on low incomes.

TABLE 5 includes CPI-headline inflation data (the full basket making up the CPI), the CPI-Food & Non-alcoholic Beverages group in the CPI basket and the PACSA Food Basket data.

TABLE 6: Key commodities.

Commodities	Oct_2017	Nov_2017	Dec_2017	Jan_2018	Feb_2018
Exchange rate	↑ R 13.72	↑ R 14.22	↓ R 13.74	↓ R 12.30	↓ R 12.08
Oil price per barrel (\$)	↑ \$56.17	↑ \$60.97	↑ \$63.39	↑ \$67.62	↑ \$69.16
Petrol (Inland) per litre	↑ R 13.74	↑ R 13.78	↑ R 14.49	↓ R 14.20	↓ R 13.90
Diesel (Reef) per litre	↑ R 12.12	↑ R 12.35	↑ R 12.95	↓ R 12.73	↓ R 12.56
RSA White Maize per ton	↑ R 1 833.40	↑ R 1 991.20	↓ R 1 895.80	↑ R 2 034.00	↓ R 1 835.00
RSA Yellow Maize per ton	↑ R 1 955.20	↑ R 2 094.00	↓ R 2 004.60	↑ R 2 020.00	↓ R 1 922.60
RSA Wheat per ton	↑ R 4 114.20	↑ R 4 186.80	↓ R 4 107.80	↓ R 3 684.00	↓ R 3 554.00
RSA Soybeans per ton	↑ R 4 691.00	↑ R 4 820.00	↑ R 4 877.20	↓ R 4 850.00	↓ R 4 426.00
RSA Sunflower seed per ton	↑ R 4 741.60	↓ R 4 438.60	↑ R 4 439.00	↑ R 4 831.00	↓ R 4 686.80

Data sourced 1st Friday of month from: Department of Energy. Fuel Price History 2018.

<http://www.energy.gov.za/files/esources/petroleum/February2018/Fuel-Price-History.pdf> and Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Weekly Price Watch data sourced directly from DAFF Price Watch and Exchange Rates ZAR vs USD. Exchange-Rates.Org. <https://www.exchange-rates.org/history/ZAR/USD/T>

### Commodity prices

Most of our food is planted for profits and not for the plate. Analysing food prices is difficult because we need to consider the logic of the market and not a logic which would follow if food was grown for people. Most of the food on supermarket shelves is grown through agro-industrial methods. The crude oil price and exchange rate are key drivers of food prices locally. Our basic staple foods are commodified and speculated upon on international markets. The price of maize meal in our local supermarket tracks international commodity prices e.g. if the price per tonne of USA maize increases then South African farmers may choose to export their harvest to make more profits, so the price of local South African maize increases.

TABLE 6 includes some of the core drivers of food price inflation as well as our core staple foods subject to international commodity speculation.



February 2018  
Affordability tables

TABLE 7: Income and expenditure for households of various socio-economic scenarios: February 2018.

Household socio-economic scenarios	Household A	Household B	Household C	Household D	Household E	Household F	Household G
<b>Total household income</b>	<b>R 2 360.00</b>	<b>R 2 900.00</b>	<b>R 3 500.00</b>	<b>R 4 500.00</b>	<b>R 6 000.00</b>	<b>R 8 000.00</b>	<b>R 12 500.00</b>
Number of household members	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>MINUS</b> Minimum Nutritional food basket	R 3 004.88	R 3 004.88	R 3 004.88	R 3 004.88	R 3 004.88	R 3 004.88	R 3 004.88
<b>Monies left over AFTER FOOD to buy some essential household requirements*</b>	<b>R -644.88</b>	<b>R -104.88</b>	<b>R 495.12</b>	<b>R 1 495.12</b>	<b>R 2 995.12</b>	<b>R 4 995.12</b>	<b>R 9 495.12</b>
<b>MINUS</b> Burial insurance	R 200.00	R 200.00	R 200.00	R 200.00	R 200.00	R 200.00	R 200.00
<b>MINUS</b> Electricity and water	R 595.24	R 595.24	R 595.24	R 595.24	R 595.24	R 595.24	R 595.24
<b>MINUS</b> Transport	R 720.00	R 720.00	R 720.00	R 720.00	R 720.00	R 720.00	R 720.00
<b>MINUS</b> Education	R 500.00	R 500.00	R 500.00	R 500.00	R 500.00	R 500.00	R 500.00
<b>MINUS</b> Communication and media	R 150.00	R 150.00	R 150.00	R 150.00	R 150.00	R 150.00	R 150.00
<b>MINUS</b> Clothing and footwear	R 416.66	R 416.66	R 416.66	R 416.66	R 416.66	R 416.66	R 416.66
<b>MINUS</b> Domestic & household hygiene items	R 629.26	R 629.26	R 629.26	R 629.26	R 629.26	R 629.26	R 629.26
<b>MINUS</b> Cultural obligations	R 350.00	R 350.00	R 350.00	R 350.00	R 350.00	R 350.00	R 350.00
<b>Monies left over AFTER FOOD &amp; SOME ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS secured</b>	<b>R -4 206.04</b>	<b>R -3 666.04</b>	<b>R -3 066.04</b>	<b>R -2 066.04</b>	<b>R -566.04</b>	<b>R 1 433.96</b>	<b>R 5 933.96</b>

\* Please note expenditures in Table 7 above are the actual Pietermaritzburg-based costs of some important goods and services which PACSA calculates in conversations with women living on low incomes and tracks and updates through various research interventions. The expenditures reflected in the table are incomplete and exclude other important monies for debt repayments, health care, rent and emergencies amongst others; including monies for savings and investments. See Appendix 1: Notes and References for Table 7.

### Food price affordability

TABLE 7 shows the impact of low incomes and high food and other essential goods and service costs on the ability of households with different incomes and socio-economic scenarios to secure food. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the justification of income, household size, food indicator, and quantity and value of goods and services presented in the table above. All figures are purposive to present a realistic picture of the socio-economic situation affecting a range of low-income scenarios for households and the costs of goods and services in Pietermaritzburg.

South Africans are net buyers of food. Supermarkets are the main source of food for the majority of households. In a cash-based capitalist economy where food is not a public good; access to food requires money. Food availability is not generally a problem. We have enough food. The problem is food price affordability. We do not have enough money to buy the food we need. Low incomes are an outcome of an economy whereby workers are paid poverty level wages, social grants are too low and levels of unemployment are very high. The problems of being unable to put food on the table therefore has its basis not in agriculture but is caused by economic and political choices.

TABLE 8: Comparing PACSA Baskets per month: February 2018

PACSA Food Baskets	Cost of Basket for household size of 7
PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket	R 4 161.04
PACSA Food Basket	R 3 115.07
<b>Difference between Baskets</b>	<b>R 1 045.97</b>

### How affordability affects nutrition

Food is typically one of very few expenses households living on low incomes have some level of control over. Because of this other non-negotiable expenses take precedent and the food budget tends to arise only after non-negotiable expenses have been paid. This is the reason why we tend to see such low levels of expenditure on food. It is not because that expenditure is what households' reasonably need to or wish to spend to secure sufficient quantities of a diverse range of food for adequate nutrition; it is because this is the amount of money households are able to spend on food.

TABLE 8 shows the severity of the impact of food price affordability on household nutrition when comparing the PACSA Food Basket to the PACSA Minimum Nutritional Food Basket. Low-income households are not able to secure sufficient nutritious food to ensure minimum nutrition for health, well-being and productivity.

## Appendix 1: Notes and References for Affordability Table 7

### Total household income

We have selected 7 total household income scenarios:

- Household A:** R2 360 = 1 old-age pension of R1 600 + 2 child support grants (R380 x 2) of R760 (National Treasury, 2017. Budget Speech: 22).
- Household B:** R2 900 = the median monthly earnings by Black South Africans in 2015 (Statistics South Africa [2016]. Labour market dynamics in South Africa, 2015. Statistics South Africa. Pretoria. P 4-24 (71), see link: <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-02-11-02/Report-02-11-022015.pdf>
- Household C:** R3 500 is the maximum National Minimum Wage level proposed by the Nedlac Advisory Panel.
- Household D:** R4 500 = Cosatu has called for a National Minimum Wage of between R4 500 and R6 000.
- Household E:** R6 000 = see above.
- Household F:** R8 000 is a minimum wage level which PACSA identified in February 2015 as an entry point to affordability for Pietermaritzburg families for the possibility of living at a basic level of dignity. Our R8 000 figure is incomplete and excludes the costs of many other important goods and services e.g. monies for debt repayments, health care, rent and emergencies amongst others; including monies for savings and investments. R8 000 therefore is not a wage level which we would consider transformative. It may allow households to better absorb shocks but it is not enough to change the trajectory of households.
- Household G:** R12 500 is the wage level called for by NUMSA. This figure was first put out by mine workers in Marikana. Workers died for this in August 2012.

### Burial insurance

This figure of R200 presents basic family burial insurance costs for a low-income household registered with insurance companies which serve the low-income market (2016). Burial insurance has been included as an essential and prioritized expense because interviews with households reveal that burial insurance is typically paid before any other expense and very seldom defaulted as a mechanism to ensure food is secured.

### Electricity and water

The **electricity** cost is calculated on 350kWh per month. This is the average consumption for low-income households in Pietermaritzburg (Msunduzi Municipality). We use the prepaid electricity tariff because prepaid meters are installed in the homes of low-income households. Prepaid electricity increased by 1.8% for the 2017/18 term. The cost per kWh is R1.40. The total rand value for 350kWh is **R490** per month (includes VAT). Households on prepaid meters in Pietermaritzburg are excluded from accessing free basic electricity.

The **water** expense is calculated on a fixed monthly charge for a non-metered household. This is a typical scenario for low-income households living in RDP housing in Pietermaritzburg. Water increased by 15% for the 2017/18 term. The 2017/18 charges on an unmetered water supply is **R105.24** per month

(includes VAT). **The figure in the table (R595.24) is the sum of electricity and water.**

### Transport costs

The transport cost is calculated for a household living outside the CBD, given that apartheid geography has not changed and low-income Black South African households still live outside the CBD and far from places of work. It is calculated on 1 kombi trip at R12 or R24 return inside Pietermaritzburg; and 1 kombi trip at R60 or R120 return to Durban (Pietermaritzburg kombi charges, August 2017). The R720 is calculated as follows: 20 trips to work [20 X R24 = R480] + 5 trips to town for work/study /shopping/church etc. [5 X R24 = R120] + 1 long distance trip return (we use Durban as the destination) [1 X R120 = R120].

### Education

This figure has been derived from a focus group (2015), it has its basis in the experience of women with children; it provides the possibility for stationery (± R500 per annum); Carlton paper and toilet paper (R50 once or twice a year); School fees (± R250 once or twice a year); School computer access (± R100 a month); contribution to transport costs.

### Communication and media

This figure is arbitrary; it provides R150 per household per month – for newspapers, airtime, photocopying etc.

### Clothing and footwear

This figure is arbitrary; it provides roughly R1 000 each for each member in a family of five. The annual figure of R5000 is divided by 12 months to give R416.66 per household per month. Note that for children, the R1 000 allocated may cover school clothes and shoes for a year but will exclude other clothes worn at home.

### Domestic and household hygiene products

This figure presents the monthly price of personal and domestic hygiene products tracked through PACSA's monthly barometer.

*Personal hygiene products tracked include:*

toilet paper [1ply x 24 rolls], bath soap [500g x 2], toothpaste [100ml x 3], sanitary pads [2 big packs], Vaseline [500g], face & body cream [big bottle x2], roll-on [normal x 4], spray deodorant [big sprays x3], shoe polish [100ml x1].

*Domestic hygiene products tracked include:*

green bar soap [bars x8], washing powder [3kg], dishwashing liquid [750ml], handy andy [750ml], jik [750ml] and jeyes fluid [500ml].

### Cultural obligations

This figure is arbitrary; it provides R350 per month - includes monies for contributions to funerals, weddings, religious and cultural ceremonies, and possible intra and inter family and community financial assistance.

### About PACSA

The Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action (PACSA) is a faith-based social justice and development NGO that has been in operation since 1979. PACSA operates in the uMgungundlovu region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and focusses on socio-economic rights, gender justice, youth development, livelihoods and HIV & Aids. Our work and our practice seek to enhance human dignity.