CASE STUDY REPORT TEMPLATE

Study location	*Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Nigeria*
Organization or researcher that developed the case study	*Nigeria Climate Innovation Center*
Dates	*June-July 2024*

A METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS THE LIVING INCOME OF WASTE PICKERS

Introduction to the document:

Context:

In 2024, the study [“A living income for the informal waste sector”](#) piloted a methodology with local NGOs to assess the concept of a “living income” for informal waste workers with the goal to create a practical methodology to promote the provision of a living income within these supply chains. Case surveys were developed in 2023 in locations in India, Ghana and Brazil.

This toolkit was developed in the first half of 2024, as part of Phase 2 of the Living Income Assessment. The toolkit is open to be used by anyone and can be used under the CC 4.0 license.

Structure of the overall toolkit:

There are three components to the overall toolkit: a PowerPoint manual, an Excel document and a Word template.
1. A PowerPoint toolkit gives a complete overview of the full methodology.
2. An Excel document is for the final data of the conducted assessment to be recorded.
3. This Word document to record the background of the case study, note down critical assumptions taken in the Final Data sheet (Tab 2) in the Excel document, and summarize key learnings and recommendations.

Recommended length of the word document

(for guidance only):

- Intro and methodology - 0.5 pages
- Establishing a baseline - 1 page
- Living income - 1 page
- Benchmarks - 0.5 pages
- Key learnings and recommendations - 0.5 to 1 pages

Total 3 to 4 pages

Template Input

Introduction & methodology

The Living Income Research is designed to carefully evaluate the standard and quality of live of waste pickers within a designated geographical region (in this case, Nigeria). The primary purpose of the study is to carefully examine and recommend sustainable methodologies on improving the living standards of waste pickers across the world especially in emerging economies. The research was conducted by Nigeria Climate innovation Center (NCIC) in Abuja, across three locations- Apo, Gishiri, Lugbe.

The survey was executed through field interviews conducted by an NCIC representative with two research assistants, in line with the tool kit questions designed by SYSTEMIQ. The sample size of the study is 40 waste pickers, and their responses were carefully imputed on the response toolkit sheet for further evaluation and analysis. The NCIC also leveraged its relationship with the President of the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) to assist with the coordination of the required amount of sample size recommended for the study. The entire study started on the 7th of June 2024 and was concluded on the 16th of July 2024.

A – Establishing a Baseline

▪ When did the waste pickers start waste picking	According to the study, the earliest year was 2016, while the latest year was 2024.
▪ What were the main reasons the informal waste pickers started waste picking	The primary reason for waste picking is to earn a living essentially due to the high unemployment rate in the country.
▪ What are the main typologies of the surveyed workers (e.g., independent workers, organized in a cooperative)	85% of the sample size are from organized cooperatives, while 15% are independent waste pickers.
▪ What are the main sources of waste for the surveyed workers (e.g., a dumpsite, street waste picking)	27% of sample size source their waste from both dumpsites and household, 5% from households, 38% from dumpsites, 10% from streets, 20%from household and street
▪ How many surveyed workers had alternative income streams other than waste picking	7 surveyed workers had alternative income streams representing 17% of the sample size.
▪ On average, how much did the surveyed waste pickers work	Average of 4hrs a day and 6days a week
▪ How many waste pickers had access to vehicles (e.g., tricycles)	10 waste pickers have access to pushcarts, representing 25% of the sample size.
▪ How many respondents reported that they had obligations to the buyers including only being permitted to sell their materials to specific buyers.	2 waste pickers have obligations to buyers.
▪ Reasons for not increasing earnings	Scarcity of plastic waste, competition from increased waste pickers and the rainy season.
▪ How many surveyed workers faced food insecurity and difficulty having decent housing, healthcare and education.	Food insecurity- 27 Decent housing- 40

B - Living Income Estimate

B1 – Healthy Diets Survey
- Details about the costs of a healthy diet

  The cost of a healthy diet in Nigeria was derived from the 2024 National Bureau of Statistics data. https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241451
- Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of a healthy diet
  - Secondary data was leveraged from publications of credible organizations like GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) by analyzing factors like cost share per food group, for example Fruits and vegetables were the most expensive food groups in terms of price per calories, while least-expensive food group on average was Legumes, Nuts, and Seeds https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241451

B2 - Decent Housing Survey
- Details about the costs of decent housing

  The waste pickers averagely live in modest houses built with inferior materials from the interviews conducted.
- Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of decent housing

  Only about 50% of the waste pickers have access to electricity, with about 40% having access to good sanitation.

B3 – Healthcare Costs
- Details about the costs of healthcare

  There isn't a well-structured health insurance system in Nigeria with only 3% of Nigerians having health insurance cover.
- Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of healthcare

  Most waste pickers based on their income levels can averagely bear the monthly cost of 50,000 NGN.

B4 – Education Costs
- Details about the costs of education

  The level of education is low among them, and education is not a priority for most of them.

B5 – Costs of decent work
- Details about the costs of decent work

  The average minimum wage in Nigeria is 70,000 monthly as approved by the Government of Nigeria.

B6 – Saving
- Details about the estimated need for savings

To plough back into resources that that will the waste picker more productive while sustaining their household.

C – Compiling Benchmark Incomes

(around 0.5 pages)

- Details about the approach to compiling benchmark incomes

  Income realized from waste picking is aligned with the prevailing market rate per kg of plastic waste, which fluctuates from time to time due to market and transactional forces of demand and supply.

- Details about the critical assumptions that were made when compiling benchmark incomes

  The following indicators were considered:

  1. Number of working hours per day, week and month.

  2. Value of waste per kg and the volume collected per day, week and month

Observations & Lessons Learnt

- What are the key learnings and recommendations to improve the livelihoods and the systems around waste pickers?
  1. Capacity Building
  2. Equipment financing for purchase of tricycles and other mobile machines to move help collect and transport waste.
  3. They should be registered and well taken care of to improve their dignity of labor.
  4. They should have health insurance because of their exposure to health hazards.
  5. Waste pickers should be involved in policy making for inclusive impact.

- What are the actions that local governments and the private sector - including waste management, FMCGs, recyclers - should take to improve living conditions for the local waste pickers (locally, not on a global level)?

  1. Create more value chain development programs and that include waste pickers.

2. Create policies that are designed to make waste picking more efficient like sorting from source and provision on large bins in public spaces for the separation of waste types.

3. Design vocational training schemes for waste pickers to enhance their educational and entrepreneurial skills.

4. Design credit schemes through cooperatives to improve their living conditions through access to credit facilities for assessing mortgages and other necessities.