**CASE STUDY REPORT TEMPLATE**

*(Optional) Please provide a picture of your case study*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study location**  | *Please fill in the project location for the living income case study* |
| **Organization or researcher that developed the case study** | *Please fill in the name of your organization or individual that implemented the living income case study* |
| **Dates** | *Please include the month and year when this case study was developed* |

# **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”](https://www.systemiq.earth/reports/a-living-income-for-the-informal-waste-sector/#download) 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**

(around 0.5 pages)

* Explain the purpose of the research
* Who conducted the research and where was it conducted
* Explain the survey technique that was used
* Explain the sample size
* Explain other participants that were consulted for the research
* Explain the way that samples and information was collected
* Explain the timeframe of the conducted survey

### **A – Establishing a Baseline**

(around 1 page)

Please describe your 10-15 key findings of your research below. This could include, but is not limited to:

* When did the waste pickers start waste picking
* What were the main reasons the informal waste pickers started waste picking
* What are the main typologies of the surveyed workers (e.g., independent workers, organized in a cooperative)
* What are the main sources of waste for the surveyed workers (e.g., a dumpsite, street waste picking)
* How many surveyed workers had alternative income streams other than waste picking
* On average, how much did the surveyed waste pickers work
* How many waste pickers had access to vehicles (e.g., tricycles)
* How many respondents reported that they had obligations to the buyers including only being permitted to sell their materials to specific buyers.
* Reasons for not increasing earnings
* How many surveyed workers faced food insecurity and difficulty to have decent housing, healthcare and education.

### **B - Living Income Estimate**

(around 1 page)

#### **B1 – Healthy Diets Survey**

* Details about the costs of a healthy diet
* Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of a healthy diet

#### **B2 - Decent Housing Survey**

* Details about the costs of decent housing
* Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of decent housing

#### **B3 – Healthcare Costs**

* Details about the costs of healthcare
* Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of healthcare

#### **B4 – Education Costs**

* Details about the costs of education
* Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of education

#### **B5 – Costs of decent work**

* Details about the costs of decent work
* Details about the critical assumptions that were made when estimating the costs of decent work

#### **B6 – Saving**

* Details about the estimated need for savings

### **C – Compiling Benchmark Incomes**

(around 0.5 pages)

* Details about the approach to compiling benchmark incomes
* Details about the critical assumptions that were made when compiling benchmark incomes

### **Observations & Lessons Learnt**

(0.5 to 1 pages)

* What are the key learnings and recommendations to improve the livelihoods and the systems around waste pickers?
* 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)?