



## Calculating a Living Income benchmark for cocoa growing regions of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire Project Description

**Purpose:** This project is intended to develop a living income benchmark for cocoa growing regions of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. It will also test the applicability of the Anker Method for living income benchmarking.

The project will gather the data on the costs of a decent standard of living for rural farming families in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. This project does not seek to identify the sources of income, but to assess the total income needed at household level for a dignified life.

*A Living Income is the net annual income required for a household/family in a particular place to afford a decent standard of living for all members of that household/family. Elements of a decent standard of living include: food, water, housing, education, healthcare, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.* These elements are defined according to the [common methodology](#) developed by experts Richard and Martha Anker and as used by the Global Living Wage Coalition.

**Timeline:** November 2017-August 2018

**Structure:** The studies are being conducted by independent, third party research teams and coordinated by the Living Income Community of Practice, co-hosted by ISEAL, Sustainable Food Lab and GIZ.

A *Steering Committee (SC)*, comprised of industry, farmer organizations and civil society, oversees the studies<sup>1</sup>. The SC is responsible for commenting on the research plan and the draft findings. SC members also make themselves available to the researchers to answer questions about the study areas, and assist with making contacts in the field and with stakeholders.

The study is also supported by a *Technical Committee (TC)* of methodology experts. The role of the TC is to provide technical backstopping support to the researchers and the organisations coordinating the study. In addition to providing guidance, the TC prepares recommendations on key methodological questions and decisions.

The costs of the study are supported by funds from Cargill, Fairtrade International, GIZ, Lindt Cocoa Foundation, Mars and UTZ Sector Partnerships Programme.

### Study phases

#### Phase I (Q3-Q4 2017) – Scoping

In this phase, the coordination team will:

- define the subregions for data collection,
- identify national and private survey data and other background information that could be useful for the study,
- identify a research team to conduct the study,

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<sup>1</sup> SC members are: CARE, Cargill, Fairtrade, Kuapa Kokoo, Lindt Cocoa Foundation, Mars, VOICE Network, and World Cocoa Foundation.

- draft the study plan and terms of reference for the researchers, and
- draft the pre-study stakeholder engagement strategy.

This is a critical phase to ensure pre-study engagement with actors in each research country and in the sector as well as to define the guidelines for the use of information once the study becomes available to different actors within and outside of the cocoa supply chain. To do this well there will be a launch event in the regions (February 13 Ghana, March 20 CDI).

The specific areas in Ghana and Ivory Coast that will be the focus of the study and data collection will be determined in this scoping phase. The scoping phase will also investigate opportunities to build off of studies that have already been done in the region:

- In the case of Ghana, a living wage benchmark has been calculated by the GLWC. We will research the possibility of using the data collected of the costs of a decent standard of living to inform a living income benchmark in Ghana. This will depend on the geographical overlap of the prior study and those critical for cocoa production.
- Although this study will not gather data on farm economics, such as actual household income, the scoping phase will include the identification of finalized, ongoing and upcoming studies that could help organizations understand the gap between actual incomes and the living income benchmark(s).

#### **Phase II (Q1 2018) – Desk research and methodological tools developed**

The research teams will lead this phase to develop model diets for each region, develop housing standard guidelines, create data collection forms and protocols for information collection, and develop a qualitative questionnaire / interview guide for focus groups in French, English and any local dialects necessary.

#### **Phase III (Q2 2018) – Field work and drafts reports generated**

The research teams will complete the field work to gather data necessary. Then they will clean, analyze and process the data for preparation of the draft reports. Drafts will be shared with the coordination team and the Steering Committee, after which the draft reports will be shared and validated with the stakeholders in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire through both bilateral meetings and a validation workshop in each country.

#### **Phase IV (Q3 2018) – Final reports and dissemination of findings**

The coordination team will publish the final reports on the Living Income benchmarks for each country. Webinars will also be held to share the findings of the research with actors in the region and globally. If feasible, these will be offered in French and in English.

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