

Who We Are

The Global Living Wage Coalition brings together Fairtrade International, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), GoodWeave International, Rainforest Alliance (RA), Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), Social Accountability International (SAI), and UTZ, in partnership with the ISEAL Alliance and international living wage experts Dr. Richard Anker and Ms. Martha Anker. The GLWC comes together with the shared mission to see continuous improvements in workers' wages, in the farms, factories and supply chains participating in their respective certification systems and beyond, and with the long term goal for workers to be paid a living wage. Each living Wage Benchmark commissioned by the Coalition is made public to further this aim and to increase the opportunity for collaboration toward payment of a Living Wage.

What We Do

The Global Living Wage Coalition aims to develop living wage benchmark estimates in many countries based on a single definition and methodology of calculation of living wage and as a critical step to enable industries and companies to move towards paying a living wage. The Coalition is working together with Richard Anker and Martha Anker, to benchmark living wage levels in all areas covered by our standards, using a new methodology they have developed to measure living wages. The full manual on this methodology is being published by Edward Elgar expected in December 2016.

The Global Living Wage Coalition sees the calculation and release of Living Wage benchmarks as the first step in a long-term process towards achieving wages at a level that will help workers escape poverty. Objective living wage benchmarks are instrumental to collaborative efforts of retailers, buyers, producers and trade unions to make a living wage a reality. Our organizations are firmly committed to this process.

Living Wage Defined

In order to work together on living wage, it is important to share an understanding of what a living wage is. A recent ILO review revealed that there is a general consensus on the definition of living wage (R. Anker, *Estimating a Living Wage: A Methodological Review*, ILO 2011). Drawing on this report and in consultation with experts, The Global Living Wage Coalition has adopted the following common definition for living wage. A living wage is:

The remuneration received for a standard workweek by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.

For More information on the Work of The Global Living Wage Coalition, contact Michelle Bhattacharyya – Coordinator for the Global Living Wage Coalition at michelle@globallivingwage.org