• WageIndicator

# The Advantage of Paying a Living Wage

A presentation by Paulien Osse, Co-Founder and Global Lead Living Wages September, 2025

Collect, Share, Compare. Aware.

## WageIndicator journey

A timeline of our databases



Started in The Netherlands, now in 75 countries

### **Labour Law**

Started in Mozambique now in 145 countries; + a Labour Rights Index

### **Living Wages**

Started with a model in 100 countries. Now 400 on-the-ground data collectors do the job in 175 countries.

1999 2006 2008 2011 2014 2024

### Minimum Wages

Started in Paraguay, India and now in 2008 countries

## Collective Agreements

Started in Sub Saharan Africa, now in 75 countries

## **Living Wages Publication**

Supported by a group of big firms, costly Living Wage data can be shared with trade unions, workers, small firms

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## **Our Living wage database**

WageIndicator has continuously improved the calculations, coverage, and scope of its Living Wage database to ensure easy access to up-to-date estimates

WageIndicator calculates its estimates based on cost-of-living data collected by ~400 data collectors worldwide. Each quarter fresh data! No drama with inflation, the data will show the prices.

Currently there are Living Wage estimates for 178 countries, covering 3000 regions. Available for sale, as well as partly publicly available on our websites.



## Living Wages are connected with other databases on:

Labour Laws Actual Wages

CBA's

Minimum Wages









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## **WageIndicator Method**

How do we calculate Living Wage estimates? (and Living Income, Living Tariff)

WAGEINDICATOR CALCULATES
LIVING WAGES FOR

**Typical\* Families** 

in a range

2 earning adults
No. of children is determined by
national
fertility rate

Lower Bound is seen as the global baseline

One works 100% of permissible hours, other's hours are based on the national labour participation rate, unemployment rate and part-time work rate

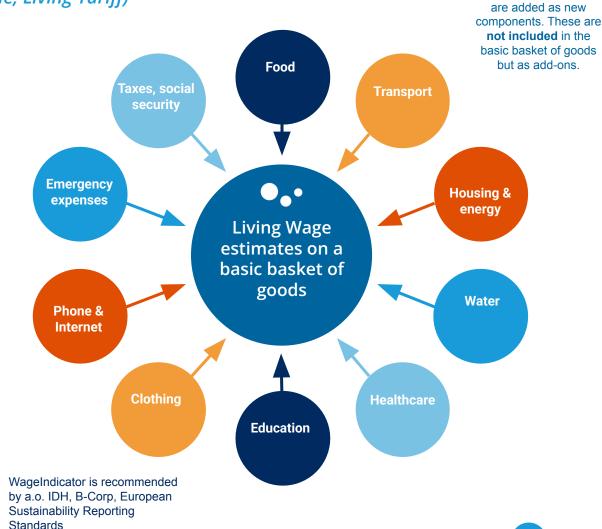
\*We also calculate for standard families

Single Income Earner for a Family in a range

1 earning adult. No. of children is determined by national fertility rate

Lower Bound is seen as the best from a Human Rights

perspective



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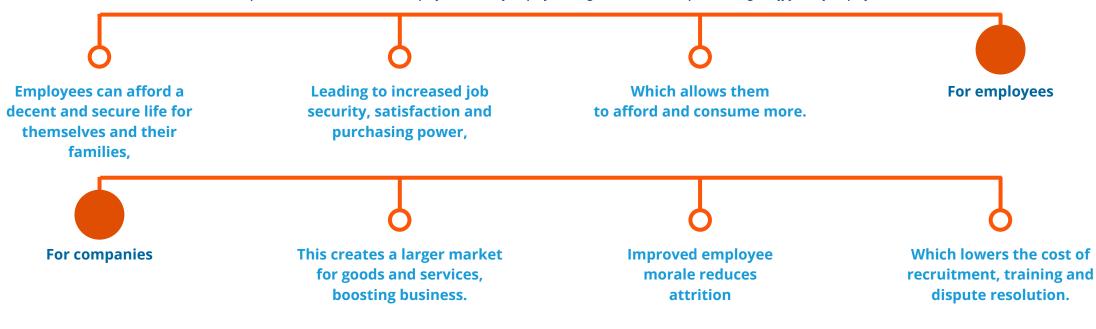
As of October 2024, child

care and private car cost

# How do Living Wage payments benefit employers, and the economy?

It enables labour market transparency, allowing employers and employees to make informed decisions

(in this presentation we talk about employees, not self employed. WageIndicator developed a Living Tariff for self employed)



Living Wage payment is also central to the achievement of multiple SDGs



### Want to know more?

### **Get in touch:**

helpdesk@wageindicator.org

#### **FAQ-method:**

https://wageindicator.org/salary/living-wage/faq-living-wage

#### Available data around the world:

https://wageindicator.org/salary/living-wage/list-of-country-region-living-wages-data-availability

### **Publicly available estimates:**

https://wageindicator.org/salary/living-wage/workers-trade-unions

### Minimum wage/Living Wage:

https://wageindicator.org/salary/minimum-wage/minimum-wages-higher-than-living-wages-by-country-and-by-region

### **Adequate Wages**

https://wageindicator.org/salary/living-wage/faq-living-wage/adequate-wages-recommender

### **Company experiences**

https://wageindicator.org/salary/living-wage/faq-living-wage/living-wage-experience-wthin-companies-cases

### **Expert interviews**

https://wageindicator.org/about/overview-wageindicator-newsletters/expert-interviews