Global Living Wage Series
Nicaragua
Northwest

Synopsis of Living Wage Study Conducted by: Dra. Lykke E. Andersen y Werner Hernani-Limario
Living Wage Estimated using the Anker Methodology, October 2017

Provision for Unexpected Events
C$ 318
US$ 10

Mandatory Deductions from Pay
C$ 318
US$ 10

Food
C$ 5,372
US$ 177

Non-Food, Non-Housing
C$ 3,545
US$ 117

Monthly Living Wage
C$ 8,048
US$ 265

1.62 full-time workers in a family

Housing
C$ 3,010
US$ 99

Local Housing Standard
- Cement / stone / brick walls
- Ceiling and floor built with durable materials
- Toilet or latrine
- Sufficient number of windows for ventilation and adequate lighting
- Electricity
- Piped water inside the property for urban areas tap / nearby public well acceptable for rural areas
- Good ventilation required when cooking inside the house
- 35m2 size (social housing standard)
- 1 bedroom and a room for the family
- Electric lighting

Model Diet
edible grams per person per day
- 300 gr corn tortilla (six corn tortillas)
- 125 gr rice
- 25 gr white bread (one slice bread per day)
- 15 gr pasta
- 33 gr potatoes (three portions of potatoes (typically fried) per week)
- 30 gr green plantains (three portions green plantains (typically fried) per week)
- 85 gr beans
- 122 gr cow’s milk (one cup of milk per day (for kids))
- 27 gr cheese (five thick slices of cheese per week)
- 36 gr eggs
- 36 gr chicken meat (three small portions chicken

- 12 gr beef (one small piece of beef per week)
- 15 gr canned sardines (one portion canned sardines per week)
- 140 gr vegetables (35 gr cabbage, 35 gr onion 35 gr tomato, 35 gr ayote)
- 70 gr fruits (35 gr banana, 35 gr orange (one banana or orange per day))
- 31 gr oil (two spoons of oil per day)
- 30 gr sugar (seven teaspoons of sugar per day)
- 7 gr coffee (two cups of coffee with sugar per day (240 ml))
Key Values and Assumptions

- 48 hour work week
- 24-26 working days per month

- Exchange rate
  US $1 = 30.40 C$

- Family size of 4 people
  - 2 adults, 2 children
  - 1.62 full-time workers per family

Monthly Living Wage =
(food + housing + non-food, non-housing + provision for unexpected events) ÷ number of full-time workers per family) + mandatory deductions from pay

Monthly Living Wage for Northwest Nicaragua in C$:
- National Poverty Line Wage: 3,768
- Minimum wage in the agriculture sector: 5,288
- Prevailing wage for typical agriculture worker: 6,732
- Minimum wage in commerce, hotels, transportation, etc.: 7,180
- Gross Living Wage: 8,048

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Fairtrade International, Forest Stewardship Council, GoodWeave International, Rainforest Alliance, Social Accountability International, Sustainable Agriculture Network, and UTZ. In association with the ISEAL Alliance and Richard Anker and Martha Anker.

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