



# Young Lives Survey Design and Sampling (Round 5):

## Viet Nam

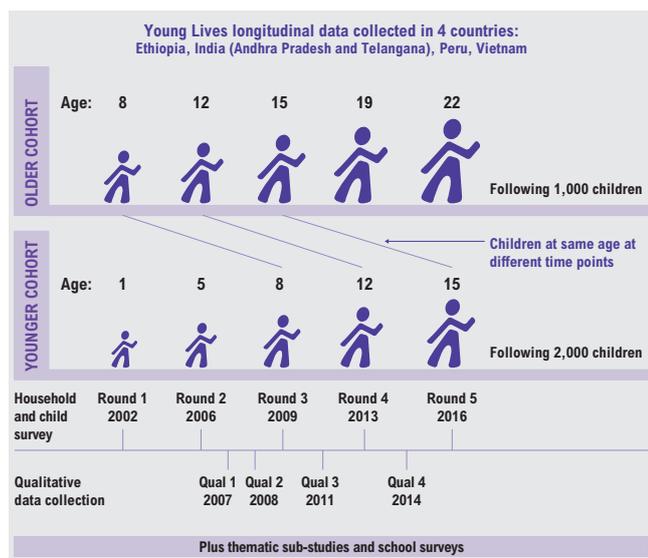
**This fact sheet describes the survey methods and sample design in Viet Nam and attrition rates throughout the fifteen years of the Young Lives study (since Round 1 in 2002 to Round 5 in 2016). It also provides information on the sites where Young Lives children live in order to contextualize the findings of the accompanying, which present preliminary results of the fifth survey round in the areas of: *Education and Learning, Growth and Nutrition, Youth Transitions: Skills, Work and Family Formation, and Poverty and Intergenerational Change.***

### About Young Lives

Young Lives is designed as a cohort study following the lives of 12,000 children in four low and middle-income countries – Ethiopia, India (in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam – over 15 years. The sample in each country consists of two cohorts of children: a Younger Cohort of 2,000 children who were aged one when the first round of the survey was carried out in 2002, and an Older Cohort of 1,000 children then aged eight.

Young Lives has collected a wealth of information through a large-scale household survey of all the children and their primary caregivers, bolstered by in-depth interviews, group work and case studies with a sub-sample of the children, their caregivers, teachers and community representatives. This not only tracks the material and social circumstances of the Young Lives sample, but also captures their perspectives on life and their aspirations for the future, set against the environmental and social realities of their communities.

The fact that our work spans 15 years in the lives of these children – covering all ages from early infancy into young adulthood when some have become parents themselves – means that we are able to examine how the lives of children, living in different circumstances and in diverse contexts, change over time. The five rounds of survey data, supplemented by four rounds of nested qualitative case studies, affords Young Lives a unique cross-country longitudinal dataset exploring the causes and consequences of poverty in childhood.

**Figure 1.** *Young Lives longitudinal and cohort study*

## Young Lives in Viet Nam

Five rounds of quantitative surveys of children, households and communities have been conducted in Viet Nam. The first round was carried out in 2002 when the children were aged around 1 and 8 years of age. The following surveys have been carried out in 2006 (Round 2), 2009 (Round 3), 2013 (Round 4) and, most recently, in 2016 (Round 5) when the children were aged approximately 15 years old (the Younger Cohort) and 22 years old (the Older Cohort).

## Sample design

The children were selected from 20 sentinel sites that were defined specifically in each country. The concept of a sentinel site comes from health surveillance studies and is a form of purposive sampling where the site (or 'cluster' in sampling language) is deemed to represent a certain type of population, and is expected to show typical trends affecting those people or areas.

The study sites in Viet Nam were selected in 2001 using a semi-purposive sampling strategy. In Viet Nam, a sentinel site was defined as commune-based. A commune has a local government office, primary school, health centre, post office, and a market. In the event that a commune selected as a sentinel site had insufficient numbers of one-year-old children at the time of the survey, a neighbouring commune with similar socio-economic conditions was also selected in order to reach the quota of children. Therefore, with 20 sentinel sites, 31 communes were included in the study sample. In 2006, an administrative reform took place in the Da Nang province, resulting in the creation of several new precincts, so the sample is now spread across 34 communes/precincts.

**Provinces:** In 2001, Viet Nam had 61 provinces and cities which were divided into almost 600 districts and over 10,300 communes. In terms of socio-economic development, Viet Nam can be stratified into eight regions: North-West, North-East, Red River Delta, North Central Coast, South Central Coast, South-East, Central Highlands, and Mekong River Delta. Additionally, the Young Lives team categorised all major

**Figure 2.** *Young Lives study sites in Viet Nam*

urban centres (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Hai Phong, and Ba Ria-Vung Tau) as another region – a 'Cities' region.

**Sentinel sites:** The selection of four sentinel sites in each province was carried out by the provincial governments that ranked all communes in the province by poverty level: poor, average, better-off, and rich. Criteria used for ranking included: (1) development of infrastructure, (2) percentage of poor households in the commune, and (3) child malnutrition status.

Four sentinel sites were selected with an over-sampling of poor communes: two communes from the poor group, one from the average, and one from the above-average group (combined better-off and rich). Other criteria used in the selection were: (1) that the commune should represent common provincial features; (2) commitment from local government for the research; (3) feasibility of research logistics, and (4) population size.

Among the 31 communes initially selected, 15 were from the poor group (48%), nine from the average group (29%), and seven (23%) from the above-average group.

**Households and children:** Within each sentinel site, households were screened to compile a list of eligible children (aged 1 and 8 in 2001). From within this list of households, a sample of 100 children born between January 2001 and May 2002 and 50 children born between January 1994 and June 1995 was selected using random sampling. Families with twins and triplets were excluded. Non-response rate (refusals by caregivers) was less than two per cent, and replacement sampling was used. In households with more than one child of age 1 or age 8, one child was selected using a random sampling technique.

**Table 1. Young Lives sentinel sites in Viet Nam**

Cluster ID	Province	Anonymised name*	Short description
1	Phu Yen	Dan Chu	An inland flood-prone rural community with a high rate of poverty in 2002 but has improved since and is now not so poor
2	Phu Yen	Dong Tam	A coastal community in Phu Yen province with an average rate of poverty
3	Phu Yen	Van Lam	A very poor mountainous community with a significant share of ethnic minorities
4	Phu Yen	My Duc	A relatively prosperous coastal community in Phu Yen province, with shrimp farming
5	Ben Tre	Hai Loc	A poor flood-prone coastal area in the Mekong Delta, with difficult transport links
6	Ben Tre	Dong Thanh	A inland area on the Mekong Delta with a slightly above-average poverty rate
7	Ben Tre	Ly Hoa	A inland flood-prone area with difficult transportation but a relatively low poverty rate
8	Ben Tre	Duc Lap	A relatively prosperous inland area in the Mekong Delta with good transport links
9	Lao Cai	Lang Hoi	Among the poorest mountainous communities in Lao Cai province, with mostly ethnic minority groups, very poor transportation links and little infrastructure
10	Lao Cai	Ke Dang	A very poor mountainous area in Lao Cai province, with mostly ethnic minority groups and underdeveloped infrastructure
11	Lao Cai	Tay Doai	A poor mountainous area in Lao Cai province with mixed ethnic groups
12	Lao Cai	Gian Son	A very poor mountainous area in Lao Cai province, with mixed ethnic groups and underdeveloped infrastructure
13	Hung Yen	Van Tri	A prosperous rural area in the Red River Delta, with a high population density and good infrastructure
14	Hung Yen	Da Giang	A poor rural area in the Red River Delta, near a major city and with good infrastructure
15	Hung Yen	Phu Thuong	A rural rice-producing community in the Red River Delta, with good infrastructure
16	Hung Yen	Cao Ky	A poor rural area in the Red River Delta, with a high population density and good transport infrastructure
17	Da Nang	Nghia Tan	An urban neighbourhood in Da Nang, with mostly blue-collar labour and average infrastructure
18	Da Nang	Nhan Trung	A mostly prosperous urban area in Da Nang with very good access to services
19	Da Nang	Truong Son	A relatively poor suburb in Da Nang, with quite poor environmental conditions and transportation
20	Da Nang	Hai Thanh Dong	A newly developed urban and fishing community with average infrastructure and poor environmental conditions

\*Note: Pseudonyms are used for all site names in order to protect the children's anonymity.

## Comparing Young Lives to other datasets

Young Lives is not intended to be a nationally representative survey such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) or Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS). Rather, as a longitudinal study, it is intended to show changes for individuals over time and the impact of earlier circumstances on children's later outcomes, shedding light on the differences between age, ethnicity, gender, location, wealth tercile and more.

However, a comparison to the DHS 2002 and VHLSS 2002 indicates that the Young Lives sample includes households with less access to basic services and which are slightly poorer than the average household in Viet Nam. Furthermore, the urban sector is under-represented with regards both to the total population share and the level of development. The chosen city, Da Nang, is less developed than other cities such as Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City. These differences reflect the pro-poor sampling. Due to the non-random sampling procedure and purposive over-sampling of poor sites, the sample is not nationally representative. However, the Young Lives sample represents the share of different ethnic groups and gender<sup>1</sup>, so canvassing the diversity of children in the country allowing us to analyse causal relations and changing dynamics of childhood welfare over time.

## Tracking and attrition

Sample attrition occurs when children who were interviewed in the first round of a survey are either not found or refuse to take part in later rounds. We made sure to track as many children as possible between survey rounds to minimise the risk of drop-out.

**Table 2. Attrition between Round 1 and Round 5**

	Younger Cohort	Older Cohort
Initial Sample Round 1 (2002)	2,000	1,000
Refused	1	9
Untraceable	3	12
Living Abroad	10	20
Inaccessible*	1	4
<b>Interviewed in Round 5 (2016)</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>909</b>
Attrition (%)**	2.5%	8.6%

Notes: \* Includes children in the army or in prison

\*\* We do not include deaths within attrition rates which amount to 14 for the Younger Cohort (0.7%) for the Younger Cohort, and 5 (0.3%) for the Older Cohort

Attrition rates observed in the Viet Nam sample are relatively low compared to other longitudinal studies<sup>2</sup> and slightly higher than in the other Young Lives study countries (2.5% for the Younger Cohort and 8.6% for the Older Cohort). Working with the same field supervisors since Round 1 has enabled us to build stable relationships with the families, so helping to minimise attrition.

1 Viet Nam is a multi-ethnic country with over 50 distinct groups totalling about 14% of the population. Resources do not allow us to achieve absolutely proportional representation of all minority groups, none of which constitute more than 2% of the population. In the Young Lives sample, the second biggest ethnic group is the H'Mong with 156 children in the study (5% of the sample). The next largest ethnic group is the Dao with 64 children. All the others total less than 50 children. Nationally, neither the H'Mong nor the Dao is among the five largest ethnic groups.

2 See Appendix A in Outes-Leon and Dercon (2008)

**Table 3.** General characteristics of the Young Lives sample in Round 1 and Round 5

	Younger Cohort				Older Cohort			
	Round 1 – 2002		Round 5 – 2016		Round 1 – 2002		Round 5 - 2016	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	1,027	51.4	991	51.2	501	50.1	446	49.1
Female	973	48.7	946	48.8	499	49.9	463	50.9
<b>Location</b>								
Urban	400	20.0	371	19.2	200	20.0	172	18.9
Rural	1,600	80.0	1,566	80.8	800	80.0	737	81.1
<b>Rural Regions</b>								
Northern Uplands	400	20.0	382	19.7	200	20.0	180	19.8
Red River Delta	400	20.0	395	20.4	200	20.0	187	20.6
Central Coastal Rural	400	20.0	394	20.3	200	20.0	182	20.0
Mekong River Delta	400	20.0	395	20.4	200	20.0	188	20.7
<b>Caregiver years of schooling</b>								
None	215	10.8	205	10.6	97	9.7	87	9.6
1 to 4 years	289	14.5	285	14.7	175	17.5	165	18.2
5 to 8 years	683	34.2	674	34.8	298	29.8	274	30.1
More than 8 years	770	38.5	748	38.6	418	41.8	377	41.5
<b>Ethnicity</b>								
Majority Kinh	1,712	85.6	1,664	85.9	872	87.2	796	87.6
Ethnic minority groups	288	14.4	273	14.1	128	12.8	113	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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Photo credit: © Young Lives. The images throughout our publications are of children living in circumstances and communities similar to the children within our study sample.



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Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty, following the lives of 12,000 children in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam). Young Lives Viet Nam is based at the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting (CAF) at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in collaboration with the General Statistics Office in Vietnam (GSO) and the University of Oxford (UK).