

Listening to Young Lives at Work: COVID-19 Phone Survey

The authors

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Summary

Young Lives is a longitudinal, mixed-methods, cohort study that has followed the lives of 12,000 children — now young adults — and their families for more than 20 years in Ethiopia, India (in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam (Favara et al. 2021). The sample in each country consists of two cohorts: a Younger Cohort of approximately 2,000 participants who were 1 year old when the first round of the survey was conducted in 2002, and an Older Cohort of approximately 1,000 participants (700 in Peru) who were then 8 years old. Young Lives aims to improve our understanding of the factors that promote and constrain equality of opportunities and social mobility across the first three decades of life, and between generations, in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Following the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, Young Lives completed Round 6 ‘Listening to Young Lives at Work’, as a five-part phone survey conducted between 2020 and 21 (Favara et al. 2021). In 2020, the Younger Cohort were age 19 and the Older Cohort age 26 (and 20 and 27 respectively in 2021). An initial contact phone call took place in June–July 2020 [[Questionnaire Call 1](#)], the second call in August–October [[Questionnaire Call 2](#)] and the third call [[Questionnaire Call 3](#)] took place in November–December of 2020. In 2021, two more phone survey calls were conducted — a short fourth phone call in August–September 2021 [[Questionnaire Call 4](#)], and a more comprehensive follow-up fifth call in October–December 2021 [[Questionnaire Call 5](#)].

Round 6 was designed to provide timely and valuable information on how the pandemic was disrupting young people’s lives with potential long-term impacts.

This report presents a revised version of the five attrition reports published on Young Lives’ website following the completion of each call.¹ The tables below show the number of completed interviews and the attrition rates for each call. We also include the overall attrition rate for Round 6, accounting for all participants who were interviewed in at least one of the five phone calls. The Round 6 sample consists of participants found during a preliminary tracking round conducted in all four countries. The tracking was conducted in two phases: a first phase using telephone calls to contact participants and a second phase of in-person visits to search for those who could not be reached in the initial phase.² The preliminary tracking took place between mid-August and October 2019 in Peru, in January 2020 in India, between February and March 2020 in Ethiopia, and between May and June in Vietnam.

¹ This report replaces the individual attrition reports. The number of completed interviews varied across these reports because if a participant was not available in an earlier call, we were able to contact them in a later call to complete the questions.

² The preliminary tracking round is conducted before fieldwork to locate participants, update contact details, and inform participants about the upcoming data collection round. Round 6 preliminary tracking attempted to reach all participants who were part of Round 5 in 2016. Vietnam was the only country that did the tracking solely over the phone.

Table 1: Completion rates in Round 6: Listening to Young Lives at Work: COVID-19 Phone Surveys (% of tracking sample)

Country	Cohort	Tracking sample**	Call 1 (June–July 2020)		Call 2 (August–October 2020)		Call 3 (November–December 2020)		Call 4 (August–September 2021)		Call 5 (October–December 2021)		COVID-19 Phone Survey Round 6*	
			Completed interviews (N)	(%)	Completed interviews (N)	(%)	Completed interviews (N)	(%)	Completed interviews (N)	(%)	Completed interviews (N)	(%)	Completed interviews (N)	(%)
Ethiopia	Younger cohort	1803	1687	93.57%	1665	92.35%	1429	79.26%	1177	65.28%	1158	64.23%	1690	93.73%
	Older cohort	831	775	93.26%	774	93.14%	667	80.26%	573	68.95%	567	68.23%	776	93.38%
	Total	2634	2462	93.47%	2439	92.60%	2096	79.57%	1750	66.44%	1725	65.49%	2466	93.62%
India	Younger cohort	1902	1863	97.95%	1868	98.21%	1868	98.21%	1866	98.11%	1848	97.16%	1873	98.48%
	Older cohort	913	886	97.04%	886	97.04%	883	96.71%	878	96.17%	861	94.30%	890	97.48%
	Total	2815	2749	97.66%	2754	97.83%	2751	97.73%	2744	97.48%	2709	96.23%	2763	98.15%
Peru***	Younger cohort	1928	1603	83.14%	1583	82.11%	1538	79.77%	1545	80.13%	1664	86.31%	1762	91.39%
	Older cohort	661	475	71.86%	472	71.41%	457	69.14%	467	70.65%	514	77.76%	552	83.51%
	Total	2589	2078	80.26%	2055	79.37%	1995	77.06%	2012	77.71%	2178	84.13%	2314	89.38%
Vietnam	Younger cohort	1922	1715	89.23%	1691	87.98%	1677	87.25%	1653	86.00%	1630	84.81%	1742	90.63%
	Older cohort	910	844	92.75%	828	90.99%	819	90.00%	827	90.88%	795	87.36%	853	93.74%
	Total	2832	2559	90.36%	2519	88.95%	2496	88.14%	2480	87.57%	2425	85.63%	2595	91.63%
Total sample / Overall completion rate		10870	9848	90.60%	9767	89.85%	9338	85.91%	8986	82.67%	9037	83.14%	10138	93.27%

Note*: The last column reports completion rates including all participants interviewed in at least one of the five calls.

Note**: The target sample for the COVID-19 Phone Survey, Round 6 was the sample that had been tracked in the preparations for Round 6, which was planned for 2020 and was transformed into a phone survey as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The preliminary tracking round is conducted before fieldwork to locate participants, update contact details, and inform participants about the upcoming data collection round.

Note***: The initial sample for Peru (1701 for the Younger Cohort and 514 for the Older Cohort) changed slightly between the first and third call because some young people who were not considered in the initial sample contacted us to participate in the Survey. The final sample increased by 19 (8 for the Younger Cohort and 11 for the Older Cohort) between the first and third call. For calls 4 and 5, the sample changed to include those who had decided not to participate in calls 1–3, those who had not been located, and those without a known phone number. In the case of the younger cohort, the sample increased by 219 between the third and fourth call. For the Older Cohort, the sample increased by 136 over the same period.

Table 2: Attrition rates in in Round 6: Listening to Young Lives at Work: COVID-19 Phone Surveys (% of Round 1 sample)

Country	Cohort	Round 1 Sample	Call 1 (June–July 2020)		Call 2 (August–October 2020)		Call 3 (November–December 2020)		Call 4 (August– September 2021)		Call 5 (October– December 2021)		COVID-19 Phone Survey Round 6*	
			Completed interviews (N)	Attrition rate (%)	Completed interviews (N)	Attrition rate (%)	Completed interviews (N)	Attrition rate (%)	Completed interviews (N)	Attrition rate (%)	Completed interviews (N)	Attrition rate (%)	Completed interviews (N)	Attrition rate (%)
Ethiopia	Younger cohort	1999	1687	15.61%	1665	16.71%	1429	28.51%	1177	41.12%	1158	42.07%	1690	15.46%
	Older cohort	1000	775	22.50%	774	22.60%	667	33.30%	573	42.70%	567	43.30%	776	22.40%
	Total	2999	2462	17.91%	2439	18.67%	2096	30.11%	1750	41.65%	1725	42.48%	2466	17.77%
India	Younger cohort	2011	1863	7.36%	1868	7.11%	1868	7.11%	1866	7.21%	1848	8.11%	1873	6.86%
	Older cohort	1008	886	12.10%	886	12.10%	883	12.40%	878	12.90%	861	14.58%	890	11.71%
	Total	3019	2749	8.94%	2754	8.78%	2751	8.88%	2744	9.11%	2709	10.27%	2763	8.48%
Peru***	Younger cohort	2052	1603	21.88%	1583	22.86%	1538	25.05%	1545	24.71%	1664	18.91%	1762	14.13%
	Older cohort	714	475	33.47%	472	33.89%	457	35.99%	467	34.59%	514	28.01%	552	22.69%
	Total	2766	2078	24.87%	2055	25.70%	1995	27.87%	2012	27.26%	2178	21.26%	2314	16.34%
Vietnam	Younger cohort	2000	1715	14.25%	1691	15.45%	1677	16.15%	1653	17.35%	1630	18.50%	1742	12.90%
	Older cohort	1000	844	15.60%	828	17.20%	819	18.10%	827	17.30%	795	20.50%	853	14.70%
	Total	3000	2559	14.70%	2519	16.03%	2496	16.80%	2480	17.33%	2425	19.17%	2595	13.50%
Total sample / Overall completion rate		11784	9848	16.43%	9767	17.12%	9338	20.76%	8986	23.74%	9037	23.31%	10138	13.97%

Note*: All attrition rates are calculated based on the Round 1 sample. Only participants who consented at least once are included in the sample. The last column reports completion rates including all participants interviewed in at least one of the five calls

