



YOUNG LIVES SCHOOL SURVEY

DATA USER GUIDE

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VIETNAM SCHOOL SURVEY ROUND 1 (2011- 2012)

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Background

This note relates to the first round of the Vietnam School Survey, conducted in 2011-2012 with a subsample of the Young Lives Younger Cohort children. The survey aims to offer information about the relationship between primary school children's backgrounds and their learning progress, and the data should be used in conjunction with this document, and accompanying technical documentation.

Sample Design

The Vietnam School Survey Wave 1 involved Young Lives Younger Cohort children¹ studying in Grade 5 in September 2011, together with a sample of their peers. The initial sample of Young Lives children comprised all Younger Cohort children expected to be studying in Grade 5, in schools which fell within the geographic boundaries of the Young Lives sentinel site. These children were tracked to their schools, where all Grade 5 classes containing a Younger Cohort child or children, were sampled. In each class, a random selection of peers were added to the sample of Young Lives children, so that 20 children per class were included in the survey².

Wave 2 of the survey involved the same Young Lives children and their peers as were included in Wave 1. If children who had been surveyed at Wave 1 were not present at Wave 2, they were simply not included, and no substitute children were added.

Additional considerations:

- Those Young Lives children studying in sampled schools but not enrolled in Grade 5 were not included in either Wave 1 or Wave 2, since the survey was designed to be grade 5 specific.
- In both Wave 1 and Wave 2, children were not tracked if they had moved to a school not already included in the sample.
- Schools which contained Young Lives children studying in Grade 5, but which fell outside the geographic boundaries of the sentinel site, were not included in the survey.

This design aimed to achieve a balanced sample of pupils at the class-level suitable for school and class-level analysis as well as adding another layer of data to the longitudinal cohort data.

Achieved sample

The final sample is formed of 3,284 Grade 5 pupils in 176 classes in 92 school sites (both main and satellite sites). 1,138 of these pupils are Young Lives index children. Only 79 children participated in Wave 1 but not in Wave 2.

Survey content

The survey instruments included data collection at the school class and pupil level, and involved the Principal, the teacher of the Grade 5 class, and pupil. The instruments included in each Wave of the survey are detailed below in Table 1,

¹ See Nguyen (2008) for details of the sampling approach of Young Lives' household survey in Vietnam

² If more than 20 Young Lives children were found in a single class, all Young Lives children were sampled and no peers added, taking it above the 20 children/ class threshold. If the total number of students enrolled in the class was less than 20, the entire class was sampled.

together with short notes on their administration and broad scope. All survey questionnaires are available for download at www.younglives.org.uk/our-themes/education.

Table 1. Survey instruments

Survey Wave	Instrument	Administration details
Wave 1	Roster	- School, Teacher, Class and Pupil rosters to ensure precise identification and linking of children across levels.
	Principal questionnaire	- Administered individually by fieldworkers to principals. Sometimes principals were in charge of main sites and their satellites. - Collected background data on the Principal, as well as school-level information
	School site observation	- Fieldworker completed through observation of school site during their time in the school. One per site i.e. one for main school and another for satellite school. - Collected data on school infrastructure
	Teacher questionnaire	- Administered individually by fieldworkers to teacher of YL child's class. - Collected background data on the Teacher, as well as class-level information
	Teacher assessments in Maths and Vietnamese	- Assessments of 'Pedagogical Content Knowledge' in Maths and Vietnamese to the teacher of YL child's class under fieldworker supervision.
	Pupil questionnaire	-Administered to the whole class. Fieldworker led and directed - Collected background data on the Pupil, as well as information on attitudes to school
	Pupil assessments in Maths and Vietnamese	-Administered to the whole class. Fieldworker led and directed. - Curriculum-related assessments
Wave 2	Roster	- School, Teacher, Class and Pupil rosters to ensure precise identification and linking of children across levels and to collect absenteeism data from the register
	Pupil questionnaire	-Administered to the whole class. Fieldworker led and directed - Re-administered a selection of the attitude items from Wave 1.
	Pupil assessments in Maths and Vietnamese	-Administered to the whole class. Fieldworker led and directed. - Curriculum-related assessments anchored to the test administered in Wave 2.
	Pupil peer questionnaire	-Administered to the whole class. Fieldworker led and directed. - Asked pupils to describe their friendship with other sample children

Survey Development

The survey was developed following a series of stakeholder meetings, in which key education priorities and research questions were identified, and the potential contribution of a Young Lives school survey in relation to existing research activities was clarified.

1. Development and Piloting of Wave 1

Child and Teacher test instruments were pre-piloted in August 2011 and IRT analysis conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of the test items.

Full piloting of all translated instruments, including a second pilot of the child achievement tests, was conducted in two provinces (Lao Cai and Phu Yen) containing Young Lives sites in September 2011. Staff members from GSO, CAF and Oxford University were involved in the piloting. A total of 4 schools and 8 classes were visited across the two provinces. The pilot led to the refinement of the questionnaires and tests. Pilot test data was collected for 160 children and IRT analysis conducted to refine and finalise test instruments³. All amendments were reflected in both the English and Vietnamese versions of the final questionnaires. In all cases, instruments were carefully translated into Vietnamese and piloted to ensure consistency of meaning across the English and Vietnamese versions.

2. Development and Piloting of Wave 2

A further pilot of the Wave 2 survey instruments was conducted in March 2012 in the same schools and classes as the Wave 1 piloting. Staff members from GSO and Oxford University participated, and the pilot led to the refinement of the roster and tests. Pilot test data was collected for 160 children and item response analysis conducted to refine and finalise the test instruments.

3. Fieldworker training for Wave 1 and Wave 2

Fieldworker training for Wave 1 of the survey happened between 10 and 14 October 2011 in Hanoi. Twenty-four enumerators and 10 Supervisors were trained. Each survey module was introduced and discussed during training and fieldworkers were asked to complete training exercises, after which fieldworkers visited schools in Hanoi to practice administering different survey components. At the end of the training, each fieldworker sat a short test, which determined who participated in final fieldwork. Each fieldworker and supervisor was issued with a manual⁴ explaining the general purpose of the survey, together with a more detailed breakdown of each component and its key considerations.

At the second wave of the survey, further instructions were issued to fieldworkers.

Fieldwork

Wave 1 fieldwork took place between 30 October and 14 December 2011, and Wave 2 between 18 April and 18 May 2012.

Fieldwork was conducted by 6 teams, each comprising of 2 fieldworkers and 1 supervisor. In each case, one team was responsible for the conduct of the survey in one Young Lives province, except in Lao Cai where four fieldworkers and 1 supervisor were allocated, as a result of the geographical distance of schools and distribution of children. Six additional supervisors conducted spot checks on fieldwork teams and travelled between sites and teams to ensure data quality.

³ Additional documentation on the test development and finalisation process is available for download from the website www.younglives.org.uk/our-themes/education

⁴ The manual is available for download on the Young Lives website at www.younglives.org.uk/our-themes/education

The data

The data are hierarchically structured, at the pupil, teacher, class, school site and principal level. The files contain information on both Young Lives children and their peers, and these can be clearly identified via the 'childid' and 'pupilid' identifiers. The below table details the identifiers present at each level of the data, together with the combination of IDs needed to merge files across levels.⁵

Table 2. Combinations of IDs

Level	Unique ID Combination
Pupil level (All children)	schlid classid pupilid
YL Child level	childid
Teacher/Class level data (1:1 teacher: class ratio)	schlid classid
School level data	schlid
Principal level data	prncid

References

Nguyen, N.P. (2008) *An Assessment of the Young Lives Sampling Approach in Vietnam*, Technical Note 4, Oxford: Young Lives.

⁵ NB not all identifiers are present in all data files, since the data are organised at different levels.