

# “We hope to visit you again soon”

Updating location information from participants of a longitudinal study during COVID-19 in four Low-Middle-Income-Countries.

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**Preparing for the future III: Tackling key challenges facing longitudinal population studies in a post-COVID world**  
New forms of data collection: Using innovative technology

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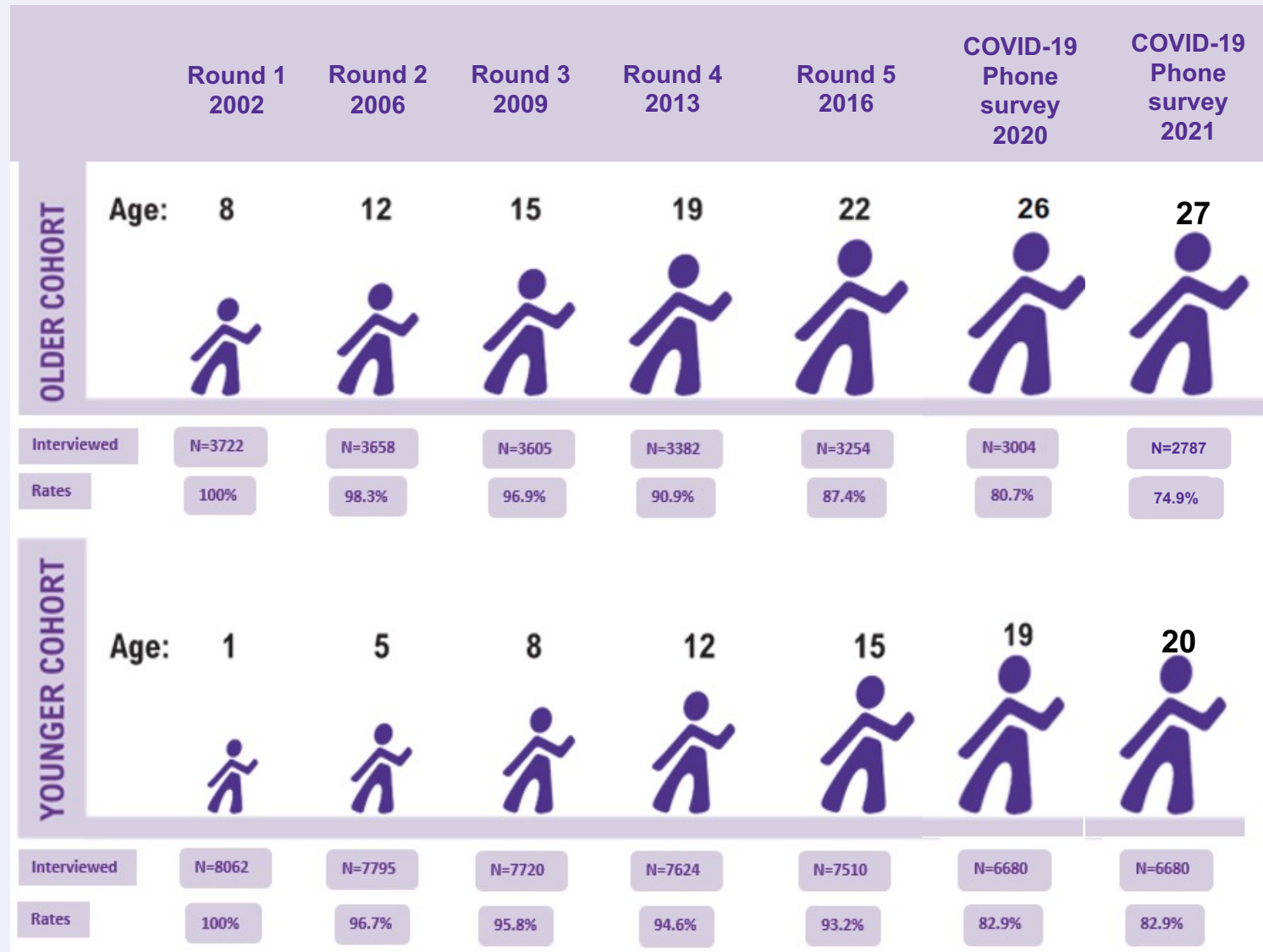
# Young Lives: a brief overview



- **Mixed-methods, multidisciplinary longitudinal that aims to:**
  - Improve our understanding of the causes and consequences of child poverty,
  - Provide evidence to improve policies and practice.
- **Following nearly 12,000 children in 4 countries over a 20-year period:**
  - Study countries: Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam.
  - Purposively over-sampled poor areas, using different poverty indicators in each country (not nationally representative).
- **Studying the role of inequalities over the life-cycle** to explain skills development and learning, health and nutrition, access to labour markets, family formation, and exposure to risk and violence, through a gender lens.
- **Low attrition:** average attrition rates between Round 1 (2001) and Round 5 (2016) are 4.9% for the YC and 12% for the OC.



# Young Lives study structure





## Why GPS?

- Keep updated detailed location information from our participants for tracking and attrition reduction purposes.
- Data linkage using geospatial data: opening possibilities of new lines of research.
- Follow-up on movement and migration between in-person rounds

## Why a pilot?

- Evaluate feasibility of using an online survey to collect precise information on participant's location using GPS tracker on smartphones.
- Taking into account eligibility and compliance rates, as well as accuracy of the data collection platform.





1

We designed a brief survey using an online data collection platform and translated into Amharic, Telugu, Spanish and Vietnamese.

2

A subsample of eligible participants (100 YC and 100 OC participants) was invited to complete the online survey. Participants were asked for oral consent at the end of the phone call.

3

Subsample of participants received a unique link, which included an encrypted ID, through WhatsApp/ text message depending on participant's preference.

4

Subsample of participants completed the online survey when at home, filling out name, date of birth and pressing one button to register their GPS data.

# How we did it



Welcome to the Young Lives online survey. As I mentioned during the call, the aim of this survey is to collect precise information on your current location, by using the built in GPS tracker on your smartphone. This information will never be shared with anyone other than a member of the study team and will be treated as strictly confidential. The precise location data and identity of the respondent will never be revealed.

This short survey is completely voluntary and should take no longer than 5 minutes.

Now you have learned a bit more about this online survey, do you agree to take part? Do you give your consent to answer these questions and for us to update the data/information we have about you?

☐ Yes

☐ No

## 1. Information and consent

Are you currently at your home address?

*Please click on the appropriate answer (yes or no)*

☐ Yes

☐ No

## 2. Confirming home is current location

Please click on the "record location" button so we can collect GPS information about your current location

 Record location

## 3. Submitting GPS

# Eligible participants



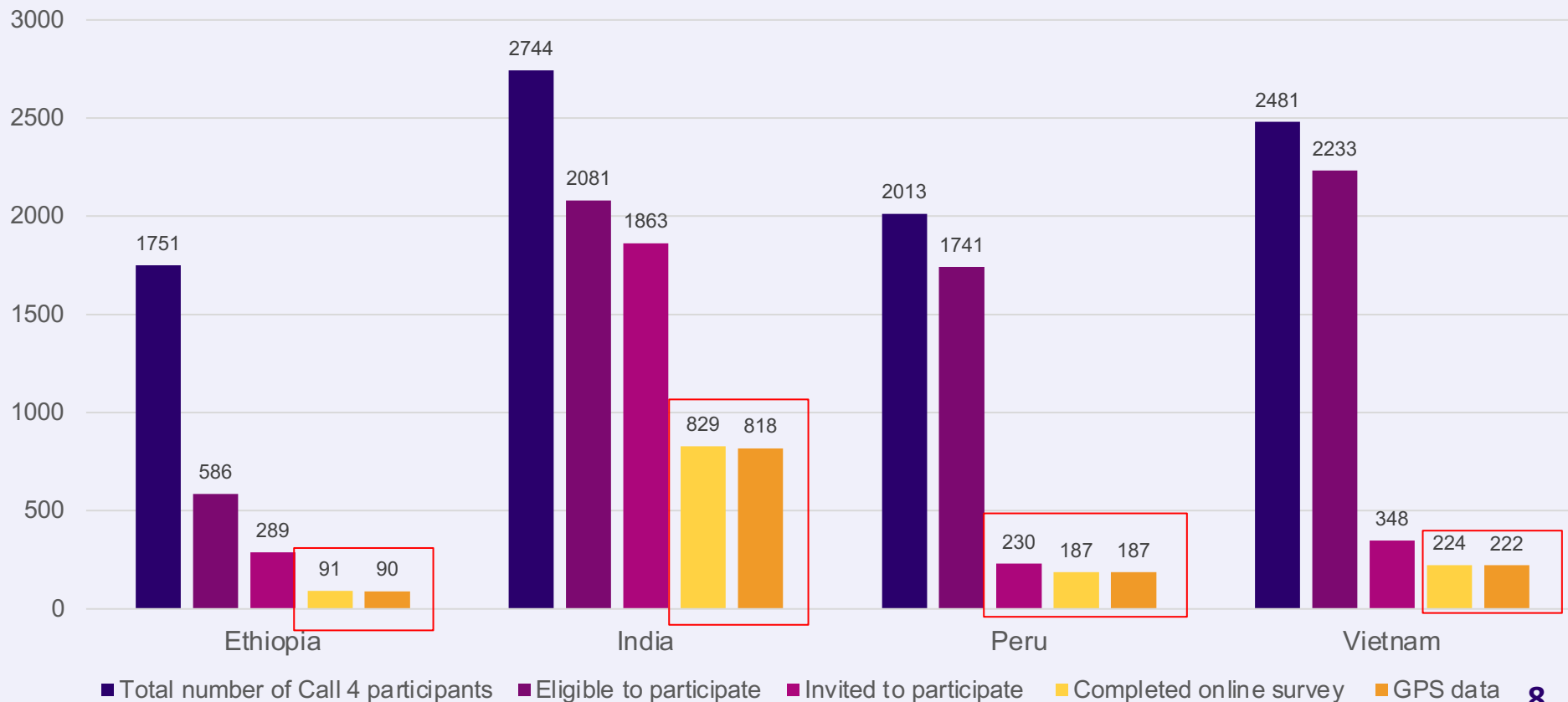
**Table 1.** Rates of eligible participants

% Participants from the phone survey eligible to participate on the GPS online survey									
	Total %	Male %	Female %	Rural %	Urban %	Lowest wealth tercile %	Highest wealth tercile %	Primary education or less %	Secondary education or higher %
<b>Ethiopia N= 1751</b>	32.5	33.5	31.4	15.6	55.8	12.2	54.7	21.0	57.9
<b>India N=2744</b>	75.7	81.0	70.1	71.9	85.5	63.0	86.2	58.2	84.1
<b>Peru N=2013</b>	86.5	86.2	86.8	73.5	88.9	79.6	90.5	74.8	87.5
<b>Vietnam N=2481</b>	89.9	88.3	91.5	86.3	94.7	83.3	95.7	82.5	93.4



## What worked

- ❑ Survey was relatively easy to access and use: High **GPS submission rates**
- ❑ Accuracy & accuracy checks via comparison with previous rounds
- ❑ Enumerator knowledge, initiative, and trust



**Figure 1.** Number of participants across different stages of the GPS pilot.





## Challenges

- ❑ Forgetfulness
- ❑ Dealing with privacy settings on mobile phones
- ❑ Concerns about cyber security, especially related to bank accounts
- ❑ High compliance with a reduced and selected sample (Low-hanging fruit)
- ❑ Sample in India: Nearly the entire eligible sample was invited to participate.
- ❑ Rural, poorer, less educated people are less eligible in all four countries.  
However, once they have entered the survey, these groups are as likely as their counterparts to complete the survey.

## What did not work

- ❑ Data collection in Ethiopia did not work: 1) Current context of internal conflict, 2) Security concerns; 3) Intention to drop out of study; 4) Low eligibility.



## Improvements for call 5

We introduced some modifications to collect location data remotely in Call 5:

### 1. Modifications to deal with rejection and compliance

- ☐ Extra incentive offered to participants in India to compensate them for their time
- ☐ Formalize follow up system implemented informally by some countries during the pilot.

### 2. Modifications to deal with technical aspects and improve data collection

- ☐ Simplified the process for enumerators to share the link
- ☐ Ask participants to submit GPS data when standing outside to increase accuracy (when using data plan)
- ☐ Additional help offered on how to complete the survey

# Ethical considerations & Future steps



## Some ethical considerations

- Biased sample: who is being left behind?
- Informed consent and anonymity
- Data will not be publicly released

## Future steps

- Use of data for future in-person survey rounds
- Better tracking strategy in the future?
- New mechanism to collect data remotely: Explore possibilities of data collection via mobile phones

# Thank you



Young Lives is a collaborative partnership between research institutes, universities and NGOs in the four study countries and the University of Oxford.

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We are hugely grateful to our collaborators, research teams, wider staff and funders.

**Special thanks** to the children and families who participate in Young Lives, without whom this study would not exist.





## About Young Lives and Young Lives at Work

[www.younglives.org.uk](http://www.younglives.org.uk)

### Publications

Survey methodology

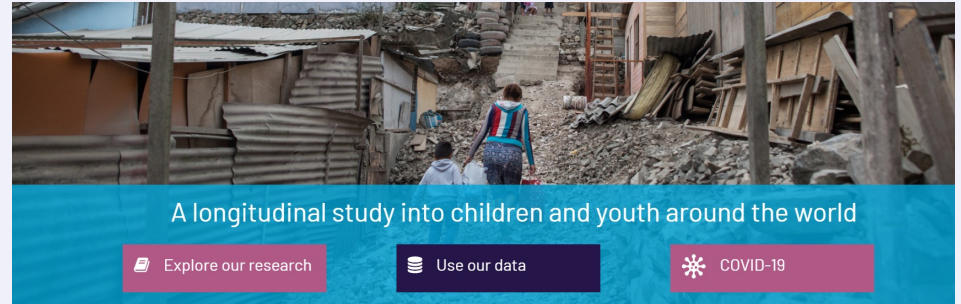
Impact case studies

Infographics

Latest news

Featured pages on

Young Lives at Work



### The latest from Young Lives



News Release. COVID-19: poorest young people in developing countries hit by deepening inequalities and falling well-being.

News



Listening to Young Lives at Work in Peru: Second Call

Publication



Listening to Young Lives at Work in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh: Second Call

Publication

## About Young Lives data

Access via the UK Data Service,

See data visualisations [here](#)



### Young Lives at Work (YLAW)

About

Updates and  
Media

Phone  
Survey

Publications

Young Lives at Work, Young Lives' principal research project, will continue to follow into youth and young adulthood, the original study cohorts of children in Ethiopia, India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States), Peru and Vietnam, surveyed for the first time in 2002.

The YLAW team will conduct a 6th Round of our household (quantitative) survey followed by a 7th Round in 2024 (subject to additional funding). The team will revisit the 12,000 children, now young people of 19 years old (Younger Cohort) and 25 years old (Older Cohort).



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