

A Guide to Listening to Young Lives at Work Calls 1 to 5 Constructed Files

Sophie von Rusdorf, Laura Ahlborn, Shipra Karan,
Richard Freund, and Annina Hittmeyer



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About Young Lives

Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty and transitions to adulthood, following the lives of 12,000 children in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam) since 2001. www.younglives.org.uk

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1. Introduction

1.1 Young Lives

Young Lives is a longitudinal cohort study investigating the changing nature of childhood poverty in four low- and middle-income countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam) over a 20-year period. The project gathers both household and child-level data to shed light on the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in these countries, and aims to provide evidence to support the development of national and international policies and programmes that improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people.

In each Young Lives country, the original cohort comprised 2,000 children aged between 6 and 18 months (the Younger Cohort) and up to 1,000 children aged between 7 and 8 years (the Older Cohort), gender balanced, recruited and first surveyed in 2002, and sampled from 20 sentinel sites (Favara et al. 2021). Between 2002 and 2016, five rounds of in-person surveys were completed, complemented by qualitative fieldwork. Rounds 1 to 3 focused on tracking child welfare outcomes (Barnett et al. 2012), while Rounds 4 and 5 incorporated measures relevant to young people rather than children, expanding on socio-emotional skills, labour market participation, marriage and fertility.

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the round planned for 2020 (Round 6) was conducted by phone, split into five separate calls conducted between 2020 and 2021. The Young Lives COVID-19 phone surveys incorporated both modules from previous survey rounds as well as new modules collecting information about the virus, economic shocks due to the pandemic, mental health, behaviour, and lifestyle (Favara et al. 2021).

At the time of writing, planning for the next in-person round of the Young Lives study (Round 7) is underway, with data collection scheduled to take place between June 2023 and March 2024.

1.2 Introduction to the constructed calls

Together with the raw datasets, ‘constructed files’ are archived to support researchers using the Young Lives data. The constructed files are combined subsets of variables from Calls 1 to 5 of the Listening to Young Lives at Work phone surveys conducted from 2020 to 2021. These data files are similar to previously archived Rounds 1 to 5 constructed files. While most of the variables are retained as obtained from the surveys, there are cases where computations needed to be adjusted and variables are replaced to maintain a consistency of definitions across the calls. Furthermore, additional variables are introduced to aid researchers in gaining preliminary insights about the Young Lives at Work data and to reflect the relevant questions asked to participants. **Table 1** gives an overview of when the phone surveys were conducted, participants’ average ages, and sample sizes by cohort. During Calls 1 to 3 participants were aged 18–19 (Younger Cohort) and 25–26 (Older Cohort), while during Calls 4 and 5 participants were aged 19–20 (Younger Cohort) and 26–27 (Older Cohort). For all four Young Lives countries taken together, sample sizes range from 6,241 to 6,866 for the Younger Cohort, and 2,737 to 2,978 for the Older Cohort.

Table 1. *Dates of phone surveys, average ages and sample sizes by cohort*

Call	Date	Younger Cohort		Older Cohort	
		Average age	Sample size	Average age	Sample size
1	June–July 2020	18.2	6,868	25.2	2,980
2	August–October 2020	18.4	6,807	25.4	2,960
3	November–December 2020	18.6	6,512	25.6	2,826
4	August–September 2021	19.3	6,241	26.4	2,745
5	October–December 2021	19.6	6,300	26.6	2,737

One main constructed data file is available for each of the four Young Lives countries: Ethiopia, India (the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru, and Vietnam. These are presented in a panel format and contain more than 90 original and constructed variables. The datasets can be downloaded at the UK Data Service website.¹ This technical note accompanies the constructed files and describes the variables using four broad groups: identification and location variables; panel information; participant characteristics; and household characteristics. A summary of all variables is provided in the Appendix.

Throughout the technical note, variable names are written in italics. To aid with discussion, two icons are added in each subsection where applicable.



Indicates that the variables in this section were also measured in previous survey rounds.



Identifies other data relevant to the variables in the subsection that are available for download from the raw dataset.

¹ See <https://www.younglives.org.uk/data> for more information.

2. Identification and location variables

The constructed files include data for Young Lives participants who were contacted at least once during Calls 1 to 5. Participants can be identified using a unique identifier (*childid*) assigned to them in Round 1 of Young Lives. This ID was retained in the next rounds and calls to track the participant. The first two characters of the *childid* are the country initials (ET for Ethiopia, IN for India, PE for Peru, and VN for Vietnam) while the next two are the cluster ID. Cluster IDs are assigned to every sentinel site that Young Lives visited in Round 1,² with the variable *clustid* corresponding to the cluster ID of the location the participant is living in at the time of the call. If the participant was not living in one of the original Young Lives clusters at the time of the call, a value of 99 was assigned.

Table 2 shows the basic (geographical) identifiers available in the constructed files. Information below the regional level is not publicly available due to data confidentiality and protection.

2.1. Overview of constructed identification and location variables

Table 2. *Identification and location variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
childid	Participant ID	All participants	1–5
yc	Cohort (Younger Cohort = 1; Older Cohort = 0)	All participants	1–5
clustid	Young Lives cluster ID	All participants	1–5
typesite	Household area of residence (rural/urban)	All participants	1–5
region	Household region of residence	All participants	1–5
didntmove	Participant did not move between calls	All participants	1–5
dint	Date of interview	All participants	1–5
call	Call of survey	All participants	1–5



Detailed information about the location of participants' households has been collected since Round 1 for both cohorts, and is publicly available at the regional level. See <https://www.younglives.org.uk/use-our-data>.

² For a discussion on how sampling was done in each country, see the Young Lives survey design and sampling factsheets (Young Lives 2017b, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c).

2.2 Additional information

Household region of residence (region)

The categorical variable *region* indicates in which region the participant lived at the time of the phone survey. The regions are:

- **Ethiopia:** Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromiya, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz, SNNP, Harari, Addis Ababa City Administration, Dire Dawa, Other
- **India:** Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema, Telangana, Other
- **Peru:** Jungle, Mountain, Coast, Abroad
- **Vietnam:** Northern Uplands, Red River Delta, Central Coast, Mekong Delta, Other

Wherever possible, the same value labels have been used in the constructed files for Rounds 1 to 5 and Calls 1 to 5. However, the following changes have been made. In Ethiopia, the now independent Sidama region, which was previously part of the SNNP region, has been added to Other, and Dire Dawa has been added as a region. In Vietnam, the rural province Phu Yen and the city of Da Nang were previously coded as regions, although they are at the provincial level. Thus, they are now counted among the Central Coast region. Similarly, South Eastern and Highlands are now part of Other. In Peru, the new category Abroad has been added for participants who completed the phone survey while outside the country.

3. Panel information

Several constructed variables have been included in the datasets to help users identify which participants completed which parts of the phone survey and previous interview rounds. The indicator variable *incall* indicates if the participant is present in the respective call. The variables *panel_call* and *panel* capture whether a participant was present in all of Calls 1 to 5 and whether they were present in all of Rounds 1 to 5 and Calls 1 to 5, respectively (see Table 3).

3.1. Overview of constructed panel variables

Table 3. *Panel variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
consent	Participant consented to taking part in the survey	All participants	1–5
incall	Participant is present in call	All participants	1–5
panel_call	Participant is present in all Calls 1–5	All participants	1–5
panel	Participant is present in all Calls 1–5 and all Rounds 1–5	All participants	1–5

3.2. Additional information

Participant consent (consent)

If a participant was successfully contacted during a call, but did not consent to taking part in the survey, the variables *incall*, *panel_call*, and *panel* were set to 0. Additionally, all other variables for the respective call have been set to missing, except the most basic identifying ones (*childid*, *yc*, *call*) and those added from previous rounds (*chsex*, *chethnic*, *chldrel*, *chlang*, *wi*, *wi_terc_r5*).

4. Respondent characteristics

4.1. Background characteristics

The constructed files include some basic background variables, such as the age of the participant in months and years. During Calls 1 and 4 of the phone survey, we asked participants about the people living with them, including their children and their spouse or partner. The time-invariant child characteristics of sex (*sex*), ethnicity (*chethnic*), and religion (*chldrel*) are obtained from Round 1 data, while the child's first language (*chlang*) was taken from Round 2 (see Table 4).

4.1.1. Overview of constructed background variables

Table 4. *Background variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
chsex	Sex (Round 1)	All participants	1–5
ageyea	Age in years	All participants	1–5
agemon	Age in months	All participants	1–5
chethnic	Ethnicity (Round 1)	All participants	1–5
chldrel	Religion (Round 1)	All participants	1–5
chlang	First language (Round 2)	All participants	1–5
marrcohab	Participant has cohabitating spouse/partner during call	All participants	1, 4
birth	Participant has cohabitating child during call	All participants	1, 4



Further information about others living in the same household as the participant, such as their age, gender, and relation to the Young Lives participant, is available for download in the raw dataset for Calls 1 and 4.



Detailed information about the marital living arrangements, partner characteristics, and fertility history of the participant has been collected since Round 4 for the Older Cohort.

4.1.2. Additional information

Age in months/years (*agemon/ageyea*)

The participant's age in months (*agemon*) is estimated by taking the age of the participant in days (date of interview minus date of birth)³ and dividing this number by 365/12 (number of days per month). The final number is rounded up to one decimal point.⁴ Age in years (*ageyea*) is calculated likewise.

3 Date of birth is considered sensitive data and not publicly archived to protect respondents' anonymity.

4 For three participants in Ethiopia, the interview date for Call 1 was missing. Consequently, the age in months and years during Call 1 could not be estimated for these participants.

Cohabiting spouse/partner (*marrcohab*) and children (*birth*)

The variables *marrcohab* and *birth* indicate whether a participant lives in the same household with their spouse/partner or at least one of their children, respectively, at the time of the phone survey. Individuals not currently living in the household are not considered as part of this variable; neither are adopted or step-children.

4.2. Education

Multiple variables related to the current and past education of the participants were collected during the phone survey. In Calls 2, 3, and 5, we asked about their enrolment status, why they left education, whether classes were suspended due to COVID-19, which grade they are enrolled in and which major they are studying. Additionally, in Calls 2 and 3, we asked about learning activities during COVID-19. In Calls 2 and 5, information about the highest grade completed and past majors studied were recorded. **Table 5** provides an overview of the variables included in the constructed files.

4.2.1. Overview of constructed education variables

Table 5. *Education variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
enrol	Enrolled during call	All participants	2, 3, 5
enrol2020	Enrolled at some point during 2020	All participants	2, 3
dropout	Enrolled in education for reasons other than finishing studies	All participants for which enrol=0 & enrol2020=1	2, 3, 5
covid19_interrupt	Classes were suspended due to COVID-19	All participants for which enrol=1	2, 3, 5
class_online	Had online classes during call	All participants for which enrol=1	2 (all countries), 3 (ET, IN, VN only)
class_person	Had classes in person during call	All participants for which enrol=1	2 (all countries), 3 (ET, IN, VN only)
major	Current major if enrolled in higher education	All participants for which enrol=1 and attending university or similar	2, 3, 5
past_major	Previous major if not enrolled	All participants for which enrol=0 and last attended university or similar	2, 5
hghgrade	Highest grade completed if not enrolled	All participants for which enrol=0	2, 5
engrade	Current grade if enrolled	All participants for which enrol=1	2, 3, 5



Further information about the type of educational institute attended, other learning activities during the COVID-19 response, average hours spent studying, and the perceived change in educational quality is available for download in the raw dataset.



Detailed information about the participant's education history has been collected since Round 1 for the Older Cohort and since Round 2 for the Younger Cohort.

4.2.2. Additional information

Enrolled at some point in 2020 (*enrol2020*)

The binary variable *enrol2020* indicates whether a participant had been enrolled in education at any point during 2020. It has the value of 1 if a participant was enrolled in education during the call itself, or if they gave a date within 2020 when asked about the last time they were enrolled. In a few cases, the answers given by participants in Calls 2 and 3 can lead to conflicting results in *enrol2020*. For example, one participant was not enrolled in Call 2 or 3. When asked what the last time they were enrolled was, they replied in April 2020 during Call 2, but 2019 during Call 3. This resulted in *enrol2020*=1 for Call 2, but *enrol2020*=0 for Call 3.

The raw dataset includes more information on each participant's enrolment during the phone survey. The forthcoming Round 7 survey will also include a detailed education history module going back to 2016, which can be used to clarify the enrolment status of a participant during 2020, if necessary.

Prefilled information from Calls 3 and 5

During Call 3, participants from Peru who were also contacted successfully in Call 2 were asked in the beginning of the education section of the phone survey if the information about their education status and choices recorded in Call 2 was still correct. If the participant confirmed that all data were still correct, they skipped these questions in the survey. In the constructed files, the variables *enrol*, *engrade*, *major*, and *enrol2020* were set to the same values as in Call 2 for Call 3 for these participants.

Similarly, in Call 5 participants from all countries who took part in Call 3 were asked if they were still studying the same major. If they replied yes, the variable *major* was assigned its value from Call 3 in Call 5.

4.3. Employment

Several employment variables are available in the constructed files (see Table 6). In Calls 2,3 and 5, we asked participants about their employment in the week before the survey. Additionally, in the second and the fifth phone survey, respectively, we asked participants detailed questions about their employment before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and their employment in March 2021.

4.3.1. Overview of constructed employment variables

Table 6. *Employment variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
work_week	Worked in the week before call	All participants	2, 3, 5
no_work_job	Did not work in the week before call but had job	All participants for which work_week=0	2, 3, 5
work_bf_cov	Was working just before the COVID-19 crisis began	All participants	2
work_mar21	Worked in March 2021	All participants	5
econ_sector_bf	Economic sector before COVID-19	All participants for which work_bf_cov=1	2
econ_sector	Economic sector in the week before call	All participants for which work_week=1 or no_work_job=1	2, 3, 5
econ_sector_mar21	Economic sector in March 2021	All participants for which work_mar21=1	5
type_act_bf	Type of activity before COVID-19	All participants for which work_bf_cov=1	2
type_act	Type of activity in the week before call	All participants for which work_week=1 or no_work_job=1	2, 3, 5
type_act_mar21	Type of activity in March 2021	All participants for which work_mar21=1	5
who_work_bf	Who the participant worked for before COVID-19	All participants for which work_bf_cov=1	2
who_work	Who the participant worked for in the week before call	All participants for which work_week=1 or no_work_job=1	2, 3, 5
who_work_mar21	Who the participant worked for in March 2021	All participants for which work_mar21=1	5
typemp_bf	Type of employment before COVID-19	All participants for which work_bf_cov=1	2
typemp	Type of employment (dependent worker vs self-employed) in the week before call	All participants for which work_week=1 or no_work_job=1	2, 3, 5
typemp_mar21	Type of employment in March 2021	All participants for which work_mar21=1	5
agri_bf	Worked in agriculture before COVID-19	All participants for which work_bf_cov=1	3
agri	Worked in agriculture in the week before call	All participants for which work_week=1 or no_work_job=1	2, 3, 5
agri_mar21	Worked in agriculture in March 2021	All participants for which work_mar21=1	5
lck_emp	Worked during lockdown(s) in year of call	All participants	2 (all countries), 5 (ET, IN, PE only)



Other characteristics of employment are available for download in the raw dataset. These include whether the participant looked for work in the past week, the average number of working hours, and whether the participant has health insurance or has a written contract.



Detailed employment information has been measured since Round 4 for the Older Cohort and since Round 5 for the Younger Cohort.

4.3.2. Additional information

Type of employment (*typemp*)

The variable describing participants' type of employment, *typemp*, distinguishes between dependent workers and self-employed individuals. It is defined by combining information about participants' type of activity (*type_act*; see **Table 7**) and who they work for (*who_work*; see **Table 8**). Since *type_act* is a country-specific variable, the way *typemp* is constructed differs slightly across countries.

For Ethiopia, India and Vietnam, *typemp* is constructed as follows:

- Participants are classified as dependent workers (*typemp*=0) if they meet the following criteria:
 - They are working for a private company/enterprise, a household member, another private individual/household, the public sector/government or a rural public works programme (*who_work*=1,2,3,4,5,7) **and** they are not self-employed (*type_act*=5,6,7,12,13,15,19);
 - They are working for a private company/enterprise, a household member, another private individual/household, the public sector/government or a rural public works programme (*who_work*=1,2,3,4,5,7) **and** *typemp* would be missing otherwise.
- Participants are classified as self-employed (*typemp*=1) if they meet the following criteria:
 - They are working for a household member or on their own account (*who_work*=2,6) **and** they are self-employed (*type_act* = 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11);
 - They are working on their own account (*who_work*=6) **and** *typemp* would be missing otherwise.

For Peru, *typemp* is constructed as follows:

- Participants are classified as dependent workers if they meet the following criteria:
 - They are working for a private company/enterprise, a household member, another private individual/household, the public sector/government or a rural public works programme (*who_work*=1,2,3,4,5,7) **and** they are working as a salaried farmer, labourer, rancher, in forestry, in fishing, salaried worker, casual worker, artisan, trader, household employee or other (*type_act*=2,3,4,5,6,8,11,12,13,14,16,23);
 - They are working for a private company/enterprise, a household member, another private individual/household, the public sector/government or a rural public works programme (*who_work*=1,2,3,4,5,7) **and** *typemp* would be missing otherwise.
- Participants are classified as self-employed if they meet the following criteria:
 - They are working for a household member or on their own account (*who_work*=2,6) **and** they are self-employed or working as a farmer on their own farm (*type_act*=9,10,21,22);
 - They are working on their own account (*who_work*=6) **and** working as a labourer, rancher, in forestry, in fishing, unpaid family worker, casual worker, artisan, trader, or other (*type_act*=3,4,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,16);
 - They are working on their own account (*who_work*=6) **and** *typemp* would be missing otherwise.

Table 7. *Overview of type of activity (type_act) labels*

Ethiopia, India, Vietnam		Peru	
1	Self-employed (food crops)		
2	Self-employed (non-food, including horticulture, sericulture and floriculture)	2	Salaried farmer
3	Self-employed (aquaculture)	3	Eventual labourer
4	Self-employed (livestock)	4	Rancher
5	Wage employment (agriculture)	5	Forestry
6	Annual farm servant	6	Fishing
7	Other (allied) agriculture, specify	7	Unpaid family worker (related to agriculture)
Non-agriculture			
8	Self-employed (manufacturing)	8	Other related to the agricultural/fishing/forestry sector (specify)
9	Self-employed (services)	9	Self-employed, small business
10	Self-employed (business)	10	Self-employed, services
11	Self-employed (other non-agriculture)	11	Salaried worker
12	Wage-employment (unsalaried/irregular; non-agriculture)	12	Casual worker
13	Regular salaried employment	13	Artisan (independent)
		14	Independent trader
15	Begging	15	Unpaid family worker (not related to agriculture)
		16	Other not linked to the agriculture/fishing/forestry sector (specify)
		18	Housewife/activity of the household
19	Other non-agriculture, specify	19	Other non-salaried, (specify)
		21	Farmer on their own farm (food cultivation)
		22	Farmer on their own farm (horticulture, sericulture and floriculture)
		23	Household employee

Table 8. *Overview of type of employer (who_work) labels*

Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam	
1	Private company/enterprise or cooperative
2	For a household member
3	Other private individual/household (excluding own household)
4	Public sector/government
5	A rural public works programme
6	Own account/self-employed (own business or farm)
7	Other, specify

Worked during lockdowns (lck_emp)

The definition/reference point of the variable indicating whether participants worked during lockdowns, *lck_emp*, differs slightly across phone survey Calls 2 and 5. Participants are classified as having worked during lockdowns if they reported that they were working from their workplace, working remotely, or combining remote work and working from their workplace during the lockdown (in India, Peru and Vietnam)/COVID-19 response (in Ethiopia) at the time of Call 2, or during any lockdown in 2021 (in Ethiopia, India and Peru) at the time

of Call 5. They are classified as not having worked during lockdowns if they were not able to work either at their place of work or remotely **or** if they did not work in the past 12 months (for Call 2)/or between January and when the call took place for Call 5. In the case of Call 2, the latter category also includes those who did not have a job when the lockdown/COVID-19 response started.

4.4 Mental health and subjective well-being

Symptoms of anxiety and depression were measured using the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) scale and the Patient Health Questionnaire depression scale-8 (PHQ-8).⁵ The tools assess the frequency of seven symptoms of anxiety and eight symptoms of depression, respectively, over the past 14 days. Participants report their symptoms using a four-item Likert scale ranging from 0 'not at all', to 1 'several days', to 2 'more than half the days' to 3 'nearly every day'. The total score ranges from 0 to 21 for GAD-7, and 0 to 24 for PHQ-8. If any of the items were not answered, the whole score was set to missing. GAD-7 scores between 5 and 9, between 10 and 14, and above 15 represent mild, moderate and severe anxiety symptoms, respectively (Spitzer et al. 2006). A PHQ-8 score between 5 and 9 indicates mild, 10 to 14 moderate, 15 to 19 moderately severe, and scores above 19 severe, depressive symptoms (Kroenke et al. 2009). The constructed files include the raw scores, and four binary variables indicating at least mild (≥ 5), and at least moderate (≥ 10) anxiety (depression) symptoms.

We also measured subjective well-being using Cantril's Ladder (1965). This tool asks respondents to visualise a ladder of nine steps; the bottom (top) step representing their worst (best) possible life. Respondents were asked to identify which step they presently stand on.

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
GAD7_score	GAD-7 raw score	All participants	2, 3, 5
GAD7_mild	At least mild anxiety symptoms	All participants	2, 3, 5
GAD7_mod	At least moderate anxiety symptoms	All participants	2, 3, 5
PHQ8_score	PHQ-8 raw score	All participants	2, 3, 5
PHQ8_mild	At least mild depressive symptoms	All participants	2, 3, 5
PHQ8_mod	At least moderately depressive symptoms	All participants	2, 3, 5
cladder	Participant's subjective well-being (nine-step ladder)	All participants	2, 5



The individual GAD-7 and PHQ-8 items are available for download in the raw dataset. The Call 5 dataset also includes a variable measuring subjective well-being as reported by respondents in one year's time.



Subjective well-being was measured since Round 2 for the Older Cohort and since Round 3 for the Younger Cohort.

⁵ Both scales were slightly adapted for administration in a phone survey and piloted. We asked participants whether they were alone in the room and, depending on their response, whether they could go to another room and/or make sure their phone speaker was off. For each item in GAD-7 and PHQ-8, we asked whether the symptom had been observed (yes/no), and if that was the case, we asked about the frequency.

4.5 COVID-19

Multiple variables related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been collected and constructed during the phone survey. In all calls except Call 3, we asked participants if they had been suspected or confirmed to have been infected with COVID-19. We also collected information about the ability to correctly identify COVID-19 symptoms in Call 1, certain preventative or ineffective behaviours adhered to in Calls 1, 2, and 5, perceived risk of getting infected with COVID-19 in Calls 2 and 5, as well as the participants' vaccination status in Call 4.

Table 9 provides an overview of constructed variables related to COVID-19.

4.5.1 Overview of constructed COVID-19 variables

Table 9. *COVID-19 variables (participant)*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
covid19	Participant was ever infected/believed to be infected with COVID-19	All participants	1, 2, 4, 5
covid19_risk	Perceived risk of getting infected with COVID-19	All participants	2, 5
covid19_behaviours	Number of five recommended behaviours adopted to prevent COVID-19 infection	All participants	1, 2, 5
covid19_symptoms	Number of three COVID-19 symptoms correctly identified	All participants	1
covid19_ineffective	Number of five ineffective behaviours adopted to prevent COVID-19 infection	All participants	1, 2
vacc1	Has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine	All participants	4
vacc2	Has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	All participants	4



Further information about the type of COVID-19 vaccine received, availability and use of COVID-19 tests, attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccine, and behaviours adopted is available for download in the raw dataset.

4.5.2 Additional information

Infection with COVID-19 (*covid19*)

The binary variable *covid19* captures whether a participant has ever been believed or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. It is equal to 1 if the participant was (believed to be) infected with COVID-19 by:

- Call 1: in Call 1
- Call 2: in Call 1 and/or Call 2
- etc.

Number of recommended preventative measures adopted (*covid19_behaviours*)

The variable *covid19_behaviours* captures the number of behaviours recommended to prevent infection with COVID-19 that a participant followed at the time of the respective call.

In the first call, this was done by asking participants about each of five specific behaviours and whether it was done (yes/no):

1. Wash your hands with soap more often than you used to
2. Avoid handshakes/physical greetings
3. Avoid groups meeting such as family gatherings, parties; going to church, funerals, etc.
4. Wear protective gear when outside (e.g. face masks, gloves)
5. Keep a distance of at least one-two meters from other people.

Covid19_behaviours was then equal to the sum of statements the participant replied 'yes' to. For Calls 2 and 5, instead of a yes/no question, participants were asked whether they followed each of the previously named behaviours never, sometimes, or always. To construct *covid19_behaviours*, the number of behaviours a participant adhered to sometimes or always were summed up.

Additionally, the phrasing of item 4 ('Wear protective gear when outside (e.g. face masks, gloves)') differed slightly between calls. During Call 2, it was split into two separate items ('Wear gloves when outside' and 'Wear a facial shield/protector when outside'). For the constructed variable, these were combined to match the 'wear protective gear' item, so that the sum of behaviours adhered to increased by 1 if the participant sometimes or always wore gloves and/or facial protection when outside during Call 2. In Call 5, item 4 was asked as 'Wear a face mask when outside'.

Detailed information on which behaviours the participants followed in each call and how often can be downloaded in the raw dataset.

Number of symptoms identified (covid19_symptoms)

In Call 1, participants were asked to name the signs and symptoms associated with COVID-19. The variable *covid19_symptoms* summarises how many of the three most common symptoms specified by WHO (2020) a participant named. The symptoms were:

1. Dry cough
2. Fever
3. Tiredness.

Number of ineffective preventative measures adopted (covid19_ineffective)

In addition to asking participants whether they adhered to each recommended behaviour, we also asked if they did anything else to prevent a COVID-19 infection. The variable *covid19_ineffective* summarises the amount of ineffective preventative behaviours a participant named out of the following five:

1. Drinking lemon
2. Adding hot pepper to food
3. Adding garlic/ginger to food or eating garlic
4. Going outside into the sun
5. Any other herbal medicine/local prevention/homeopathic medicine.

4.6 Trust

The constructed files include a variable related to participants' general level of *trust* (Table 10). In Calls 3 and 5, participants were asked whether they believed that most people can be trusted, with the alternative option being that one can never be too careful/one cannot trust people at all.

Table 10. *Trust variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
trust	Believes most people can be trusted	All participants	3, 5

5. Household characteristics

5.1. Household size and composition

During Calls 1 and 4, information about the household size and composition of the participant's household were collected. The constructed variables listed in **Table 11** refer to individuals residing in the same household as the participant at the time of the respective call, including the participant.

5.1.1. Overview of constructed household size and composition variables

Table 11. *Household size and composition variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
temp_away	Participant is temporarily living outside of the household during the call	All participants	1, 4
hhsiz	Household size	All participants	1, 2, 4, 5
hhm05	Number of household members aged 0–5	All participants	1, 4
hhm612	Number of household members aged 6–12	All participants	1, 4
hhm1317	Number of household members aged 13–17	All participants	1, 4
hhm1860	Number of household members aged 18–60	All participants	1, 4
hhm61	Number of household members aged over 61	All participants	1, 4
hhm_noage	At least one household member has missing age	All participants	1, 4



Further information about the household members, such as their age, gender, and relation to the Young Lives participant, as well as information about members not currently living in the household, is available for download in the raw dataset.



Detailed information about the household size and composition has been collected since Round 1 for both cohorts.

5.1.2. Additional information

Participants living outside the household (temp_away)

In some instances, the participant was temporarily living outside of the household when they completed Calls 1 or 4. Thus, all the variables derived from the household roster (*hhsiz*, and all variables related to household composition (*hhm_*) (see Table 11), *birth*, and *marrcohab* (see Table 4) were set to missing for these participants even if they took part in the phone survey.

Household size (hhsiz)

For Calls 1, 2, and 5, the variable *hhsiz* corresponds directly to the answer given by the participant when asked how many people they were currently living with. For Call 4, the

values of *hhsz* correspond to the sum of household members currently living in the household, which was calculated based on information from the household roster.

Household member age (*hhm_noage*)

The variables related to the household composition by age group (*hhm05*, *hhm612*, *hhm1317*, *hhm1860*, *hhm61*) only take on the value of missing if the ages of all household members were missing. However, for some household members living in the same household as the participant at the time of the call, age is missing and thus the household member was not considered in the household composition calculations. If that was the case for at least one household member, the variable *hhm_noage* takes on the value of 1 to alert the user to this fact.

5.2. Socio-economic status

The constructed files include several variables from Calls 2 and 5 that describe the socio-economic status of participants' households (see Table 12). These contain information about the characteristics of participants' dwellings, self-perceived household wealth before COVID-19 and at the time of the phone surveys, changes in household income, and changes in household expenditure. Additionally, the Young Lives wealth index⁶ and wealth index terciles from Round 5 have been included.

5.2.1. Overview of constructed socio-economic status variables

Table 12. *Socio-economic status variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
rooms_num	Number of rooms in dwelling (excl. bathroom, kitchen, garage, warehouses, or rooms divided with non-permanent items)	All participants	2, 5
kitchen	Dwelling has separate kitchen/cooking area	All participants	2, 5
electricity	Dwelling has access to electricity	All participants	2, 5
walls	Dwelling has walls on all sides	All participants	2
roof	Dwelling has a roof	All participants	2
internet	Anyone in the household owns a working smartphone, computer, or laptop	All participants	2, 5
water	Dwelling has sufficient private water source	All participants	2, 5
toilet	Dwelling has sufficient access to private toilet	All participants	2, 5
soap	Participant has access to soap or sanitiser if needed	All participants	2
hep_bas_raw	Raw basic HEP score	All participants	1, 5
hepgroup_bas	High HEP group (=meeting at least two out of four conditions)	All participants	1, 5
hep_com_raw	Raw complete HEP score	All participants	2
hepgroup_com	High HEP group (=meeting at least five out of six conditions)	All participants	2

⁶ Available at <https://www.younglives.org.uk/multimedia/wealth-index>. See Briones (2017) for details about the construction of the wealth index.

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
hh_wealth	Perceived household wealth during call	All participants	2, 5
hh_wealth_bf	Perceived household wealth before COVID-19	All participants	2
hh_inc_down	Total (monthly) household income decreased compared to that before COVID-19	All participants	2, 5
hh_exp_up_call2	Household expenditure increased in connection with COVID-19 crisis	All participants	2
wi	Wealth index (Round 5)	All participants	1–5
wi_terc_r5	Wealth index tercile (Round 5)	All participants	1–5



Further information about items owned by household members (i.e. working television, radio, smartphone, computer and/or laptop) and whether someone in the household has a bank account is available for download in the raw dataset.



Detailed information about the socio-economic status of participants' households has been collected since Round 1 for both cohorts.

5.2.2 Additional information

Construction of key socio-economic status variables in Call 5

Information on socio-economic variables, *room_nums*, *kitchen*, *water*, and *toilet*, was collected for all participants in Call 2. In Call 5, this information was updated for those participants who either had their dwelling/house changed (improvements, renovation, destruction) or who moved to another house between Call 2 and Call 5. For other participants (those who did not experience any change in their dwelling), information from Call 2 was carried forward to Call 5.

HEP (basic and complete) index

The 'Home Environment for Protection index for dwelling attributes' (HEP), created by Brown, Ravallion, and Van de Walle (2020), is six-condition index intended to measure how effectively an individual's home provides protection from COVID-19 and limits the need to venture outside. The basic HEP index (*hep_bas_raw*) reported in Calls 1 and 5 is a modified, four-condition version. The complete version of the index (*hep_com_raw*) is reported in Call 2 and is closer to the original HEP index.

The Young Lives Technical Note on the construction of the YL-HEP index (Scott, Favara, and Porter 2020) gives further details on the different conditions used to construct both versions of the index. Note that the HEP indices are only reported for participants for whom we have a record of all the conditions required to construct the index. The HEP index (basic/complete) has a missing value if one or more conditions are recorded as missing values in the data. The YL-HEP index from Call 1 of the phone survey uses data from Round 5.

5.3. Food security

During Calls 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the phone survey, participants were asked questions related to the food security of the household (see Table 13). The one included in the constructed files relates to whether the household has ever run out of food since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.3.1. Overview of constructed food security variables

Table 13. *Food security variables*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
foodsec	Household ever ran out of food since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic	All participants	1, 2, 3, 5



More detailed information related to food security is available for download in the raw dataset. Additionally, the FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale (Cafiero, Viviani, and Nord 2018) was administered in Calls 2 and 3. More information on measures of food security during the phone survey can be found in Scott (2022).

5.3.2. Additional information

Food security (foodsec)

The constructed variable *foodsec* is a cumulative binary variable indicating whether the participant's household ever ran out of food since the outbreak of COVID-19. While the question regarding having run out of food was asked very similarly across calls ('Was there a time since [recall period] when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?', 'Was there ever no food to eat in your household because of lack of money to get food?'), recall periods differ. In Calls 1 and 2, the recall period is 'since the outbreak date'. In Call 3, the recall period is 'since the last call'. In Call 5, it is 'in the past 12 months'.

Foodsec manually, and retrospectively, harmonises these recall periods, and is equal to 1 if the participant's household had run out of food by:

- Call 1: In Call 1
- Call 2: In Call 1 and/or Call 2
- etc.

5.4. COVID-19

The constructed files include information about the vaccination status of the participant's household members (see Table 14).

5.4.1. Overview of constructed COVID-19 variables

Table 14. *COVID-19 variables (household)*

Variable name	Description	Sample definition	Call(s)
vacc1_hhm	At least one household member has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine	All participants	4
vacc2_hhm	At least one household member has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	All participants	4



Further information about which household members have received a COVID-19 vaccine, and which vaccine, is available for download in the raw dataset.

5.4.2. Additional information

COVID-19 vaccination of household members (vacc1_hhm, vacc2_hhm)

The vaccination status was asked of all household members named in the household roster in Call 4 aged 18 years old and older who were not deceased at the time of the phone survey, irrespective of whether they were living in the same household as the participant.

For the construction of the variables, the participant was included in the definition of 'at least one household member'. The variables were set to missing if the vaccination status was missing for all household members, the participant did not know or refused to disclose the vaccination status of all household members, or the initial filter question of whether anyone in the household has received a COVID-19 vaccine had not been answered. This means that in some cases, *vacc1_hhm* or *vacc2_hhm* may take on the values of 0/1 even though the vaccination status is missing for one or more household members.

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Appendix

Variable name	Variable label	Call 1	Call 2	Call 3	Call 4	Call 5
IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION VARIABLES						
childid	Participant ID	•	•	•	•	•
region	Region	•	•	•	•	•
typesite	Area of residence (urban/rural)	•	•	•	•	•
clustid	Cluster ID	•	•	•	•	•
yc	Younger Cohort=1; Older Cohort=0	•	•	•	•	•
call	Call of survey	•	•	•	•	•
dint	Date of interview	•	•	•	•	•
didntmove	Did not move between calls	•	•	•	•	•
PANEL VARIABLES						
consent	Participant consented to take part in the survey	•	•	•	•	•
incall	Participant is present in call	•	•	•	•	•
panel_call	Participant is present in all calls	•	•	•	•	•
panel	Participant is present in all Rounds 1–5 and all Calls 1–5	•	•	•	•	•
RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS						
<i>Background characteristics</i>						
chsex	Participant's sex	•	•	•	•	•
ageyea	Age in years	•	•	•	•	•
agemon	Age in months	•	•	•	•	•
chethnic	Participant's ethnic group	•	•	•	•	•
chdrel	Participant's religion	•	•	•	•	•
chlang	Participant's first language	•	•	•	•	•
marrcohab	Participant has has cohabitating spouse or partner during call	•			•	
birth	Participant has cohabitating child during call	•			•	
<i>Education</i>						
enrol	Participant currently enrolled in education		•	•		•
enrol2020	Participant was enrolled in education at some point in 2020		•	•		
dropout	Participant stopped attending school/university for other reasons than finishing their studies		•	•		•

A GUIDE TO LISTENING TO YOUNG LIVES AT WORK CALLS 1 TO 5 CONSTRUCTED FILES

Variable name	Variable label	Call 1	Call 2	Call 3	Call 4	Call 5
covid19_interrupt	Participant had studies interrupted due to COVID-19		•	•		•
class_online	Participant had online classes		•	• (not PE)		
class_pers	Participant had in-person classes		•	• (not PE)		
major	Current major		•	•		•
past_major	Past major if not currently enrolled		•			•
hghgrade	Highest grade completed if not enrolled		•			•
engrade	Grade currently enrolled in		•	•		•
Employment						
work_week	Worked in the week before call		•	•		•
work_call23	Worked between Call 2 and Call 3			•		
no_work_job	Did not work in the week before call but had job		•	•		•
work_bf_cov	Was working just before the COVID-19 crisis began		•			
work_mar21	Worked in March 2021					•
econ_sector_bf	Economic sector before COVID-19		•			
econ_sector	Economic sector in the week before call		•	•		•
econ_sector_mar21	Economic sector in March 2021					•
type_act_bf	Type of activity before COVID-19		•			
type_act	Type of activity in the week before call		•	•		•
type_act_mar21	Type of activity in March 2021					•
who_work_bf	Who worked for before COVID-19		•			
who_work	Who worked for in the week before call		•	•		•
who_work_mar21	Who worked for in March 2021					•
typemp_bf	Type of employment before COVID-19		•			
typemp	Type of employment in the week before call		•	•		•
typemp_mar21	Type of employment in March 2021					•
agri_bf	Agricultural worker before COVID-19		•			
agri	Agricultural worker in the week before call		•	•		•

Variable name	Variable label	Call 1	Call 2	Call 3	Call 4	Call 5
agri_mar21	Agricultural worker in March 2021					•
lck_emp	Worked during lockdown(s) in year of call		•			• (not VN)
Mental health and subjective well-being						
cladder	Participant's subjective well-being (nine-step ladder)		•			•
gad7_score	Generalized Anxiety Disorder Assessment (GAD-7) score (0-21)		•	•		•
gad7_mild	At least symptoms of mild anxiety		•	•		•
gad7_mod	At least symptoms of moderate anxiety		•	•		•
phq8_score	Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-8) score (0-24)		•	•		•
phq8_mild	At least symptoms of mild depression		•	•		•
phq8_mod	At least symptoms of moderate depression		•	•		•
COVID-19						
covid19	Participant was ever infected/believed to be infected with COVID-19	•	•		•	•
covid19_risk	Perceived risk of getting infected with COVID-19		•			•
covid19_behaviours	Number of five recommended behaviours adopted	•	•			•
covid19_ineffective	Number of five ineffective preventative measures adopted	•	•			
covid19_symptoms	Number of three most common COVID-19 symptoms correctly identified	•				
vacc1	Participant has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination				•	
vacc2	Participant has received two doses of COVID-19 vaccination				•	
<i>Trust</i>						
trust	Participant believes most people can be trusted			•		•
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS						
Household size and composition						
hhsz	Household size	•	•		•	•
temp_away	Participant is temporarily living outside of the household	•			•	

A GUIDE TO LISTENING TO YOUNG LIVES AT WORK CALLS 1 TO 5 CONSTRUCTED FILES

Variable name	Variable label	Call 1	Call 2	Call 3	Call 4	Call 5
hhm05	Number of household members aged 0–5 in the household	•			•	
hhm612	Number of household members aged 6–12 in the household	•			•	
hhm1317	Number of household members aged 13–17 in the household	•			•	
hhm1860	Number of household members aged 18–60 in the household	•			•	
hhm61	Number of household members aged 61+ in the household	•			•	
hhm_noage	At least one household member has missing age	•			•	
Socio-economic status						
wi	Wealth index Round 5	•	•	•	•	•
wi_terc_r5	Wealth index Round 5 tercile	•	•	•	•	•
hh_wealth_bf	Perceived household wealth before COVID-19		•			
hh_wealth	Perceived household wealth during call		•			•
hh_exp_up_call2	Household expenditure increased in connection with COVID-19 crisis		•			
hh_inc_down	Total (monthly) household income decreased compared to before COVID-19		•			•
hep_bas_raw	Raw basic HEP score	•				•
hepgroup_bas	High HEP-group (=meeting at least two out of four conditions)	•				•
hep_com_raw	Raw complete HEP score		•			
hepgroup_com	High HEP group (=meeting at least five out of six conditions)		•			
rooms_num	Number of rooms in dwelling (excl. bathroom, kitchen, garage)		•			•
kitchen	Dwelling has separate kitchen/cooking area		•			•
electricity	Dwelling has access to electricity		•			•
walls	Dwelling has walls on all sides		•			
roof	Dwelling has a roof		•			
internet	Anyone in the household owns a working smartphone, computer, or laptop		•			•

Variable name	Variable label	Call 1	Call 2	Call 3	Call 4	Call 5
water	Dwelling has sufficient private water source		•			•
toilet	Dwelling has sufficient access to private toilet		•			•
soap	Participant has access to soap or sanitiser if needed		•			
Food security						
foodsec	Ran out of food since outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic	•	•	•		•
COVID-19						
vacc1_hhm	At least one household member has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination				•	
vacc2_hhm	At least one household member has received two doses of COVID-19 vaccination				•	



An International Study of Childhood Poverty

About Young Lives

Young Lives is an international study of childhood poverty and transitions to adulthood, following the lives of 12,000 children in four countries (Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam). Young Lives is a collaborative research programme led by a team in the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford in association with research and policy partners in the four study countries.

Through researching different aspects of children's lives across time, we seek to improve policies and programmes for children and young people.

Young Lives Research and Policy Partners

Ethiopia

- *Policy Studies Institute*
- *Pankhurst Development Research and Consulting plc*

India (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana)

- *Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad (CESS)*
- *Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalam (Women's University), Tirupati (SPMVV)*

Peru

- *Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE)*
- *Instituto de Investigación Nutricional (IIN)*

Vietnam

- *Centre for Analysis and Forecast, Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences (CAF-VASS)*
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