

# Children's Worlds National Report

# VIETNAM



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## 1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to provide the results from the descriptive analyses of the Children's Worlds survey conducted in North Vietnam at 2018. Detailed analyses of children's well-being in Vietnam will be completed after this initial report, and future analyse will also include comparison of children's well-being across the countries participating in the international project.

### 1.1 Context and population

#### *Population*

As of 2017, the population of the Vietnam was about 96 millions.<sup>3</sup>

<b>Population</b>	<b>96,160,163 (July 2017 est.)</b>
<b>Age structure</b>	0-14 years: 23.55% (male 11,909,326/ female 10,735,324) 15-24 years: 16.23% (male 8,098,019/ female 7,509,021) 25-54 years: 45.56% (male 22,087,095/ female 21,719,615) 55-64 years: 8.55% (male 3,798,928/ female 4,419,837) 65 years and over: 6.12% (male 2,281,923/ female 3,601,075) (2017 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	0.93% (2017 est.)
<b>Urbanization</b>	urban population: 34.9% of total population (2017) rate of urbanization: 2.59% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
<b>Sex ratio</b>	at birth: 1.11 male(s)/female
<b>Total fertility rate</b>	1.81 children born/woman (2017 est.)
<b>Religions</b>	Buddhist 7.9%, Catholic 6.6%, Hoa Hao 1.7%, Cao Dai 0.9%, Protestant 0.9%, Muslim 0.1%, none 81.8% (2009 est.)

#### *Geography*

Vietnam is in South East Asia, facing China on the North, Laos and Cambodia on the West, and Pacific Ocean on the East. Vietnam is thin and long, and is divided into three parts: North, Midle, and South.

The North Vietnam can be divided into two regions: Red River Delta; Northern Midland and Mountain. *The Red River Delta* comprises 10 provinces and cities: Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ha Noi, Ninh Binh, Ha Nam, Bac Ninh, Hung Yen, Vinh Phuc, Hai Duong, Hai Phong. Population was about 20.5 million. *The Northern Midland and Mountain areas* includes 15 provinces: Lao Cai, Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Hoa Binh, Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Tuyen Quang, Bac Giang, Phu Tho, Quang Ninh. Population was about 11.5 million.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Vietnam ([https://www.indexmundi.com/vietnam/demographics\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/vietnam/demographics_profile.html))

### *Children*

In 2017, the number of children between the ages of 0 and 14 years in Vietnam was about 22.7 million, which was 23.55% of the population. From this, the number of children up to 14 years old in the Red River Delta was 4.7 million (approximately 22.7 %) and in the Northern Midland and Mountain was 3 million (about 26.5% of the region's population)

### *Religion*

Overall, Vietnam is a benign country. About 85% of Vietnamese regularly visit Buddhist pagodas, but most are not purely Buddhist, not all of them actively participate in Buddhist rituals at the pagodas. Due to statistic, the most common religions in Vietnam are Buddhist 7.9%, Catholic 6.6%, Hoa Hao 1.7%, Cao Dai 0.9%, Protestant 0.9%, Muslim 0.1%, none 81.8% (2009 est.)

### *Ethnicity*

Vietnam is considered as a homogeneous country, almost 86% of the population is from one ethnicity, Kinh, which is also known as Viet, 14% of the population is from other 53 distinct ethnicities. Most of these minor ethnic groups are concentrated in northern mountainous regions and central highlands of Vietnam<sup>4</sup>

### *Economic context*

Vietnam GDP per capita was \$2.563 in 2018, compared with \$1.149 in 2008<sup>5</sup>, is a lower middle-income country.

### *Education*

Preschool is optional for children under six, however primary school is compulsory for all children between 6 and 11.

Elementary education (*primary school*) lasts five years (grades 1 to 5, ages 6 - 11).

Lower Secondary Education (*middle school*) lasts 4 years (grades 6 to 9, ages 11 – 15).

Upper secondary education (*high school*): Most children move to high school at 15. It lasts three years (grades 10 to 12, ages 15-18).

### *Children's Rights*

Vietnam has been a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child since 1990<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Statistics Vietnam (<https://www.asiahighlights.com/vietnam/people.htm>)

<sup>5</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=VN>

<sup>6</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en)

## 1.2 Sampling strategy and outcomes

The North Vietnam sample was designed to achieve a regional representative sample of children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (aged 8), the 5<sup>th</sup> grade (aged 10), and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade (aged 12). Children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are in primary schools and those in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade are in middle schools. Each age group's total sample size was set at about 1.000. The primary sampling unit was areas.

First, base on the number of the provinces and children under 14 years old in two regions (Red River Delta area; Northern Midland and Mountain), we choose randomly 3 provinces in the Red River Delta (Vinh Phuc, Ha Noi, Ha Nam) and 4 provinces in the Northern Midland and Mountain (Son La, Bac Giang, Thai Nguyen, Quang Ninh). The urban, rural, and mountainous areas (depend on geographical characteristics of each province) are identified as the first sampling strata. There are 14 strata representing geographical regions of the North Vietnam, including:

*Region Red River Delta:* (1) Hanoi - urban, (2) Hanoi - rural, (3) Ha Nam - urban, (4) Ha Nam - rural, (5) Vinh Phuc - urban, (6) Vinh Phuc - rural;

*Region Northern Midland and Mountain:* (7) Thai Nguyen - Urban, (8) Thai Nguyen - rural, (9) Son La - urban, (10) Son La - mountain; (11) Bac Giang - urban, (12) Bac Giang - rural, (13) Quang Ninh - urban, (14) Quang Ninh – mountain.

Second, a list of public schools of each stratum was completed.

Third, schools were selected with uniform probability within each stratum from the list.

Fourth, within each school one or two, or three class groups was randomly selected with uniform probability. The number of class groups depends on the estimated class group size, which is different in every school and every area. For example one class in mountainous areas may have only 9 pupils, while one class in urban areas of big cities may have more than 50 pupils.

There was no requirement of parental consent for children to participate in the survey in Vietnam. However school rector board and teachers' consent required for children to participate in the survey.

The survey was administered by researchers, university students, and school teachers. The group survey, using pen and paper, was conducted in all school classes.

The survey began in early 2018 and was completed by September 2018.

The number of participants was expected to be bigger, however the survey was unable to be conducted in some provinces for many subjective and objective reasons.

Table 1 shows the resulting sample by stratum. After the data cleaning process, 2.956 children remained in the study sample with 930 in the 8-year-old group, 946 in the 10-year-old group and 1.080 in the 12-year-old group.

Table 1. Achieved sample (Numbers)

	Stratum														
	All	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>8 years</b>	930	142	62	117	89	103	-	97	-	-	120	109	-	-	91
<b>10 years</b>	946	177	66	107	79	96	-	108	-	-	116	107	-	-	90
<b>12 years</b>	1.080	166	66	124	112	123	60	123	-	-	115	94	-	-	97
<b>Total</b>	2.956	485	194	348	280	322	60	328	-	-	351	310	-	-	278

## 2. Results

### 2.1 The participants

Following the research protocol of Children's Worlds, the proportion of children by age and gender are presented in Table 2. Approximately 52.5% of children were female, and 46.5% were male.

Table 2. Age by gender (Numbers, (%))

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
<b>Boy</b>	478 (51.4)	496 (52.4)	578 (53.5)	1552 (52.5)
<b>Girl</b>	435 (46.8)	444 (46.9)	497 (46.0)	1376 (46.5)
<i>Missing</i>	<i>17 (1.8)</i>	<i>6 (0.6)</i>	<i>5 (0.5)</i>	<i>28 (0.9)</i>
<b>Total</b>	930 (100.0)	946 (100.0)	1080 (100.0)	2956 (100.0)

*Missing: 28 (0.9%)*

### 2.2 The home and the people children live with

Most Vietnamese children live in the same home every day. Thus, we did not include the question that asked whether the child lives in the same home or in different homes.

The vast majority of children (95.2%) lived with their family while 2.1% of children lived in other types of home (Table 3).






Table 3. Home type (10- &amp; 12- year-old) (Numbers, (%))

	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total (%)
I live with my family	903 (95.4)	1027 (95.1)	95.26
I live in a foster home	19 (2.0)	17 (1.5)	1.77
I live in a children's home	3 (0.3)	2 (0.18)	0.24
I live in another type of home	17 (1.8)	27 (2.5)	2.17
I live in another type of home	17 (1.8)	27 (2.5)	2.17
Missing	5 (0.5)	7 (0.64)	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>946 (100.0)</b>	<b>1080 (100.0)</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Missing: 12 (0.6%)

Tables 4 and 5 show the level of satisfaction with the people you live with (0-4 points for 8-year-olds and 0 to 10 points for 10- and 12-year-olds). Approximately, 50.5% of 8-year-olds ( $m=3.40$ ) and 41.8% of 10- and 12-year-olds ( $m=8.12$ ) reported the highest level of satisfaction. 12-year-olds ( $m=7.91$ ) showed lower satisfaction than 10-year-olds ( $m=8.36$ ;  $p<.001$ ).

Table 4. Satisfaction with the people you live with (8-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with	0.6	1.1	7.5	38.5	50.5

Missing: 16 (1.7%)

Table 5. Satisfaction with the people you live with (10- &amp; 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.9	9.1	6.0	3.2	6.3	11.5	17.5	41.8

Missing: 26 (1.3%)

Among the six questions about children's views of their home and family, children agreed the most with the statement "There are people in my family who care about me" ( $m =3.47$ ) "If I have a problem, people in my family will help me." ( $m =3.34$ ) and agreed the least with, "My parents and I make decisions about my life together." ( $m =2.75$ ). When compared across age groups, the level of agreement of 10-year-olds is the highest (Table 6).

Table 6. Variations in questions about home and family (All age groups; means)

	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision
8 year-old <sup>7</sup>	3.43	3.27	3.22	3.14	2.95	-
10 year-old <sup>8</sup>	3.54	3.43	3.29	3.30	2.96	2.88
12 year-old <sup>9</sup>	3.44	3.32	3.21	3.41	2.70	2.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.47</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>2.75</b>

### 2.3 The home where children live

We asked children, “How satisfied are you with the home or flat where you live?” On a scale of 0-4, 55.5% of 8-year-old children answered 4 points. On the other hand, 48.6% of 10- and 12-year-old children scored 10 points on a 0-10 scale (Table 7 and 8). When compared across age groups, 12-year-olds ( $m = 8.20$ ) showed lower satisfaction than 10-year-olds ( $m = 8.73$ ;  $p < .001$ ).

Table 7. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (8-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The house or flat where you live	.9	2.0	7.8	33.2	55.5

Missing: 5 (0.5%)

Table 8. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (10- &amp; 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The house or flat where you live	.8	.9	1.0	.6	8.3	3.3	2.9	5.1	8.4	19.0	48.6

Missing: 20 (1.0%)

When 10 and 12-year-old children were asked if they had their own room or a place to study, 61.5% of children had their own room and 90.2% of children had a place to study (Table 9). Particularly, a greater proportion of 12-year-olds had their own room (64.7%) than that of 10-year-olds (58.7%).

Table 9. Things you have (10- &amp; 12-year-old) (%)

<sup>7</sup> Don't Know 24(2.6%), Missing 9(1.0%)

<sup>8</sup> Don't Know 29(3.1%), Missing 2(0.2%)






<sup>9</sup> Don't Know 53(4.9%), Missing 9(0.8%)

Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room <sup>10</sup>	61.5
Place to study <sup>11</sup>	90.2

## 2.4 Friends

When we asked children about their satisfaction with friends, 42.7% of 8-year-olds responded with 4 points (0-4 scale) indicating that they are very satisfied. On the other hand, only 25.4% of 10- and 12-year-olds responded 10 points (0-10) indicating the highest level of satisfaction (Table 10 and 11). We did not find differences in level of satisfaction among 10- and 12-year-olds at the level of statistical significance.

Table 10. Satisfaction with your friends (8- year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
<b>Your friends</b>	1.5	2.2	12.5	39.9	42.7

Missing: 12 (1.3%)

Table 11. Satisfaction with your friends (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Your friends</b>	1.6	1.1	2.0	2.7	2.1	8.9	5.9	10.7	15.4	16.9	25.4

Missing: 24 (1.2%)

Children in all age groups were asked about their views on friends based on four statements. All children had a tendency to agree more on the item “I have enough friends,” but agree less on other items.

More than half of the children responded “totally agree” with the statement “I have enough friends” (Table 12), while only just above two fifths had the highest level agreement on other items “My friends are usually nice to me”, “Me and my friends get along well together”, and “If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me”.

Table 12. Friends (All age groups) (%)

<sup>10</sup> Missing 15(0.7%)

<sup>11</sup> Missing 14(0.7%)



	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends <sup>12</sup>	4.1	7.6	11.5	16.1	56.1
My friends are usually nice to me <sup>13</sup>	5.1	11.0	17.3	22.3	40.5
Me and my friends get along well together <sup>14</sup>	4.5	11.4	15.9	22.8	40.8
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me <sup>15</sup>	6.4	10.4	12.2	19.2	43.6

## 2.5 School

Children's views about school were not very positive. On a scale of 0 to 4, the number of 8-year-olds who responded 4 points (very satisfied) regarding their school life is close to a half (Table 13). For 10- and 12-year-olds, 20.8 to 47.4% of children responded 10 points on a scale of 0 to 10 indicating that they are very satisfied with school life (Table 14). Among three school life's dimensions, children of all age groups had a tendency to be less satisfied with other children in their class.

Table 13. Satisfaction with school life (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
Life as a student <sup>16</sup>	1.0	1.3	9.9	39.6	46.6
Things you have learned <sup>17</sup>	.4	1.0	8.3	31.5	57.7
Other children in your class <sup>18</sup>	1.8	4.5	12.7	36.7	43.2

Table 14. Satisfaction with school life (10- & 12-year-olds)(%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life as a student <sup>19</sup>	.6	.5	1.1	.7	7.7	4.7	4.3	7.7	13.2	20.8	37.9
Things you have learned <sup>20</sup>	.3	.1	.6	.5	7.4	3.3	3.6	6.1	10.7	19.0	47.4

<sup>12</sup> Don't Know 103(3.5%), Missing 31(1.0%)

<sup>13</sup> Don't Know 93(3.1%), Missing 19(0.6%)

<sup>14</sup> Don't Know 107(3.6%), Missing 27(0.9%)

<sup>15</sup> Don't Know 203(6.9%), Missing 30(1.0%)

<sup>16</sup> Missing 16(1.7%)

<sup>17</sup> Missing 10(1.1%)

<sup>18</sup> Missing 10(1.1%)

<sup>19</sup> Missing 15(0.7%)

<sup>20</sup> Missing 20(1.0%)

<b>Other children in your class<sup>21</sup></b>	2.1	1.3	2.1	1.9	5.6	7.8	7.8	11.8	16.1	21.6	20.8
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In relation to children's views about schools, more than 55% of children totally agreed with items "My teachers care about me", "If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me", and "I feel safe at school." However, only 33% - 37% of children responded "totally agree" to the item "At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me", and "If I have a problem at school, other children will help me" (Table 15).

Table 15. Views about school (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
<b>My teachers care about me<sup>22</sup></b>	3.1	6.3	9.6	20.2	56.1
<b>If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me<sup>23</sup></b>	2.2	5.4	9.1	18.8	60.1
<b>If I have a problem at school, other children will help me<sup>24</sup></b>	5.7	10.8	16.6	24.0	37.1
<b>There are a lot of arguments between children in my class<sup>25</sup></b>	30.1	17.0	14.3	12.7	18.7
<b>My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account<sup>26</sup></b>	5.6	8.8	11.8	19.2	47.6
<b>At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me<sup>27</sup></b>	8.2	11.9	15.1	19.0	33.7
<b>I feel safe at school<sup>28</sup></b>	3.9	6.4	10.3	18.2	55.0

### ***Being bullied***

In terms of bullying, 13.7% of children had experienced being hit, 23.8% of children were called unkind names, and 13.8% of children had experienced being left out more than once by other children (Table 16).

<sup>21</sup> Missing 22(1.1%)

<sup>22</sup> Don't Know 114(3.9%), Missing 23(0.8%)

<sup>23</sup> Don't Know 107(3.6%), Missing 20(0.7%)

<sup>24</sup> Don't Know 140(4.7%), Missing 29(1.0%)

<sup>25</sup> Don't Know 180(6.1%), Missing 34(1.2%)

<sup>26</sup> Don't Know 182(6.2%), Missing 24(0.78%)

<sup>27</sup> (10 & 12-years-old only) Don't Know 226(11.2%), Missing 16(0.8%)

<sup>28</sup> Don't Know 146(4.9%), Missing 27(0.9%)

Table 16. Bullying (All age groups) (%)

How often:	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school <sup>29</sup>	64.3	15.2	7.4	6.3
Called unkind names by other children in your school <sup>30</sup>	54.4	14.1	8.9	14.9
Left out by other children in your class <sup>31</sup>	59.9	13.8	7.4	5.9

## 2.6 The area where children live

The next three questions covered children's satisfaction with their local area. On a scale of 0-4, 60.6% of children rated the highest level of satisfaction with their local area. On the other hand, 36.1% of 10 and 12-year-old children rated the highest level of satisfaction on a scale 0-10 (Table 17 and 18).

Table 17. Satisfaction with local area (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live <sup>32</sup>	1.5	1.6	6.2	28.7	60.6

Table 18. Satisfaction with local area (10- &amp; 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live <sup>33</sup>	1.7	.7	.7	.8	8.1	4.9	3.9	7.7	13.3	21.2	36.1

Children's views of their local area are presented in Table 19 for all age groups. Relatively lower levels of agreement were reported for these items. For example, approximately 35% of children responded "totally agree" for items "There are enough places to play or to have a good time," "If I have a problem there are people who will help me," and "Adults are kind to children." Even fewer proportion of children totally agreed with items like "I feel safe when I walk," (25.6%) "I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to me," (19.5%), and "Adults listen children and take them seriously" (23.5%) Moreover, items such as "Adults are kind to children", "I have opportunities to participate in

<sup>29</sup> Don't Know 182(6.2%), Missing 16(0.5%)

<sup>30</sup> Don't Know 203(6.9%), Missing 15(0.5%)

<sup>31</sup> Don't Know 339(11.5%), Missing 25(0.8%)

<sup>32</sup> Missing 12(1.3%)

<sup>33</sup> Missing 16(0.8%)

decisions about things that are important to me”, and “Adults listen to children and take them seriously” have higher proportions of missing values and “don’t know”.

Table 19. Views about local area (All age groups) (%)

In my area, I live in...	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe when I walk <sup>34</sup>	5.4	8.5	11.5	18.8	50.0
There are enough places to play or to have a good time <sup>35</sup>	8.4	7.8	11.0	15.1	53.5
If I have a problem there are people who will help me <sup>36</sup>	5.6	8.0	12.7	18.2	49.0
Adults are kind to children <sup>37</sup>	4.1	8.4	12.1	19.3	49.7
I have opportunities to participate in decisions about things that are important to me <sup>38</sup>	13.1	10.3	14.4	19.3	29.3
Adults listen to children and take them seriously <sup>39</sup>	11.9	11.5	12.9	16.5	33.9

## 2.7 Money and the things children have

On the first glance, Vietnamese children were considered to have not very poor material conditions compared with the National GDP. For example, more than 90% of children lived in a home with at least one bathroom, 68.9% of children sleep in their own bed, 61.3% of them sleep in a room on their own, and 93% of the children’s family owns a motorbike, which is a popular type of transportation in Vietnam.

However, only less than 20% of children travel away on holiday with their family at least once a year, only 18.8% of the children’s family own at least one computer, and only 5.8% of children have a washing machine in their home (Table 20).

When children were asked, “How often do you worry about how much money your family has?” only 21.6% of children (10 & 12 years-old) responded “never”, while more than 60% of children have some concerns about their financial situation, especially 11.5% of the children always worry about how much money your family has (Table 21).

<sup>34</sup> Don’t Know 134(4.5%), Missing 25(0.8%)

<sup>35</sup> Don’t Know 97(3.3%), Missing 26(0.9%)

<sup>36</sup> Don’t Know 159(5.4%), Missing 28(0.9%)

<sup>37</sup> Don’t Know 157(5.3%), Missing 29(1.0%)

<sup>38</sup> (10 & 12-years-old only) Don’t Know 241(11.9%), Missing 31(1.5%)

<sup>39</sup> Don’t Know 349 (11.8%), Missing 41(1.4%)

Table 20. Descriptive statistics on material possessions (10 &amp; 12 years-old) (%)

<b>How many bathrooms are in your home?</b> <sup>40</sup>	
None	6.7
One	45.8
Two	30.4
More than two	14.8
<b>Do you sleep in your own room or do you share a room?</b> <sup>41</sup>	
I sleep in a room on my own	61.3
I sleep in a room that I share with other people	37.7
<b>Does your family own a motobike?</b> <sup>42</sup>	
No	5.5
Yes	93.3
<b>In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?</b> <sup>43</sup>	
Not at all	12.5
Once	8.1
Twice	4.5
More than twice	5.7
<b>How many computers do your family own?</b> <sup>44</sup>	
None	12.0
One	10.7
Two	5.8
More than two	2.3
<b>Does your home have a washing machine?</b> <sup>45</sup>	
No	25.0
Yes	5.7

<sup>40</sup> Missing 85(4.2%)<sup>41</sup> Missing 15(0.7%)<sup>42</sup> Missing 23(1.1%)<sup>43</sup> Missing 744(36.7%), Not asked in some schools 655(32.3%)<sup>44</sup> Missing 746(36.8%), Not asked in some schools 655(32.3%)<sup>45</sup> Missing 749(37.0%), Not asked in some schools 655(32.3%)

Table 21. How often do you worry about how much money your family has? (10 & 12 years-old) (%) <sup>46</sup>

10-12 year-old	
Never	21.6
Sometimes	40.1
Often	9.2
Always	11.5

Children were asked to rate the level of satisfaction they felt with things they have. Eight-year-old children were asked to respond on a 5-point Likert scale, whereas older children were asked to respond on an 11-point scale. 56.6% of 8 year-olds were happy with things they had at the highest level, while 38.5% of 10 and 12 year-olds felt the most satisfaction with things they had (Table 22 and 23). Moreover, 10 year-olds ( $m=8.49$ ) were more satisfied with their possessions than 12 year-olds ( $m=7.92$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ )

Table 22. Satisfaction with all the things you have (8- year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
All the things you have <sup>47</sup>	1.4	1.9	7.8	30.5	56.6

Table 23. Satisfaction with all the things you have (10- &amp; 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All the things you have <sup>48</sup>	1.0	.6	1.2	.7	7.1	4.4	4.2	6.1	13.9	21.4	38.5

When children were asked do you have enough food to eat each day, 4.2% of 8 year-olds and 1.2% 10-12 year-olds responded that they never have enough food (Table 24).

<sup>46</sup> Don't Know 334(16.5%), Missing 16(0.8%)

<sup>47</sup> Missing 16(1.7%)

<sup>48</sup> Missing 15(0.7%)

Table 24. Do you have enough food to eat each day? (%)

	8 year-old	10-12 year-old
<b>Never</b>	4.2	1.2
<b>Sometimes</b>	5.9	7.0
<b>Often</b>	17.4	17.2
<b>Always</b>	65.2	70.2
<i>Missing (N, (%))</i>	<i>15(.6)</i>	<i>91(4.5)</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Children were asked whether they have certain types of material possessions. As can be seen, about 90% of children possessed the things they need for school, clothers, and pair of shoes. However most Vietnamese children was found not to have pocket money, a mobile phone, the things they need for sports and hobbies. In addition, most of them was unable to access to the Internet at home (Table 25).

Table 25. The things children have (%)

Which of the following do you have	8 year-old		10-12 year-old	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Clothes in good condition<sup>49</sup></b>	3.5	95.4	2.8	92.0
<b>Enough money for school trips and activities<sup>50</sup></b>	14.5	84.6	7.6	92.0
<b>Access to the Internet at home<sup>51</sup></b>	39.6	59.7	32.2	67.2
<b>The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies<sup>52</sup></b>	32.4	67.2	34.1	65.4
<b>Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself<sup>53</sup></b>	79.0	20.2	66.6	32.2
<b>Two pairs of shoes<sup>54</sup></b>	9.6	89.6	9.4	90.1
<b>A mobile phone<sup>55</sup></b>	59.0	38.7	43.2	55.9
<b>The equipment/things you need for school<sup>56</sup></b>	9.6	89.2	7.3	92.1

<sup>49</sup> Missing (8 year-old, 10-12 year-old): 9(1.0%), 107(5.3%)

<sup>50</sup> Missing 7(0.8%), 9(0.4%)

<sup>51</sup> Missing 6(0.6%), 13(0.6%)

<sup>52</sup> Missing 3(0.3%), 10(0.5%)

<sup>53</sup> Missing 7(0.8%), 24(1.2%)

<sup>54</sup> Missing 8(0.9%), 8(0.4%)

<sup>55</sup> Missing 21(2.3%), 18(0.9%)

<sup>56</sup> Missing 11(1.2%), 13(0.6%)

## 2.8 Time use

When children were asked about their level of satisfaction with their use of time and free time, 42.6% of 8 year-olds reported the maximum score on satisfaction with their use of time (Table 26). For 10- and 12-year-olds, 33.6% of children were completely satisfied (score=10) with their free time and 31.6% of children satisfied with time use (Table 27). When 10- and 12-year-olds were compared with each other, 10 year-olds were much more satisfied with their time use (i.e.,  $m$  (10-year-olds) = 8.24 vs.  $m$  (12-year-olds)= 7.84) and their free time (i.e.,  $m$  (10-year-olds) = 7.99 vs.  $m$  (12-year-olds)= 7.44) than 12 year-olds.

Table 26. Satisfaction with time use (8- year-olds) (%)



Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time <sup>57</sup>	.8	2.4	14.0	39.4	42.6

Table 27. Satisfaction with time use (10- & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time <sup>58</sup>	1.6	.5	1.0	1.3	6.2	6.0	5.4	8.2	15.7	21.7	31.6
How much free time you have <sup>59</sup>	2.6	.90	1.7	2.2	7.8	5.2	4.7	9.1	14.2	17.1	33.6

## 2.9 Subjective well-being: how children feel about their lives

The Children's Worlds survey includes a variety of different measures asking about overall subjective well-being.

### **Overall life satisfaction (OLS)**

Children who are 8 year-olds are asked to use a 5-point scale, and children who are 10- and 12-year-olds are asked to rate their overall life satisfaction using an 11-point scale. On life as a whole, 41.8% of 8-year-olds responded with a maximum score on the overall life satisfaction scale and 45.4% of 10- and 12-year-olds were completely satisfied with their life. When 10- and 12-year-olds were compared with each other, 10-year-olds ( $m=8.80$ ) were more likely to be satisfied with their life than their 12-year-old ( $m=8.28$ ) counterparts (Table 28 and 29).

<sup>57</sup> Missing 9(1.0%)

<sup>58</sup> Missing 13(0.6%)

<sup>59</sup> Missing 13(0.6%)



Table 28. Overall life satisfaction (8- year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole <sup>60</sup>	2.2	2.3	12.6	29.8	41.8

Table 29. Overall life satisfaction (10- &amp; 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole <sup>61</sup>	1.3	.6	.7	1.1	1.4	5.3	3.5	6.8	12.6	21.1	45.4

### ***CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale)***

CW-SWBS scale is a reduced version of Student's Life Satisfaction Scale, developed by Huebner (1991). This scale is based on six statements about children's overall life satisfaction, and children are asked to indicate how far they agree with each statement. In the Children's Worlds survey, children aged 10 and 12 were asked to respond using an 11-point scale ranging from "do not agree" to "totally agree" (Table 30). The questions used in this analysis comprised of: I enjoy my life; My life is going well; I have a good life; The things that happen in my life are excellent; I like my life; I am happy with my life.

Table 30. CW-SWBS items (10- &amp; 12- year-old) (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life. <sup>62</sup>	1.8	.8	1.5	1.8	8.3	6.2	5.4	7.2	12.4	17.6	36.1
My life is going well. <sup>63</sup>	1.5	.5	1.0	1.2	6.9	5.2	3.8	5.7	12.5	19.2	41.2
I have a good life. <sup>64</sup>	2.2	.6	1.4	1.3	7.2	4.8	4.1	7.1	11.0	16.9	40.0
The things that happen in my life are excellent. <sup>65</sup>	4.3	1.5	2.5	2.7	7.8	7.4	6.0	10.7	13.8	18.4	23.7
I like my life. <sup>66</sup>	2.1	1.1	1.5	1.4	8.1	3.9	4.2	5.8	10.9	19.0	41.0
I am happy with my life. <sup>67</sup>	2.5	.7	1.1	1.4	8.8	4.1	3.5	5.4	10.6	19.4	41.7

<sup>60</sup> Missing 30(3.2%)

<sup>61</sup> Missing 8(0.4%)

<sup>62</sup> Missing 20(1.0%)

<sup>63</sup> Missing 26(1.3%)

<sup>64</sup> Missing 61(3.0%)

<sup>65</sup> Missing 24(1.2%)

<sup>66</sup> Missing 20(1.0%)

<sup>67</sup> Missing 17(0.8%)

The six items that were found to form a single factor of subjective well-being were utilized. The distribution of each individual items are provided in Table 30. The scale was formed by summing all of the items and transforming the scale from 0 to 100. The distribution of responses on this scale is shown in Table 31. Approximately 13% of children scored highest possible levels of satisfaction. In general, 11.2% of children reported low levels of satisfaction, scoring the mid-point or below of the CW-SWBS. When CW-SWBS were compared by age groups, 10-year-old children ( $m=82.4$ ) had higher levels of satisfaction than 12-year-olds ( $m=76.1$ ),  $p < 0.001$ .

Table 31. The distribution of CW-SWBS (Transform into 100 scale) (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

	%
<b>0 to less than 10</b>	.5
<b>10 to less than 20</b>	.9
<b>20 to less than 30</b>	1.4
<b>30 to less than 40</b>	2.2
<b>40 to less than 50</b>	6.2
<b>50 to less than 60</b>	5.5
<b>60 to less than 70</b>	7.3
<b>70 to less than 80</b>	11.7
<b>80 to less than 90</b>	16.7
<b>90 to less than 100</b>	28.4
<b>100</b>	13.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Missing 103 (5.1%)*

### ***CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale)***

Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale, originally proposed by Seligson, Huebner and Valois, consists of five domains – family, friends, school, living environment and self. An adapted version of this scale was calculated using the questions about satisfaction with family life, friends, school experience, local area and body. The total score was calculated by summing these five items and transforming it so that the score ranges from zero to 100. The distribution of the scores for individual items are presented in Table 32. The item with the lowest level of satisfaction was “your friend” and “the way that you look.” The distribution of scores is shown in Table 33. In general, 5.1% of children reported low levels of satisfaction, scoring less than 50 points of the CW-SWBS.

Table 32. CW- DBSWBS items (10 &amp; 12 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with <sup>68</sup>	.7	.7	1.2	.9	9.1	6.0	3.2	6.3	11.5	17.5	41.8
Your friends <sup>69</sup>	1.6	1.1	2.0	2.7	8.1	8.9	5.9	10.7	15.4	16.9	25.4
Your life as a student <sup>70</sup>	.6	.5	1.1	.7	7.7	4.7	4.3	7.7	13.2	20.8	37.9
The area where you live <sup>71</sup>	1.7	.7	.7	.8	8.1	4.9	3.9	7.7	13.3	21.2	36.1
The way that you look <sup>72</sup>	2.3	.9	1.4	2.0	3.3	8.6	6.5	10.1	13.9	19.9	28.8

Table 33. The distribution of CW- DBSWBS (Transform into 100 scale) (10 &amp; 12 year-old) (%)

	%
0 to less than 10	.0
10 to less than 20	.1
20 to less than 30	.3
30 to less than 40	.9
40 to less than 50	3.8
50 to less than 60	9.0
60 to less than 70	9.9
70 to less than 80	15.0
80 to less than 90	22.4
90 to less than 100	26.6
100	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Missing 115(5.7%)

### ***CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)***

Six items measuring affective subjective well-being: positive and negative affect (derived from Barrett and Russell's measures, 1998) was asked to 10- and 12-year-old children.

<sup>68</sup> Missing 26(1.3%)

<sup>69</sup> Missing 23(1.1%)

<sup>70</sup> Missing 15(0.7%)

<sup>71</sup> Missing 16(0.8%)

<sup>72</sup> Missing 45(2.2%)

Children were asked how often in the last two weeks they had felt happy, sad, calm, stressed, full of energy and bored. CW-PAS includes items such as happy, calm, and full of energy, which measures positive affect while CW-NAS includes items such as sad stressed and bored, which measures negative affect. The distribution of individual items are presented in Table 34. Each item is scored on a scale of 0 to 10. The overall scale is created by summing the item scores and then transforming the scale so that it ranges from 0 to 100. The overall distribution is shown in Table 35 with 12.8% of children scoring the maximum of 100 for positive affect and 2.4% of children scoring the maximum for negative affect. When 10-year-olds were compared with 12-year-olds, older children were more likely to feel fewer positive affects (i.e.,  $m(12\text{-year-olds}) = 75.4$  vs.  $m(10\text{-year-olds}) = 81.1$ ;  $p < .001$ ) and more negative affects (i.e.,  $m(12\text{-year-olds}) = 46$  vs.  $m(10\text{-year-olds}) = 42.3$ ;  $p < .001$ ).

Table 34. CW-PNAS items (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Happy</b> <sup>73</sup>	2.0	.7	1.2	2.1	3.2	6.9	4.6	8.1	14.6	18.3	37.9
<b>Calm</b> <sup>74</sup>	3.1	1.4	1.5	2.5	3.3	11.7	7.1	9.4	13.6	17.3	27.0
<b>Full of energy</b> <sup>75</sup>	3.6	1.0	1.7	2.3	2.4	6.1	5.1	7.7	10.2	16.9	41.1
<b>Sad</b> <sup>76</sup>	18.3	9.3	10.5	9.0	5.9	10.6	6.0	7.6	7.2	6.6	7.4
<b>Stressed</b> <sup>77</sup>	17.4	6.3	6.6	6.7	5.7	10.1	7.1	9.3	9.8	9.0	10.3
<b>Bored</b> <sup>78</sup>	23.9	9.1	7.2	6.5	6.5	9.5	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.7	10.4

<sup>73</sup> Missing 10(0.5%)

<sup>74</sup> Missing 40(2.0%)

<sup>75</sup> Missing 38(1.9%)

<sup>76</sup> Missing 35(1.7%)

<sup>77</sup> Missing 35(1.7%)

<sup>78</sup> Missing 48(0.5%)

Table 35. The distributions of CW-PAS and CW-NAS (Transform into 100 scale) (10 &amp; 12 year-old) (%)

	CW-PAS <sup>79</sup>	CW-NAS <sup>80</sup>
0 to less than 10	.5	10.8
10 to less than 20	.6	9.4
20 to less than 30	1.1	10.0
30 to less than 40	1.9	14.0
40 to less than 50	3.6	11.3
50 to less than 60	6.7	10.2
60 to less than 70	10.5	10.4
70 to less than 80	15.3	8.2
80 to less than 90	19.7	6.9
90 to less than 100	23.7	3.9
100	12.8	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Children's Worlds psychological subjective well-being was measured using six items (based on Ryff, 1989). After transforming the scale so that it ranges from 0 to 100, the average CW-PSWBS score for Vietnamese 12-year-olds was only 75. The distribution of CW-PSWBS for individual items are presented in Table 36.

<sup>79</sup> Missing 63(3.1%)

<sup>80</sup> Missing 56(2.8%)

Table 36. CW- PSWBS items (12 year-old) (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am. <sup>81</sup>	4.1	.9	1.2	1.0	3.1	8.8	4.4	8.9	14.0	15.2	38.0
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities. <sup>82</sup>	6.9	1.2	1.9	3.1	4.9	11.3	7.8	12.3	15.1	13.5	21.3
People are generally pretty friendly towards me. <sup>83</sup>	2.7	.6	1.4	1.5	3.1	6.9	8.1	10.1	15.6	19.4	29.4
I have enough choice about how I spend my time. <sup>84</sup>	6.3	1.8	.8	2.4	4.1	8.2	6.5	11.3	15.2	15.4	27.3
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment. <sup>85</sup>	3.1	.6	.9	1.3	2.2	6.9	6.5	10.6	12.8	17.4	37.0
I feel positive about my future. <sup>86</sup>	6.2	1.8	1.2	1.6	4.1	6.5	7.3	9.0	13.5	19.0	29.3

Table 37. The distribution of CW- PSWBS (Transform into 100 scale) (12 year-old) (%)

	%
0 to less than 10	.9
10 to less than 20	.9
20 to less than 30	10.0
30 to less than 40	2.2
40 to less than 50	4.8
50 to less than 60	9.0
60 to less than 70	12.9
70 to less than 80	18.7
80 to less than 90	21.7
90 to less than 100	19.4
100	6.2
Total	100.0

Missing 28(2.6%)

<sup>81</sup> Missing 6(0.6%)

<sup>82</sup> Missing 8(0.7%)

<sup>83</sup> Missing 12(1.1%)

<sup>84</sup> Missing 8(0.7%)

<sup>85</sup> Missing 8(0.7%)

<sup>86</sup> Missing 7(0.6%)

## 2.10 Children perceptions about children's rights

When children were asked about their rights, approximately 44% of children responded “yes” to the question “I know what rights children have.” On the other hand, only 12.71% responded “yes” to the question “I know about the children's rights convention.” 8-year-olds were less to know about their rights and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child than their older counterparts (Table 38).

Table 38. Children's rights (%)

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have <sup>87</sup>	No	40.8	18.0	8.9	21.9
	Not sure	26.6	39.7	29.4	31.7
	Yes	32.6	42.3	61.7	46.3
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child <sup>88</sup>	No	57.5	33.4	10.4	31.4
	Not sure	24.0	43.6	25.6	31.1
	Yes	18.5	23.0	64.0	37.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## 2. Conclusions

This report presents the findings of an initial descriptive analysis of North Vietnam Children's Worlds dataset. We found that most Vietnamese children in the North live with both parents at their home. Only more than half of 8-year-old children were satisfied with the people they live and the housing where they live, and more than two fifths of 10-12 year-olds reported the high level of satisfaction.

When asked about their friends, children were generally not much satisfied with their friends and generally only about half of all children agreed with the statements about their friends. Accordingly, Vietnamese children's in the North view about their school were also generally not very positive. In addition, children of all ages showed lower levels of satisfaction with school life when compared with their assessment of other domains such as home, family, and friends. While bullying at school was not a problem for more than half of the children, it was a problem for nearly two-fifths of all children, especially being called unkind names were the most common form of bullying experienced by Vietnamese children (45%).

<sup>87</sup> Missing 36(1.2%)

<sup>88</sup> Missing 33(1.1%)

Children's level of satisfaction with the area where they live were generally high for 8-year-olds. However, only 36.1% of 10- & 12-year-olds reported highest levels of satisfaction. When children's views about local area were analysed, we found that fewer children participated in the decision-making process about things that were important to them in the local area. Besides, only one third of all children reported that adults listen to children and take them seriously.

For many Vietnamese children in the North, owning necessary material things was still a problem. Less than one-fifth of the children said that their family owned a computer, and less than 6% owned a car. In addition, they only more than half of 8-year-olds and less than two-fifths of 10- and 12-year-olds reported high levels of satisfaction with the things that they have. The proportion of children that were satisfied with how they used their time was also less. Only one-third of 10- and 12-year-olds reported highest level of satisfaction for how they use their time and how much free time they have.

Overall, children were satisfied with their lives. Approximately 40% or more children reported satisfaction on the domain-based satisfaction scale. However, Vietnamese children showed lower levels of satisfaction on their friends and on the way they look, compared with other domains. In terms of positive and negative affects, approximately 13% of children reported the maximum score for positive affect, and 2.5% of children reported the maximum score for negative affect. Vietnamese children were less likely to feel calm when compared with other domains of positive affect, and less likely to feel sad when compared with other domains of negative affect.

When we compared children's subjective well-being across age groups that for most areas older children reported lower levels of subjective well-being than their younger counterparts. The level of SWB may related to increasing knowledge about children rights and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child from 8- to 10- and 12-year-olds. Children may have more and more demands for their right and for other life's dimensions when they get older.