

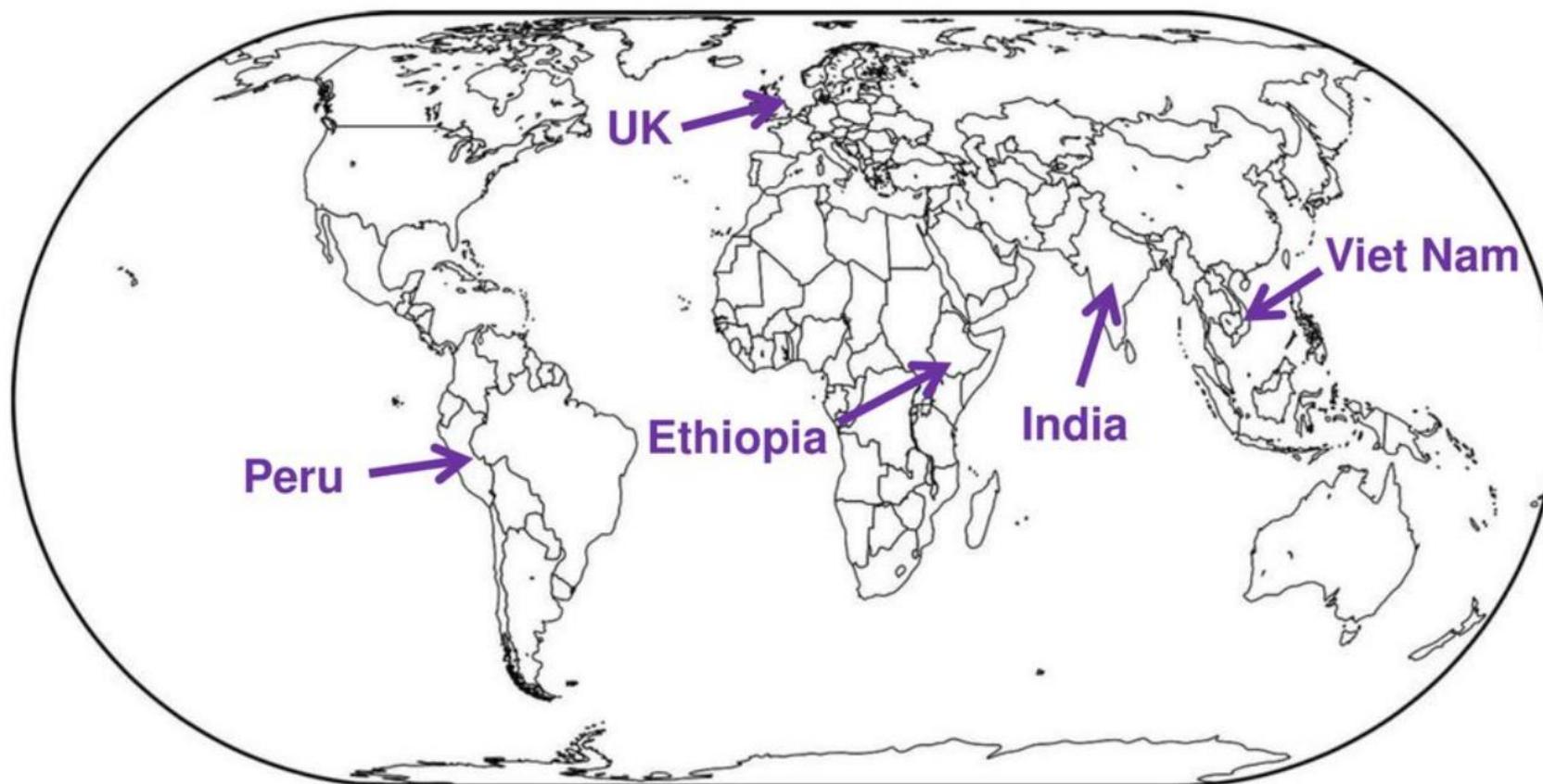
Labor market transitions and Life course: latest evidence from Young Lives

Marta Favara, University of Oxford

ILO-EU event: Building partnerships on the future of work, May 5th, 2022



About Young Lives



20 years of data and research



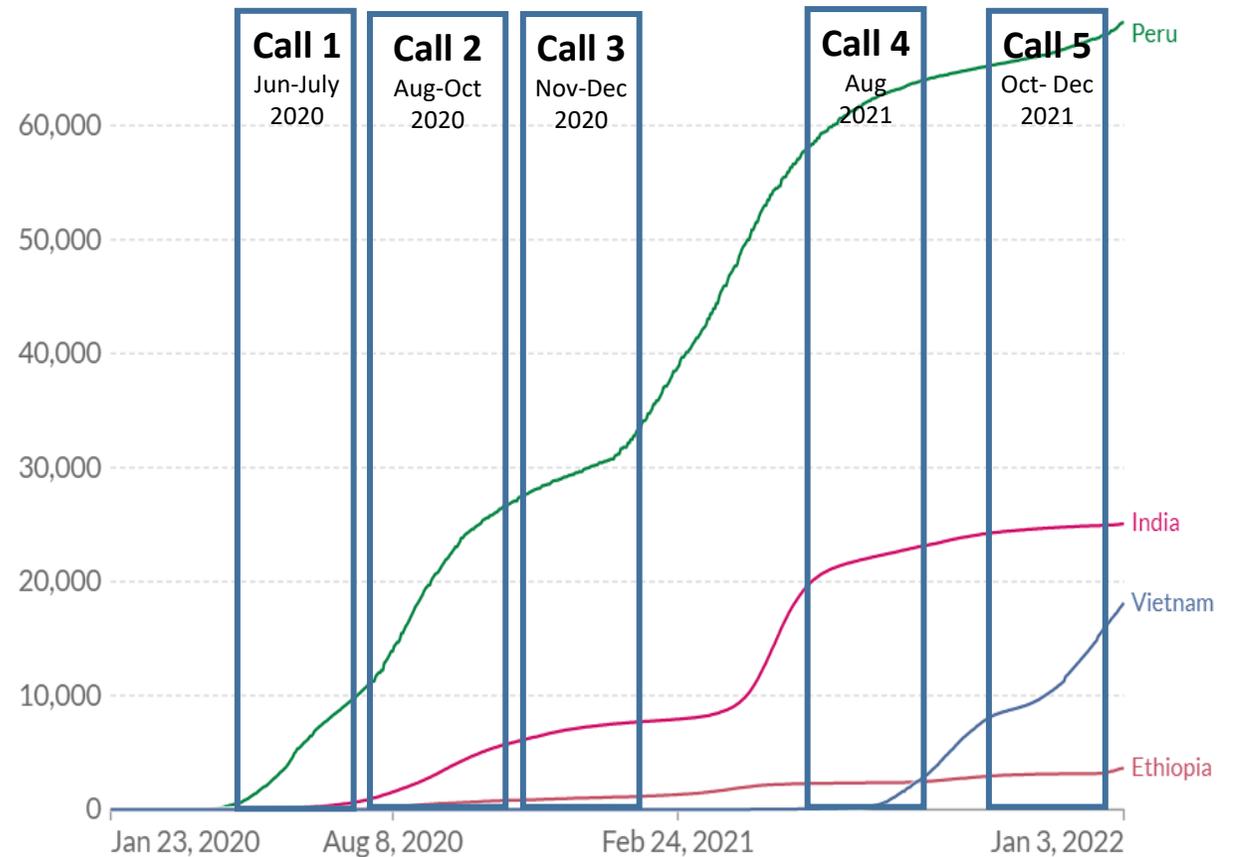
☐ In-person surveys: 2002-2019

☐ COVID-19 phone surveys in 2020/21

Covid-19: Tracking Diverse Experiences

- ❑ Five calls during drastically different COVID-19 trajectories
- ❑ We reached approximately 10,000 young people (78-83% of the 2001 sample)

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people
Due to limited testing, the number of confirmed cases is lower than the true number of infections.



Unique features of Young Lives

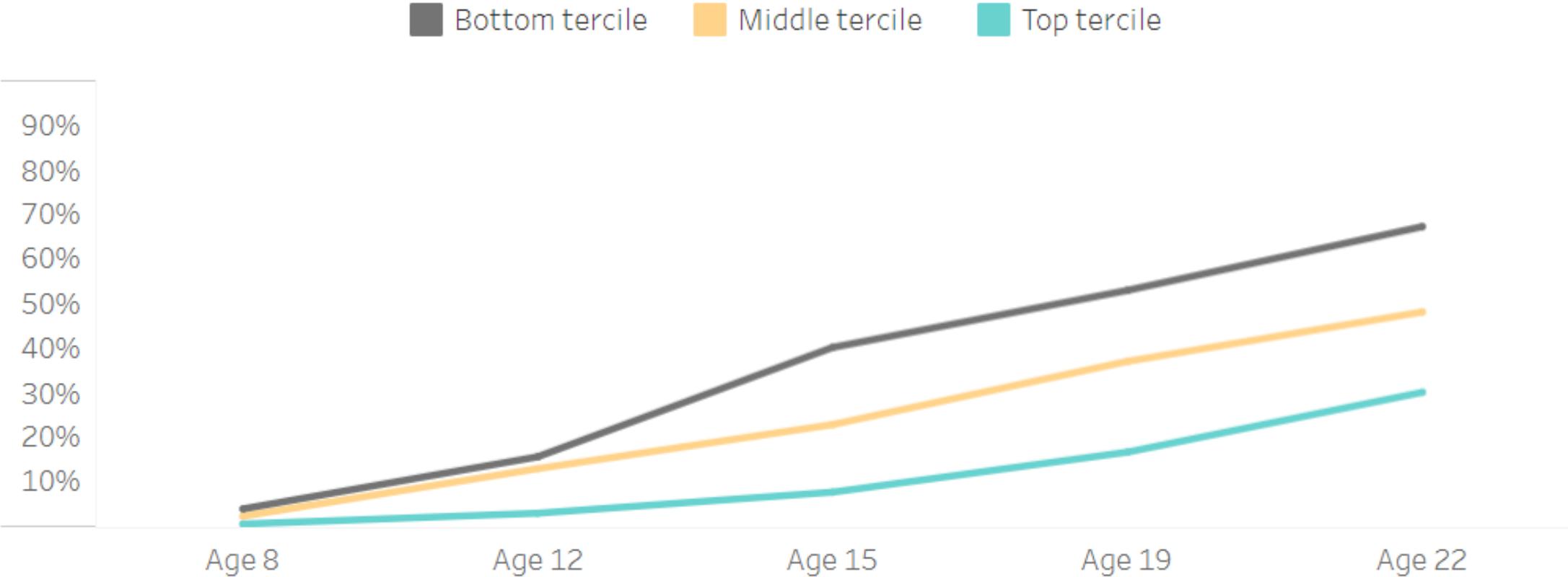
- ❑ Life course approach: from early childhood to adulthood, identify links between **earlier circumstances and later outcomes** - very relevant for policy design.
- ❑ Compare **two cohorts at the same age** at different points in time (trends, exposure to different policy context) (+ panel siblings and the children of the Children of the Millennium).
- ❑ Comprehensive set of information collected at **community, household and child level**.
- ❑ **Cross-country comparisons**- useful for drawing policy recommendations and test the effectiveness of different/same policies in different contexts.
- ❑ **Unique COVID-19 phone survey data** which focuses on those families that are likely to be most affected by the crisis given the pro-poor nature of the samples
- ❑ **Very low attrition** relative to other panel surveys (nearly 80% of the original 2001 sample are still in the study after 20 years).

Labor market transitions and Life course:
selected finding from the Young Lives study

Engaging in paid and unpaid work over the life course: some evidence

- The type of work accessible to young people changes as they grow up, but precarious and hazardous work is prevalent at all ages.
- Working conditions are often poor and informality prevails.
- Childhood individual and household factors matter for work outcomes in early adulthood.

Percentage of Older Cohort children in paid work in India, by household wealth tercile



Source: Young Lives data visualisations

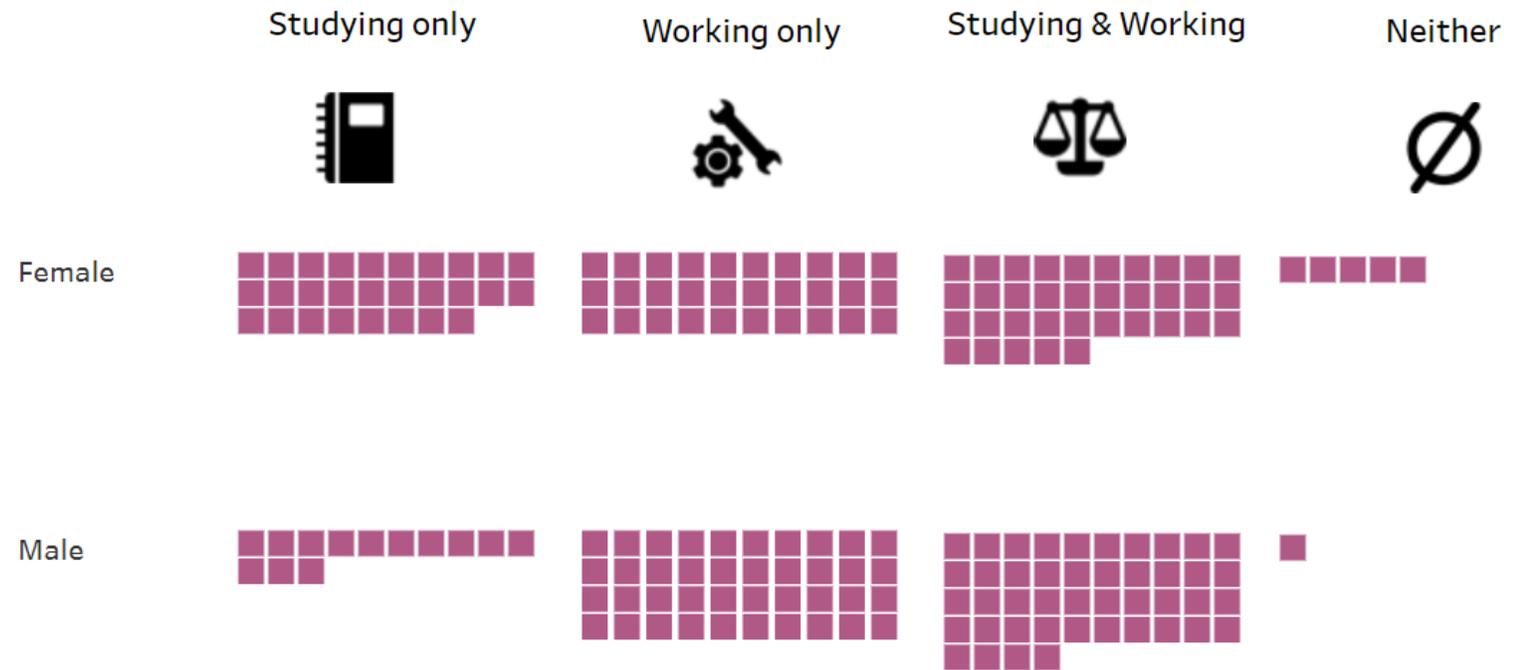
Engaging in paid and unpaid work over the life course: some evidence

- The type of work accessible to young people changes as they grow up, but precarious and hazardous work is prevalent at all ages.
- Working conditions are often poor and informality prevails.
- Childhood individual and household factors matter for work outcomes in early adulthood.
- The transition from school to work is difficult, and different between genders.

The transition from school to work is happening earlier for young men than women, in all countries

- In Ethiopia and Vietnam, girls are more likely to continue their education than boys

Working and studying status at age 19 in Ethiopia, across gender



Source: Young Lives data visualisations

Early marriage remains a barrier to entry for young women

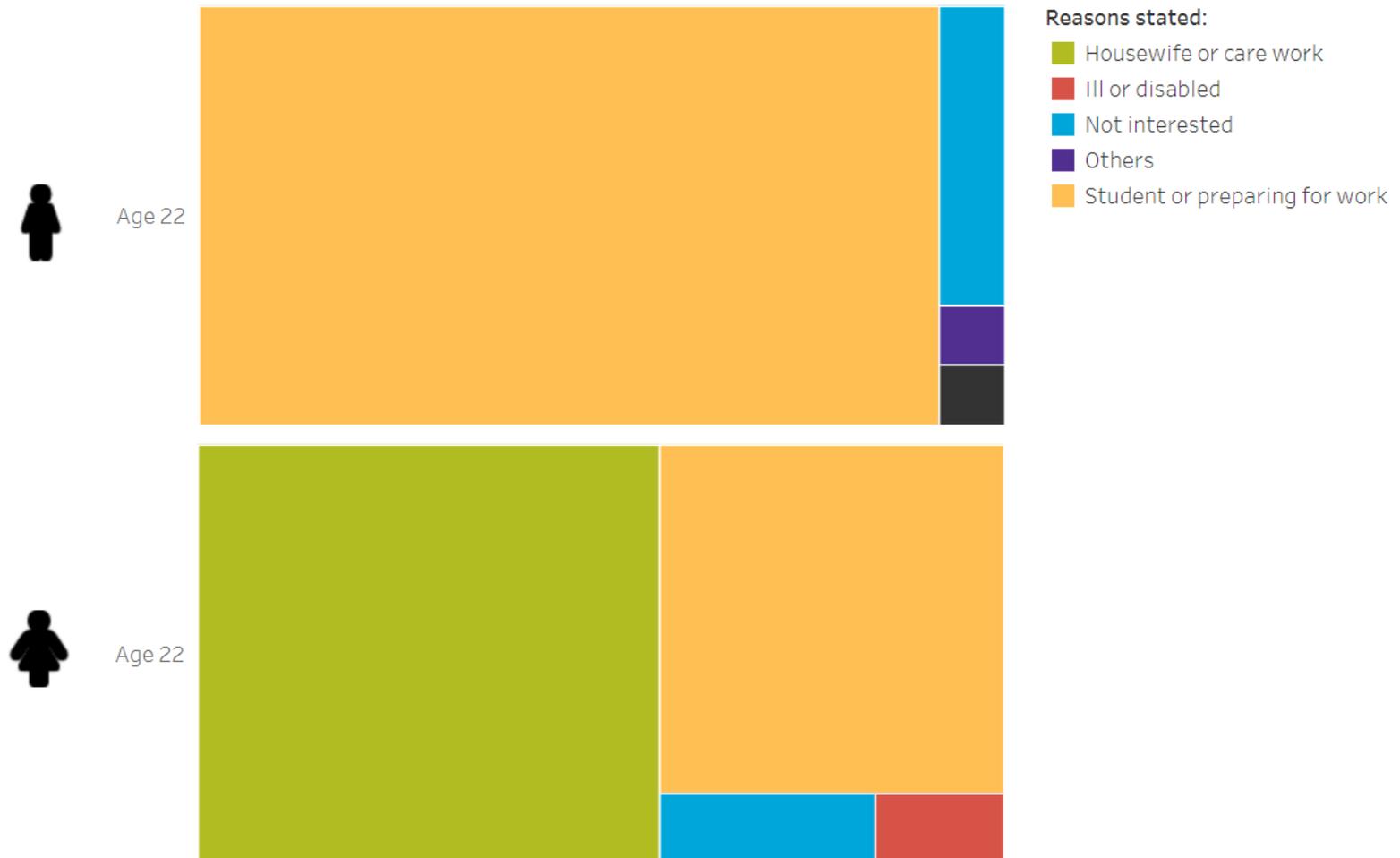
- In India and Ethiopia, **early marriage remains a key barrier to women's labour force participation**

"A man's responsibility is to work, earn money, and bring enough food home. A wife just concentrates on her family responsibility ... she becomes very busy with her household activities and taking care of her baby."

- Young mother in rural Ethiopia

Source: Admasu, Crivello & Porter, 2021

Reasons for not working at age 22 in India, across gender



Source: Young Lives data visualisations

The impact of the pandemic on young people's wellbeing: some evidence from the latest YL phone survey

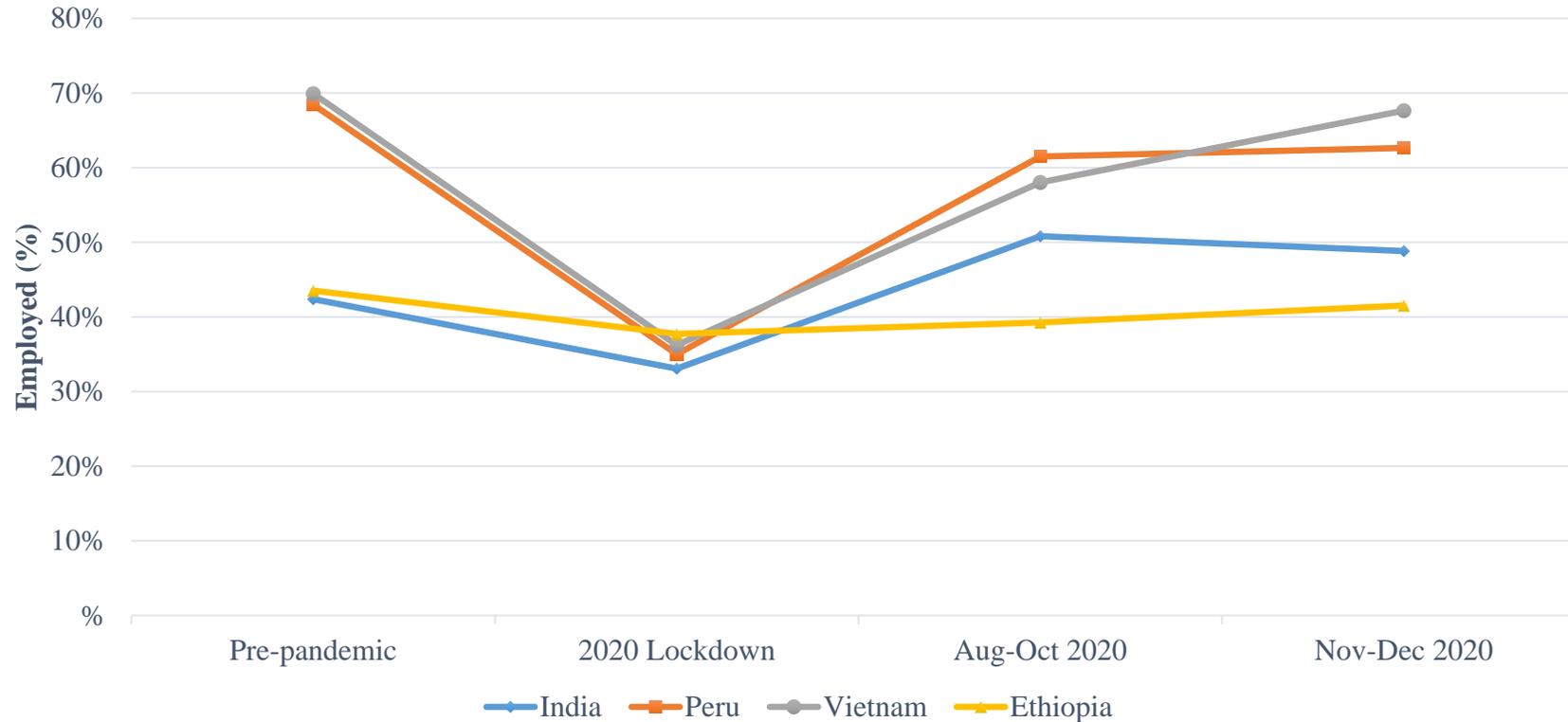
The impact of the pandemic on young people's wellbeing

- Increasing in poverty and in inequalities.
- Increasing in food insecurity among the poorest households and vulnerable groups report.
- School closures and a digital divide are widening educational inequalities and reducing the quality of education.
- Unequal vaccination rates are putting those in poorer, rural households and vulnerable groups at greater risk of COVID-19.
- High levels of mental health issues are still being reported by young people as the pandemic progresses.
- Physical domestic violence increased significantly during the 2020 lockdowns.

What has been the impact of the pandemic on young people's employment so far?

Large dip in employment during lockdown

Figure. Proportion of young people employed over time (YC+OC)



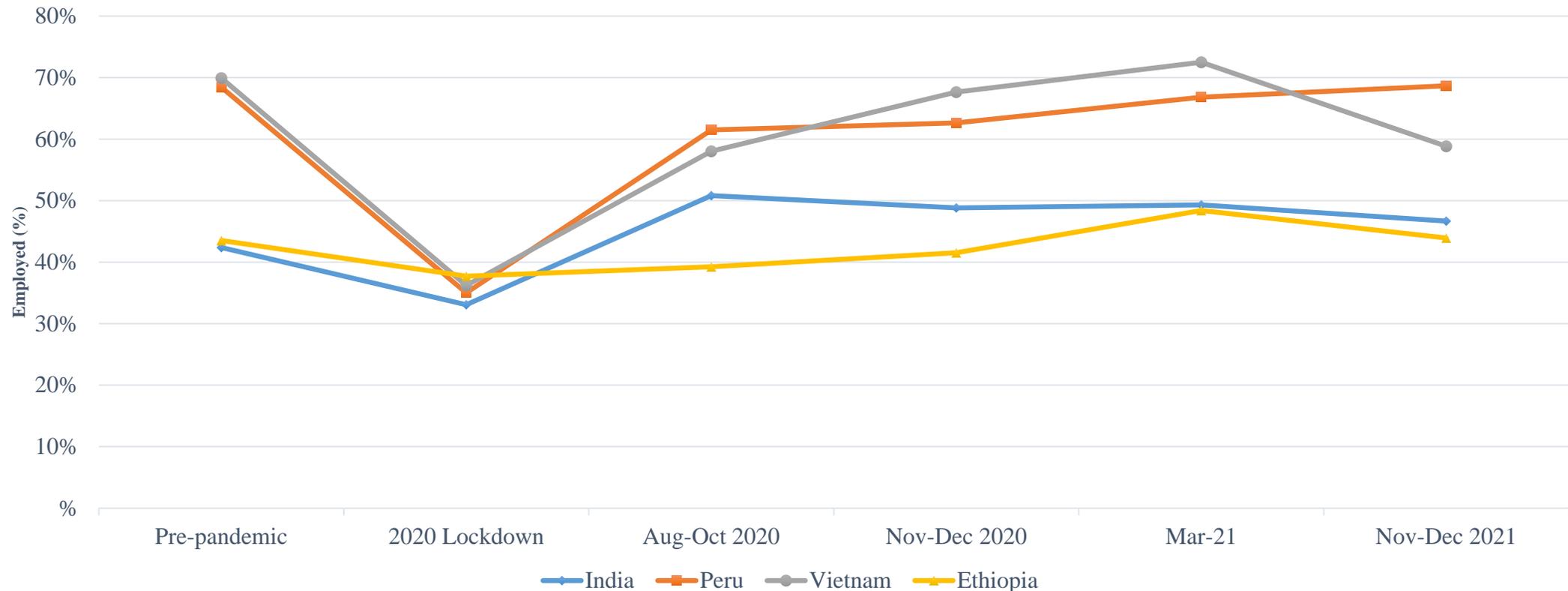
- ❑ Large dip in employment during 2020 lockdowns in PE, VN, IN followed by gradual recovery
- ❑ Quality of jobs may have deteriorated: Continuing shift towards more self-employment and agricultural work.

Who have been the least resilient kept their jobs?

1. **Female workers** less likely to be work (and income) resilient than men.
2. **Younger workers** (18-19 yrs old) are less work (and income) resilient than 25-26 year old workers.
3. **Pre-pandemic wage workers** are less resilient than own-account workers and less likely to be able to maintain income.
4. **Young people working in (contact-intensive) economic sectors** that were severely impacted by the pandemic are less work (and income) resilient.
5. **Skills are (weakly) related to work (and income) resilience:** cognitive skills only marginally associated with higher probability to be work (and income) resilient in IN and similarly for self-esteem in VN.

Employment bounced back following the end of the lockdown

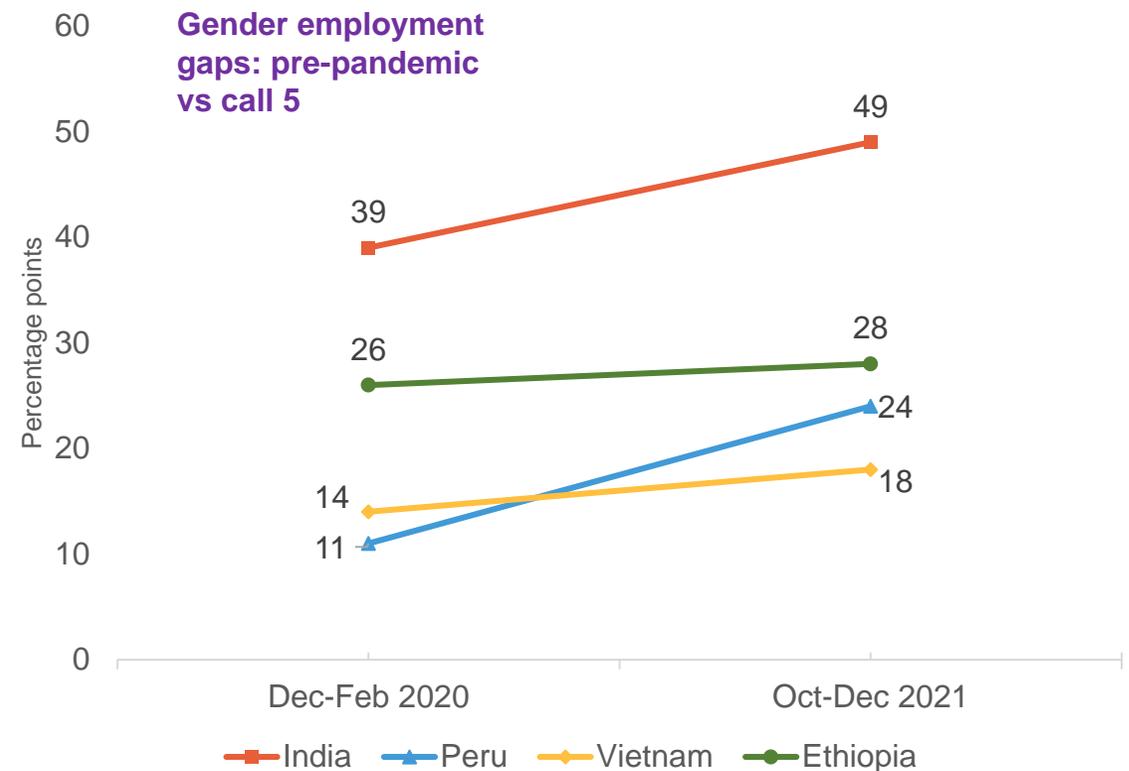
Figure. Proportion of young people employed over time (YC+OC)



- ❑ Vietnam also saw a marked fall in employment during fourth wave in 2021
- ❑ Quality of jobs may have deteriorated: Continuing shift towards more self-employment and agricultural work.

Increasing gender gap in employment

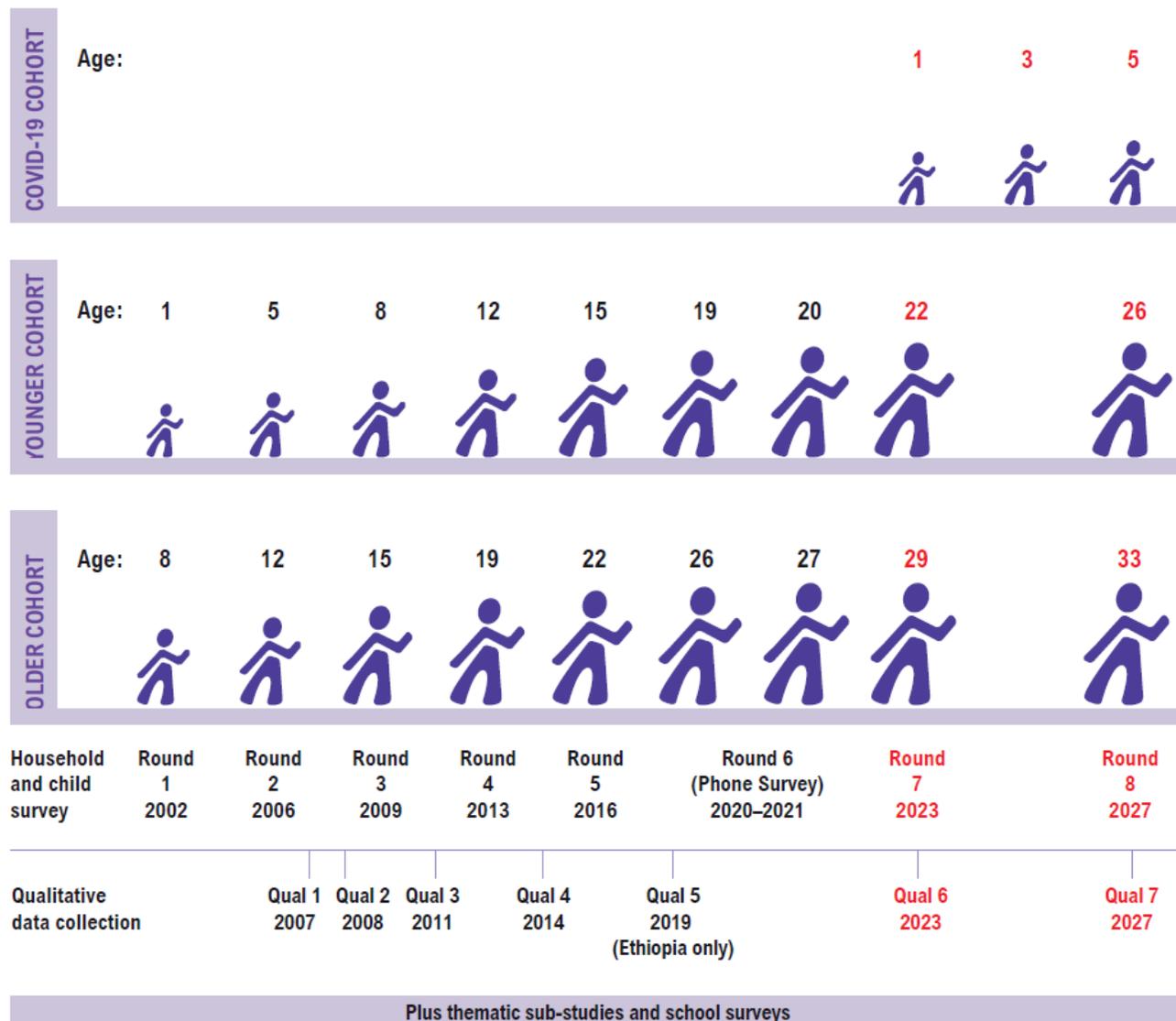
- ❑ Increasing gender employment gaps are undermining overall recovery in employment rates.
- ❑ The unequal distribution of caring responsibilities explains a meaningful proportion of the disparity in Peru and Vietnam



What next for the children of the Millennium?

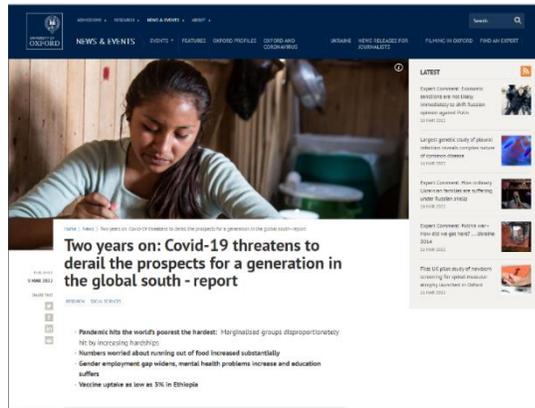


Growing Young Lives: Past, Present and Future



- Following the Young Lives cohort to adulthood (Round 7 and Round 8):
 - Household surveys
 - Qualitative data collection
- Setting up a new cohort study, the Covid-19 Cohort study, 20 years after the Millennium cohort.

Recent YL headlines, find out more



COVID-19 IMPACT ON STUDENTS *Lack of internet access leads to increase in dropouts*

SMV SUDHIR
VJAYAWADA

A growing digital divide due to the Covid pandemic is limiting young people's chances of completing education and is increasing their likelihood of dropping out in both the Telugu states. An international study of childhood poverty, 'Young Lives', in its fifth round of survey has found that more than one in five (22 percent) of 19-20-year-olds, who did not have access to the internet at home, had dropped out between October and December, 2021, compared to only seven per cent of those with internet access.

According to the latest report of 'Young Lives', the quality of teaching, which is currently online, had also fallen by October-December 2021, compared to before the pandemic, according to 47 per cent of



19-20-year-old students.

The latest report of 'Young Lives' summarised the ongoing impact of Covid-19 pandemic on education, employment, food security and

Pandemic affecting youngsters' mental health

SMV SUDHIR
VJAYAWADA

The latest report by Young Lives India has also shown that young people's mental health has worsened slightly as the pandemic has progressed. Around 11 per cent of the study population reported symptoms of depression in the period October-December 2021 compared to nine per cent in November 2020, and 10 per cent reported symptoms of anxiety compared to eight per cent in November 2020.

Young Lives is a collaborative research programme led by the University of Oxford and conducted in India in partnership with the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) and

Young Lives India. "As in previous calls, we investigate the impact of the pandemic on young people's mental health using the Generalised Anxiety Disorder Assessment (GAD-7) to measure anxiety and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ8) to measure depression. Anxiety and depression are defined here as at least mild symptoms of either condition. Following a moderate improvement in rates of both anxiety and depression by November 2020, there has been another decline in young people's mental health as the pandemic has progressed."



Visit our website: www.younglives.org.uk

Access Young Lives data:  UK Data Service

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Class cancelled: how Covid school closures blocked routes out of poverty

Oxford University project reveals devastating impact on prospects for world's poorest students, especially girls

- Coronavirus - latest updates
- Read more in the series: The return of extreme poverty

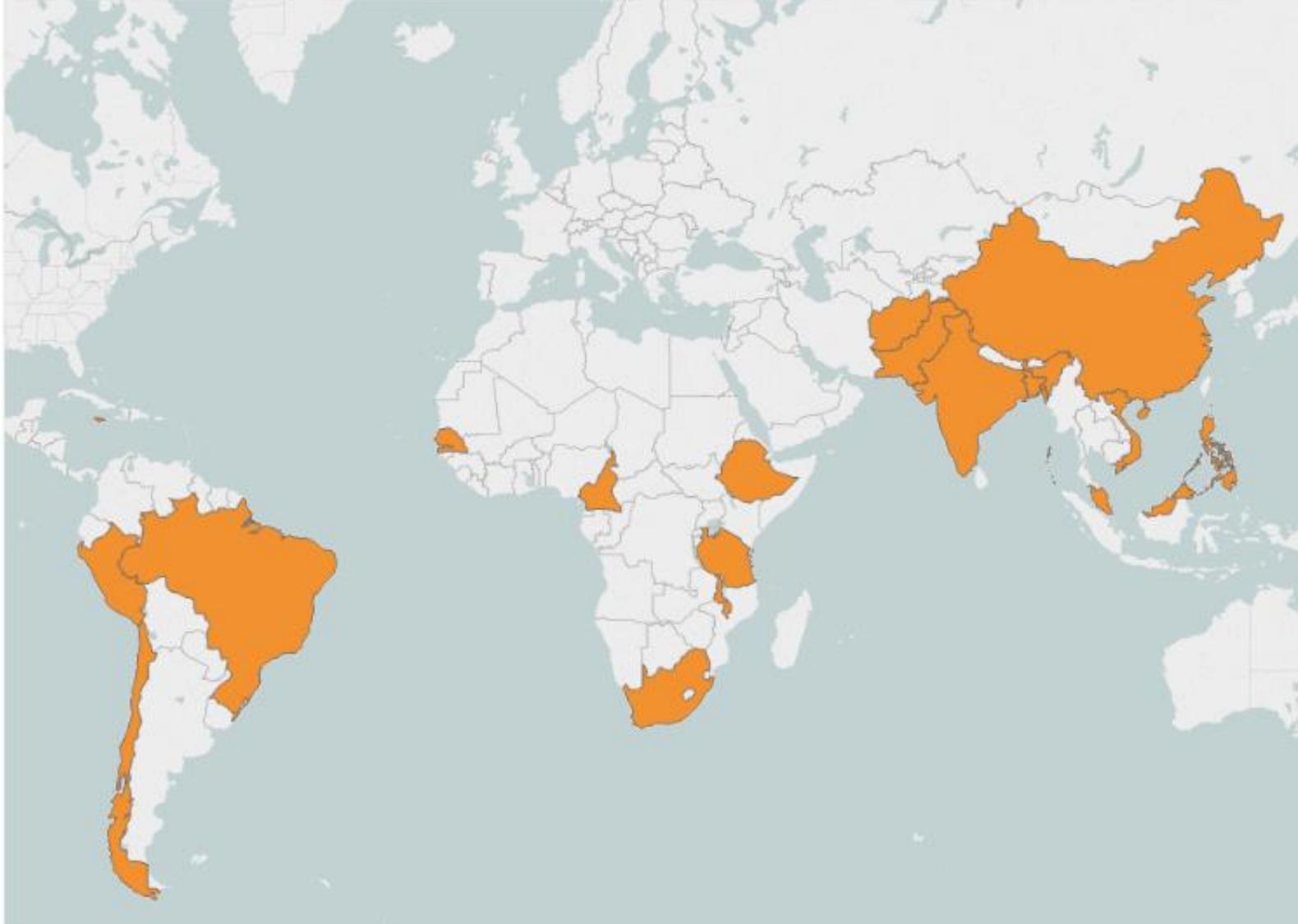


Special thanks to the children and families who participate in Young Lives, without whom this study would not exist.



ANNEX

Birth cohort studies are fewer



Young Lives data on employment

Employment data in Young Lives

- Information about employment/involvement in paid activities collected since first in-person round in 2002.
- **Basic early age/round data:** income-generating activities of the household, and basic employment information about the YL children (whether they had worked in the past year for money, and the # of hours spent working in a typical day).
- **Growing up/later rounds data:** descriptions of work activities, sector and occupation of employment, length of employment, working conditions, benefits, earnings, work-related training, job aspirations, reservation wages and earnings expectations.
- **COVID-19 phone surveys:** employment status, sector, occupation and employer; earnings and non-wage benefits (3 months before the pandemic, the 2020 lockdown, the week before the calls); subjective treatment effect (Nov-Dec 2021).

Employment information for all household's members (Round 1-5)

	HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE YOUNGER COHORT					HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE OLDER COHORT				
	Round 1 2002	Round 2 2006	Round 3 2009	Round 4 2013	Round 5 2016	Round 1 2002	Round 2 2006	Round 3 2009	Round 4 2013	Round 5 2016
All household members										
Most important activities in terms of earning money or goods	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Details about most important activity (e.g. hours worked, income earned, contract etc.)	● * PE only	● * PE only		●		● * PE only	● * PE only			
Looking for work (members aged 14+)	● * PE only					● * PE only				
Hours spent working for pay in a typical day		●	●	●	●		●	●		
Access to PSNP (and details)			● * ET only					● * ET only		
Income from self-employment and wage activities			● * PE only					● * PE only		
Applies to whole household (one answer)										
Which activities contributed the most to the household resources	●	●	● * PE only	●	●	●	●	● * PE only		
Household job loss/source of income/family enterprises	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Work related/trade union membership	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Shares labour with other people in the community	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Earnings from crops		●	● * not VN	●	●		●	● * not VN	● * not PE	
Earnings from non-agricultural activities		●	● * not VN	●			●	● * not VN		
Registered for the NREGS (IN only)		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Registered for PSNP (ET only)				●	●				●	●
Relative importance of income sources			● * IN, PE only					● * IN, PE only	●	
Earnings of head of house/top earner									● * PE only	
Income-generating assets		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●

Employment information for YL children (answered by parents) (Round 1-5)

		HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE YOUNGER COHORT					HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE OLDER COHORT				
		Round 1 2002	Round 2 2006	Round 3 2009	Round 4 2013	Round 5 2016	Round 1 2002	Round 2 2006	Round 3 2009	Round 4 2013	Round 5 2016
	WORK ACTIVITIES										
	Ever engaged in any formal or informal activities for money or goods?						●				
	Age when started working						●				
	Timing of work & ownership of earnings						●				
	Main reason child is working						●				
	Whether seriously injured working						●				
	Whether child has done anything in the last year to earn money		●	●							
	Details of activities (e.g. form and ownership of earnings)		●	●							
	Hours in paid work in typical day			●							

Data on employment: Covid-19 phone survey

Employment information for YL children (C19 phone survey, call1-5)

		2020			2021	
		First call	Second call	Third call	Fourth call	Fifth call
HOUSEHOLD	Lost income from own business/farm because of COVID-19	●				
	Lost his/her job because of COVID-19	●				
	Suspended without pay/pay cut due to COVID-19	●				
	Work modality during lockdown	●				
	Household job loss/reduced pay/business closure		●			●
ALL PARTICIPANTS	Change in working time during typical week		●			
	Work status in last year (call 3: since call 2)		●	●		●
	Work status before outbreak of Covid-19 (call 5: March 2021)		●			●
	Work status in last week		●	●		●
	Employment in the absence of Covid-19					●
FOR THOSE WORKING IN LAST WEEK	Description of main activity (type, sector, occupation, employer)		●	●		●
	Earnings of main activity		●	●		●
	Another activity		●			●
	Total earnings		●			●
	Non-wage benefits (health insurance, contract)		●			●
	Work modality					●
	Underemployment					●
FOR THOSE WORKING IN LAST WEEK	Description of main activity (type, sector, occupation, employer)		●	●		●
	Earnings of main activity		●	●		●
	Another activity		●			●
	Total earnings		●			●
	Non-wage benefits (health insurance, contract)		●			●
	Work modality					●
	Underemployment					●
FOR THOSE WORKING BEFORE COVID-19 / MARCH 2021	Description of main activity (type, sector, occupation, employer)		●			●
	Earnings of main activity		●			
	Migration for work		●		●	
	Work status during lockdown		●			●
FOR THOSE NOT WORKING	Unemployment and inactivity details		●			●

* Not VN

Prevalence of resilient workers in 2020

Table. Percentage of work and work and income resilient (YC+OC)

	India	Peru	Vietnam
Work resilient			
Resilient	0.89	0.75	0.85
Not resilient	0.11	0.25	0.15
Work and income resilient			
Resilient	0.58	0.52	0.75
Not resilient	0.42	0.48	0.25
N	742	593	1169