

**GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF VIETNAM HOUSEHOLD LIVING
STANDARD SURVEY 2002
(VHLSS 2002)**

I/ Survey Objectives

- Collecting information on samples of households and communes/wards for evaluating objectives and making policies, plans, national programs on living standard of residents all over the country and each region, which includes evaluation of poverty situation and inequality.
- Evaluating millennium targets and poverty alleviation strategy
- Providing data for calculating consumption price index and setting up national accounts.

II/ Survey contents :

The survey used two types of Questionnaire including Household questionnaire and Commune/ward questionnaire. Household questionnaire was divided into two smaller types: Income and expenditure questionnaire (for 30,000 household sample) consisting of all indicators (including income and expenditure section); Income questionnaire (for 45,000 household sample) with all information in income and expenditure questionnaire, excepting expenditure section.

Household living standard survey 2001-2002 comprised of main contents reflecting living standard of each member of household and basis socio-economic conditions of commune/ward which effected the living standard of people in the region. Following are specific contents :

1/ Household Questionnaire :

- Some features of demography of household members, such as : age, sex, ethnic group, marriage status.
- Household income, including : income levels, income classified by sources (wage, salary ; do agricultural, forestry and fishery activities on their own ; do agricultural, forestry and fishery activities businesses on their own ; other inflows) ; income classified by regions and economic sectors

- Household expenditure : expense levels, expenses classified by purposes and items (expenses on eating, wearing, living, transport, education, health, culture,... and other expenses).
- Education levels of each household member.
- Type of healthcare center classified by out-patient and in-patient treatment.
- Employment, working time.
- Houses and furniture including fixed assets, electricity, water, hygiene.
- Participation in poverty alleviation programs.

2/Commune/Ward Questionnaire :

- General situation of household members, ethnic group
- Infrastructure as status of electricity, roads, schools, stations, markets, post offices, water sources.
- Economic conditions including agricultural production (land, trend and factors of increases/reductions of main crops production), supports of production development such as irrigation, extension ; non-agricultural works opportunities.
- Some basic information about social security.

III/Survey methodology :

3.1. Summary of survey design :

As mentioned in Part II, Vietnam household living standard survey 2002 was designed by 2 samples: one big sample (45,000 households) which mostly concentrated on income of households to assess living standard for national, regional and provincial levels ; one smaller sample (30,000 households) with both information about income and expenditure to evaluate intensive living standard at central and provincial levels. Following are detail contents :

- Implementing survey in 2002 with income and expenditure questionnaire of 30,000 household sample (*Income and expenditure survey*). This sample was divided into 4 smaller ones, with 7,500 households of each which conducted in first month of four quarters in 2002 respectively. The 30,000 household sample showed estimations at national and regional levels for 2001-2002.

- In the first six months of 2002, survey was implemented on all sections, except for expenditure section (in Income and expenditure survey) for 45,000 household sample (*Income survey*). This sample was divided into 2 small samples with 22,500 households of each and conducted in quarter I, II/2002 respectively. Survey of 45,000 household sample combined with 15,000 households of *Income and expenditure survey* (30,000 household sample) which conducted in the first month in quarter I, II/2002 to establish one 60,000 household sample that showed estimations for national, regional and provincial levels for 2001.

The detail is shown as following:

Collecting data period	Income and expenditure survey	Income survey	Total
Total	30,000	45,000	75,000
<i>Divided into :</i>			
QI/2002	7,500	22,500	30,000
QII/2002	7,500	22,500	30,000
QIII/2002	7,500		7,500
QIV/2002	7,500		7,500

3.2. Object and unit of the survey :

Survey objects consisted of households, household members and communes/wards. While survey unit consisted of each selected household and commune/ward.

3.3. Survey scope :

Survey scope was households and communes/wards which selected in 61 central provinces, cities.

3.4. Allocation of samples :

Samples of Household living standard survey 2002 were distributed to provinces, cities by Socio and Environment Department, applied square root method. This method did not distribute households by direct ratio to population of each province, but it brings higher ratio to smaller population provinces and vice-versa.

Each province, city was distributed two types of sample : 30,000 household sample and 45,000 household sample. General Statistic Office equally divided 30,000 household sample which conducted in the first month of each quarter in 2002 by questionnaire of income and expenditure.

For each sample of allocated 45,000 household type, General Statistic Office also equally divided in two periods to collect data by income questionnaire in the first month of QI and QII/2002. In selected locations, commune/ward survey was implemented while household was conducting.

Sample allocation and survey implementing plan for two types of sample in Hanoi as followed :

Collecting data period	Income and expenditure survey		Income survey		Total	
	Numbers of allocated location	Numbers of allocated household	Numbers of allocated location	Numbers of allocated household	Numbers of allocated location	Numbers of allocated household
Total	40	800	57	1.140	97	1940
<i>Divided into:</i>						
QI/2002	10	200	29	580	39	780
QII/2002	10	200	28	560	38	760
QIII/2002	10	200			10	200
QIV/2002	10	200			10	200

3.5. Data Collecting methods

As mentioned above, VILLAS Survey 2002 used two types of questionnaire : Household Questionnaire and Commune/Ward Questionnaire. Household Questionnaire consisted of two types : Income and expenditure Questionnaire (applied for 30,000 household sample) with full survey contents and Income Questionnaire (applied for 45,000 household sample) with all contents, except for expenditure. Design of questionnaire was relatively detailed which helped surveyors to write down information easily, prevented from missing sections and enhanced unity between surveyors in order to improve quality of questionnaire.

Household living standard survey 2001-2002 used direct interview method. Surveyors had to access household, meet head of household and other related

members to interview and write information on Household Questionnaire. Meanwhile, team head interviewed commune/ward leaders and local related officials and wrote information on Commune/Ward Questionnaire. To ensure information quality, indirect interview method and copying information was not accepted.

IV. Training and field survey

1. Training :

This is a important step to get good quality of survey. Therefore, enumerators, team heads, inspectors, supervisors and conductors must be trained carefully from center to local levels. Enumerators, team heads must be selected adequate both in quantity and quality.

Training was classified into two levels including :

- Central level : General Statistic hold two training courses (one in the North and the other in the South). Training time was five days. Components included one leader of Department of Statistic, one head of division and one expert of Department of Statistic who was in charge of household living standard survey. Trainers were leaders and experts from Socio Environment Department.
- Provincial level : Each provincial department of statistic hold one training course for enumerators in the region, including supervisors, heads of district statistic divisions in the selected locations, team heads and surveyors. Training time was five days. Trainers were also leaders from Department of Statistic and officials who participated in central training course.

Training requirements were to understand survey project and implementing plan at local, instruct to write information on Household Questionnaire and Commune/Ward Questionnaire.

During the training course, participants were introduced concepts, calculations, interview methods for collecting information ; skills of writing information on questionnaire, method of checking questionnaire logic ; method of assessing data quality. Participants all made a test after training course.

2. Field survey :

Surveys were implemented in the first month of quarters in 2002. Particularly in QII and QIII, surveys were carried out in May and August in order to avoid coincidence with population survey.

Period of collecting information at communes was one month for QI and QII ; and 15,250 days for QIII and QIV.

- For household survey

Team head set up a plan for household and enumerators. After that, he early informed household head to participate the interview.

Based on the plan, enumerators had to visit head of household and their family members to interview. Any available documents in stead of direct interview were not allowed.

Interview process :

- First of all, surveyor had to introduce him-self and summary of the survey as followed :

- + Household living standard survey was to assess living status and conditions of people. It played an important role in information providing which helped Government to assess and set up guidelines, policies in order to improve and raise living standard, especially for survey household.

- + Locations and households were random selected by Central from Population General Survey 1999.

- + Information and collected data from survey was completely kept secret and for researching purpose only.

From this, the household acknowledged its responsibility, pride which helped them to provide exact information.

- Based on questionnaire, surveyor asked each household's member or head of household. For a difficult question or a sensitive problem, surveyor had to give sub-question, but avoided giving suggestion for answer.

If collected information from questions conflicted with sections in the questionnaire, surveyor should give direction to help answerer providing true information.

- After interviewing, surveyor read again the whole information to confirm exactitude.

Time was limited two days for one surveyor to complete a full questionnaire and one day to complete income questionnaire.

IV. Main contents of Households living standard survey 2002

VHLSS 2002 questionnaire included 9 sections, with some small parts per section. For each section, surveyor had to interview the right object to get exact information.

Cover : Providing management information of survey, including household's address, name, ethnic group ; numbers of household in survey locations, times of interview, date and interviewing time of each, date of surveyor used interpretation service ; full name and signature of surveyor and team head.

Section 1. List of household members: Listing of household members and data of their main demography. Questions were given to household head or some of members.

Section 2. Education : Collecting information on education level. Technical specialist and expenses on education for each member from nursery age to older. Answerers were household members. Childs' answers were given by their parents.

Section 3. Employment : Collecting main information on job situation of household members from age 10 to older in the past 7 days and 12 months. Persons who are from age 10 to older could self answer.

Section 4. Health : Collecting information on using and expenses on healthcare services in the past 12 months of all members.

Section 5. Income : Collecting information on household members income in the past 12 months (from the interviewing time) from sources :

- Do works to receive wage, salary
- Do agricultural, forestry and fishery works on their own
- Do non-farm, non-forestry and non-aquaculture businesses
- Other inflows

Answerers were people who received income from above sources and knew most.

Section 6. Expenditure : This section was not similar for two types of questionnaire.

For 30,000 household sample, collecting information of expenditure on living, regarding to self-made products consumed (during holidays and daily) ; daily living expenditure not on food and other expenditure. Answerer must be the person who knew most of these expenditure.

For 45,000 household sample, collecting information only on main expenditure to assess data. Information included comparison of income and expenditure ; average monthly expenditure on eating, drinking, smoking (regarding self made) and some important foods consumed in the past 1 month.

Section 7. Fixed assets and durable things : Listing of fixed assets for production and durable things for living. Answerer should be head of household and people who knew most of these information.

Section 8. Houses : Identifying situation of houses of household and expenses on houses (rent house payment). Asking head of household or people who knew most.

Section 9. Participation in poverty alleviation programs : Collecting information on benefit of poor households through poverty alleviation programs and policies for the poor. Interviewing head of household or members who knew most.

V. Main contents of Commune/Ward Questionnaire

Contents of Commune/Ward Questionnaire included 8 sections as followed :

Section 0	Survey information
	Consisting of main information on survey object
Section 1	Basic features of members and general situation of commune
	Consisting of main information on area, numbers of household, religious
Section 2	General economic situation and support programs
	Consisting of information on main income source of people living in the commune, general assessment on the changes of living standard, support programs/projects
Section 3	Non-farm works opportunities
	Consisting of information on enterprises, factories in the commune, and near the commune (distance of 10 km)
Section 4	Agriculture
	Consisting of information on commune land fund, land areas, areas of main crops in commune/ward, agricultural wage, difficulties in agricultural production
Section 5	Infrastructure

	Consisting of information on infrastructure, road, traffic, water source, electricity...
Section 6	Education
	Consisting of information on schools, difficulties in education, implementation of illiteracy elimination, kid garden development in the commune
Section 7	Health
	Consisting of information on general situation of popular diseases, difficulties for medical stations, difficulties for people in accessing medical services...
Section 8	Public security and other socio problems Consisting of information on socio evils in the commune, numbers of drug addicted people, prostitution evils and socio subsidies.