

Panel History

The panel was implemented in 2007 as a research project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) with the aim to measure vulnerability to poverty in rural areas of emerging market economies, namely Thailand and Vietnam (see Klasen & Waibel, 2013). Therefore, the target population consisted of rural households whose per capita income was likely to be near (above or below) the poverty line and who lived in vulnerable environments, both in terms of the natural environment and their socio-economic conditions.

The TVSEP dataset comprises some 22,000 individuals, in 4,400 households, in 440 villages, in six provinces of Thailand and Vietnam. In Thailand, the provinces are Nakhon Phanom, Ubon Ratchathani and Buriram, all located in the North-eastern region. In Vietnam, these provinces are: Ha Tinh and Thua Thien Hue in the North Central Coast and Dak Lak in the southern part of the Central Highlands. One common feature of the provinces is that they border the neighbouring countries of Laos and/or Cambodia. The first survey was carried out in 2007, the most recent one in 2022.

The survey instrument for the household questionnaire includes all components needed to measure household living standards. Detailed information is collected on all sources of income including agriculture, livestock, fishing, natural resource extraction, wage employment and self-employment. Modules on shocks and risks, borrowing and lending, behavioural traits of development and others complement the household survey. A village head questionnaire focused on village infrastructure has been implemented, albeit being conducted less frequently.

In addition to the rural households, their migrant members have been interviewed in the context of two migrant tracking surveys in 2010 and 2018 as well as in the context of a special Covid-19 survey in Thailand in 2021.

Summary

Among the 4,400 households that were sampled in 2007, 2,186 (99.36%) were interviewed in the first wave. As is to be expected, due to the longitudinal nature of the panels, response rates, i.e., the number of interviews conducted divided by the number of households still in the panel in the respective survey wave declined as the panel progressed. However, TVSEP's performance in terms of attrition is good. The average

attrition rate between rounds was 3.73% in Thailand and 2.75% in Vietnam. The average annual attrition rate was 1.99% in Thailand and 1.14% in Vietnam, which is comparable to other longitudinal household surveys such as the German Socio-Economic Panel (Kroh et al., 2017), the British Household Panel Survey (Lynn & Borkowska, 2018) and panels based in the United States (Williams & Brick, 2018). Further, the wave-to-wave response rates of TVSEP are mostly above 95%, which is higher than in other comparable household surveys (Schoeni et al., 2013).

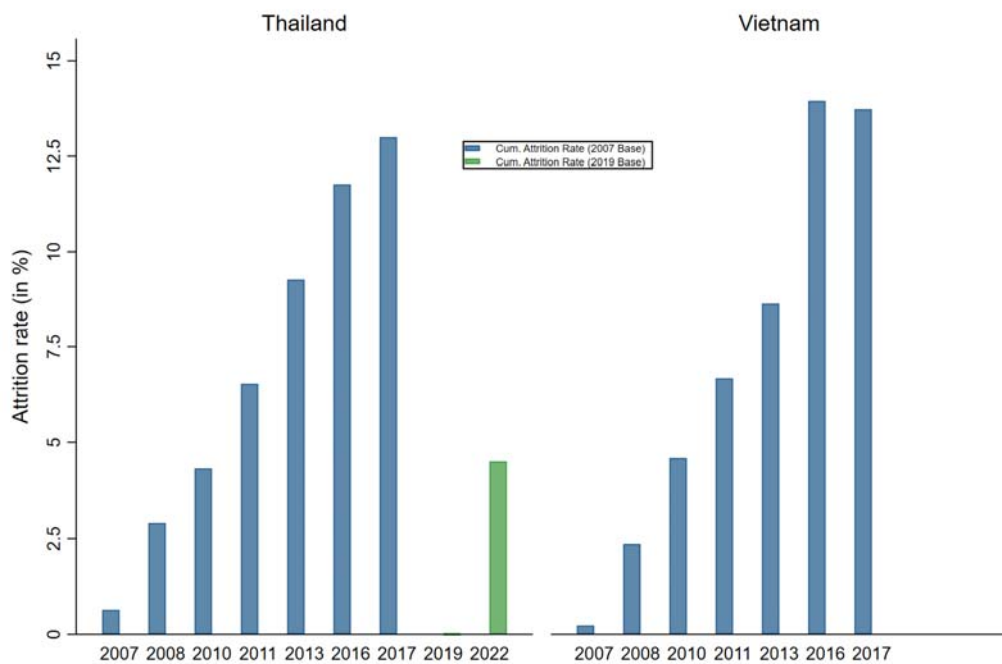


Figure 1: Overview – Cumulative attrition in TVSEP

Source: Authors' calculations.

By 2017, the cumulative panel attrition rate had exceeded 10% of households in both countries, i.e., 13.0% in Thailand and 13.7% in Vietnam. Therefore, in 2019, a replenishment of the sample households was carried out. However, this could only be carried out in Thailand, whereas administrative constraints prevented this in Vietnam (see respective wave description below). In Thailand, attrition during the first survey after replenishing the sample in 2022 was around 5% (see Figure 1.). This rate exceeded that of earlier waves, however, is comparable to more recent survey waves that took place from 2016 onwards - both in TVSEP and other household panels, such as the

World Banks' Integrated Household Panel Survey in Malawi (Moylan & Kilic, 2017) and National Panel Survey in Tanzania (World Bank, 2022a) or the Indonesian Family Life Survey (Strauss & Witoelar, 2022). Overall, the attrition rate in TVSEP can be characterised as low in comparison to other comparable surveys, which is not a trivial accomplishment considering the fifteen-year span of the panel and the challenges of data collection in rural populations of developing countries.

References

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