

Special Covid-19 Survey 2020

Rural Households

The original survey plan had been to implement the 9th household panel wave in 2020, in order to capture the carry-over effects between two consecutive waves, following the procedure of the 2016 and 2017 waves. However, due to the onset of Covid-19 in early 2020, health restrictions prevented the implementation of the survey in both countries. In Thailand, however, it became possible to undertake a special Covid-19 survey among all TVSEP households in the panel, during November and December 2020, after mobility restrictions had been lifted. The conduct of the survey was challenging, because the TVSEP team from LUH was unable to go to Thailand for the supervision of the survey due to international travel restrictions. All training and supervision had to be done via online formats.

Table 1a: Basic Parameters of the 2020 COVID-19 household survey

Country/Parameters	Thailand	
	Unit	Quantity
Sample Size		
	Households	2,141
	Individuals	10,357
	Villages	220
Reference Period	month/year	05/19 - 10/20
	week/month	02/11- 04/12
Survey Mode	CAPI	
No. of Interviewers	persons	21
Response Rate	%	97.32
Local Partner	UBU	

Source: Own calculations.

The survey instrument was focussed on estimating the short-term impact of Covid-19 and the Government's related support schemes on the welfare of rural households in Northeast Thailand. Data were collected from 2,141 households and 220 village heads. As a reference period, the end of wave 8, i.e., May 2019 until October 2020 was defined. The training and survey period lasted from the 2nd week of November until the 3rd week of December. Survey organisation differed from the regular household survey. Since the questionnaire was short, i.e., one interview took about 45 minutes, three-person interviewer teams were formed. Each team completed one village per day, hence up to 70 interviews

were completed per day. The response rate of 97 % is in the order of those of the early waves of the panel (see Table 1a).

Migrants

The migrant questionnaire is complementary to the special Covid-19 household survey and covers the reference period starting with 05/2019 until the date of the interview, i.e., mid July 2021. The migrant survey was conducted using phone interviews. Migrants were identified through the member section of the 2019 household survey. The total number was 2,149. Then households were called to confirm the status of the migrant and obtain the migrant’s phone number. A total of 2,149 migrants were identified out of which 634 completed interviews were carried out, an overall “success rate” of 30.5 % (see Table 1b). The main reason for this low rate was that the migrants’ telephone number could not be obtained. When the migrant number was available, the response rate was as high as 81 %, i.e., the willingness to cooperate in the interview by the respondents was high.

Table 1b: Basic Parameters of the 2021 COVID-19 migrant telephone survey

Country/Parameters	Thailand	
	Unit	Quantity
Sample Size		
	Migrants	634
Reference Period	Month/year	05/19 – 07/21
Survey Period	Week/month	01/04 – 02/07
No. of interviewers	Persons	3
Response Rate	%	30.5 (81)
Local Partner	UBU	

Source: Own calculations.