VIETNAM YOUTH INTEGRITY SURVEY 2010

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Youth Integrity Survey?
2. Why the Vietnam Youth Integrity Survey?
3. What is integrity and how does the YIS measure it?
4. Is the survey sample representative of Vietnamese youth? How reliable are the findings?
5. How were the people and provinces interviewed for the YIS selected?
6. How were the interviews carried out?
7. Based on the findings of the survey, what is the general assessment of Vietnamese youth integrity?
8. How can the results of the YIS be used?

1. WHAT IS THE YOUTH INTEGRITY SURVEY?

The Youth Integrity Survey (YIS) interviews over 1,000 Vietnamese youth between the ages of 15-30 years to better understand their perceptions, attitudes, experiences and behaviors to integrity and corruption. The report compares findings according to education levels, living standards, ethnicity, geography, age, gender and occupation. The YIS also surveys a control group of more than 500 adults over the age of 30, to compare how responses differ between Vietnamese youth and adults.

2. WHY VIETNAM YOUTH INTEGRITY SURVEY?

With around 50% of the population of Vietnam less than 30 years and international experience showing that young people are more vulnerable to corruption, youth must be prioritized as a target group for anti-corruption activities. Initiatives such as Project 137, signed by the Prime Minister in December 2009, to introduce anti-corruption curricula in schools and universities in Vietnam mark a shift to focus on changing youth attitudes and behaviors to ensure that anti-corruption achievements are sustainable. The Vietnam YIS is intended to improve public understanding of the beliefs, behaviors and experiences which make up the integrity of Vietnamese youth to make sure that such initiatives are effective.
3. WHAT IS INTEGRITY AND HOW DOES THE YIS MEASURE IT?

The YIS uses Transparency International’s definition of integrity as: “Behaviours and actions, consistent with a set of moral and ethical principles and standards, embraced by individuals as well as institutions, that create a barrier to corruption” as the basis for the survey. Accordingly, the YIS pays special attention to corruption issues and focuses on three main areas: conceptual values and attitudes towards integrity; actual experiences of corruption (analyzing in which sectors youth face the most corruption and their willingness to report corrupt practices); and the main information sources and actors influencing their understanding of integrity.

4. IS THE SURVEY SAMPLE REPRESENTATIVE OF VIETNAMESE YOUTH?

The YIS provides a very reliable representation of the attitudes, opinions and experiences of youth between 15-30 years of age in Vietnam. The YIS interviews over 1,000 randomly selected youths from 11 different provinces across Vietnam, representing both rural and urban populations: this sampling method is scientifically very robust and allows us to be very confident about the reliability of the findings. The YIS achieved a reliable representation in respect to ratios of sex, education, occupation and etc as confirmed by the official population census. Checks using the theoretical sample design also suggest that the weighted results are robust.

In addition, to ensure that youth respondents answered the survey truthfully and felt comfortable during the interviews, young volunteers, mostly students and recent graduates (with similar ages to the interviewees) were selected and trained to conduct the survey.

5. HOW WERE THE PEOPLE AND PROVINCES INTERVIEWED FOR THE YIS SELECTED?

Participants interviewed for the YIS were randomly selected through a four stage stratified sample design. Six official regions were used as the basis of stratification. In the first stage, two provinces in each of these six regions were randomly selected with the probability of being selected proportional to their size (PPS). At the second stage, census enumeration areas (EA) were selected again according to the PPS method: three in rural areas and three in urban areas. As a result, provinces were selected randomly in a way which ensured that both urban and rural regions were equally represented. In the third stage, a fixed number of households from the listing form of each sampled EA were drawn from the 2009 Population Census: 14 households for the youth sample and 7 households for the adult control group. In the fourth stage, one person in each selected household was randomly chosen to be interviewed. The survey was originally intended to take place in 12 randomly selected provinces, however due to logistical problems it was not possible to conduct the survey in one province. As a result, the number of observations in each province was increased in the remaining 11 provinces to ensure that the original number of youths would be interviewed.

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1 The definition of corruption used by TI is as follow: “Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.”
6. HOW WERE THE INTERVIEWS CARRIED OUT?

All interviews with both the youth respondents and adult control group were conducted face to face between August and December 2010. The fieldwork was carried out by the Vietnamese NGO Live&Learn, with the facilitation of the Center for Community Support and Development Studies (CECODES) and in collaboration with the provincial departments of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF). To ensure that interviewees would more comfortable in responding to the survey, young volunteers—mostly students and recent graduates were recruited and went through several rounds of training to conduct the survey. The interviews took place either in neutral setting, such as a cultural house, or at the home of respondents.

7. BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, WHAT IS THE GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF VIETNAMESE YOUTH INTEGRITY?

The general assessment is that although youth have a very clear conceptual understanding of integrity and the negative impacts of corruption, when faced with practical situations of corruption a significant share of Vietnamese youth are ready to compromise on their own values of integrity. For example, petty bribery in healthcare is accepted by almost half of all youth surveyed, 38% of youth are willing to be dishonest in order to get into a good school, while 33% would agree to engage in corrupt practices in order to be selected for a desirable job. At the same time Vietnamese youth believe that they have a more important role to play in anti-corruption and seem ready to get more engaged: the main question is then how to enable conditions for youth to collectively and individually bring about change.

8. HOW CAN THE RESULTS OF THE YIS BE USED?

The YIS is intended to improve public understanding of the beliefs, behaviors and experiences which make up the integrity of Vietnamese youth in order to assist policy makers and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of anti-corruption programmes and activities. The YIS clearly demonstrates that current forms of anti-corruption education has to be rethought as they do not seem to be making a significant difference in positively influencing young people’s capacity to refuse corruption. To address this, the YIS provides a number of important findings. It not only shows where and how youth are most vulnerable to corruption and why they are reluctant to report corruption, but also looks at the information sources which have an influence on improving youth integrity.