Study Description

The Life in Kyrgyzstan Study 2019, Panel Wave 6

September 2022

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the data collected for the research project "Life in Kyrgyzstan Study 2019". This project was funded and conducted by the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ), located in Großbeeren, Germany, and the University of Central Asia (UCA) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The project was led by Professor Tilman Brück and Dr Damir Esenaliev, both at IGZ. The data collection, conducted by SIAR company, took place from end-November 2019 till end-February 2020.

STUDY TYPE

Longitudinal survey of individuals, households, and population points.

SERIES INFORMATION

The LiK Study is research-based, open access, multi-topic longitudinal survey of households and individuals in Kyrgyzstan. The survey was first conducted in 2010 and was collected five more times (2011-2013, 2016, and 2019). The LiK Study tracks the same 3000 households and approximately 8000 individuals over time in all seven Kyrgyz regions (oblasts) and the two cities of Bishkek and Osh. The survey collects information at household, farm, and individual levels on topics such as demographics, assets, expenditure, migration, employment, agricultural markets, shocks, social networks, subjective well-being, and many other topics. All members of the households in 2010 are tracked in each wave and new household members are added to the survey and tracked as well.

LiK Study received funding from the Volkswagen Foundation for the first three waves (2010-2012) when it was hosted by the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW). In the period 2013-2015, Wave 4 was funded by DFID and IZA as a part of the Growth and Labour Market-Low Income Country (GLM-LIC) Programme. The consortium included the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) as the lead institution, UCA as the main Kyrgyz partner, and several research institutions from Asia, Europe and North America. Since then, the study has been hosted by the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ) for Waves 5 and 6 and has received funding from UN-FAO, IFPRI, DFID, IZA and, internally, from IGZ and our long-term partner UCA. LiK dissemination and outreach activities have been jointly managed by IGZ and ISDC - International Security and Development Center. The first five waves of the LiK survey were collected by the company Sotseconik; the sixth wave was collected by the survey company SIAR. More information on the LiK Study is provided at the dedicated website at www.lifeinkyrgyzstan.org.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

- Population points
- Households
- Individuals

SCOPE

Each type of LiK questionnaire has the following modules (and sections).

Household questionnaire
1) Household (Composition, Child education; Child anthropometry; Child health).
2) Housing and assets (Housing; Assets; Savings & credit).
3) Consumption and expenditure (Food items; Non-food Items).
4) Income sources (Labour Income & Private transfers; Social transfers).
5) Migration (Current migration; Remittances).
6) Shocks.
7) Climate change.

Agricultural questionnaire
1) Farm land and use (Land plots; Fields; Cultivation; Irrigation and crop rotation; Crop planting and harvesting; Crop sales).
2) Livestock and poultry farming (Herd dynamics and sales; Herd management; Household labour for livestock; Animal products; Livestock expenses).
3) Agricultural Information (Advice/information provision; Soil and land management).
4) Quality requirements.
5) Farm Investments.

Individual questionnaire (ages 18+)
1) Subjective well-being
2) Education, health and personality (Education; Health; Lifestyle & nutrition; Risk aversion).
3) Labour market (Current employment; Work in Last 7 days; Unemployment or Inactivity; Work in last 12 months; Employment since 1990).
4) Movements
5) Family and household (Decision-making; Gender attitudes; Marriage practices).
6) Security and violence (Perception of security; Perception of violence; discrimination).
7) Social life (Membership in groups; Informal networks; Trust; Political participation; Civic participation; Local budget).

Youth questionnaire (ages 14-17)
1) Subjective well-being
2) Risk aversion
3) Education
4) Life skills
5) Healthy lifestyle and nutrition
6) Social networks and civic participation
7) Employment and migration
8) Political participation
9) Values and attitudes toward women

10) Perception of security
11) Trust

Population point (or community) questionnaire:
1) Community information (Population and migration; Services and infrastructure; Economic activity; Community life; Development programs; Shocks in communities).
2) Prices for food products.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage.
Regional: all seven oblasts (Batken, Chui, Djalal-Abad, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Osh, and Talas) and the cities of Bishkek and Osh.

PRODUCERS AND SPONSORS

Primary Investigators: Professor Tilman Brück and Dr Damir Esenaliev, both at IGZ.
Producers: Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ) and University of Central Asia (UCA).

SAMPLING

The base sample for LiK 2019 was 2,529 households and 8,094 individuals from LiK 2016. All 2,529 households from the 2016 wave were visited in the addresses provided by the survey company that conducted 2016 and earlier waves of data collection. Out of this, 2,102 households were found and interviewed (83%); 334 households were not found (13%), and 93 households (4%) refused to participate in the survey. Counting the new 221 households that were added to the sample, SIAR visited at least 2,750 households in total.

The evolution of the LiK sample is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: LiK Study sample evolution 2010-2019

Questionnaires	2010	2011	2012	2013	2016	2019
Community	120	120	120	120	120	175
Household	3,000	2,862	2,816	2,586	2,529	2,323
Agriculture					1,813	1,632
Individual	8,160	8,065	8,177	7,681	8,094	7,083
Youth						706
Total # of interviews	11,280	11,047	11,113	10,387	12,557	11,913

The original 3,000 households were drawn through stratified two-stage random sampling. The strata are formed by Bishkek city, Osh city, and the rural and urban areas of the seven oblasts, amounting to a total of 16 strata. In the first stage, a set of so-called population points (i.e. communities in rural areas, quarters in urban areas) were drawn in each stratum according to probabilities proportionate to population size. In the second stage, 25 households were drawn in each population point.

The sample selection was conducted by the National Statistical Committee (NSC) of the Kyrgyz Republic based on the 2009 Population Census data. NSC also prepared reserve samples of households, ranging from 20 percent of the sample in rural areas to 100 percent in violence-affected

areas in the southern part of the country. As only 73 percent of the households from the original sample list were found and interviewed, 27 percent of households were drawn from the reserve samples.

No sample weights have been assigned since the sampling of households and respondents was taken proportional to population size in each of the surveyed regions. With the attrition of households, the proportional representativeness of households is uneven. The LiK Study researchers have plans to expand the sample given that future funding is secured.

DATA COLLECTION

Dates of data collection: Nov 2019 - Feb 2020.
Data collection mode: Face-to-face [f2f].

Pilot Field Work

A pilot test was conducted on a total of 40 households using paper-based questionnaires in Russian (50% households) and Kyrgyz languages (50% households). The pilot research was conducted in two cities, Bishkek and Osh, and two villages next to these cities. The households were sampled using the snowball research method. Rural households included livestock and land plot owners. This allowed us to test all 5 types of questionnaires.

Following the pilot fieldwork, the interviewers reported on problems which proved problematic during interviews and suggested corrections to the piloted questionnaires. Feedback was provided to IGZ, including suggestions to paraphrase, translate, add or exclude some answer options. Pilots conducted allowed us to understand how interviews would have gone, and how respondents would react, allowing our interviewers to obtain useful experience.

Training of field staff

Local experienced interviewers were trained by the SIAR's project team and the research team, during which all technical aspects and questions were explained to each interviewer. The training lasted two days. The training was conducted in both the Southern and Northern parts of the country. Every interviewer was given detailed instructions regarding the proper completion of the questionnaire and fieldwork. The instructions included the information on the tasks/aims/requirements of the survey and the project as a whole, with detailed explanations of each question being also reflected in the Manual for Interviewers. The Manual included detailed information that may have been needed by the interviewers during the field: such as requirements for respondents, how to fill in the control card, how to record tracked people, and who to add to the household members list. In case of any need, an interviewer could call a SIAR team member for help.

The first training was conducted for supervisors of all regions and interviewers from Bishkek and Chui oblast. Further on, the training for interviewers in regions was conducted by regional supervisors in their oblasts with the help of the project coordinator. The training consisted of several steps:
1) The core information about the research project presented;
2) The methodology of the research is explained including steps, attempts, interviewing rules, potential obstacles and how to avoid them.
3) Panel tracking (how to use the list of panel respondents in households, major rules, the tracking system and how to work with it).
4) Question-level review of all five types of questionnaires.
5) Basic rules of tablet and program usage were explained.

During the training, mock-up interviews were conducted with every supervisor and interviewer. This step allowed us to examine if the supervisor/interviewer comprehended the training materials: questionnaire, tracking rules and software.

Mode of data collection

The survey was conducted using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) mode using tablets connected to mobile Internet. To conduct the LiK survey, SIAR suggested using the SurveyToGo software (STG), which was chosen as the most suitable software, especially for tracking needs. The development of the data entry applications was started after the final drafts of the LiK questionnaires in Russian and Kyrgyz languages were approved by IGZ. The data-entry CAPI-based application was developed and thoroughly tested. SIAR's IT specialists have created a script for every questionnaire. SIAR staff used this application also to control the fieldwork flow: checked questionnaires uploading, numbers of questionnaires uploaded by each interviewer on daily basis, and possible issues.

Each interviewer had a tablet (or smartphone) and a unique login and password to access the software (and questionnaires, respectively) during the fieldwork. Each interviewer was assigned to a specific region. The work of interviewers was monitored, and administrative and information support was provided by regional supervisors.

As soon as interviewers completed the surveys on their tablets, they sent the results to the server through the Internet daily. The central office team monitored completed surveys on the server. All the interviews were grouped according to the interviewer who conducted the interview and 15-20% of this bulk was back-checked either by phone or by going to the address.

If the location of the respondent was unknown (members of the household did not know his or her location), the interviewer made at least three attempts to contact a household, including contacting other neighbouring households to obtain such information. All contacts with the household were recorded by an interviewer additionally on the tracking sheet.

Tracking System

The LiK is an individual panel, not a household panel. All adult members of the households, not just one respondent, are interviewed and tracked over time. This implies that if a member of an original sample household leaves the household (e.g. to form an own family), he or she is still part of the sample. If relevant, other members (e.g. spouse and children) of the new household are then included in the sample as well. In other words, a respondent can only leave the LiK study by moving abroad or through death (though individuals can of course refuse to participate in the study).

In each survey year, all individuals aged 18 or older, who were part of a LiK household in the previous years, and their respective households, are to be interviewed. If an individual from the sample moves (for example from Osh to Bishkek), the individual is followed within Kyrgyzstan. However, if a respondent moves out of the country, the individual is dropped from the sample, but he or she may re-enter when coming back to the original household later. New individuals that move into an existing LiK household are surveyed and tracked, even in case of their eventual departure from the household in the following waves. Since all adult household members are to be re-interviewed individually in the LiK, all children of LiK households become part of the individual sample once they turn 18.

Given the LiK Study is an individual panel, this means tracking individual persons for a long time. To correctly track individuals over the entire survey period, we ensured that they have the right identification codes that are associated with each other in each wave of the panel. SIAR developed the tracking system both in terms of the data entry application, but also with the organizational procedures for the field staff. The household control card contained household identification and its

members, information on changes in the composition and the survey process. Household control card was filled out separately for previously participating households, and separately - for households that participate in the survey for the first time. These forms were completed for each household, which was visited, regardless of participation or non-participation.

Fieldwork

The data collection took place in all administrative regions (oblasts) of Kyrgyzstan based on the questionnaires described earlier. SIAR employed 94 interviewers and seven field supervisors. The total number of interviews carried out was 12,990. The interviews were done both in Kyrgyz and Russian languages, depending on the preferences of the surveyed household. Weight and height measurements were recorded for adults, and weight, height and upper arm circumference for children. Several questionnaires were filled out for some household members, for example – a male adult who is the head of a household in an agricultural family could respond to the individual, household and agricultural survey. Respondents for the youth survey, household members aged 14-17, were interviewed individually. Households which could not be located by the addresses or not found at home were visited a minimum of three times before being ruled out as non-participants. The refusals were recorded as well accordingly. SIAR regularly updated IGZ on attrition and take-up rates throughout the fieldwork.

Quality Control of Fieldwork

Quality control was carried out in four stages:
1) At the beginning of the fieldwork, a supervisor visited 5% of respondents together with interviewers. At least 3 interviews with each interviewer were visited by supervisors.
2) The supervisor checked each filled Control card for the quality of filling before it was handed to the central office.
3) After finishing the fieldwork process, specialists of SIAR randomly chose 20% of the questionnaires, and the group of controllers were checking it by phone and by visiting respondents using the following questions: a) Whether the interview occurred with the right person; b) The date and location of the interview; 3) Whether the interviewer asked the right questions and/or whether the correct visual materials were presented to the interviewee during the interview.
4) During the data collection, 100% process of control was finalized by checking the questionnaire logic frame.

The field supervisors controlled the fieldwork upon submission online. At least 10% of each interviewer's interviews were back-checked on the field during the actual interviews and signed by the responsible supervisor. After completion of the interviews in an area, the supervisor further checked other questionnaires by telephone and visitations to the same addresses. Any data correction required was done in the early stages possible. If it was required to re-take interviews, this was done as soon as scheduling permits.

Data Processing

The first raw data in SPSS format was provided by SIAR company at the end of February 2020. The data cleaning, which entails data quality checks and corrections, was conducted by SIAR during March and April 2020. During May and July 2020 the research team comprising the IGZ, UCA, and University of Giessen researchers, conducted data quality checking and cleaning. The research team conducted four rounds of data quality cross-checks with each round dealing with the revised version of the data received by SIAR.

Linking files between Waves 1-6

The accompanying file named "mroster1019_short" allows to match individuals and households across different waves: a row represents an individual who ever has been listed as a household member (irrespective of being present or absent). The key panel identifier to track an individual is called "idpp". It consists of the 'panel' household code and individual code. Corresponding to the panel identifier are the unique individual identifiers for individuals for each wave from 2010 to 2019 (named 'idp10', 'idp11', 'idp12', 'idp13', 'idp16', 'idp19', respectively). These wave-specific identifiers consist of a household code ('hhid') and an individual's number on the household roster ('pid'). To create a panel, one shall create a corresponding identifier in the corresponding data files in the corresponding wave (for example, idp19 for LiK 2019) and merge the needed files using this identifier. In Stata software, the idp19 identifier-variable is created with the help of the following command: generate idp19=(hhid+pid/100)*100.

The data users may find cases when a person's birth date and/or gender are not consistent across waves. Partly, this reflects the differing responses of households across waves, especially, for absent members whose information is provided by other present members. Partly, it reflects the technical issues when merging identifiers across the last two waves led to losses and incorrect assignment of the same code to different members. Some of these incorrect codes can be solved only with the new data collection.

ACCESS POLICY

Contacts

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Access Conditions

The Life in Kyrgyzstan Study data for 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2019 are available for data users from the International Data Service Center of the Institute for Study of Labour (IDSC IZA). Access to the data is provided for not-for-profit research, replication and teaching purposes. The LiK data are provided after the registration of a user and signing a short data use contract.

Researchers working with the "Life in Kyrgyzstan Study" are obligated to acknowledge the database and its documentation within their publications, including the DOI, by using the references below.

Suggested Citation(s)

Article reference
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Data reference

Life in Kyrgyzstan Study, 2013. Research Data Center of IZA (IDSC). Version 1.0, doi:10.15185/izadp.7055.1.