



Request for research proposals

Rural households in Viet Nam

Background

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), as part of its current research programme focused on transformation, inclusion, and sustainability, is supporting analysis of data on rural households in Viet Nam. [The project](#) aims to generate in-depth and high-quality research studies, with a view to inform policy-formulation for broad-based, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Offer and expectations

Since 2006, the Vietnam Access to Resources Household Survey (VARHS) has been administered every two years to approximately 2,600 rural households in 12 provinces of Viet Nam. These surveys have been conducted in collaboration with two Vietnamese partners: the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) of the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam (MPI), and the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA) of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Vietnam (MoLISA).

The survey instrument consists of (i) a commune module and (ii) a household module. While there have been some modifications over the years, generally the same information was collected across all survey rounds. The commune questionnaire solicits information on commune infrastructure, access to services, income activities, and development programmes, etc. The household questionnaire solicits information on general characteristics of household members; agricultural activities, household enterprises, and other income generating activities; food expenditures; access to credit and other services; etc. The survey instruments and more details on the data can be found [here](#).

In order to improve the understanding of critical issues related to household welfare in rural Viet Nam, UNU-WIDER invites proposals from qualified researchers for detailed economic analysis of this dataset. Proposals seeking to answer original, innovative, policy relevant questions and using different empirical approaches to explore the data are welcome. Proposals from individuals (or groups of individuals) as well as non-profit organizations/universities are welcome. Applications from suitably qualified early-career, female, and developing country researchers are particularly encouraged, both in their individual capacity and as part of teams

Researcher(s) with successful proposals will be granted access to five waves of VARHS data (2008–16). Individual researchers will be issued UNU Consultant Contracts (CTC), while non-

profit organizations will be issued UNU Institutional Contractual Agreements (ICA). A total research honorarium of US\$3,000 (or, more depending on the qualifications of the lead author and assessment of the proposal) will be paid upon delivery of a working paper of maximum 10,000 words—to be considered for publication in the [WIDER Working Paper series](#)—and a one page summary of the main research findings.¹ Both of these deliverables must be deemed acceptable by the project focal points before payment is made. The honorarium is expected to cover all expenses associated with the conduct of the proposed research. Budget submission is not required.

Successful applicants (one author per paper) may be asked to attend a 1–2 day workshop (date and venue TBD) where work in progress will be presented to other contracted researchers. Costs of attending this workshop will be borne by UNU-WIDER in accordance with United Nations University travel rules.

UNU-WIDER will formally pursue publication options after the selection of accepted proposals. The editorial team will draw from accepted proposals in order to develop a journal special issue or a book volume to submit to a publishing house. It is expected that successful applicants will engage in the development of the journal special issue/book volume proposal.

While payment of the honorarium will be made upon delivery of the working paper and one page summary as discussed above, the final version of the journal special issue/book volume will not be complete at that point. After the final payment has been made, selected researchers may be asked to:

- 1 Respond to reasonable requests by the publisher and editors with respect to finalization of the publication.
- 2 Participate in knowledge-sharing events.

Proposal submission details

- 1 The proposal should be written in English, not exceed **four pages** of A4 size paper in length, excluding references, using 12 point font, 1.5 line spacing, and standard margins. The proposal should clearly state (i) research question and hypotheses; (ii) application of empirical methodology that is feasible with respect to the data; and (iii) policy relevance. The first page of the proposal should contain the title and complete contact information of the author(s).
- 2 Submission of proposals is done electronically by using a form on the [Request for Research Proposals announcement page](#). Details (such as address, gender, nationality, date of birth) of all authors are required to be entered in the form. Proposal and short CVs (five pages or less) of author(s) should be uploaded in PDF format. It is recommended to familiarize yourself with the form in advance. Please note that late submissions will not be accepted.
- 3 Submission of a budget is not required for the proposal.
- 4 Any questions on the proposal process should be sent to researchproposal@wider.unu.edu by 26 May 2017 23:59 EEST. All queries and responses will be published on the [Request for Research Proposals announcement page](#) after all queries are received.

Evaluation process and criteria

Proposals will be scored using the following criteria: technical merit (40 points), technical capabilities of the authors (30 points), and policy relevance (30 points). The accepted proposals will be drawn by an editorial team, which may include a potential publisher of the book volume/journal special issue. The editorial team will also consider additional criteria such as overall coherence of the book volume/journal special issue, and diversity of topics addressed.

¹ In case of co-authorships, the honorarium will be divided among the contributors.

Dates

26 May 2017	Final opportunity for questions on the request for research proposals.
12 June 2017	Proposal submission deadline 23:59 EEST – Eastern European Summer time.
14 July 2017	Target date for informing shortlisted candidates.
30 July 2017	Target date for completion of necessary administrative procedures and provision of data.
15 November 2017	Target date for submission of first draft of papers.
End November 2017	Target window for the work-in-progress workshop (date and venue TBD).
31 January 2018	Target date for submission of final papers.
15 March 2018	Target date for submission of journal special issue/book volume.

Knowledge-sharing events will be planned subsequently.

Other considerations

For successful proposals:

- 1 Researchers or their institutions (non-profit) will sign a Consultant Contract or an Institutional Contractual Agreement with UNU-WIDER that follows the UNU conditions of service for [Consultant Contracts \(CTC\)](#), or [Institutional Contractual Agreements \(ICA\)](#).
- 2 Researchers/institutions are only allowed to use the data for the contracted research paper.
- 3 Researchers/institutions will transfer copyright of research produced under the contract to UNU-WIDER. The purpose of this copyright transfer is to allow UNU-WIDER to effectively negotiate with editors of journals/books in order to seek the most desirable possible publication outlet for a related set of papers. If no (further) publication is to be expected by UNU-WIDER, the copyright can be transferred to the author(s).