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Background

- **Children's Worlds** is a world-wide research survey on children's subjective well-being.
- The purpose is to **improve children's well-being** by creating awareness among children, their parents and their communities, but also among opinion leaders, decision makers, professionals and the general public.
- The study aims to collect solid and representative data on **children's lives and daily activities**, their time use, and in particular on their own perception of their well-being.
- By determining the degree of **children's well-being in as many countries as possible**, we hope to raise awareness to children's well-being and their life situations and to influence government policies and services.

Why?

- Because the field has rapidly developed
- Because the field has changed
- Because we do not know enough
- Because we better understand what we do not know
- Because we believe children's voices must have a place in big international studies



The history

- **Phase I – planning:**

In 2009, a group of researchers collaborated under the auspice of **UNICEF- Geneva** to propose a questionnaire that could be used in a variety of countries, be they industrialized or developing.

- **Phase II – First pilot:**

These proposals resulted in a preliminary questionnaire that was put to the test in the summer and fall of 2010, in Brazil, England, Germany, Honduras, Israel and the UK.

In December 2010, the findings of these pilot surveys were presented and discussed, under the auspice of **World Vision - Germany** and the questionnaire was subsequently revised and developed according to lessons learnt.

- It was also decided **to make the questionnaire available freely to competent researchers anywhere in the world.**



The history – extended pilot 2011-2012

- ~ 35,000 children
- Ages 8, 10 & 12
- 14 countries.
- Goal was 1,000 kids per age group per country
- Convenience sample
- Included countries with less children
- Not all countries had the 3 age groups

Extended pilot 2011-2012 : Non-representative samples. # of participants

Country	8 y.o	10 y.o	12 y.o	total
Algeria	594	435	428	1457
Brazil	1173	1293	1005	3471
Canada	261	144	-	405
Chile	1052	693	827	2572
England	-	-	1141	1141
Israel	1034	992	998	3024
South Korea	2746	2652	2602	8000
Nepal	-	295	-	295
Romania	1041	927	1354	3322
Rwanda	-	295	-	295
South Africa	-	-	1002	1002
Spain	-	-	5727	5727
Uganda	-	1000	1035	2035
USA (South Dakota)	522	502	784	1808
Total	8423	9228	16903	34554

Full Survey 2013-2104

- 54,000 children. ~ 18,000 per age group
- 15 countries from different continents, varied cultures, diverse religions, distinct development and different types of welfare states.
- A representative sample of the entire country or federal region.
 - The entire country: England, Estonia, Ethiopia, Israel, Nepal, Norway, Romania, South Korea.
 - Federal region: Algeria (El Bayedh , Tlemcen and Oran), Colombia (Antioquia), Germany (Thuringia, Hesse, Baden-Wurttemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia) Poland (Wielkopolska), South Africa (Western Cape), Spain (Catalonia), Turkey (Istanbul).

Full Survey 2013-2104

- Sample was based on mainstream schools, and therefore did not include special education schools and etc.
- Sampling strategy varied from country to country, subject to the characteristics of each.
- To ensure the quality of the sample each sample plan, prepared by the local teams, was reviewed and approved in advance by a 'sample committee' comprised of four experts.

Data collection in Nepal



Full survey 2013-2014 – representative samples. # of participants

Country	8 Y.O	10 Y.O	12 Y.O	Total
Algeria	1385	1216	1359	3960
Colombia	1003	1071	1007	3081
England	990	989	1319	3298
Estonia	1131	1034	1033	3198
Ethiopia	1000	1000	1000	3000
Germany	1069	1143	851	3063
Israel	1004	1030	954	2988
Nepal	1073	1073	1073	3219
Norway	977	1033	1000	3010
Poland	1078	1156	1038	3272
Romania	1422	1424	1561	4407
South Africa	1032	1109	1143	3283
South Korea	2323	2323	2607	7253
Spain	1066	1082	1717	3865
Turkey	1045	1079	1029	3153
Total	17598	17762	18691	54051

Data collection in Ethiopia



What did we ask?

- Questions about frequency of activities
- Satisfaction scales of life in large and specific domains or factors
- Agreement scales with status and events.
- Socio-demographic characteristics

How did we ask it?

- Three versions of the questionnaire were created, one for each age group.
- Questionnaires differ in length; the questionnaire for age 12 is the longest while the questionnaire for age 8 is the shortest .
- Three types of scales – agreement, satisfaction, and frequency – were used to measure each of the aspects of children’s lives.
- In the 8-years-old version, a scale of emoticons was used for the satisfaction items and these items were phrased in term of happiness (‘How happy you feel with...’).

Data collection in Nepal



How did we ask it?

- *Frequency*: of activities in last week, month and year
- *Agreement scales*: five-point unipolar agreement scale was used. Children could also choose to answer 'Don't know' which was then coded as missing data.
- *Satisfaction scales*: 11-point scale, with 0 denoting 'not at all satisfied' and 10 'totally satisfied'.
- **Response scale for the satisfaction items in the 8 year-olds questionnaire consisted of five emoticons (from a sad face to a happy face), for the data coding the scale was converted to a 0-4 scale.**

Which topics did we cover?

- **You – age, gender, place of living**
- **Your home and the people you live with**
- **Money and things you have**
- **Your friends and other people**
- **The area where you live**
- **School**
- **How you use your time**
- **More about you**
- **How you feel about yourself**
- **Your life and your future**
- In addition, several well-known SWB psychometric scales are used in the questionnaire, both context-free and domain-specific

Some initial thoughts

- Almost 90,000 kids ages 8, 10 & 12 from 21 countries, various religions, cultures and languages were comfortable with 95% of the questions we asked.
- The only problematic domain was family formation. For example you can not ask an Arab child if his mother lives with a boy friend...

Thank you very much!



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