

MICS on Two Wheels

Transportation is an important component in MICS fieldwork. It can take up to half of the field work time depending on the landscape, weather, resources and means available. Given the vast topographic diversity of Viet Nam, various means of transportation have been used for MICS4 data collection. Cars, buses, trains, boats and even airplanes helped the teams to commute from one location to another. But there is one means of transportation which is so Vietnamese and so typical for every field work team. It is the motorbike. They come in different shapes and colors often flooding the streets of the big cities or breaking the silence of the far-flung rural pathways.

The motorbikes have been vital for MICS field work, be it for long distance travels, moving from one Enumeration Area to another or from one household to the next. It carried the teams, the equipments and even the food ratios. With no exception all the 30 teams used the motorbike extensively. In the opinion of Ms. Diem, the team leader from An Giang province, and many other MICS field workers, “the motorbike is a convenient and inexpensive way to commute during data collection”.



Ten or fifteen years back the survey teams used bicycles because the motorbike was something luxurious at that time. This was the case during the first MICS in Viet Nam, in 1995. “With bicycle, more effort was needed during MICS1 data collection”, a senior GSO staff recalled. It is common in Viet Nam that everyone is able to ride a motorbike, men and women. This made it possible to use motorbikes during MICS4 as well, as most of the team members in the field are female.

This photo compilation includes a few snapshots of MICS’s most dedicated *friends* on two wheels.

Alexandru Nartea
MICS Coordinator, Jan 2011



It is safer to ride in a convoy of motorbikes. The team on the way to Hang Tro village, Dien Bien province



The road to Hang Tro was dusty and difficult at times, but the team was up to the challenge. Dien Bien



From one household to the next, the motorbike is a convenient way for the interviewers to move. Phu Ngoc commune, Dong Nai province



Just spotted the next household. It is easier to carry the measurement equipment with a motorbike. Tan Binh commune, Tay Ninh province



Team leader and measurer check the remaining households to be visited in Tan Binh, Tay Ninh



Measurer called to a household with an under-five child and the GSO supervisors inquire about its location. Ea Kar townlet, Dak Lak province



Local guide directs the measurer to the correct location while (incorrectly) carrying the equipment. Ea Kar, Dak Lak



On stand-by for the measurement, the team members give privacy for the ongoing interview. Phan Thiet city, Binh Thuan province



After the morning interviews the team on the move to have lunch. Phan Thiet, Binh Thuan



Just reached the selected area and the team is getting ready for the field work. District 12, Ho Chi Minh city



40 km ride from Ban Co village to Cao Bang town was only the beginning, as the team had to move further to Bac Kan town about 100 km away. Cao Bang province



On the busy streets of Da Nang city the motorbikes are the most agile 'friends'. Da Nang city



Where is the household? In the endless coffee fields of Bo Ngoong village the motorbike is the most effective way to carry out the MICS field work. Gia Lai province



MICS interviewers are informed to go back, since the eligible woman just returned home from the field. Bo Ngoong, Gia Lai



On-the-road again, after having completed another interview in Da Lat city, Lam Dong province



The central highlands MICS romance in an afternoon- rural-motorbike ride. Bo Ngoon, Gia Lai



Uphill and downhill again and again. The 120 km ride from Di Linh town to Phan Thiet city could only be done by motorbike. Lam Dong province



Wearing special suits protecting from wind and dust the team leader and measurer are ready to go. Ban Co village, Cao Bang province



In a morning rush, interviewers are keen to catch the household members at home before they go to work. Dac To town, Kon Tum province



Almost reaching District 12, the place where the selected households are located. HCM city



On the narrow streets, between local vendors, the measurer is riding the motorbike undeterred. Rach Gia town, Kien Giang province



*The early morning ride from Rach Gia town to Tan Thanh commune.
Kien Giang province*



If you take care of it, it will take care of you. Rach Gia, Kien Giang



*In the chilly and rainy weather the MICS still goes on.
Vinh city, Nghe An province*



*Waiting for the ferry to cross the river.
On the way to Tan Thanh commune, Kien Giang*



*It will take you across and much further.
Tan Thanh, Kien Giang*



*On duty again. Called for the next measurement.
Bo Ngoong, Gia Lai*



... and gone I am. Bo Ngoong, Gia Lai