

**ICP Progress Report  
Western Asia Region**

**ICP Regional Coordinators Workshop  
13-22 September 2005  
World Bank, Washington D. C.**

## Status of Price Survey

- Which countries have started data collection on schedule and which countries are falling behind, with particular focus on core countries in each region?
- Which countries are participating at the GDP level?
- Which countries are conducting nation wide surveys, including urban and rural areas?
- Which countries are submitting raw data and which are providing averages only?

Country	Data Received		Raw Data		Scope of Survey
	Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2	
Bahrain	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 Governorates / 5 Cities/ 153 OLT
EGYPT	Y	Delay	Y	Delay	5 R/ 11 G/ U&R/ 66 Cities
Iraq	Y	Y	Will get		14 major cities of 14 Governorates
JORDAN	Few	Y	Y	Delay	12 cities of 12 Governorates
Kuwait	Y	Y	Will get		Considered as one G/ 169 OLT
Lebanon	N	Y	N	Y	Will update PAM for actual OLT
OMAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 Regions/ 13 States/ 297 OLT
Qatar	Y	Part	Y	Y	3 Cities/ 491 OLT
S. Arabia	Y	N	Y	N	5 major cities/ 1249 OLT
Syria	Y	Delay	Y	Delay	14 G/ 80 R/ U&R/ 1162 OLT
Yemen	N	Part	N	Delay	19 major cities of 19 Governorates

# Status of Price Survey

- What is the protocol of agreement for data transfer and data accessibility between countries?
- What were main results of meetings to review data from countries?
- What were the main issues discussed at the meeting? What are corrective actions taken?
- Regional action plans and time frame for expenditure weights compilation work.
- Plans for estimating national annual average prices/questions.
- Plans to extrapolate 1 or 2 collections to annual/questions.
- Funding issues?

## Protocol of agreement for data transfer and accessibility between countries

- Most of countries have good intentions toward exchanging the data results. So, they are prepared to sign such protocol with the RO just before the production of annual results.
- Data transfer and accessibility will be limited to annual average prices at the BH level in addition to official macroeconomic data.
- In DRWs, all countries will learn about each other's results.
- Raw data is restricted to the use of the RO and GO.
- GO is kindly requested to provide RO with a generic Protocol Agreement to be followed and translated into different languages.

# Main results of meetings to review data

- In June, WA region held a workshop, mainly to review the first quarter data. Issues of the new expenditure groups and weights were part of the agenda as well.
- Ten countries have participated by 3 or 4 ICP team members, including the NC. Qatar was the only absent country.
- Only four countries, including Qatar, have provided their data, which was thoroughly reviewed by all participants.
- Accordingly, concerned countries have reviewed the data in light of the remarks given at the workshop for due corrections.

# Main issues discussed and corrective actions taken

- Consecutive stages of data validation and data transfer using DPM: Practical training by Ms. Nada Hamadeh on the preparation of “Diagnostic Tables” at the product and price levels, and how data outliers can be depicted. The training extended to the detailed steps of “Data Transfer” for further validation.
- Various errors, which appeared in the results of QI. These errors generated during the process of data collection, data-entry and data conversion. Different methods to detect such errors were also discussed.
- Problems encountered by the Tool-Pack software. Ms. Hamadeh took notes of these problems for the attention of the TP developers at the GO.
- The issue of weighting the prices in order to have a meaningful results.

# Examples of Data Collection Errors

- One serious error was attributed to the misconception of some participants who reported theoretical prices to unavailable products. It ended that all the items on the product list were priced.
- An opposite case was attributed to the understated number of priced products due to pricing the representative items only.
- So, it was stressed to price only available products with a remark for representative items. Unavailable products cannot be priced.
- Dissimilarity of naming the same product among countries (eg fish market) introduces pricing of incomparable products. The corrective action was to use picture glossaries in identifying such product.

# Examples of Data Collection Errors

- Another serious error was a definite product-error. It resulted from pricing the same product, which imported from different countries. The corrected action was to record the source of import on the data collection form. Then, the NC has to split this product (of the same specifications) into two or more products, based on the source of import, and inform the RC about such action. The RC has to adjust the “Regional Product List”, accordingly.
- Failing to record the observed UoM while recording the observed price accurately or vice-versa. Needed action is to have proper revision and editing.
- Difficulties in converting the observed UoM to the preferred UoM. For instance, “honey” was observed in “liter” and the preferred measure is “kg”. In such case, the NC will provide an estimate of its weight, which may be subjected to a significant error.



# Funding Issues

- In its meeting last month, the ICP EB of WA region reviewed the budget and the financial status of the program in WA in light of the work-plan until the end of the program. An overall budget deficit was estimated at \$350,000. The minutes of the meeting shows the details of this deficit against each activity in the work-plan.
- The EB decided to work for a fund raising program. AFESD will be approached to increase their contribution. Contacts with some regional agencies will be made seeking their financial contribution by direct grants, financing some liabilities, hosting some workshops, etc.
- The GO and WA RO will cooperate in this fund raising program.

Thank You