

ICP DATA ACCESS POLICY

2nd Regional Coordinators Meeting
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Some views of key users of detailed data

- Their research is severely limited by lack of access to more detailed data
- Poverty analysis requires knowledge of the prices paid by the poor
- Individual price observations (coded by store type, region, etc) are ideal but national average prices in sufficient detail are adequate
- They can't see that national average price data is confidential.



Types of Uses of detailed data

- Poverty analysis
- Understanding cost comparisons across countries to support policy analysis
- Research into the price behaviour of tradeable goods and services to better understand the influence of policy instruments (eg tax barriers)
- Improved price index methods



Key Data from the point of view of Data Access

- A. PPPs, Price Level Indexes and National Accounts weights for participating countries at the Basic Heading Level although, in practice, many of the Basic Headings will need to be combined to provide data that is sufficiently robust.
- B. National Average Price data at the product level (where it exists).
- C. Individual Price Data (micro data).



Meta Data

- Assume the relevant data will be made available



Data Access Trends in National Statistical Offices

- Providing greater access to previously unpublished data through 'data cubes' often in spreadsheet form
- These can often be downloaded from the web
- Micro data access is increasingly provided under specific conditions (UNSC, 2007)



Data Access policy (2005 to 2011)

- Approved researchers inside the ICP framework
 - (in theory) types A, B and C data in 2005 but was not always accessible (eg because of MoUs signed with countries)
 - same policy proposed for 2011 but ensuring the data is accessible
- Approved researchers outside the ICP framework
 - type A data only
 - type A and B data

- This policy has been heavily criticised by important users – there is insufficient access to detailed data
- National average price data, with some disaggregation to better understand prices paid by the poor, would satisfy most users
- Concerns from statistical offices are more about quality than confidentiality. The expectations of data users have to be realistic



Conclusions (1)

- Access to the more detailed data in the 2005 round
- Early decisions on Data Access Policy need to be made
- Two types of researchers – (1) approved researchers and (2) general researchers. Approved researchers would have access to more detailed data



Conclusions (2)

- Researchers should make undertakings before access is provided. Breaches of undertakings should be taken seriously.
- Data base should be archived and managed by the World Bank (in accordance with agreed protocols)
- An agreed information model to be adopted by all countries



Executive Board deliberations

- There was a need to unlock more of the value of the ICP, whilst maintaining confidentiality
- Wanted a better understanding of regions/countries before finalising
- Confidentiality laws of countries have to be respected
- Agreed that early decisions had to be made



Where to next?

- Survey of countries
- Draft policy on the basis of responses



The role of regional co-ordinators

- Ensure countries understand the issues. Be an advocate for greater access.
- Conduct the survey
- Analyse responses and identify the key issues from a country perspective



A Possible New Data Access Policy(1)

- PPPs, Price Level Indexes, National Accounts weights at the basic heading level (or combined basic headings)
 - make available to approved researchers through the ICP web site



A Possible New Data Access Policy (2)

- National Average Price Data at the product level
 - make available to approved researchers only but under less stringent conditions than for the less detailed data



A Possible New Data Access Policy (3)

- Individual price data (micro data)
 - Only released to approved researchers on an exception basis with the explicit approval of the country concerned

Questions/Comments?