

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
(UN-ESCWA)

# Regional Progress

IACG Meeting  
New York – March 2017



# Regional 2016 PPP Production Round

- Western Asia conducted a regional round for PPP production in 2016 to sustain the production of PPPs and build a continuous PPP time series for the region starting from 2011 with no gaps;
- The production of PPPs for 2016 was carried out through actual data collection;
- A retrapolation of PPPs for 2015 and 2014 will be achieved through the use of 2016 price data and the required price indices;
- Hence, at the end of this round, the Western Asia PPP time series would cover PPPs from 2011 to 2016 at the basic heading level and up to the GDP level.



## Performed Activities - Sub-national PPPs

- **Sub-national PPPs - UAE:** In August 2016, the final results for sub-national PPPs were computed and they will be released soon.
- **Sub-national PPPs – Egypt:** A meeting will be conducted soon under the framework of Egypt's sub-national PPP production project.
- **Sub-national PPPs – Sudan:** A project is also in progress with Sudan for the computation of sub-national PPPs.

# Performed Activities - Sub-regional

- **Sub-regional HCPI – subset of non-GCC countries:**
  - In January 2016, an introductory meeting was held with a group of 3 non-GCC countries to present the HCPI concept and methodology. This initiative, which is currently ongoing, expanded to include two more countries in September and the harmonized indices will be published once the computation is completed.
- **Sub-Regional Workshop for ICP Data Validation:**
  - A sub-regional workshop for ICP data validation was carried out in September 2016 in Cairo, Egypt for the participating non-GCC countries separately due to the discrepancies and divergence in prices between the different non-GCC countries.

# Performed Activities - Regional

- A regional workshop for ICP data validation was held in February 2017 in Cairo, Egypt;
- The purpose of this workshop was to conduct validation for quarter 1, quarter 2 and quarter 3 HHC data and a first round of validation for special surveys data;
- The validation aimed at helping the participating countries in performing the needed data adjustment and boosting data accuracy, as well as guiding them in the future data revision for quarter 4 and annual HHC data and the special surveys;
- This workshop featured special sessions on the implementation of the ICP 2017 round and the other upcoming regional activities in 2017.

## Other activities

- In December 2016, the Regional Coordinator for Western Asia contributed to the 15th Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics in Abu Dhabi – UAE, and he presented a paper on “Developing a Strategy for the Continuous Production of PPPs and Improvement of Price Statistics in the Arab Region”.

# Household Consumption

- The Regional Office worked on developing the regional product list for the 2016 regional round to increase representativeness and comparability, and reduce the countries' data collection burden;
- The final regional product list consists of **632** regional items, out of which:
  - **428** items are common with the updated global list;
  - **204** items are specific to Western Asia region and not available in the global list;
- The regional ICP team also developed a catalogue for HHC which illustrates all the regional items (products and services) in Arabic and English along with pictures, thus clarifying the required items and facilitating data collection;
- **The same regional product list will be used during the 2017 round (with updated FET items).**

# Household Consumption

- The following table shows the number of items (of the **632** regional items) for which each country has average prices:

Countries	Number of items priced	% items priced out of total
Jordan	627	99%
Iraq	627	99%
Saudi Arabia	622	98%
Kuwait	609	96%
Morocco	609	96%
Egypt	595	94%
Oman	584	92%
Qatar	575	90%
Sudan	555	88%
Bahrain	537	85%
Palestine	504	80%



# Special Surveys

- The updated global special surveys were used in the 2016 regional round;
- The regional team introduced further developments to some of the special surveys so as to be representative of Western Asia region and easy to use for data collection;
- The regional team developed catalogues for Construction and Machinery & Equipment surveys whereby each item was illustrated with a picture for ease of reference in data collection;
- The special surveys were all translated by the regional office to Arabic for ease of use by the participating countries.

# New Validation tool

The Regional Office at ESCWA developed a new tool for the validation of national Construction data:

	Importance 2016	National Prices 2016		Importance 11-12-13	National Average 11-12-13	Difference between 2016 and 11-12-13
1502111101 Aggregate, for concrete	1	25	1502111101 Aggregate for concrete	1	3.07	714.24%
1502111102 Sand, for concrete and mortar	1	2	1502111102 Sand for concrete and mortar	1	2.05	-2.29%
			1502111105 Exterior plywood	1	10.23	-100.00%
			1502111106 Interior plywood	1	6.14	-100.00%
			1502111107 Chipboard sheet	1	4.09	-100.00%
1502111108 Petrol (gasoline)	1	0.07	1502111108 Petrol/ Gasoline	1	0.07	7.69%
1502111109 Diesel fuel	1	0.06	1502111109 Diesel fuel	1	0.05	20.00%
1502111110 Oil paint	1	0.6	1502111110 Oil paint	1	1.02	-41.37%
1502111111 Emulsion paint	1	0.5	1502111111 Emulsion paint	1	1.02	-90.20%
1502111112 Ordinary Portland cement	1	23	1502111112 Ordinary Portland cement	1	25.59	-10.11%
1502111113 Ready mix concrete	1	25	1502111113 Ready mix concrete	1	22.52	11.03%
1502111114 Precast concrete slabs	1	4	1502111114 Precast concrete slabs	1	1.09	-2.29%
1502111115 Common bricks	1	5	1502111115 Common bricks	1	30.70	-83.40%
1502111116 Facing bricks	1	5	1502111116 Facing bricks	1	51.17	-90.23%
1502111117 Concrete blocks, hollow	1	231	1502111117 Hollow concrete blocks	1	27.40	1227.69%
1502111118 Concrete blocks, solid	1	27	1502111118 Solid concrete blocks	1	14.33	88.44%
1502111119 Clay roof tiles	1	0.8	1502111119 Clay roof tiles	1	7.16	-88.83%
1502111120 Concrete roof tiles	1	0.75	1502111120 Concrete roof tiles	1	2.56	-70.69%
			1502111123 Ceramic wall tiles	1	4.09	-100.00%
			1502111124 Plasterboard	1	2.05	-100.00%
1502111125 Hand wash basin	1	15	1502111125 White wash hand basin	1	20.47	-26.72%
1502111126 High yield steel reinforcement	1	3000	1502111126 High yield steel reinforcement	1	163.75	1732.04%
1502111127 Mild steel reinforcement	1	3500	1502111127 Mild steel reinforcement	1	307.04	1039.93%
1502111128 Structural steel sections	1	220	1502111128 Structural steel sections	1		
1502111129 Sheet metal roofing	1	2.75	1502111129 Sheet metal roofing	1		
1502111130 Metal storage tank	1	35	1502111130 Metal storage tank	1	511.73	-93.16%
1502111131 Cast iron drain pipe			1502111131 Cast iron drain pipe			
1502111132 Copper pipe	1	7	1502111132 Copper pipe			
1502111141 Gypsum	1	5				
1502111139 B.R.C Mesh	1	180				
1502111140 Binding Wire	1	7				
1502111134 Electric fan						
1502111135 Air-conditioning equipment						
150211206 Truck, capacity of 30 m2, with operator	1	40				
150211207 Truck, capacity of 20 m2, with operator	1	40				

To show that the difference

To show that the national price is relatively high

To validate the new items which were not available in 2011, 2012 and 2013 exercises

# New catalogue

- The Regional Office is currently working on the development of Rentals catalogue to guide the national teams in data collection/validation processes.

- منزل ملتصق (منزل أساسي)، 80-120 متر مربع 11041111105
- منزل ملتصق (منزل أساسي)، 120-180 متر مربع 11041111106
- منزل ملتصق (منزل أساسي)، 180-240 متر مربع 11041111107



- شقة بغرفتي نوم، 60-80 متر مربع 11041111112
- شقة بغرفتي نوم، 80-120 متر مربع 11041111113



- منزل أسرة واحدة، 120-180 متر مربع 11041111101
- منزل أسرة واحدة، 240-360 متر مربع 11041111110



- شقة بغرفة نوم منفردة، 40-60 متر مربع 11041111110
- شقة بغرفة نوم منفردة، 60-80 متر مربع 11041111111

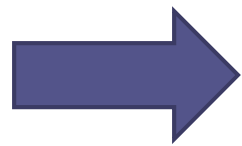


- منزل أسرة واحدة، 180-240 متر مربع 11041111102



- شقة استديو، 15-35 متر مربع 11041111108
- شقة استديو، 35-60 متر مربع 11041111109



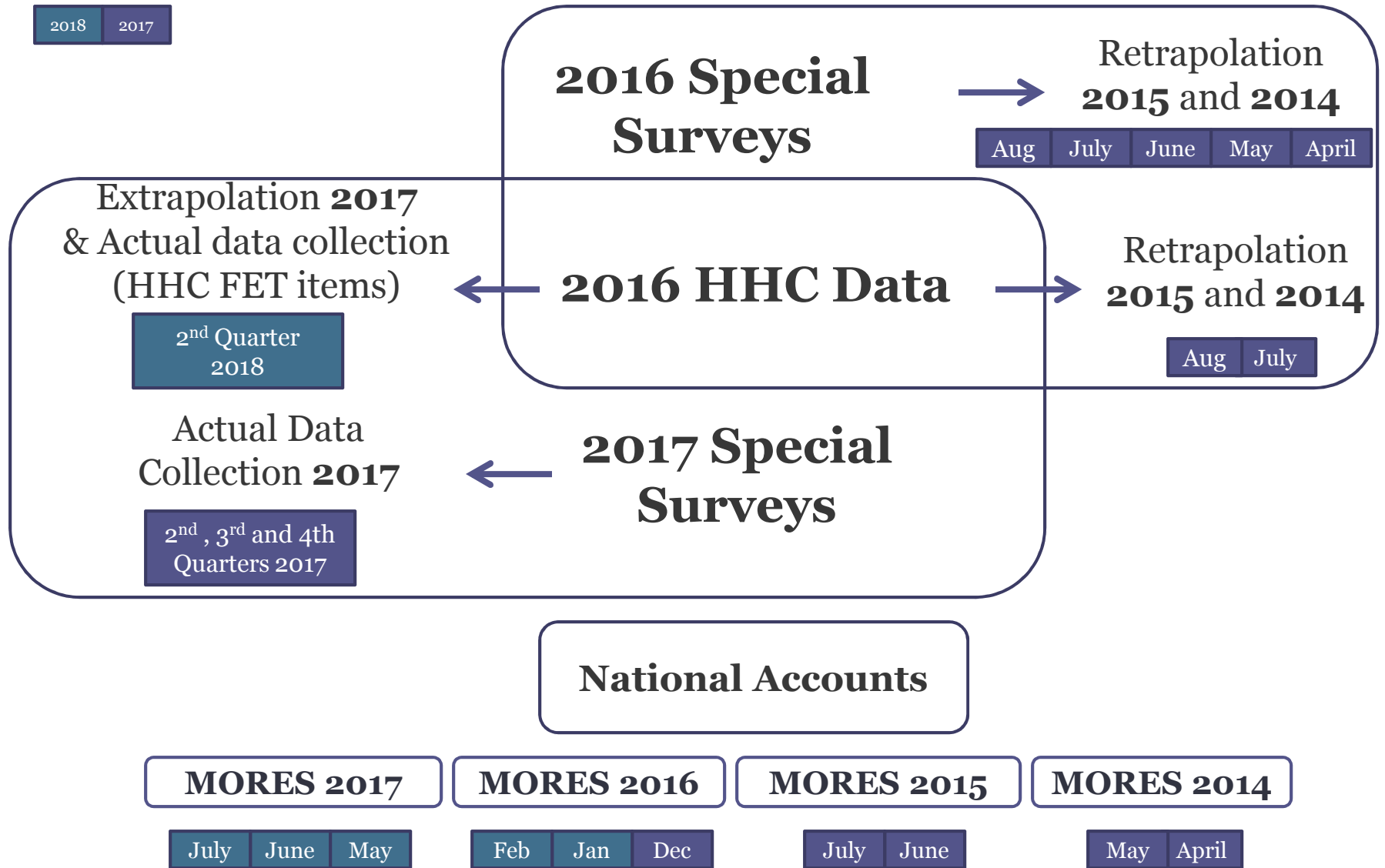


The 2016 data collection activities are completed and the project is progressing as planned.

Countries	HHC	Government Compensation	Rentals (June)	Private Education	Machinery & Equipment	Construction
Bahrain	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Egypt	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Iraq	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jordan	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kuwait	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morocco	Q1, Q2 & Q3	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Oman	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Palestine	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Qatar	Q1 & Q2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saudi Arabia	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sudan	Q1, Q2 & Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Survey Timetable

2018 2017







# ICP 2017 country participation

## Countries participating in 2017 round under Western Asia region

Bahrain	Egypt
Iraq	Jordan
Kuwait	Morocco
Oman	Palestine
Qatar	Saudi Arabia
Sudan	Tunisia <b>NEW</b>
UAE <b>NEW</b>	<b>Total of 13 countries</b>

## Unconfirmed participation

Lebanon	Libya
Syria	Yemen



## Regional risk assessment:

Due to instability and political uprisings, several countries (Syria, Libya and Yemen) might not be able to participate in the 2017 round.



# Special Surveys - 2017

- The updated global special surveys for 2017 will be used in the 2017 round;
- The catalogues for Construction and Machinery & Equipment surveys - developed by the Regional Office for the 2016 regional round - will be updated (if needed) whereby each item will be illustrated with a picture for ease of reference in data collection;
- The Regional Office is currently translating the updated global special surveys to Arabic for ease of use by the participating countries.

## Special Surveys - 2017 (cont'd)

- Machinery & Equipment survey recommendations:
  - Updating the items' specifications as of Q1 2017:  
*Norton Security 2015 where there is already 2016 and 2017 versions*
  - Providing a range for each of the unspecified item's major specifications to help in assessing the validity of selecting the unspecified items;
  - Developing a reference price list to facilitate the validation process when there is a high dispersion in prices between countries.



# Outreach activities

- In November 2016, the Regional Office produced issue#19 of the ICP Newsletter for Western Asia region, in both English and Arabic versions, to communicate the latest news about the ICP activities in Western Asia.

# Member Countries' Commitment

Member countries' awareness of the importance of the ICP and the value and different uses of PPPs is reflected in their commitment to this project through:

- High level of dedication to the ICP and trust in the Regional Office;
- Enthusiastic participation in the different projects under the ICP framework;
- Hard work in ensuring the timely data submission and the accuracy of the results;
- GCC countries self-financing their participation in the workshops and meetings organized by the RO;
- Non-GCC countries grasping some of the burden by searching for methods to cover data collection and integrating the ICP with the national CPI for time and cost reduction and quality improvement.



# Upcoming Regional Activities

- Regional validation workshop for 2016 annual data – April 2017
- Regional Workshop for National Accounts activities (2014 and 2015) – April 2017
- Sub-regional workshop for HCPI computation – June 2017

Thank you!