



**Progress in the Implementation of
ICP Interim Activities and 2017 Cycle**

Regional Reports and Overall Timetable

SEPTEMBER 2017

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AFRICA

1. Data collection periods and reference years

Interim comparison

A launch workshop of the interim ICP-Africa 2015 round was held in Dakar, Senegal, from June 29-July 03, 2015, as well as a re-sit workshop in Lusaka from 3-7 August 2015. During these workshops, a work plan was designed and agreed upon with data collection scheduled to run monthly from August 2015 to July 2016. 41 countries continuously submitted common ICP and CPI basket items from January 2015 to December 2016, while 6 submitted the full ICP basket.

In regards to National Accounts, strategic approaches were implemented to ensure that Africa's specificities were effectively accommodated in the methodologies developed at the global level for global PPP revision. This included training countries' national accounts experts on the Model Report for Expenditure Statistics (MORES) with appropriate techniques to compile the GDP expenditures and split them using specifically designed top-down and bottom-up approaches.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is mindful that the implementation of the Rolling Benchmark Approach (RBA), referred to as ICP 2017, is based on the understanding that ICP regions, including Africa, have conducted interim exercises covering 2016. With respect to Africa region, the ICP 2017 will incorporate data collected through the above interim activities, covering 95 basic headings under household consumption. However, the basic headings coverage was not uniform across countries: out of the 95 basic headings, 79 were covered by at least 26 countries, 14 basic headings were covered by at least 11 countries, whereas there are 2 basic headings for which data was provided by a maximum of 10 countries. These data were validated through bilateral interactions with individual countries, and reviewed at the ICP 2017 cycle launch workshop, which was held in Lusaka from January 29-February 3, 2017.

2017 cycle

The 51 participating countries have been separated in two groups to be overseen by two sub-regional organizations in order to facilitate the distribution of ICP funds. Of the 51 African countries, 24 are in a group set to start data collection in September 2017, while the rest will commence in November 2017. The convergence of the two groups' data collection calendar is due early next year.

Due to unexpected challenges faced by the AfDB in disbursing funds to the two designated sub-regional organizations, the first data collection month has slid from March 2017 to the third quarter of the year 2017. Regarding COMESA, the 24 countries under its purview are expected to start in September (2017-Q3). Necessary administrative, financial and technical arrangements are being made to ensure that no further delay is recorded. The subsequent survey points are November 2017 (2017-Q4), February 2018 (2018-Q1) and May 2018 (2018-Q2).

For the other group of countries, the current state of the disbursement process to the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) allows us to set November 2017 (2017-Q4) as the start date for the main survey, which will run until 2018-Q3.

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison

The ICP Africa 2015 interim exercise consisted of both retrieval of prices for ICP-CPI common items from countries' CPI databases, as well as ICP specific data collection. During this round, 50 countries fully participated in data collection, of which 47 fully submitted their prices data. These data are yet to be further validated for the PPP calculation. Three countries (Libya, South Sudan and Somaliland) were passive participants that only benefitted from ICP capacity development activities. Of the 47 active participants, 6 countries collected ICP prices and extracted CPI prices for ICP-CPI common items, while 41 countries submitted CPI prices for ICP-CPI common items only. It is also worth noting that 13 countries have national geographical coverage, while in 34 countries, geographical coverage is limited to their capital cities.

2017 cycle

All African countries excluding Libya, Eritrea, and Somalia are participating in the ongoing 2017 ICP cycle. The 51 participating countries attended the launch workshop in January-February 2017 in Lusaka or the catch-up workshop in June 2017 in Abidjan, where they reaffirmed their willingness to implement ICP 2017 activities.

While waiting for the actual commencement of the surveys, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the AFRISTAT Secretariats are liaising with each of their countries as means of maintaining the necessary momentum ahead of disbursement and as deliberate assessment of the level of readiness to commence data collection once each of the countries receives the funds. The delay period is being taken advantage of as an opportunity to clear any possible hurdles to ensure no other obstacles impede the swift commencement of data collection once the funds reach the relevant countries.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison

The abovementioned interim data must be thoroughly reviewed for quality and usability. In this regard, the AfDB is establishing a Regional Expert Group (REG). The ICP Global Implementing Unit will soon be requested to designate experts who will work with the REG at a location yet to be identified in Africa to review the data and make recommendations. We are confident that such data, once carefully scrutinized, will be extrapolated to the 2017 period and used for validation purposes. The first REG meeting is scheduled to be held in late September or early October 2017.

It is also important to note that the biggest obstacle of the ICP 2015 Round implementation in Africa was the limited budget, which resulted in delays in recruiting the additional consultants; organizing the workshops; and providing the needed technical support to countries. Due to limited funds, many countries were only able to collect data for the ICP-CPI common products.

2017 cycle

Current preoccupation is ensuring that participating countries begin the main survey data collection as planned. In this regard, the AfDB is working diligently to provide the necessary resources to countries in a timely manner.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison

Regional operational materials for the 2015 interim exercise were provided to countries during the launch workshop in Dakar in July 2015. The materials comprised of the Reduced list of 556 products representative of the 2011 list; Price data validation tools updated for the 2015 Interim Round requirements (entry sheet, validation and reviewing, etc.); and MORES Template for GDP expenditures estimations.

During the Dakar launch workshop, one of the recommendations was to create a cloud directory, where all experts could download the relevant survey materials. This recommendation was followed up in August 2015 in terms of creating and populating Dropbox¹ and Google Drive which were shared with countries.

2017 cycle

For the ICP 2017 cycle, the AfDB has opted to share operational materials with countries primarily through the cloud. All documents and materials related to ICP 2017 were uploaded on to Google Drive and the links were shared with experts from all the participating countries.

A first link² was shared in February 2017 during the launch workshop in Lusaka. A second link³ was provided during the catch-up workshop held in Abidjan in June 2017. The materials uploaded included all workshop documents, as well as the tools for the main survey and special surveys.

For ease of reference, we created and shared (in August 2017) a third link⁴ in which only operational materials related to price and national accounts activities were stored.

Regarding the main survey, a list of 560 representative products of the African CPI basket was created covering 95 BHs. Price data validation tools were also provided (entry sheet, validation and reviewing, etc.). The ICP-Africa regional team also developed two technical tools to collect data for two BHs that require special attention: Air transports and Electricity. National Accounts and special surveys materials were also provided.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison

The finalization procedure, expected outcomes, as well as related timeline will be decided by the REG at their first meeting in September/October 2017. The REG will also determine whether and how comparison results will be computed using prices collected during the interim exercise or if these prices will be combined with data collected from September/November 2017 to May/August 2018 to estimate average prices for 2017.

¹ <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gel3udh2auh5ubp/AAD9ZMsZ412Nmi5BapR2G-s2a?dl=0>

² <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0AEI1FV5y8Nd3ZMZEc1RmVxWWW?usp=sharing>

³ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0AEI1FV5y8NR0s1YS1nX1RONU0?usp=sharing>

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0AEI1FV5y8NbEJheWhUdHNW0k?usp=sharing>

2017 cycle

In the ICP 2017 cycle, national accounts work will be carried out in two phases, phase 1 corresponding to the latest year for which official GDP is published, and phase 2 for the reference year 2017. For the latest year, activities leading to the finalization of GDP splitting will include: completing and validating the MORES, compiling and reviewing the related data and narrative reports, and finalizing the MORES (July 2018). After estimating the GDP expenditure aggregates, the same steps for the latest year will be followed for the reference year, and finalized in July 2019. Compensation of Government employee data collection will be organized by national accounts experts as part of the process of splitting GDP for 2017, and data thereof, will be declared final in December 2018.

For the main survey, it is expected that data collected during the 4th quarter (August 2018) of the survey period in AFRISTAT-coordinated countries, will be submitted to the AfDB by the end of October 2018. This implies that the first validation stage for data from all countries (both COMESA and AFRISTAT) will run until March 2019. The second and final validation stage will take place from April-May 2019, following a regional validation workshop to be held in March 2019. The March 2019 deadline will apply for Private education and Housing.

Preliminary results will be calculated from March to July 2019, and will be reviewed by the REG, whose terms of reference will be expanded and its composition revised accordingly. The level of detail of the results, as to which GDP components they will cover, will depend on the categories of data whose validation would have completed by then.

As for the final results, they will be finalized in December 2019.

The above deadlines are summarized in below table.

Data sets / Results	Expected date of finalization
National Accounts data	
GDP splitting for latest year	July 2018
GDP splitting for reference year	July 2019
Survey data	
Main survey	May 2019
Private education	May 2019
Housing	May 2019
Government compensation of employees	December 2018
Machinery and Equipment	December 2018
Construction	December 2018
Preliminary results	July 2019
Final results	December 2019

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison

Until the REG has pronounced itself on the interim data, nothing can be said about the release of comparison results.

2017 cycle

The preliminary results will be published in electronic form only.

The AfDB will strive to issue a press release of the final results in a summary form (at GDP level) in December 2019. The main tables of results will be published in electronic form in January 2020, and the final report will be published in July 2020.

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

The AfDB endeavors to build the necessary knowledge and reasonable levels of statistical capacity that should enable the mainstreaming of ICP activities into regular price and national accounts activities of the National Statistical Offices in Regional Member Countries. The rationale is due to the evolving results agenda at national, regional and international levels. Agenda 2030 provides the impetus for regular PPPs and indeed AfDB's own High 5s. The ability of National Statistical Offices to provide the requisite data over time on a relatively high frequency basis is central to the effective monitoring of the above. Whilst the emphasis remains on ensuring basic data flows from the countries as and when required, the other equally important dimension is consistent amplification of the policy relevance of PPPs to policy makers at all levels. Putting the users of the PPPs on focus will naturally raise the profile of PPPs and justify the basic data flow.

Based on bilateral conversations with countries, we know that they are receptive and willing to turn ICP into a permanent program. This will require developing an ICP sub-strategy under the new Strategy for the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA-2). The ICP strategy will entail:

Overall strategic line:

- Developing guidelines for the inclusion of ICP in National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and
- Helping countries to design their ICP strategy and including it in the NSDS.

ICP-CPI integration:

- Harmonizing concepts and definitions across the ICP and (H)CPIs;
- Identifying a group of 7 countries to pilot the integration of (H)CPI-ICP, before onward extension to all African countries. The choice of countries must be based on equitable representation of the different sub-regions, with preference being granted to countries that will be developing/updating their NSDS;
- Supporting the 7 pilot countries to ensure that the integration is aligned with the country's development policy framework, that relevant activities are carried out under a legal framework, and that the necessary conceptual framework, methodological

framework, and quality assurance framework are developed/used as guiding principles for the activities; and

- Including an ICP component in the Country's NSDS.

ICP-National Accounts integration:

- Using the MORES approach to provide a quality assurance analysis on the benchmark data used in the rebasing of GDP for countries;
- Developing procedures to cross-validate expenditure values of selected basic headings; and
- Checking GDP consistency between the production and the expenditure approaches.

Price-Expenditure consistency and GDP improvement:

- Combining rental survey data, population and housing census results, household survey results and other administrative records to estimate expenditure values for 1104111 - Actual rentals for housing and 1104211 - Imputed rentals for housing;
- Combining water prices, population and housing census results, household survey results and other administrative records to estimate expenditure values for 1104411- Water supply;
- Combining electricity prices, population and housing census results, household survey results and other administrative records to estimate expenditure values for 1104511 -Electricity;
- Combining existing prices and adjusted volume of dwellings to estimate expenditure values for maintenance and other housing related services;
- Combining existing prices and relevant population of students to estimate expenditure values for private education;
- Combining compensation of employees' data, administrative records and government finance statistics to estimate expenditure values for basic headings related to government employee compensation; and
- Estimating expenditure values for machinery and equipment (M&E) basic headings through commodity balances.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

The dissemination of the PPPs needs improvement and conduct as a continuous process across the AfDB and the regional member countries. Successful dissemination requires methodological appreciation across producers and users. The AfDB acknowledges the efficacy of bringing users and producers together to foster the necessary levels of statistical knowhow that should support and justify the continuous production of PPPs. Advocating for the policy relevance of PPPs as highlighted elsewhere cannot be overemphasized, it is indispensable.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

The AfDB will continue to provide the necessary technical support to the regional member countries by way of demand-driven technical assistance missions, follow up missions and collective workshops for all participating countries. As part of this process, the AfDB will enlist the services of qualified and competent practitioners to spearhead the special surveys. The AfDB also looks forward to identifying a reputable practitioner to lead the computation of PPPs, and another to lead the report writing process. The AfDB ICP team (made up of regular staff and long-term consultants) will play active roles across the 2017 ICP cycle activities.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

Under this ICP 2017 cycle, the AfDB is providing financial support to participating countries for data collection via two intermediary sub-regional organizations, AFRISTAT and COMESA. As of now, the AfDB has disbursed USD 1,480,586.37 to COMESA, while the disbursement of USD 1,660,693.42 to AFRISTAT is still underway. The AFRISTAT process has experienced some delays due to queries from the Finance department regarding justification of previous disbursements. No funds have yet been disbursed from the sub-regional organizations to countries.

One major administrative challenge that could impede the successful implementation of the program lies in resolving the issue of how to provide support to African countries who technically are not eligible to receive funding from this African Development Fund source. The team is currently working closely with COMESA and the colleagues in the Finance department to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. COMESA has proposed some suggestions, which are being reviewed and decided upon. However, in the case of AFRISTAT, it would be best for the AfDB to dictate to them how to proceed, as this would be the first time they will be responsible for the supervision of such a large group of countries.

In order to ensure that countries are in fact able to commence data collection by the envisaged September 2017 and November 2017 start dates, missions to COMESA and AFRISTAT are being scheduled in conjunction with financial management experts in the field. The purpose of these missions is to ensure that all financial and administrative issues are resolved quickly in order for funds to be disbursed to countries without any further delays.

11. Overall regional risks

In the ICP 2011 Round, Africa had 50 participating countries and we aim to maintain or improve this impressive participation level in the 2017 cycle. The AfDB endeavors to have as many African countries as possible in the comparison for obvious reasons. The AfDB's budgetary support to all participating countries towards basic data collection activities is in that spirit. In the past, the AfDB has done the same; however, some countries for one reason or the other have failed to participate. One potential risk is the recurring failure by a few particular countries to actively participate, namely Eritrea, Libya and South Sudan.

ASIA

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

Asia and the Pacific region is currently implementing a 2016 PPP Update exercise.

Household: Initially the data collection for the update exercise was intended for July 2015-June 2016, however most countries could not begin data collection as planned. In consultation with the countries, data collection was extended to cover full year 2016. Thus, all 20 participating countries collected data from January-December 2016, except for the Philippines where prices for months of August and September 2016 could not be collected. Data collection was restricted to capital city and for a reduced list of household items from the 2011 ICP round and updated for fast evolving items.

Non-Household: Only one time price collection was undertaken in capital cities. The non-household surveys were conducted only for M&E and construction materials. Most countries collected prices during October-December 2016 for the reference year 2016.

2017 cycle:

Household: The price collection for household items was scheduled for April 2017-March 2018. In view of delays in the beginning of price collection in some countries, the price collection might possibly be extended to cover a 12month cycle. Prices will need to be extrapolated for the reference year 2017.

Non-Household: The data collection for special surveys will conducted in Q1/Q2 2018. The reference year is 2017.

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison:

Twenty-one economies expressed willingness to participate in the 2015-2016 PPP updating. However, Myanmar was not able to sustain price collection due to change in the National Implementing Agency for ICP in the country. Thus, reducing the economies to 20.

2017 cycle:

Twenty-two economies confirmed their participation by signing a letter of no objection (LNO). Afghanistan expressed interest to the World Bank in participating in the ICP. Bilateral discussions between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank were held for feasibility of an experimental/pilot participation of Afghanistan. However, there is no final decision yet on Afghanistan's participation. A Framework of Partnership has been instituted between the ADB and the national implementing agencies (NIAs) that defines the roles and responsibilities of the ADB and that of NIAs to implement ICP activities at the regional and country levels.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison:

The price collection surveys with reference year 2016 have been completed in all participating countries and currently data validation is ongoing. A series of regional data validation workshops have been held since 2016. The last workshop held in June 2016 discussed the data validation for construction, M&E, government compensation and national accounts. The final data validation workshop is scheduled on 9-11 October 2017 in Bangkok and this workshop is expected to finalize the price data that will be used for estimation of PPPs.

2017 cycle:

Preliminary preparation for 2017 cycle started in June 2016. In a regional data validation workshop on 2016 PPP Update held in June 2016, a session was devoted to introduce the country participants to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) decisions on the future of the ICP program and tentative plans for 2017 ICP in Asia and Pacific. In another workshop in September 2016, guidelines on survey designs were presented to the countries and discussions on sampling frameworks conducted. In January 2017, inception meeting of the 2017 ICP with the heads of National Implementing Agencies was conducted to apprise them of the 2017 ICP cycle workplan, and technical and administrative requirements. In a regional workshop in February 2017, household item list was discussed and subsequently updated based on workshop discussions. This meeting discussed and reviewed the sampling designs proposed by the countries for price collection of household items.

Price collection surveys for household items started in April 2017 in 12 countries, in May 2017 in another 6 countries, and between June to August 2017 in remaining 4 countries. In some countries delays were due to other priorities (like population census in Bhutan, and election duty in Nepal), and in others including People's Republic of China (PRC) and India, pre-survey preparations and organizing the logistics/training of staff in states and regions required more time. On the request from the government of Myanmar, the ADB conducted one in-country 'training of trainers' in Naypyitaw (with price collection field visits in Naypyitaw, Yangon and Mandalay). On the request from the PRC, the ADB contributed resource persons to the in-country training of regional/provincial staff. Currently price collection for household items is in progress in all 22 countries. A regional workshop will be conducted in October 2017, where technical validations of the prices of household items collected between April-July 2017 will be undertaken.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison:

The materials relevant to PPP Update were circulated to economies in June 2015 during the Regional Workshop in Bangkok. The item list for household items used was a core (or reduced list) derived from the full list of 2011 ICP round with updates for fast evolving items.

2017 cycle:

Household item list – The list for household items was updated by the ADB by reviewing the 2011 ICP list and 2016 PPP update list and the Global core list in January 2017. This list was then circulated to the countries and reviewed in a regional workshop in February 2017. Based on

the feedback from the workshop, the household item list was finalized in March 2017. This became the list of household items which was then introduced for collection of prices beginning April 2017. During a June/July 2017 regional workshop, a few more items were added to the list based on the initial field experience of the countries. As of now, the household item list is composed of 934 items.

The ADB also prepared a “Price Collections at the Country Level: A Practical Guide (Sector Coverage: Household)” which summarizes key concepts of ICP and PPPs and provides guidelines for field operations including FAQs for reference. The final product catalogue for household items and the guidelines were provided to the countries in May 2017.

The June/July 2017 workshop was also utilized for an introduction of surveys of non-household items for 2017 ICP cycle. Countries were not agreeable to a proposal of preponement of specialized surveys of non-household items to Q4 2017 (from planned timing of Q1/Q2 2018). It was thus agreed to conduct specialized surveys in Q1/Q2 2018 for reference year 2017. Operational materials including the lists of M&E and construction were forwarded to the countries on 14 July 2017 for their review and feedback by 6 September 2017. The survey forms along with the lists of items for M&E, construction and dwelling will be discussed in the forthcoming regional workshop during 4-7 October 2017.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison:

Price data are expected to be finalized after the validation workshop in October 2017. Final results of 2016 PPP Update and publication of report is targeted in the First Quarter of 2018.

2017 cycle:

Price data for household items, and for non-household items are expected to be finalized by Q1 2019.

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison:

March 2018

2017 cycle:

December 2019

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

The ADB started communicating the evaluation of 2011 ICP by the Friends of the Chair group and subsequent endorsement of the UN Statistical Commission to establish ICP as a permanent program to the ICP teams of the countries beginning June 2016 regional workshop. ADB’s technical assistance paper that finances the 2017 ICP regional activities was shared with the participating countries. This paper also informs about the recommendations of the UNSC on future of ICP program. Subsequently, in January 2017, in the inception meeting of 2017 ICP, the heads of National Implementing Agencies were apprised of these recommendations. This message is reinforced in all regional meetings and bilateral conversations with countries. It is emphasized that the countries incorporate ICP into their regular statistical program and allocate budget for implementing country level activities. Although participating economies

recognize the importance of the ICP however, there are practical challenges faced by the countries and which need to be overcome for ownership of the program at the country level and its sustainability. These can be categorized as:

Institutional: The need to establish ICP as a part and parcel of regular work program of the National Statistics Offices (NSO). This also entails identifying units within the NSO/agencies in the government who will be responsible for data collection on an ongoing regularity.

Human: The units/agencies in NSO and/or elsewhere assigned for data collection need to be provided with sufficient human resources for regular data collection and data validation for ICP. In most countries ICP is managed by the price collection units of the NSOs (which are generally small teams) with no staff supplement.

Financial: ICP activities need funds for country level data collection and data quality control. Even though the countries try to integrate ICP field operations with CPI field operations, however, the two item lists are different (overlap at most is around 30% items) and ICP requires additional surveys for non-household products. The ADB has been providing limited financial support to the 'eligible' countries for price collection and for participation of staff of all countries in regional data validation workshops. In our regional and bilateral meetings, we are encouraging the countries to institutionalize ICP and request funds from the government through budget. However, many developing countries face resource constraints for carrying out essential/regular statistical operations, while demands for new data (including for the SDGs monitoring) are only multiplying.

Relevance of ICP at country level: Increasing awareness among the policy makers and data users about the ICP program and finding policy relevance of ICP data at the national level is most important. The ADB has been advocating sub-national PPP work in the countries through regional and in-country training programs and technical assistance. Philippines, Viet Nam, India, Malaysia and Thailand have taken steps in this direction. Viet Nam has institutionalized data collection for sub-national PPPs within their CPI program.

These issues need to be seriously considered if ICP is to be established as a permanent and sustainable program that provides high quality data. Given that the ICP has been endorsed as a permanent program by the UNSC, the issue of its institutionalization needs to be reinforced at the UNSC meetings. Methodological innovations that can reduce the data collection burden of the countries under ICP needs to be undertaken and discussed in the TAG and its Task forces. Lessons from regional PPP update exercises of 2009 and ongoing exercise from 2016 in Asia Pacific, that collected prices from capital cities for a limited number of items, can provide a way forward in this direction.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

The specific issues regarding expanding the dissemination and access of ICP data and meta data need to be clearly identified and discussed with the countries. For example, if dissemination is to be expanded to more sub-categories/classes, these should be guided by technical considerations and discussed with the countries. Similarly, expanding access to ICP data should be clearly articulated and discussed with the countries.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

The ADB has been providing necessary technical and limited financial support to the 'eligible' participating countries. The emphasis is always on building country capacity and country ownership. While we hope to manage much regional ICP work, continued technical support from the Global Implementing Unit at the World Bank through its staff and/or consultant contributions in regional workshops will be required as in the past.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

The ADB raised US\$ 1.0 million in November 2016 and has now secured additional \$1.5 million under 2017 ICP technical assistance project. Thus, a total of \$2.5 million has been raised for 2017 ICP. With this, the ADB hopes to implement regional level activities including providing limited funds to the countries for data collection and equipment purchase. Non-eligible member countries own full expenses for data collection. The ADB is encouraging countries to secure government's financial support in view of the endorsement by the UNSC as a permanent program.

11. Overall regional risks

As expected, some economies were not able to begin household price collection in April 2017 as scheduled due to short time to prepare in a tight time schedule. This might entail extending data collection period for some countries. There is also a risk of sustainability of ICP activities due to human and financial constraints faced by some economies. In small countries with a very few staff members, if there is a big statistical operation like the population census (Bhutan in 2017), or a household income and expenditure the limited staff might be diverted to these priority activities.

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

2014: full size regional comparison "2014 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) ICP"

2017 cycle:

Quarters II-IV, 2017

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison:

8 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan)

2017 cycle:

8-10 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan; Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are expected to participate)

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison:

For 2014 CIS ICP prices were collected for 1920 consumer goods and services and 480 investment goods. The CIS ICP results were linked to 2014 Eurostat-OECD comparisons. The final results for 2014 CIS ICP were published in April, 2017. The statistical abstract presenting detailed results was published in June 2017.

2017 cycle:

A meeting of experts of CIS NSOs with the participation of the World Bank representative was held on April 3-7, 2017 in Moscow to discuss reconciliation issues of consumer items list. Data collection for consumer goods and services, machinery and equipment goods, and construction materials is in process now. The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat) is planning to hold a meeting of experts of CIS NSOs to discuss issues of investment goods identification and results of the first PPP computations (December 2017).

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison:

During 2014-2015

2017 cycle:

Updated Consumer Items List, specific survey guidelines for collecting data and electronic forms for delivering data on consumer goods and services were prepared and sent to NSOs during March-April 2017. The final Consumer Items List includes 2135 items.

Updated Investment Items List and survey guidelines for collecting data and electronic forms for delivering data on machinery and equipment, and construction were prepared and sent to NSOs in June 2017. The preliminary Investment Items List includes 566 items.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison:

2014 CIS ICP – February 2017

2017 cycle:

September 2019

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison:

2014 CIS ICP – March 2017 (brief results), June 2017 (full results)

2017 cycle:

December 2019 (brief results), April 2020 (full results)

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

CIS-Stat prepared a special report for consideration of Heads of Governments of the CIS countries. Basing on this report, the Council of Heads of Governments on its meeting of October, 28, 2016 recommended countries to participate in 2017 ICP. With mentioning the decision of 47th session of UN Statistical Commission “the ICP to become a permanent element of the global statistical program”, the Council recommended to include necessary activities into CIS NSOs’ programs in accordance with the international recommendations.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

The 2014 CIS ICP detailed results and methodology notes have been published on the CIS-Stat web site. The current data confidentiality policy does not allow publishing national annual average prices.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

The CIS-Stat highly appreciates the productive cooperation ensured by the World Bank, OECD, Eurostat, and Statistics Austria within the 2014 CIS ICP.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

The 2017 CIS ICP budget is ensured by the CIS NSOs and CIS-Stat by 60%; about 10% of necessary resources were provided by the World Bank. An additional external support is crucially important from July 2018 onwards.

11. Overall regional risks

The participation of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan is not yet confirmed officially. Meanwhile the CIS-Stat supports work contacts with national experts providing them with all operational materials and ensuring their participation in regional meetings when convenient.

Funding problem might jeopardize the whole implementation of the 2017 ICP in the CIS region.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

2017 cycle:

Key dates (as of September 2017):

- Household Consumption: ideally starting in the 3rd quarter of 2017; if not possible, then starting in the 4th quarter of 2017, followed by three quarters of price collection to complete a year.
- Education and Rents: data collection should start in the 1st quarter of 2018.
- Government Compensation: data collection should be in the 2nd quarter of 2018.
- M&E: data collection should be in the 2nd quarter of 2018.
- Construction: data collection should be in the 3rd quarter of 2018.

2. Number of participating countries

2017 cycle:

In this round, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) hopes to work with 37 countries. Costa Rica and Colombia have decided to work with the OECD instead, while Cuba sent ECLAC a letter informing that they will not participate in the ICP process. Finally, Venezuela did not answer ECLAC's invitation to participate in this round.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

2017 cycle:

During the last week of June 2017, ECLAC conducted the first ICP technical meeting. The meeting was attended by 34 representatives from 31 countries in the region. At this meeting, the ICP Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) list for household consumption, including education and rentals, was presented. Following the meeting, ECLAC went on to include new products and adjust the Spanish version of the list based on the feedback received.

In July 2017, ECLAC shared the ICP list for household consumption and some technical documents with countries, including Sergey Sergeev's file to submit price data. ECLAC also responded to the ensuing queries by countries.

ECLAC is organizing a technical meeting with the colleagues from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) to analyze the ICP Machinery and Equipment form before the meeting on specials surveys. Furthermore, ECLAC is translating the rest of the special survey forms to Spanish for this next meeting.

At the end of January 2018, ECLAC is planning to organize a meeting to validate data from the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2017. At this meeting, ECLAC also plans to present the forms for construction and M&E. Then, in mid-April 2018, ECLAC plans to organize a meeting on National Accounts, where it will present the MORES and the Government Compensation survey form.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

2017 cycle:

- Household Consumption: July 2017.
- Education and Rents: November 2017.
- Government Compensation: April 2018.
- M&E: January 2018.
- Construction: January 2018.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

2017 cycle:

ECLAC hopes to finalize the data at the end of 2018 and plans to send them to the World Bank in the first quarter of 2019.

6. Expected release date of final results

2017 cycle:

ECLAC hopes to publish the findings and results for LAC at the end of 2019.

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

The Statistical Division of ECLAC presented the rolling benchmark approach and new ICP activities at the past two Statistical Conferences of the Americas, at the last LAC National Accounts Seminar, and at the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in March of 2017. In all those activities, countries did not comment unfavorably on the proposed ICP program. However, during the first ICP technical meeting (June 2017), some countries explained that they did not include the ICP in their annual budget and do not have enough resources to conduct the program. Thus, ECLAC suggests reinforcing this issue at the high level of the UN or World Bank.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

In the meeting in June 2017, most countries asked ECLAC to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guarantee the confidentiality of the individual price observation data of the countries. Countries requested that only average prices per item, and not individual price observations per item, be disclosed and submitted to the World Bank.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

At the moment, ECLAC has received some requests from countries for technical and financial support to implement the ICP. Regarding financial support, ECLAC will review requests on a case by case basis. Also, ECLAC plans to carefully review each request for technical assistance.

For some Caribbean countries, ECLAC will need support for technical assistance on compiling the GDP by the expenditure approach.

At the end of the whole process, ECLAC will need support from Sergey Sergeev to calculate LAC's final results, before sending them to the World Bank.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

ECLAC received the first part of the financial support from the World Bank. Additional funding will be needed to complete the activities of the 2017 cycle.

11. Overall regional risks

ECLAC considers the following issues as potential risks for this program:

- Some Caribbean countries do not have estimates of GDP by the expenditure approach. In this case, ECLAC should prepare some guidelines that allow the estimation of GDP expenditures for all the basic headings, with an acceptable level of quality.
- Some countries did not include the ICP in their annual budget. As a result, they do not have resources to collect additional data to for the household consumption survey and the rest of the special surveys.
- ECLAC created a special email (PCI2017@cepal.org) to maintain communication with all countries; however, communication has proven difficult for a few countries.

WESTERN ASIA

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

Interim comparison:

Western Asia is implementing a 2016 regional comparison for PPP production. The reference year is 2016 and member countries collected household consumption (HHC) and special survey data in 2016 and are currently working on 2014-2015 data for retropolation.

2017 cycle:

Western Asia is participating in the 2017 ICP cycle. Data collection and reference year is divided among member countries: most countries participated in the 2016 regional round and thus will only collect special surveys in 2017 and a subset of HHC items for Fast Evolving Technology, while the rest of the HHC list will be extrapolated; other countries are conducting data collection activities for both HHC and special surveys (HHC: 2017-2018; special surveys: 2017).

2. Number of participating countries

Interim comparison:

11 countries

2017 cycle:

13 countries

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Interim comparison:

Western Asia is implementing an interim 2016 regional comparison for PPP production, which will result in the computation of PPPs for 2016, 2015 and 2014 through a combination of data collection and retropolation. Data collection and validation activities for 2016 price data are completed. 2015-2014 price data collection/retropolation activities are in progress whereby participating countries are responsible for collection/retropolation of special survey data, while the Regional Implementing Unit is performing retropolation for HHC data using quarterly CPI data at the most detailed level. The program has also been extended to the national level in some countries in Western Asia which are implementing national projects guided by the Regional Implementing Unit for the production of sub-national PPPs.

2017 cycle:

Western Asia region is implementing the 2017 ICP cycle; member countries are currently collecting price data for the 2017 cycle as per the set timetable.

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

Interim comparison:

- HHC item list and catalogue: February 2016
- Private Education: March 2016
- Rentals: May 2016

- Government Compensation: May 2016
- M&E: March 2016
- Construction: July 2016

2017 cycle:

- HHC Fast Evolving Technology item list and catalogue: May 2017
- Private Education: May 2017
- Rentals and catalogue: May 2017
- Government Compensation: May 2017
- M&E: to be sent during September-October 2017
- Construction: July 2017

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

Interim comparison:

March 2018

2017 cycle:

December 2019

6. Expected release date of final results

Interim comparison:

June 2018

2017 cycle:

December 2019

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

After the end of the 2011 ICP round, Western Asia has been striving to compute PPPs on a regular basis by undertaking innovative initiatives for the production of PPPs, such as conducting regional PPP production rounds and extrapolating/retropolating PPPs for the two years following/preceding the benchmark year. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) member states are aware of the importance of the ICP and the wide benefits and uses of PPPs and are already involved in the ICP activities as if it is a permanent program.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

We are making efforts to encourage member countries to increase access to data at more detailed levels than what is agreed upon.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

Technical assistance would be required for linking regional PPP results to global results for interim periods where there are no global rounds.

10. Funding situation and sustainability

Although member countries are getting used to the program in Western Asia as a permanent program, the issue of funding remains a challenge for supporting the project implementation and the several regional activities that take place such as training, capacity building, validation workshops and the regular international meetings. From our side, we have been exerting efforts to identify additional sources of funding during the interim period, and we could only find humble funding to finance one of our regional activities.

11. Overall regional risks

Because of the unstable situation and conflict in some countries of the region, a number of ESCWA member states which have shown interest to participate in the ICP are unable to do so given the challenges to data collection and participation in meetings, such as Yemen and Syria.

EUROSTAT-OECD

The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) execute their regular programme per a well-established timetable and it is therefore a bit difficult to fill the template which is ICP specific.

1. Data collection period and reference year(s)

2017 cycle: Calendar years are the reference years (data collected in 2017 will be available in 2018).

2. Number of participating countries

2017 cycle: For the 2017 cycle, 51 countries are participating in the Eurostat-OECD PPP programme (37 coordinated by Eurostat + 12 coordinated by OECD + Georgia and Ukraine). Two Latin American countries, Colombia and Costa Rica, are in the process of joining the OECD comparison, which requires close cooperation between OECD and ECLAC to ensure the plausibility of the results for those transition countries.

3. Overall status of interim and ICP 2017 cycle activities

Not applicable

4. Date of circulation of operational materials to countries

2017 cycle: Per a well-established timetable for each survey. Core Items for consumer goods and services, equipment goods, collective services, health services are integrated into the Eurostat-OECD regular surveys. For education and construction, where OECD and Eurostat follow a different method, countries will provide the information needed for the linking on a voluntary basis.

5. Expected date of data and results finalization

2017 cycle: Per a well-established timetable for each survey.

6. Expected release date of final results

End of 2017: OECD and Eurostat will publish final results for 2014 and preliminary results for 2015 and 2016.

End of 2018: OECD and Eurostat will publish final results for 2015 and preliminary results for 2016 and 2017.

End of 2019: OECD and Eurostat will publish final results for 2016 and preliminary results for 2017 and 2018.

Since last year, OECD has moved to a full rolling survey approach, except for capital goods, with annual calculation of results, instead of the previous practice of calculating detailed results every three years. Therefore, OECD currently follows the same timetable as Eurostat.

7. Regional efforts and country receptiveness to turning the ICP into a permanent program

To be further discussed with countries.

8. Efforts and challenges to expanding the dissemination and access to ICP data and metadata

Feedback will be provided when the document on this issue is available.

9. Requirements, if any, for additional technical assistance

Not applicable

10. Funding situation and sustainability

Not applicable

11. Overall regional risks

Not applicable

ANNEX 1: NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Region	ICP 2011	Interim Period	2017 Cycle ³
Africa	50	47	51
Asia and the Pacific	23	20	22
CIS	9	8	8
LAC	39	-	34
Western Asia	12	11	14 ⁴
Eurostat-OECD	47	47	51
Singletons ¹	2	-	-
Dual participation ²	(3)	(4)	(4)
Total	179	129	176

¹ Singleton countries include Georgia and Iran in the ICP 2011.

² Dual participation countries include Egypt, Russia and Sudan in the ICP 2011; and Egypt, Morocco, Russia and Sudan in the Interim Period and the 2017 Cycle.

³ The participation of 20 Pacific Islands in the 2017 cycle is yet to be confirmed; coordination efforts are underway with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

⁴ This figure includes Iran, which will be linked through the Western Asia comparison.

ANNEX 2: TIMETABLE FOR THE ICP 2017 CYCLE

Acronyms: [GIU] Global ICP Unit, [PS] Preliminary Submission to GIU, [FS] Final Submission to GIU, [R] Rental, [V] Volume, [PR] Preliminary Results, [FR] Final Results, [P] Publication

ICP 2017 Activities	2016				2017				2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GOVERNANCE MEETINGS/REPORTS																
Governing Board Meetings				Nov			Sep					Oct				Oct
Inter-Agency Coordination Group Meetings		May	Sep		Mar			Oct	Mar		Sep		Mar		Sep	
Technical Advisory Group Meetings						May				May				May		
Reports to the United Nations Statistical Commission				Nov				Nov				Nov				Nov
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE ICP																
National accounts expenditures: Compilation																
ICP-Africa																
ICP-Asia																
ICP-CIS																
ICP-LAC																
ICP-Western Asia																
Eurostat-OECD PPP program																
National accounts expenditures: Submission to GIU											PS		PS		FS	
Global validation of basic heading expenditures																
Quality Assurance Questionnaire: Submission to GIU											PS		PS		FS	

ICP 2017 Activities	2016				2017				2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION DATA COLLECTION, VALIDATION AND SUBMISSION																
Household Consumption price data: Data collection																
ICP-Africa																
ICP-Asia																
ICP-CIS																
ICP-LAC																
ICP-Western Asia																
Eurostat-OECD PPP program																
Household Consumption price data: Submission to GIU							PS		PS		PS		PS		FS	
Global validation of Household Consumption price data																
Housing (rentals and volume): Data collection																
ICP-Africa										2017						
ICP-Asia									R2017		V2017					
ICP-CIS									2017	2017	2017	2017				
ICP-LAC									R2017	V2017						
ICP-Western Asia						R2017		R2017								
Eurostat-OECD PPP program						R2017				V2017						
Housing: Submission to GIU											PS		PS		FS	
Global validation of Housing (rentals and volume)																
Survey framework questionnaire: Submission to GIU											PS		PS		FS	
GOVERNMENT DATA COLLECTION, VALIDATION AND SUBMISSION																
Government Compensation: Data collection																
ICP-Africa												2017				
ICP-Asia										2017	2017					
ICP-CIS										2017	2017					
ICP-LAC										2017						
ICP-Western Asia						2017										
Eurostat-OECD PPP program								2017								
Government Compensation: Submission to GIU											PS		PS		FS	
Global validation of Government Compensation data																

ICP 2017 Activities	2016				2017				2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION PRICE DATA COLLECTION, VALIDATION AND SUBMISSION																
Machinery and Equipment: Data collection																
ICP-Africa									2017	2017						
ICP-Asia									2017							
ICP-CIS							2017	2017								
ICP-LAC										2017						
ICP-Western Asia								2017								
Eurostat-OECD PPP program							2017									
Machinery and Equipment: Submission to GIU												PS		PS		FS
Global validation of Machinery and Equipment data																
Construction: Data collection																
ICP-Africa									2017	2017						
ICP-Asia									2017							
ICP-CIS							2017	2017								
ICP-LAC											2017					
ICP-Western Asia							2017									
Eurostat-OECD PPP program							2017									
Construction: Submission to GIU												PS		PS		FS
Global validation of Construction data																

ICP 2017 Activities	2016				2017				2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SUBMISSION OF AUXILIARY DATA FOR EXTRAPOLATION																
CPI, GDP deflator, GDP expenditures, population and exchange rate time series: Submission to GIU					PS		PS		PS		PS		PS		FS	
PREPARATION OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL RESULTS																
Global PPP time series for the years 2012-2016: calculation, validation and publication													PR		PR	FR+P
Regional 2017 results: calculation, validation and publication																
ICP-Africa															PR	FR+P
ICP-Asia															PR	FR+P
ICP-CIS (<i>FR+P: April 2020</i>)																PR+P
ICP-LAC															PR	FR+P
ICP-Western Asia															PR	FR+P
Eurostat-OECD PPP program (<i>FR+P: Dec. 2020</i>)																PR+P
Global 2017 results: calculation, validation and publication													PR		PR	FR+P

ICP 2017 Activities	2016				2017				2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
RESEACH AGENDA AND TASK FORCES																
TF1. PPP Compilation and Computation																
Linking interim regional updates into a global comparison																
Building PPP time series for the interim period	Preliminary research															
Fine tuning global linking procedures																
Productivity adjustment for government and construction labor																
TF2. Country Operational Guidelines and Procedures																
Moving towards rolling price surveys																
CPI-ICP synergies to improve spatial and temporal price consistency	Preliminary research															till 2020
Sub-national PPPs	Preliminary research															till 2020
TF3. Housing. PPPs and real expenditures for dwelling services																
TF4. PPP Uses. Uses of PPPs and ICP data for national and international policy making	Preliminary research															
TF5. Exports and Imports. PPPs for exports and imports																till 2020
TF6. PPPs and Poverty Measurement. ICP PPPs and global poverty measurement	Preliminary research															till 2021
TF7. PPP Quality and Reliability																
Quality of data																
Reliability measures for PPPs																
TF8. New Data Sources. Exploring innovations in technology and data sources for PPP measurement	Preliminary research															till 2021
TF9. Non-Market Services. PPPs for health and education																2020-2021
TF10. Construction. PPPs for construction																2020-2021