ACTIONS ON GUIDANCE:

Ulrik:

I tried to make comparisons of the poverty rates between 0 and 1 iterations at various cut off points and though for some spatial domains there were clear differences, these were few but generally there was proximal resemblance. View these comparisons in an excel attached file named GAPP-Uganda----, to guide further advise.

Prof. Channing:

Critically examining the food basket on;

1. Consumption patterns making sense? I used file “poverty\_ent\_flex\_Bask.csv” and looked at both spatial domains and regions used for tpi. The values of these poverty rates were in the expected pattern as per regions and domains; these values’ partnership was also in the same as the national accounts official figures (UBOS 2010 official report) JUST that as is our toolkit national figure, even these values are smaller compared to those of UBOS.
2. Prices making sense? Though almost looked at all regions all day, I single out the northern region for clarifications here because it is the poorest region in Uganda. To look at this first I compared the prices per bundle for each region, using file “povline\_rp\_inout.csv”. I picked on the smallest price for a food bundle that there was which was 549 UGX per day (1 USD = 2,585 UGX, currently) and yes it is quite possible that a person who can earn 500 UGX per day in Northern Uganda given the cumulative basics like salt, soap, cereals, sugar, drugs etc. that they do not need to buy every day such a person may be reasonably okay as per that region. However from UBOS, the mean per day per capita consumption per adult equivalent is 1,299 UGX for the northern region and per day per person food poverty line for the northern region by UBOS is 708 UGX. Further the GAPP toolkit calculated entropy adjusted food poverty line for northern region was 624 UGX. Further showing close comparability in food bundle prices. Therefore I could not easily convict the food bundle prices here. Then I tried using the file “qent.csv” where entropy quantities and prices were, hoping to understand the price issue better but instead I got better confused here, actually I think I did not understand this file well. It has variables quant5, qent and price. My thinking was that quant5 and qent were all quantities in kilogram scale and price were prices in local currency. However the quantities (if are; quant5 and qent) were making some reasonable sense in value though still they seemed to be too much per person per day if they were in kilograms. THEN when it came to this price variable, given my thinking that this was price per kilogram, this was ridiculous because these values were very small to be a price of anything in Uganda (if my thinking that these were prices per kilo was right) especially given our inflated money, in that when I looked at beef product (code 117); quant5 and qent rows had a figures over the value of 4 (in my supposed to be wrong thinking, I was like this was 4 kgs), then when I looked at the price cell, it had a figure of about 3.7 (it is very ridiculous for me to think that 3.7 UGX would buy 4 kgs of meet (given my wrong thinking) yet I know a kg of meet in Uganda currently retails at 8,000 UGX and had never gone below 2,500 UGX during my understanding life time). I rushed to the Mozambique data and the Arndt and Simler 2010 paper to compare MZ results; I realized that the behavior of events was the same; in that bundles in MZ cost over thousands of currency and the values in this price column of same file for MZ were in 0.00----, actually smaller than Uganda’s whose values were around 0.1----. I just concluded that I was not understanding how to use this file yet
3. Food shares across regions making sense? Yes this was well making sense being in the range of 61% (central urban including kampala) to 68% for western, northern had 65%. In Uganda this is not that alarming as per my experience. However despite a difference in values, the trend is similar but slightly different from that of UBOS (Central with Kampala = 38, Eastern = 64, Northern = 55, Western = 50 and national is 45%) compared to GAPP (central = 63, Eastern = 64, northern = 65 and western = 68)

Therefore I think there is some consistence in the trend of toolkit results with practical experience and national counts but the difference in values.

I will review the temporal price deflator and other external information next week. Any guidance on the highlights above is very welcome.

Please find attached robustness tests over Ulrik’s guidance and files mentioned in this discussion saved in excel.

Thanks and enjoy the weekend.

Haruna