Plenary session VIII: Steps and suggestions to write the country study

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Basic structure of country paper

1. Introduction
2. Main reforms, macroeconomic policy, economic performance and vulnerabilities (1990-2007)
3. Social policy, inequality, poverty, and MDG achievement (1990-2007)
4. Sector analysis of MDG determinants
5. Calibration of MAMS with country-specific data
6. MAMS scenario analysis
7. Analysis of microsimulation results
8. Conclusions and policy Implications
9. Appendices (only for long version!)

2. Main reforms, macroeconomic policy, economic performance and vulnerabilities (1990-2007)

- Economic reforms and policy
- Economic performance
  - Economic growth and driving factors
  - Has growth been pro-poor?
  - Have there been production structure changes?
  - What are the main labor market changes?
- Vulnerabilities and economic constraints
  - Are the government budget and the current account of the BP binding constraints? If so, how are these financed?
  - What are the GDP ratios for domestic, foreign, and total debts?
  - What is the tax structure? Is there scope for raising taxes?
  - Is the government a recipient of foreign aid?
  - Terms of trade shocks: what are the most important?
  - Is the current world financial crisis affecting the economy?
- More may be needed to elaborate country story!

3. Social policy, inequality, poverty, and MDG achievement (1990-2007)

- Social policy during the period 1990-2007
- Evolution and structure of public spending (current and capital)
- Do social policy reforms seem to produce pro-poor outcomes?
- How have poverty (for various poverty lines) and inequality evolve?
- Evolution of the MDGs during the period 1990-2006
  - Is the country on-track to achieve the MDGs and why?
  - Has there been any connection between public policy and the MDGs?
  - Based on current achievements, what policies should the country put in place to achieve the MDGs?
- More may be needed to elaborate country story!

4. Sector analysis of MDG determinants

- It serves two purposes: have a story and calibrate MAMS
- What is needed to get all children in school and make them complete all grades?
  - Spend more to increase public education provision?
  - Build more school infrastructure?
  - Improve quality of other school inputs (teachers, textbook supplies)?
  - Increase access to school by improved household income and demand subsidies?
  - All of the above?
- What is needed to reduce child mortality?
  - Better nutrition?
  - Expansion of immunization programs?
  - Spend more to increase public health provision?
  - Improving maternal-child health facilities?
  - Better education?
  - All of the above?
- Are there synergies across the MDGs?
- What is the direct cost of interventions to achieve MDGs?
- Are there diminishing marginal returns to the inputs?

5. Calibration of MAMS with country-specific data

- How was the SAM built?
- How were all elasticities compiled/estimated for both the "general" and the "mdg" datasets?
- For all the above and all the remaining data in both the "general" and the "mdg" datasets, what are the main sources?
- Were the SAM and MAMS in some way adapted to include country-specific features?

6. MAMS scenario analysis

- Business-as-usual (BAU) scenario
  - What are the closure rules for this scenario?
  - Does the BAU scenario replicates the aggregate functioning of the economy and/or generates a smooth continuation of past trends for key economic variables? Demonstrate how.
  - How do public debts (domestic and foreign) evolve over time?
  - Are the MDGs achieved under the BAU scenario?
- MDG scenarios
  - What scenarios were conducted and why?
  - Under what closure rules and why?
  - Analysis of MDG scenarios (with financing options) where all goals (but MDG 1) are achieved?
  - Analysis of MDG scenarios (with financing options) where only one (MDG 2) or two (MDGs 4&5, 7a&7b) goals are achieved at a time?
    - Only if these help to see effects not seen in previous scenarios.
  - What are the main macroeconomic trade-offs of financing the achievement of the MDGs?
  - How much would it cost to achieve the MDGs over the whole period and by the end of period?
- Analysis of minimum set of tables (upon suggestion).

7. Analysis of microsimulation results

- Business-as-usual (BAU) scenario
  - How is MDG 1 defined?
  - Is MDG 1 achieved under this scenario and what are the labor-market factors (macro and micro) that drive this result?
  - Are there other poverty goals and are these achieved under this scenario?
  - How do poverty and inequality indicators evolve overtime under this scenario?
  - How does inequality seem to affect poverty?
- MDG scenarios
  - Is MDG 1 achieved under this scenario and what are the labor-market factors (macro and micro) that drive this result?
  - Are the other poverty goals (if any) achieved under these scenarios?
  - How do poverty and inequality indicators evolve overtime under these scenarios?
  - How do poverty and inequality indicators under these scenarios evolve compared to the BAU scenario?
  - How does inequality seem to affect poverty under these scenarios?
- Analysis of minimum set of tables (upon suggestion).

8. Conclusions and policy implications

- Summary of main simulation results
  - Would the MDGs be achieved without changing policies (including MDG 1)?
  - If not achieved, how much does it cost to achieve them (excluding MDG 1)?
  - What are the main macroeconomic trade offs of financing the achievement of the MDGs (excluding MDG 1)?
  - Does achievement of the MDGs affects economic growth and MDG 1?
- Based on all the above, what MDG strategy should the country follow?
  - Are there other MDG determinants (not modeled) or sectoral policy options that should be taken into consideration?
- More may be needed to conclude and elaborate policy recommendations

Appendices

- For long version of country paper!
- SAM building
- Elasticity estimation (method and results)
- Detailed macro- and micro-simulation results
- Data sources
- and so on…