

PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID) IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: PIDC35631

Project Name	Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey
Region	AFRICA
Country	Sierra Leone
Sector(s)	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (5%), Public administration- Other social services (5%), General public administration sector (80%), General education sector (5%), Health (5%)
Theme(s)	Economic statistics, modeling and forecasting (5%), Poverty strategy, analysis and monitoring (80%), Social Protection and Labor Policy & Systems (5%), Gender (5%), Rural markets (5%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P157778
Borrower Name	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Implementing Agency	Statistics Sierra Leone
Environment Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	29-Dec-2015
Estimated Date of Approval	03-Dec-2015
Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

According to the most recent household survey, just over half of Sierra Leone's approximately six million residents are poor. The United Nation's 2014 Human Development Index ranked Sierra Leone 183rd out of 187 countries and territories. The recent trend, however, had been encouraging. Since the end of the civil war in 2002, development indicators had been steadily increasing, and in 2013 the government launched the "Agenda for Prosperity," an ambitious five year plan to move Sierra Leone to middle income status by 2030. This progress was jeopardized in 2014, however, by the twin shocks of the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease and the collapse of the international price for iron ore, closing the country's two main mining operations. The associated contraction in the economy is estimated by the IMF to be as high as 25 percent in 2015.

To monitor the impact of these shocks and general progress towards poverty reduction targets, Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) proposes to conduct the third Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey (SLIHS) beginning in January 2016. The SLIHS is a year-long data collection project which provides national, urban/rural, and district level estimates, with a total sample size of approximately 7000 households.

Funding for this project, however, is limited. The previous SLIHS, conducted in 2011, was fully

funded by the government of Sierra Leone, with technical assistance from the World Bank. Given the loss in revenue resulting from the closures in the extractives industries, coupled with the extraordinary expenditures necessary to combat the Ebola crisis, this will not be possible in 2016, though the government has earmarked one billion Leones (approximately 200,000 USD) for data collection.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Despite recent progress, major data gaps remain in Sierra Leone. The implementation of the next round of data collection in the SLIHS series will play a key role in monitoring the government's anti-poverty Agenda for Prosperity and the recovery process from the Ebola crisis, and is a key component of the new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The data generated by the SLIHS provides not only the update to national poverty numbers, but also provides key indicators to a number of sector teams, including Social Protection & Labor, Education, Energy, Water & Sanitation, Health, and Agriculture. This is demonstrated through the proactive approach taken by these sectors to be part of the dialogue on questionnaire design, and by the fact that at least three of the above sectors have contributed BB support to maintaining a resident advisor in Freetown to ensure data quality and build capacity. Sector colleagues in the Macro-Fiscal GP also look to the new survey for essential inputs to update CPI and national accounts calculations.

SSL has a demonstrated commitment to the SLIHS surveys as they are one of the core products produced. Implementation costs for the previous 2011 round were financed entirely from government sources, with donors providing only technical assistance. In 2015, however, Sierra Leone faced the twin shocks of a sharp fall in the international price for its main export, iron ore, which reduced government revenues, and the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease, which necessitated a large amount of unforeseen expenditure. These budget constraints have led to cross-the-board cuts in spending, limiting the government's ability to carry out the SLIHS as planned.

Statistics Sierra Leone has received two previous Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building grants. The first was a grant for the Strengthening Statistical Capacity in Priority Sectors for the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Statistical System of Sierra Leone [April 2008 – December 2010]. This project supported statistical capacity building within the SSL, through the implementation of the 2008 – 2012 NSDS. It successfully established an NSDS office within SSL, as well as setting up statistical offices within various government ministries, though the grant did not completely disburse the full funding amount. About 20,000 USD (of the original approximately 125,000 USD) was not disbursed because the planned activities were not implemented. Many senior management positions, however, including that of the Statistician General, have been changed since that time. In November 2013, Statistics Sierra Leone signed a second TFSCB grant agreement in the amount of 135,930 USD for the development of a new NSDS. There were substantial delays in the implementation of this grant due to the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease, which curtailed international travel by consultants to Freetown. Activity resumed as the situation normalized. As of October 2015, 55,000 USD remain undisbursed, but much of this will be used to reimburse completed activities. All remaining activities and disbursement, including the dissemination of the new NSDS, will be completed by the end of 2015.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The most recent Country Assistance Strategy for Sierra Leone covers the period from FY10 to

FY13. The document recognized capacity and funding constraints in monitoring development indicators and “highlighted the need for better results monitoring through planned improvement in statistical data collection and the development of the national M&E system.” Furthermore, the CAS noted “the accuracy and reliability of statistics has presented a material challenge in terms of determining progress, and support for capacity building in data collection and analysis will be an important tool.” In addition, there is currently a Systematic Country Diagnostic being produced for which the main source of data on poverty and inequality analysis was the 2011 SLIHS. Preliminary discussions have also identified a number of substantial data gaps in the regular provision of macroeconomic, socioeconomic, and administrative statistics, with a particular emphasis on poverty statistics.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The overall development objective of this project is to support the Government of Sierra Leone in improving the availability and quality of poverty and other socioeconomic data to inform policy monitoring and planning through the implementation of the 2016 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey, and associated capacity building activities.

Key Results

The main result of this project is the successful implementation of the 2016 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey. This includes: (1) The development of a survey methodology that closes the data gaps on key socioeconomic indicators. Specific activities include the development of a questionnaire which allows for comparisons with previous surveys, including the 2011 SLIHS survey, the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, and the 2015 population census. This process allows for the monitoring of trends in these indicators, and potentially the production of a highly disaggregated poverty map. In addition, these sample size would be sufficient to facilitate urban/rural and district level analysis. (2) The project targets the modernization of the data capture system, with a shift to decentralized data entry to increase quality with field based error checking and to improve the timeliness of results. In addition, the 2016 SLIHS will incorporate GIS technology to geo-reference households, allowing analysts to link infrastructure maps, rainfall data, soil quality measures, etc., with household data. (3) The grant will support Statistics Sierra Leone in the cleaning and proper archiving of the dataset, including sampling weights and attrition corrections to generate representative estimates. Coupled with World Bank technical assistance, this includes the construction of comparable consumption aggregates and poverty lines, and the timely production of a statistical abstract. Overall the goal will be to publicly release the abstract and microdata within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

Questionnaire Revision – Analysis of the 2011 SLIHS showed a number of short-comings in the instrument design. While a full review of the survey instrument will be conducted, certain target areas have already been identified. With regard to consumption, the main revisions will be related to the conversion of non-standard units and appropriate estimation for prices of home production. Food consumed away from the household will also be collected in the 2016 survey. These changes will be made in such a manner as to allow for the update of the previous years’ aggregates to ensure comparability of estimates over time. Outside of the consumption sections, the labor and agricultural modules were not comparable between the 2003 and 2011 rounds, and it was not possible to calculate standard international indicators for these topics. In the case of labor, changes can be

made to the SLIHS to align with the 2014 Labor Force Survey, while some additional work may be necessary with agriculture. In addition, Sierra Leone suffered two major shocks in the past 18 months with the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease and the closure of the two main mining operations in the country, and the questionnaire will attempt to capture the welfare impact of these shocks. The revisions to the questionnaire will be made with substantial input from the relevant sectors within the World Bank, and from government and other stakeholders.

Sample Selection – The sample design will be based on variance and clustering information from household consumption variable in the 2011 SLIHS. The design will maximize overall precision while still maintaining representative estimates at the district level. Cluster selection will use the estimated cluster sizes from the cartography for the upcoming 2015 census, which are projected to be available by September 2015. As the survey will follow immediately from the implementation of the census, initially clusters will use the census as the household listing for selection, though a separate listing operation may be necessary for later clusters. This provides significant cost savings to the overall design.

Fieldwork – Fieldwork will be conducted over a 12 month period to adequately account for seasonality in employment and consumption statistics. In the previous round of the SLIHS, enumerators spent one month in each enumeration area (EA) collecting information via a consumption diary, and by overseen by a mobile supervisor with a motorbike. The current design would decrease the amount of time spent on the diary to two weeks, requiring fewer enumerators and supervisors. This decision was taken following a review of the previous data which showed minimal information gained from the additional time spent in the EA.

Data Capture – The current planning for data capture will explore two options as improvements over the centralized, post-survey, scanning method used in 2011. The first is to do the data entry at district offices with dedicated staff on dedicated laptops. The second is to move to a full Computer Assisted Field Entry (CAFE) system in which teams travel with laptops and complete the data entry while in the enumeration area. The latter is the preferred option as teams would have the opportunity to revisit households and correct inconsistencies before leaving the cluster, though there is some hesitation on the part of the statistics bureau to move to completely decentralized entry due to the limited power supplies outside of major cities. In order for the decentralized data capture system to be effective, a robust program of data checks would need to be developed for the CSPro data entry software and training would need to be provided to supervisors, enumerators, and data entry technicians.

Field Supervision and Data Checking – The field based data entry program allows for much faster access to data for review. The World Bank will assist SSL in evaluating data quality in near-real time, identifying problem enumerators and teams, and completing the feedback loop to improve data quality. The project will also build on systems developed for the 2014 Labor Force Survey, including (i) introducing screening and remuneration standards for field staff; (ii) using SMS-based reporting and aggregation to monitor progress of fieldwork; and (iii) using smartphone-based monitoring (e.g., back checks, spot checks, GPS recording).

Comparability - Revisions to the questionnaire and improved data quality through increased supervision both have the potential to impact comparability between rounds and confound actual changes in well-being. The team is conscious of these potential issues but believes the benefits outweigh the costs. During the analysis phase the changes will be carefully considered and, if

necessary, techniques such as imputation may be used to construct comparable trends.

Weight Calculations – The weights will be calculated using the probabilities generated by the sample design, cluster-level non-response, and post-stratification using the population totals from the 2015 census.

Production of a Statistical Abstract – The project, along with the companion World Bank technical assistance project, will ensure the timely production of updated, comparable poverty numbers (with the 2003 and 2011 surveys), and tables of major correlates of poverty. To finalize the numbers, core members of SSL will travel to Washington DC to participate in learning events and a study tour to DC area statistical institutions (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau).

Dissemination – In addition to printed copies of the statistical abstract, the final anonymized datasets will be properly archived and disseminated through the SSL website or other appropriate data sharing platform.

Bank Executed Component - In addition to the activities about that will be executed by Statistics Sierra Leone, there will also be a small Bank Executed component of the project. This component will constitute less than five percent of the total financing and will be targeting towards auditing and monitoring activities. In previous activities (not funded by the World Bank) there have been concerns regarding the misuse of resources and of quality issues. This funding mitigates those risks by hiring a procurement consultant to prevent any inadvertent mistakes, an independent financial auditor to review expenditures, and an independent verification team to spot check data quality by conducting partial re-interviews. In addition, the most recent procurement review of Statistics Sierra Leone indicated that they do not have sufficient capacity to carry out the procurement in accordance with World Bank guidelines, and in that case made the hiring of a procurement consultant a condition of approval.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		x	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09		x	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		x	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	1.75	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount

Borrowing Agency	0.25
Borrower	0
Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building	1.5

VI. Contact point

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