

To: Mr. Kamil kamaluddeen, Economic Advisor, UNDP, Monrovia

From: Ivo Njosa, CWIQ Survey Consultant

Date: August 31st 2007

Objective: Update on developments on the CWIQ Survey:

1. This is a brief summary of developments on the CWIQ. As discussed, I shall leave Monrovia today Friday the 31st and return on Sunday September 9th. Ghapoutsu is comfortable with the capabilities of the Data Processing team. He will leave on September 5 to return in late September.

Field Work Developments

2. The project has now completed all Enumeration Areas (EAs) in rural Montserrado and the counties of Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh and Lofa. This is close to 100 EAs. Survey work is now current in the counties of Cape Mount, River Cess, Nimba, Grand Bassa and Urban Montserrado. The DP systems has processed more than half of those EAs. A couple of observations to be noted. Half of the EAs interviewed thus far do not have a price questionnaire. In principle, this means there was no local market within the EA. The number of replacement households is a bit high compared to other surveys. Besides this an other minor field issues, the overall quality of key indicators seems satisfactory.

3. What has not been satisfactory is the pace of the fieldwork. The survey has been on the field for almost a month yet only 1/3 of the EAs have been completed. It would be unfair to allude to this point without mentioning the issue of vehicles once again. Unfortunately, it has become the central issue when linked to survey team performances. Once in an EA, the teams are still averaging 2 or maximum 3 days to complete it. It is the moving from one EA to the other that has hindered the process. It is no coincidence that save for rural Montserrado, survey teams with performing vehicles have also completed the maximum EAs. Montserrado was a bit of an issue due mostly to callbacks. Survey supervision is seeking a more proactive strategy to minimize this issue as teams converge towards urban Montserrado.

4. During a meeting with LISGIS on Friday, UNDP promised four replacement vehicles to be deployed by Monday September 3. These four vehicles will replace four of the chronically under-performing vehicles. The project hopes that in replacing these vehicles, with a competitor's, UNDP is sending a strong signal to the vendor about the seriousness of this issue.

Some positives

5. The survey has completed work in some of the most challenging areas. The pace of the fieldwork had increased noticeably until the unfortunately breakdown of the four vehicles. Greater Monrovia or Montserrado County alone has almost 1/3 (66) of the EAs. The issue of bad roads should not predominate here. In addition, survey management plans to take a more aggressive strategy to minimize callbacks.

Trends