

The Liberian Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire Survey (LCWIQS) is a sample household survey that gathers information that measures access, utilization, and satisfaction with available social services. Its main intention is to provide the basic information for the preparation of the PRSP and the poverty profile of Liberia. It seeks to provide information to estimate the weights used for the CPI, and to provide policy makers with the needed timely household level information for policy formulation, evaluation, and implementation.

Liberia CWIQ Survey when completed will cover a sample of 3,600 households distributed throughout the country.

Twenty two (22) teams of trained field workers took forty –seven (47) days to complete about 98% to 99% of the fieldwork. The initial duration of this field, exercise was forty days (40) beginning August 6, 2007 to September 14, 2007. Due to such constraint as: (a) the breaking down of vehicles; (b) Bad road conditions and long traveling times ;(c) following administrative protocols of moving in convoy. That is waiting for other teams even when you are through with ones assignment in a particular county. etc. The allotted time for the fieldwork was extended by seven (7) days. Yet, due to the remote nature of some EAs, especially, those in Gbarpolu County, the extra days were still insufficient to complete them, as teams needed to be air – lifted to those EAs.

Team 13 as a part of six (6) teams visited Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Margibi, and Montserrado Counties. (See field reports and breakdowns on each of these counties).

LOFA COUNTY

In Lofa County, we did cluster nos. 228 and 229. Each of these clusters consisted of at least three to four villages. One of the villages in cluster no. 228 (Sovasu #1) no longer exists and its inhabitants have migrated to other villages. Besides, some of the selected households were found and interviewed in a neighboring village (Kortulahum), a place not listed as part of the EA.

The name of villages that make –up cluster no. 229 were different from what was provided on the listing form. This cluster was found in Palama Clan instead of Gbarlien Clan as provided. Due to this factor, we took several hours locating this cluster.

The nearest market used by the residents of this cluster is Gbalatuah Market in Bong County.

In spite of all of these, we identified the selected households and conducted the interviews in the shortest possible time.

NIMBA COUNTY

After nearly a week of dormancy, due to vehicle problem (break down), the work picked up at a slow rate and progressed rapidly. Cluster no. 212 (Gbarpa) was done along with its market without problem. Cluster no. 213 (Yekepa) had no real challenge, even though the local incoming Iron ore mining Company (Mittal Steel)

was carrying on renovation works and we had to carefully search for the selected households as they were moving to other areas.

The residents shop in three closer markets and we captured all three.

Cluster 214 (Zuolay) had the biggest challenge and we got about it without much problem. This Cluster had a totally different listing form with totally different residents from the residents in the locality. The most appropriate field technique was used, and the job was done, though additional time was taken.

The far and worst road conditions were the major factors in completing cluster 215 (Gbi) in time. We spent hours rebuilding damaged bridges and pushing our jeep. With the help of some locals, that we compensated, we went through.

BONG COUNTY

Cluster no. 194 (Salala) and 195 (Bellemue) had no problems. The work went on smoothly in those areas.

MARGIBI COUNTY

We arrived in Harbel, Firestone on the 8th of September, 2007 and could not commerce work until the 11th of September 2007 due to lots of bureaucracy and formalities. The management wanted to consult other policy makers of the Company and some Government officials regarding our visit since indeed they were not informed in advance. Later, after persistent visitations at their offices, we were pardoned and given the green light to work.

In camp #1 of Division 45, most of the employees were apprehensive in rendering the interviews. However, after explaining the importance of the work, they took off their busy schedules to answer our calls or instructed their partners or responsible dependents to render the interview.

Cluster no. 68 (Division 42) had no problem with the interviews. Cluster no. 70 (Division 12 and 16) had no problems with the interviews as well.

Besides, the assignment sheet for Division 8, which no longer exist, was provided along with the listing form for Division 12 and 16. This means that the assignment sheet provided was not for Division 12 and 16 but was still used for Division 12 & 16 after making some adjustments. We, than, proceeded to Division 12 and 16 where we found our selected households and interviewed them.

MONTSERRADO COUNTY

Cluster no. 263 (Fish Market) was the only cluster assigned in Montserrado and was completed without problems in a day and a half time.

In spite of these constraints and challenges, the general conduct of the fieldwork was graded as VERY GOOD. However, there is still room to improve some administrative approaches for more efficiency and effectiveness. For instance, traveling in convoy

thus forcing all others to wait for defective vehicles whose owners and drivers were not interested in the work but in their rental fees, was the major recipe for delays. Even though, the LISGIS Authority's idea or intention of "the convoy movement" was a good one, the method of execution was faulty.

Besides constraints, the entire Liberian populace from government officials to commoners, especially in our areas of visitation, gave their wholesome support and cooperation to this exercise. Most even went the extra mile of providing food and lodging.

The dynamics of Liberia CWIQ team 13 was fine. The members of this team remained resolute in successfully completing the task and henceforth diligently worked towards achieving it.

It is our sincerest hope that since statistics helps provide donor assistance and investment opportunities, this exercise coupled with previous and others to come will go a long way in providing the necessary mechanism for such interventions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above, we would very much like to recommend the following:

1. The authority responsible for hiring vehicles should hire road worthy vehicles. LISGIS should be involved in the vetting and contracting of vehicles since indeed they are directly carrying out the survey.
2. Authorities of concession companies should be adequately informed, and their approval ascertained in advance to the commencement of the work in their areas.
3. The convoy movement should be limited to county level assignment and not regional or sub-regional level assignment. Reasons being that, two teams can better serve as back-up for each other. Besides, it is better for two teams to be delayed than six to eight teams because of one defective vehicle. Alternatively, if the convoy movement should be done on a regional level or sub-regional level, the office must ensure that every team gets equal assignment in each county in that region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to firstly praise Yahweh for giving us the strength and wisdom to go through this exercise successfully.

We are indeed grateful to the International Coordinators and Consultants in person of Mr. Ivo Njosa; Mr. Chinganda, Mr. Otto, Mr. Wartenburg, and Mr. Aboubakar for providing the knowledge and expertise required in going through this exercise. To the LISGIS authorities (Mr. Liberty, Director General; Mr. Wreh, Deputy D.G and CWIQ Project Coordinator; Mr. Adams, CWIQ Project Director; and Mr. Koikoi, CWIQ Assistant Project Director), we say "hats - off" for your support during the survey.

FINANCIAL REPORT ON CONTINGENCY BUDGET

On the 22nd of August 2007, we signed for and received the sum of US fifty dollars (USD\$50.00) from LCWIQS coordinator, Mr. T. Monroe Wesso for the purchase of some goods in the Price Market Questionnaire. On the 6th of September 2007, we signed for and received the sum of one hundred and twenty- five US dollars (USD\$125.00) from Mr. Wesso as refund and fund for road emergency fund. Mentioned amounts were expended as follows:

a) Market Commodities -----	\$ 60.00USD
b) Emergency road rehabilitation-----	\$ 25.00USD
c) Taps to personalities assisting in the in the conduct of the Survey-----	\$ 50.00USD
d) Additional scratch cards-----	\$ 15.00 USD
e) Lodging and food for Team during breakdown-----	\$ 25.00USD
Grant Total-----	<u>\$175.00USD</u>