

FIELD REPORT

CORE WELFARE INDICATORS' QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY IN SINOE, RIVERCESS & GRAND BASSA COUNTIES

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CWIQ SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

The CWIQ Survey is part of the effort of LISGIS to provide information for the management of the country economy and society. The CWIQ is designed to collect the minimum amount of information needed to identify and classify target group and provide basic welfare indicators for monitoring poverty reduction strategies.

This paper will be discussing field report of team # 5 on core welfare indicators questionnaire (CWIQ) survey in three counties to include Sinoe, River Cess and Grand Bassa including Montserrado. Activities such as observation, objective, constraint, challenges, achievement, financial report, vehicle report and recommendation will be discussed per county.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives for conducting this survey in Liberia, is to provide information that will enable the preparation of a poverty profile, which will enable the preparation of Poverty reduction strategy (PRS) paper for the Government of Liberia.

These objectives of the CWIQ Survey are:

- Generate information for the PRSP and the Poverty Profile of Liberia.
- Generate information to estimate the weights used for the consumer price index (CPOI); and
- Provide policymakers with timely household level information for policy formulation and evaluation.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The official trip started on Monday, 6th of; august 2007 for the South-Eastern counties of Sinoe, rivercess and Grand Bassa, using an assigned Avis Vehicle (Jeep), with Plate No. BC-1989. Mr. Myer W. Saye, Teams Coordinator, accompanied the team along with other teams. Our desire to reach lour assigned enumeration areas earlier to promptly commence our duties could not be realized due to the bad road conditions especially between Zwedru and Sinoe which resulted in three days of pushing and pulling vehicles from mud commonly called “Baby’s tubs in the area. The team finally arrived in Greenville, Sinoe County at 3:55 p.m. on 8th of august 2007 and was warmly received and authorized by county officials including acting Superintendent, Hon. Christopher W. Tweh and Hon. Jah, Development Superintendent after formal introduction were made and mission of the teams explained.

FIELD REPORT ON SINOE

The job commenced on 9th August with the first enumeration area (EA) in Upper Jeadepo, Sinoe and was completed after Five (5) Days of intensive foot traveling on very muddy roads, damaged bridges, crossing rivers land streams using canoes and swimming respectively, sleeping wherever nights caught up with us. In every assigned Enumeration Area (EA) visited, the team met with local authorities of those areas to explain the purpose of the team visits and this strategy greatly enhanced our work as the people became involved personally.

<u>Selected EAs</u>	<u>Clans</u>	<u>Cluster's No</u>
Jeadepo	Upper Jeadepo	113
Juarzon	Juarzon	114
Juarzon	Seekon	115
Pynestown	Tartwen/Drapo	116

OBSERVATION

During the entire excise, the team made the following observations:

- a. That the names of most of the household heads were misspelt,
- b. Some of the household heads with assigned structure numbers have never lived in such structure or could neither be identified by anyone in the town/village and those names were replaced.
- c. That the District Pynestown was misplaced. It should have been Kpanyan District for Tartwen/Drapo Clan.

CONSTRAINTS

The team must sincerely admit that a lot of difficulties found part of our work in Sinoe county during the survey. The major highways are in deplorable conditions. Walking and pushing car in mud and rivers were the order of the day. However, the Team was able to reach its goal.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge faced by this team is the inaccessibility of most our towns land villages which became completely detached from each other during the rainy season due to bad roads and damaged bridges. Pushing vehicle, walking very long distances to enumeration areas, drinking form streams, eating any kinds of food, sleeping in cold and crossing rivers, we accepted all of these circumstances during this undertaking as major challenges.

ACHIEVEMENT

The fact remain that the team was able to reach and successfully enumerate all of its assigned EAs in spite of the numerous challenges faced during the process is a major achievement for the team as a whole. The team successfully completed its duties in Sinoe County on 22nd August and departed for River Cess County on 23rd august 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

Upon the completion of this exercise, the team wishes to recommend based on the observations, experiences, constraints and among many others:

1. That since nearly 85% of cities /towns/villages are completely inaccessible during the rainy period, such survey in the future should be conducted during the dry season so as to greatly minimize the human suffering and material loss experienced;
2. That the editing and analyses of data start as of the receipt of the first processed report reaching the central office, so as to avoid more errors during and at the end of the survey;
3. That the institution responsible for hiring vehicle deal with a company that have vehicles that are road worthy, with qualified, experienced and cooperative drivers;
4. We call on the LISGIS authority, in collaboration with UNDP to award all participants in the CWIQ Survey certificates of appreciation.

FIELD REPORT ON RIVER CESS

The journey to Rivercess was met with difficulties as our vehicle began to experience serious mechanical problem and we painstakingly managed to arrive on the 25th of August 2007 at Palm bush, Rivercess-Cestos Junctions.

<u>Selected EAs</u>	<u>Clans</u>	<u>Cluster's No</u>
Timbo	Kpowein	99
Timbo	Rockcess Henrierville	100

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CONSTRAINTS

In Rivercess County, the team was unable to meet with any county official, as they were all unavailable. The team however was warmly received in all the assigned Enumeration areas (EAs) by local authorities of those areas after disclosure of the Team's visit were made known.

CHALLENGES

While on our way to the next EA in River Cess, our car again developed mechanical problems which could not be remedied after all attempts by the driver and this led to the driver being dispatched to Monrovia from where he returned with another vehicle (BC-2696) after three days. Upon the driver's arrival, the team left to work.

ACHIEVEMENT

The fact is that, the team was able to successfully reach and enumerate all of its assigned EAs in spite of the numerous challenges faced during the process is a major achievement for the team. There was not much problem in river Cess. The team finally left River Cess to Grand Bassa County on 30th August 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That during the next survey, every EA household listing should be accompanied by an EA map;
2. That since the road/highway, from Sinoe to River Cess is bad; such survey should be conducted during the dry season.
3. That misplacement of household head per structure and EA listers be careful of the household listing in terms of misspelling of names.

FIELD REPORT ON GRAND BASSA COUNTY

Unlike Sinoe and River Cess Counties where lot of difficulties were encountered, Grand Bassa County was more conducive as all of our enumeration areas were easily assessable. Because of the favorable working conditions in grand Bassa County, the team was able to complete its work in less than two (2) weeks, and departed on the 8th September 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

<u>Selected EAs</u>	<u>Clans</u>	<u>Cluster's No</u>
District # 4	Neepu/Doe Gbahn	90
Owensgrove	Doewin	91
St. John river	Goingbo	92

CONSTRAINTS

Most of the selected household heads were absent where the team had to pay people to call them. Most of our respondents in these EAs were hesitant in their responses with a notion that no direct benefit coming to them.

CHALLENGES

The problem of identifying the respondents by their structures is one major issue need to notify. There was no map given to us for Grand Bassa County, so the team had to pay or sometimes persuade someone to show or take the team in the EAs.

ACHIEVEMENT

The fact remain that we were successful in reaching our assigned EAs, despite the many circumstances and taking into considerations the perfect enumeration of each of these clusters, as a major achievement.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the team observations, experiences, constraints among many others, we write to recommend that:

1. The next survey be conducted during the dry season
2. Let those local authorities be aware before field workers get there to enumerate/work to avoid future and further embarrassment.

FIELD REPORT ON MONTSERRADO COUNTY

The team reported to Central office, Monrovia on 10th September and were re-assigned on the Bushrod Island, Monrovia. Five enumeration areas which we started and completed 10 September and 22 September respectively.

<u>Selected Easy</u>	<u>Clans</u>	<u>Cluster's No</u>
Logan Town	Gandhi Town	245
Logan town	Little White Chapel	244
Logan town	Zinc Camp	243
Logan town	Jamaica Road	242
Logan town	Central Logan town	246

OBSERVATION

That when properly informed and given due courtesy, people in those towns and villages especially in Sine and Reverses are most willing and ready to participate than those household heads and respondents in Monrovia. Monrovia is busy city where almost every inhabitant goes in search of his daily needs. With this understanding, we at many times met the absence of the respondents, thereby creating callback.

CONSTRAINTS

There were many at times lateness in reaching our enumeration areas due to the location of the driver and two of the team members complaining about traffic congestion in the city of Monrovia and its environs.

CHALLENGES

The way in which the numbering systems was done in the past, we had problems with identifying the respondents and the structures. However, the team uses its field experience in solving the problem.

RECOMMENDATION

1. More working days are given for such survey, since people are not familiar with each other in Monrovia to reduce more pressure on the field workers during the data collection.
2. Mappers /listers should follow their format carefully to avoid future embarrassment.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During the period under review, the amount of US\$175.00 (one hundred seventy-five United States dollars) and two (2) scratch cards were signed for in view of the following specified reasons:

Below is the breakdown of how the amount was used.

a. Communication	25%
b. Transportation	35%
c. Feeding	40%
d. Administrative	15%
e. Market Survey	15%
f. Clinical/Drugs	<u>10%</u>
Total:	140%

VEHICLES REPORT

During the period under review, my team used two (2) Avis vehicles. Starting with Plate No. B C-1989 from 6th to the 25th of August 2007. From the 26th - 27th August 2007, we had breakdown. The team started again with another avis vehicle from the 28th august to the 22nd September 2007. that is, from my last EA in Rivercess, and Grand Bassa Counties, up to Monrovia EAs.