

FIELD REPORT

NATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT CENSUS (NEC) 2007 CENSUS CONDUCTED IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY BY TEAM #13

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INTRODUCTION

The National Establishment Census (NEC) is part of LISGIS' effort to provide information for policy management of the Country economy and development. The National Establishment Census is designed in order to provide bench mark information which is essential for sound developmental planning, research, data, making administrative policy decision and a frame work for National Accounts.

This paper contains field reports of team #13 on the activities of the National Establishment census in seven (7) enumeration areas to include: BTC Area, Buzzy Quarter, Bass Community, Warwein, Capitol Hill, Jallah Town and Saye Town including a block in central Monrovia. Among other things discussed include the team's observation, constraints, challenges, achievements, financial report and recommendations.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective for conducting this census in Liberia is to provide information that will enable the Government of Liberia in collaboration with its international partners to provide:

- a. A frame work for National Accounts.
 - b. Research/Data
 - c. Directory of all businesses in Liberia and
 - d. Policy making decision on development planning.
- Information collected from the census will be utilized in various ways especially in:
- a. Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs
 - b. Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - c. Ministry of Labor etc.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The official interview should have commence on Monday 10th December 2007 but did not get under way due to the delayed in the distribution of ID Cards for coordinators, supervisors and Interviewers.

However, the team started interview/work on the 11th December 2007, where formal introduction where made and mission of the establishment census explained

1. BTC AREA

The job commenced on the 11th December 2007 around the BTC area and at the time of completion, a total of thirty eight (38) business establishments were interviewed and Questionnaires completed.

OBSERVATION

During the entire exercise, the following observation were made:

- a. That Both private and public establishments owner were not aware of the census according to most of them.
- b. Most of the interviewers where not able to properly introduce themselves and to explain the actual purpose of the census.

CONSTRAINTS

The team encountered a lot of difficulties in the BTC area during the census. There were lot of calls back, two of the team members could not always be on time because of the far distances they live, and difficulty with traffic and humans congestions during the X-Mass weeks.

CHALLENGES

The major challenges faced included were the lacked of motor vehicle, calls back, traffic congestion and the absence of most establishments and their unwillingness to make available any information.

ACHIEVEMENT

The fact remain that the team was able to successfully interviews all of its assigned EA in spite of the numerous challenges faced during the process

RECOMMENDATION

Upon the completion of this exercise the team wishes to recommend the followings:

1. That a thorough publicity/awareness activities conducted far ahead of such undertaking.
2. That those serving as interviewers should be properly train to be able to perform their duties properly.
3. That those selected as interviewers should live in/or closer to their Enumeration areas (EAs) so that work can commence on time and deadlines are met.

2. BUZZY QUARTERS

OBSERVATION

It was observed that, the people of Buzzy Quarters argue a lot when it comes to governmental issues. They are generally of the belief that government has the sole responsibility to provide all their needs/wants and a lot of time and energy were expended to get their cooperation.

CONSTRAINTS

The team was faced with a lot of difficulties in Buzzy Quarter. Those establishment owners refused at first to have the interview reasons given was that they were not aware of said program and that the government was intensity to their hardships. However, we were able to persuade and apologized for not being able to adequately disseminate information about the census, and they accepted our apologies and welcome us.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge faced by the team during our visit to Buzzy Quarters was the hostile attitudes displayed, unwillingness and uncooperative spirit of establishment's owner.

ACHIEVEMENT

Despite of the constraints and challenges, the team was able to patiently listen to the people's complaints, make suggestions and the interviews went on.

RECOMMENDATION

The team wishes to recommend that:

1. Only individuals with some training in counseling be assigned in Buzzy Quarter for future undertaken.
2. Much need to be done in Buzzy Quarter to awaken the population and stimulate their interest in issues of National Development before undertaken any program in the future.

3. BASSA COMMUNITY

Unlike Buzzy Quarters, Bassa Community is complete contrast as people were eager and willing to cooperate with the team.

CONSTRAINTS

The constraints faced by the team in this community was the frequent absence of establishment's owners due mainly to the holidays seasons'and traffic congestions.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge faced by this team was to get all the establishment owners for the interview.

ACHIEVEMENT

The fact is that, the team succeeded in interviewing every single establishment owners, despite the difficulty in meeting them on time is a plus.

RECOMMENDATION

The team wishes to recommend that:

1. Local leaders be part of the planning and implementation process to further enhance the smooth execution of future program.
2. program of this significance be differed from festal holidays so as to get every person involve actively.

4. WARWEIN COMMUNITY

Warein Community was exceptional. It seems that the people in this area are far aware of development not only regarding the census but generally on the development of the country as a whole. All establishment centers in this community are concentrated only along the main route that stretches between the community and so easy access to interest of concern was guaranteed.

CONSTRAINTS

There was nothing really face by the team like constraint.

CHALLENGES

Most establishment owners were very suspicious of the final out come of the information that were being sought for example, some believed that it was a means for government to get information about their businesses and later on use it against them if need be.

ACHIEVEMENT

The team was very successful in creating an interactive forum between it and the establishment owners and by this way all of the concern regarding information handling were addressed and the team work went on very well.

RECOMMENDATION

It is strongly recommended that community leaders form part of future program by LISGIS so as to encourage a broad base participation.

5. CAPITOL HILL

Unlike Warewein community, Capitol Hill is one of the communities the team had numerous problems like calls back and lacked of cooperation from establishment owners.

CONSTRAINTS

It seems that establishment owner in this community were only hearing about the program for the first time ever. What was even more difficult was the apparent unawareness of government's establishment regarding the census program.

CHALLENGES

It was very difficult to begin an entirely new awareness course especially because of the strategic location of the community, one would think that information about the program were well disseminated.

ACHIEVEMENT

Despite the many constraints and challenges, the team was able to educate and persuade, and finally succeeded in interviewing both private and public establishments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Information channel between all government Ministries, agencies and LISGIS be set up for proper and adequate dissemination of information regarding of the existence of LISGIS and its over all objectives and how it ties with in government functionaries.

6. JALLAH TOWN

Jallah Town is one of the EAs where establishment owner has to be persuaded before interview was carried on. People of this community, especially establishment owners are no different from the people of Buzzy Quarters. We had lots of difficulties in this community.

CONSTRAINTS

The establishment owner wanted to know for example their benefit from the government and LISGIS for said census; that they were not aware of the National Establishment census but instead, they were only aware of National Population and Housing Census (NPHC).

CHALLENGES

Those included the reorientation and persuasion of establishment owner in this community to get their cooperation in carrying on the task assigned the team.

ACHIEVEMENT

All constraints and challenges were overcome and the team was able to complete their assignment on time.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. A massive public awareness be planned and carried out in Jallah Town area regarding LISGIS and its mission. This awareness campaign should be planned and executed in collaboration with leaders of the community.

7. SAYE TOWN

Saye Town was also exceptional. It seems that the people in this community are far aware of development not only regarding the establishment census but generally on the development of their community and the country as a whole.

CONSTRAINTS

The team faced constraints like calls back and their frequent absence.

CHALLENGES

Most establishment owners wanted to know what could be the final outcome of the information. For example, some believed that it was a means for government to know those businesses that are not register and those that are registered and later on use such information against them if necessary.

ACHIEVEMENT

The fact is that, the team succeeded in interviewing every single establishment owner, despite the difficulty in meeting them on time.

RECOMMENDATION

Upon the completion of this exercise, the team wishes to recommend that:

1. That a thorough publicity/awareness activities be conducted in such community or a massive public awareness be planned and carried out in the Saye Town Community.

8. CENTRAL MONROVIA

Unlike for others communities the team worked, Central Monrovia is complete contrast as establishment owners were eager and willing to cooperate with the team.

CONSTRAINTS

The constraints faced by the team was the frequent absence of establishment owners due mainly to the traffic congestion and the holiday's seasons.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge the team faced was meeting all establishment owners presence.

ACHIEVEMENT

Despite the constraints and challenges, the team was able to successfully complete every establishment in that place.

RECOMMENDATION

The team wishes to recommend that:

1. That program of this significance be defered from holidays so as to get every person actively involve.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During the period under review, the amount of US\$ 75.00 (Seventy Five United States Dollar) and two (2) scratch cards were received and signed for in view of the following specified reasons:

1. Communication and
2. Transportation

The total of four hundred fifty eight Questionnaires was given and the team interviewed/used Three hundred fifty eight for both private and public establishments.

The total of ninety two (92) blank questionnaires reported.

Below listed are the Questionnaires use per Enumeration areas:

<u>SELECTED EAs</u>	<u>ANSWERED QUESTIONNAIRES</u>
1. BTC Area -----	38
2. Buzzy Quarters -----	37
3. Bassa Community -----	37
4. Warwein -----	36
5. Capitol Hill -----	48
6. Jallah Town -----	37
7. Saye Town -----	58
8. Central Monrovia -----	<u>67</u>
TOTAL -----	358