

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT CENSUS 2007-
2008 FROM RIVERCESS AND SINOE COUNTIES,
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Introduction:

The complete enumeration of all local units where people work in a country at a specified time is called an establishment census. Units being enumerated include business establishment, government establishment and NGOs. It is a primary source of benchmark statistics and National Accounts. The inquiry is limited to a few variables in order not to bold the respondent. The above census goes as far as providing information on the lowest administrative unit. The last NEC was conducted in 1985.

Objectives

The 2007-2008 NEC is being held in order to provide benchmark information which is essential for sound development planning, making administrative policy decisions and research. It also provides a frame for National Accounts.

NEC specific objectives are to ascertain the following:

- a. Size, composition and spatial distribution of the formal and informal sector of the economy
- b. Scope of the Private and Public sector, Non- Profit Institutions
- c. Ownership of establishments
- d. Legal status
- e. Major activities by ISIC
- f. Labor Force composition and distribution in Liberia.

Field Report

We left Monrovia around the 18th of December 2007 and spent two nights on the road due to the bad road condition and arrived in Greenville, Sinoe on the 21st of December 2007. Upon our arrival, we met with one Koffa Thompson. Who, according to him, was left in charge as the senior monitor because the supervisor was not in town. Koffa was the one that give me a progress report on the work up till that point. According to Koffa, they were about 21 NRC monitors doing the NEC in Sinoe County and that they started work on the 14 of December 2007. He said that they were spread throughout the seven district of the county and that work was going on simultaneously. He said that they were three monitors responsible for Greenville City. So I ask him for the work they have done so far. The response was that I was going to get the work the next day. When the next day came, he ask me to please give him my vehicle to take them around to do the work and I give it to them and they used it for three to four days before I could get at least 62 questionnaires from them in Greenville district. Until the 28th of December 2007 when I brought my first report down Monrovia, only the 62 questionnaires that I was able to bring form Sinoe County with the promise that when I get back by the 2nd of January 2008, the whole of Greenville district was going to be completed with additional report from other districts.

To my surprise, when I got back on the 4th of January 2008, I met the complete opposite of what I was promised and it remain so until I came back to Monrovia on the 12th of January 2008. I never brought a single questionnaire down but rather I was given another round of reasons why and promise that the work will be completed before the end of January 2008. So, where I am, I am really down hearted with what is unfolding in Sinoe County concerning the NEC work and I am also afraid that the work might not be completed by the end of the month.

As for Rivercess County, I must admit that they are doing well under the able leadership of Mr. Stanley Varney. First of all this county is divided into two districts only. Up to my departure on the 12th of January 2008 we've received the total of about 250 NEC questionnaires and that I am hopeful that they will be finished before or by the end of the month which is 30th January 2008.

Conclusion

With all the difficulties in terms of logistics and advocacy as well as financial, we hope that the NEC be completed on time and with the expected result. Big thanks to LISGIS, NRC and UNHCR for granting us the opportunity to take part in this noble undertaking for the up liftmen of our country Liberia.

Recommendation

I would like to recommend that LISGIS be allow to bring Supervisors on surveys of such while others work along with the supervisors trained by LISGIS. Reason being that LISGIS has vice experience in field activities.