



**Why does LIBERIA
Need Good statistics?**



Background

The paradigm within which development programs and projects are planned, implemented, monitored and evaluated is shifting towards the use of evidence based information obtained from good statistics.

This shift has resulted in higher demand for good statistics that are timely, comprehensive and responsive for planning and decision making. It has therefore become imperative for governments including the Government of Liberia to foster the collection, compilation and dissemination of good statistics through the National Statistical and Spatial System (NSSS).

Data gaps have existed for more than fourteen years of civil crisis requiring a coordinated approach by producers, users and providers of statistics to fill the gaps. This will be done through the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.

Why does Liberia need good statistics?

Good use of good statistics leads to sound Government policies and development which benefits our people.

The likely success of Government policies is greatly increased by the use of statistics. Statistics allows our Government to carry out thorough analysis of complex social and economic issues, to make appropriate policy choices and to monitor and adjust Government policies in order to achieve desired impact over time.



The state of some of Liberia's roads during the rainy season.



Good statistics improves the transparency and accountability of policy making.

Good statistics enable our people to judge the success of Government policies and to hold Government accountable for its policies. Government is committed to free flow of information so that the public is well informed and equipped to participate in national development and consolidate democracy.

Good statistics help to ensure that our limited resources are used efficiently.

Investment in statistics will pay for itself many times over by improving how resources are allocated. Statistics highlights where resources are needed and what impact those resources have had.

Why now?

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is focused at improving the lives of our people. This requires statistics to help design policies, provide baseline information and track progress

The NSDS sets out national goals to attain the nation's vision for the future, while internationally we are committed to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals by 2015.



Crossing a stream to collect the 2010 Combined CUIO, Labour Force and Human Rights Surveys



Clearing a field for construction of a CSIO Office in Grand Kru County



A new LBDI Bank building in Monrovia.



How best can we organise our data?

- Our information needs can best be met by a well-planned and well-coordinated National Statistical and Spatial System (NSSS);
- Need for better coordination amongst users, providers and producers of statistics;
- Strengthen coordination through the amendment of the Act establishing LISGIS; and
- Enforce the mandate of the Steering Committee to monitor the implementation of the NSDS.

How can strategic planning help?

Strategic planning:

- Addresses data limitations;
- Prioritises use of limited resources for statistics;
- Integrates statistics within development policy;
- Looks across the whole NSSS and provides a coherent framework for all national and international statistical programs for donor support;
- Provides an action plan for statistical capacity building; and
- Acts as a catalyst for socio-economic development.



2008 Census analysts at work

The LISGIS strategic plan for statistical development for 2008-2013 brings about major improvements in the statistics available for policy making. This will be updated and extended to incorporate plans for improved statistical activities across the NSSS. A good strategy, adequately funded and successfully implemented, can make a big difference to the performance of Liberia.

Liberia profile

INDICATOR	VALUE	UNIT	SOURCE	YEAR
Total Population	3,476,608	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Male population	1,739,945	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Female population	1,736,663	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Total Urban Population	1,633,719	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Total Rural Population	1,842,889	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Total Households	670,295	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Population growth rates	2.1	Percent	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Average Household Size	5.1	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Sex Ratio	100.2	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Population Density/sq mile	90	Number	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Crude birth	43.0	Per 1,000 population	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Dependency ratio	83	Per 1,000 population	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Total Fertility rate	5.8	Per woman	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Infant mortality rate	78	Per 1,000 live births	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Under 5 mortality rate	119	Per 1,000 live births	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Child mortality	41.0	Per 1,000 live births	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Literacy rates (6 yrs +)	55.9	Percent	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Literacy rates (15-24 years)	69.2	Percent	National Population and Housing Census	2008
Net primary enrolment rate	61.4	Percent	National Population and Housing Census	2008



So Liberia needs good statistics.

“With our country massively broken following a protracted civil crisis, we need all the relevant data we can gather to give direction to the planning process of our reconstruction and development initiatives”

Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf - President of Liberia



From Statistics to Development

... To sum up

Good use of reliable statistics leads to sound policy and proper development outcomes.

This can be achieved by including statistics in national policy formulation processes through a well-planned and well coordinated statistical system.

This is included in the NSDS which is a well designed strategic plan for the NSSS and its component parts. An increase in resources for statistics is vital to implement this plan.

There is need to strive to increase the level of both capacity to produce and use statistics in order to move from statistics to development.



“We look up to a thoroughly analyzed and disaggregated data stock of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census. This will assist us in the formulation of policies and plans as well as evaluate the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), known as “Lift Liberia” “

Hon. Amara M. Konneh - Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs

“The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of LISGIS are grateful to the supporters of statistics (Government and its development partners), producers of statistics (staff of the NSSS), providers of statistical instruments (all respondents) and users of statistics (national and international) for their valuable contribution to the development of statistical and spatial data in Liberia”.

Dr. T. Edward Liberty - Director General- LISGIS





This booklet was produced by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) with support from the secretariat of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).



LISGIS Head Office, Monrovia

Statistics House

Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor
P.O. Box 629
Monrovia, Liberia

www.lisgis.org