

Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone Population and Housing Census 2004

**Statistics Sierra Leone, University of Sierra Leone, National Population
Commission, Representatives from various Ministries**

Report generated on: July 3, 2024

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

SLE-SSL-SLPHC-2004-v01

TITLE

Sierra Leone Population and Housing Census 2004

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

SLPHC

TRANSLATED TITLE

Titled in English and has not been translated into any language

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
Sierra Leone	SLE

STUDY TYPE

Population and Housing Census [hh/popcen]

SERIES INFORMATION

The 2004 Population and Housing Census was a de facto enumeration. It was the fourth national population census, being preceded by national censuses in 1963, 1974 and 1985.

Government and other Stakeholders have been eagerly awaiting this report. The long interval between the 1985 and the 2004 population censuses has been mainly attributed to the 10 (ten) years brutal civil war. The 2004 census is an improvement on that of 1985 in that more questions were asked this time, and of course more information will be provided to the public after the analysis of the data.

In Sierra Leone, as in other sub-Saharan countries, there is a general paucity of information on migration, population distribution and urban development. This dearth of data notwithstanding, it is reasonable to consider that with the vast population displacements occasioned by the decade long civil war, both the forced movements of people and the consequent settlement geography of the country make it imperative that the demand for studies based on aerial movements of people should now be met. This analysis of the 2004 census data on population distribution, migration and urbanisation provides some basic information for planning and policy-making. Development practitioners and researchers interested in the links between the spatial spread of people and resource availability and allocation in Sierra Leone will find it informative because of its relevance to the post-war reconstruction and development programmes predicated on the poverty reduction strategy programme (PRSP) in an era of renewed decentralisation of governance.

ABSTRACT

The Republic of Sierra Leone is a small coastal West African country bordered by Guinea and Liberia. Sierra Leone has an area of 71,620 square kilometers (about 28,000 square miles). The country is divided into four major Administrative Areas namely, The Western Area, Northern Province, Southern Province and Eastern Province.

The Provinces are divided into twelve districts and the districts are divided into one hundred and forty nine chiefdoms. Western Area is divided into (Western Urban) Freetown and Western Rural Areas. Freetown is divided into wards.

There are five Physical Regions in Sierra Leone: (i) The Central Plains, (ii) The Northern Woodlands Savannah, (iii) The South Western Upland, (iv) The Western Coastal Swamps and (v) the Western Peninsula Upland Region.

The country is mountainous; about 50% of the terrain is covered by mountains including the Capital, Freetown. Agriculture is the main occupation for the people of Sierra Leone; especially rice farming in which about 60% of the people are engaged through the practice of shifting cultivation.

Sierra Leone has a tropical climate with two very different seasons - the Dry Season,

traditionally from November to April and the Rainy Season from May to October with July and August being the wettest months of the year. In 2004, the census was taken in December.

BACKGROUND OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE 2004 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The first population count in Sierra Leone was undertaken in 1802 in what is now the Western Area. Subsequently, a number of population counts in various parts of the country were conducted. However, it was not until 1963 that the whole country was covered for the first time and, since then, censuses have been carried out at intervals ranging from 10 to 17 years.

The first full-scale modern Population Census, however, was that of April 1963. It was also the first post independence census and it was conducted with the expectation that a decennial census programme would be maintained. Due to various constraints, however, the next two censuses were conducted at eleven-year intervals in 1974 and 1985. Due to the war situation, a census was not conducted in 1995. The next Population Census was conducted in December 2004.

The 1985 census showed a total population of about 3.5 million. It was a de facto count with December 1, 2004 as the reference date. The topics covered in the census were: Relationship, sex, age, maternal orphan hood, birth place, nationality, place of residence, level of education, marital status, type of economic activity, occupation, industry, employment status, children ever born to women aged 10 years and above, particulars of most recent birth and housing conditions.

The census data was processed on a Wang Vs 80 mini-computer and data entry was done on 19 workstations.

The publication plan relating to the 1985 Census results proposed the following:

- The Preliminary Reports
- National Statistical Tables
- Summary Statistics on Settlements of 1000 or more people
- Analytical Report
- Report of Seminar on the use of census data

The provisional census results indicating a total population of 3,515,812 was announced in January 1986 and The Preliminary Report published in August 1986. Due to delay in the installation of the data processing equipments, however, there were delays in the production of the final statistical tables. Further, considerable time was spent investigating a significant difference (about 9 percent) between the provisional results and the total population figure of 3,222,901 obtained after the computer processing of the census returns. On the basis of the investigation, the Sierra Leone Government endorsed the 3,515,812 as the total population of the 1985 Census.

Following the acceptance of the census results, a team of local consultants carried out the analysis of the census data on the following themes:

- The Land and The People
- Population size, growth, age and sex structure
- Education and Literacy
- Employment and Labour Force
- Nuptiality and Fertility
- Mortality Levels and Differentials
- Household and Dwelling Characteristics
- The Census Operations

The following reports were published as a result of these consultant reports:

- Volume 1: Summary Results; May 1992

- Volume 2: National Dissemination Seminar Report; July 1992
- Volume 3: Analytical Report, 1996

In addition to the published reports, census data including computer printout of tabulations were sent out to some Ministries, Departments and Agencies and various other data users such as the University of Sierra Leone.

Since the 1985 Population and Housing Census, a number of nation-wide surveys in the area of education, health, HIV/AIDS etc. have been conducted by the National Statistical Agency (formerly Central Statistics Office and now Statistics Sierra Leone) and other stakeholders: These include the following:

- Labour Force Survey (1988/89)
- Survey on Household Expenditure and Household Economic Activities (1989/90)
- Demographic and Social Monitoring Survey (1992)
- National Nutrition Survey by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation with support from UNICEF (1989)
- Multi Indicator Cluster Survey II with support from UNICEF (2000)

The National Population Commission (NPC) which was established in 1982 also used the 1985 Census data to adopt a "National Population Policy for Development Progress and Welfare" in August 1989. Even before the development of the National Population Policy, the first five-year Development Plan (1974 - 1979) had drawn attention to the "interactive role of population and development planning generally".

Population data is therefore needed on a continuous basis for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the country's population programme and development planning. Thus, Population Censuses and Household Sample Surveys constituted the major sources of national population data in the country. The decennial Population Censuses and the Central Statistics Office/Statistics Sierra Leone inter-censal programme of household Surveys are therefore regarded as essential elements in the country's population programme and development plans.

The Population Censuses together with the related Enumeration Areas (EA) maps provide a sampling frame for the Household Sample Surveys. Therefore, the two data collection systems are considered complementary. Prior to the 2004 Census, the available EA maps were those prepared for the 1974 Census because it had been planned to update the EAs for the 1985 Census and some field work was initiated but due to time constraint and inadequate planning, the exercise could not be completed. Thus, the 1974 EA maps were used for the 1985 Census Enumeration and two or more enumerators assigned to each EA. This might have contributed to the suspected under-enumeration in the 1985 Census. Therefore, the cartographic exercise for the 2004 Census was thoroughly done.

The 2004 Population and Housing Census together with the cartographic work was, therefore, undertaken not only to maintain a regular census programme but also to provide a more accurate updated bench-mark population data as well as a geographic frame for inter-censal surveys and related statistical sample enquiries.

Please note that because of the difference in the methodology used in the censuses prior to 1963, the population totals of the country prior to 1963 can not be compared with the more recent censuses. The population totals for the period 1901 to 2004 were as follows:

- 1901 1,024,178
- 1911 1,400,132
- 1921 1,540,554
- 1931 1,768,480
- 1948 1,858,275
- 1963 2,180,355
- 1974 2,735,159
- 1985 3, 515,812

· 2004 4,976,871

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE 2004 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The last census that was held in Sierra Leone was in 1985 and according to normal procedure, there should have been another census in 1995 but due the eleven-year war, it was not possible and the 1985 census data had become completely obsolete and needed to be updated. Therefore the main objectives of the 2004 population and Housing Census were:

- To help ensure the availability of a time series of population data to support socio-economic development planning and population programmes as well as to contribute to the development of national capacity for statistical enquiries.
- Continue the regular pattern of the conduct of censuses in Sierra Leone as a continuing scheme of statistical data collection.
- Provide information on housing conditions in the country after the eleven-year war.

FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A census requires substantial financial, material and human resources. Because of the security situation in the country for the last eleven years, the Sierra Leone Government had to play a greater leadership role than it had in previous censuses as a confidence building measure so as to attract foreign Donors. The Sierra Leone Government demonstrated this by providing funding for the locality listing exercise, which started in January 2001. The Government of Sierra Leone also provided funds for the purchase of vehicles, office and data processing equipments needed for the start of cartographic field work.

Donors started coming on board after they were satisfied that the security situation had improved to the level that can justify their confidence. In the end, the project benefited from two major Donors, UNFPA whose support was mainly in the area of cartography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and capacity building at SSL and European Union who supported data collection, data processing, data analysis, evaluation and dissemination.

The objectives were expected to be realized through a number of interrelated activities, which were carried out in the following four major phases:

- Preparatory Phase
- Data Collection Phase
- Data Processing Phase
- Data Analysis, Evaluation and Dissemination

All these activities were possible because of the improvement in the security situation, which saw the restoration of Government of Sierra Leone control and authority in all areas of the country.

PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE CENSUS/PRE-CENSUS ACTIVITIES

The preparatory phase of the 2004 Population and Housing Census started with the full understanding that it was important to have very good preparations if the entire census is to be successful. It was therefore necessary to start with the establishment of the legal basis for the census, followed by setting up the necessary administrative/organizational machinery, establishment of a programme on cartographic mapping, determination of the scope and coverage of the census including preparation of the relevant instruments and the development of census education and communication programme.

KIND OF DATA

Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

National, Regional, District and Chiefdom Level

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

v0.1: This is the first version that has ever been documented

VERSION DATE

2006-11-20

VERSION NOTES

This is the first version. No other version has been documented

Scope

NOTES

Population, Housing Facilities, Agriculture Module, Ownership and Deaths in the Household

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
censuses [14.1]	CESSDA	Link
fertility [14.2]	CESSDA	Link
migration [14.3]	CESSDA	Link
morbidity and mortality [14.4]	CESSDA	Link

KEYWORDS

Keyword	Vocabulary	URI
censuses [14.1]	CESSDA	Link
fertility [14.2]	CESSDA	Link
migration [14.3]	CESSDA	Link
morbidity and mortality [14.4]	CESSDA	Link

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Country-wide

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

Household Level

UNIVERSE

Everybody that slept within the boundaries of Sierra Leone on Census Night (3rd December 2004)

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics Sierra Leone	Government of Sierra Leone
University of Sierra Leone	Government of Sierra Leone

National Population Commission	Government of Sierra Leone
Representatives from various Ministries	Government of Sierra Leone

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Ministry of Labour and Employment	MLE	Government of Sierra Leone	Assisted in the design of Questionnaire
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security	MAFFS	Government of Sierra Leone	Assisted in the design of Questionnaire on Agricultural Module
National Population Commission	NPC	Government of Sierra Leone	Assisted in the design of Questionnaire on Population Module

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Government of Sierra Leone	GoSL	Funded the Localities Listing Exercise/Purchase of Vehicles, Office and Data Processing Equipments
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	Supported in the area of cartography, GIS and capacity building
European Union	EU	Supported data collection, data processing , data analysis, data evaluation and data dissemination

OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Prof. Herbert Borbor Sama Kande		Statistician General/Chief Census Officer (During census preparation, enumeration exercise and production of census analytical report)
Mr. Issac Mwangangi		GIS Consultant
Prof. Lawerance Kamara		Statistician General (During analytical report writing/publication process)
Prof. Clifford Odimegwu		External Consultant, Analytical Report Writing
Local Consultants		Local Consultants, Analytical Report Writing
Z.E.A Kanji		Technical Assistance Consultant (Census Organization)
Staff of Statistics Sierra Leone	Statistics Sierra Leone	Overall management of survey

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

There was no sampling procedures as it was a national survey

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End	Cycle
2004-12-04	2004-12-19	1

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face [f2f]

SUPERVISION

Interview was conducted by teams of interviewers. Each interviewing team comprised of 4 interviewers and a driver, under the supervision of 1 supervisor. Each field officer has a minimum of 5 supervisors. The District Census Officer was responsible for the overall exercise in their assigned district. Each enumerator was given transport allowance to facilitate movement from the training centre to the assigned Enumeration Areas (EAs). The District Census Officer used a 4 wheel drive vehicle to travel from cluster to cluster (and where necessary within cluster).

The role of the Supervisor was to coordinate field data collection activities, including helping the District Training Coordinator; the District Census Officer and the Field Officer in training the Enumerators; arrange for the enumeration of special population groups such as institutions, floating population, nomadic population etc.; maintain good relations with the public; ensures that the enumeration is carried out in all the EAs assigned, close supervision of the Enumerator's work, editing of enumerator's completed questionnaires for completeness and any inconsistencies; conduct random checks in a sample of households in their assigned EAs to ensure that interviews are actually conducted in them; return all questionnaires, whether used, spoilt or unused, and all other returnable materials to their Field Officers and to ensure that Enumerators are paid upon satisfactory completion of their assignment. Additionally, the District Census Officers sent a monthly progress report to the Central office.

The Field Officers were responsible for reviewing each questionnaire at the end of the day, checking for missed questions, skip errors, fields incorrectly completed, and checking for inconsistencies in the data. The Field Officers also observed interviews and conducted review sessions with interviewers.

Field visits were also made by Census Technical Coordinators on a periodic basis during fieldwork. Senior staff (the Chief Census Officer, the Director of Census, the GIS Officers, the Census Programme Manager) also made visits to field teams to provide support and to review progress.

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

This is a very important stage on which the quality of the Census data largely depends. To address this concern, care was taken to get the right number of Field Officers, Supervisors and Enumerators. During the enumeration, we used two hundred (200) Field Officers, two thousand (2000) Supervisors and ten thousand (10,000) Enumerators. The training of these people was decentralized starting with the training of Field Officers at regional level, followed by the training of Supervisors at district level and the training of Enumerators at chiefdom level.

The data collection involved house-to-house visits by trained enumerators using questionnaires prepared and tested during the preparatory phase. Special arrangements were made for the coverage of inmates of institutions and special population groups such as the homeless, transients and refugees. The enumeration lasted for two weeks beginning in the first week of December 2004.

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Statistics Sierra Leone	SSL	Ministry of Finance, Development and Economic Planning

Questionnaires

QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaires for the 2004 Population and Housing Census were structured questionnaires based on the 1985 Population Census Questionnaire with some modifications and additions. A household questionnaire was administered in each household, which collected various information on household members including sex, age, relationship, and orphanhood status. The housing module questionnaire includes household characteristics; the population module questionnaire includes sex, age, relationship, religion, nationality, ethnicity/primary/secondary language, disability, education, marital status, the deaths module includes cause of death (Malaria, Malnutrition, Hypertension, Anaemia, Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), Bronchopneumonia, Maternal Death and others), age at death and sex; the agriculture module includes number of livestock owned by household members, access to agricultural facilities,

In addition to a household questionnaire, questionnaires were administered for every member in each household throughout the country.

The questionnaires were developed in English and were reviewed by the Census Technical Committee/Stakeholders.

All questionnaires and modules are provided as external resources.

Data Processing

DATA EDITING

Data editing took place at a number of stages throughout the processing, including:

- a) Office editing and coding
- b) During data entry
- c) Structure checking and completeness
- d) Secondary editing by data entry supervisors
- e) Structural checking of SPSS data files by statisticians

METHODOLOGY NOTES

Data entry was conducted by 60 data entry operators in two shifts, supervised by 20 data entry supervisors, using a total of 60 computers (plus one supervisors' computer). All data entry was conducted at Statistics Sierra Leone Headquarters using manual data entry. For data entry, IMES version 3.0 was used with a highly structured data entry program, using system controlled approach that controlled entry of each variable.

All range checks and skips were controlled by the program and operators could not override these. A limited set of consistency checks were also included in the data entry program.

Data were processed in batches, with each batch being processed as a complete unit through each stage of data processing. Each batch goes through the following steps:

- 1) Questionnaire reception
- 2) Office editing and coding
- 3) Data entry
- 4) Structure and completeness checking
- 5) Verification entry
- 6) Comparison of verification data
- 7) Back up of raw data
- 8) Secondary editing
- 9) Edited data back up
- 10) Export to SPSS
- 11) Recoding of variables needed for analysis
- 12) Structural checking of SPSS files
- 13) Data quality tabulations
- 14) Production of analysis tabulation

For tabulation and analysis SPSS version 12.0 was used.

Data Appraisal

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR

Not Applicable. Entire population was covered country-wide

DATA APPRAISAL

A Post-Enumeration survey was conducted to assess the reliability of data or any observations regarding data quality. A report is provided in external resources.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Information Dissemination Unit	Statistics Sierra Leone	statistics@statistics.sl OR info@statistics.sl	www.statistics.sl

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- Unrestricted Datasets
- Restricted Datasets
- Unrestricted Datasets

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6. The data will be used solely for reporting of aggregated information, and not for investigation of specific individuals or organizations.
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10. An electronic copy of all reports and publications based on the requested data will be sent to the SSL.

11. The original collector of the data, the Data Archivists, and the relevant funding agencies bear no responsibility for use of the data or interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

"Statistics Sierra Leone, Population and Housing Census 2004 (SLPHC 2004), Version 1.1 of the public use dataset (February 2011), provided by the Statistics Sierra Leone National Data Archive. www.statistics.sl"

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
Statistics Sierra Leone	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	statistics@statistics.sl OR info@statistics.sl	www.statistics.sl

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Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI-SLE-SSL-SLPHC-2004-v01

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Statistics Sierra Leone	SSL	Government of Sierra Leone	Documentation of Study

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2011-04-20

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1.0 (February 2011)

Data Dictionary

Data file	Cases	Variables
Census Housing Data		
Current repair needs of the dwelling unit,		
number of rooms in the dwelling unit,		
number of beds with mosquito nets		
method of acquiring the dwelling unit		
major material for construction of dwelling		
rubbish disposal	818641	30
principal source of supply of fuel for cooking		
principle source for lighting		
principal source of water supply for drinking		
kind of facilities for toilet and bathing		
main source of information		
distance from home to the nearest health facility, primary school and source of drinking water		
Census Agricultural Data		
Major agricultural activities undertaken by the household		
Number of livestock owned by household members	624389	37
Access of household members to agricultural facilities		
ownership of assets		
Death Data		
Occurrence of death in last 12 months		
Names of deceased		
Sex of deceased	1942839	16
Age at death		
Cause of death		
Population Census Data		
Names of people in the household		
Relationship to head of household		
Age of household members as of last birthday		
Sex of household member		
Religion of household member		
Nationality/ethnicity of household member		
Primary language spoken by household member		
Secondary language spoken by household member		
Place of birth of household member		
Place of resident in December 1990	4930533	52
Orphanhood of household member		
Disability		
School Attended		
Highest level attended		
Literacy		
Marital Status		
Type of economic activity		
Number of children ever born alive		
Particulars of most recent birth		