Republic of Sierra Leone

2004 Population and Housing Census

Executive Summary - Census Operations

November 2006
FOREWORD

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.

Following the transformation of the then Central Statistics Office (CSO) which was purely a government institution, to the present Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) a semi-autonomous Institution, the need for better Strategy for the development of National Statistics has been constantly expressed at all meetings of Stakeholders. The political will, to develop Statistics in Sierra Leone is also there.

The government is very much aware about the need for better statistics to inform the design, implementation and eventual evaluation of various development programmes for economic recovery and national development. Statistics Sierra Leone is expected to play a greater role than before in the development of National Statistics, it will have to develop standards, promote best practices and co-ordinate the entire National Statistical System to ensure that better Statistics are produced for better planning, policy formulation, programme design and development, and effective implementation.

In order to be able to do this and more, Statistics Sierra Leone will have to be strengthened in the first instance as past evidence shows that it has been weak, under-staffed, under-resourced, and therefore vulnerable.

Our expectation is that with a sound Statistics Institution in place and a reinvigorated National Statistical System that is properly co-ordinated, the government and other Stakeholders will get quality Statistics (accurate, consistent, timely, relevant etc) to track progress being made towards meeting our development goals and targets on poverty reduction, job creation, housing, agriculture production, health, education, transport and communications etc.

On behalf of Statistics Sierra Leone, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone, to the donor partners (European Union -EU), and United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA) for supporting the 2004 Census activities.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to my predecessor Professor Herbert B.S. Kandeh and to all individuals who played a part in the design of the census, and in the generation, processing and analysis of the data. I wish to
very much recognize the important roles played by the External Consultant Professor Clifford Odimegwu and also the Local Consultants.

It is impossible to say everything at once about the 2004 population and Housing Census. We have therefore prepared this Executive Summary to serve as a guidebook for the government, the Stakeholders and the general public.

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Statistician General
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CHAPTER ONE
2004 CENSUS OPERATIONS

BY: JOHN S.N. PESSIMA

INTRODUCTION

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 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:

- 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-censual 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-censual 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.

◊ **ESTABLISHMENT OF LEGAL BASIS FOR THE CENSUS**

The Statistics Act, 1963 and the Census (Amendment) Act, 1974 had provided the legal authority for previous Censuses conducted in the country. The legal provisions in the two Acts were reviewed and necessary amendments made to
ensure that they were consistent with the objectives and strategy of the 2004 census programme and would facilitate the census operations without problems.

Thus a new Census Act was passed by the House of Parliament in 2002 known as “The Census Act, 2002”. This Act, empowered the President of Sierra Leone to order the taking of census from time to time on the advice of the Minister of Development and Economic Planning. This same Act, also mandated that Statistics Sierra Leone be the institution responsible for the taking of census and the Statistician General as the Chief Census Officer.

◊ ESTABLISHMENT OF CENSUS ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINERY

The Statistician General of Statistics Sierra Leone has the responsibility under the Census Act, 2002 for “the direction of the overall technical and administrative control of the conduct and operation of the census”. In exercise of this responsibility, a Census Secretariat was set up with a Census Project Manager appointed to manage the operations of the Secretariat for the 2004 Census.

The previous legal basis for population Censuses had provisions for the appointment of a Census Commissioner and the establishment of a Census Committee under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner. For the 2004 Census, a Census Advisory Committee was established under the Chairman of the Statistics Sierra Leone Council. The Census Advisory Committee whose membership was drawn from MDAs, Civil Society Organizations and NGOs etc., provided policy guidelines, mobilized the necessary resources for the census, and generally acted as the link between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Census Secretariat. Three other committees were set up to facilitate the operations of the Census Secretariat, namely:

- The Census Technical Committee (CTC): This committee advised on the technical aspects of the implementation of the census programme. It advised on the preparation of the survey instruments, especially the census questionnaire and manuals for the field staff, recruitment of field staff, training of the newly recruited staff, data collection, data processing, compilation, analysis and dissemination of results. The membership of this Committee was drawn from Government, private sector, political parties, civil society, law enforcement institutions, the University etc.

- The Census Publicity and Education Committee (CPEC): The CPEC was responsible for the publicity of the census throughout the country. The members were charged with the responsibility to create awareness for the census and its benefits. The members were mainly media professionals and practitioners.
• The Logistics and Security Committee (LSC): The LSC was responsible for the identification, procurement, storage of all census materials, equipments and supplies and their distributions to different parts of the country. This Committee also advised on the overall security of all of the census personnel, equipments, materials and supplies. The membership was drawn mainly from the Security Forces including UNAMSIL, SSL Staff, and Civil Society.

• District Census Offices were established at District Administrative Headquarters with the assistance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the European Union. These offices were the field arm of the Census Secretariat and were headed by District Census Officers.

• Provision was also made for consultancy support by UNFPA/CST and other Donors for technical backstopping in the following Fields: Census Organization, Census Cartography, Census Quality Control and Evaluation, Census Communication/Operational Control, Data Processing/Data Base Management and Data Analysis/Dissemination.

◊ TRAINING OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF

The Census was intended inter-alia to contribute to the development of national capacity for large-scale statistical enquiries. Thus, the Census operations provided on-the-job training for various categories of staff. In addition, in view of the limited expertise in census taking at Statistics Sierra Leone due to the high staff turnover, the census programme included formal training of the personnel. Some of the training in the form of short-term fellowships took place overseas while others were done locally. This ensured the availability of trained manpower in specific areas of census taking for the 2004 Population and Housing Census.

In addition to the formal training, an informal training programme covering Census Cartography, Census Organization, Operational Control and Statistical Quality Control, Data Processing and Data Base Management, Census Evaluation and Analysis was put in place and was funded by GoSL, UNFPA and EU. This proved to be very effective for the smooth running of the whole operations.

◊ ESTABLISHMENT OF CARTOGRAPHIC MAPPING PROGRAMME

This involved the strengthening of the Cartographic Unit at SSL, cartographic preparations, field mapping and establishment of the GIS. At the outset, a well-defined programme with clear short, medium and long-term objectives were prepared by SSL Cartographic Unit.
Further, provision was made by UNFPA and EU for an International Expert to assist in the preparation of this programme and strategy for the cartographic work and provide guidance in all stages of the census implementation.

The Cartographic Unit produced photocopy maps based on the administrative units of the country prior to going to the field to produce a new standard EA frame. These can be classified as follows:

- **District Maps**
  
  Copies of the old 1:250,000 series (4 sheets) and from these, 13 District maps (including Western Area) were made.

- **Rural Chiefdom Maps**
  
  Process film transparencies/photocopies of each of the 111 sheets at 1:50,000 were obtained from UK for the 1985 Census. Some were still available but others were obtained from the Ordnance Survey International in UK. They were photocopied on the map printer to produce 149 Chiefdom maps by cut and stick methods. Densely populated Chiefdoms of over 100 persons per square kilometer were enlarged to 1:25,000.

- **Urban Layout Maps**
  
  The Surveys and Lands town series was at 1:2,500 and 1:1,250. These were drawn with rotring pens on tracing papers, and reduced to 1:10,000 on the copier to provide overall urban plans on which the ward boundaries were plotted for revision in the field.

- **Urban Ward Maps**
  
  This was a continuation of the urban layout maps. The 1:2,500 town series were drawn (starting with Freetown), they were reduced to 1:5,000 (for medium density wards) and 1:10,000 (low density wards). High density wards of over 10,000 persons per square kilometer were kept at 1:2,500 for clarity.

- **Urban Sketches**
  
  Certain large urban areas did not have any base maps at all (e.g. Sefadu, Koidu/New Sembehun). In addition to enlarging the 1:50,000 series to 10,000 as a base, the existing air photos (1976) were acquired and enlarged on the copier to form base maps which can be updated in the field.
FIELD MAPPING WORK

Field mapping exercise was undertaken during the pre-enumeration phase of the census. Field staff was recruited and trained by UNFPA Consultants and SSL staff to undertake a number of tasks: plotting/checking all administrative boundaries, updating the maps, plotting villages, trading centres, wards, schools, health facilities, churches, mosques, roads, tracks, etc., with the Global Positioning System (GPS), naming physical features, undertaking quick-counts of dwelling units, households and population and demarcating Enumeration Areas (EAs).

When the updated maps were returned from the field, the field returns (updated maps and locality lists, and completed field control forms) were edited and matched before final printing for the enumeration exercise.

The cartographic work started in the Northern Region, followed by the Eastern Region, Southern Region and ended in the Western Area and the large urban areas.

DETERMINATION OF THE SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS AND DEVELOPMENT OF INSTRUMENTS

Pending the establishment of the Census Secretariat, the Statistician General set up a Census Planning Group which comprised of the Deputy Statistician General and the Directors of Divisions at SSL, representatives from various Ministries, the University of Sierra Leone and the Secretary, National Population Commission.

The Planning Group reviewed topics investigated in the 1974 and 1985 Censuses, procedures used, and also held consultations with major data users in order to determine the topics to be investigated in the 2004 census. Particular attention was paid to data required for policies and programmes relating to women, children, the youth and the disabled.

The recommendations of the National Census Data Dissemination Seminar and International/Regional recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses were also considered in the exercise.

Following the consultations and review of the relevant materials, a number of documents were prepared and tested by the Census Secretariat. These included: Preliminary Evaluation and Analysis Plan, Tabulation Plan, Publication Programme as well as the questionnaires and related documents and forms. Special attention was paid to the preparation of the publication plan and the evaluation programme.

A plan was also developed for a preliminary descriptive analysis of the Census data. This plan formed the basis for the preparation of the Census Analytical
Reports that will soon be published now that the Census Statistical Tables have been produced.

A group of analysts comprising professionals of SSL and selected specialists of other Government/Private Agencies and the Universities of Sierra Leone and Njala was also set up to do an in-depth policy-relevant analytical studies of specific research themes using the Census data. These individual themes are now published as monographs.

◊ **CENSUS PUBLICITY PROGRAMME**

A comprehensive Census Publicity Programme was prepared by the Census Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The implementation of this programme involved the use of various strategies and media houses that addressed Census messages to different audiences in Government, Regions, Districts, Chiefs at all levels, various interest groups and the general public.

The aim was to sensitize and motivate the different population groups to ensure their effective cooperation and support in the various Census operations and also promote timely acceptance and extensive use of the Census results.

◊ **PILOT CENSUS**

A pilot census was conducted in April 2003. The general objective was to assess the various planning processes, procedures, instruments and methodologies that had been put in place for execution in the December 2004 National Population and Housing Census.

The Pilot involved the scientific selection of a sample of Enumeration Areas (EA’s) from the complete list of EAs covering the whole country. The selection was done in such a way that every District including the Western Area was represented in the sample.

A total of 200 EAs were selected for a complete coverage of each and every household and individuals within their boundaries. However because of certain hitches, 2 of these EAs were not covered at all. Field staff for the Pilot included the following categories:

1. 7 Coordinators
2. 14 Field Officers
3. 40 Supervisors
4. 200 Enumerators
Recruitment was done in two stages:

a) Coordinators: The country was divided into seven zones and a person was identified from among senior lecturers in institutions in each of the zones to coordinate all pilot census activities in the zone. The recruitment was done by Statistics Sierra Leone.

b) The Coordinators were mandated to identify the rest of the field staff in their zones; Field Officers, Supervisors and Enumerators for recruitment based on guidelines set by SSL.

Training of the Field Staff was done in three stages:

The first stage took the form of a briefing of the Coordinators on the various census instruments, especially the questionnaire, and this was done in Freetown.

The second and third stages were the training of the Supervisors by the Coordinators, and that of the Enumerators by both the Coordinators and the Supervisors. The training sessions were held in the respective zones.

◊ CENSUS DATA COLLECTION

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. The coverage of the population was on a de facto basis and the questionnaire was designed in a way that enabled the determination of the usual resident population by age and sex. The topics that were covered in the Census were determined after consultations with data users and producers and the necessary tests and discussions by the Census Advisory Committee and the Census Technical Committee.
DATA PROCESSING

Upon the completion of the enumeration, the census documents were compiled by Chiefdom/Ward and transferred to District Headquarter Towns. They were then taken to the SSL Headquarters for storage and security. The rest of the data processing activities took place at SSL Headquarters supervised by the Data Processing Consultant who in return was supervised by the Statistician General.

MANUAL EDITING AND CODING

Coding and Editing Clerks edited each item on the questionnaire and transformed it into numerical codes to be entered into the computers. The questionnaires were designed using pre-coding/self-coding techniques wherever applicable so as to ensure accuracy and to minimize the duration of coding.

COMPUTER DATA ENTRY

This stage covered the conversion of coded data into computer readable form with on-line and identification checks. One hundred and twenty (120) Data Operators using sixty (60) desktop computers in two shifts, during the period of six months, undertook the job at SSL Headquarters. The verification rate of fifty percent (50%) was adopted. The operation was closely monitored and supervised by the Data Processing Consultant and the Data Entry Supervisors.

POST DATA ENTRY PROCESSING

This stage included development, testing and execution of application programmes editing for tabulation, statistical and demographic analyses, creation of database, presentation of results in the form of graphics and thematic maps. This operation was carried out at SSL headquarters using a Local Area Network (LAN) server.

CENSUS EVALUATION

Census evaluation programme was part of the 2004 Population and Housing Census preparatory activities. Besides using demographic analytical techniques, a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was carried out shortly after the census enumeration as part of the Census programme.

The main reason for the Post Enumeration Survey was to measure the levels of accuracy of the Census results, especially coverage and content errors, as well as determination of main sources of error.

This exercise was based on sampling rate of two percent (2%) of the total Enumeration Areas (EAs) nationwide and this was determined by the Quality Control/Evaluation Unit of the Census Secretariat. The two percent (2%) sample
of the Enumeration Areas was taken and the Post Enumeration Survey questionnaire was designed so that it will facilitate matching exercise as well as subsequent calculation of estimates. The Post Enumeration Survey procedures and data collection instruments were pilot tested in a sample of purposely selected areas shortly after the Pilot Census. Based on the experience, necessary modifications were incorporated before finalizing the questionnaires for the main Post Enumeration Survey.

It is expected that the Census evaluation reports written by various Consultants on various themes will assist users in determining data limitations as well as providing guidance for planning future Census programmes.

◊ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST ENUMERATION SURVEY

The Post Enumeration Survey was undertaken shortly after the main Census. However, to maintain independence between the Census and the Post Enumeration Survey, efforts were made to use people who were not involved in the Census. In the event where this was not possible and people who were involved in the Census were used, they were not allowed to work in the District where they worked during the Census. The information from the Post Enumeration Survey questionnaires and the Census questionnaires were matched after the Post Enumeration Survey data collection followed by field reconciliation exercises. The calculation of the required estimates and the related sample errors was also undertaken.

◊ DATA ANALYSIS, EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION

The analysis and evaluation of the Census data was undertaken according to the plans prepared at the Census preparatory phase.

The preliminary or provisional results in the form of tables were prepared by the staff of the Census Secretariat located at SSL Headquarters shortly after completion of the enumeration exercise. These tables provided information mainly on Population and Household Distributions by Local Council Areas, Chiefdoms/Wards and Administrative Districts. They were widely disseminated throughout the country.

One year after the completion of the enumeration, the final results were presented to Government and other stakeholders in a very high profile gathering followed by a wide dissemination exercise nationwide.

The in-depth analytical and evaluation studies were carried out by selected specialists from various Government Departments and the Universities of Sierra Leone and Njala using Census statistical tables produced by the SSL Data Processing Division. The outputs will be in the form of monographs.
In order to allow maximum applications and analyses of the Census and related data beyond the published tables, SSL developed a data dissemination policy which is not unduly restrictive. Thus, there is greater access to Census data at various levels of desegregation with due attention to issue of confidentiality of individual records. The Census data, therefore, was disseminated through not only published reports as per the publication plan but also maps, computer printouts, pen-drives and CD ROM on request against the payment of an appropriate fee.

Seminars were also organized as part of the strategy to promote effective and extensive use of the Census data. Census communication and publicity programmes also included strategies to increase the use of Census data.