2018 Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey
Survey Documentation

Sample Design

There is a two stage sample design, with census enumeration areas (from the 2015 census) selected in the first stage, and then 10 households within each EA selected in the second stage. The first stage was stratified using district (the 14 districts as of the 2015 census) and urban vs. rural yielding 27 strata (there are no rural areas in the Western Area Urban district). The number of EAs per strata was chosen to provide efficient estimates of poverty rates at the strata level. Within each strata, the EAs were selected using probability proportional size, based on the estimated number of households during the census mapping.

The second stage selection of households happened in two different ways: A subsample of the selected SLIHS EAs were used for the MICS survey as well. The MICS conducted fieldwork between May and August 2017. For these EAs, 10 target households and 5 replacements were randomly selected for the SLIHS from those actually interviewed by the MICS teams. For the other EAs, a household listing was done between October and December 2017, and from this, 10 target households and 5 replacements were selected. The complete planned sample size was achieved: in each EA, ten households were interviewed and completed the majority of the questionnaire.

The data was weighted based on the sampling design, and post-stratification to chiefdom-level household population levels (the probability weight variable $\_pweight$) is included in each dataset. More information on weighting can be found in the methodology note.

Field Procedures and Quality Control

Nineteen teams worked over a 12-month period from January to December 2018. Each team consisted of three interviewers, a data entry clerk and a supervisor. The team covered three EAs per month, with one interviewer being responsible for one EA, and (in the rural areas) residing within the EA for the month. As each questionnaire book is completed, it was brought by the supervisor to the data entry clerk, who entered it using a CSPro data entry application on a laptop. The application did extensive error reporting and the supervisor reverted to the interviewer / household to correct any errors / inconsistencies identified. The teams spent approximately three weeks in the EA, and then one week in the district headquarters. Internet connectivity was provided via cellular modems with wide coverage throughout the country. Data was automatically uploaded / backed up whenever the data entry laptop was online. In areas without coverage, data was uploaded during the week the team is at the district headquarters. Data uploaded was reviewed by headquarters with additional feedback and instructions provided to teams.