


POST 2015 DATA TEST

**UNPACKING THE DATA REVOLUTION-
SIERRA LEONE**

LAY OUT OF PRESENTATION

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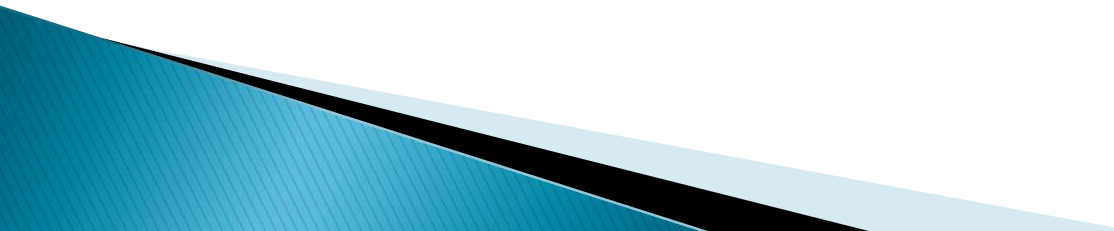
INTRODUCTION

- ▶ As the world braces itself for 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), governments, development partners, international organisations and civil society organizations have queried the modus operandi for monitoring progress on MDGs amidst statistical inadequacy in many developing countries.

SIERRA LEONE –CASE STUDY

- ▶ Sierra Leone cannot boast of an autonomous National Statistical Office and the staff turnover for the decade 2004–2013 has been very high. However, the office maintains a unit dedicated, in some form, to the monitoring of progress on the MDGs, especially data on targets and indicators for poverty, education and health.

OVERVIEW

- ▶ There is ample room for improvement in data collection in Sierra Leone, increasing frequency, quality assurance and putting in place a mechanism that dictates what type of data should be collected by agencies, CSOs and NGOs and the mode of collection.
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OVERVIEW

- ▶ Statistics Sierra Leone is processing the second National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) to provide a pool of resources for data collection by all MDAs in a concerted and collaborative manner throughout the country. The first NSDS was as a result of IMF Macroeconomic Mission assessment of the status of the country's macroeconomic data base.

OVERVIEW

- ▶ The last Labour Force survey was conducted in 1989/90 and the second is underway as the data is captured for cleaning and analysis.
- ▶ The fifth census since 1963 (1963, 1974, 1985, 2004) would be conducted in March/April due to the outbreak of Ebola.

OVERVIEW

- ▶ The development of NSDS will lead to “constant improvement, efficient and coordinated production, client consciousness, and a speedier delivery of quality information for decision and policy makers, donors and other users of official statistics” (NSDS 2008–2012 p ii–iii).

DATA AVAILABILITY

- ▶ The dearth in data had been identified over ten (10) years ago and as such it is not surprising that measuring the post-2015 SDGs would require extra efforts to report on certain indicators and collect additional information, particularly in the areas of environment, energy, governance, human rights and global partnership for sustainable development.

DATA AVAILABILITY

- ▶ Unofficial data is collected by various Commissions, such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, Decentralisation Secretariat and programmatic data collected by the Ministry of Health and School censuses conducted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) .

DATA QUALITY

- ▶ These are data that cannot be used in measuring progress on post-2015 SDGs in Sierra Leone because the methodology(ies) used might not be compatible with each other.

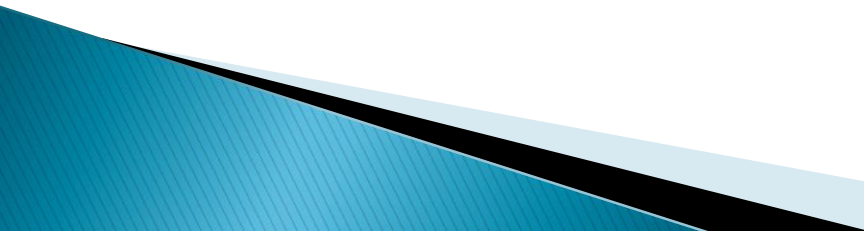
DATA ACCESSIBILITY

- ▶ Even with the small amount of data the level of access to official data is problematic. Sierra Leone is still grappling with issues of Freedom of information (FOI), and the Media is searching for a place in the sun. Thus, it is very difficult to hold government to account for progress against MDG goals not to mention SDG goals.

THE MDGS IN SIERRA LEONE

- ▶ Deliberate efforts had been made to position the MDGs or align development priorities to the MDGs. PRSP II (Agenda for Change) and PRSP III (Agenda for Prosperity) have dimensions closely linked to MDGs including
 - reducing poverty, diversifying the economy to achieve inclusive growth, job creation (particularly decent work, reducing gender inequality.

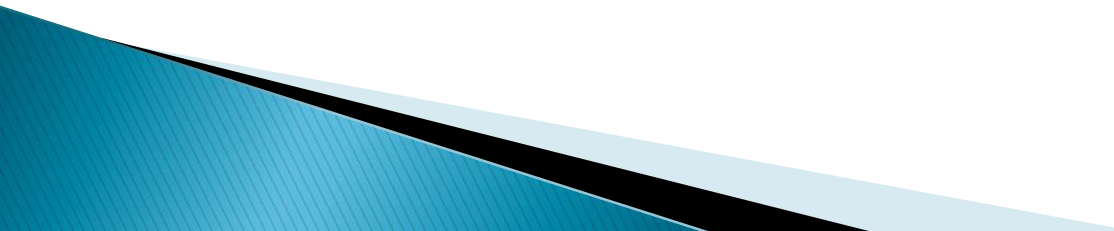
REALIZING SDGS, INCLUDING GLOBAL MINIMUM STANDARDS?

- ▶ The reality however is that poverty cannot be reduced by half, though it was reduced by close to 10 percentage points.
 - ▶ Universal primary school education cannot be met.
 - ▶ Maternal and infant mortality is reducing because of the free health care but not on target.
 - ▶ Environmental degradation increasing rather than reducing.
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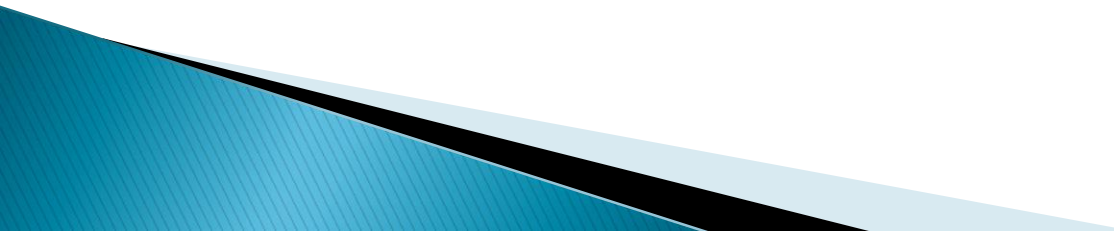
REALIZING SDGS, INCLUDING GLOBAL MINIMUM STANDARDS?

- ▶ Infrastructure, including energy, is at a nascent stage.
- ▶ Issues surrounding global partnership have not been properly grasped by the national statistical office in terms of tariff free exports, sustainable debt relief/forgiveness and proportion of ODA disbursed.

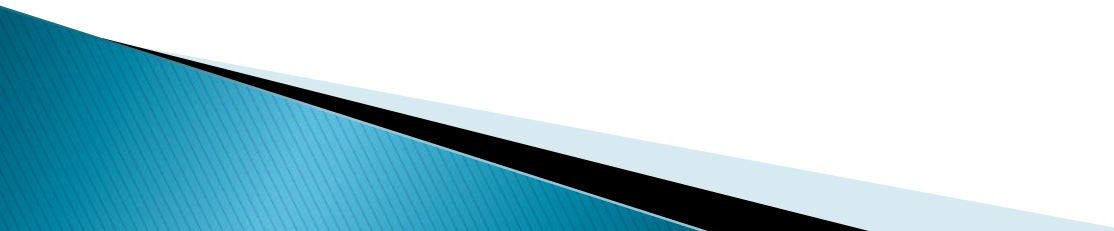
RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ The Sierra Leone Statistical System needs strengthening in all dimensions, not limited to the provision of adequate resources (both human and financial) to improve on the provision of timely, relevant and good quality data for evidence based policy making.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- As we embark on the SDGs, consultation with domestic stakeholders should be a priority in the process by which national priorities are identified, especially for local Government functionaries, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to provide input and feedback not only at the national level, but also at the local level.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Statistics Sierra Leone should prepare an outreach programme for other data users and producers.
 - ▶ SSL should disseminate information about the policies and procedures related to the preparation and presentation of metadata, methods of reporting on quality of data sources.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ More needs to be done on improved compilation of data of new entrants into the labour market, through a Labour market Information System, the energy, environment, gender, governance and infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ The Statistical Office in Sierra Leone and Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) need collaborative efforts with international statistical organizations to provide comparable data across countries and regions.
- ▶ SSL to experiment with non-traditional methods (geo-data, use of smart phones) of data collection especially data on environment.