



Statement on the Preliminary Report of the Final Results

of the *first digital census* in Sierra Leone

–2021 Mid-Term Population and Housing Census–

By the

Chief Census Officer

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Opening Courtesies

- ✓ Mr Chairman
- ✓ H.E. the President
- ✓ Honourable Vice President
- ✓ Chief Minister
- ✓ Minister of Planning and Economic Development and other Ministers here present
- ✓ (SPK &) Members of Parliament
- ✓ Our Development Partners
- ✓ Members of Statistics Council and Stats SL team
- ✓ Members of the CSO and NGO Community here present
- ✓ Members of the fourth estate here present
- ✓ Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon.

I feel very blessed today to speak to you as the Chief Census Officer for the first fully digital Population and Housing Census successfully conducted in Sierra Leone.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, on the **31st of May 2022**, we announced the **provisional results** of the Mid-Term Population and Housing Census in Sierra Leone, conducted in December 2021. Just a few months later, we completed the review of the data and provided the final results to the Government of Sierra Leone.

As indicated by the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, today is a ceremony for His Excellency the President to receive the preliminary report of the final results. We will provide a publication schedule for the comprehensive analytic and thematic reports.

Stats SL is pleased to report that an intensive data review **did not** result in a significant change in the provisional results. There is a total of **7,061** individuals added to the provisional total reported. This confirms the robust processes we put in place and consequently the high quality data we have generated.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen: In my published statement during the announcement of the provisional results, I provided key reasons why we had to go to the field, stating the key objectives. I am pleased to report that Stats SL achieved the objectives of the 2021 Mid-Term Population and Housing Census. I had also explained the digital methodology used, starting from the cartographic mapping and ending with the main enumeration.

Sierra Leone can now be proud of having conducted its first digital census, like a few other African countries have done: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Botswana. It is good to see that Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Rwanda and several others are now following us. We are a small country but we can also lead in Africa.

Stats SL is proud to announce that we will henceforth be able to provide population data at the **Locality, Ward, Section, Chiefdom/Council, District and Regional levels** and due to the digital methods used, these data can be generated in a timely manner.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen Stats SL now also has a **reliable sampling frame to support all important socio-economic surveys** for local and national development planning purposes.

While announcing the provisional results, I stressed the importance of a *de facto* census in which we counted people where they slept on the **Census Night of 9th December 2021**, whether or not those places were their usual places of residence. So, the population we report is the **census night population**. I further explained that we required only one member of the household to respond to our questions on behalf of the entire household members.

Please allow me to reiterate the processes that led to the success of the digital 2021 Mid-Term Population and Census: We conducted a locality verification exercise; a digital cartographic mapping; a digital pilot census; and a digital main enumeration exercise. We were on top of all technical issues.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen: I wish to stress that the training for the main enumeration was done at district level, where recruitment of census staff was also carried out. This was in response to local authorities who wished to have their 'sons and daughters' work in their local areas. We are therefore delighted to report that these young men and women demonstrated exceptional willingness to enumerate their own people. To buttress the acknowledgements already made by the Chairman of the Statistics Council, Stats SL is grateful to all our field staff.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen: I will now present the preliminary report of the final results of the first fully digital 2021 Mid-Term Population and Housing Census.

Thank you.