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OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS
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**THE CURRENT STATUS OF VITAL STATISTICS
AND CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEMS
IN SIERRA LEONE**

BY

**Mrs. C.H. LANSANA
AND
Mr. M. FOFANA**

COUNTRY REPORT
ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF VITAL STATISTICS
AND CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ACCELERATING
THE IMPROVEMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS AND
CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

Mrs C H Lansana : Deputy Director, Central Statistics Office

Mr M Fofana : Deputy Registrar, Births and Deaths

Freetown

Sierra Leone

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A b s t r a c t

The state of data collection, compilation and publication in Sierra Leone is in dire need of reform and improvement. Methods and practices of data collection in respect of both civil and vital registration systems have to be unified. Ofcourse expansion in coverage and scope is to be an ultimate objective of any programme of reforms and measures designed to accelerate their improvement.

The present report is an attempt to make a thorough situational analysis and description of both the civil registration and vital statistics system. It encompasses all aspects of their operation such as the legal framework, the administrative arrangement and the technical issues implied. Moreover, an indept analysis of the public attitude towards the registration process is portrayed.

Furthermore, since civil registration operates under a separate administration from that of the vital statistics system, the analysis thus warrant a differential account of each sector. The report highlights in a concise assessment, the strengths and weaknesses, problems and constraints of both systems and the identification of important obstacles to be urgently addressed. Thus, it is but fitting to construe the document as providing the basic framework and required information for the formulation of a comprehensive National Policy to improve the existing state of the systems.

The Country Report is organized in to four broad chapters with the fifth as the inherent Conclusions and Recommendations. Chapter One provides the General Background information encompassing the Historical, Political, Economic, Socio-cultural and Geographical

profiles of the country. This puts the study in perspective and is expected to correlate or account for the underlying factors responsible for the existing state of affairs in the country.

Chapter Two deals exclusively with the demographic scenario of Sierra Leone and the nature of data collection at the macro-level. The two succeeding chapters (3&4) depicts indept analysis of the civil registration and vital registration systems, respectively. Finally, the Conclusions and Recommendations identify key issues that are to be prioritized for an eventual improvement of both systems. A list of reference materials utilized for the study including appendices together comprise the last section of the report.

FREETOWN

SIERRA LEONE

OCTOBER, 1994.

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CHAPTER 1

1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

1.1 LOCATION AND SIZE

Sierra Leone is located in the west coast of Africa bordered by Guinea, Liberia and the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The country has a total land area of 71,740 sq. km. and a Coastline of 270 km along the Atlantic Ocean. The rest of the country is divided into three provinces: Northern (35,773 sq. km.), Southern (20,213 sq. km.) and Eastern (15,095 sq. km.).

1.2 CLIMATE

Its climate is of a rainy season and a dry with ample supply of cold hamattan winds. These two have together generated conditions of high relative humidity, cloudiness, heavy downpours during the wet season ranging between 15 - 50 centimeters (one of the highest in the region) warm days and nights - with temperatures exceeding 27^oc during the dry season. The dry season spans between December and April with an average annual temperature of about 80^oF.

1.3 LAND - USE

The land consists of vast arable lands and portions of tropical forest lands mainly in the Eastern and Southern regions and a range of mountains scattered all over the

country. The influencing factor of the climate favors the formation of forests but the impact of human being and their habits have reduced the space occupied by primary forest from 60% to a meager 5% of the land area. The rest of the land is 20% secondary forest, 45% farm bush and the rest have savannah. The major environmental problems are deforestation and over-grazing of farm lands. The extensive use of arable land is hampered by the land tenure system which allocates land ownership and utilization in the hands of particular communities, families and individuals.

1.4 SOCIO - CULTURAL

Sierra Leone's population is composed of seventeen ethnic groups with a non-native influential Lebanese and Indian communities. The Krios are a minority population of descendants of freed slaves who were brought in from Nova Scotia, the United States, the Caribbean Islands, South America and some from the high seas of the Atlantic. The Cultural mix of tribes of Sierra Leone and peoples of neighboring countries have been very extensive though their various areas of influence have not been even in the geographic, political and economic spheres in the country.

1.5 POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone gained independence from the United Kingdom in April of 1961 and became a Republic in 1978. The country

is divided into four administration regions within which are carved unequal and unevenly distributed twelve districts. Each district also has within its jurisdiction chiefdoms, with a total of 148 chiefdoms. Prior to independence the colonial administration ruled indirectly through the local paramount chief who is answerable to a District Commissioner who in turn answered to the crown colony in the Metropolis.

1.6 THE ECONOMY

Sierra Leone is basically what can be economically described as a primary producer. The economy thrives on exporting minerals like unpolished alluvial Diamonds, Bauxite, Rutile, Ilemnite and the export of cash crop like Coffee, Kola nuts, Ginger and Palm kernel. Its imports consist mainly of fuel supply, machinery and food items. Its industrial base is weak in that it has not got a "back-bone" industry like steel mill, thriving tourist business and a reliable electricity generation. Various development plans and adhoc programmes have been tried but failed woefully in satisfying the country's basic food needs which has its consequent negative effects on the health of the population and hence on labour output. This, put in the perspective of an incessant rebel war in the southern and Eastern parts of the country, makes the economic picture more desolate.

(i) GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP)

The domestic economy of the country is based primarily on agriculture and extractive industries (mainly diamond, bauxite, gold and rutile). In 1990, the GNP (Gross National Product) stood at about Le409 billion (an equivalent of US \$ 743 Million) and the average annual growth rate between 1980-1990 was - 1.6%. The sectoral composition in percent were as follows:-

Agriculture	-	41.5%
Industry	-	14.0%
Manufacturing	-	3.0%
Services	-	41.5%

The per capita income at current prices in 1991 was Le115,500 (and equivalent of US \$ 210).

(ii) MAJOR AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The major agricultural products include rice, coffee, cocoa, palm kernel and ginger. Other food crops include cassava, millet, beans, potatoes and fruits. Presently export crops consist of coffee, cocoa and ginger. Rice which is the staple food has not been exported for the last two decades due to low production and high consumption rate and the decline in the average annual growth rate in population in the agricultural sector.

In industrial production, the share of manufacturing in

the GDP has been declining from 6% in 1970 to 3% in 1991. Consumer industrial products include food, beverages, tobacco and refined fuel oil. The value of industrial production dropped from US \$ 30 Million in 1970 to US \$ 14 Million in 1991. This decline is due to the high import content of manufacturing industry and the high growth rate of inflation which jumped up from an average annual rate of 12.5% (1970 - 80) to 59.3% (1980 - 1991).

(iii) FOREIGN TRADE

The external trade and balance of payments position is unfavourable. In 1991, exports summed up to US \$ 145 Million while imports amounted to US \$ 163 Million. This situation arose from low export prices and the corresponding high import prices. The increase in the value of food imports was brought about partly by the increasing purchasing power of the population and rising standards of consumption but has also contributed to a decline in agricultural activities owing to the attraction of the population from the land to make fortunes in alluvial diamond mining and other urban commercial centers.

Government has, within varying periods implemented measures aimed at a restoration of a more stabilized pattern of agricultural production. There have been efforts at making investments in public and social services (such as schools,

hospitals and roads) and in the development of the economy (e.g. rural and agricultural development in industries, strengthening of the services sector through banking and insurance, and the development of the telecommunication infrastructures). In short, since colonial times, the economy of the country has been somehow conditioned to respond to the needs of markets in the industrialized First World: Consequently, it therefore turned out to be an export-oriented economy to the extent that the natural resource base was exploited to the benefit of the First World.

Over time, however and in spite of efforts to achieve meaningful socio-economic development targets, development planning seems to have brought about more problems than solutions: large - scale and growing rural/urban imbalances, large numbers of under-employed and unemployed, the brain drain and the rising rate of crime in particularly the urban centers.

CHAPTER 2

DEMOGRAPHIC AND BASIC INFORMATION OF THE COUNTRY

2.1 Demographic Characteristics

Sierra Leone can be demographically described as a young country considering the fact that over 50% of the population are below 20 years of age. This, according to a recent country-wide survey conducted by the Central Statistics Office in 1992 (Demographic and Social Monitoring Survey), puts Sierra Leone into the general descriptive characteristic of developing countries. A detailed statistics of the country's population is given in table 1 below.

2.1.1 Estimate of the Total Population

Excluding the two districts of Pujehun and Kailahun (as a result of rebel activities in these regions) and two towns of Kabala and Magburaka, the estimated population of the country in 1992 was 3.2 million (table 2.1). If we should add the 1992 projected population of the excluded areas (according to the 1985 Census result), the estimated total population of the entire country comes around 4.1 million. The population of large towns accounts for 31%, small towns 10% and rural areas 59% of the total population, showing a high degree of urbanization since the last census (1985).

TABLE 2.1 ESTIMATED POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX
SIERRA LEONE - 1992

AGE GROUP	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES
00 - 04	478,100	237,903	240,197
05 - 09	483,104	244,601	238,503
10 - 14	350,597	185,227	165,140
15 - 19	310,597	141,341	169,256
20 - 24	236,088	101,450	134,638
25 - 29	272,208	114,409	158,169
30 - 34	222,208	101,303	120,905
35 - 39	215,362	105,887	109,475
40 - 44	156,000	79,447	76,553
45 - 49	135,774	77,247	58,228
50 - 54	95,812	52,411	43,370
55 - 59	70,883	40,656	30,228
60 - 64	57,135	27,409	29,726
65 PLUS	126,740	66,163	60,578
TOTAL	3,210,749	1,575,484	1,635,264

Source : DSMS '92 , Central Statistics Office, Freetown

Table 2.2 also shows the distribution of persons in percentage terms. It is clearly illustrative of a high fertility and mortality rates in a developing country with the typical 'broad bottom' pyramidal age structure. In other words, it reveals a very large proportion (41%) of children (0-14) and a very small proportion of elderly persons (4%). This age structure can be attributed to the net effects of

fertility, mortality and migration over the years. An emerging fact from the table again is that the country has to bear the burden of child care (children between 0-14 years) which amounts to 41% of the total population.

TABLE 2.2 **PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION BY**
AGE GROUP AND SEX, SIERRA LEONE - 1992

AGE GROUP	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
00 - 04	14.9	15.1	14.7
05 - 14	25.9	27.3	24.7
15 - 44	44.1	40.8	47.1
45 - 65	11.2	12.5	9.9
65 PLUS	3.9	4.2	3.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: DSMS '92, Central Statistics Office, Freetown

The overall sex-ratio as derived from table 2.1 is 96.3 males per 100 females. The sex ratio for rural areas is 94.8 compared to 98.8 for (table 2.3) is classed as 'young' for large towns it is as low as 6.8% compared to 10.4% and 11.0% for small towns and small areas respectively. The dependency ratio which shows how many dependants each 100 persons in the productive population segment must support is given in percentages. Table 2.2 also shows that the country has a dependency ratio of 81% which illustrates the economic disadvantages inherent in the population structure. This is especially so in small towns and rural areas (82 and 84

percents respectively).

TABLE 2.3 SEX RATIO, PROPORTION OF CHILDREN (0-14),
DEPENDENCY RATIO AS COMPARED TO THE 1985 CENSUS -
COUNTRY AND STRATA.

CHARACTERISTICS	LARGE TOWNS	SMALL TOWNS	RURAL AREAS	COUNTRY	CENSUS 1985
Percentage of total Population	30.95	9.94	59.11		
Sex Ratio	98.8	98.0	94.8	96.3	98.7
Percentage of Children (00 - 14)	40.2	40.8	41.2	40.8	41.4
Aged - Child Ratio	6.8	10.4	11.0	9.7	13.9
Dependency Ratio	75.0	82.0	84.4	81.2*	89.4

* Child Dependency Ratio is estimated at 74%

Source : Central Statistics Office, Freetown.

2.2 Birth and Death Rates

The crude birth rate estimated from the DSMS was 45.42 live births per 1000 population. This confirms a high fertility rate for the country. A total fertility rate of 6.60 and Gross reproduction of 3.25 was reported also from the survey. The woman child ratio was also put at 578.

The results of the 1992 DSMS survey showed a high crude death rate of 31.0 for the country and high infant mortality rate of 150 per 1000 live births. The infant mortality rate shows a decline in mortality levels from 194 in 1985 to 150 in

1992. The decline is almost 30% which is suggestive of an improvement in pre-natal care.

TABLE 2.4 FERTILITY INDICATORS FOR THE COUNTRY AS COMPARED WITH 1985 CENSUS AND INDICATORS FOR STRATA

FERTILITY INDICATORS	DSMS '92	CENSUS 85	LARGE TOWNS	SMALL TOWN	RURAL AREAS
CRUDE BIRTH RATE	45.42	49.80	35.57	46.82	50.34
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE	6.60	6.42	5.15	6.30	7.47
CROSS REPRODUCTION	3.25	3.16	2.54	3.10	3.68
GENERAL FERTILITY	175	208	145	184	190
CHILD WOMAN RATIO	578	686	482	574	630

Source : Central Statistics Office, Freetown

The mortality situation is still high but is encouraging to note a decline in especially infant mortality from 194 in 1985 to 150 in 1992. Looking at cause of death information it is disheartening to note that malaria accounts for 60% of all deaths. Malaria, Diarrhoea, measles and tetanus with irregular outbreaks of cholera constitute the majority of agents of death of infants and pre-schoolers.

TABLE 2.5

MORTALITY INDICATORS

REGION	CRUDE DEATH RATE			INFANT MORTALITY RATE		
	MALES	FEMALES	BOTH	MALES	FEMALES	BOTH
COUNTRY	35.5	26.7	31.0	181.9	116.2	149.6
SMALL TOWNS	20.3	14.6	17.4	96.3	68.1	82.9
LARGE TOWNS	49.0	37.6	43.1	231.6	147.2	191.4
RURAL AREAS	41.3	31.0	36.0	210.4	130.2	170.2

Source: DSMS '92, Central Statistics Office, Freetown

CHAPTER 3

THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

3.1 Legal Framework of the System.

The Registration of Births and Deaths (and Marriages) in Sierra Leone dates back to the time of the first settlers. The precise nature of the early history of such registration is often not well comprehended, even by Demographers and Population Experts. However, from available records, in 1791 the Directors of the Sierra Leone Company issued a long list of orders and regulations to the Superintendent and Council 'for the settlement, for the Trade, Civilization, Defense, Government and General Welfare of the Settlement!

Regulation No. 46 was entitled "Register of Births etc" and read:

"You are to take care also that Register shall be kept of all births, Deaths and Marriages either of settlers, and that a Bill of mortality be made up with as much exactness as possible, and transmitted to us once a year at least, and still oftener at the first!"

Regulation No. 69 moreover was entitled "Causes of Death Sickness to be specified"; and read:

"You are to desire that in every case of death or material sickness, at the first causes of the disorder shall be reported to you, that they may be notified to us!"

It is clear therefore that it was the intention of the Sierra Leone Company to ensure the registration of Births and Deaths as soon as the settlement was established. The phrase

(or Reg. 46) "either of settlers or others" indicates that the Company was not merely interested in the registration of settlers alone but also wanted to know of the births and deaths of 'others', i.e. Company servants, soldiers etc. The intention to establish precise registration was of cause radical given the fact that it was not until 1837 that Britain itself passed its first Act make registration of births and deaths compulsory.

As with all radical procedures the registration of births and deaths in 1791 and 1792 was entirely successful. Some of the settlers had in fact been deceiving the storekeeper not giving prompt information on deaths. This in turn leads to the deduction that registration of births and deaths was not efficient, or indeed practiced prior to July 1792, since a functioning registration scheme would surely have ensured that all births and deaths be notified immediately.

3.2 THE FIRST REGISTRATION ACT (1801)

With the arrival of the Maroons the need for a more efficient system of registration became even more urgent and on 7th March 1801, the following Act was passed:

"WHEREAS both the public good of this Colony, and the interests of individuals require that an authentic Register of Births and Deaths be kept within the same, the Governor and Council, enact, declared, and Resolve:-

(i) That every Settler in this Colony being the Father of an infant born in Marriage shall within 28 days after the Birth of such infant give notice thereof to one of the Persons hereafter mentioned, and on failure of giving such notice, either verbally or in writing, shall forfeit the sum of Four Dollars.

(ii) That the Mother of the infant be required to give this notice, subject to the above penalty on failure therefore in case the father should be dead, or absent from the Colony, at the time of the birth of the said infant, and also in cases of Bastardy, whether the reputed father be living or not.

(iii) That in case of the death of any Settler in this Colony, the surviving Husband or Wife, or if there be no Survivor of this class, the Father or Mother, or if no surviving Father or Mother the Relation of the person deceased, be required to give notice of such death within 28 days after knowledge thereof under the penalty of Four Dollars, on failure of giving such notice.

(iv) That any person giving information of the birth of an infant, being the offspring of any Settler in this Colony; or of the death of any Settler in default of due notice thereof by the party of whom such notice is required, and within 28 days after the Expiration of the time limited in either and every such case be entitled to a Reward of Four Dollars.

(v) That notice be given in the cases aforesaid by the parties of whom such notice is required if resident in the district of Freetown, to the Secretary for the time being at Fort Thornton; and if resident in the district of Granville Town to the Justice of the Peace for that district.

(vi) That the aforesaid Resolutions have the force and Authority of a Bylaw in this Colony".

There is no evidence regarding the effectiveness of this Act. By 1808 however it was clearly not functioning with

complete coverage of all births and deaths. Thus Viscount Goderich in a Despatch to Lieutenant Governor Findlay dated 18th January 1832 wrote:

"To determine the actual number of births and deaths since the year 1808, by any reference to the Population Returns, is unfortunately impracticable it being evident that no such Returns have ever been made with even a plausible approach to accuracy".

The history of registration after 1802 however is another matter; sufficient to say that the 1801 Act was the culmination of a period of trial and error in registration, but trial and error of a particularly intriguing kind since it represents one of the first recorded example of a registration system both in theory and in practice.

In a resolution adopted on 17 June 1824 the House of Commons asked for 'An account of the Number of Births in the Colony of Sierra Leone, distinguishing Males from Females, in the years 1817 - 1823'. The Colonial Secretary replied: (7) "No general record of births has ever been kept, nor is there any means of ascertaining, or even estimating the Total Number in the years specified". A Commission of Enquiry was appointed to investigate (inter alia) such irregularities in the Colony and issued instructions on 16 November 1826 that figures of births and deaths among Liberated Africans be reported quarterly.

But these reports were not prepared regularly and the Committee of Inquiry constituted to investigate the 'Charge delivered by Mr. Chief Justice Jeffcott to the Grand Jury of Sierra Leone, on the Subject of the Slave Trade' complained in their report dated 26th October, 1830 that the 'returns which have been presented' to them were 'very imperfect'.

Moreover even in 1832 the situation had not been rectified and Viscount Goderich in a despatch to Lieutenant Governor Findlay (dated 18th January, 1832) wrote: 'To determine the actual number of births and deaths since the 1808, by any reference to the Population Returns, is unfortunately impracticable, it being evident that no such Returns have ever been made with even a plausible approach to accuracy. It should be required that every birth and death occurring among them (Liberated Africans), should be reported to the Managers of the different Settlements, or to the Authorities of Freetown, by whom the Returns should be transmitted to the Assistant Superintendent of Liberated Africans, who again should be bound to make periodical Reports on the subject to the Colony Secretary, for your information. You will immediately adopt the necessary measures for procuring the concurrence of the Council in the promulgation of a law, to be framed in such a manner as may give full effect to this instruction.' On the 7th June 1832 therefore Governor Findlay presided at a meeting of the Council wherein it was enacted to 'enforce the due Registration of Births and Deaths within this Colony'.(7)

Basically this Ordinance involved the Parish Priests and Managers/Superintendents of the villages keeping 'district and separate Registers for each Parish or District under their care'. Births had to be registered within 14 days (with a penalty of 20 shillings or in default of such payment 3 weeks in goal) similar procedures were listed for deaths. In all cases the events could be reported 'either verbally or in writing' to the appropriate 'Registrar'. The actual forms scheduled from this Ordinance require details (for births) of: Christian name of Father and Mother: if born in wedlock: religion and date of birth. Death forms require: name of deceased; name of father & mother; date of decease; observations. Presumably the last was intended for causes of

death. There is no record of how this Ordinance fared, although one or two registers still survive from the Freetown Area. At all events the 1832 Act was repealed by the general registration Ordinance of 1857 (9th February 1857) which was headed:

"WHEREAS it is expedient to provide the means for a complete Registers of Title to Lands, Births, Deaths, Baptisms, Marriages, and other matters of Her Majesty's subjects in the Colony of Sierra Leone, whereby evidence of title to property may be more easily obtained and statistical information afforded for purposes of public interest and utility, and whereby also crime may be more readily discovered and more efficiently suppressed..."

The act provided for a Registrar-General (appointed by the Governor) and also for Registrars of births and deaths for particular areas (again appointed by the Governor). These Registrars were to be helped by Officers of the Police force who were required to inform the Registrar of any birth or death in a given district. Durable books were scheduled and specific items required to be listed for both births and deaths. The time allowed for registration was shortened and penalties increased (to five pounds) and in general a complete system for registration was enacted in which little was now left in doubt, either regarding the registrar's duty or concerning the need for prompt registration of every vital event.

With two minor amendments (22nd February 1858 and 28th September 1869) this Ordinance endured until 1883 when (on 9th November) an Act to amend the 1857 Ordinance was passed. The 1883 Act required the registration of births within 42 days, permitted the register to order people in default to attend his office, required the registrar 'to inform himself carefully of every birth' in his district, made certain

provisions for fees for registration, laid down procedures for late registrations, illegitimate children, and alterations or insertions of names. Deaths were similarly covered with particular attention paid in the Ordinance to burials the role of the Coroner and causes of death. The actual fees payable to registrars were listed in a further Ordinance on 9th May 1884 (e.g. 2p for each birth and death registered). Two amendments to the 1883 Act were passed on 2nd March 1893 and 10 January, 1895 respectively. They concerned the appointment of registrars and specific registration areas as well as a further delineation of the duties of registrars.

On the 2nd December, 1905 a bill entitled 'the births and deaths registration consolidation and amendment ordinance 1905' was proposed. After discussion however the bill was withdrawn on 12th May 1906 and a further bill put forward (with the same title) on 30th July 1906. The major part of this Ordinance followed the same pattern as the 1883 Ordinance. In Section V however there was a paragraph on Permissive Registration:

"In the case of births of deaths occurring outside the Districts to which this Ordinance applies either in the Colony or protectorate any person, who, if such birth or death had occurred within any such district, would have been required to inform the Registrar, may, if he so thinks fit, inform the Local Registrars shall register in after appointed of such birth or death, and such Local Registrars shall register particulars required to be registered..."

Accompanying this Ordinance was a list of Regulations for the Registration of Births and Deaths (Regulation No. 6 of 8th July, 1908). These detailed the precise duties of Registrars and methods of entering particulars etc. in the registers. By

1913 however there was considerable ill-feeling against the 1906 Ordinance and a desire to return to the compulsory registration of the 1883 Act. The ill-feeling is best described by the words of the Attorney General in asking leave of the Council on 6th June 1913 to introduce an "Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Births and Deaths". He said:

"Prior to No.9 of 1906, the Ordinance under which the registration of Births and Deaths takes place, registration of Births and Deaths throughout the Colony was compulsory and gratuitous, and had been so since 1857. The old law was altered by the Ordinance of 1906, which required compulsory registration only in Freetown. It is indeed intended by this bill to repeal Ordinance No. 9 of 1906, under which registration at present takes place except registration throughout the whole of the Colony...Part 4 is new and is to apply only to Freetown where it is considered that a number of births at present escape registration. It provides for the appointment of a Registrar's Officer, whose duty it will be to find out all births, and for this purpose he is given certain powers. Still births which at present are not registered, are to be registered in the same way as other births. No dead body of still born is to be buried without an order signed by the Registrar or the Coroner. The Medical authorities consider this Part of the Ordinance very important, and the provisions will allow of more accurate information being obtained for the purpose of preparing Vital Statistics".

The Act was passed on the 25th June 1913 (Ordinance 13 of 1913) and remains the basis of the present laws on registration (with the important exception of registration in the provinces).

From this date onwards Medical Statistics in fact show a marked improvement, especially as the Ministry of Health was now actively involved in the compilation of the reports on births and deaths. Following the Ordinance preliminary to the preparation of a revised edition of the laws in 1924 an Ordinance was passed on 7th December 1929 amending certain sections of the 1913 Act. 'Health Districts' were now the basis for the areas covered by the given registrars and the sections of registration in the Protectorate was again amended. The law now permitted the Governor in Council on the request of the Paramount Chief concerned by Order to declare that the provisions of the (1913) Ordinance should apply to all natives born or dying in any Health District in the same manner as they applied in such a District in the Colony. The first such order in Council was passed on 30th December 1930 and another major Order was also passed in September 1935. The latter Order (No. 12 of 1935) defined the Colony (for registration purposes) into the following districts: Freetown, Wilberforce, Regent, Kissy, Wellington, Hasting, Waterloo, Songo Town, Makomba, Russell, Kent, York, Sussex, Hamilton, Tassoh Island, Sherbro Judicial District, and the Banana Islands.

Also in 1935 (Order No. 20), on 21st November the following Chiefdoms were required to have compulsory registration of births and deaths: Northern Province - Bake Loko; Bombali Sebora; Gowahun, Magbema, Warawara Yagala; Southern Province - Bagru; Dase; Gandima; Gbema; Jawi; Kakua; Kongbora; Luawa; Lubu; Mongowa; Panga; Ribbi; Upper Bambara. Newton was added to the list for the Colony in 1946 (Cf. P.N. No. 152 of 1946) as were Goderich (Cf. P.N. No 70 of 1946) and Campbell Town (P.N. 73 of 1955).

The remaining laws on the registration of births and deaths in the Country concern the additions and amendments to

these lists of compulsory areas, apart that is from the major Ordinance on Registration in the Protectorate in 1948 (No. 14) which came into effect on 1st January 1951. This Ordinance restated that the Governor in Council could require specified Chiefdoms to register vital events. The six Chiefdoms specified in the initial order (P.N. 132 of 1950) were Magbema, Jawei, Nongowa, Nimi-Koro Jong and Kaiyamba. Panga-Kabonde was added to the list by an Order in 1955 (P.N. No 105 of 1955) and then in 1962 14 further Chiefdoms in the Kailahun District of the Eastern Province were added: Dia, Jaluahun, Upper Jawi, Lower Jawi, Kissi Kama, Kissi Teng, Kissi Tungi, Luawa, Malema, Mandu, Pejewa, Benguia, Upper Bambara, Yawei. Also in 1962 (P.N. 3 of 1962) two Chiefdoms in the Northern Province were required to have compulsory registration. These were Maforki and Marampa Masimera. More Orders soon followed whereby Samu Chiefdom was declared compulsory (P.N. 84 of 1962) as well as Makeni Township in the Bombali Sebora Chiefdom (P.N. 144 of 1962).

At the present time therefore registration of births and deaths is compulsory in all Districts of the Western Area (including the Sherbro Judicial District) and in 23 Chiefdoms in the Provinces. The 23 Chiefdoms are: all 14 Chiefdoms in the Kailahun District; Nongowa, Kaiyamba, Jong, Maforki, Marampa Masimera, Magbema, Panga Kabonde, Nimi-Koro and Samu Chiefdoms. In addition 4 Town Council areas (Bo Town, Kenema Town, Makeni Town and Koidu-New Sembehun Town) are compulsory registration areas.

3.3 THE PRESENT LAWS

These therefore are the areas and Districts of Sierra Leone in which registration is compulsory. It must be remembered however that the fragmentary development of registration has still left the country with large areas in which registration is optional. There are thus therefore two

separate systems of registration in the country at the moment:

1. A compulsory system under which all births, still births and deaths are by law to be registered; this system governed by Cap. 92 of the Laws of Sierra Leone 1960 operates only in the Western Area and Sherbro Urban District.
2. A largely optional system in the rest of the country (again under the Laws of Sierra Leone 1960 but Cap. 93). Under this system however the 23 Chiefdoms listed above and the 4 Town Council areas are designated as compulsory registration areas. These two separate systems have different types of Birth Certificates and two types of Death Certificates. Also a birth can be registered in the Western Area anytime after it has occurred, e.g. even up to 100 years or more with an affidavit to support the date and a late registration fee of Le1.00. In the Provinces the upper limit is seven years. Remuneration to Registrars also differs in the two areas of the country. Another significant difference involves the attitude of the people. In the Western Area compulsory registration is accented as a normal duty of a citizen. In the Provinces however registration is still regarded with skepticism and is consequently much less complete and effective.

While Sierra Leone has a long tradition in registering births and deaths, registration coverage and completeness has remained low. Some of the reasons for this have been the existence of two different registration systems in the country, the lack of trained personnel and the lack of adequate civil registrations methods and procedures. In order to improve registration coverage and completeness, the Government submitted a proposal to UNFPA to support the

development of a new system for civil registration and Vital Statistics and to test it in a model area. The project was implemented in Sierra Leone in 1980 under the supervision of a UN Adviser for a duration of 18 months. Several other Missions based on similar projects followed thereafter and the present activities of Civil Registration in Sierra Leone are in accordance with the recommendations of these Missions; as contained in the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1983.

3.3.1 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM

a) INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Civil Registry now has four tier hierarchical arrangement. Below the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, who is statutorily Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths in Sierra Leone, is the DEPUTY CHIEF REGISTRAR who is responsible for the day to day work of the Registry. He has immediately below him 4 SENIOR REGISTRARS who are at provincial level. The lowest rung of this four tier arrangement is occupied by the REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS who are also gazetted Government Officers at District Level. The present establishment provides for six of them. They are to serve as Registrars for Greater Freetown and four other urban areas in the country Bo, Makeni, Koidu and Kenema. The rural areas are serviced by Part-time Registrars appointed by Government on nomination of the Chiefdom Elders and in the case of the Western Area, the Village Area Committee. These Officials are given a small allowance by the Central Government (See Appendix II i.e. of Sierra Leone).

b) THE FIELD SET UP

The three Principal Medical Officers act as FIELD CO-ORDINATORS. The local authorities continue to be responsible for registration but the Government provides major supervisory role through the Senior and District Registrars as well as through the Government paid Registrars. The system of

Chiefdom Registrars buttressed by Clerical Personnel in the Registry Office form the backbone of Registration in the Rural Areas with the village Heads invested with the dignity of being informed of all Births, Deaths and Still Births which occur in their respective towns, villages or hamlets. To date, no systematic study has been undertaken to determine the size of the average population served by a registration unit. Rather Registrars are assigned to administrative units.

c) PROCEDURES FOR REGISTRATION

The Births and Deaths Act of 1983 provides under Part III the procedures and instance of varying Births and Deaths registration circumstances throughout the country. Part II of this regulation provides that:-

"(2) Every Registrar shall, without fee or reward, enter in the register maintained for the purpose all information given to him.....and shall take steps to inform himself carefully of every birth and every death which takes place in his jurisdiction, and to ascertain and register the particulars required to be registered".

All information regarding births and deaths are given by the informant (in certain cases supported by a Medical Certificate) either orally or in writing, according to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, within 30 days of a birth and 14 days of a death, to the Registrar of the several particulars required to be entered in the Forms prescribed under the Act - See Appendices A,B,C,D,E,F,G & H.

Prescribed late of delayed Registration fee is payable, together with the production of an affidavit made before a notary public or any officer authorized by the Act. These fees are minimal and do not seem to serve as an impediment in the Registration exercise.

Vital events of births and deaths are registered by place of occurrence as every Registrar has an office in the local area for which he is appointed. Birth Certificates are issued after each birth registration exercise is completed. These certificates are always required for a variety of civil functions such as baptism of children and for admission to schools and other institutions among others. Burial permits are only issued on the production of the necessary Death Certificate which is obtained after the registration procedures have been fully accomplished - See Appendix I.

d) CIVIL REGISTRATION ARCHIVES

Provision for the maintenance of records and Statistics of the Civil Registration System in Sierra Leone are set out in Part IV of the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1983 which reads inter alia:-

"20 (1) Every Registrar shall keep in the prescribed form a register of births and deaths for the registration area or any part thereof in relation to which he exercises jurisdiction.

(2) The Chief Registrar shall cause to be printed and supplied a sufficient number of register books for making entries of births and deaths according to such forms and instructions as may of such forms shall be posted in some conspicuous place on or near the outer door of every Registrar".

Search of births and deaths register are made subject to rules including rules relating to the payment of fees and postal charges any person may -

"(a) Cause a search to be made by the Registrar for any entry in a register of births and deaths; and

(b) Obtain an extract from such register relating to any birth or death.

"21. (2) All extracts given under this section shall be certified by the Registrar or any other officer authorized by the Minister to give such extracts, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth or death to which the entry relates.

Every Registrar sends, to the Chief Registrar or the Central Registry in Freetown, returns regarding the entries of births and deaths in the register kept by such Registrar at such intervals and in such forms as may be prescribed. The information in such returns are then compiled and published for information of the public, a statistical report on the registered births and deaths during the year or such other period as may be prescribed.

e) USES OF REGISTRATION RECORDS

Hence, for planning purposes, data on civil registration serve as a basis for policy formulation and decision making which attempt to throw light on the current population growth, its geographical distribution, age and sex distribution its social and economic characteristics, such as education, housing and medical facilities. It also provides information on current levels and trends of fertility and mortality.

f) ASSESSMENT OF THE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1983 has been accomplished providing the legal framework of registration to take place nation-wide under a new unified system. While the achievement took longer than expected, causing major delays in the implementation of registration activities, progress is now possible to register vital events uniformly throughout Sierra Leone. The problems and difficulties concerning the

strengthening and expansion of the Civil Registration system in Sierra Leone are partly of an organizational and administrative nature and partly related to trained personnel.

CHAPTER 4**VITAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM****4.1 AN OVERVIEW**

In general, vital statistics encompasses the registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces originated to meet public and private needs for permanent legal records of these events, and these needs continue to be very important. However, equally important are the demands for useful statistics that have come from the fields of public health, life insurance, medical research and population analysis.

The fact that the vital record is a good legal document limits the amount and kind of nonlegal information that can be included in it. The method is also affected by the number and variety of persons involved in registering the events. Moreover, if events and their associated characteristics are registered near the time of occurrence, completeness of reporting and accuracy of information are potentially greater than if reporting depends upon a later visit or letter from an enumerator or interviewer and recall of the facts of the respondents.

4.2 COLLECTION OF VITAL STATISTICS

Vital statistics systems all over differ in the amount of authority given to the collecting agency, the degree of national centralization of its organization and the type of agency carrying out the programme.

In Sierra Leone registration of vital events are compartmentalized. Birth and death registration are handled by the Civil Registration Office whilst marriages and divorces are the prerogative of the Registrar General's Office. Under

both systems, it is legally binding and compulsory to register or report all vital events within specified time periods (Act No. 11 of 1983).

Data collection of vital events is the legal responsibility of these national registration offices. The Central Statistics Office as the coordinating agency of all statistical activities in the country collates, processes and disseminate through the publishing of The Vital Statistics Report in collaboration with the Medical Statistics Unit in the Department of Health. This activity has collapsed altogether and the last report is for December, 1976.

Nonetheless, the administration of censuses and periodic demographic and health surveys makes retrospective enquiries in to all vital events preceding the survey. The information is processed and a demographic profile of the fertility and mortality scenario is established.

4.3 USES OF VITAL STATISTICS

The vital statistics compiled by the registration office since the last issue in 1976 have not been fully utilized as would have been expected. The Evaluation Mission of 1984 concluded that:

" The registered rates are not even remotely realistic except in the Western Area where completeness may have reached the 70 - 80 percent range ..."

Thus, much reliance is made on survey reports as reliable estimates of vital events has been made for the country. With the exception of births and deaths, no quantitative analysis has ever been done on vital events (marriages, divorces, etc.)

compiled by the Registrar-General's Office.

In short, the actual use made of these records is purely legalistic and administrative as it relates to inheritance questions, etc. This underscores the fact that the coverage of the system is grossly limited. Moreover, majority of the marriages and divorces in the country are contracted through the traditional rites and these are mostly not registered.

4.4 ASSESSMENT OF THE SYSTEM

The development of a viable civil and vital registration system in Sierra Leone has been beset with several problems. These includes:

- 1 Allocation of insufficient funds to this activity/sector by the national government. Schemes to improve and expand the system cannot be implemented without the initial outlay of substantial funds.
- 2 Lack of motivation on the part of the public. The benefits of the vital records and statistics are not so self-evident, especially to rural dwellers. Thus, there is need to educate the public about their uses and benefits.
- 3 Problems connected with the registration officials. The status, condition of service and expertise of the civil registration officials in the country must be improved.
- 4 Administrative management problems. This is apparent especially in the areas of coordination and supervision.
- 5 Problems of rural areas. Like many African countries, the rural areas have been neglected for a very long time.

This is more in the area of coverage.

In addition to these problems, basic obstacles have impeded efficiency in the system. These relate to the deficiencies of the current registration laws, logistical problems and the general illiteracy of the population.

CHAPTER 5

5.1 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Civil Registration system in Sierra Leone should aim at establishing a Nationwide Birth and Death Registration system capable of carrying birth and death registration facilities to the nearest distance of the entire population. This is to establish in the country an efficient birth and death registration records system for the entire population, and it is also to produce Vital Statistics data of a high degree of efficiency for deriving reliable estimates of the country's population, for evaluating the country's national population programmes and for planning the country's social, economic and health development programmes. However, this cannot be achieved in a short period. To achieve these long term objectives, it is recommended that a top priority phased programme of gradual expansion of the registration services should be planned and rigorously be followed. At the same time, the Births and Deaths Office should concentrate to further improve the registration system in the rural and urban areas of the country.

This review would reveal the organizational deficiencies, operational short comings and the technical imperfections in the Civil Registration process and should answer the specific question: Has the Act accomplished the task for which it was designed?

(i) ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL FACTORS

a. While Government has given its assent to the Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Programme by ratifying the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1983 (No. 11 of 1983), thus showing its commitment, the lack of requisite financial and personnel resources provided to the programme is indicative of the low priority given to it.

Government should therefore give adequate budgetary and personnel support to the programme.

b. The provision of registration offices with the necessary equipment and logistics easily accessible to every segment of the population is the first step towards securing complete registration. If an individual must travel a long distance at some inconvenience and expenses to himself in order to register an event, he will tend to neglect registration entirely or, at best, to delay it.

c. The machinery for registration at rural levels needs closer attention with the arrangements improved, strengthened and expanded by including other health functionaries within the Primary Health Care System. This would provide closer supervision and monitoring of registration in the rural areas of the country.

(ii) TECHNICAL FACTORS

a. The need for continued and long-term training of registration functionaries and Data Processing Personnel was recognized in recommendation 60 of the former UN Chief Technical Adviser's final report, techniques of continuous monitoring and periodic evaluation also needs to be added to the training programme.

b. A Technical Expert to supervise monitor and evaluate the progress of the programme is desirable.

(iii) THE PUBLIC

a. Improved accessibility to the public requires, extensive publicity campaign to educate and motivate the public on registration matters, promoting registration through persuasion by demanding the certificates in various stages of public life; proper maintenance of registration

records for issue on demand and periodic evaluation of the registration system to the compilation of statistical publication.

b. The lack of status of registrars has been cited as a major cause of difficulty. The post of registrar should be one of importance in the community so that registration is an acknowledged and willingly accepted obligation among the public.

LIST OF REFERENCES

1. Births and Deaths Office/Ministry of Health UNDTCD Project - SIL/79/PO3 'Briefing Notes on the Strengthening of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System in Sierra Leone Project'.
2. Comprehensive Report on Project Activities, Ministry of Health Civil Registration Project (SIL/79/PO3 - 1st January, 1988 - 31st December, 1988 By M.B.A. Kamara, Deputy Chief Registrar, Births and Deaths.
3. The Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1983 (No. 11 of 1983).
4. The Regulations are quoted by L.E.C. Evans, 'An early constitution of Sierra Leone, with an introduction', Sierra Leone Studies 17 (1932) 26 - 77.
5. Colonial Office Records 270, Vol II, pp. 59-60.
6. Diary of Lieutenant J. Clarkson R.N. (Governor 1792), Sierra Leone Studies 8 (1927).
7. Colonial Office Report 270, Vol II, p. 117 (cf. also Kuczynski, 197/8).
8. Substance of the Report delivered by the Court of Director of the Sierra Leone Company to the General Court of Proprietors on Thursday, 27th March, 1794! London, 1794.
9. Acts of the Governor and Council from 1800 to 1831, p. 10-11.
10. Acts of the Governor and Council, 1831 to 1843, pp.30-33.

Serial No.

BC No 2207

Birth Certificate No.

Issued to:

Details:

Name of Child

Sex Male/Female

Born at a.m.
Time p.m.

on 19.....
Day Month Year

at
place of birth

Name of Mother

Name of Father

Date of Registration

Place of Registration

Registration No.

Date Registrar

APPENDIX - A

APPENDIX - A
C.R. 1

Serial No.

Office of Chief
Department of

Republic of



Sierra Leone

Birth Certificate No.

BC No 22

This is to certify that a Male

Child of Nationality
Full name of Mother Nationality of Mother

and of Nationality
Full name of Father Nationality of Father

was born on 19..... at
Day Month Time of birth a.m. p.m.

at
Full address of place of birth

This event was registered at in Registry Volume No.
Registration Centre

Page No. No. of the Register of Births in the Republic of Sierra Leone

Witness my hand this day of 19.....

Official Seal

Chief Registrar

APPENDIX - B

Republic of Sierra Leone

C.R. Form

OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

LIVE BIRTH RECORD

--	--	--	--

REGISTRATION NO.

1. Place of Registration

b	ch	f

Registration Centre _____

_____/_____/_____
District Chiefdom Town/Village

For Legal Amendments only

I CHILD

2. Names and Surname _____

3. Time and Date of Birth: _____ a.m. _____ p.m. _____ Day / _____ Month / 19 _____ Year

4. Sex: Male Female

5. Place of Birth: _____/_____/_____
District Chiefdom Town/Village

II MOTHER

6. Names and Surname _____

6(a). Maiden surname _____

7. Age at time of delivery _____ years

8. Usual place of residence (full address): _____

9. Tribe/Nationality: _____

10. Type of delivery: Single Multiple; if multiple, Registration Number(s) of other child(ren) _____/_____/_____

III FATHER

11. Names and Surname _____

12. Age at time of this birth _____ years

13. Tribe/Nationality _____

14. Usual residence: Same as in 8 Different from 8; give full address _____

IV INFORMANT

15. Names and Surname _____

16. Full address (if different from 8) _____

17. Capacity: Parent Midwife Med. Attendant Other (specify) _____

18. Proof of occurrence of event (specify details) _____

The information given above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature or left thumb print of informant

19. Date of Registration: _____/_____/19_____
Day Month Year

APPENDIX - C' Republic of Sierra Leone

C.R. Form L

OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

--	--	--

CONFIDENTIAL

LIVE BIRTH STATISTICAL/NOTIFICATION REPORT

REGISTRATION NO.

1. Registration Centre _____ / _____ / _____
 District Chiefdom Town/Village

I. CHILD		For Statistical Office Only
2. Names and Surname _____		3. Time and date of birth a.m. / p.m. _____ / _____ / 19____ Day Month Year
4. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female		
5. Place of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ District Chiefdom Town/Village		
II. MOTHER		
6. Names and Surname _____		6a. Maiden Name _____
8. Usual Residence _____ / _____ / _____ District Chiefdom Town/Village		7. Age at time of delivery _____
10. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Married <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Customary Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Widow <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Divorced/Separated		9. Tribe/Nationality _____
11. Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0. Not literate <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Primary <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> 3. University <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Literate but no schooling		
12. Total No. of children born alive including this _____		
13. No. of children still alive _____		
III. FATHER		
14. Names and Surname _____		15. Age at the time of this birth _____
16. Tribe/Nationality _____		
17. Usual Residence (if different from 8) _____ / _____ / _____ District Chiefdom Town/Village <input type="checkbox"/> same as in 8		
IV. PARTICULARS REGARDING DELIVERY		
18. Type of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Twin <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other (specify) _____		19. Place where child is born <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Government Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mission Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other Health Institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Private Home <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (specify) _____
20. Attendant at Birth <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Doctor <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> 4. MCH Aide/TBA/VMA <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (specify) _____		
V. INFORMANT		
21. Names and Surname _____		22. Full Address (if different from 8) _____
23. Capacity of informant <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Parent <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Medical Attendant <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other (specify) _____		24. Signature with date _____
VI. NOTIFIER		
25. Names and Surname _____		26. Full Address _____
27. Capacity <input type="checkbox"/> 1. TBA <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Medical Attendant <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other (specify) _____		28. Signature with date _____
29. Date of Registration _____ / _____ / _____ Day Month Year		

Full Name and signature of Registrar

APPENDIX - 'D'

Republic of Sierra Leone

C.R. Form 1

OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
LATE-FOETAL DEATH (STILL-BIRTH)
STATISTICAL/NOTIFICATION REPORT

REGISTRATION NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Registration Centre _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
District Chiefdom Town/Village

I. FOETUS		For Statistical Office Only	
2. Time and date of birth a.m. _____ p.m. _____ Day / Month / Year			
3. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female		4. Place of birth _____ / _____ / _____ District Chiefdom Town/Village	
II. MOTHER			
5. Names and Surname		5a. Maiden Name	6. Age at time of this delivery
7. Usual Residence _____ / _____ / _____ District Chiefdom Town/Village		8. Tribe/Nationality	
9. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Married <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Customary Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Widow <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Divorced/Separated		10. Education <input type="checkbox"/> 0. Not literate <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Primary <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> 3. University <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Literate but no schooling	
11. Total No. of children born alive including this		12. No. of children still alive	
III. FATHER			
13. Names and Surname		14. Age at the time of this birth	15. Tribe/Nationality
16. Usual Residence (if different from 7) _____ / _____ / _____ <input type="checkbox"/> same District Chiefdom Town/Village			
IV. PARTICULARS REGARDING DELIVERY			
17. Type of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Twin <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other (specify) _____		18. Place where child is born <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Government Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mission Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other Health Institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Private Home <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (specify) _____	
19. Attendant at birth <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Doctor <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Nurse <input type="checkbox"/> 4. MCH Aids <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (specify) _____			
V. INFORMANT			
20. Names and Surname		21. Full Address (if different from 7)	
22. Capacity of Informant <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Parent <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Medical Attendant <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other (specify) _____		23. Signature with date	
VI. NOTIFIER			
24. Names and Surname		25. Full Address	
26. Capacity <input type="checkbox"/> 1. TBA <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Medical Attendant <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other (specify) _____		27. Signature with date	

28. Date of Registration

Day / Month / Year

Full Name and signature of Registrar

APPENDIX E'

C.R. FORM D3

Serial No. _____

Death Certificate No. _____

issued to _____

Details:

Name of deceased _____

Sex Male/Female Died at _____ a.m.
Time p.m.

on _____ 19 _____
Day Month Year

Date of registration _____

Place of registration _____

Registration No. _____

Date issued _____

Registrar

APPENDIX - 'E'

Serial No.

Office of Chief Registrar
Ministry of Health

Republic of



Sierra Leone

Death Certificate No. _____

This is to certify that _____, a Male/Female
Name of deceased

died on _____ 19 _____ at _____ a.m. / p.m. at
Day Month Year Time of Death

_____ Nationality _____
Full address of place of death

This event was registered at _____ in Registry Vol. No. _____
Registration Centre

Page No. _____ No. _____ of the Register of Deaths of Republic of Sierra Leone and the deceased

usual place of residence _____
Full address of place of residence

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____ 19 _____

Official Seal

Chief Registrar

APPENDIX - 'F'

Republic of Sierra Leone

C.R. Form D

OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

DEATH RECORD

--	--	--	--

REGISTRATION NO.

1. Place of Registration

--	--	--

D CH TV

Registration Centre _____

District /

Chiefdom /

Town/Village

I DECEASED

2. Names and Surname _____ Maiden Surname _____

3. Time and Date of Occurrence: _____ a.m. / _____ / 19____
Time p.m. Day Month Year

4. Age (record in hours and mins under 1 day, in days under 1 month, in months under 1 year; otherwise note age in completed years): _____

5. Sex: Male Female

6. Place of Occurrence: _____ / _____ / _____
District Chiefdom Town/Village

7. Usual residence: (full address; if less than one year old, give mother's full address) _____

8. Marital status (if age is 15 years or more): Married Customary marriage Single Widow(er)
 Divorce/Separated

9. Tribe/Nationality: _____

II CAUSE OF DEATH

10. Cause of Death (in case of multiple causes, specify each separately) _____

11. Type of certification: Medically certified Postmortem inquest Paramedical personnel None

III INFORMANT

12. Names and Surname _____

13. Full address: _____

14. Capacity of informant (Parent, Husband, Wife, Other (specify)) _____

I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

15. _____
Signature of Informant or left thumb imprint

16. Date of Registration: _____ / _____ / 19____
Day Month Year

G.P. litho 898/94/200x50/3.

APPENDIX - G

Republic of Sierra Leone

C.R. Form I

OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

DEATH STATISTICAL/NOTIFICATION REPORT

--	--	--	--

REGISTRATION NO.

1. Place of Registration _____ / _____ / _____
District Chiefdom Town/Village

I. DECEASED		For Statistical Office Only
2. Name and Surname _____		Maiden Surname _____
3. Time and date of occurrence <small>a.m. p.m. Day / Month / Year</small>		4. Age _____
5. Sex <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Female	4. Place of Occurrence <small>District Chiefdom Town/Village</small>	
7. Usual Residence <small>District Chiefdom Town/Village</small>		8. Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Married <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Customary Marriage <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Widow(er) <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Divorced/Separated
9. Tribe/Nationality _____		10. Education <input type="checkbox"/> 0. Not literate <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Primary <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> 3. University <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Literate but no schooling

II. CAUSE OF DEATH		
11. When cause of death is medically certified, (a) Immediate Cause _____ (b) Antecedent Cause _____		
12. If violent death due to <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Accident <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> 0. Not violent	13. When cause of death not medically certified, probable cause of death _____	
14. Opinion based on <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Inquest/post mortem <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Paramedical Staff <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Registrar		

III. TYPE OF ATTENTION		
15. If death occurred in <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Government Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mission Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other Health Institution <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Private home <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other, specify _____		

IV. INFORMANT		
16. Names and Surname _____		17. Full Address _____
18. Capacity <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Parent <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Husband <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Wife <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other (specify) _____	19. Signature with date _____	

V. NOTIFIER		
20. Names and Surname _____		21. Full Address _____
22. Capacity <input type="checkbox"/> 1. TBA <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Village Headman <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other (specify) _____	23. Signature with date _____	

24. Date of Registration
 _____ / _____ / _____
Day Month Year

Full Name and signature of Registrar _____

Republic of Sierra Leone
OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

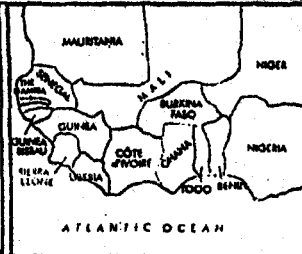
FOR USE BY
 STATISTICAL
 OFFICE ONLY

FULL NAME OF DECEASED		DATE OF DEATH		SEX MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>		
NATIONALITY/TRIBE	AGE (IN YEARS LAST BIRTHDAY)	IF UNDER 1 YEAR		IF UNDER 24 HOURS		
		MONTHS	DAYS	HOURS	MINUTES	
USUAL RESIDENCE (FOR INFANT BORN IN INSTITUTION: RESIDENCE OF MOTHER BEFORE ADMISSION)						
CAUSE OF DEATH					INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH	
I DISEASE OF CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH*		(A) _____ DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)				
ANTECEDENT CAUSES MORBID CONDITIONS, IF ANY, GIVING RISE TO THE ABOVE CAUSE, STATING THE UNDERLYING CONDITION LAST		(B) _____ DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF)				
II OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH, BUT NOT RELATED TO THE DISEASE OR CONDITION CAUSING IT		(C) _____				
NAME (RUBBER STAMP) OF INSTITUTION OR NAME OF MEDICAL DOCTOR WITH ADDRESS		WITNESS MY HAND THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 198 _____				
		MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS: _____			SIGNATURE _____	

* THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE MODE OF DYING E.G., HEART FAILURE, ASTHENIA, ETC.
 IT MEANS THE DISEASE, INJURY, OR COMPLICATION WHICH CAUSED DEATH.

APPENDIX I

IBRD 24409



DECEMBER 1992

APPENDIX - 'I'

C.R FORM P

Republic of Sierra Leone
OFFICE OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
BURIAL PERMIT

The death of _____	
male/female, aged _____	which occurred
on _____ / _____ / 19____	having been
<small>Day Month Year</small>	
registered by me on _____ / _____ / 19____	
<small>Day Month Year</small>	
with Registration No. _____	
OR	
a male/female child of the mother _____	
	and the father _____
	which was still-born
on _____ / _____ / 19____	with Registration
<small>Day Month Year</small>	
No. _____	
I, hereby, give permission for interment/cremation of the body at _____	
	Cemetery. _____
Place _____	Signature _____
Date _____	Name _____

*Official Seal of Registrar
of Births and Deaths*