

other islands. At the national-level, the rate of access to an improved toilet facility was reported as 6% in rural households and 21% of urban households.

Livelihood

The primary source of income on the islands is fishing, with 87% of men fishing to earn a living. Only 5% of men reported operating a small business as their primary source of income. Women participated in a variety of activities to earn additional income, which differed between the islands. On Yele, the largest proportion of women cut wood at 37%, followed by women who sold fish at 31%. On Sei, 30% of women sold thatch, 16% cut wood, and 10% sold fish. On Baki, 35% of women sold fish, 30% operated a small business, and 15% cut wood.

Household characteristics

The average household on the three islands included 8.5 occupants, ranging from 1 to 40 household members. By comparison, the SLDHS reported an average 5.9 household members. Total household occupancy included approximately 4 children, with reports ranging from no children to 11 children in one household.

Overall, 99% of the homes on the islands were made of sticks and mud, or sticks and palm fronds. One individual reported living in a home with walls of sticks, mud, and an outer layer of cement. Only 4% of individuals reported living in a home with cement floors. A total of 94% of adults lived in homes with a thatch roof; only 6% reported living in a home with a zinc roof. Most floors (76%) were sand, and the rest were ash, mud, or shells.

The only source of fuel for cooking was wood.

There was one fuel-powered generator between the three islands. It was owned by a household on Sei, which uses the generator primarily as a source of income by charging admission to view videos on a small television. There is no other source of power on the islands. These reports are in line with the rates reported by the SLDHS, indicating that only 1% of rural households have electricity compared to approximately one-third of urban households.

Ownership of goods

There were 153 (45%) participants who owned chickens, 40 (12%) who owned sheep, and 22 (6%) who owned goats. A total of 66 (19%) participants owned a radio, which consisted of 64 men and 2 women. This is compared to 55% of households in Sierra Leone who own a radio according to the SLDHS. Across the three islands, there were 27 (8%) participants who owned a mobile, 26 of whom were men. This rate is similar to the 10% reported by rural households in Sierra Leone, which is significantly lower than the two-thirds of urban households.

Of the 146 men who were fishermen, only 85 (57%) had nets and 78 (92%) of these nets were on loan. The rate of loaning nets varied significant between the islands, with 100% of the nets on loan on Yele, 88% on Baki, and 67% on Sei. In total, there were 92 men (61%) who had boats, half of which were on

loan. These rates again varied between with islands, with 64% on loan on Sei, 53% on loan Baki, and 45% on loan on Yele. None of the boats had an engine. There was one community boat that had been donated to the island of Baki that had a small engine.

References

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