# Current National Data Governance Trends and Initiatives, Stats SL

**Theophilus Blaudfaust**

**Director, Data Science Division (Stats SL)**

# About Stats SL

**Stats SL**

Statistics Sierra Leone is the central authority for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of accurate, clear, relevant, timely and high-quality statistical information on social, health, demographic, economic and financial activities to serve the needs of users including government and the public.

**Data governance**

Data governance refers to the overall management of the availability, usability, integrity, and security of data used in an organization. It involves processes, policies, standards, and metrics that ensure the effective and efficient use of information in enabling an organization to achieve its goals.

Statistics Act of 2002.

Terms and Conditions

Open License Agreement

# Decision making processes, channels of Supervision and Accountability

- Governing Ministry: Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
- There is a Statistics Council that supervises the Institution whose organogram is here.
- There is also an Integrity Management Committee (IMC) that sets the stage for Stats SL to ensure data integrity.

# National Data Governance Trends and initiatives in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone has been making efforts to enhance its data governance and digital strategies:

1. **National Data Strategy:**
   - A strategic plan to enhance data infrastructure and address data inequalities.
   - Aims to contribute to sustainable development.
2. **National Digital Development Strategy (NDDS) 2021:**
   - Focuses on leveraging ICT for economic growth and inclusivity.
   - Aims to bridge digital gaps and improve citizens' lives.
3. **National Innovation & Digital Strategy (NIDS):**
   - Positions Sierra Leone as a leader in digital agile governance.
   - Emphasizes effective service delivery through investments and policies.
4. **National Cybersecurity Policy:**
   - Addresses critical information infrastructure and cyber threats.

These initiatives reflect Sierra Leone's commitment to data governance, digital development, and cybersecurity.

# Throwback on data collection at Statistics Sierra Leone

Summary.

Team of experts with the support from partners, consultants and subject matter specialist (MDAs) will form a team (Technical Committee) and prepare the tools and methodologies for the data collection.

- Data collected in the field was done using PAPI. Field staff will collect data from the field and bring to the office for data imputation into a database application. This process was really challenging and open to lots of errors. This process does not guarantee that field staff members actually go and work in their area of deployment. Data entry staff also make lots of mistakes in the process of capturing the data and then there was the major challenge in storage of the questionnaire for safe keeping.

# Current Data Collection Methods at Stats SL (1)

- With support from the government of SL and partners, we now conduct all our data collection processes using CAPI.
- The instrument (Questionnaire) developed by the subject matter specialist will be transformed into a CAPI application for field data collection.
- There are lots of benefits using CAPI applications in data collection and at the same time lots of challenges too
- The accuracy of using CAPI applications in data collection cannot be over emphasized

# Current Data Collection Methods at Stats SL (2)

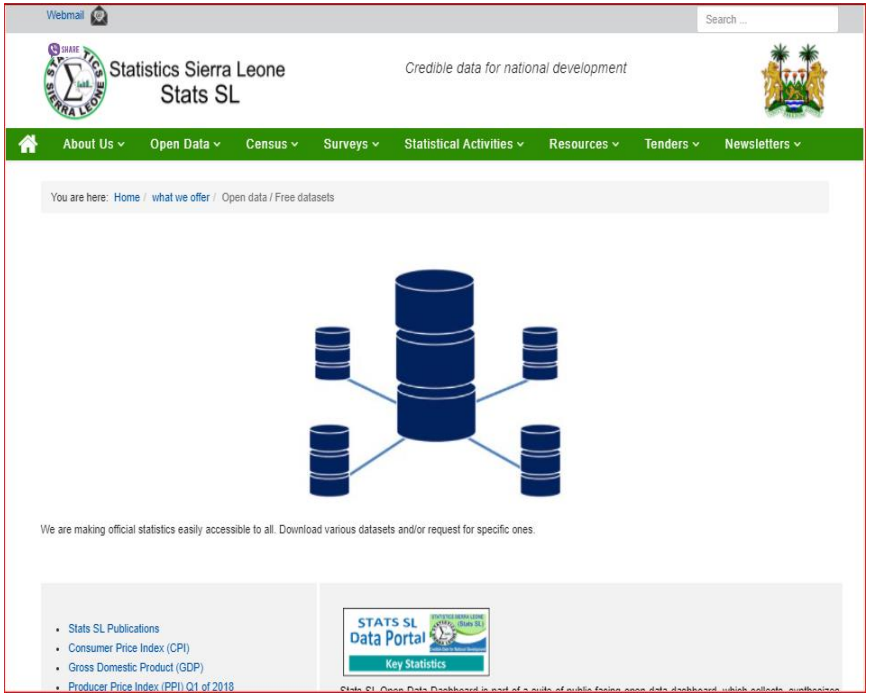
- **Training and Capacity Building:**
  - Stats SL provide comprehensive training to field staff on using CAPI devices and software.
  - Ensure they understand the importance of accurate data entry and how CAPI improves data quality.
- **Pre-testing and Piloting:**
  - Stats SL conducts thorough pre-testing and piloting of the CAPI instruments in different field conditions and with diverse respondents.
  - Identify and address any technical or procedural issues before full deployment of field staff.
- **Standardized Questionnaires:**
  - The Subject Matter Specialist, Data Science Team, Demographers, Statisticians & Consultants support to develop a standardized questionnaires that is clear, concise, and easy to navigate on CAPI devices, which include skip patterns and validation checks to minimize data entry errors

# Current Data Collection Methods at Stats SL (3)

- **Real-time Data Validation:**
  - We implement real-time validation checks and ensure errors are immediately flagged for actions. Use range checks, consistency checks, and logical checks to ensure data accuracy
- **Supervision and Monitoring:**
  - We establish a system for monitoring data collection in real-time and conduct checks and spot audits to verify data quality and adherence to protocols
- **Data Encryption and Security:**
  - Ensure that CAPI devices and software adhere to robust data encryption standards to protect respondent confidentiality.
  - Implement secure data transfer protocols to transmit collected data to central databases.
- **Stats SL Establish Clear Data Quality Standards:**
  - Stats SL has defined clear standards and guidelines for data quality at the outset of data collection. Specify acceptable levels of accuracy, completeness, consistency, and timeliness for collected data

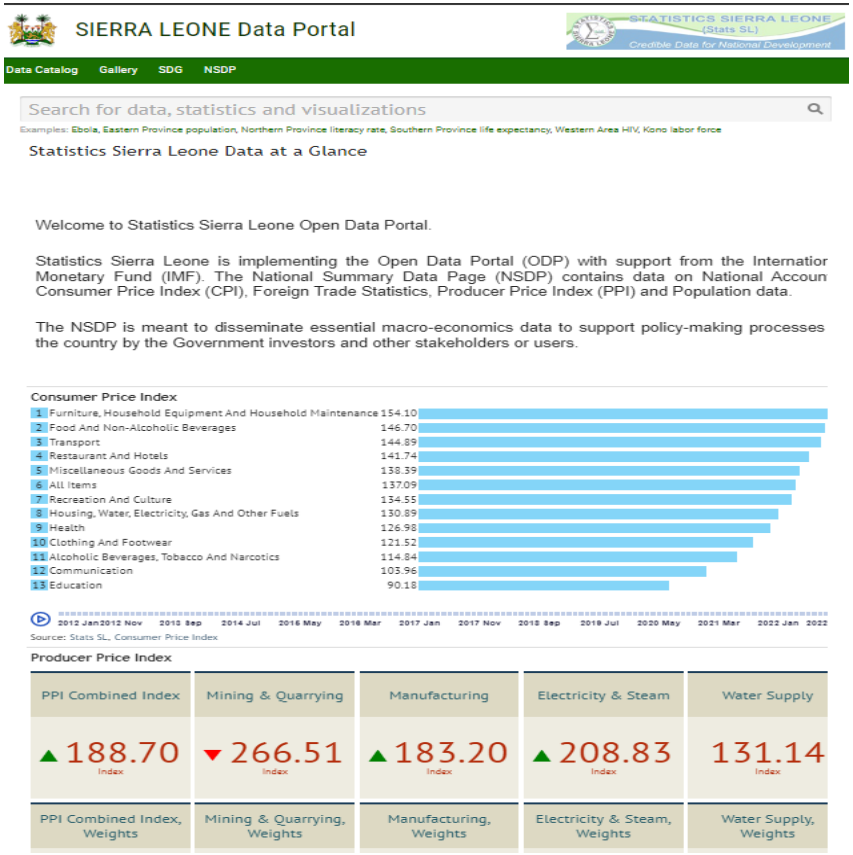
# Stats SL Dissemination Page …1
# Stats SL Open data / Free Datasets Portal

- We make official statistics easily accessible to all.
- The public can download various datasets and/or request for specific ones.



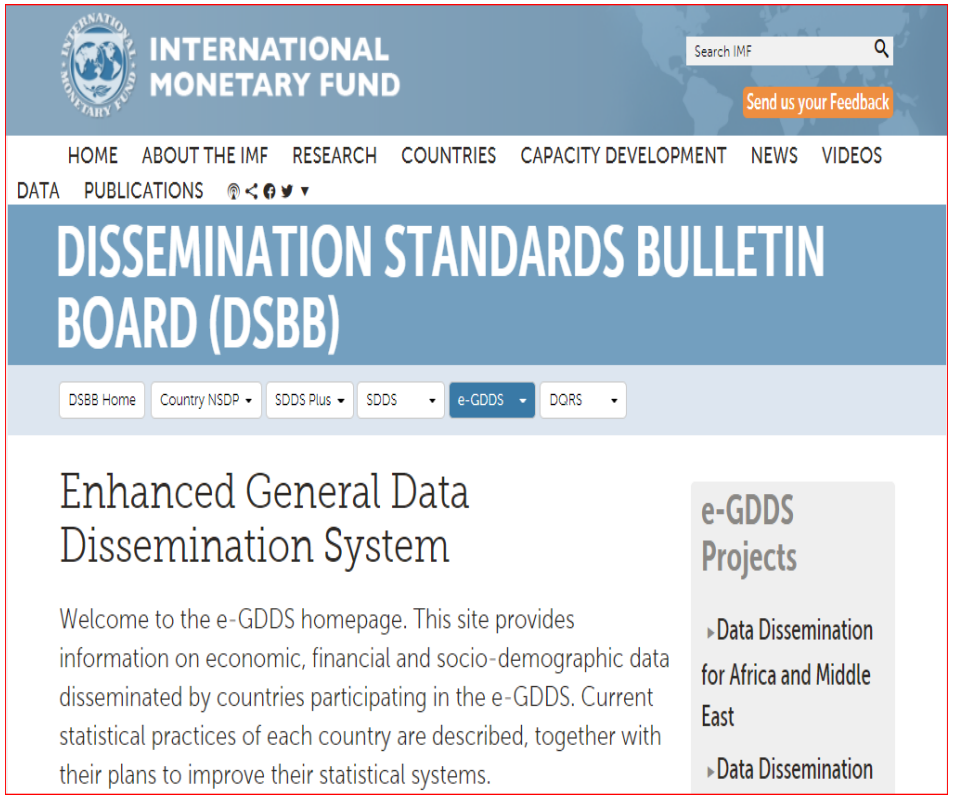
# Stats SL Dissemination Page …2

# The revamped Sierra Leone Data Portal

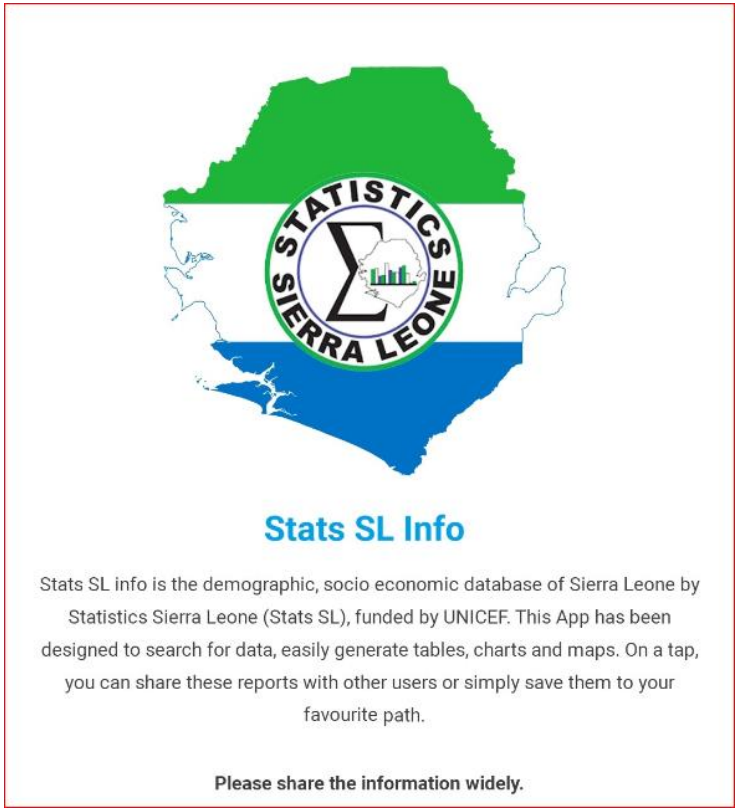


# Stats SL Dissemination Page …3

## Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS), IMF




## *Stats SL Info mobile application*



# Stats SL - Proactive Disclosure/Publication Scheme

**The publication Scheme explains what information Stats SL makes routinely available and how it can be accessed.**

- Stats SL publications, metadata and microdata, etc. are proactively released and made available free of charge on our website.

- Dissemination of Key Performance Indicators are made available also to the public via: Bulletins, Press releases, bill-boards and community meetings which are held to sensitise the public through our district offices.

- In some cases where charges may apply, the information is provided on our website. E.g Maps and GIS shapefiles

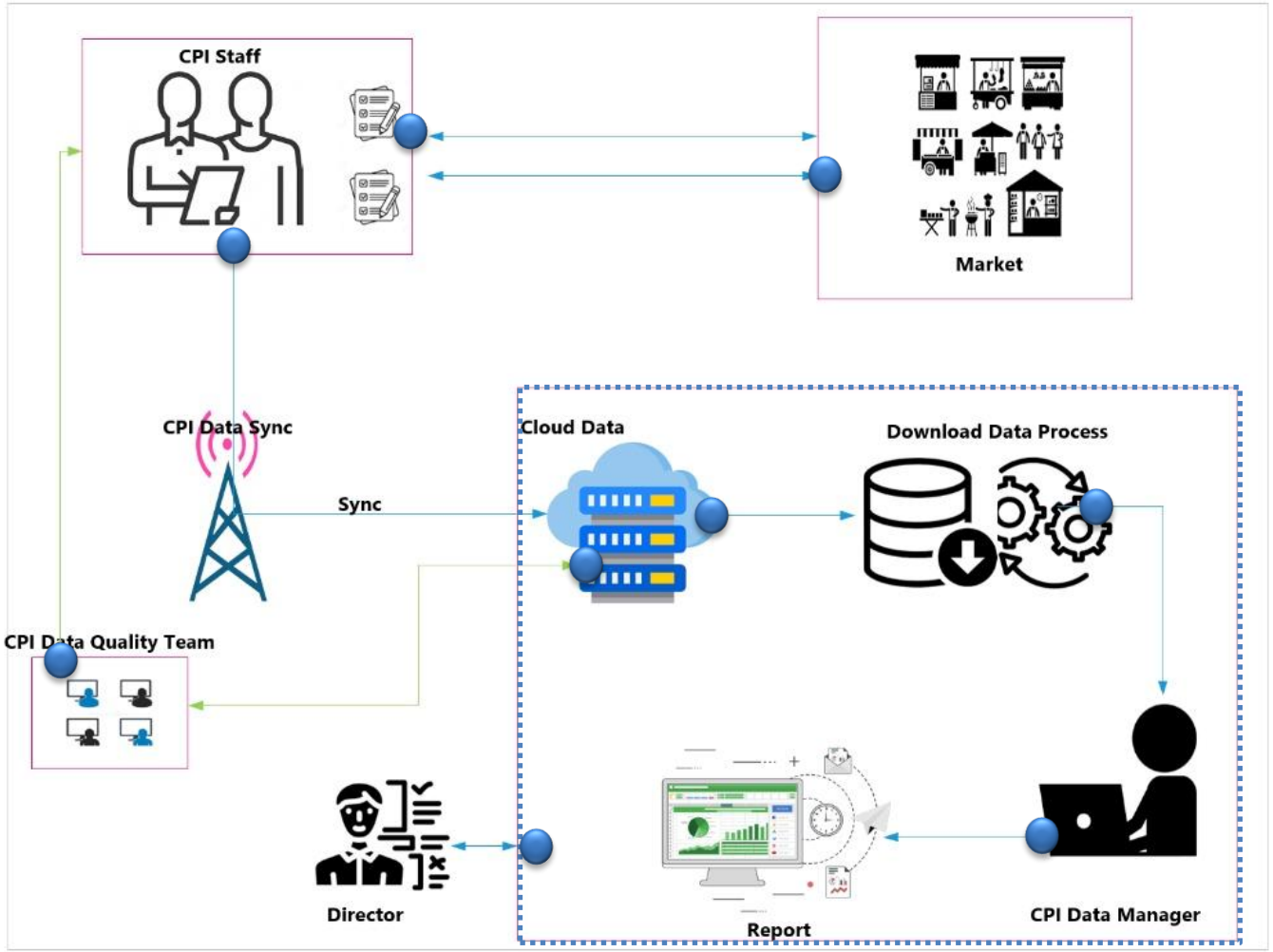
STATISTICS SIERRA LEONE
(Stats SL)
*Credible Data for National Development*

**Stats SL - Proactive Publication Scheme**

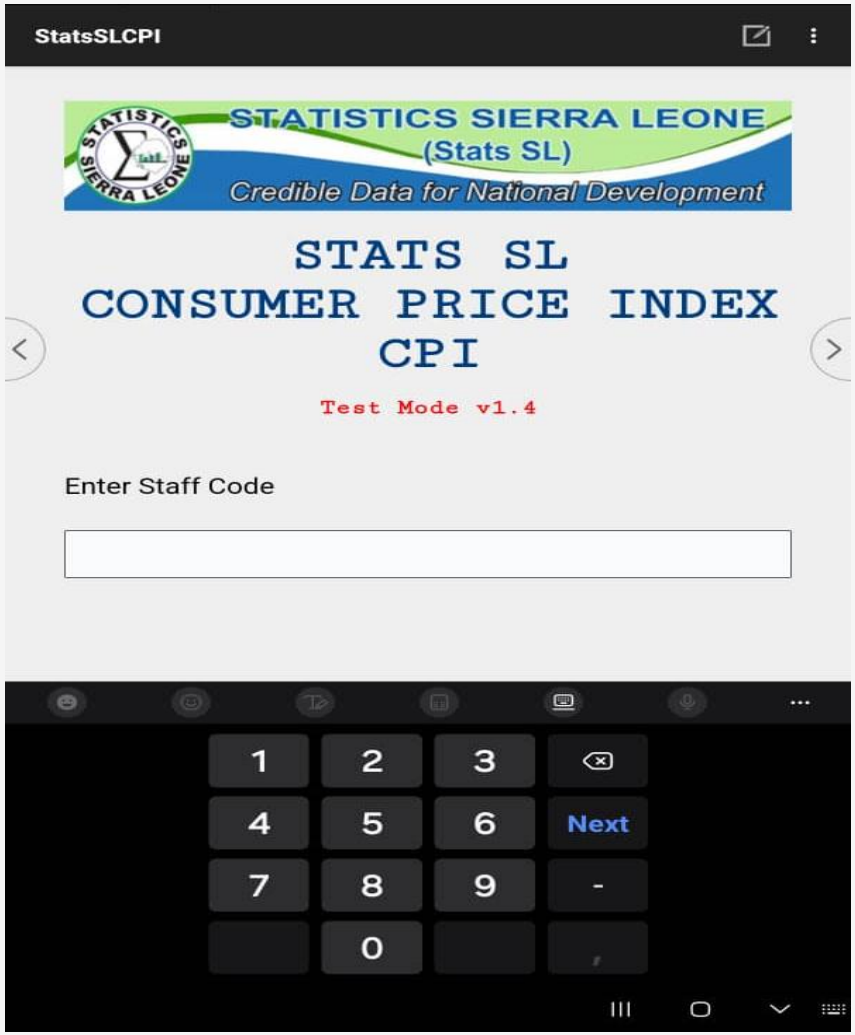
**Contact Us:**
Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL) Temporary Headquarters
1st King Street (Kona Lodge)
Freetown, Sierra Leone
PMB 595, Tower Hill Freetown
**Mobile.:** +232 76 830333
**Email:** statistics@statistics.sl / info@statistics.sl
**Website:** www.statistics.sl

06 FEBRUARY 2024

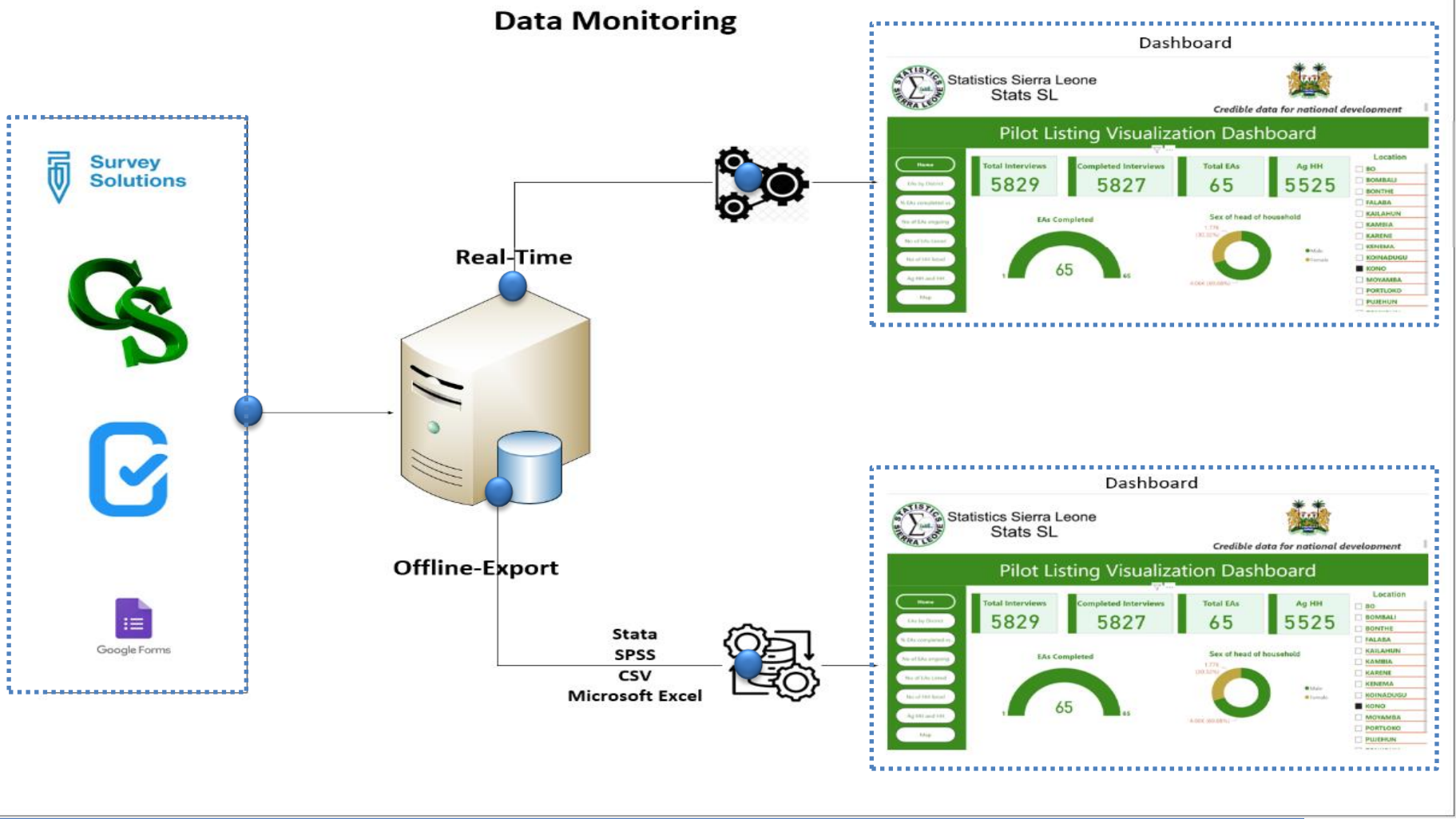
# Consumer Price Index (CPI) CAPI Data Collection Process



# CPI CAPI Data Collection Application



# Dashboard Monitoring



# Stats SL and the Data For Now Initiative ...1

Stats SL joined the Data for Now initiative in 2022 supported by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) with funding from the Italian and Norwegian Government.

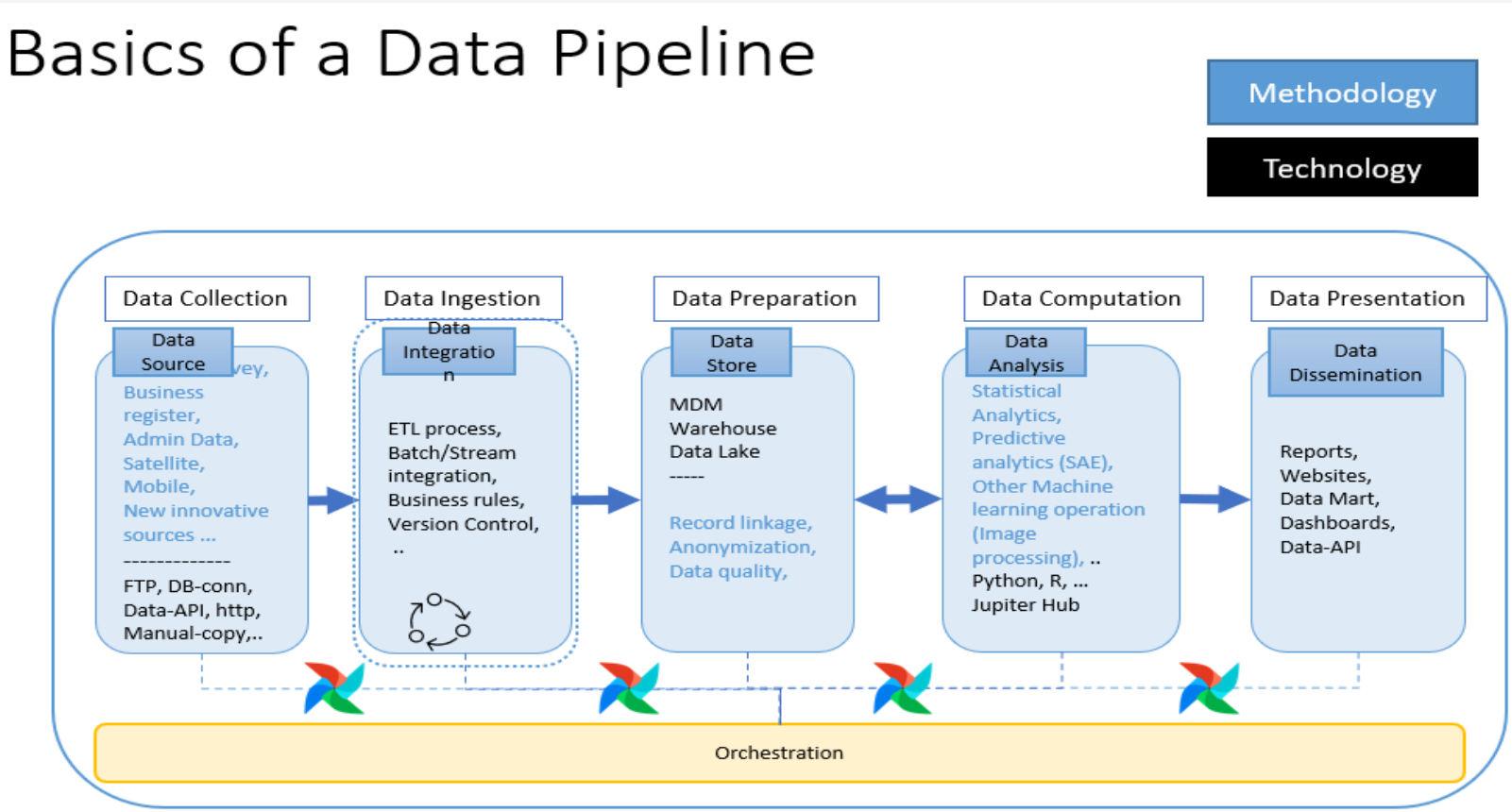
- Stats SL leads the **Data for Now initiative** as the project owner in the country. Stats SL, with support from the Data For Now project, has identified specific data needs linked to the identified policy priorities based on the national development plans, including the need for new data/indicators as well as increased timeliness and/or disaggregation of existing data.

- Stats SL has assessed the infrastructure requirements to support implementation of innovative methods to produce more timely and disaggregated data.

- Once the priorities and key indicators are selected, the Data For Now team will work with partners and NSS members to assess the feasibility of implementing innovative approaches and capacity development needs, and consequently carry out capacity development activities to strengthen the capabilities of the NSS members to produce/estimate those indicators.

# Stats SL and the Data For Now Initiative ...2

## Data Pipeline (ongoing)



# Future Directions …1

**A.** In presenting sustainable developments goals and its "leave no one behind" proposition, it is necessary to include methods that enable voice, feedback, and continuous community involvement in public sector data initiatives. It is important to present a vision for how public digital infrastructure should be governed for public value.

**B.** It is good to discuss the challenges for a process where the **origin** of the data may not belong to the data **producers**, with a focus on a national statistics system. Underlying the more immediate issues discussed in National Data Governance Framework and Digital Government in Sierra Leone is the significant issue of data equity and the need to avoid delay in data accessibility

# Future Directions …2

**C.** Quality data collection hinges on a combination of the right tools, appropriate methodologies, and skilled personnel who can effectively operate in the field environment.

**D.** Developing robust software and having IT expertise provide a foundation, but the success of data collection ultimately depends on the skills and competencies of the individuals who are on the ground, interacting with the data sources, and ensuring the integrity and accuracy of the data collected

# Future Directions …3

**E.** In today's digital age, the importance of data cannot be overstated.

Data plays a crucial role in informing policy decisions, ensuring they are grounded in facts and accurate information.

Capacity development is indeed essential to enhance the quality of work and outcomes.

By continuously building and improving skills, Stats SL can ensure that it remains at the forefront of data collection, analysis, and utilization, ultimately contributing to better policy-making and societal progress.

# Thank you.

theophilus.blaudfaust@statistics.sl
www.statistics.sl

# Thank you - The future is bright …