COLOMBO FOCUS CITY PROJECT

Data Brief

2009 Quarter 01

Baseline Survey and Data Briefs

A key component of the research, monitoring and evaluation effort of the Colombo Focus City project is the baseline survey that was carried out in 2007 as the project commenced. The ex-post evaluation scheduled for 2010 will use this baseline as its start point. The database generated however, has information that is extremely useful during the life of the project. A series of working papers have been produced by the M&E team which present the consolidated data, a descriptive analysis and a tool kit relating to the baseline survey. This series of Data Briefs, which in each issue focuses on a few themes, have been developed to showcase key findings and encourage use of the baseline findings by the Colombo FC team as well as the Global FC programme.

This Data Brief focuses on the perceptions of own wellbeing of USS households in the sample and the main elements that make up wellbeing of households: income and expenditure patterns, satisfaction with access to existing service provision. As the first in the series of Data Briefs, this also gives an introduction to the Baseline Survey sampling and generalisability as well.

Household Wellbeing in Gothamipura USS

The household views on own well-being were explored together with reasons for self evaluation on a scale of low, medium, high.
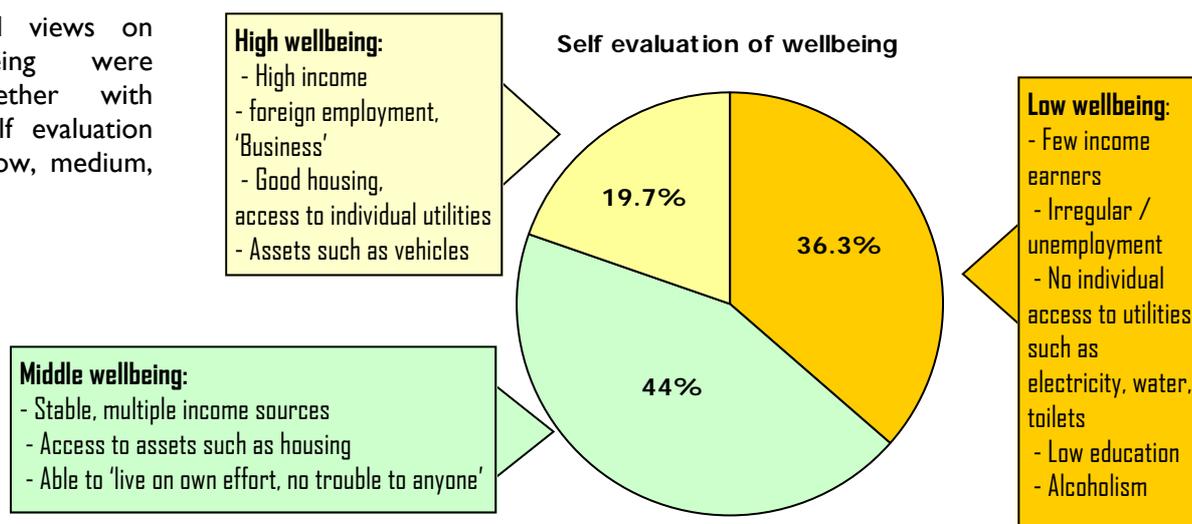
High wellbeing:
 - High income
- foreign employment, 'Business'
 - Good housing, access to individual utilities
- Assets such as vehicles

Middle wellbeing:
- Stable, multiple income sources
- Access to assets such as housing
- Able to 'live on own effort, no trouble to anyone'

Low wellbeing:
- Few income earners
 - Irregular / unemployment
 - No individual access to utilities such as electricity, water, toilets
 - Low education
- Alcoholism

Self evaluation of wellbeing — 19.7%, 36.3%, 44%

Table 4.3.7. and 4.3.8. Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

Looking back and looking to the future....

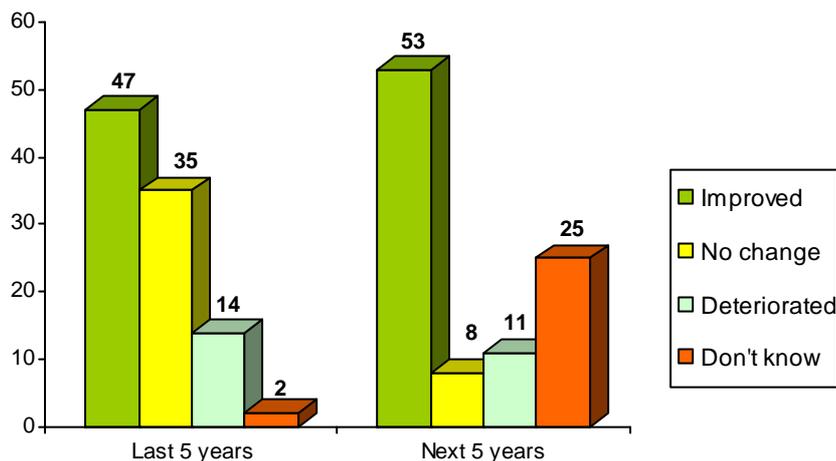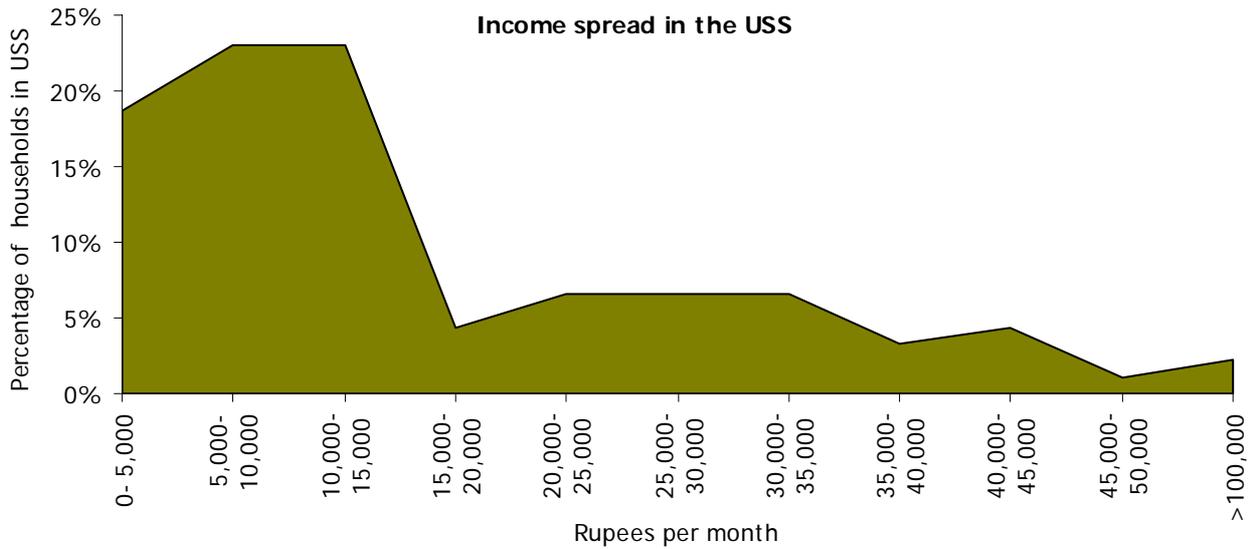|	Last 5 years	Next 5 years
Improved	47	53
No change	35	8
Deteriorated	14	11
Don't know	2	25

Table 4.3.14. and 4.3.16. Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

The USS has a positive view of improvement in household wellbeing over the last 5 years and expect even greater improvement during the next 5 years. Livelihood opportunities, income earned are identified as the primary contributors to improving household wellbeing. In the past employment overseas and other high yielding livelihoods were identified as key contributors while looking to the future, better education of children is expected to facilitate their access to good employment opportunities. Upgrading housing was also identified as a key contributor to improved well-being in the last five years.

Income and Expenditure Patterns

Income spread in the USS

Source: Working Paper 1.2 : Descriptive Analysis

The income patterns of the USS household shows a clustering below Rs. 20,000 per month with 69% of the households falling within this group. In contrast, only 7% of households earn more than Rs. 40,000 per month with 2% households earning over Rs. 100,000 per month. Comparing the position of Gothamipura USS with urban trends, Gothamipura shows a lower mean than the urban sector which has a mean income as per HIES 2006 of Rs. 41,928. The Gothamipura mean income (Rs. 21,885) is closer to the estate sector mean income of Rs. 19, 292. The estate sector has the lowest mean income when considering national as well as sectoral data. Contrastingly, there are a few households that earn monthly incomes in line with the highest income decile of the urban sector, which is the highest earning group in nationally.

The households in the USS spend almost 50% of their monthly expenditure on food and drink. Transport and fuel for lighting and cooking are the next highest contributors. Interestingly, proportion of household expenditure on clothing is slightly higher than on health care. Looking at it in terms of income deciles, it follows the norm of higher percentage (70.3%) expenditure by poorer income deciles on food and drink.

Distribution of monthly expenditure on selected items according to income deciles
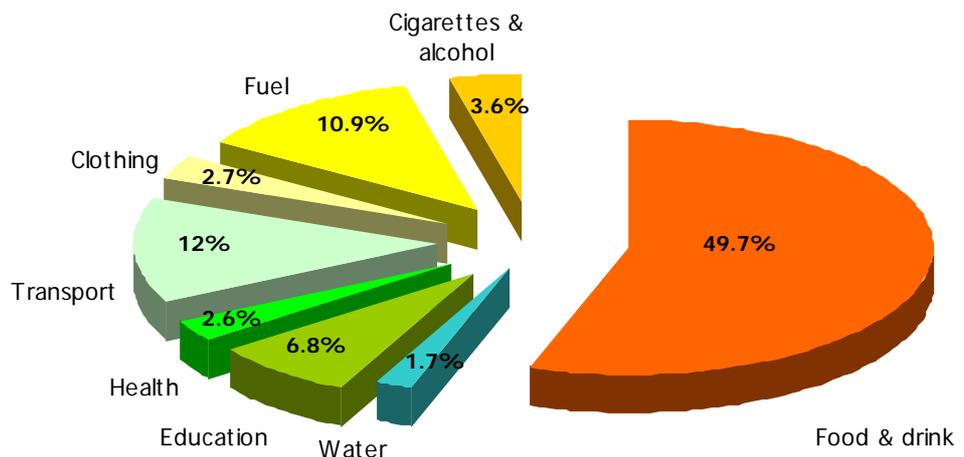

Table 4.3.3. Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

The highest income decile has the lowest proportion (38.8%) of expenditure on food and drink. Contrastingly, in absolute terms households in the lowest decile spend Rs. 6,215 on food & drink while the households from the highest income decile spend Rs. 22,000 on the same category. The proportion spent by lowest decile households in the USS on food and drink (70.3%) is significantly higher than the national figures (63.1%) reflecting the monetorised nature of urban households. There is much less variance (USS 38.8%, national 36.3%) regarding food expenditure at the highest income decile. Housing, fuel and light, personal care and health, and liquor are the highest non-food contributors in household expenditure of poor people in Sri Lanka. Out of the total non-food expenditure of poor people in Sri Lanka the highest share is for housing. This is in sharp contrast to the USS expenditure pattern USS where cost of housing in negligible in all income deciles.

Satisfaction on Access to Existing Service Provision

Given the acceptance that the quality of life of households in the USS is directly affected by access to services, which is not always correlated with household income, the baseline survey looked at issues of access as well as satisfaction. The survey looked at utilities and services offered within the USS to its residents as well as services available outside the USS.

Levels of satisfaction of the USS on access to internal services and facilities

Legend: Water, Sanitation, Solid waste disposal

Table 4.9.1. Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

Levels of satisfaction of the USS on access to external services and facilities
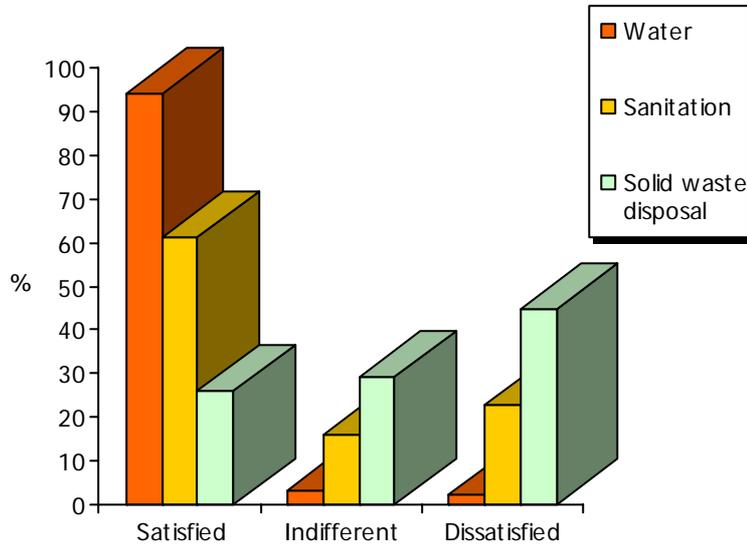
Legend: Education, Health, Transport

Table 4.9.1. Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

Satisfaction with services provided within the USS fare much worse than city wide services accessed by the households living in the USS. The baseline looked at household satisfaction with access to water, sanitation, solid waste disposal, electricity, internal access roads, rain water drainage, etc. provided to the Gothamipura USS.

The chart highlights levels of satisfaction with the current access to the services that are related to the Colombo FC Project. The relative high level of access to sanitation is a reflection of 93.5% of the households in the USS having access to private toilets. However, none of the USS toilets are connected to the main sewerage system. The toilets are connected shared septic tanks or to the canal. In terms of sanitation services, when complaints are made, they are taken care of by the CMC. However, most of the community are not satisfied with solid waste disposal system. The main problem stated was that as the CMC does not collect garbage regularly, the community is dumping garbage near the Community Hall. Water service is good as they enjoy a continuous supply without water cuts.
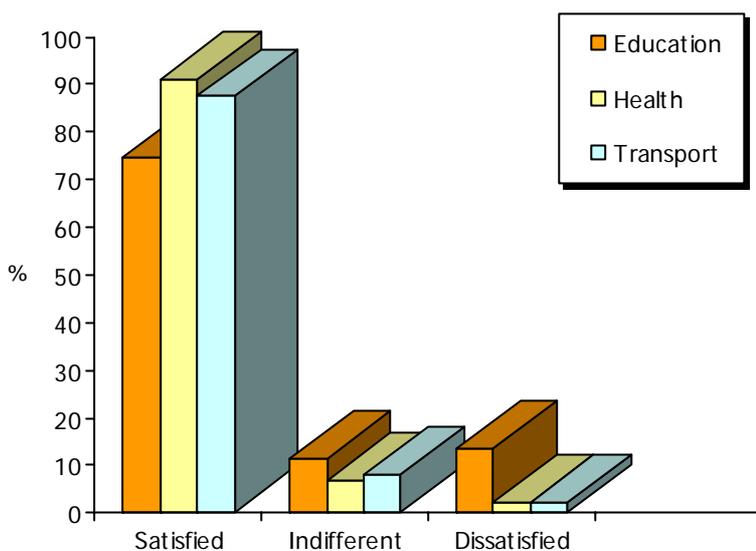
There is clearly a contrast with the level of satisfaction with regard to access to city wide services. A very high degree of satisfaction is shown with access to education, health and public services such as transport, market places.

The community are satisfied with the educational facilities as there are many good quality government schools, private educational institutes and technical schools in the vicinity.

The community was also satisfied with the health facilities as government and private hospitals and other medical services such as CMC dispensary and Ayurvedic hospital are situated close by.

According to the community, access to public services is at a satisfactory level as the town, bus stop etc, are within walking distance from their homes.

Baseline Survey Sample and Generalisability of Data

The sample for the baseline survey at the **household level** was selected using the stratified systematic random sampling technique. Stratification increased the sample's ability to represent the population. Stratification based on location – within Gothamipura USS and in the surrounding neighbourhood, ensured representation of two fundamentally different groups within the project area.

Sample selection for Baseline Survey

Stratified sampling	Systematic Random Sampling	Sample households
Gothamipura ➝	Every 3rd household	93
↓	↓	↓
Neighbourhood ➝	Every 3rd household	90
Total baseline sample ➝	Approx. 30% of total households	183

Source: Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

The sample selected included 8 structures which were occupied by organisations rather than households. The household survey questionnaire was revised and re-administered to capture their experience. Data was collected for 180 units; 172 households and 8 organisations.

Sample distribution by type of land tenure and location

Out of the total households (172) enumerated, 91 households were from Gothamipura USS, 89 from the neighbourhood. All 8 organisations enumerated were located within the neighbourhood. Of the settlement sample, 16 households (17.6%) were located in the flats owned by the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA).
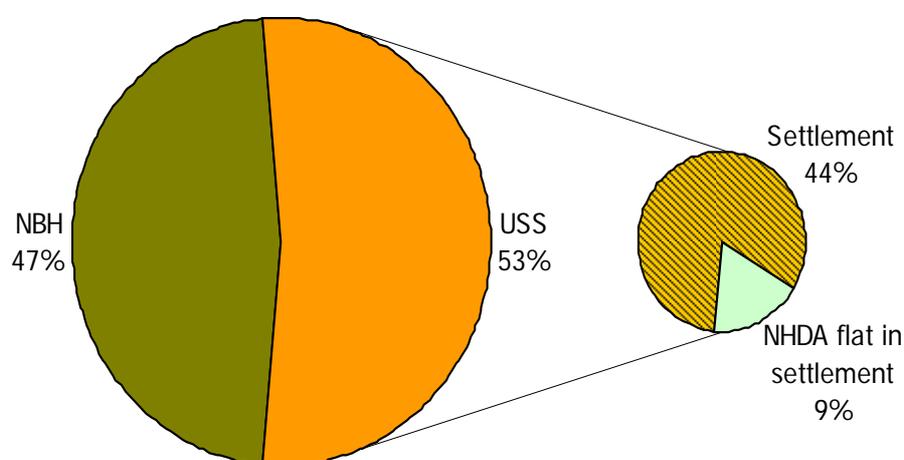
NBH 47%

USS 53%

Settlement 44%

NHDA flat in settlement 9%

Table 4.1.1 Working Paper 1.1: Data Tables

Colombo Focus City Project

The *Community-based Assessment and Improvement of Living Environment in Underserved Settlements and the Environs: The case of Gothamipura-Colombo* was initiated in June 2006 as a partner in the global Focus City Research Initiative which focuses on action research projects in eight cities that seek to promote in-depth research and allow time to successfully monitor outcomes. The initiative is funded through the Urban Poverty and Environment Programme of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

Find out more on the global programme see http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-81920-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html, and http://www.cmc.lk/idrc/index.html for the Colombo City Project, http://www.cepa.lk/programmes/pim-ongoing.php#City_Action for M&E component.