

Inclusive Urban Infrastructure in Sri Lanka

RESEARCH LAUNCH WORKSHOP

Centre for Migration Research and Development (CMRD)

SEVANATHA Urban Resource Centre

and

University of Sussex

27th July 2021

Welcome and programme

Malkie Rodrigo

Research Officer, SEVANATHA Urban Resource Centre

Opening Speakers

- Prof. Michael Collyer – Principal Investigator, University of Sussex
The broad research, significance and objectives
- Dr. Rajith Lakshman – Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
Cities, poverty and development
- Mr. K. A. Jayaratne – President, SEVANATHA Urban Resource Centre
Urban housing, underserved communities, basic services, challenges in Sri Lanka

Introduction to the research in Sri Lanka

Dr. Danesh Jayatilaka

Co-Investigator, Centre for Migration Research and Development

Background

The research:

- Study different ways residents in low income neighborhoods access basic services
- Multi-method, comparative, academic-practitioner, 3 years, share findings
- Urban, selected cities, underserved communities, housing and 5 basic infrastructure - services (*6 grids – housing, water, sanitation, transport, energy and communication*)
- Provision, consumption patterns, inclusion outcomes, state, donor, non governmental, community interventions

Core areas and theory:

Housing, infrastructure, services, systems of provision (SoP), sustainable livelihoods, well-being

Partnerships:

- CMRD, SEVANATHA Urban Resource Centre, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex
- Research institutions in Bangladesh, Somaliland and Zimbabwe, University of Durham, SOAS, PositiveNegatives, Slum/Shack Dwellers International
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)/Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

Infrastructure and services in Sri Lanka

‘Infrastructure assets and services provide the basic physical and organizational structures that underpin the functioning of the economy and society... extending provision of quality infrastructure requires an understanding of the current levels of supply, quality, and affordability of infrastructure services’ (Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific, The World Bank, 2020)

‘New approach in national spatial system - Bridging the urban and rural gap by providing services and infrastructure facilities equally across the sectors of living’ (National Policy Framework, Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor, GoSL 2019)

‘Equitable and efficient delivery of services are crucial for the social and economic development of cities and the wellbeing of their populations and contribute to a better urban future for all Sri Lankans’ (State of Sri Lanka Cities, GoSL 2018)

Main study methods: Community engagement, surveys, stakeholder engagement, photo voice, comics and demonstration intervention

Six sites:

Sammanthranapura

Nawagampura, Lunupokuna

Salamulla, Mahaiyawa,

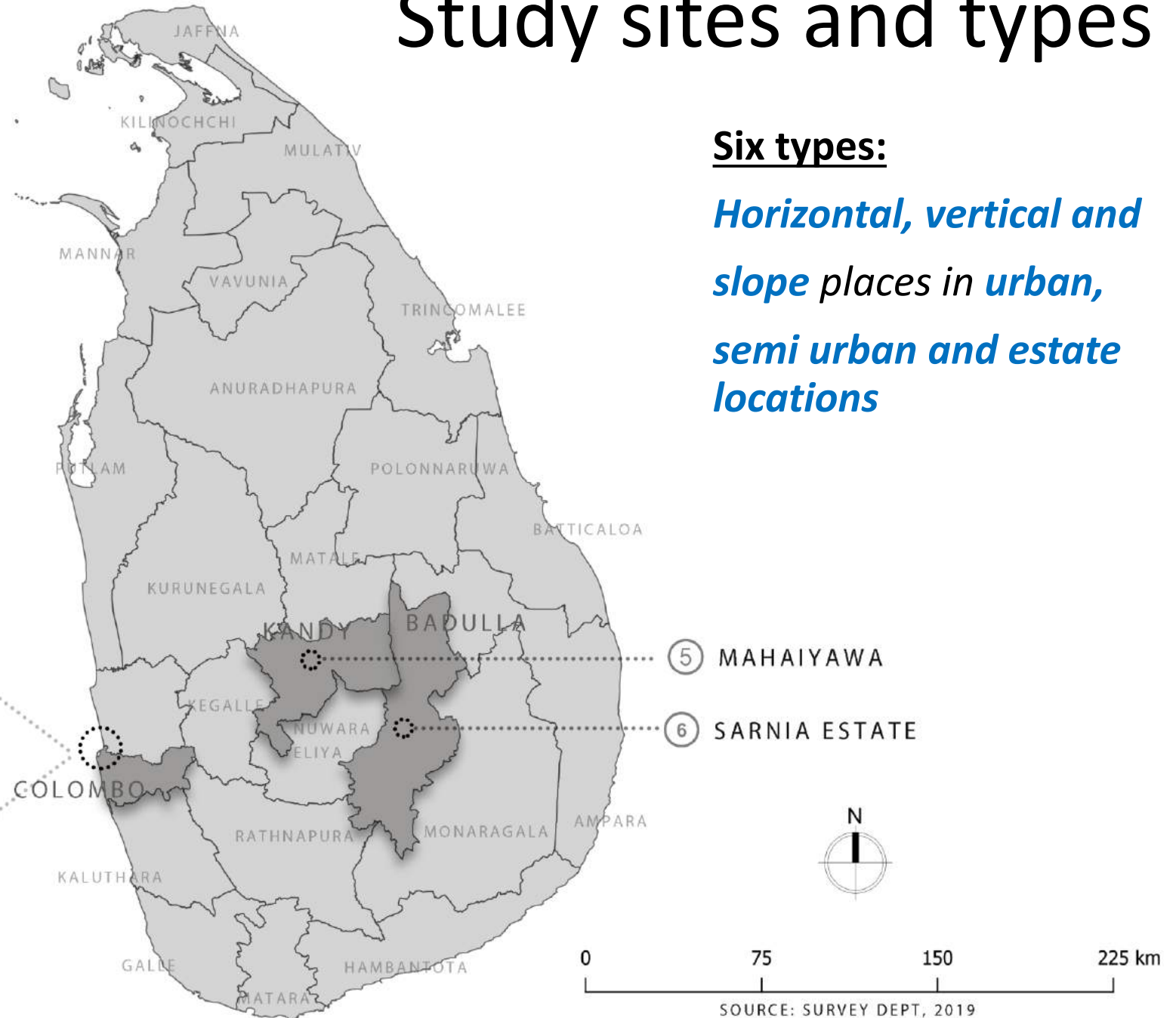
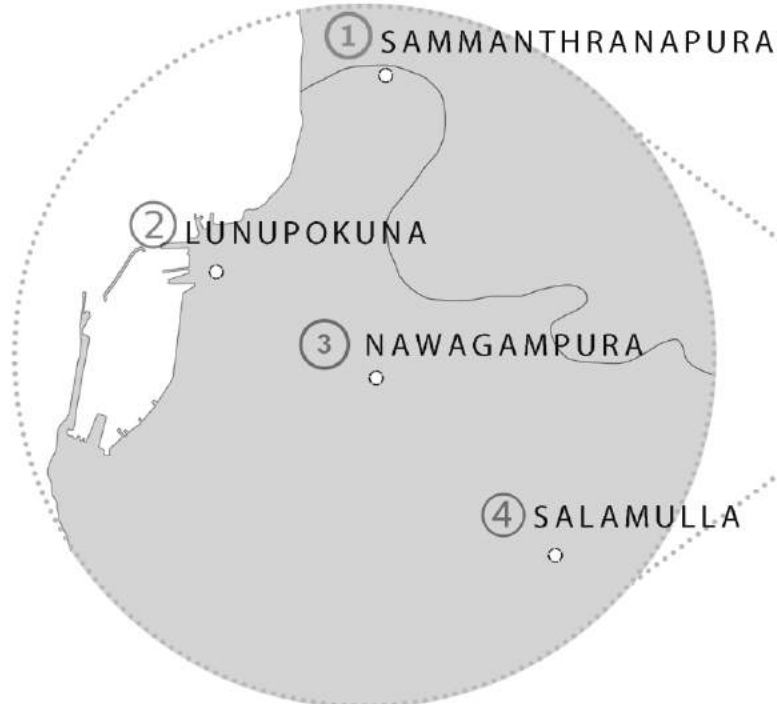
Sarnia Estate in Colombo,

Kandy and Badulla districts

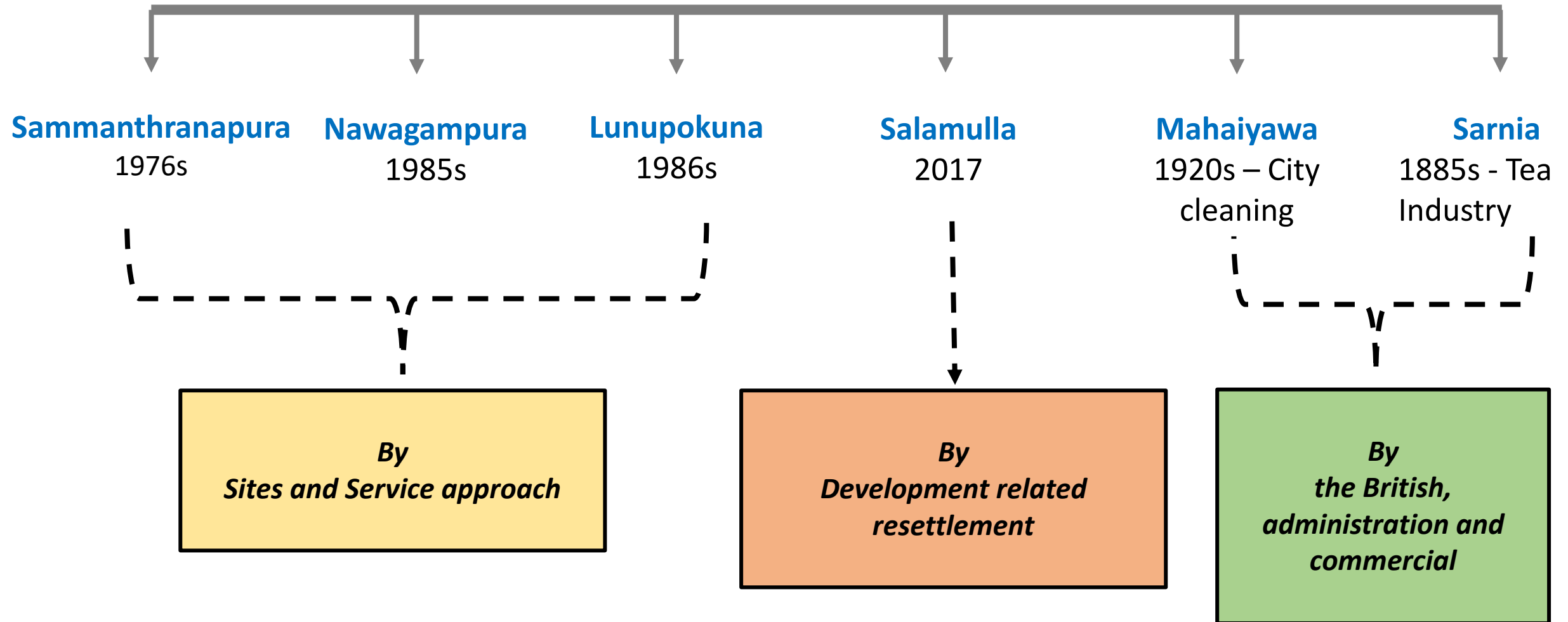
Study sites and types

Six types:

Horizontal, vertical and slope places in urban, semi urban and estate locations



Origins of the settlements



Horizontal – Urban



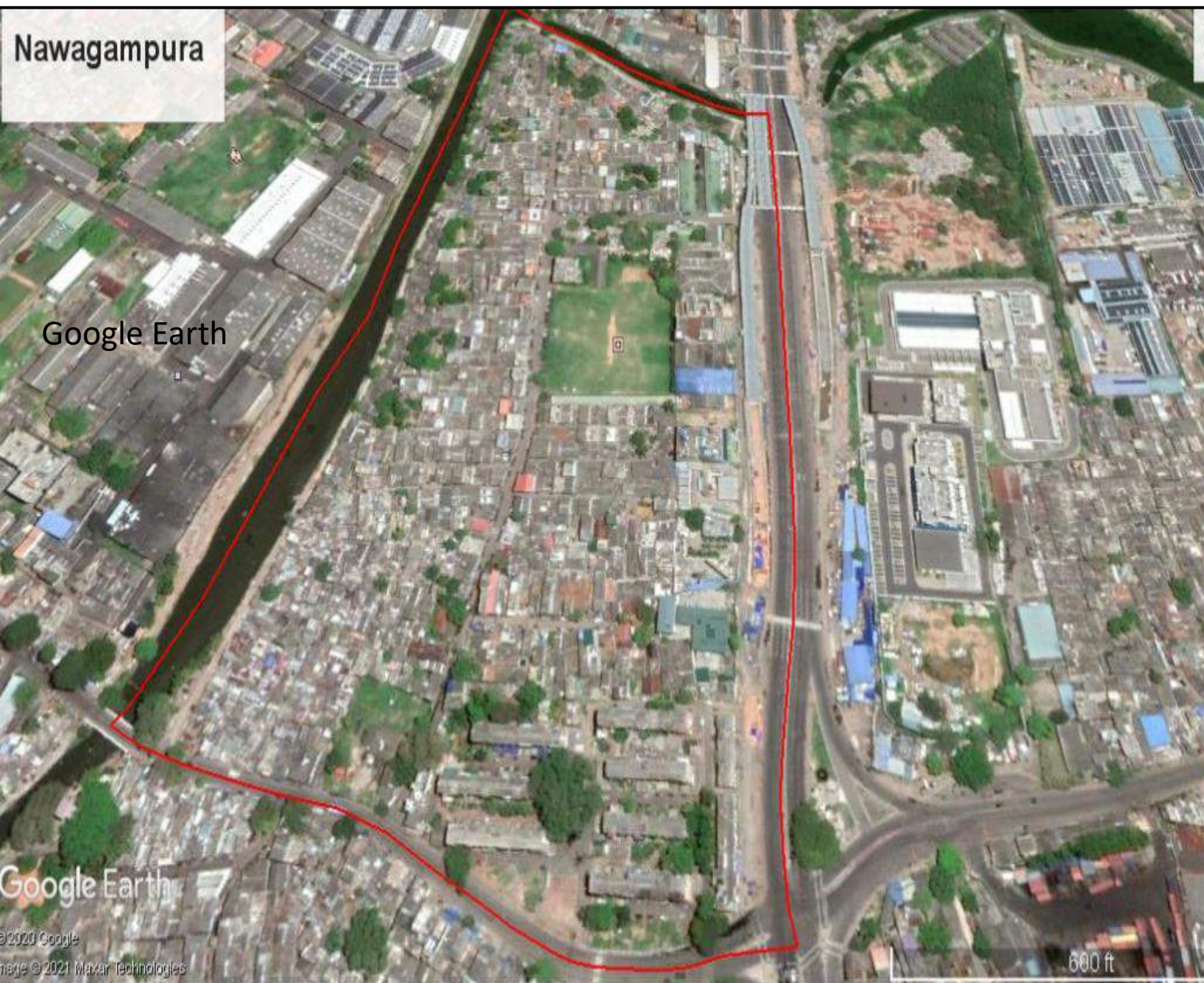
Sammanthranapura

Population	7829
Households	1743
Pop. density	Approx. 637 per hectares
Major ethnicity	Sinhalese
Education level	Secondary
Dependency rate	37.6 % (age 0-14 & 60 above)
Economically active	55 %



1965 Aerial Photographs 2000

Horizontal - Urban



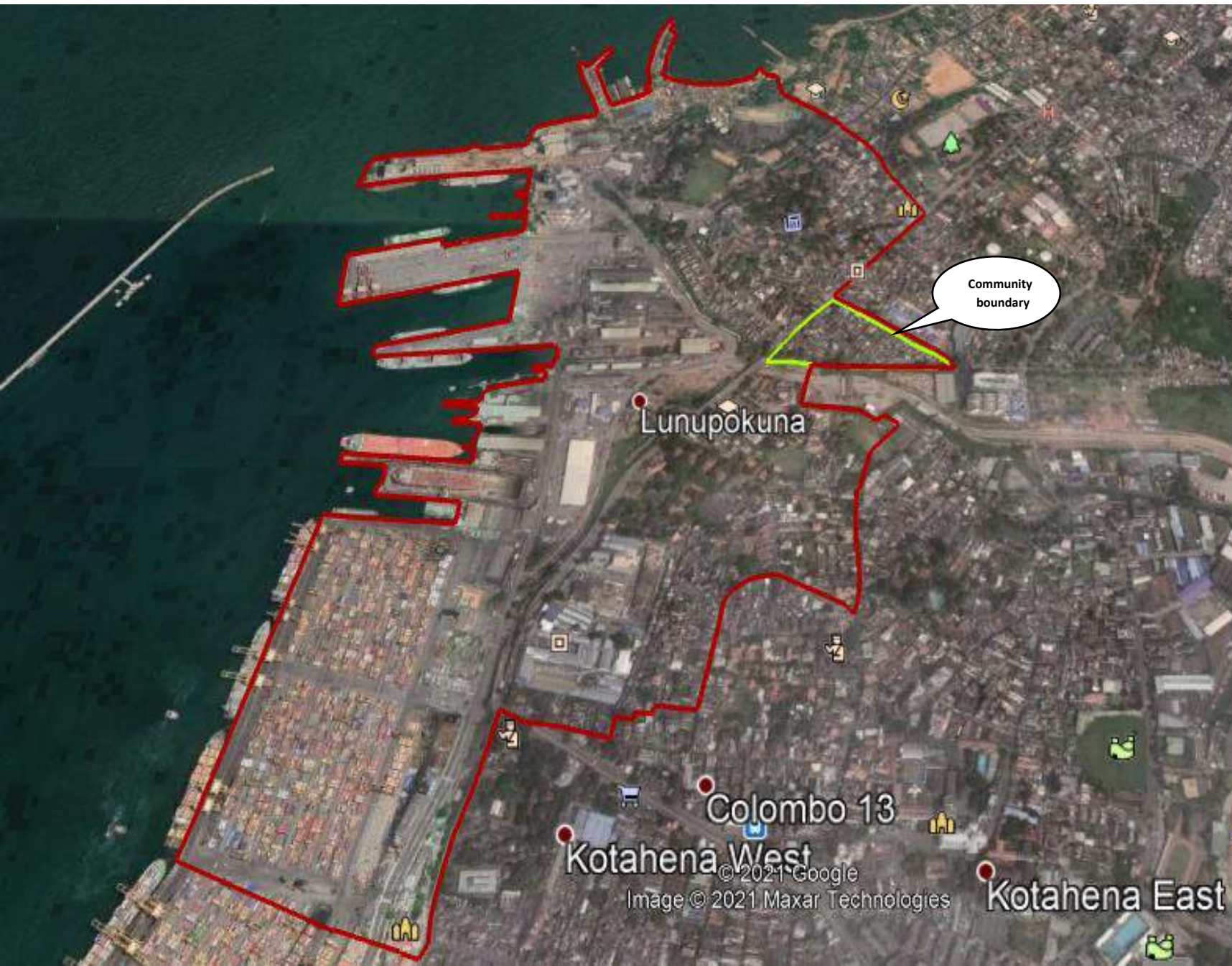
Nawagampura

Population	6821
Households	1465
Pop. density	Approx. 612 per hectares
Major ethnicity	Tamil
Education level	Secondary
Dependency rate	35 % (age 0-14 & 60 above)
Economically active	45.6 %



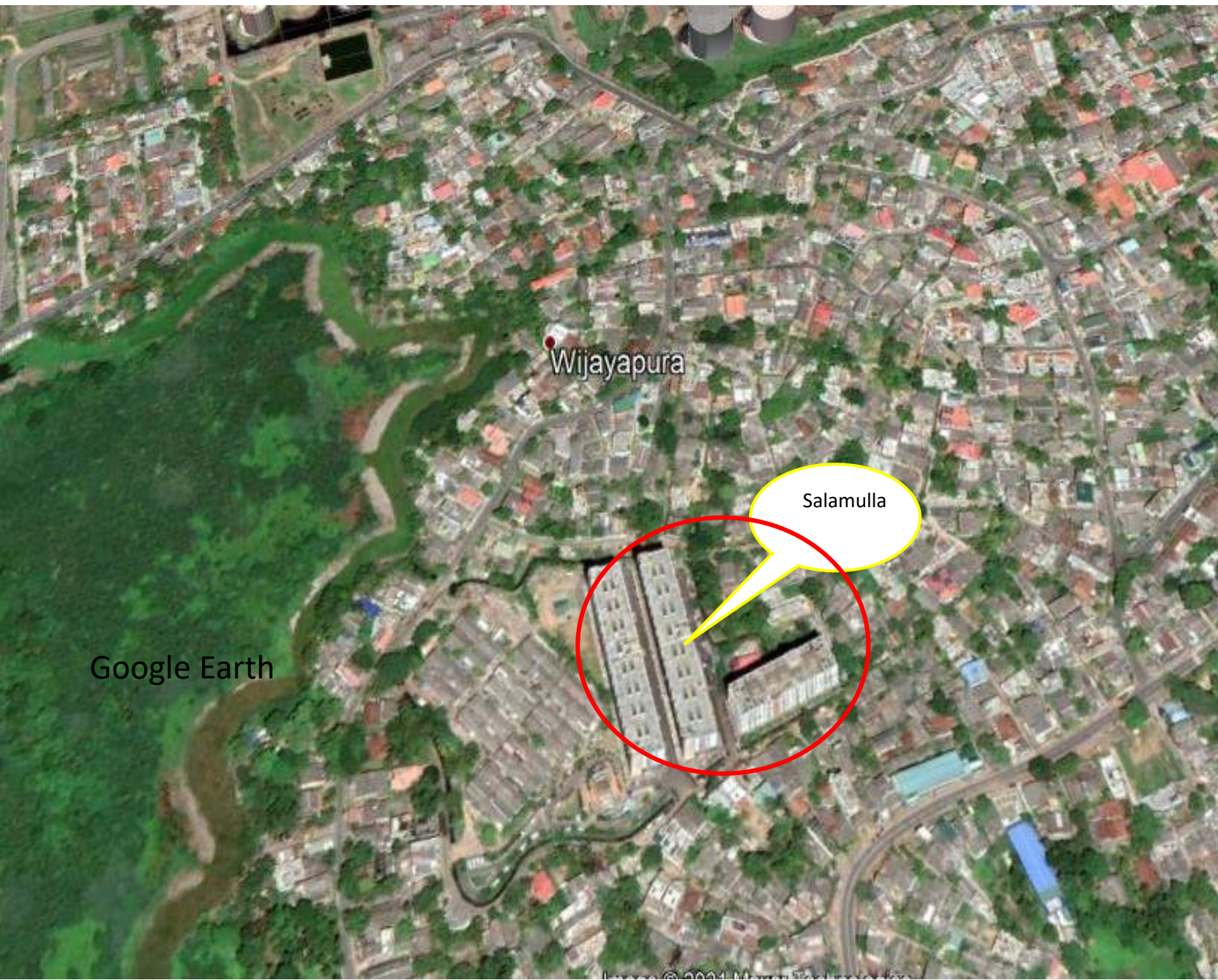
1972 Aerial Photographs 2007

Horizontal - Urban



Lunupokuna	
Population	3000 (community data)
Households	About 500
Pop. density	Approx. 1000 per hectares
Major ethnicity	Tamil
Education level	Secondary
Dependency rate	32 % (age 0-14 & 60 above)
Economically active	51.2 %

Vertical - Urban



Salamulla

Population	4970
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Households	994
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Major ethnicity	Mixed
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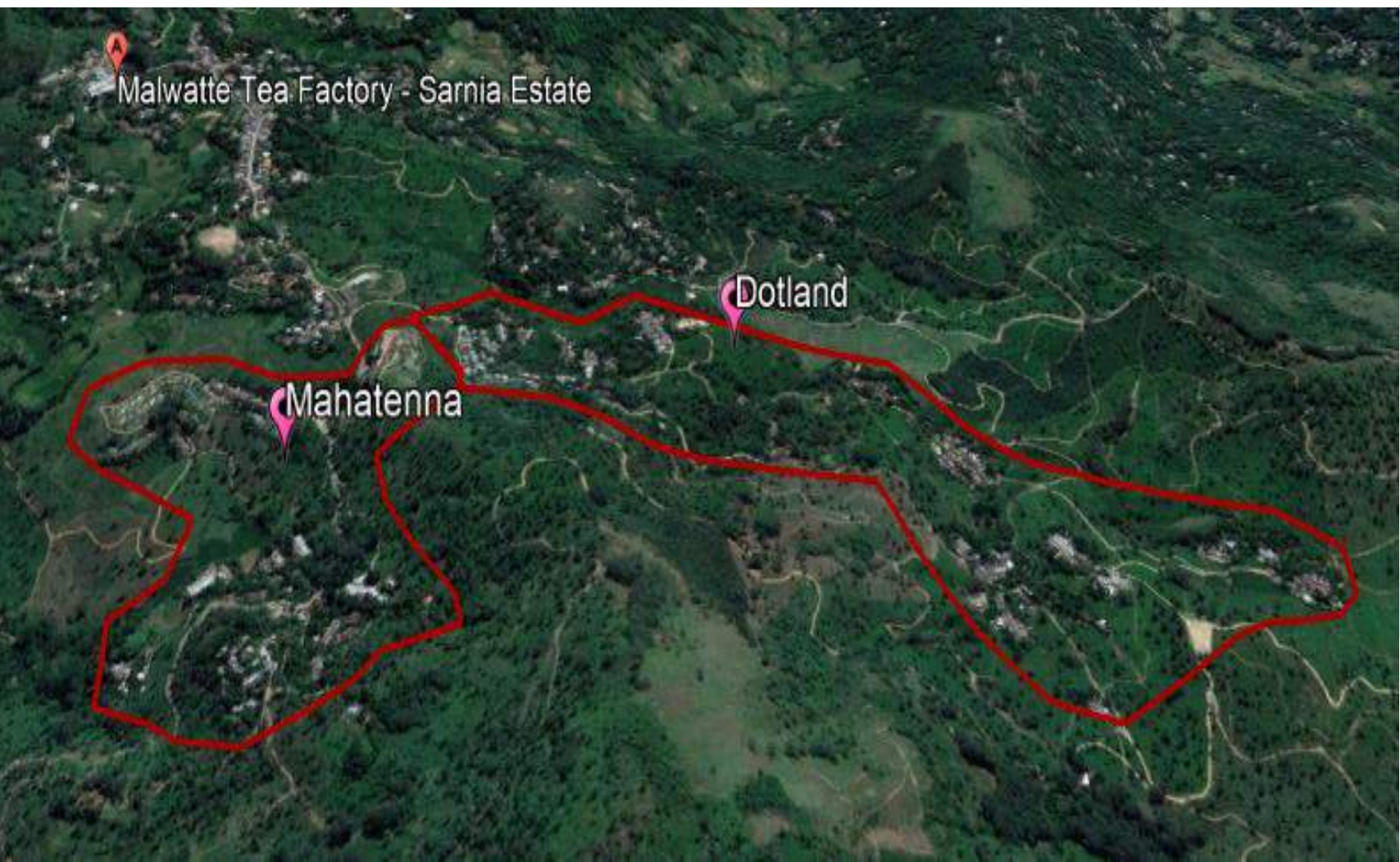
Slope – Semi urban



Mahaiyawa (MC area)

Population	4500
Households	900
Pop. density	Approx. 1851 per hectares
Major ethnicity	Tamil

Slope – Estate

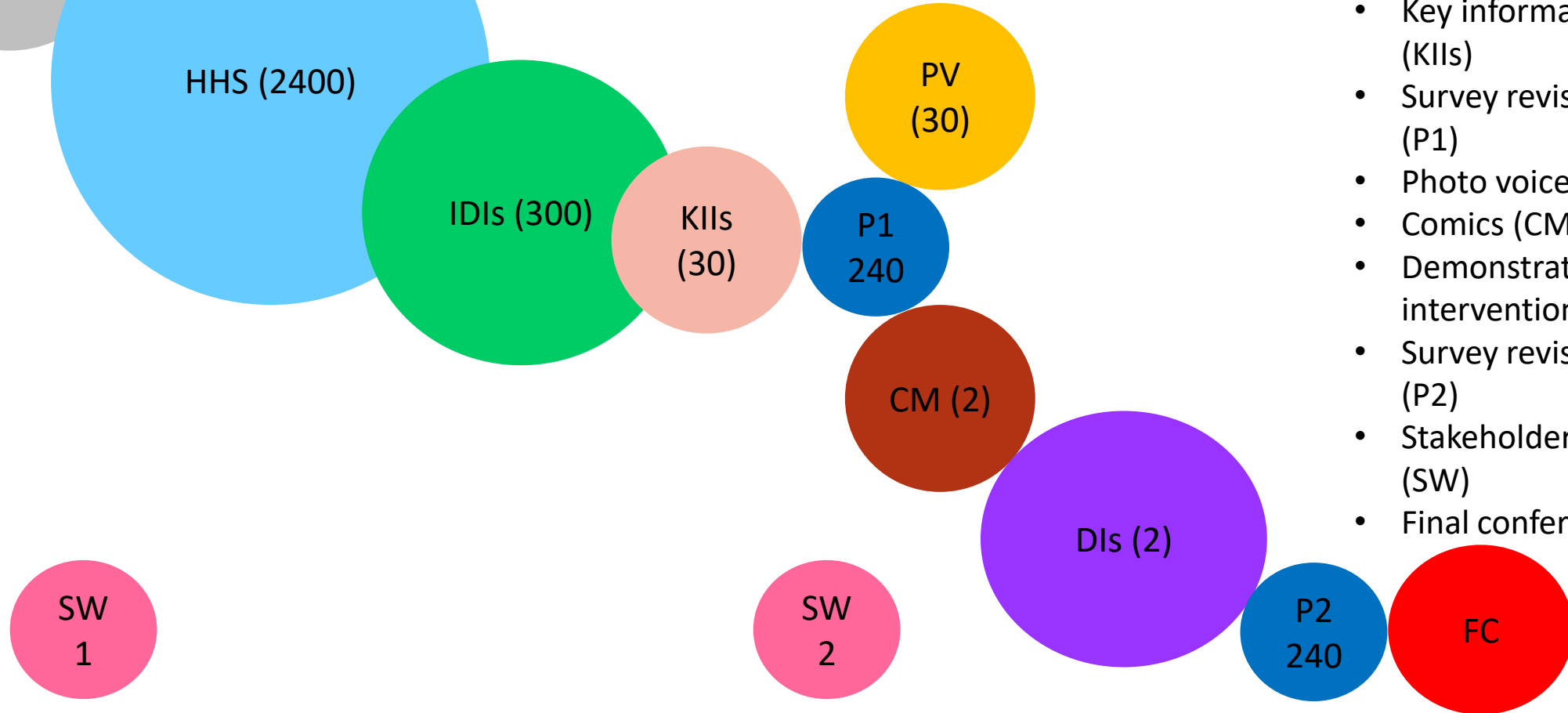


Google Earth

Sarnia	
Population	3263
Households	892
Pop. Density	Approx. 6.6 per hectares
Major ethnicity	Sinhalese
Education Level	Secondary
Dependency rate	42.3
Economically active	50.9

Methods sequence

- Community profiles (CPs)
- Focus group discussions (FGDs)
- HH survey (HHS)
- In-depth interviews (IDIs)
- Key informant interviews (KIIs)
- Survey revisit - panel 1 (P1)
- Photo voice (PV)
- Comics (CMs)
- Demonstration interventions (DIs)
- Survey revisit - panel 2 (P2)
- Stakeholder workshops (SW)
- Final conference (FC)



SEVANATHA Urban Resource Centre

PROJECT YEAR 1

PROJECT YEAR 2

PROJECT YEAR 3

Some indicative early results - Services availability and accessibility in Nawagampura, Lunupokuna and Sammanthranapura

Service	Availability	Accessibility
Water	Unhappy	Some people complained that the water velocity is very low all the time
Sanitation	Very unhappy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“The sanitary situation is the worst here. There is a bad smell and the spreading of mosquitoes occur due to this”</i> <i>“It is very difficult to live with small children in this situation. Because of the drainage problem, this area remains unsuitable for living”</i>
Energy	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/7 electricity Both kerosene and gas are used
Transport	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good transportation network
Communication	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good connectivity

Some indicative early results - Services availability and accessibility in Salamulla

Service	Availability	Accessibility
Water	Not Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues related to water quality <p><i>"We have to tie a piece of cloth to filter the water (rust)"</i></p>
Sanitation	Neither happy nor unhappy	<p>People are happy to have a personal toilet</p> <p>But,.....</p> <p><i>"we have a huge ditch, along our houses. That is cleaned by the Urban Council. But our people dump a lot of garbage into it"</i></p> <p><i>"There are some people in our flats who throw garbage bags from the building"</i></p>
Energy	Happy	<p>24/7 electricity</p> <p><i>"Mostly gas is used. Some people use kerosene stoves"</i></p>
Transport	Neither happy nor unhappy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people have their own transport (three-wheeler/motorbike) Some compare the facilities they had in the previous locations <p><i>"Have to walk one kilometer to get a bus Or have to pay 60-70 rupees for a three-wheeler"</i></p>
Communication	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good connectivity, but..... <p><i>"These days, the usage is high because the children use Zoom to attend classes. Have to recharge phones all the time (3000 rupees/month)"</i></p>

Some indicative early results - Services availability and accessibility in Mahaiyawa

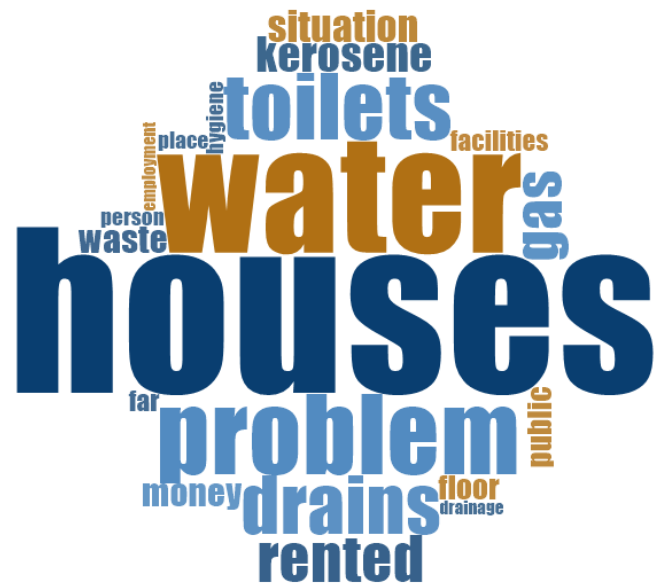
Service	Availability	Accessibility
Water	Extremely happy	24/7 water – uninterrupted water
Sanitation	Extremely unhappy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant number of people using common toilets• Poor drainage system causing a bad smell• In some place the toilet waste connected to the open drainage
Energy	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gas and Kerosine• 24/7 electricity
Transport	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can reach Kandy town with few minutes walk• Good transportation network
Communication	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most people have a mobile phone• Good connectivity

Some indicative early results - Services availability and accessibility in Sarnia

Service	Availability	Accessibility
Water	Not happy	Different sources: Spring, storage tank, wells etc. <i>"the amount of water received is not enough to fulfill our needs"</i>
Sanitation	Neither happy nor unhappy	<i>"Around 20 per cent of the toilets were built at the time when line houses were built"</i> <i>"Separate toilets were begun to build after the 1980s"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainages - lack in cleanliness, damages
Energy	Happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 electricity • Firewood, gas
Transport	Neither happy nor unhappy	<i>"We have to walk about 1 kilometer carrying our goods to reach the main road"</i> <i>"The sub road network is poor and there are damages"</i>
Communication	Neither happy nor unhappy	<i>"All of us have mobile phones but there are problems in the signal coverage"</i>



Lunupokuna – H/U



Nawagampura – H/U



Salamulla – V/U



Sarnia Estate – S/E



Four sites

Challenges and lessons

- Conducting field research in Covid-19 environment, lockdowns, vaccinations
- Needing to adjust/pause plans and timelines
- Data issues/quality at community level (CPs and FGDs affected)
- Phone and technology shortcomings (signal, difficulties with apps, smart phones)
- Establishing contacts virtually, drawing community boundaries virtually
- Changing approaches/being flexible for different locations (i.e. Sarnia and Nawagampura communities)
- Working through known networks, identifying contact persons (hubs) in each site and coordinating through them to reach and speak to respondents
- Doing Zoom's with groups of 4-6 separate respondents and selected family/households via a family member

Outputs and dissemination

Websites:

<http://www.cmrd.lk/en/projects/off-grid.php>

<http://www.sevanatha.org.lk/>

<https://www.inclusiveinfrastructure.org/>

Partnerships: Implementers, collaborators, followers, new networks

Events: Stakeholder workshops, demonstration interventions, conferences

Publications: Book, papers, articles, policy briefs, blogs, photography, comics, news releases (translations to Sinhala and Tamil languages)

Communication: Dedicated officers at local and international level

Plans for formulation of an [Advisory/Observer Group](#) for the research across key sectors and actors

Demonstration intervention on the final year

Mr. Udeni Chularathne

Executive Director, SEVANATHA Urban Resource Centre

What is SEVANATHA URC?

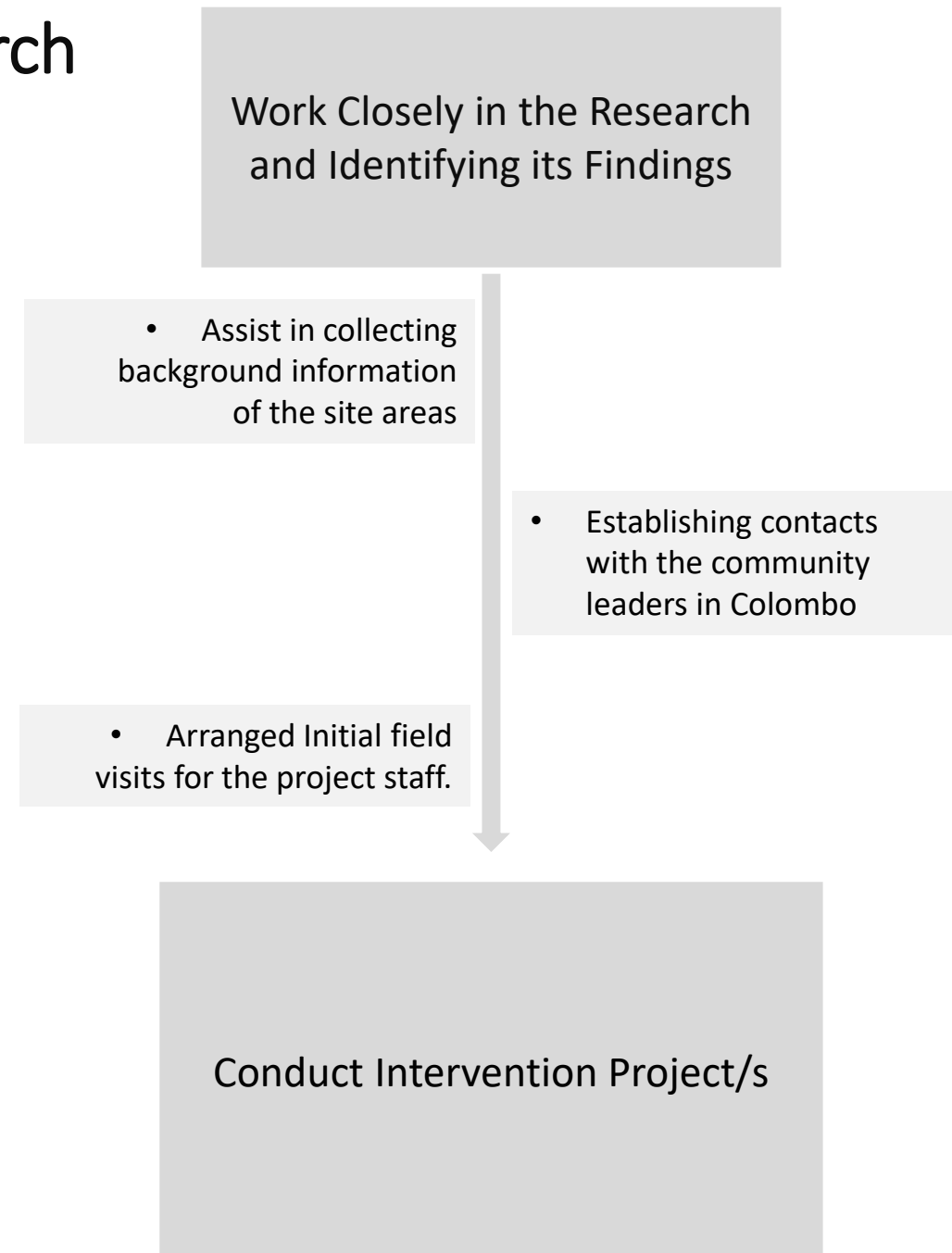
A local NGO established in 1989, which its main activities include:

- ✓ Community Empowerment & Community Institution Building
- ✓ Promote Participatory Development Approaches
Ex: Community Livelihood Action Planning (CLAP), Settlement and Land Mapping (SLM) & Community Construction Contracts (CCC)
- ✓ Participatory Action Research
- ✓ Introduce Community Savings and Credit Programs for shelter and livelihood improvement of the poor
- ✓ Information and Experience Sharing among Urban Stakeholders



Key role of SEVANATHA URC in the Research

1. Conducting Field visits to site areas
2. Building friendly connections with the community through community organizations and individuals
3. Community Based Organizations strengthening
4. Conduct Participatory Action workshops
5. Deciding on the potential intervention projects and prioritizing among them for the highest and best project
6. Seeking Stakeholder consent and approval
7. Introduce Community Led Construction process
Ex: Community Contracts
8. Share O&M responsibility among community
9. Inform Community to keep regular contacts and support for sustainability of the service



Examples of Intervention Demonstration Projects



Community Infrastructure Improvement Project for Communities Affected by Floods in Kolonnawa DS Area in 2017

Interventions:

- Construction of 30 individual toilets with septic tanks for flood affected families.
- 2 km of damaged open drains were rehabilitated along with road surface improvement.
- 10 numbers of damaged culverts were repaired under this project resulting in approximately 3,000 number of both direct and indirect beneficiaries.



Sanitation Improvement Project in Nawagampura Settlement in Colombo city – 2013

Interventions:

- Improvement of inner access roads along with the sewerage system construction.
- Improvement of the land lot where the septic tank is built as a pleasant community space.
- Improvement of privacy for women, young girls and children by using their own individual toilets inside the house.

Examples of Intervention Demonstration Projects Cont.



Promoting **Community – Led Solutions and Partnerships in Settlement Upgrading** in the City of Colombo

Interventions:

- Community Development Councils established and trained on their rights, and CBO management.
- Active savings groups established, trained them on managing savings groups and gaining access to resources.
- Infrastructure improvement plans developed and implemented for the target settlements, based on community priorities and needs.



“Community Mobilization, Awareness & Behavior Change” under the Greater Colombo Water and Waste Water Management Improvement Investment Program (GCWWMIIP) in the City of Colombo, 2016-2020

Interventions:

- Implement Gender Action Plan and ensure gender participation.
- Implement WASH program for communities.
- Make Community Aware of project activities.
- Identify , operationalize and strengthen the Water User Groups in the communities.

Q & A

Vote of thanks

Stay tuned!

Websites:

<http://www.cmrd.lk/en/projects/off-grid.php>

<https://www.inclusiveinfrastructure.org/>

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