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### **Results of a pilot survey to develop a clean city ranking for Sri Lanka**

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There is a need for a survey to assess the solid waste management by local authorities in Sri Lanka but there are very few precedents for such, in Asia or elsewhere. In developing any large scale survey, one needs to balance the comprehensiveness of the survey with cost concerns. In the present study, we limited ourselves to process and outcome measures relating to (a) awareness (b) source separation practices (c) recyclable collection and transport (d) mixed waste collection and transport and (e) cleanliness of the city. The disposal aspects are not addressed in the present pilot.

Measures can be objective or subjective. Objective measures consist of hard data which are verifiable by another investigator. Perception measures are subjective but can be as important or more important if the right stakeholders are consulted. Most local authorities in Sri Lanka function under low capacity conditions and their data collection systems are not always optimal. Our previous experience with data received from local authorities further supports this observation. Therefore, in the present study, we restricted ourselves to perceptions of service providers, service receivers and third party assessors. Service providers were consulted casually but perceptions of other two parties more systematically, i.e. (1) perceptions of residents measured using a survey of residents from a random sample of 408 dwellings (2) perceptions of an in-house surveyor regarding the cleanliness of the locations around the random sample of dwellings.

A critical assessment of the survey results and the instrument and suggestions for improvement will be presented.