

Poverty Maps: Uses and Caveats

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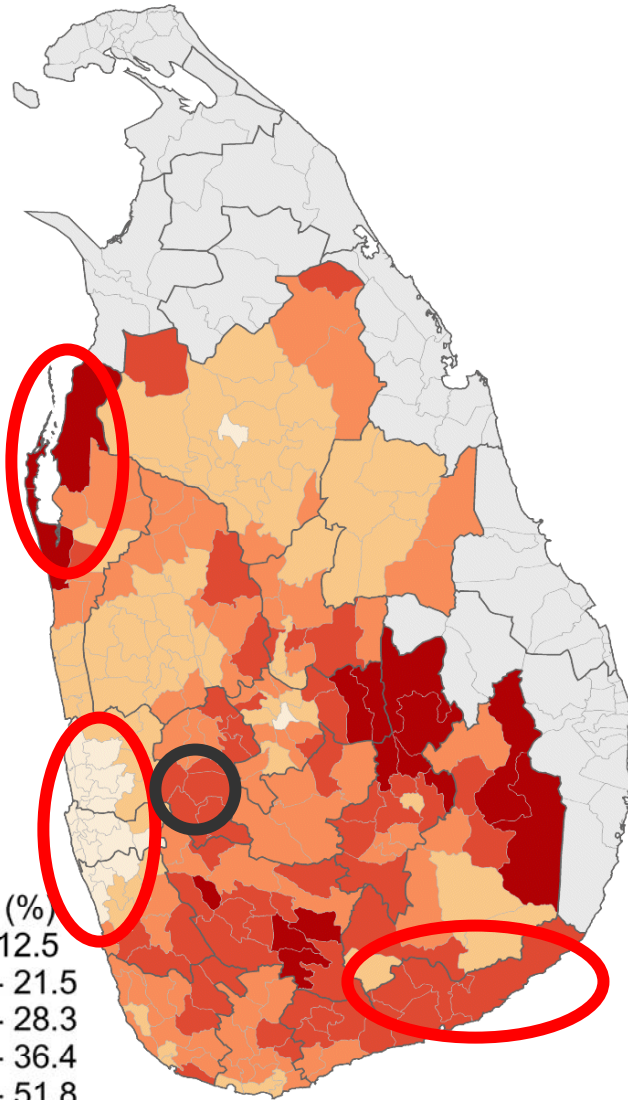
Uses of Poverty Maps

- A visual illustration of estimated poverty indices at DS division level or below (currently excluding N-E region due to lack of data)
- Further benefits from overlaying poverty maps with other GIS info
- Making a case for reform initiatives
- Identifying *broad* policy priorities for reducing poverty and inequality
- Caveats

Poverty maps and GIS information in Sri Lanka

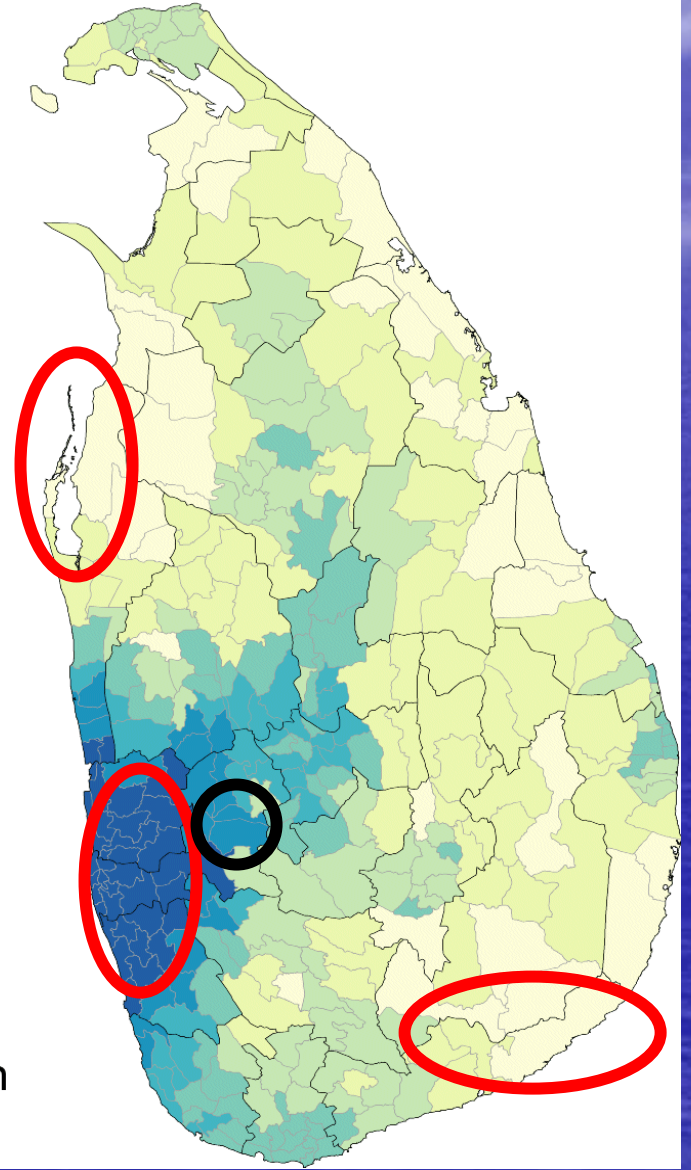
- Poverty maps
 - Headcount ratios at DS division level and below - starkly identifies the pockets of poverty
 - Pockets of severe poverty in the least poor district - Colombo
 - Headcount ratio versus population of the poor: important for designing poverty programs.
 - Overlaying other GIS information with poverty map can be very instructive
 - Remoteness and Poverty Map
 - Road Network and Poverty Map
 - Droughts and Poverty Map
 - Food insecurity and Poverty Map
 - Impacts of Tsunami and pre-tsunami Poverty

Poverty Map (Headcount Ratio)



Headcount (%)	
2.1 - 12.5	Lightest Orange
12.5 - 21.5	Light Orange
21.5 - 28.3	Orange
28.3 - 36.4	Dark Orange
36.4 - 51.8	Dark Red

Accessibility Index



Accessibility Index	
low	Light Yellow
High	Dark Blue

Caveats

- Poverty maps indicate poverty correlates (such as remoteness/droughts).
 - However, poverty maps do not identify causes of poverty
 - Therefore can help policy prioritization but not actual policy design
- Poverty maps indicate geographic mis-targeting in poverty programs
 - Useful for “motivating” the need for reform but not how to design the actual reform
- For both, need further careful analyses with well-focused surveys

Impact of SL Poverty Map (SL PovMap)

1. Clear illustration of miss-targeting in a spatial dimension fosters (or forces) the GoSL to improve targeting of the welfare program
2. SL PovMap is being used to **sequence** reform process in the South
3. SL PovMap is being used to rationalize welfare programs that are known to be duplicated and miss-targeted

Samurdhi Welfare Reform and SL PovMap I

- Accelerate Samurdhi welfare reform
 - Samurdhi welfare program: the largest welfare program in Sri Lanka
 - Large targeting errors: both Undercoverage and Leakage
 - reform process
 - Welfare Benefit Act (enacted on July 12, 2002) and creation of Welfare Benefit Board
 - WB's technical assistance (Proxy means testing formula for improving targeting; Establishing a large MIS; Assisting implementation)
 - Implementation in the North and East (currently in progress)
 - Slow move in the South
 - Impact of SL Poverty Map
 - DCS presented the extent of miss-targeting in a spatial dimension to MoF and Ministry of Samurdhi
 - Both MoF and MoS recognized the necessity of reform in the South

Samurdhi Welfare Reform and SL PovMap II

- Reform in the South
 - GoSL increased the budget for Samurdhi Welfare Program by 50%
 - Increase benefits in the three stages
 - First Stage: Select 113 poorest DS divisions based on SL PovMap and increase their benefits by 50% (This was already implemented in February 2006)
 - Second Stage: Select 105 DS divisions from the rest and increase the benefits by 50% (This stage is planned to be implemented in July 2006)
 - Third Stage: Increase the benefits for the rest of areas
 - To improve targeting, request all potential beneficiaries to show up to a public meeting for community screening
 - But, it is not clear how individual beneficiaries are selected

Process matters I

- SL poverty map is a result of a long-term collaboration between WB and DCS
 - Long term involvement in technical assistance has built technical and analytical capacity of DCS as well as trust between the two
 - Results:
 - Created official poverty lines and established consensus on them among stakeholders
 - Improved DCS' data entry facility for census and household surveys
 - Improved DCS' Geographical Information System facility and analytical capacity
 - Improved DCS' technical and analytical capacity of poverty analysis

Process matters II

- Under delicate political environment, DCS led dissemination of SL Poverty Map to GoSL
 - WB's involvement was not necessarily welcomed by all government officials and politicians
 - DCS' lead in dissemination process facilitated GoSL to accept the result of SL PovMap and use it for policy making
- WB and DCS conducted dissemination workshop for other stakeholders in the country
 - Donors and Research institutes appreciated that our findings would foster their work and analysis

Other Applications for Sri Lanka

- Deepening understanding of causes slowing poverty reduction in Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Poverty Assessment)
- Explore scope for using poverty maps to plan infrastructure investments-i.e., roads
- Overlaying poverty map with nutrition and health facility map could help to identify policy levers for addressing malnutrition
- Overlaying satellite images of service facilities in focused areas like estates could be quite informative
- Scope for expanding and improving HIES for higher resolution maps.