

Safe and Inclusive Cities – Mbare Survey (January 2015)

Field Report

During the in-depth community engagement in Mbare in November, various issues were raised in both Mbare National and in the flats and hostels. The survey exercise was carried out to validate and confirm these findings. There were issues to do with tenure and living spaces where clarity was needed to confirm the residents' rights of occupation – particularly in the flats and hostels. The National area also yielded findings to do with inheritance and awarding of title. The survey questionnaire therefore sought to bring out the position of the residents in all these issues.

Random Selection of Dwelling Units

Using the training conducted by IES (Institute of Environmental Studies) of the University of Zimbabwe, random selection of the households to be visited was employed. The process was done using Enumeration Area Maps from Zim Stat. These maps are used in the delimitation exercise during the National Census and the Elections. So they have a record of all dwellings and house numbers in any given area by Ward.

Method of Selection

Much like in Hatcliffe, the pertinent findings in Mbare were clustered in the geographical demarcation of the area. From the findings in the community engagement, the flats and hostels exhibited similar issues and the National area was slightly different. Therefore 50 households were selected at the flats and hostels and another 50 households were selected in the National area in order to become truly representative of the whole of Mbare.

Mbare Random Selection

Flats and Hostels

From lessons learnt, we decided to enlist the Community Researchers to inform our random selection of households to be interviewed. As the flats and hostels presented a huge pool to select from, we initially got the total number of hostels from the community researchers and then proceeded to randomize the households from there. The selection of hostel households was done by counting the number of blocks per each flat or hostel and proceeding to randomize the block numbers. Then each enumerator was allocated 2 blocks from each flat and would select any 4 households from each block. This worked out to 16 households per enumerator.

Mbare National

Mbare National is different from Hatcliffe in that it has identifiable street names. In this case, it was fairly easy to use the enumeration maps to select the households to be interviewed by street names. Using the randomization method from excel, we input the street names in each enumeration area in one column and the randomization formula in the next column and arranged the streets in random order. Each enumerator was then allocated seven streets and had to pick two households randomly for interviewing. This worked out to a total of 14 households for each enumerator.

Selection and Training of Enumerators – 15th, 16th and 17th January 2015

Just as in Hatcliffe, it was decided to enlist the help of the same Community Researchers who had assisted in the in-depth Community Engagement Exercise in November. One of them had since left to go to college in Masvingo and we were left with a total of 4 researchers. From the Hatcliffe experience, we decided not to replace him as the 4 researchers could quite adequately cover the number of households required for an adequate sample size.

The training of three ladies and one young gentleman commenced on the morning of the 15th of January and continued throughout the day. It was conducted at the SERCWL offices. It followed the same format as the training for Hatcliffe Enumerators, where we began with the technical theory which was well received and then a question by question reading of the survey questionnaire, aiming for thorough understanding of the meaning of each question by the enumerators. This also helped in them pointing out what would work and what would not work in the Mbare context.

The training also involved role plays that the enumerators undertook in order to get full understanding of administering the questionnaire and also to practice the interview technique which was slightly different from the in-depth interview questionnaire they had used in the previous community engagement exercise. These questions had to be asked as they were on the questionnaire; it was not merely a guide.

The second day of training was a 'test run' in the field, which meant sampling the questionnaire with selected respondents, not part of the main selection of the survey. The last day of training was also used to verify the number of flats and hostels and also the number of blocks on each flat, to aid us in our randomization of the blocks of flats.

GPS devices

From the Hatcliffe experience, it was decided to carry on with Albert recording the GPS coordinates of each household visited.

Conducting the Survey 19th – 23rd January 2015

National

The survey began with Mbare National on the 19th of January. When we regrouped before the end of the day, it became clear that the street names selected were clustered in one area of Mbare and would therefore not be representative of the whole of National. Once again, we enlisted the help of the Community Researchers to give us the street names of the other parts of National that were missing and we used these to randomly select two streets each for the enumerators where they would also randomly select two households to interview. This was done on the second day of the survey administration and it ensured that we had an even representation of the Mbare National Households.

Hostels and Flats

The last two days of the survey saw us going into the hostels. Once again, office randomization proved to be different from the situation on the ground. The Tagarika flats in Mbare have a total of 71 blocks, which run continuously from 1 to 71, even though the flats themselves are situated in various different locations of Mbare. Hence, we had to quickly improvise in the field and had each enumerator select 2 blocks from the flat allocated, even though they may be different block numbers from the one generated in the office.

A total of 118 respondents were interviewed in Mbare, 56 in Mbare National and 62 in the flats and hostels.

Challenges

After the first day of conducting the survey, it was picked up that most respondents in Mbare National declared that they had Title Deeds but the subsequent questions on the questionnaire did not create the opportunity to tell the history of how the title deeds came about. In that case, it was decided to select six questionnaires where respondents claimed to have title deeds, and re-visit those households in an attempt to trace the history of how they had come to be awarded the title deeds. We conducted the visits of the selected households on the last day of field work, and the interviews were conducted by a Supervisor.

Incidents

One of the enumerators reported an incident at the Shawasha hostels. She went into a flat and introduced herself and proceeded to conduct the interview. As she wound up the interview, the respondent seemed to change his mind and demanded the questionnaire from her. He then proceeded to rub out the section he had filled in his name and address and signature but left all the other information on the form. He said that he didn't trust that the information he had given would not be published or used in any other unscrupulous way. Then he asked the enumerator to leave.