

# Sanitation and hygiene research in Tanzania



SHARE aims to accelerate progress on sanitation and hygiene in developing countries by generating rigorous and relevant research, and ensuring new and existing solutions are adopted at scale. The consortium is represented in Tanzania – one of SHARE’s four focus countries – by WaterAid Tanzania and the Centre for Community Initiatives – an affiliate of Shack/Slum Dwellers International.

SHARE research underway in Tanzania focuses heavily on sanitation markets and urban sanitation – two of SHARE’s research pillars. The consortium’s more general research activities, including international meetings and global studies, are also relevant because of the extent of Tanzania’s sanitation and hygiene challenges.

Tanzania is one of the largest and poorest countries in Africa, with around 13 million of its population of 39 million people living on less than one US dollar a day. According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme 2010, only 24 per cent of Tanzanians have access to an improved latrine. The vast majority of traditional pit latrines – the most common type of household facility – are unimproved and unhygienic. The activities listed below under SHARE’s four research pillars are relevant to Tanzania:

## Sanitation markets

- An action research project involves identifying approaches being promoted to improve sanitation in urban informal settlements, investigating factors that can unlock demand for sanitation, and determining the necessary environment for scaling-up urban sanitation.
- Researchers are drawing on existing survey data to generate practical recommendations on increasing household demand for, and uptake of, improved and safer pit-emptying services among the urban poor in Dar es Salaam.
- The same survey data is also being used to explore and document household sanitation upgrading decision-making processes among the urban poor in Dar es Salaam.
- Research is underway to assess two key areas determining the success of the National Campaign for Sanitation and Hygiene in Tanzania, namely financing and human resources at local and national levels. The costs of scaling-up sanitation and hygiene promotion, including the ways in which public finance can be used to stimulate private and household investment, will also be studied.
- Researchers are investigating how microfinance can be used effectively to increase financing for sanitation facilities and services. The study aims to document existing microfinance activities in India and assess the potential for development of microfinance for sanitation in Tanzania.

## Urban sanitation

- Using existing data from Dar es Salaam, this research is evaluating household sanitation conditions, problems, practices and perceptions related to on-site sanitation technologies in use in unplanned areas of the city. It will provide a comprehensive overview of the levels of facility investment, ownership, and practices related to toilet usage, cleaning, upgrading and pit management.

## Equity

- A study is monitoring the outcomes and impacts of the Mtumba participatory approach to sanitation and hygiene. The qualitative and quantitative research in Tanzania will measure behaviour change and demand creation, quantify the cost implication of implementing it at the individual, household or community level, and help to understand social factors.

## Health

- Researchers are identifying key environmental, design and usage factors that make a latrine unhygienic in order to develop a hygiene scale that can better inform the classification of improved and unimproved sanitation facilities. It involves testing soil samples from areas adjacent to latrines for helminth eggs and larvae, and testing samples and swabs from latrine walls and doors for E.coli.
- A systematic review is also underway to evaluate systematically, for the first time, the strength of evidence linking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions with childhood nutritional status.

## More information about SHARE

SHARE (Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity) is a five-year initiative (2010-2015) funded by the UK's Department for International Development. The consortium includes the following partners:

- **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh**
- **International Institute for Environment and Development**
- **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**
- **Shack/Slum Dwellers International**
- **WaterAid**

## Contact details and resources

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