

Research into Use Summary

- 1. Research Project:** *Demand for pit-emptying services in unplanned areas of Dar es Salaam*
- 2. Lead researcher:** *Dr Mimi Jenkins, LSHTM/UC Davis*
- 3. SHARE Partners:** *LSHTM*
- 4. Research budget:** *£14,862*
- 5. Location:** *Tanzania*

Research description:

This research will draw on existing survey data from Dar es Salaam and generate practical and actionable knowledge and recommendations on increasing household demand for and uptake of improved and safer pit-emptying services. Analyses and multivariate modelling will be conducted to develop an in-depth behavioural understanding of the choice of pit-emptying method as a function of cost, income, housing type, location, and other socio-economic factors. Interest in and willingness-to-pay for an improved pit-emptying service offer will be examined. The work will assist with understanding of the factors associated with levels of expressed demand for improved pit-emptying services in unplanned low-income areas of Dar es Salaam.

What is the relevance of the research to national and/or global sector challenges?

The emerging problem of full pits and lack of sanitary emptying and disposal services for on-site sanitation adversely affects the urban poor in Dar es Salaam and many other major and secondary cities in Sub-Saharan Africa. While sanitation coverage in urban Dar es Salaam stands at over 90 per cent, only 15 per cent of household toilets are connected to a sewer. The vast majority of homes in unplanned areas rely on pit latrines with limited access to hygienic pit-emptying services. Thus pits may overflow or be emptied in an unhygienic manner leading to faecally-contaminated environments, even in the presence of theoretically high sanitation coverage. In order to address the serious problem of inadequate and unsafe removal and disposal services for pit faecal waste in poor underserved communities within Dar Es Salaam and beyond, it is necessary to explore demand for improved pit-emptying services and determine conditions of this demand.

Who are the intended users of this research?

A report will be prepared that details knowledge and recommendations on increasing demand for improved and safer pit-emptying services in order to address the serious problem of inadequate and unsafe removal and disposal services for pit faecal waste in poor underserved communities within Dar es Salaam and beyond. A manuscript and findings will be targeted broadly at practitioners, agencies, policy makers, municipal authorities, development banks and donors involved in the funding, planning, design and implementation of urban on-site sanitation projects in order to shed light on the need for improved pit emptying services and recommend approaches for developing such services in unplanned areas of Dar es Salaam and other similar East African cities and towns. A policy brief for broad dissemination on the implications of the findings will be developed in conjunction with the SHARE communications team.

