

# Research into Use Summary

- 1. Research Project:** *Exploring the potential for microfinance in sanitation*
- 2. Lead researcher:** *Sophie Tremolet, LSHTM*
- 3. SHARE Partners:** *LSHTM*
- 4. Research budget:** *£9,950*
- 5. Location:** *UK (desk-based study)*

## Research description:

*The key objective of the activity is to investigate how microfinance can be used effectively to increase financing for sanitation facilities and services. This research is the first step in a broader research programme investigating the use of microfinance for sanitation, which will include a series of case studies to understand how microfinance products for sanitation have been designed. Researchers will conduct a review of the literature on the subject and consult with potential research partners, key informants, other microfinance professionals and experts to identify research partners, key research questions, and proposed case study locations.*

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

*Basic sanitation is often considered the responsibility of households, yet they have limited resources to finance adequate latrines. One possible solution to overcome this financial constraint lies in increasing the flows of finance through innovative financing mechanisms. Microfinance is one mechanism that can help address the affordability constraint. This report identified relevant experiences with microfinance for sanitation and these warrant further investigation on the basis of a common methodological framework. It will also feed into the development of a practical “lessons learned” document for donors looking to channel financing for sanitation to small-scale agents, including households, community-based organisations and small-scale service providers for sanitation.*

## Who are the intended users of this research?

*Project outputs were summarised in an activity report containing a list of identified research partners (with an outline of their interests), key research questions, proposed case study locations (including a rationale and brief description of the cases), as well as annotated lists of microfinance networks and international donors. This report was the basis for formulating a research proposal to conduct case studies of microfinance for sanitation in India and Tanzania. A summary of the research findings will be made publicly available on the SHARE website and will be disseminated within the SHARE consortium and to a broad range of users.*

