

Research into Use Summary

- 1. Research Project:** *Roundtable meeting to discuss the data available for monitoring access to sanitation in slums*
- 2. Lead researcher:** *Tom Slaymaker, WaterAid*
- 3. SHARE Partners:** *WaterAid, IIED, SDI*
- 4. Research budget:** *£7,850*
- 5. Location:** *UK*

Research Description:

This roundtable discussion in London will highlight the issues surrounding the monitoring of sanitation progress in urban area slums. The event will bring together researchers from both SHARE and non-SHARE organisations to discuss:

- How reliable is current data on access to sanitation and hygiene in urban areas, particularly slums?*
- How can monitoring of access to sanitation and hygiene in slums be improved?*

Five to ten participants will be invited, including representatives from SHARE partners International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI) together with other experts such as those from the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UN-Habitat.

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

The UNICEF-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) collates and presents data on access to sanitation, based on survey data including Demographic and Health Surveys, and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and on national census data. However, these surveys and census often define urban as only the 'formal' areas of the city – meaning that informal settlements are often not included in sampling. Underrepresentation of these areas means that existing data tend to underestimate the lack of sanitation in urban areas. In order to determine accurately the progress made in the urban sanitation sector, more refined monitoring tools must be developed.

Who are the intended users of this research?

This roundtable meeting will be an opportunity to review the current sanitation monitoring approaches in urban areas, with the intention of developing methods to make them more reliable. Discussions will also explore ways to ensure that sector stakeholders are better able to articulate the problem of sanitation and hygiene in slums to municipal and national governments.

Following the discussion, partners will develop a full proposal to be submitted to SHARE. A summary of the roundtable discussions will be made publicly available on the SHARE website and will be disseminated within the SHARE consortium and to a broad range of users.

