

Research into Use Summary

- 1. Research Project:** *Action research for assessing demand for scaling up sanitation to the urban poor in Tanzania*
- 2. Lead researcher:** *Tim Ndezi*
- 3. SHARE Partners:** *SDI, IIED*
- 4. Research budget:** *£60,000*
- 5. Location:** *Tanzania*

Research description:

The overall purpose of the research is to provide a better understanding of how demand for sanitation among the urban poor could be assessed with a view to improving sanitation in informal settlements in Tanzania. The researchers will use action research to develop a sanitation model and framework that can be used to promote demand-led sanitation. The action research will identify approaches and frameworks being promoted in urban informal settlements, investigate factors that can unlock demands for sanitation in urban informal settlements, and determine the necessary environment for scaling up urban sanitation. This application of action research suggests the use of case-study methodology. Field data will be collected using a mixture of qualitative, quantitative and participatory approaches.

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

Sanitation in urban areas in Tanzania faces critical challenges due to the poor existing infrastructure, lack of hygienic sanitation, and poor disposal of waste. These issues are similar to those faced in urban areas of other developing countries. The conventional top-down approach in planning and implementing sanitation facilities does not sufficiently consider the needs and means of the beneficiaries in urban settings. This research aims to develop a sustainable sanitation project for the urban poor that adequately addresses the needs of this specific sub-population.

Who are the intended users of this research?

Developing countries must overcome major challenges if they are to meet Millennium Development Goal 7, halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and sanitation by 2015. Finding new ways to improve environmental sanitation in the developing world, particularly in urban settings, is one of the main challenges of this century. Based on this investigation, a sustainable sanitation project for the urban poor will be designed and implemented. This project could serve as a model for future urban sanitation projects. One objective of the research is to disseminate information to key stakeholders in national, regional and international arenas about the lessons learned and best practices for promoting sanitation. A workshop will be organised for local organisations, and a video documentary of the action research will be produced. 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.

