

Call for Proposals: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Research Grant

The Sanitation Learning Hub, based at the Institute of Development Studies, is a participatory and action-orientated programme aimed at promoting and facilitating timely, relevant and actionable learning and research in the sanitation and hygiene sector.

Our vision is that everyone realises their right to safely managed sanitation and hygiene – making sure no one is left behind in the drive to end open defecation for good.

A large component of the Hub's work is around research and learning to support gender equality and social inclusion (GESI)¹ in sanitation and hygiene programming. This includes gender transformative sanitation approaches and 'Leave No One Behind' policies and programmes that focus on the poorest, most marginalised and hardest to reach households and communities.

The Hub is offering up to 3 grants of up to £15,000 (approximately \$20,000) for in-country research institutes, organisations or think tanks, to undertake GESI specific research into sanitation and hygiene in low and low-middle income countries. The research will focus on those who have been overlooked/left behind. It must also be co-created with local organisations and people, reflect their knowledge and concerns, and develop practical solutions.

Proposals can develop their own specific research questions on any GESI topic relevant to your own country context. Research can be undertaken in either rural or urban contexts. Some priority areas include:

- Identifying and tackling slippage
- The use and effectiveness of different support mechanisms for the construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities
- Identifying who, how and why people are being missed in current sanitation and hygiene programmes
- The links between social protection and sanitation

Criteria for this work include:

- It should take a qualitative, preferably participatory², approach
- It should be undertaken in collaboration with a Rights Holder Organisation³ and a WASH partner
- It will tackle a GESI problem associated with sanitation programming in your country
- Specific recommendations for future programming are to be proposed in consultation with a WASH programming organisation and communities
- Findings will be presented and discussed with the community, asking them what they might wish to do with the findings

¹ Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is an approach whereby WASH interventions lead to equal access to, and control over, resources and participation in decision making processes for all, as well as contribute to greater gender equality and social inclusion beyond the WASH sector.

² For more information on participatory research see:

<https://www.participatorymethods.org/task/research-and-analyse>

³ An organisation that works with marginalised group(s) to support the realisation for their rights

Eligibility:

The call is open to **all research institutes, organisations and think tanks in low or lower-middle income countries**. Calls are particularly welcome from those based in Pakistan, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Support offered:

Monetary support to cover research costs: up to £15,000 per grant. This is intended to support research costs such as researcher time, accessing data/publications, additional personnel⁴ (i.e. enumerators and interpreters), travel, meetings, communication, and any other associated research costs.

Support for publication: For authors wishing to publish in a journal we will also support Open Access fees.

Research timeline and outputs:

The successful candidate will be expected to undertake field work between April and June 2022 with a final report or paper submitted to the Sanitation Learning Hub at the **end of July 2022**.

Specific outputs:

- Inception report
- Blog
- Research report/paper (20 pages max.)
- Presentation at two virtual or in-person event (this could include a global meeting, conference, webinar or in-country meeting)

Evaluation criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well the following criteria are addressed:

- A well-defined research objective related to GESI and sanitation and hygiene
- A clearly defined qualitative, preferably participatory, research methodology
- Partnership with a sanitation and hygiene NGO and CSO
- Problem you wish to address is clearly presented and evidence based
- Research plan is achievable and appropriate for research question
- An innovative plan for dissemination (including with research participants)
- Evidence that ethics and risks are considered
- A clear budget breakdown and rationale
- Qualifications, expertise and/or a demonstrated interest in sanitation and hygiene research and/or participatory methods

Application process:

Please send your proposal addressing the key components below along with CVs and support letter to SLH@ids.ac.uk, by **February 18th, 2022**. Unfortunately, only proposals in English will be accepted. Applications will be initially reviewed by the Sanitation Learning Hub and colleagues at the Institute of Development Studies before being reviewed by independent

⁴ Any additional staff will have to be subcontracted by the PI and have their own insurance

experts. Those that best cover the evaluation criteria will then be invited for a meeting with SLH staff before a final decision is made. Successful grantees will be told by March 11th 2022.

Successful candidates will be subject to IDS's due diligence checks and prior to contracting will be asked to provide appropriate supporting documentation prior to the set-up of contract to demonstrate appropriate and sufficient governance, finance, management security and safeguarding processes and policies are in place. Furthermore, proposals must pass IDS's research ethics review which will assess any potential ethical risks and if/how these can be mitigated. Although we will not require respective documentation at the proposal stage you should expect to provide this if successful.

Proposed template:

1. Name and location of the institution/organisation/think tank
2. Research team details – list name, gender, nationality, country based in and email address of PI(s) and any co-researchers
3. What specific challenge in sanitation and hand hygiene programming do you wish to address? (<250 words)
4. Which GESI challenges/categories do you wish to address? (<250 words)
5. Objectives of the research (<4 bullet points)
6. Details of scope and methods used, including a timeline (<800 words)
7. What you would like to achieve (<400 words)
8. Which rights holder organisation and WASH stakeholder will you be working with? How do you plan on working together? (<200 words)
9. Outline of specific outputs to be delivered and plan for dissemination (<200 words)
10. What are the potential risks (i.e. safety, safeguarding and operational) that could impact the delivery of the project and safety of the community? How will you mitigate these risks? (<400 words)
11. Relevant work and experience undertaken in the past five years (<400 words)
12. Any additional information you wish to share (<200 words)

The proposal should not exceed 8 pages.

In addition, include

- All CVs (maximum 2 pages each).
- Proposed budget (including any taxes payable). The budget should include the costs associated with the collaboration with the Rights Holder Organisation i.e. funding their participation in any meetings or research activities, the cost of any technical advisory work and so forth. Plus include costs involved with sharing and discussing findings with research participants.
- A letter supporting the proposal from the WASH partner and RHO.
- A statement on how GESI will be considered in different stages of the assignment i.e. forming the research team, identifying the research question, selecting the methodology, performing the field work, verifying the research findings, writing the outputs and in the dissemination activities (400 words max.).

If you have any questions please contact SLH@ids.ac.uk