

PO 6981 Terms of Reference (1/1/19 – 30/6/2020)

Additional Requirements: Sanitation and Hygiene Research Programme Consortium (SHARE)

BACKGROUND

The Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity (SHARE) Consortium is a £16 million DFID-funded programme, established in 2010 and due to close in December 2018. SHARE aims to improve the performance of WASH and related sectors through the generation of rigorous evidence, and, in this way, contribute towards effective, sustainable and equitable access. SHARE is unique in its focus, structure and strategy. It focuses on sanitation and hygiene in low-income countries, still a relatively neglected area of public health research; it has an innovative structure which bridges academia and practice; and its strategy combines the three synergistic elements of research production, capacity and impact.

In the first five years, SHARE convened sector partners to identify critical research questions constraining progress in sanitation and hygiene and funded dozens of small research projects across several thematic areas, through open calls for research. Phase 2 saw a more focused approach across four thematic areas identified as research and policy priorities in Phase 1: WASH and nutrition, urban sanitation, complementary food contamination, and links to oral vaccination for enteric diseases. Phase 2 was designed to maximise value for money and leverage Phase 1 investments but also to achieve greater national impact by investing in major studies led by national academic partners in four African countries: Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya.

Achievements to-date

SHARE has delivered over 50 research projects, with over 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals and almost 200 resource materials to-date, £86.6 million leveraged through direct WASH investments and £8 million leveraged additional research investments. SHARE has systematically achieved all log-frame indicators each year. The Programme has received a minimum 'A' rating in DFID annual reviews, and regularly exceeded this. Accordingly, research, capacity development and research uptake activities have yielded substantial impact to-date. SHARE has developed capacity to carry out and use research globally, with a particular emphasis in the focus countries on developing future research leaders, building longer term institutional capacity. The research impact secured to-date is largely due to SHARE's role as convenor, engaging audiences to shape evidence-based discussion on policy and practice and charting future research agendas. These activities have contributed significantly to global development:

- Shining a spotlight on neglected links between WASH and outcomes such as [maternal health](#), [nutrition](#) and [NTDs](#) and driving new research through systematic reviews
- Galvanising action by global decision-makers through high-level convening in areas where the evidence warrants it, such as through the [Global Action Plan on WASH in health care facilities](#)
- Providing evidence-informed guidance to practitioners where justified, such as the acclaimed [toolkit for practitioners on gender and WASH](#) and [Menstrual Hygiene Management Manual](#)
- Advancing the knowledge base through delivery of dozens of rigorous studies in partnership with local institutions across a broad range of thematic areas.

The rationale and need for further funding was set out in the contract amendment approval form and has been approved by the Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor.

PURPOSE

The goal of this cost extension remains the same as for the initial phases of SHARE, which is to improve access to and uptake of adequate sanitation and hygiene by poor households to contribute to achieving the SDGs and to reducing poverty worldwide. The purpose will also remain to contribute to achieving universal access to effective, sustainable and equitable sanitation and hygiene through the use of better data and evidence based approaches. This cost extensions consolidate successes and maximise value for money of the existing investment through a focus on impact and leverage. There are 3 overarching objectives:

Maximising research impact to shape the global debate

SHARE has become a global leader in sanitation research, strongly shaping agenda around through research production and capacity development. Current research protocols commissioned under Phase 2 run to the end of the programme and this limits what is possible in terms of delivering the impact from the results which are now emerging from these investments. In addition, the publication of results this year from a number of high profile trials (SHINE - also funded by DFID- and WASH Benefits) is challenging business as usual in the WASH sector. SHARE's ongoing research is highly relevant and an extension will enable the Programme to inform/engage with the emerging global debate around WASH research. This debate will inform how the WASH sector operates, and SHARE is uniquely placed to contribute to it, having focused on research around the impact pathways to the benefits of WASH, including four large partner-led studies due to complete in December 2018.

Providing continuity for future sanitation research

DFID's next large investment in sanitation research post-SHARE will be the African Cities Research Programme. Given the holistic approach of this Programme, taking the city as a system as its starting point and looking at sanitation as one of several intractable problems facing rapidly growing African cities, it is unlikely to deliver significant research on sanitation for a number of years. Maintaining the SHARE partner network will enable DFID to provide a scoping mechanism of evidence gaps to ensure coherence within the new proposed Sanitation Solutions business case.

Sustaining research capacity in East Africa

SHARE has placed strong emphasis on capacity development, to develop centres of WASH research excellence in our focus countries, with a particular emphasis on mid-level career researchers. These investments are showing signs of bearing fruit. A number of SHARE Research Fellows have won competitive awards to support future African research leaders, and are beginning to win research grants of their own. In addition, the SHARE Consortium and the relationships amongst partner institutions have matured over the years since its inception, with partners now coming together to proactively identify and pursue common areas of research interest. However, whilst there is a commitment to continue to work together, efforts to succeed in competitive research calls at the global level are likely to fall short without temporary funding that creates space and dialogue to leverage funds post-SHARE for continued collaboration as a Consortium.

In summary, maximising the value for money of the SHARE Programme requires dedicated funding in 2019. A new 18-month investment will allow time for publication of the primary outcome findings and ensure policy and programmatic uptake. It will also support grant proposals for follow-on studies led by SHARE partners and their future research leaders.

The anticipated additional deliverables from this amendment are:

1. Ten peer-reviewed scientific publications
2. Four high-level national research-to-impact processes that facilitate stakeholder dialogue on implications of SHARE findings for policy, practice and future research
3. Series of thematic global symposia convening high-profile research, policy and practice actors
4. Lead role in developing consensus around sanitation and health evidence
5. Support to DFID in delivering an evidence review on WASH impact to inform our forward portfolio
6. Four multi-year funding proposals led by SHARE partner institutions.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME CONSORTIUM

To achieve this, the programme will continue to be

- headed by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine;
- led by an effective Director with demonstrable research management experience;
- informed by globally renowned research and communications expertise with LSHTM and externally;
- undertaken by the effective partner network established under Phase 2 of the SHARE programme;
- engaged with partner country national, local and municipal governments and CBOs;
- delivered through systems and relationships for uptake and impact established over the last 9 years of investment in SHARE.