Research into Use Summary

1. Research Project: Sanitation conditions, problems, practices, and perceptions in unplanned areas of Dar es Salaam
2. Lead researcher: Dr Mimi Jenkins, LSHTM/UC Davis
3. SHARE Partners: LSHTM
4. Research budget: £14,828
5. Location: Tanzania

Research description:
This research will use existing data from Dar es Salaam to prepare a paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The paper will quantitatively characterise existing household sanitation conditions, problems, practices, and perceptions related to on-site sanitation technologies in use in unplanned urban areas of Dar es Salaam. It will provide a comprehensive overview of levels of facility investment, ownership, and practices related to toilet sharing, usage, cleaning, replacement, upgrading and pit management.

What is the relevance of the research to national and/or global sector challenges?
This work will address SHARE’s themes of urban sanitation, sanitation markets, and equity and gender by assessing the sanitation situation, as well as the perspectives and needs of low-income populations in Dar es Salaam – the largest city in Tanzania, one of SHARE’s focus countries. It is envisaged that findings from this analysis will not only provide an in-depth baseline picture allowing for the development of more strategic urban sanitation programming in Dar es Salaam itself, but will also inform urban sanitation programming for other cities in, and beyond, Tanzania. In-depth analyses will examine the relationship between the sanitation situation, sanitation needs, and urban geography (e.g. population density, ground type, tenancy situation) to move beyond general descriptions to identify the particular sanitation situations, perspectives and needs of different urban sub-populations.

Who are the intended users of this research?
The research paper will generate practical knowledge and recommendations related to the opportunities and limitations of sanitation marketing strategies for the urban poor in Dar es Salaam. It will be targeted at practitioners, agencies, policy-makers, municipal authorities, development banks and donors involved in the funding, planning, design and operation of projects and services to improve urban on-site sanitation facilities and services, with particular attention to the full sanitation value chain in unplanned areas of Dar es Salaam and other similar East African cities. A policy brief for broad dissemination on the implications of the findings will be developed in conjunction with the SHARE communications team. 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.