1. **Research Project:** Testing alternative ‘best practice’ handwashing interventions
2. **Lead researcher:** Dr Robert Aunger, LSHTM
3. **SHARE Partners:** LSHTM
4. **Research budget:** £31,760
5. **Location:** India

**Research description:**

The objective of the proposed study is to generate evidence on the effectiveness of interventions in increasing handwashing with soap in a small-scale, field-based experiment in India, a SHARE priority country. This will be achieved through field testing of proposed intervention methods and materials in a small-scale experimental study. The research will involve field visits with interviews and exposure to the intervention, filming of handwashing behaviours, and focus group discussions. The qualitative work will allow us to refine interventions to be used in the Wellcome Trust Randomised Controlled Trial on handwashing interventions. The results of this study will also provide interim evidence for use by SHARE partners and others in the sector.

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

The Hygiene Centre at LSHTM has been working for 25 years on developing ideas and assisting in the formulation of programmes designed to increase rates of handwashing with soap in developing countries. This has resulted in the identification of a number of plausible candidate interventions. However, we do not know which of these promising interventions work best to change handwashing behaviour. The goal of this project is to refine the components of the SHARE hygiene promotion toolbox in order to maximise the chances of inducing high levels of behaviour change.

**Who are the intended users of this research?**

Exposing small numbers of households to particular interventions and then following up with them to investigate how they influenced household handwashing behaviours will provide much-needed insight into which interventions are plausible, feasible, and rewarding, while ensuring they don’t encounter cultural or other barriers to effectiveness. Those interventions which are most likely to influence behaviour change at scale will be identified and will become a ‘best practice’ handwashing intervention package. A summary of the research findings will be made publicly available via the Hygiene Centre and SHARE websites and will be disseminated within the SHARE consortium and to a broad range of users.