

Policy, Practice and Solutions: Research Fellowship Opportunities in Sanitation and Fecal Waste Management in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Poor hygiene and limited access to safe sanitation, and large-scale open defecation, contribute to poor health, undermine economic growth, and pollute the environment. About 800 preventable child deaths occur every day in Africa as a result of poor sanitation (UNICEF, 2013). Investments in sanitation can deliver a five-fold return on investment, in social and economic benefits linked to increased productivity, reduced healthcare costs and prevention of illness, disability and early death. In May 2015, leaders across the African continent committed themselves to the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene, which included pledges to create separate budget lines for sanitation and hygiene that will allocate at least 0.5% of GDP for effective sanitation service delivery by 2020.

The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is implementing a project aiming to improve and expand implementation and resourcing of national sanitation policies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, with a specific focus on human fecal waste management in urban areas.

The primary outcome of this project is established collaborative, evidence-informed leadership in East Africa that will drive progress toward achievement of two consensus-driven goals:

- Target 6.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals: access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and an end to open defecation by 2030, whilst paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- Ngor Declaration targets 3&4 on sanitation: to establish and track sanitation and hygiene budget lines that consistently increase annually to reach a minimum of 0.5% of GDP by 2020; and to ensure strong leadership and coordination at all levels to build and sustain governance for sanitation and hygiene across sectors, especially water, health, nutrition, education, gender and the environment.

To contribute to the evidence generation and knowledge translation built into this project, APHRC is pleased to announce a call for applications to support one Master's student and one doctoral fellow from each of the three countries: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Candidates must be affiliated with a university in Kenya, Tanzania, or Uganda.

The six fellows will embed their research in the project's research activities, and will be required to support engagement with key decision-makers. Through these fellowships, the Center hopes to build a networked cohort of well-trained scholars able to generate high quality research and interact with policymakers and practitioners on issues around sanitation management policy and practice, especially on fecal waste management.

Eligibility

The fellowship will primarily support research (including data collection and/or analysis). Funds will not be used to support coursework.

Applicants must:

- Be citizens or permanent residents of the three East African countries where the project will be implemented
- Be undertaking Master's or doctoral training at a university in Kenya, Tanzania, or Uganda;
- Have completed all pre-dissertation requirements;
- Provide a detailed timeframe for completing their dissertation which must be endorsed by the head of department or the chair of the dissertation committee; and
- Must complete their research within 12 months (Master's students) and 24 months (Doctoral students) of the start of the fellowship.

Female applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

Selection criteria

- The fellowship will support original qualitative or quantitative or mixed methods research that addresses a clear research question, employs appropriate and rigorous design, has an urban focus, and has unambiguous national or regional policy and/or programmatic implication(s)
- Candidates must demonstrate interest in pursuing a research career and dissertations must be sufficiently linked to future research interests
- At least one of the fellowships will support research to identify innovative approaches for social or technological innovations in the field of sanitation or hygiene: this could include the use of GIS, application of conversion technology such as bio-digestion, or adaptation of mHealth platforms to the sanitation sector

- At least one of the fellowships will emphasize analysis of relevant policies with the aim of identifying critical policy-implementation gaps
- The dissertation should ideally have received strong endorsement and support from the department
- Those interested in gender issues, especially the role of women in sanitation and hygiene decision-making and management are particularly encouraged to apply

Evaluation criteria

The applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Candidate's scientific background and potential to develop a strong research career
- Scientific merit of the proposed research project including originality of research question(s); integration of social or technological innovations; clarity and adequacy of the study design; demonstrated knowledge of relevant/current literature; detailed analysis plan; ethical considerations, etc.
- Research environment including commitment of main supervisors and department to facilitate timely completion of the dissertation. Candidates are expected to have a supervisor or dissertation committee of persons who fully understand the depth and breadth of sanitation and hygiene issues,
- Well-elaborated statement on the policy relevance of the research, and
- Budget summary and justification, including clear plan to complete the dissertation within 24 months

Cost

Each fellowship award will be up to a maximum of USD 12,000 for Master's students and USD 25,000 for Doctoral students. This amount comprises a completion award of USD 2,000 that is only payable after successful thesis defense. Applicants can budget for a laptop computer and analytical software (e.g. STATA, SPSS, NVivo, Atlas/ti); research/data collection costs; and participation in one regional or international conference or workshop. In addition, there are two competitive innovation grants each worth \$20,000 that will be announced in the course of the fellowships so that grantees with innovative solutions for sanitation and hygiene can apply for the grants and if successful work with experts in the field to develop their solutions.

Successful candidates will attend two week-long training workshops on research methodology and scientific writing. Attending the workshops is mandatory. **The research methodology workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 29 – June 02, 2017 while the writing workshop will be held in 2018.** During the workshops, grantees will receive training and mentorship on various aspects of research (design and methods, ethics, data analyses, scientific writing, proposal development and communication of research results, etc.). The working language for these workshops is English. The cost of attending this workshop is directly covered by the program.

How to apply

All application materials must be received by **11:59pm (Nairobi time) on April 15, 2017** in order to be reviewed. Applications must include the following documents to be considered (Applications not meeting these requirements will not be reviewed):

1. A completed application form (can be downloaded from <https://www.aphrc.org/>). This form must be submitted electronically in MS Word format.
2. Proof of citizenship or permanent residence in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (e.g. copy of passport or other national identification);
3. Two letters of reference (at least one must come from a faculty member with extensive knowledge of applicant's academic history and performance and must document how the candidate's dissertation research fits into ongoing research programs in the department). Referees' contact information must be provided in the application form.
4. Evidence that the research protocol has undergone review and received approval from an approved ethical review board and the dissertation committee or is under review for the same.

The application form and supporting documents should be submitted in a single email to 2017addrf@aphrc.org

For questions, please contact:

The ADDRf Manager, E-mail: 2017addrf@aphrc.org

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**African Population and Health
Research Center**