Call for proposals- Research support grants on Sanitation Workers: for Institutions

The Initiative for Sanitation Workers (ISW), a global advocacy partnership between ILO, WHO, World Bank, WaterAid and SNV, is happy to announce grants for research on sanitation workers.

Sanitation workers – including pit emptiers, sewer workers, and others involved in faecal waste management – provide an essential public service but often at the cost of their dignity, safety, health, and living conditions. Often invisible, unquantified, and ostracized, they are exposed to serious health and safety hazards risking illness, injury, or even death. Sanitation workers deserve greater recognition and attention, and policy and regulatory reforms aimed at safeguarding their rights.

We invite research proposals on sanitation workers, including but not limited to the following themes:

- Occupational health and safety: access to PPE and its use, safety protocols, mechanisation, COVID risk;
- Labor rights, wages, working conditions, access to social security; institutional arrangements (contracting modes and management);
- Sustainable livelihoods, rehabilitation, business models;
- Social challenges and root causes of marginalization- caste/ethnic identity, social discrimination, exclusion; empowerment and mobilization of workers;
- Gender dimensions, disparities, intersectionality;
- Legal frameworks, policies, regulations, standard operating procedures; and their enforcement;
- Interventions to support sanitation workers- good practices and learnings.

For the purpose of this announcement, 'sanitation workers' include different categories of workers directly involved in the management of faecal waste along the sanitation service chain.

Eligibility: This call is open to institutions based in low or lower-middle income countries[1].

Research support offered:

- **Monetary support to cover research costs:** up to US$20,000 per grant. This is intended to support research costs such as accessing data/publications, enumerators, interpreters, travel, meetings, communication, and other research costs; but doesn't include admin costs or overheads.
- **Publication support:** Support with the fee for publishing their research paper in fully Open Access journals or journals which have committed to fully transition to Open Access.

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[1] as listed in the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2020
https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/WESP2020_Annex.pdf

Research timeline and outputs: It is expected that the data collection would be completed no later than December 2022. The outputs expected are:

- One study report or paper (publication support would be available for papers accepted for publication no later than the end of February 2023 – invoice for the publication fee to be received by mid-March).
- One dissemination piece/blog published by January 2023 (which could be, for instance, posted on the sanitation workers project platform)

Evaluation criteria:

i. Well defined research objectives, and their relevance to one or more themes mentioned above
ii. Clear outcomes which potentially contribute to improvement in the situation of sanitation workers
iii. Clearly defined research scope and methodology
iv. Partnerships with sanitation workers, their representatives/organizations, and with other relevant stakeholders such as local authorities are strongly encouraged. In instances where partnerships are not feasible, mechanisms for participation of and/or consultation with sanitation workers and their communities, workers' representatives, local authorities/governments, and/or other local stakeholders, are encouraged at various stages of the study
v. Research ethics considerations (including COVID-19 safety protocol; respecting agency and ensuring dignity of sanitation workers; informed consent, etc.)
vi. Well-defined budget and timelines
vii. Plan for dissemination of the study and engagement with stakeholders
viii. Qualifications and expertise of the research team, including previous experience on the issue of sanitation workers

Application process:

Please send your proposal using the template provided below, in a word document, and adhering to the word limits, along with the resumes to initiativeforsanitationworkers@gmail.com with the subject line 'Research support grant', by 20 August 2021. We welcome proposals in English as well as other languages such as French, Hindi and others. Applications will be reviewed by independent experts, and the outcome will be communicated by mid-October 2021.

Proposal template- research support grants

1. Name of the institution

2. Location of the institution

3. Research team details

Details	Principal investigator	Co-Principal investigator-I (if any)	Co-Principal investigator-II (if any)
Name			

Gender			
Nationality			
Country based in			
Email			

4. Problem statement- What challenges of sanitation workers does this research aim to address? (<250 words)

5. What are the objectives of the research? (<150 words)

6. How would this research ultimately contribute to improving the situation of sanitation workers? (<250 words)

7. Please describe the scope and methodology of the proposed research (800 words)

8. What is the proposed budget (in US$) for the research? Please provide estimated budget breakup with rationale (<300 words)

9. Please list down the key milestones and outputs of the research along with the expected timeline (<300 words)

10. Which local stakeholders (if any- such as sanitation workers and their communities, their representatives/ organizations and authorities) do you plan to work with, and how? (<400 words)

11. How do you plan to disseminate the study findings and learnings? (400 words)

12. Has your institution or research team undertaken any studies on sanitation workers' issues in the past? If yes, please describe the objectives, methodology, key findings and learnings briefly (400 words) along with links/attachments of the study outputs

13. Any other information you would like to share? (<200 words)

14. Resumes of PI and co-PI(s) (maximum 2 pages each)