

Masters Research Fellowship Programme 2016-17

WaterAid Bangladesh (WAB) invites research proposals on **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** issues from current Masters students of Public Health (MPH) and other relevant disciplines (e.g. Development Studies, Environmental Science, Gender Studies, Social Sciences, Medical Sciences) of any public or private universities/institutions of Bangladesh for a research fellowship. We are offering Fellowships worth BDT 50,000 to support Masters students with empirical research in the field of **WASH**.

Eligibility

- 1) The student must be enrolled in the Masters programme of any Government approved private or public universities/institutions of Bangladesh.
- 2) The proposed research should be an integral part for the partial fulfilment of the applicant's Masters academic Programme.
- 3) The research should focus on critical issues related to **WASH** to recommend possible solutions for the future. Where relevant, the issues should reflect the multi-sectoral aspect of WASH, such as its relation to health, nutrition, education, integrated water resource management (IWRM), etc.

Possible areas of interest

Students are free to propose original research ideas based on the central theme of WASH. Some areas of interest are additionally indicated below for students who wish to consider them.

Social and gendered perspectives on WASH

- a) Socioeconomic impact of water scarcity
- b) Analysis of women's workloads in relation to water scarcity
- c) Gendered perspectives on the use and impact of public and community toilets
- d) Review of user-friendliness and effectiveness of existing menstrual hygiene management (MHM) programmes
- e) Analysis of data from healthcare institutions related menstrual hygiene management (MHM) issues

Operation and maintenance (O&M) and sustainability in WASH programmes

- a) Business and management modality modelling for public toilets
- b) Sanitation entrepreneurship in rural areas
- c) Analysing scope of use of faecal sludge management (FSM) by-products (organic compost) in the agricultural sector

WASH and health

- a) Survey of health workers'/professionals' knowledge and attitude of the importance of WASH in prevention and treatment of disease across the multiple tiers of the health system (i.e. community clinics, Union/Upazila health centres, private clinics, divisional hospitals, urban primary health centres, non-governmental healthcare service providers, etc.)
- b) Health impact of water scarcity
- c) Longitudinal analysis of arsenic contamination/health-related data

WASH and climate change

- a) Review of innovations and practices related to resilient WASH technologies
- b) Integration of WASH and integrated water resource management (IWRM)

Others

- a) Comparative analysis of cost-benefit of different approaches to WASH programming: payment by results; service delivery and Community Led Total Sanitation
- b) GIS mapping of public toilets
- c) Economic analysis of household level waste collection systems

Submission Requirements

- 1) Expression of interest along with envisaged budget and proposed time line for conducting the research.
- 2) Research proposal/concept signed by the academic supervisor. The proposal/concept must be submitted outlining:
 - Importance of the selected research project focusing WASH
 - The research methodology in details
 - Outcome of the research

The concept note should be limited to a maximum of 4 pages.

- 3) A signed approval letter from the academic supervisor.
- 4) An approval letter signed by the Head of the Institution/ Department/ Division stating the applicant's information (i.e. enrollment year, registration no, academic records etc.) along with the declaration that the proposed research would constitute his/her partial fulfillment of the Masters academic programme offered by the Institution/ University.
- 5) Curriculum vitae of the applicant with signature.



All necessary documents should be submitted electronically (not more than 5MB) to ShahrukhMirza@wateraid.org by **17 November 2016**.

The electronic application package must contain all scanned copies of the original signed documents in attachment. The subject line must be "**Research Fellowship Programme 2016-17**" and the **name of the applicant's department/division and institution/university**. The applicant must submit all original documents upon preliminary selection. Please note that no hard copy will be considered for selection.

Selection process

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee with representation of WASH and health experts. The Masters Research Fellowship Programme committee will assign a focal from WaterAid Bangladesh to coordinate with fellows and provide any guidance necessary on the research, logistics, submission and final presentation. The grantee may be provided with field support or other assistance as deemed necessary by the committee evaluating the feasibility and supportability of the proposed research action plan and budget. Following final selection, WaterAid will communicate with fellows for any final revisions if needed. Finalised concept notes must be signed off by the academic supervisor prior to beginning research activities.

Each fellowship grantee is required to abide by the Fellowship Programme guidelines, including:

a) Grant disbursement modalities and time frame: Following selection of final research concepts, each grantee will be initially provided with a four month contract. This contract may be extended as per the requirements of the research, upon discussion with WaterAid Bangladesh and approval of the academic supervisor.

i) The grantee will be awarded initially with 30% of the total grant value upon the selection of the proposal.

ii) The next installment can be up to 30% will be disbursed upon getting an approval note from the reporting assigned focal.

iii) The final installment will be awarded upon the final submission of the completed research paper along with separate approval notes from both academic and the focal, stating the fulfillment of all criteria set by the committee.

c) Copyright and Knowledge Management: Apart from the enrolling institution/university and the author him/herself, WaterAid reserves the full copyright of the submitted research project. The Masters Research Fellowship Programme committee will reserve all right to select appropriate grantees. The committee also reserves all right to null and void any selected research project with prior show cause notice issued by the assigned supervisor.

For any queries, please email ShahrukhMirza@wateraid.org by **15th November 2016**.