

Questionnaire v1.1: Funders

Introduction

The purpose of this research study is to understand injustice and inequity faced by researchers in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector. We will explore this through four stages of research: Acquiring funding, executing projects, disseminating findings, and general experiences with funders. These findings will be used to begin a conversation including funders and researchers about ways to improve equity in research specifically in the WASH sector, but also with implications for other areas of global health.

In this questionnaire, I want to ask you about your perceptions of unjust discrimination faced by researchers from low- and middle-income countries. We will use the generic term “**discrimination**” to mean the **unjust making of a distinction on the basis of some attribute about that person by a person or policy that reinforces inequities.**

1. Can you tell us your name and current position as well as a bit about work history, especially as it relates to WASH research?
2. What is the role of your organization in funding, managing, and disseminating WASH research?
3. In your experience, what are the major categories used to describe people by which you've observed or experienced discrimination —for example, have you experienced or observed discrimination based on race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national origin, age, disability, or other categories?

Perceptions of Discrimination

4. What (in your opinion) are the biggest challenges facing LMIC researchers? How are they experiencing discrimination in each of the following categories?
 - a. Funding acquisition (forming consortia, writing grants, allocating roles and budgets)
 - b. Project execution (ethical approvals, data collection, and analysis)
 - c. Dissemination (interpreting, publishing, and presenting results)
 - d. Personal advancement (opportunities for awards, recognition, and career advancement)

Organizational Experience

5. What are some policies and practices that you have identified within your organization that needed to be improved?
6. What are the processes that you have put in place within your organization to reduce discrimination and improve equity in research?
7. What are some of the challenges you've faced in doing so?
8. In what ways do you feel that these processes have been successful, or what will you do differently in the future?

Potential Solutions

9. What are some of the changes that you'd like to see? What kind of organizational changes would you have to make to see them? What are the biggest obstacles to doing so?
10. What steps are needed to catalyze change across the sector and beyond? Who should lead in initiating these changes? How should they be held accountable?