



Global Practicum Opportunity Form

Learn more about Emory's Global Field Experience, a fund that students can apply for to cover travel costs [here](#). More information on hosting a student is [here](#).

Please e-mail this completed form **as soon as possible (ideally before Oct 31st)** and send it back to Dr. Matthew Freeman (matthew.freeman@emory.edu) & Dr. Joanne McGriff: (joanne.a.mcgriff@emory.edu)

1. Contact (person who will review applications)
 - a. Name of organization: Sanergy
 - b. Contact Name: Lindsay Stradley & Rosemary Wali Mwalugongo
 - c. Contact Email: lindsay@saner.gy & wali.mwalugongo@saner.gy
 - d. Contact Phone: +254-788-484-300

2. Project description
 - a. Project Name: Impact of Safe Pit Emptying on Health of Manual Pit Emptiers
 - b. Project Description:

In Nairobi's slums, few residents have consistent access to safe sanitation, and most use unimproved pit latrines or bags inside their homes. Over seven years, Sanergy has built a network of more than 2,000 Fresh Life Toilets, providing access to safe, hygienic sanitation for 70,000 residents of Nairobi's slums. From these toilets, we safely and professionally remove, treat, and convert 20 tons of waste each day into high-value agricultural inputs.

We are proud of what we have achieved, but tons of waste remain in the community, and there are many people we do not currently reach with our Fresh Life Toilet. To capture more waste and serve more people, Sanergy's Future Initiatives team develops and tests new products and services for addition to the Fresh Life portfolio.

One of these pilots is Mtaa Fresh – formalizing manual pit emptiers, creating safe standards for their processes, and operating a transfer station to receive their pit sludge, remove it from the community and treat it. This work has led to significant behavior change among the pit emptiers of Nairobi's Mukuru Kwa Njenga informal settlement – which they have now documented in the constitution of their own community-based organization. As we now look to improve the safety of pit emptying in other communities, we want to understand whether this behavior change is leading to direct changes in the health of these key sanitation workers. This research will guide upcoming policy work on defining safe manual pit emptying practices.

- c. Project Location / Country: Nairobi, Kenya



3. Student engagement

a. Describe student role in the project:

Sanergy looks to work with Fellows who are self-directed, creative, and experts in their field, and therefore expect to define the project in collaboration with the Fellow. The Fellow would work with our Future Initiatives team to understand all current operations and operational data – and then will drive the overall structure and research of the project.

b. Expected deliverables:

- Quantitative and qualitative research on health of manual pit emptiers, both when practicing typical, unsafe emptying and when practicing safe emptying (e.g., with personal protective equipment and good hygiene behaviors).
- Operational recommendations for how to improve the safety of pit emptying practices – and the related health benefit.

c. Specific skill requirements (qualitative, survey design, including language):

- Experience implementing new projects in a developing country context
- Quantitative and qualitative survey design experience
- Data analysis skills
- Swahili would be helpful but not at all required
- Creativity, open-mindedness, and a good sense of humor

d. Is the Project paid or unpaid? Is there any in-kind support (e.g., housing)?

The project is unpaid. Sanergy's Fellowship program provides students with support in arranging for the necessary visa, arranging for transport in-country, and identifying suitable housing during the student's stay. Sanergy also encourages all Fellows to participate in the Sanergy Speakers Series, through which they learn about social enterprise, WASH, and other work from friends of Sanergy at various organizations around Nairobi, East Africa, and beyond.

e. Timeline (students are typically available to travel to the site between May and August, but can work with the team both before and after this work): May – August, but could start remote work earlier!

4. What should students submit when applying? cover letter and CV

- a. By when should students apply? Monday, November 12th. This should allow us to finalize on the Fellow in time to secure the proper Kenyan visa, as well as give students time to apply for Emory funding.

5. Emory University faculty contact (if any): Matt Freeman and Christine Moe.