



# Call for a new PhD position (Sawiris Scholarship @ETH Zurich and Makerere University)

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## Project Presentation

Under the first call of the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development ([www.r4d.ch](http://www.r4d.ch)), we are poised to start a project entitled “Mobile ICT for public services under weak public institutions”.

The aim of this project is a scientific evaluation of the possible roles a combination of ICT tools (phone/sms/internet) and peer-network design can have on the provision of important services often neglected by weak governments and institutions. The project approach is to develop and test various mobile applications that will allow end-users/beneficiaries to monitor public services, report it to governments, development agencies and their own communities, flag misuse and provide a forum to help foster discussion on required public decisions and actions. The project will be managed by multi-disciplinary team of economists, sociologists, computer scientists, sector specialists in combination with local implementation agencies. This project will be based in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya for the first 4 years with a possible expansion to Western Africa (Benin) and South Asia (Bangladesh) in the last 2 years. We will operationalize our project in the water sector, with a focus on provision and management of safe/improved water sources.

## The Sawiris Scholarships

The Sawiris Scholarships, under the supervision of the North-South center at the ETH Zurich (<http://www.northsouth.ethz.ch/funding/sawiris>) promote doctoral research for the benefit of developing countries. The projects have to be innovative and develop a method or product, which is directly relevant for improving the livelihoods of poor people in developing countries. Upon acceptance, a scholarship of CHF 150'000 will be granted per proposal for a period of three years. The proposals will first be reviewed by independent scientists of the relevant field and then evaluated by the selection committee.

## PhD description

We are looking for a student having recently completed (or being close to completion) his MSc or MA in Economics, Computer Science or an IT related field (e.g. electrical engineer). Considering the selective nature of the Sawiris scholarships, candidates with a graduate degree from a European/US university will be considered in priority. The candidate will be under the co-supervision of the Makerere University and the ETH Zurich and should expect



to travel within the greater Eastern African region and in Europe to conduct both field work and academic research. The candidate will have responsibilities which include

(but are not limited to): project management, field support and data analysis, redaction of research papers in coordination with the other team researchers, supervision of master students, reporting and dissemination of results before the participating local communities and the various stakeholders.

## Requirements

Candidates should have previous exposure to either IT (mobile app development) and/or development economics (surveys, impact analysis). Exposure to the water sector is also a plus. Candidates will have to fulfill the entrance requirements of the ETH for doctoral studies ([http://www.rektorat.ethz.ch/doctorate/application/who/index\\_EN](http://www.rektorat.ethz.ch/doctorate/application/who/index_EN)).

## Application procedure

The candidate has to submit a concept note (details see below), a CV and three references to both Dr. Florence Tushabe ([tushabe@cit.mak.ac.ug](mailto:tushabe@cit.mak.ac.ug)) and Jonathan Gheysens ([gheysens@nadel.ethz.ch](mailto:gheysens@nadel.ethz.ch)).

The deadline for submitting concept notes is **October 21 2012**. Only concept notes fulfilling all indicated requirements will be admitted to the first selection. They will be evaluated by the selection committee with regard to its suitability for the Sawiris Scholarships.

### Concept note:

- The concept note has to be written using the Concept Note Template found here: [http://www.northsouth.ethz.ch/funding/sawiris/Sawiris\\_Scholarship\\_criteria.pdf](http://www.northsouth.ethz.ch/funding/sawiris/Sawiris_Scholarship_criteria.pdf)
- The proposed research has to be concerned with the development of a method or product, which is directly relevant to poor people in developing countries.
- The research outline must not exceed 3000 characters (with spaces).
- Relevant own publications or relevant earlier activities by the candidate should be indicated.