



2017 AquayaLEARN fellows Buliva Amugune and Joan Kones.

## December 2017 Update Happy Holidays!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Every year we bring on 2-3 [AquayaLEARN](#) fellows to learn about the research process and execute WASH-related research with our highly experienced staff. Fellows participate in cutting edge science, strengthening local research and data-based decision-making capacity.

This program is possible because of supporters like you! This holiday season please consider [giving](#) to our AquayaLEARN program to support promising young Kenyan researchers!

[DONATE NOW](#)

### Do Not Waste Clean Thinking on Dirty Enzymes Ranjiv Khush, Executive Director

*In my past life as a molecular biologist, I learned Arthur Kornberg's "Ten Commandments: Lessons from the Enzymology of DNA Replication" (J. Bacteriology, 2000 Jul; 182:3613). Dr. Kornberg was a biochemist (he won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1959 for identifying the enzymes that mediate DNA replication), and his fourth Commandment was, "Do not Waste Clean Thinking on Dirty Enzymes". His point was that cells are complex (lots of different enzymes!), so before making conclusions, try to ensure that you've eliminated or controlled for unexpected variables that might have influenced your results.*

Recent WASH sector discussions, project reports, and calls for impact assessments have reminded me of Dr. Kornberg's lesson. Across our sector, there is increasing

emphasis on experiments and impacts assessments for measuring how well interventions work and their cost-effectiveness. The growing demand for good evidence is, of course, welcome. However, I wonder if the requirements for obtaining good evidence are well considered...

To read more, click [here](#).

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- Blog post: [Do Not Waste Clean Thinking on Dirty Enzymes](#)

## **Article review - How Much Will It Cost To Monitor Microbial Drinking Water Quality in Sub-Saharan Africa?**

**Caroline Delaire, Research Program Manager**

Microbial water quality monitoring is crucial for managing water resources and protecting public health. However, institutional testing activities in sub-Saharan Africa are currently limited.

We used data from 18 water suppliers and health surveillance agencies to estimate the actual costs of monitoring activities in Africa. We found that a single microbial water quality test costs 21 USD on average, and that monitoring all improved water sources in sub-Saharan Africa at the minimum frequency recommended by WHO would cost to 16 million USD per year, which is minimal in comparison to the projected annual capital costs of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.1 of safe water for all (14.8 billion USD).

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- Read the full paper [here](#)
- See other Aquaya publications [here](#)

## **Take a look at what Aquaya has been up to in the last few months:**

- Aquaya recently completed an analysis of fecal sludge management (FSM) in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. This assignment for the World Bank was part of a technical assistance program for water and sanitation infrastructure investments that the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the government of Rivers State are making the city of Port Harcourt. Our assessment included plans for FSM pilots in two low-income neighborhoods.
- We are conducting a situation analysis and mapping institutional frameworks for water safety management in Ghana under the 2nd phase of [Monitoring for Safe Water](#) Program. Aquaya staff traveled to Ghana in

November to meet with collaborators and discuss strategies for water safety management.

- We have put out a call for data for our WASHPaLS research. We are seeking to collaborate with CLTS implementers in a global analysis of program performance to answer what existing M&E data can tell us about what drives CLTS success. If you have data to contribute and would like to collaborate, please get in touch ([caroline.delaire@washpals.org](mailto:caroline.delaire@washpals.org)).
- Our very own Jeff Albert, Caroline Delaire, and Valentina Zuin co-hosted a webinar with Jesse Shapiro (USAID) titled, "An Examination of CLTS' Contributions To Ending Open Defecation." Webinar recording can be found [here](#).



Aquaya staff get a tour of a water storage tank from members of the Asutifi North District Assembly in Kenyasi, Ghana.



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