With the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Aquaya Institute launched its Monitoring for Safe Water program (MfSW) in 2012 to determine the factors that constrain water quality monitoring and management across Africa.

In partnership with the World Health Organization and the International Water Association, MfSW works closely with African water suppliers and health agencies in six countries: Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia.

Not only has Aquaya’s MfSW produced the largest data set on microbial water quality in Africa with the comprehensive analysis of over 70,000 water tests, it’s also provided valuable new insights into the factors contributing to problems with water quality management.

**DRAWING ON THESE INSIGHTS AND SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN THREE YEARS OF ROBUST RESEARCH, AQUAYA RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

**A TOP-DOWN, BOTTOM-UP HYBRID APPROACH IS NEEDED:** Successful water quality monitoring requires effective enforcement mechanisms for failure to adequately test water and greater institutional capacity at the local level.

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE IMPORTANT, BUT ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH:** Africa’s water and sanitation challenges require systemic changes and solutions; this means strengthening current surveillance and monitoring systems.

**COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS THAT EDUCATE PUBLIC CONSUMERS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED:** Consumers need to understand the quality level of their drinking water to ensure that where the water is safe, people not only drink the water, but fully value it.

**MOBILIZE LOCAL WATER AND SANITATION STAKEHOLDERS IN AFRICA:** Africa needs a singular cohesive voice that can advocate internally for increased water quality monitoring on the continent.