

Job Announcement

Research Associate - *Monitoring for Safe Water*

Background

Aquaya is a San Francisco-based research and consulting organization dedicated to accelerating safe water delivery in developing countries. Our work includes a focus on effective water quality monitoring strategies and policies in a number of countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Although contaminated drinking water is a primary cause of diarrheal disease, reliable and comprehensive information on water quality is limited in developing countries. National guidelines in many sub-Saharan African countries mandate that both water providers and health agencies carry out drinking water quality testing; however, testing programs are limited outside of major cities. Through our *Monitoring for Safe Water* program, Aquaya will partner with relevant water sector stakeholders from at least five countries in sub-Saharan Africa to evaluate the constraints to water quality testing in a range of low-resource contexts. We will enroll a total of 30 water suppliers and health surveillance agencies across the five project countries in a payments program designed to incentivize achievement of water quality testing targets. Our research will examine whether and how institutions are able to improve their water quality monitoring programs. This three year applied research program is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Position Description

Aquaya is seeking a Research Associate for our *Monitoring for Safe Water* program. Under the direction of the Program Manager, the Research Associate will contribute significantly to the research design, data collection and data analysis for this project. The Research Associate will lead the assessment of each participating institution's existing capacity for microbial testing and will work with these institutions to develop appropriate capacity building plans on a case by case basis. The Research Associate will collect qualitative data through these collaborative needs assessments and through in-depth interviews at several stages of the project. The Research Associate will also develop methods for obtaining quantitative data on the scope of water quality monitoring programs. The Research Associate will work with the rest of the program team to analyze qualitative and quantitative data and draft research reports and publications.

The Research Associate will be based in Nairobi, Kenya, where Aquaya maintains a regional office. The Research Associate will be expected to travel regularly to each of the five project countries, which (in addition to Kenya) will include countries in East, West and Southern Africa. We are seeking an ambitious, independent candidate with interest and experience in applied research related to microbial water quality monitoring.

Responsibilities

- Support Program Manager in selection of program participants and negotiation of agreements

- Conduct collaborative needs assessments with participating institutions, critically evaluating each institution's existing capacity for water quality monitoring and developing site specific plans for building water testing capacity
- Conduct in-depth interviews throughout the program with key staff members of participating institutions
- Participate in program workshops
- Collect and analyze water quality testing data from participating institutions to evaluate progress towards established testing targets
- Organize and maintain relevant documents and data for each participating institution
- Assist with data analysis, preparation of reports and publications and other dissemination activities

Required Skills

- The Research Associate should be familiar with microbial water quality testing methods.
- Experience managing large data sets preferred
- Qualitative research skills preferred
- Strong work ethic and ability to work independently
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work well with others
- Ability to travel up to 50% of the time
- Flexibility and ability to adapt to challenging circumstances
- Fluency in English required. French and Portuguese speakers are encouraged to apply

Experience

- Minimum of two years working experience or equivalent required
- Graduate degree in a relevant field (environmental microbiology, civil and environmental engineering, water resources management) preferred
- Experience conducting field research in a developing country setting preferred
- Experience working in Sub-Saharan Africa preferred

Position details

This position based in Nairobi, Kenya. This is a full-time, exempt position. Compensation includes a competitive salary commensurate with experience and benefits. We aim for an early 2013 start date.

Candidates must be able to obtain legal right to work in Kenya.

To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to jobs@aquaya.org. Please send your cover letter and resume as attachments to your email and indicate your name in the titles of the attachments (ie: Last Name_First Name_CV).