IMPROVING ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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THE PROBLEM

Poor water and sanitation conditions cause water-born diseases. In developing countries, as much as 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions. Worldwide, about 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, with 37% of those live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Children under the age of 5 are the most vulnerable. Worldwide water-related diseases are the primary cause for about 1 out of 5 deaths of children under 5.

Development agencies and water experts have been advocating for the use of point-of-use (POU) water treatment technologies as a cost-effective way to curb the incidence of water-born diseases. POU technologies are effective and relatively inexpensive, and yet, despite large information campaigns, and including in some instances free distribution of the products, adoption rates remain low among poor populations in most parts of the world.

NEXT STEPS

Through my research, I will:

• Identify and select target populations in several regions
• Develop and implement choice experiments to learn about user preferences for POU water treatment technologies.

The data gathered will contribute to:

1. Assessing household preferences for POU water treatment technologies and quantify the tradeoffs households make between various technology attributes, including cost, convenience of use, time investment, efficacy, and effects on taste and odor of the treated water
2. Estimating user willingness to pay for POU water treatment technologies
3. Informing policy decisions to design POU technologies better suited to user needs and improve adoption rates

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MORE INFORMATION
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