Infectious diseases caused by bacteria, viruses and parasites are the most common health risks associated with drinking water worldwide. The basis of the project is on technologies that enable the detection of microbes in water samples faster and more widely than conventional methods and using them to help avoid water-borne epidemics. The techniques can also be utilised in environmental samples and circular economy more extensively.

Team: Prof. of Virology, Heikki Hyöty, PhD, MD, Chief Scientist, Sami Oikarinen, PhD and Project Leader, Kirsi-Maarit Lehto,

Kirsi-Maarit Lehto holds a doctoral degree in environmental biotechnology and works at the Global Health Research Group affiliated to the Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences of the University of Tampere. Her main interest is in environmental enteropathy (EE), an inflammatory condition of the gut associated with poor water quality, sanitation and hygiene as well as specific gut infections and micronutrient deficiencies. She analyses the links between infections, children’s undernutrition and their growth in low-income settings.