

There are some smart people who write for Scientific American. Odd that they fail to mention reducing pollution would help alleviate the problem. No money to be made in green practices or conservation, I suppose.

[Report as Abuse](#) | [Link to This](#)

jrkipling

June 15, 2014, 4:02 PM

We are all in favor of fewer people dying from pollution. We all want improved living conditions for impoverished human beings. The technology is not being withheld. A few things need to happen to enable the technology transfer.

Not necessarily in order of priority:

1. Money to purchase, install, and maintain the technology.
2. Rule law to keep item 1. from being stolen.
3. Sufficient economic development to sustain 1 & 2.

Representative government seems a big plus for the above. Would that it were as simple as technology transfer.

[Report as Abuse](#) | [Link to This](#)

jrkipling → **jrkipling**

June 15, 2014, 4:14 PM

Rule of law

I wish the Alliance every success. I'm not hopeful it can solve the underlying problems.

[Report as Abuse](#) | [Link to This](#)

Chryses

June 15, 2014, 10:01 PM

So maybe it's time to transfer that technology where it can save even more lives.

Assuming that the technology has not yet been deployed to where it can save even more lives, I wonder what has prevented that from happening.

Poverty is the proximate cause, I suppose.

[Report as Abuse](#) | [Link to This](#)

Chryses

June 16, 2014, 5:36 AM

Interesting. A straightforward reading of your post suggests that poverty, while apparently a contributing factor, may not be the principle constraint.

[Report as Abuse](#) | [Link to This](#)

jrkipling → **Chryses**

June 16, 2014, 9:48 AM

Yes, it is absolutely time to transfer the technology. Actually doing it is a bit more complicated. One of my relatives went to Africa with a church group to distribute portable water purification filters and demonstrate how to use them. I couldn't help wondering how many more filters they could have sent for the cost of their travel, but that's just me. The best I could understand from the description of the devices, they were likely gravity microbial filters.

A few weeks later when someone from one of their churches in-country when back to the village to check on the progress of their good works, every filter was missing or damaged beyond use. Now this is just one anecdotal example. Maybe the Alliance has more effective strategies to accomplish technology transfer? Like I said before, I hope they can make a difference.

[Report as Abuse](#) | [Link to This](#)

You must [sign in](#) or [register](#) as a ScientificAmerican.com member to submit a comment.

TRY A RISK-FREE ISSUE

The image shows the cover of Scientific American magazine. The title 'SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN' is at the top, followed by a large 'A' and the subtitle 'CRISIS IN PHYSICS?'. The cover is red and white.

YES! Send me a free issue of Scientific American with no obligation to continue the subscription. If I like it, I will be billed for the one-year subscription.

[Subscribe Now](#)

Scientific American is a trademark of Scientific American, Inc., used with permission

© 2014 Scientific American, a Division of Nature America, Inc.

All Rights Reserved.