

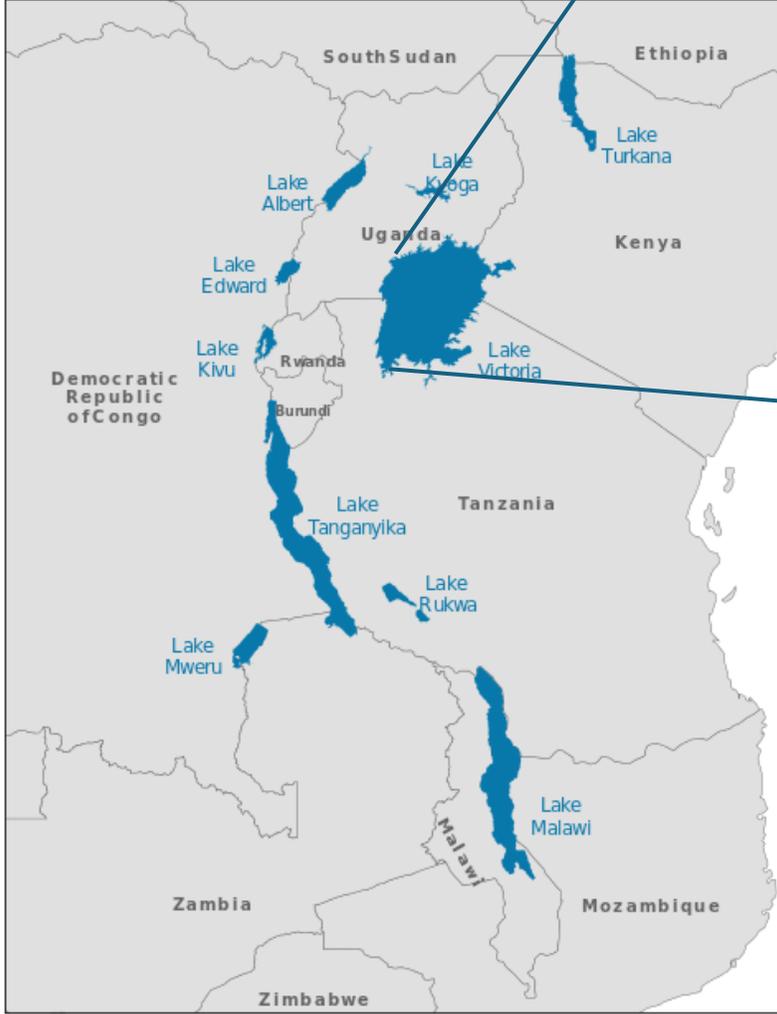
A woman is sitting on the ground next to a large, rectangular tray filled with a thick layer of small, dried fish. The fish are light brown and appear to be sun-dried. On top of the fish, there are several white plastic buckets, some of which are also filled with the dried fish. A small white cup is also visible on the tray. The woman is wearing a blue and orange patterned dress and purple flip-flops. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a blue tarp.

Investigating adaptive capacity: The case of women's fisheries organizations in Uganda

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Lake Victoria

- Complex social ecological system
- Threatened by social and environmental stressors

Background

- Women play a critical role in the fisheries sector, but their contributions are undervalued
- Women's fisheries organizations are an emerging platform
- However, little research has been done to date on WFOs in Uganda



Research Questions

1. Are people in groups better off than individuals?
2. Why are some WFOs more successful than others?
3. Does group AC mediate household AC?





Mixed Methods Approach

- Key informant interviews (n=16)
- Semi structured interviews (n=234)

Preliminary Qualitative Results

RQ1 - Are people in groups better off than individuals?

- The success of group members compared to individuals is gendered



Individual Men

Theme 1: Don't see benefit in group membership

“There is not much benefits to it, just be there as a member, there is nothing much you benefit out of it”

“Most of the groups available are mediocre. I find that I am better off doing my work alone”



Individual Men

Theme 2: Working alone is easier

“When you are alone decision making becomes easy that’s why I prefer an individual to a group”

“The problem is dealing with a group of people who never went to school”



Individual Women

Theme 1: Unaware of local groups

“I am not in a group simply because I am not aware of their existence. I am interested only not aware that they exist”

“For me as my opinion it is good to work in groups than working alone...I really want to join those groups, I just don't know really”



Individual Women

Theme 2a: Barriers – social capital

“No one has ever approached me to join a group”

“I have not yet identified a group and if there is any group that approaches me, I will join”



Individual Women

Theme 2b: Barriers – youth & financial capital

“Working in a group it would be best but... the membership fee, you need to pay that money for entering the group”

“I tried joining a certain group yes, I tried but... they told me I was young, but I think with time I will join”



Preliminary Qualitative Results

RQ 2 - Why are some WFOs more successful than others?

Group success is dependent upon three main factors

1. Diversity
2. Leadership
3. Financial structure



Theme 1: Diversity

- Diversity of membership
- Diversity of value chain activities
- Bridging versus bonding social capital



Theme 2: Leadership

- Educated leaders
- Empowered leaders
- Fair governance



Theme 2: Leadership

“If they tell you still be the chairman, I remain, if they say ah ah we want another person, it’s okay we have to change.”



Theme 3: Financial structure

Three group types

1. Savings only
2. Savings and loans
3. Savings, loans, and investments



Theme 4: Paradoxical self-ranking

Less successful groups may self rank higher

“We agree in decision-making; we have had no conflicts”

“As you know groups, there are some who can be straight and those ones who are not straight so”



Emerging Theme

WFO's are helping to shift norms in their communities toward legal fishing practices



Next Steps

Conducted quantitative analysis to answer cross scale question:

RQ3 - Does group AC mediate household AC?





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Questions?

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