

What does the study involve?

The study will involve researchers finding out information from people in fishing communities by asking them questions. Some people will be asked to complete questionnaires and surveys. Others will be asked to take part in interviews or group discussions. We may look at registers of fishermen and boats, for example at Beach Management Units (BMUs), if these are available. Also, we may observe routine fishing practices.



Who can take part in the study?

The study will involve many different people from fishing communities around Lake Victoria, including:

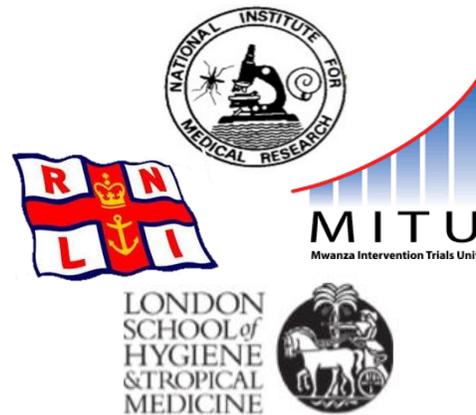
- Street/community leaders
- Fishermen
- Boat owners
- BMU members
- Family members of people who have drowned
- Colleagues of people who have drowned
- Other community members

Drowning is preventable.
Together we can save lives.



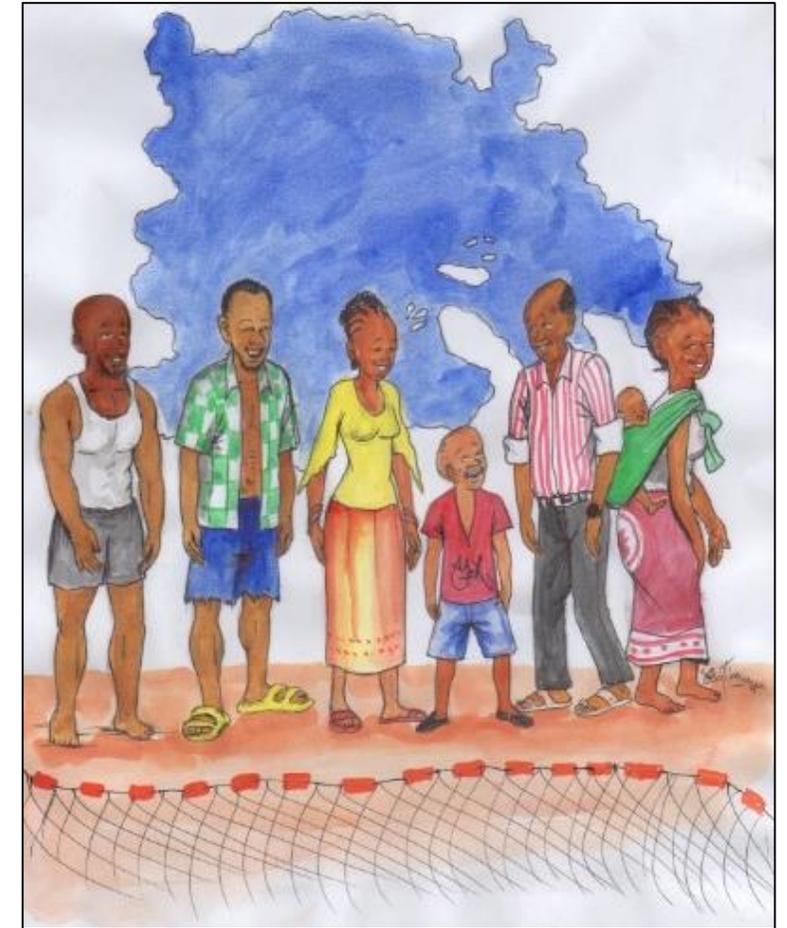
To find out more information, contact:

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DRIFT Study



Think water safety

*A collaboration between MITU, NIMR & LSHTM.
Funded by RNLI, UK.*

What is drowning?

Drowning is the death of an individual due to submersion in water and inhalation of water.

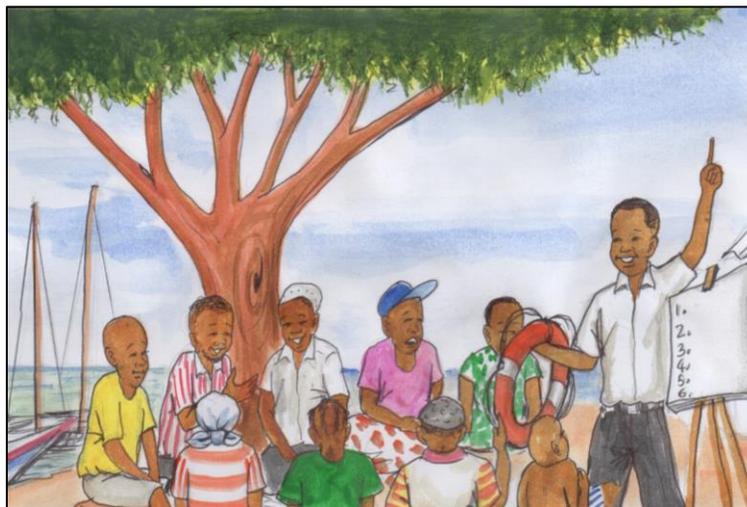
Drowning is a big problem worldwide, causing almost 400,000 deaths every year. It is thought that many of these are from the African Continent.

Who is at risk of drowning?

Anyone is at risk of drowning. The risk is higher for people who spend a lot of time near water, particularly if they are not able to swim, or do not take measures to lower their risk of drowning.

Can drowning be prevented?

Yes, many cases of drowning are preventable simply by taking some measures to reduce the risk, for example: wearing life jackets, proper boat maintenance, learning to swim, and keeping young children away from water.



What is the DRIFT study?

The overall aim of the DRIFT study is to find out information that will support development of strategies to prevent drowning among fishing communities on the Tanzanian shores of Lake Victoria.

Specifically, we would like to find out, within Tanzanian lakeside fishing communities:

1. How many people die each year from drowning;
2. Who is most at risk of drowning and why;
3. How the perceived risk of drowning affects attitudes towards other diseases;
4. What social and economic impacts drowning has; and
5. How feasible and acceptable potential drowning prevention strategies are.

Why is the study taking place around Lake Victoria in Tanzania?

Lake Victoria, bordered by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, is the biggest lake in Africa. Over a million people live and work on the lake. A recent study showed that many Ugandan fishermen die from drowning in the Lake.

The same problem may exist on the Tanzanian side of the lake. However, to confirm this we need to conduct a carefully planned study. The study will also tell us what impacts deaths from drowning have on the community.

In addition, in order to plan strategies to prevent drowning in the Tanzanian lakeside communities most effectively, we need to know:

1. The **circumstances** that led to the deaths from drownings within the communities;
2. What potential strategies are **feasible** within the communities; and
3. What potential strategies would be **acceptable** to the communities.

