

DRIFT - Information and Consent Form

For participants taking part in focus group discussions

Version 2.0, 3rd July 2017

Study title: An Observational Study to Inform Potential Drowning Intervention Strategies Among Fishing Communities in the Lake Zone of Tanzania

Abbreviated title: DRIFT

Date (dd/MON/yyyy): |_|_|/|_|_|/20|_|_|

Participant ID: DRIFT|_|_|_|_|

Introduction

You are being requested to participate in a study called DRIFT. The DRIFT study aims to find out how many people die from drowning among Tanzania fishing communities around Lake Victoria, and why people are at risk from drowning. The ultimate goal of the study is to find out information that will help development of strategies to prevent drowning within these communities.

What is drowning, who is at risk, and can it be prevented?

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.

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.

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, 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.

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.

You are being requested to take part in a focus group discussion. This will involve meeting with a group of 8-10 other members of your community to discuss:

1. Activities conducted in or near water that may increase people's risk of drowning, and potential interventions that could reduce risk of drowning in your community; or
2. Perceptions towards other health risks, and how the risk of drowning might alter these perceptions.

The researcher will tell you which topic you will be involved in discussing. The group discussion will take approximately 1 hour.

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 and colleagues of people who have drowned and other community members.

The study is taking part at seven different Tanzanian fishing communities around Lake Victoria, and will include between 100 and 200 people from each community.

Do I have to take part in the study?

No, participation in the study is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part and change your mind later, you are free to withdraw from the study without consequence.

Are there any risks or benefits of taking part in the study, and will I be compensated for my time?

There are unlikely to be any risks of taking part in the study. We may ask some questions that you feel uncomfortable to answer. You may choose not to answer some questions if you wish.

From taking part in the study, you may benefit from increased awareness of drowning and measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of drowning. You will not be paid to participate in the study, but will receive a small amount of compensation for your time and/or travel.

Who will have access to information collected from me?

The research team will have access to the information collected from you. The information will be anonymised so, when data from the study is presented, you will not be identified. Findings from the study will likely be presented online, at conferences and in publications. We may reproduce specific sentences that you have said during the focus group discussion. However, these will also be anonymised so that you can't be identified. It is possible that anonymised data from this study may be shared with another relevant organisation and/or made publicly available via a data repository.

Who should I contact if I have more questions on the study?

For more information on the study you can contact the Study Coordinator:

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

CONSENT STATEMENT (please provide your initials as appropriate)

1. I confirm that I have read (or had read to me) the written information contained in this form;	_ _ _ _
2. I confirm that I have had the opportunity to ask questions about this study, and I am satisfied with the answers and explanations provided;	_ _ _ _
3. I understand that participation in the study is entirely voluntary, and I may withdraw at any time without any penalty;	_ _ _ _
4. I understand that data collected from me in this study will be used by authorised persons as described in this form;	_ _ _ _
5. I understand that anonymised data collected from me in this study may be made publicly available, possibly via a data repository;	_ _ _ _
6. I understand that this study has been reviewed and approved by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) Ethics Committee and the Medical Research Coordinating Committee (MRCC) Lakezone Institutional Review Board (IRB).	_ _ _ _
7. I confirm that I have been given sufficient time to decide whether or not to participate in this study.	_ _ _ _
8. I understand that an audio tape of the focus group discussion and subsequent dialogue will be made and/or notes will be taken.	_ _ _ _
9. I understand that, if I feel uncomfortable in any way during the focus group discussion, I have the right to decline to answer any question .	_ _ _ _
10. I understand that the researcher will not identify me by name in any reports using information obtained from the focus group discussion, and that my confidentiality as a participant in this study will remain secure.	_ _ _ _

I agree to take part in this study.

(Name of participant)

(Signature or fingerprint of participant)

_____/_____/_____
(Date (dd/MON/yyyy))

(Name of person taking consent)

(Signature of person taking consent)

_____/_____/_____
(Date (dd/MON/yyyy))

If witness is needed:

On the date given next to my signature, I witnessed the consent interview for the DRIFT study named above in this document. I confirm that the information in this consent form was explained to the participant, and the participant had his/her questions and concerns adequately addressed.

(Name of witness)

(Signature of witness)

_____/_____/_____
(Date (dd/MON/yyyy))

