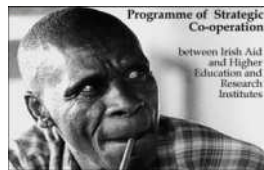


Precarious Resource? Gender and Access to Water in Makondo Parish, South Central Uganda

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Introduction/Background



- 780 million lack adequate access to water (WHO&UNICEF 2012)
- Majority in rural Sub-Saharan Africa
- Access to water determined by resources, 'mechanisms', processes (Franks&Cleaver 2007)
- Gender shapes who controls and accesses water (e.g. Coles&Wallace 2005)
- Gender differences in access to water in Africa & rural Uganda less understood

Aims and Objectives



Aim

Assess gender dynamics in access to water resources in Makondo Parish

Objectives

- Establish water technologies used;
- Examine local water governance arrangements;
- Examine gender issues in water collection

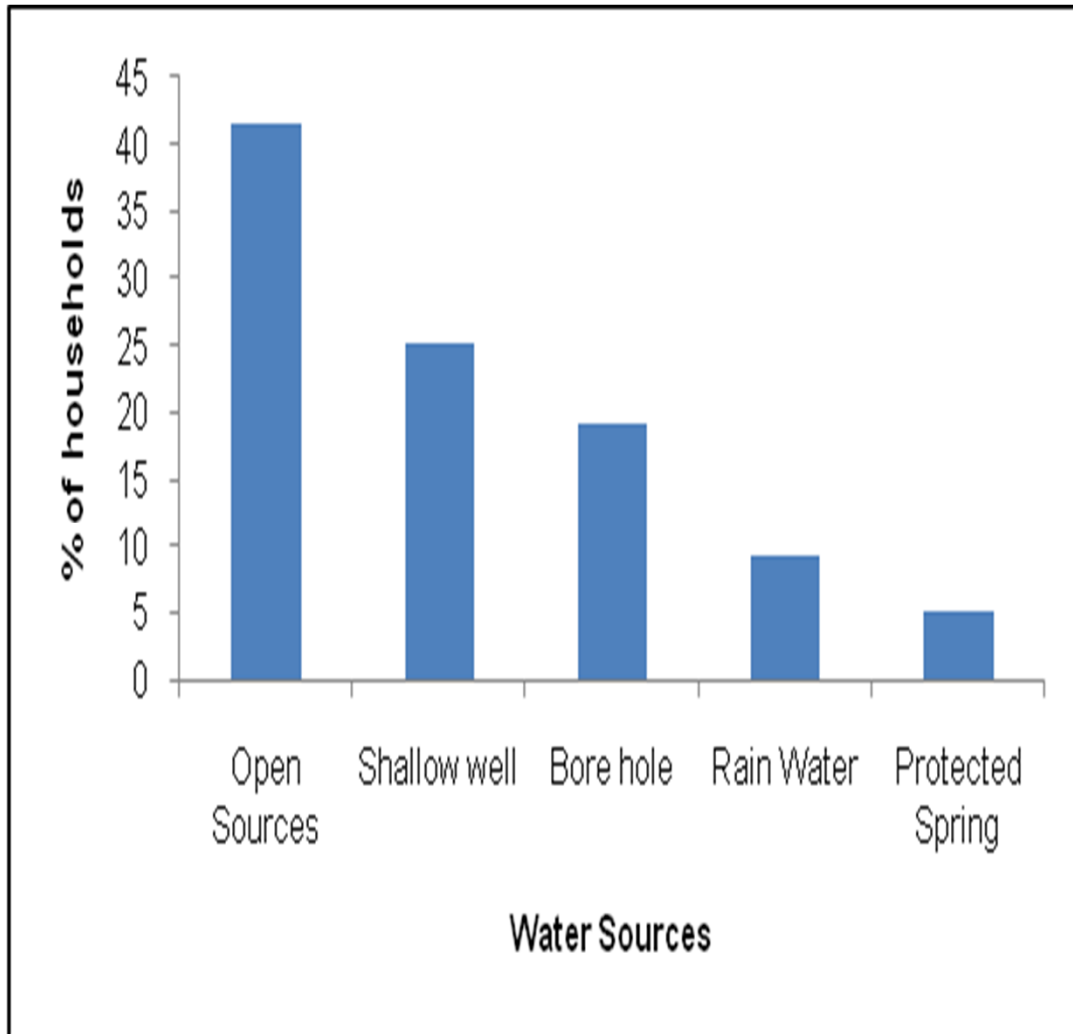
Methodology

Design: Mixed method - sequential quantitative-qualitative, 'qualitative-dominant' (Creswell 2003; Tashakkori & Teddlie 2003)

Methods Used: Survey – 602 households; 11 Focus Group Discussions; 20 In-depth Interviews & Participant Observation – 'observer-as-participant'



Water Technologies – open sources ; 8 bore holes, 28 shallow wells, 1 protected spring&bad roads/paths



Formal institutions and Authority



Village Chairpersons

- Very influential in access to pumps and their repair

Water User Committees

- Many inactive and male-dominated
- Limited trust by water users, especially men

Hand Pump Mechanic

- Knows pumps & their history
- Relations with Village Chairpersons and Committees

Payments and In-kind contributions



-Whenever our shallow well breaks down, men do not want to pay the fees for repairing it. As a woman, you have to look for money somewhere....such as the little you save from sales of some food crops to pay the fees so that you and your children are allowed to collect water from the pump

(Female FGD, Misaana Village)

- Communal labour e.g.
 - Men carry bricks, gravel, silt during construction or repair of pumps
 - Women cook food for labourers
 - Men desilt open ponds

Water Collection: children and women



Contribution to Wider Water Is Life Project



- Open water sources challenge to health & local water governance
- Village Chairpersons and Hand Pump Mechanics critical
- ‘Geogenic’ or natural factors negatively affect women & children’s use of pumps
- Fetching water, availability in households responsibility of children and women

Impact of Findings on Community



- Community health workers participated in generation of knowledge
- Women gradually realised risks of open sources
- Men & women learned more about gender & local water governance structures
- Households know importance of O&M or repair fees - can they afford?
- Burden women & children face is clear, cultural norms maintain status quo

Contribution to Sustainable Water Management in Uganda



- ‘Improved’ sources inadequate & malfunctioning;
- Local institutions - Village Chairpersons & HPMS key but ignorant about gender;
- Access more than water amounts, distance & technology; and
- Social conditions, gender relations and processes complicate access for women & children

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