SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL: "Social network fragmentation and community health"

Goylette F. Chami*, Sebastian E. Ahnert, Narcis B. Kabatereine, Edridah M. Tukahebwa

Table of Contents

Materials and methods

Network prompts

Networks were generated at the household level because community medicine distributors (CMDs) were trained to and have been shown to move from door to door to deliver medicines during MDA(1).

Close friendship: "Please tell me the clan name first then the second name of up to 10 people that are very close friends to you. You should feel comfortable to turn to this person to borrow tools for fishing or farming without paying. A close friend is also someone that you see frequently. Do not name anyone in your household. Provide the names in the order of who is your closest friend first. Only name people in your village."

Health advice: "Please tell me the clan name first then the second name of up to 10 people that you trust for advice about taking drugs or any health problems. These people do not have to be health workers. Provide the names in the order of whose opinion you value most and who you would go to first. Only name people in your village."

Fragmentation algorithms

- 1. Random node removal
- 2. Acquaintance strategy
	- a. Random neighbor
	- b. Random neighbor with degree ≥ 2
- 3. Acquaintance-degree strategy
	- a. Highest degree neighbor
		- b. Higher degree neighbor
- 4. Formal position strategy
	- a. Random neighbor
	- b. Random neighbor with degree ≥ 2
	- c. Higher degree neighbor
	- d. Highest degree neighbor

For the random node removal, all nodes had a uniform probability of selection. The acquaintance and acquaintance-degree strategies began with the selection of a random node then a neighbor (direct connection) of the initially selected node was removed. Two acquaintance algorithms were employed. Algorithm 2A randomly removed a neighbor of the initially selected node(2). In 2B, a restriction was added to 2A where the randomly removed neighbor must have a degree of at least two. This criterion is similar to setting a local threshold for the neighbor's degree(3) and guided the removal of neighbors who had a connection to at least one additional node that was not the initially selected random node. In the event that a neighbor was selected from an isolated dyad then, in 2B, this neighbor was removed. The acquaintance-degree strategy introduced a trivial improvement(3, 4) in the acquaintance strategy(2). Acquaintance-degree algorithm $3A$ removed the highest degree neighbor of the initially selected node(4). If there was a tie, i.e. if two neighbors had the highest degree value then one of these neighbors was randomly selected and removed. Algorithm 3B randomly removed a neighbor with higher degree than the initially selected node.

The formal position strategy purposely targeted individuals with community roles. In this strategy, we first directly removed individuals in order of village positions then, when no individuals with formal positions remained, an acquaintance or acquaintance-degree strategy was employed. Formal positions included households with at least one individual in at least one of the following categories at the time of the network survey: government health workers, CMDs who were village-elected health workers, local council members (village government), and schoolteachers. These categories reflect actual field practices in community-based MDA in Uganda(1, 5). Health personnel from outside of a village will work with influential, local stakeholders to respond to problems arising in a village during treatment campaigns. These individuals are influential because they are the implementers of community-based MDA (health workers), have high social status (local council), or are the implementers of MDA in primary schools (teachers). There was a fixed number of two CMDs per village and a maximum of nine village government members. No fixed or maximum number of government health workers or schoolteachers existed. The local council positions were as follows: chairman, vice chairman, secretary, defense, gender secretary, disabled secretary, youth council, elderly secretary, or information secretary. The ranking (hierarchy) of formal positions and order of node removal was health workers (both government and CMDs) then local council members and finally schoolteachers. Within each category of formal positions, if there were multiple individuals then one of these individuals was randomly chosen and removed. If an individual in a household held multiple formal positions or multiple individuals in a household had formal positions across different categories then the household was assigned the category with the highest ranking.

Targeted attack algorithms

- 1. Targeted attacks
	- a. Highest degree
	- b. Highest betweenness
	- c. Recalculated highest degree
	- d. Recalculated highest betweenness

Targeted attacks were strategies that removed nodes based on centrality(6) and required global network information. Algorithms 1A and 1B removed nodes in descending order of degree(7) and betweenness(8), respectively. The recalculated measures(9) recounted degree or updated betweennness after each node removal. For ties, i.e. the same value assigned to different nodes, a node was randomly chosen amongst nodes with the same value of degree or betweenness. Only 10 iterations were run for betweenness due to the infrequency of ties.

Fragmentation outcomes

The main outcome was the total number of fragments with adjustments for component size using the Borgatti F(10) indicator as described in Chen *et al*(11) where *F*=0 was an undamaged network and *F*=1 equaled maximum fragmentation. *F* asymptotically approached zero when isolates remained, so complete destruction of network connectivity was defined here as *F*=0.9945. A connected component was defined as a group of at least two connected nodes. To check the robustness of the acquaintance and acquaintance-degree results as well as to enable comparisons with published studies, the standard percolation outcome(3, 9, 11-13) also was calculated. The percolation outcome measured the percentage of nodes remaining in the largest component.

Health outcome

MDA is the distribution of preventive chemotherapies to an entire population within a defined geographical area and predominantly at risk of infection with one of six parasitic worms(5, 14). Over 1.9 billion individuals worldwide require treatment through MDA(14). In our study area, community-based MDA(1, 5) was used to distribute praziquantel, albendazole, and ivermectin for the treatment of intestinal schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminths, and lymphatic filariasis. MDA is the main, and most often only available method of controlling morbidity attributable to these infections. Yet, an adverse drug reaction experienced by a few individuals within a village can cause widespread refusal to ingest pills (noncompliance) and, in turn, destabilize or halt MDA, even at times stopping treatment for several years (15-17). Widespread noncompliance ensues ultimately from the spread of information, which can include rumours, about the adverse event(15). Considering that information travels along connections in friendship and health advice networks(18-20) and the starting points (seeds) for this diffusion are the individuals/households experiencing the adverse event then there is a need to quell the ability of these seeds to spread information to the rest of the network.

All households in the networks were interviewed to record who was offered medicine by CMDs (implementers of community-based MDA(1)) and, amongst those offered, who refused to ingest pills. Here, noncompliance included only individuals who refused to swallow medicines because of a previous experience of adverse drug side effects. A node (household) was classified as a noncompliant seed if at least one individual, who was eligible for treatment in the household, refused all pills during the MDA conducted at the time of the network survey.

We measured the percentage of nodes in the network that were at risk of receiving information from a noncompliant seed. We assume all nodes in a component with a noncompliant seed were reachable by that seed. Accordingly, we divided the total number of nodes in a connected component with a noncompliant seed by the total number of nodes in the original network.

Comparison of formal position targeting to uniform random node removal

When examining the same number of nodes removed as there were formal positions, we also compared the efficiency of formal position targeting to a simple approach that is not an acquaintance/network strategy, i.e. the uniform random sampling of households (Figures S1-S2). Targeting formal positions outperformed uniform random selection in 58.82% (10/17) of friendship and 88.24% (15/17) of health advice networks. In the friendship networks, the average fragmentation achieved with the formal position strategy (*F* 0.185, std. dev. 0.067) was only slightly larger than the fragmentation (*F* 0.180, std. dev. 0.066) observed after randomly removing households (Obs. 17, paired t-statistic 2.640, p-value=0.018). For health advice networks, targeting formal positions induced more fragmentation (avg. *F* 0.30, std. dev. 0.136) than that achieved with random selection (avg. *F* 0.196, std. dev. 0.070, Obs. 17, paired t-statistic 4.962, p-value<0.001).

Figure S1: Fragmentation outcomes for 13 friendship networks. Thirteen villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. N is the total number of nodes in the original network. If FP is noted then the formal position strategy was employed; otherwise, acquaintance and acquaintance-degree strategies were used. Line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S2: Fragmentation outcomes for 13 health advice networks. Thirteen villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. N is the total number of nodes in the original network. If FP is noted then the formal position strategy was employed; otherwise, acquaintance and acquaintance-degree strategies were used. Line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S3: Targeted attacks by degree and betweenness. Fragmentation algorithms that utilized full network information are shown for all villages and networks. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. Line widths are greater than the 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S4: Avg. degree of node removed for 13 friendship and health advice networks. Thirteen villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. The average degree for each node removed is shown up to the number of formal positions. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. The type of network is labeled accordingly. One thousand iterations were run and line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S5: Physical proximity of node selected by each fragmentation strategy. The average haversine distance in meters is shown for each node selected by each fragmentation strategy. One thousand iterations were run and line widths represent 95% confidence intervals. If a neighbour was selected that did not have available GPS waypoint data then the initially selected node was removed. If both the neighbour and the initially selected node did not have available GPS waypoint data then a new initial node was selected. Only the number of nodes as there were formal positions with GPS waypoint data was removed.

Figure S6: Avg. connectivity to sick people for 13 friendship and health advice networks. Thirteen villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. The type of network is labeled accordingly. Sickness connectivity was defined as follows. The number of people in the neighbourhood of a node who reported diarrhea within the three months preceding the sociometric survey was divided by the degree of the node of interest. The average sickness connectivity for each node removed is shown up to the number of formal positions. One thousand iterations were run and line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S7: Acquaintance-degree strategy with node replacement. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. The type of network is labeled accordingly. Line widths are greater than the 95% confidence intervals. The acquaintance-degree strategies from main text Figures 2-3 are shown here. In addition, these strategies (green and yellow) were run with one change. If a neighbour was not found, i.e. the node was an isolate, then the node was not removed from the network for the resampled highest degree neighbour strategy. This change made no difference in fragmentation efficiency since Borgatti F accounts for network fragment size. However, degree cutoffs were relaxed for the resampled higher degree neighbour strategy. If a neighbour of higher degree than the initially randomly selected node was not found then the initial node remained in the network and another node was selected until the criteria of having higher degree was met. In this case, the resampled higher degree neighbour strategy performed worse, requiring a greater percentage of nodes to induce fragmentation, than the original higher degree neighbour algorithm. 11

Figure S8: Degree and average neighbour connectivity correlations for 4 main text villages. Four villages are shown that had the fewest, median, 75th percentile, and greatest number of nodes. The remaining villages are shown in Figure S9. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. The type of network is labeled accordingly. The Pearson correlation coefficient r of average neighbor connectivity with degree level is provided above each plot. Two plots per village are shown; one plot presents all nodes in a village and the adjacent plot shows excludes nodes with formal positions.

Figure S9: Degree and average neighbour connectivity correlations. Thirteen villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. The type of network is labeled accordingly. The Pearson correlation coefficient r of average neighbour connectivity with degree level is provided above each plot. Two plots per village are shown; one plot presents all nodes in a village and the adjacent plot excludes nodes with formal positions.

Figure S10: Health outcomes for friendship networks. Ten villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. Three villages (IDs 2, 6 and 9) are not presented because there were zero non-complying households. If FP is noted then the formal position strategy was employed; otherwise, acquaintance and acquaintance-degree strategies were used. Line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S11: Health outcomes for health advice networks. Ten villages are shown that were not presented in the main text. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. Three villages (IDs 2, 6 and 9) are not presented because there were zero non-complying households. If FP is noted then the formal position strategy was employed; otherwise, acquaintance and acquaintance-degree strategies were used. Line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure S12: Percentage of nodes remaining in the largest component. IDs correspond to project-assigned village IDs. Line widths represent 95% confidence intervals.

Table S1 Households with formal positions by village and network type

17 65 3 6 3 63 3 6 3 3 6 3 3 6 3 8 4 63 3 6 3 4 6 3 ^a Each village had two community medicine distributors, who were responsible for distributing treatment in mass drug administration. Additional households included individuals with an income-earning occupation as a health worker.

 b Households with at least one current member of the village government.

Only households in each network (no isolates) are presented. Villages with many schoolteachers (IDs $8-9$ & 16) had a private or government primary school located within the village.

		Friendship networks						Health advice networks					
						Min, Max							Min,
Village	Formal		Avg.	Std.	$P-$	degre			Avg.	Std.	$P-$	Max	
ID	position	Obs.	degree	err.	value	$\mathbf e$		Obs.	degree	err.	value	degree	
1	No	187	5.128	0.266				173	3.809	0.232			
	Yes	15	9.000	1.447	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	17	14	15.071	4.575	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	61
\overline{c}	No	165	7.030	0.390				154	3.818	0.324			
	Yes	16	13.500	2.449	< 0.001	$\overline{4}$	35	16	13.000	5.287	< 0.001	1	70
3	No	176	10.256	0.532				169	5.497	0.443			
	Yes	16	19.688	3.355	< 0.001	$\overline{2}$	49	16	23.063	6.076	< 0.001	3	81
$\overline{4}$	No	303	12.386	0.436				300	6.357	0.347			
	Yes	17	23.471	3.763	< 0.001	5	50	16	12.938	2.459	< 0.001	$\overline{2}$	35
5	No	170	7.288	0.369				155	3.826	0.247			
	Yes	14	14.357	2.180	< 0.001	$\overline{2}$	30	13	15.308	5.598	< 0.001	3	71
6	N _o	123	8.244	0.430				115	3.348	0.243			
	Yes	16	15.625	2.666	< 0.001	6	42	16	12.063	5.602	< 0.001	1	76
7	N _o	113	12.195	0.569				113	7.265	0.431			
	Yes	$\,$ $\,$	20.250	3.411	0.001	$\overline{4}$	31	$\,$ 8 $\,$	20.625	5.305	< 0.001	3	49
8	No	348	9.011	0.276				341	6.152	0.212			
	Yes	21	17.619	3.715	< 0.001	3	58	20	20.300	5.079	< 0.001	3	85
9	No	154	11.039	0.560				149	6.067	0.448			
	Yes	24	18.333	3.635	< 0.001	5	80	24	14.917	4.816	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	100
10	No	188	10.053	0.410				185	7.346	0.371			
	Yes	19	15.474	3.012	0.001	2	44	19	16.474	4.654	< 0.001	1	74
11	No	234	8.175	0.373				222	4.104	0.456			
	Yes	16	13.313	1.932	0.001	5	37	16	9.688	3.385	0.004	$\mathbf{1}$	55
12	No	212	7.189	0.369				203	4.394	0.240			
	Yes	17	12.941	3.400	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	58	17	11.529	4.778	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	82
13	No	171	8.567	0.426				148	3.257	0.203			
	Yes	12	12.750	2.903	0.02	$\mathbf{1}$	32	11	9.091	4.318	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	51
14	No	115	7.843	0.454				111	4.901	0.306			
	Yes	9	16.444	2.231	< 0.001	6	30	9	14.444	2.858	< 0.001	6	27
15	No	107	4.271	0.290				104	2.779	0.271			
	Yes	13	7.000	1.038	0.003	$\mathbf{1}$	15	13	8.385	2.999	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	35
16	No	346	6.879	0.226				323	3.895	0.136			
	Yes	26	14.000	2.168	< 0.001	$\overline{3}$	43	26	18.462	7.374	< 0.001	$\mathbf{1}$	154
17	No	53	7.226	0.732				51	4.020	0.584			
	Yes	12	10.917	1.751	0.039	$\overline{4}$	20	12	7.917	1.520	0.008	$\overline{2}$	21

Table S2 Two-sample t-tests of degree by formal position

Table S3 Physical proximity of formal position households compared to all other study households

Amongst all households, 77.94% (2721/3491) had GPS waypoint data available that was matched to the household surveys. GPS waypoints were collected in November 2014. For households with individuals who had formal positions, 12.18% (33/271) did not have GPS waypoint data. The haversine distance in meters ('as the crow flies' distance) was measured between each household and every other household within the village, including those households not necessarily matched to the questionnaires. In Python v2.7, physical proximity was calculated as the average haversine distance of the household of interest to every other home in the village. Formal position households only had significantly closer physical proximity (pvalue (0.05) when compared to all other households in one village (ID 16).

Table S4 Degree distributions of study networks compared to random networks

Exact numerical calculations were performed. The standard deviation of the degree in each realworld network is comparable in size to the average degree, and in some cases even larger than it. Such large standard deviations are indicative of heavy-tailed degree distributions in our study networks. The Erdős–Rényi random (ER) networks were calculated with the same number of nodes and edges as the real-world study networks. In the ER networks, the average degree is the same because we are fixing the number of nodes and edges, however the standard deviation is much smaller. The differences between the standard deviations of degree for the study networks and that of the ER networks is much larger than the fluctuations that one may expect from the sampling that gives rise to the ER networks.

Table S5 Average core numbers of nodes with formal positions

Table S6 Two-sample t-tests of degree by noncomplying household

a In total, there were 129 noncomplying households. Three villages (IDs 2, 6, & 9**)** did not have any noncompliance attributable to adverse drug effects. In the other 14 villages, noncompliance widely varied (Avg. 9.214, std. dev. 8.541). Village IDs 5 & 14 only had one noncomplying household.

References

1 Chami, G. F. *et al.* (2016) Profiling nonrecipients of mass drug administration for schistosomiasis and hookworm infections: a comprehensive analysis of praziquantel and albendazole coverage in community-directed treatment in Uganda. *Clin Infect Dis* 62(2): 200- 207

2 Cohen, R., Havlin, S. & ben-Avraham, D. (2003) Efficient immunization strategies for computer networks and populations. *Phys Rev Lett* 91(24): 247901

3 Gallos, L. K., Liljeros, F., Argyrakis, P., Bunde, A. & Havlin, S. (2007) Improving immunization strategies. *Phys Rev E* 75(4): 045104

4 Holme, P. (2004) Efficient local strategies for vaccination and network attack. *EPL* 68(6): 908

5 Fenwick, A. *et al.* (2009) The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI): rationale, development and implementation from 2002-2008. *Parasitology* 136(13): 1719-1730

6 Freeman, L. C. (1979) Centrality in social networks conceptual clarification. *Soc Net* 1(3): 215-239

7 Albert, R., Jeong, H. & Barabási, A.-L. (2000) Error and attack tolerance of complex networks. *Nature* 406(6794): 378-382

8 Girvan, M. & Newman, M. E. J. (2002) Community structure in social and biological networks. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 99(12): 7821-7826

9 Holme, P., Kim, B. J., Yoon, C. N. & Han, S. K. (2002) Attack vulnerability of complex networks. *Phys Rev E* 65(5): 056109

10 Borgatti, S. P. (2006) Identifying sets of key players in a social network. *Comput Math Organ Theory* 12(1): 21-34,

11 Chen, Y. *et al.* (2007) Percolation theory applied to measures of fragmentation in social networks. *Phys Rev E* 75(4): 046107

12 Schneider, C. M., Moreira, A. A., Andrade, J. S., Havlin, S. & Herrmann, H. J. (2011) Mitigation of malicious attacks on networks. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 108(10): 3838-3841

13 Carmi, S., Havlin, S., Kirkpatrick, S., Shavitt, Y. & Shir, E. (2007) A model of Internet topology using k-shell decomposition. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 104(27):11150-11154

14 Webster, J. P., Molyneux, D. H., Hotez, P. J. & Fenwick, A. (2014) The contribution of mass drug administration to global health: past, present and future. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond, B, Biol Sci* 369(1645)

15 Krentel, A., Fischer, P. U. & Weil, G. J. (2013) A review of factors that influence individual compliance with mass drug administration for elimination of lymphatic filariasis. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 7(11): e2447

16 Kelly-Hope, L. A., Thomas, B. C., Bockarie, M. J. & Molyneux, D. H. (2011) Lymphatic filariasis in the Democratic Republic of Congo; micro-stratification overlap mapping (MOM) as a prerequisite for control and surveillance. *Parasit Vectors* 4(1):178

17 Parker, M. & Allen, T. (2011) Does mass drug administration for the integrated treatment of neglected tropical diseases really work? Assessing evidence for the control of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths in Uganda. *Health Res Policy Syst* 9(3): 3

18 Banerjee, A., Chandrasekhar, A. G., Duflo, E. & Jackson, M. O. (2013) The Diffusion of microfinance. *Science* 341(6144)

19 Valente, T. W. & Davis, R. L. (1999) Accelerating the Diffusion of Innovations Using Opinion Leaders. *Ann Am Acad Pol Soc Sci* 566(1): 55-67

20 Rogers, E. M. (2003) *Diffusion of innovations.* 5 edn, (Free Press).