

Protest Movements and the Strengthening of Democratic Governance in Uganda

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Protest Movements in Uganda

- Emergence of social mobilization in Uganda
 - Anticipation of political change
 - Differed little with similar events elsewhere
- The bitter contest between National Resistance Movement Organization (NRM) and Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)

Protest Movements....

- The 2011 protests code-named “Walk-to-Work (W2W)” emerged after the February 2011 general elections
 - Cost of living became unbearable
 - Inflation hit its highest at 44.1%
 - Lack of government action as affordability became impossible
- Mobilization to protest was an action taken under Action for Change (A4C) and For God and My Country (4GC) umbrella groups



Protest Movement.....

Urban protests were launched in April 2011 – Walk-to-Work

- Citizens became angered at the government repressive response to social protests
- This study focus on how W2W protests emerged and impact on the governance patterns in Uganda



Source: <http://www.thepromota.co.uk/on-the-recent-people%E2%80%99s-revolutions-across-africa/>



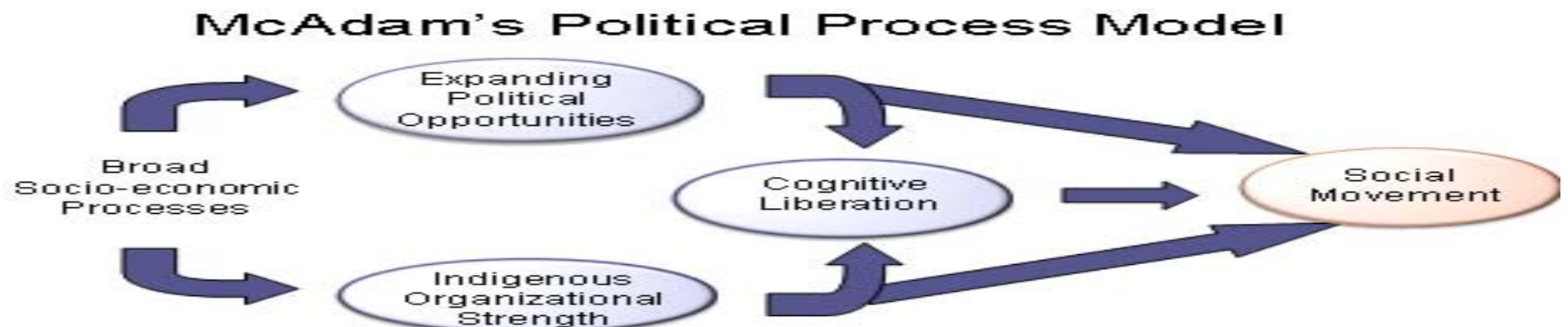
Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2011/04/201142831330647345.html>

Key Questions

- How were activists able to mobilize participants in the persistent political protests in 2011 in Uganda?
- What were repertoires of mobilization?
- Was there political realignment in the Uganda to warrant sustaining massive protest movements as witnessed?
- What were the influential allies and how did these affect the protest movements?

Theoretical frameworks

- ◆ Political opportunity theory – Tarrow 1994, Jenkins and Perrow 1977
 - Botched elections in 2006, 2011 leading to pol. re-alignment, 2007 and 2009 protests (discontent accumulated over many grievances)
- ◆ Political process theory – McAdam 1982
 - changes in political environment – discontent of lack of access to resources – corruption
 - level of organizational readiness



Methodology

- Multidimensional Approach –survey, historical/comparative and ethnographic
- Interviewed 416 participants and non-participants in 5 districts – Gulu, Mbale, Kampala, Masaka, and Mbarara
- In-depth interviews with organizers, opposition political parties, still on-going
- Literature search – libraries at Cambridge, newspapers, etc.
- Discussions with experts and comparing notes

Findings - Preliminary

- General Characteristics
 - **Sex**
 - Male 67.3
 - Female 32.7
 - **Age**
 - 15-24 22.7
 - 25-34 46.0
 - 35-44 20.2
 - 45-54 8.0
 - 55+ 3.1

Findings - Preliminary

- General Characteristics

- **Marital Status**

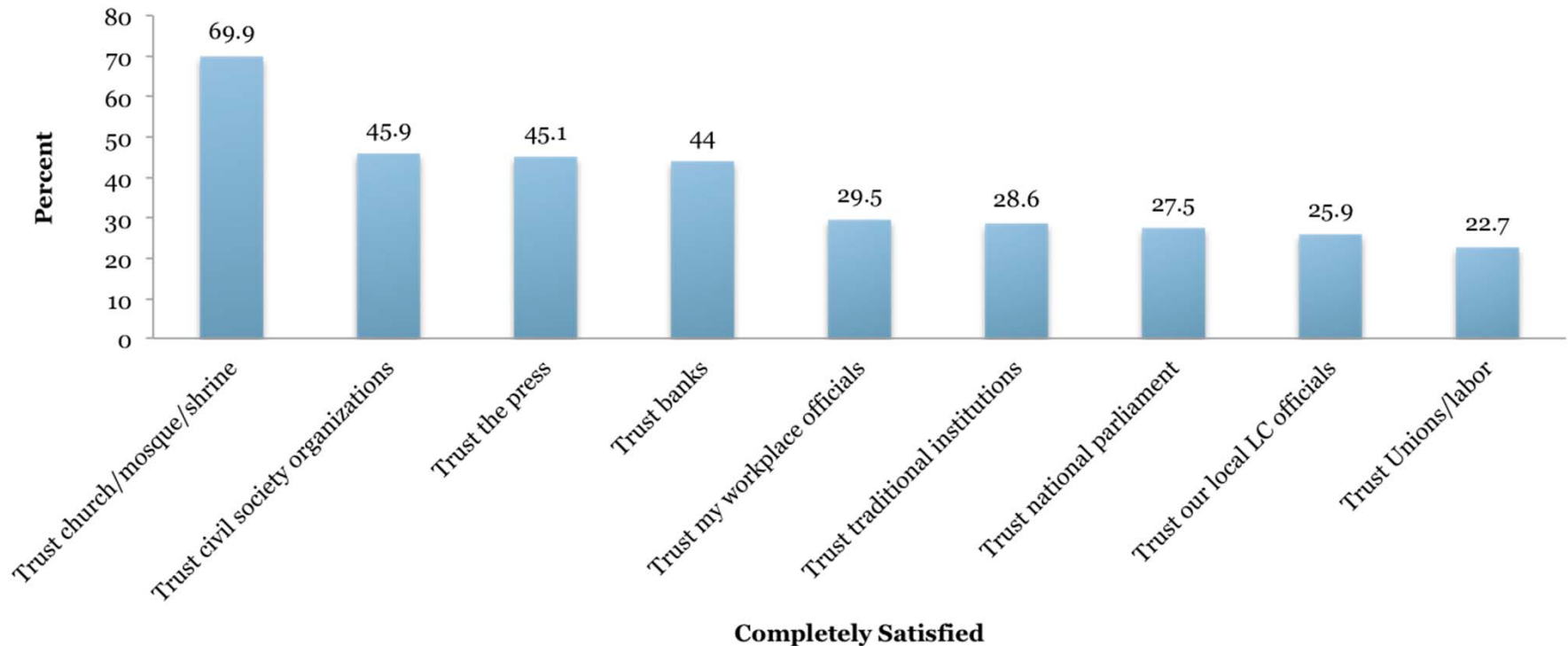
▫ Single	37.0
▫ Married	56.0
▫ Ever Married	7.0

- **Education**

▫ No Education	2.2
▫ Primary	16.7
▫ Secondary	37.0
▫ Vocational	15.7
▫ University	29.3

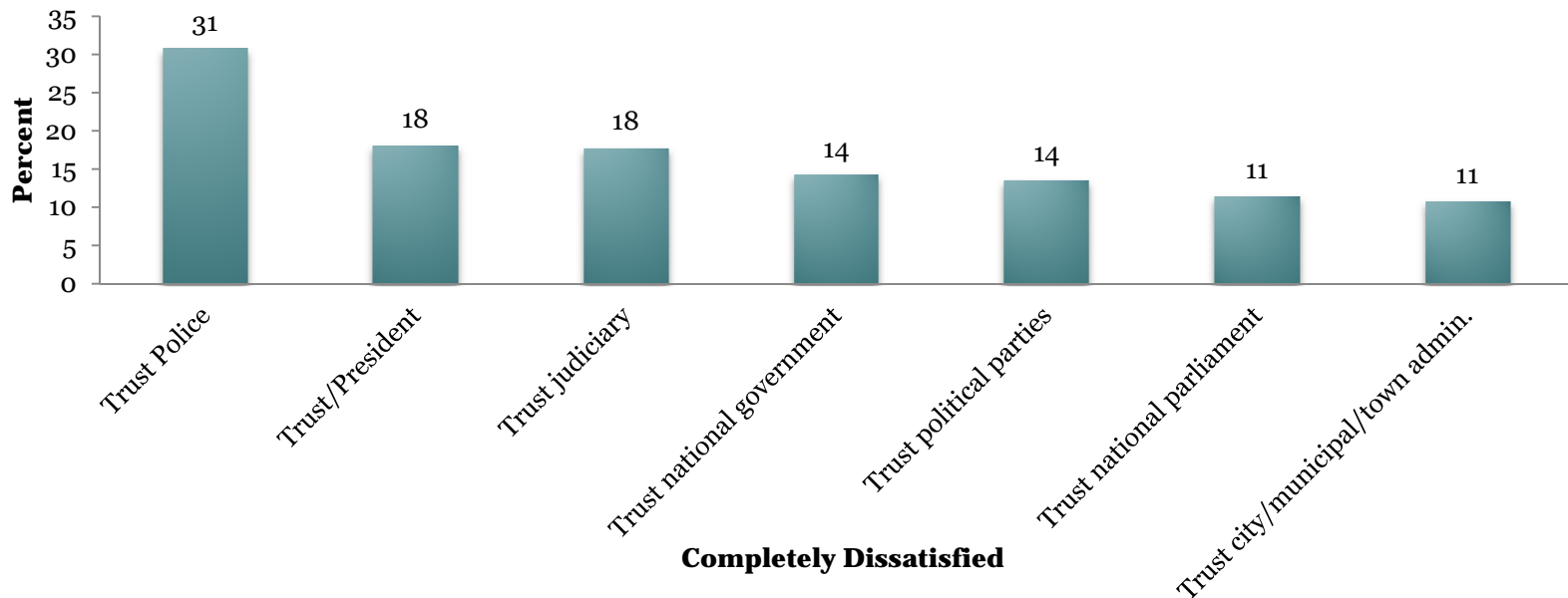
Findings - Preliminary

- Could you indicate for each of these institutions how much trust you have in them?
- Completely Satisfied

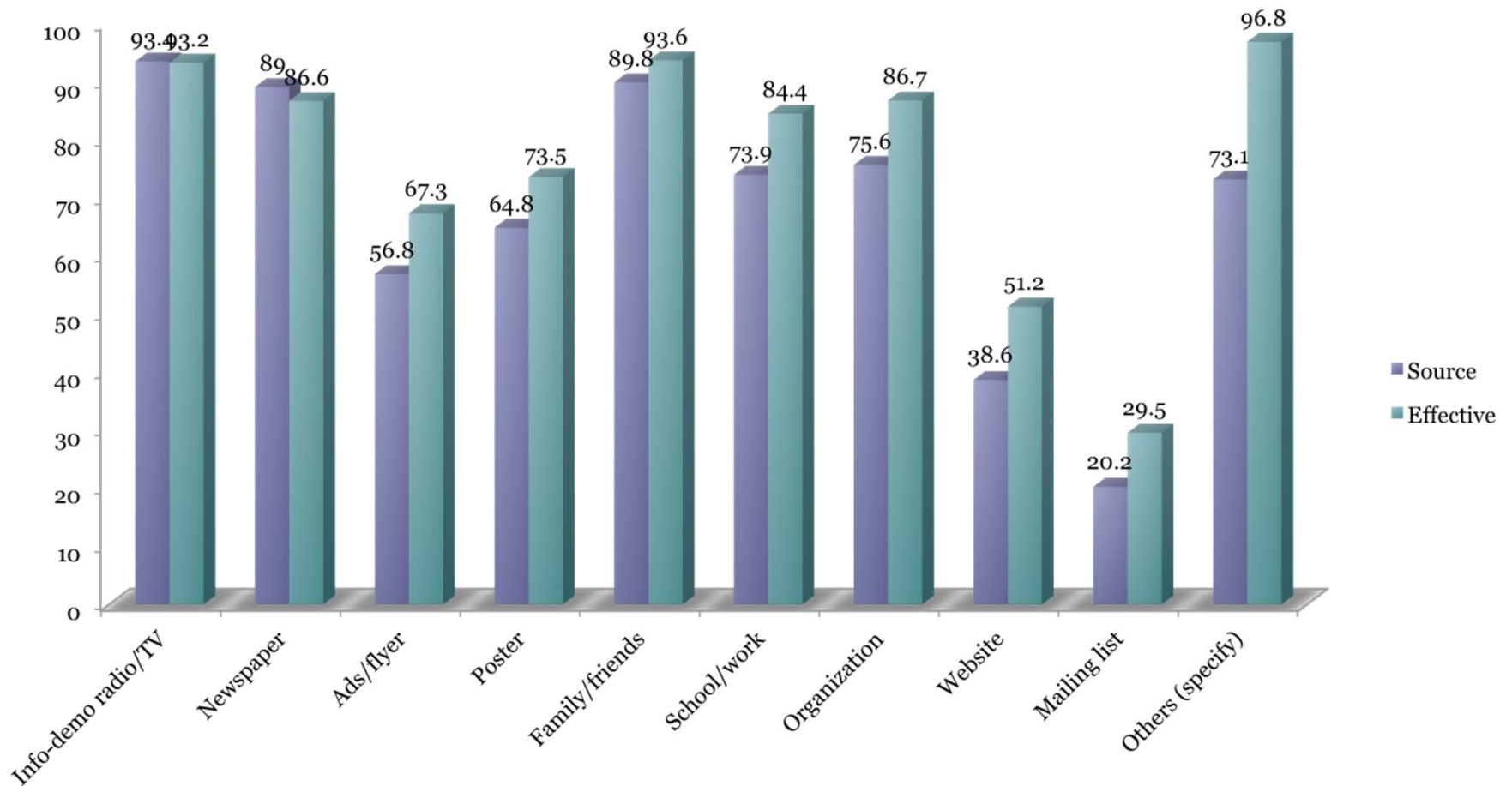


Findings - Preliminary

- Could you indicate for each of these institutions how much trust you have in them?
- Completely Dissatisfied



How did you obtain information about the activities you participated in and effectiveness?



Planned activities - Manuscripts

- ✓ “The 2011 Walk-to-Work Protest Movements and the re-
invigoration of social movement activism in Uganda” –
ASA conference, November 2014
- ✓ “State repression and Walk-to-Work oppositional protests
in Uganda: Silencing citizens demand for a voice” –
CODESRIA Conference, December 2014
- ✓ Mobilization tactics and protest activities in Uganda

Planned activities - Manuscripts

- ✓ The short and long-term effect of the 2011 protest movement to the governance process and patterns in Uganda
- ✓ Chair, ASA Panel entitled “Political Violence, the State, and Global Forces: New Patterns of Violence and Conflict”



Thank you!!