1. Introduction
The lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation pose significant health challenges for many individuals and communities in low- and middle-income countries. Aside from direct health issues, the lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation is increasingly associated with many psychosocial concerns that affect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

2. Research Objective
To explore psychosocial concerns related to the lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation in Usoma, a lakeshore community in Western Kenya

3. Research Context

4. Methods
The study used key informant interviews (n=9) and focus group discussions (n=10)

5. Results

- Embarassment
  - Embarrassed at drinking unclean water in the presence of visitors
  - Embarrassed at being unable to protect privacy when practicing open defecation

- Feelings of marginalisation
  - Leaders seem not to care: “no one cares about what we drink!”
  - Feeling like “refugees” in your own village

- Anxiety and Frustration
  - “You sleep while thinking of where to get water the next day”
  - Quarrels over maintenance of shared toilets

- Negative place identity
  - Usoma being unable to attract long term residents
  - Smell from open defecation being part of daily life

6. Findings & Conclusions
1. Distress largely occurs as a result of daily struggles as well as (perceived) injustices and marginalization in water delivery
2. Uncertainty and frustration affects residents’ participation in water-related collective action
3. Residents employ both action and emotionally focused coping strategies