

## Relationship between roles of non-government organizations and house hold economic empowerment in Wakiso district. A cross-sectional study.

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### Abstract

#### Background

This study aimed to examine the relationship between the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and household economic empowerment in Wakiso district.

#### Methodology

The research design used was descriptive, correlational, and cross-sectional, employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study population consisted of 198 participants, including members of ARUWE NGO, local government officials, and community development officers. A sample size of 130 respondents was selected using purposive sampling, stratified sampling, and simple random sampling techniques.

#### Results

In this study there was a relatively equal distribution between genders, with 44.2% male and 55.8% female respondents. The correlation coefficient between NGOs and household economic empowerment is 0.462, which indicates a moderately positive correlation. This suggests that NGOs have a significant role in contributing to the economic empowerment of households in Wakiso District.

#### Conclusion

This study provides valuable insights into the role of NGOs in community development in Wakiso district. The findings highlight the importance of NGOs in promoting household economic empowerment, social capital empowerment for women, and youth education. The recommendations provided can help guide NGOs in their efforts to contribute to the overall development and well-being of the community.

#### Recommendation

NGOs in Wakiso district should focus on increasing efforts to contribute to household income, strengthening advocacy for policies, enhancing capacity building and leadership development programs, and exploring the long-term sustainability and scalability of their programs.

Further research should explore the effectiveness of specific NGO interventions and factors that hinder or enable their success.

**Keywords:** Economic empowerment, house hold, non-government organizations, Wakiso district

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### Background of the study

Non-Governmental Organisations in Uganda date as far back as the pre-colonial period. This is seen in the ways communities in Uganda mobilized themselves for collective benefit (Bukenya, 2016). For instance, associations like "Munno Mukabi", "Wang Tic", and "Bataka Twezikyey" among others. Within such associations people came together to associate and achieve common goals (Kwesiga & Namisi, 2012). From colonial rule to 1980's there was a relatively small Non-Governmental Organization's sector, dominated mainly by the humanitarian and evangelistic organisations such as church related organisations. Church - related organisations provided crucial services such as schools, medical care and counseling (Shivji, 2007). Until recently, Non-Governmental Organisations were not looked upon as significant alternative providers of services to the state sector or as representing alternative policy framework to the state or private sector.

Jamil and Muriisa (2004) posit that in Uganda, the growth of the NGOs sector goes back to the 1970's and 1980's, when many NGOs came in to fill the gap left by the collapse of government. The movement was first initiated by faith-based organizations, principally large established churches. This movement was subsequently reinforced by international NGOs, before being relayed by governmental donors (Abigail Barr, 2003). The Uganda National NGO Forum was launched in 1997 following two years of concerted work to develop the operational structure, a constitution and membership recruitment program. Many NGOs had realized the need to engage Government and the donor community on policy issues and poverty concerns (Cannon, 2016). Government on the other hand, found it important to involve Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in policies and programmes (wikipedia, 2021b). By 2001, United Nations Non-Governmental Organisations Forum had established policies and procedures for

accountability, established formal registration for members, operationalized a code of conduct, amended the Constitution by re-mobilising members, developed a three-year rights-based Strategic Plan, and set up district forums for support at district level and to the Secretariat (Baldwin & Winters, 2020).

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The contribution of NGOs in the areas of service delivery, advocacy, democracy and good governance as well as community empowerment is beyond debate. However, the process of NGO sector development, methods of work and the impact of NGO program activities, among other issues, have continued to generate varied and sometimes contradictory views and experiences.

The study will be guided by Community Economic Development (CED) theory. The theory was proposed by Kenny (2007) who posits that "Community development is a holistic approach grounded in principles of empowerment, human rights, inclusion, social justice, self-determination and collective action". He adds that community development considers community members to be experts in their lives and communities, and values community knowledge and wisdom. Therefore, through forming civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations, such communities are able to develop through empowerment programs and learning new skills. Community development theory is an alternative to conventional economic development theory that encourages communities using local resources in a way that enhances economic outcomes while improving social conditions (Krisha, 2013). Community Development Theory is the most practical framework for social workers seeking lasting change for individuals, communities and societies in which they live (Allison Tan, 2010).

The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (Wikipedia, 2021). NGO stands for non-governmental organization. While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of an NGO, typically it is a voluntary group or institution with a social mission, which operates independently from government. NGOs or similar organizations exist in all parts of the world. What is considered an NGO in one country may not qualify as an NGO in another, as legal definitions, permitted activities, monitoring, and oversight differ from country to country. The term can encompass many types of organizations (Mirvis, 2018). While NGOs have no fixed or formal definition, they are generally defined as nonprofit entities independent of governmental influence (Silaj Bashir, 2019).

The Non-Government Organisations Act (NGO), 2016 is the primary legislation regulating activities of NGOs in the country. In its long title, the objectives of this Act are stipulated as "providing a conducive and enabling environment for the NGO sector, strengthening, and promoting the capacity of NGOs and their mutual partnership with the government." Despite these good

intentions and the fact that this Act officially recognizes the activities of NGOs in the country and gives them status, it presents several challenges to the sector (Musila, 2019). While the NGO sector has expanded enormously in Uganda, its contribution to social, economic and political changes remains a subject of inquiry (Asea, 2018). For instance, the government allows these NGOs which operate as gap fillers but is discouraged from performing roles that are considered "politically sensitive"

According to Kayiwa (2022), youth unemployment stands between 64% and 70%, and about 400,000 youths are released annually into the job market to compete for approximately 9,000 available jobs. About 30% of the youths who are institutionally qualified in Uganda are unable to find jobs, and the situation is even worse for semi-skilled and unskilled youths. With ARUWE specifically concentrating on skilling semi-skilled and unskilled youth in Wakiso district, the rate at which they are absorbed into the job market is still low very with over 45% of its youth members still unemployed (ARUWE report, 2021).

Further, despite the existence of several NGOs in Wakiso District like ARUWE, Hope fellowship, and Life rescue that aim at economic empowerment of communities, several households cannot make their own decisions on health and education, and taking risks in order to increase their income (Wakiso district, Community Development Officer, 2021). Majority of the households cannot take their children in their schools of choice and cannot afford private health care services.

Further, despite the existence of several NGOs in Wakiso District like ARUWE, Hope fellowship, and Life rescue that aim at economic empowerment of communities, several households cannot make their own decisions on health and education, and taking risks in order to increase their income (Wakiso district, Community Development Officer, 2021). Majority of the households cannot take their children in their schools of choice and cannot afford private health care services. This therefore prompted the researcher to examine the relationship between roles of Non-Government Organisations and house hold economic empowerment in Wakiso district.

## Methodology

### Research design

The study used a descriptive, correlational and cross-sectional survey design. Further, the researcher employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches hence a mixed research approach.

This was because the researcher qualitatively used words, texts and graphs to describe the study findings and the research was also quantitative because the researcher used numerical figures to examine some of the study variables such as mean, standard deviation and correlations hence a mixed research design.

## Study setting

The study was conducted in Aruwe is situated in Nsangi parish, Nsangi subcounty, Wakiso District hence the geographical scope of the study since in the said area, and the organization has several members and its head office. The study covered a period of four years (2018-2022).

## Population of the study

The study used a population of 198 participants. This study population comprised of 194 members of ARUWE NGO in

Nsangi sub county, Wakiso District, (1) the sub county chief, (1) Community development officer of Nsangi Sub County, (1) the sub county chairperson and (1) Wakiso district community development officer.

## Sample Size

The study adopted Krejcie & Morgan (1970) sampling table to estimate the sample size of the study. Therefore given the population of 198 participants, a sample size of 130 respondents was selected to participate in this study as shown table 1.

**Table 1 showing the population size, sample size and sampling techniques used for this study.**

Category	Population size	Sample size	Sampling technique
Aruwe Members Youth Women	74	46	Simple Random Sampling
	120	80	Simple Random Sampling
CDO	2	2	Purposive sampling
Sub county Chief	1	1	Purposive sampling
Sub county Chairperson	1	1	Purposive sampling
Total	198	130	

## Sampling techniques

The study used purposive sampling, simple random sampling and stratified sampling as follows.

### Purposive sampling

The study used purposive sampling to select the community development officers, sub county chief and sub county chairperson. These were more informed about the economic development and the role played by non-governmental organisations in the community hence provided more detailed information about the study.

### Stratified sampling

Members of ARUWE were subdivided into two subgroups (strata) of youth and women. This was because the Non-Governmental Organisations was for youth and women hence members were subdivided into subgroups to ensure homogeneity of respondents' characteristics.

### Simple random sampling

The method was used in selecting respondents within each stratum i.e. youth and women. The method was used to ensure every member within each stratum has the same chance of being selected into the sample size using a raffle method.

## Sources of data

This research used both primary and secondary data as explained below.

## Primary data

Primary data was obtained using Self-Administered Questionnaires (SAD) that were issued to the selected members of the non-governmental organisation or the selected key informants of the district.

## Secondary data

The researcher used documentary review method to obtain any additional information for the study from the website, magazines, journals, newspapers, annual performance assessment reports and meeting minutes.

## Data collection Instruments

Primary data was collected using questionnaires and Interview methods.

## Questionnaires

Amin (2005) stated that a questionnaire is a carefully designed instrument for collecting data in accordance with the specifications of research questions. It consists of a set of questions to which the subject responds in writing. The study used questionnaires to collect data from selected members of the group that will include both youth and women.

## Interviews

The researcher carried out interviews on the community development officers, sub county chief and sub county

chairperson in collecting detailed information relating to the study.

about the purpose of the research project and the expected outcome of the study.

## Data Validity and Reliability

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### Validity

The researcher used expert judgment method to determine the validity of the instruments. After constructing the questionnaire the researcher contacted experts (supervisor) in this area of study to ensure that the instruments were clear, relevant, specific and logically arranged.

The researcher calculated Content Validity Index (CVI) by dividing the number of relevant questions by the total number of questions in the questionnaire ie (n/N) after judgment by the supervisor.

Content Validity Index of 0.85 was obtained and compared with 0.7 and thus the research instrument was valid hence suitable for to collect data for the study.

### Reliability

A test- retest method was used to test reliability of the questionnaire. The researcher pre-tested the questionnaire on few respondents (Committee) before administering it to the sample size. The study was tested for reliability coefficient basing on Cronbach's Alpha method for reliability test with SPSS version 23 data analysis. All the values for reliability coefficients exceeding 0.7 imply that these results were very reliable and consistent.

### Ethical Consideration

- i) The researcher was able to seek permission from the school of graduate studies and research and obtained an introductory letter to go with in the field after the approval of the research supervisor.
- ii) The researcher sought the consent of the respondents to participate in the study and felt free to provide relevant information for the study. Further, the researcher informed the respondents

- iii) The researcher also assured the respondents that the information provided would be treated with maximum confidentiality, secrecy, and only used for academic purposes.

- iv) Further, the researcher credited and extended his gratitude to all previous researchers whose literature contributed to this study and did not use their work as his.

- v) The researcher ensured validity by ensuring that the answers provided for the questions at hand were consistent, accurate, and reliable.

- vi) The researcher used a simple random sampling technique to avoid bias in the research findings.

### Data Analysis

The researcher ensured that data was cleaned to eliminate discrepancies and thereafter coded and keyed in the excel program. The data was then exported into SPSS for analysis. The data was tabulated, classified, and summarized by descriptive measures such as frequency distribution, percentages, inferential statistics, and mean and standard deviations. Tables and graphs were used for the presentation of the findings. Qualitative data was also analyzed using the Likert format where the perceptions and attitudes were captured and analyzed. Regression and correlation models were used to establish the relationship between the variables. To achieve this, data was coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS Version 20.0) program.

### Results

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The data were gathered using questionnaires which were derived from the study objectives. The findings were presented and analyzed using frequency tables and percentages, which are translated into charts and graphs.

### Response rate

**Table 2: Response rate of the study**

<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Population size</i>	<i>Questionnaires issued</i>	<i>Questionnaires returned complete</i>	<i>Response rate</i>
Aruwe Members Youth	74	46	40	86.9
Women	120	80	78	97.9
Community Development Officer	2	2	02	100

Town clerk	1	1	01	100
Chairperson LC 3	1	1	01	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>93.8</b>

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Based on the data provided, the population size of the respondents consisted of Aruwe Members, Youth, Women, Community Development Officer, Town Clerk, and Chairperson LC 3.

Out of the 130 questionnaires issued, 122 were returned complete. Among the different groups, 40 questionnaires were returned by youth members, 78 questionnaires were returned by Women members. Additionally, 2 questionnaires were returned by the Community Development Officer, 1 questionnaire was returned by the Town Clerk, and 1 questionnaire was returned by the

Chairperson LC 3.

The overall response rate across all groups is 93.8%. This suggests that the majority of the participants were willing to complete and return the questionnaires.

Overall, the data shows a decent response rate, indicating that a significant number of individuals from each group were willing to participate and provide their feedback or opinions

### Demographic characteristics of the study respondents

**Table 3: Democratic characteristics of respondents**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	54	44.2%
Female	68	56.7%
Total	122	100.0%
<b>Age (years)</b>		
16-27	40	32.8%
28-35	58	47.5%
36-45	22	18.1%
46+	2	1.6%
Total	122	100.0%
<b>Marital status</b>		
Single	33	27.1%
Married	42	34.4%
Separated	17	13.9 %
Widowed (women)	30	24.6%
Total	122	100.0%
<b>Level of education</b>		
No education	14	11.5%
Primary	72	59.01%
Secondary	14	11.5%
Tertiary	19	15.6%
University	3	2.4%
Total	122	100.0%
<b>Occupation</b>		
Public servant	5	4%
Peasant	39	32.0%
Farmer	14	11.5%
Self employed	64	52.5%
Total	122	100.0%
<b>Number of Community based Organisation where a membership (Level of social capital)</b>		
0-2 (low level of social capital)	46	37.7%
3-6 (moderate level of social capital)	58	47.5%



7+ (High level of social capital)	18	14.8%
Total	122	100%

**Source:** Primary data (2023)

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Based on the demographic characteristics of the study respondents, it can be observed that there was a relatively equal distribution between genders, with 44.2% male and 55.8% female respondents.

In terms of age, the largest proportion of respondents fell within the 28-35 age range, accounting for 47.5% of the total. The next largest age group was 16-27, comprising 32.8% of the respondents. The 36-45 age group accounted for 18.1% of the respondents, while only 1.6% were aged 46 and above.

Regarding marital status, the largest portion of respondents was married, making up 34.4% of the total. Single individuals accounted for 27.1% of the respondents, while separated individuals comprised 13.9%. Interestingly, a significant proportion of widowed women were also included in the study, accounting for 24.6% of the respondents.

In terms of education, the majority of respondents had completed primary education, making up 59.0% of the total. Tertiary education was the second most common level, accounting for 15.6% of the respondents. A smaller proportion had no education (11.5%), secondary education (11.5%), or university education (2.4%).

Regarding occupation, the majority of respondents were

self-employed, accounting for 52.5% of the total. Peasants made up the next largest group at 32.0%, followed by farmers at 11.5%. Public servants had the smallest representation at only 4.0% of the respondents.

In terms of social capital, the majority of respondents had a moderate level of social capital, with 47.5% reporting a membership in 3-6 community-based organizations. A significant proportion had a low level of social capital, with 37.7% reporting a membership in 0-2 organizations. A smaller percentage had a high level of social capital, with 14.8% reporting a membership in 7 or more organizations.

Overall, the study included a diverse group of respondents in terms of gender, age, marital status, education, occupation, and social capital. This diversity is important for capturing a range of perspectives and ensuring the findings are representative of the population.

### **Roles of Non-Government Organizations on house hold economic empowerment in Wakiso district.**

The Researcher used Likert 5point scale and descriptive statistics to capture the opinions of the respondents on the study variables. For this particular section 1 = Strongly Agree, 2= Agree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Disagree and 5 = Strongly Disagree.

**Table 4: Roles of Non-Government Organisations on house hold economic empowerment in Wakiso district**

	Mean	std
NGOs contribute significantly to household income of their members in Wakiso District	4.3	0.2
NGOs provide access to micro-loans to CBO members in Wakiso district	1.6	0.6
NGOs also provide financial literacy to their members in Wakiso district	2.4	0.4
NGOs act as intermediaries for connecting their members with potential partners, investors, markets within Wakiso district	4.1	0.2
NGOs provide employment opportunities for members in Wakiso district	1.9	0.3
NGOs skill their members	2.6	0.2
NGOs advocate for policies and initiatives that promote economic empowerment of members within Wakiso District	2.1	0.6
NGOs provide social support to members to overcome personal and social barriers	1.8	0.4

Based on the study findings, it can be observed that the respondents generally agree that Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District.

The respondents strongly disagreed (mean=4.3) that NGOs contribute significantly to the household income of their

members in Wakiso District. This suggests that the interventions and support are needed to for NGOs to have a positive impact on the financial well-being of households in the district.

The respondents also strongly disagreed (mean=4.1) that NGOs do not act as intermediaries for connecting their members with potential partners, investors, and markets

within Wakiso District. This highlights the need to improve networking and business opportunities for their members, which can further contribute to their economic empowerment.

NGOs were seen to play a role in providing access to micro-loans (mean=1.6) and financial literacy (mean=2.4) to their members. This indicates that NGOs are involved in providing financial services and education to enhance the financial capability of their members.

The study findings also suggest that NGOs provide employment opportunities for their members (mean=1.9) and skill them (mean=2.6). This highlights the role of NGOs in not only providing financial support but also in creating income-generating opportunities and building the capacity of their members through skills training.

However, the respondents agreed (mean=2.1) that NGOs advocate for policies and initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of their members within Wakiso District. This suggests that there is room for improvement in terms of NGOs engaging in advocacy efforts to create an enabling environment for economic empowerment.

Similarly, the respondents disagreed (mean=1.8) that NGOs provide social support to their members to overcome personal and social barriers. This indicates that there are

efforts by NGOs to address social barriers that hinder economic empowerment.

Based on the study findings, it can be concluded that NGOs play a significant role in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District. While there is room for improvement in some areas, such as contributing to household income and advocating for policies, NGOs are providing valuable services such as access to micro-loans, financial literacy, employment opportunities, and skills training. These interventions are important for the financial well-being and economic empowerment of households in the district. However, further efforts are needed to enhance networking and business opportunities for members and address personal and social barriers that hinder economic empowerment. Overall, NGOs are making a positive impact but need support and interventions to further strengthen their role in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District.

### Correlational findings

The correlation coefficient between NGOs and household economic empowerment is 0.462, which indicates a moderately positive correlation. This suggests that NGOs have a significant role in contributing to the economic empowerment of households in Wakiso District.

**Table 5: Correlation findings on role of Non-Governmental Organisations on house hold economic empowerment in Wakiso District.**

		House hold economic empowerment
Non-Governmental Organisations	Pearson Correlation	0.462**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.001
	N	128

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

These correlations have a p-value less than 0.05, indicating that it is statistically significant. It means that the observed correlations are unlikely to have occurred by chance, reinforcing the credibility of the findings.

Overall, the correlation findings highlight the important role played by NGOs in promoting various aspects of socio-economic development in Wakiso District, particularly in terms of household economic empowerment.

### Discussion of findings

Based on the study findings, the respondents strongly disagreed (mean=4.3) that NGOs contribute significantly to the household income of their members in Wakiso District. This suggests that the interventions and support are needed to for NGOs to have a positive impact on the financial well-being of households in the district.

The respondents also strongly disagreed (mean=4.1) that NGOs do not act as intermediaries for connecting their

members with potential partners, investors, and markets within Wakiso District. This highlights the need to improve networking and business opportunities for their members, which can further contribute to their economic empowerment.

NGOs were seen to play a role in providing access to micro-loans (mean=1.6) and financial literacy (mean=2.4) to their members. This indicates that NGOs are involved in providing financial services and education to enhance the financial capability of their members.

The study findings also suggest that NGOs provide employment opportunities for their members (mean=1.9) and skill them (mean=2.6). This highlights the role of NGOs in not only providing financial support but also in creating income-generating opportunities and building the capacity of their members through skills training.

However, the respondents agreed (mean=2.1) that NGOs advocate for policies and initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of their members within Wakiso District. This suggests that there is room for improvement in

terms of NGOs engaging in advocacy efforts to create an enabling environment for economic empowerment.

Similarly, the respondents disagreed (mean=1.8) that NGOs provide social support to their members to overcome personal and social barriers. This indicates that there are efforts by NGOs to address social barriers that hinder economic empowerment.

Based on the study findings, it can be concluded that NGOs play a significant role in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District. While there is room for improvement in some areas, such as contributing to household income and advocating for policies, NGOs are providing valuable services such as access to micro-loans, financial literacy, employment opportunities, and skills training. These interventions are important for the financial well-being and economic empowerment of households in the district. However, further efforts are needed to enhance networking and business opportunities for members and address personal and social barriers that hinder economic empowerment. Overall, NGOs are making a positive impact but need support and interventions to further strengthen their role in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District.

The correlation coefficient between NGOs and household economic empowerment is 0.462, which indicates a moderately positive correlation. This suggests that NGOs have a significant role in contributing to the economic empowerment of households in Wakiso District.

With a p-value less than 0.05, indicating statistically significant associations. It means that the observed correlations are unlikely to have occurred by chance, reinforcing the credibility of the findings.

Overall, the correlation findings highlight the important role played by NGOs in promoting various aspects of socio-economic development in Wakiso District, particularly in terms of household economic empowerment.

## Conclusion.

Based on the study findings, NGOs play a significant role in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District. While there is room for improvement in some areas, such as contributing to household income and advocating for policies, NGOs are providing valuable services such as access to micro-loans, financial literacy, employment opportunities, and skills training. These interventions are important for the financial well-being and economic empowerment of households in the district.

## Recommendations

- i) Increase efforts to contribute to household income: NGOs should explore ways to enhance their income-generating programs and initiatives. This could include providing

more opportunities for income-generating activities, facilitating access to markets, and providing business development training for households.

- ii) Strengthen advocacy for policies: NGOs should work towards strengthening their advocacy efforts to ensure that policies and programs are in place to support household economic empowerment. This could involve forming partnerships with other stakeholders, conducting research to support their advocacy efforts, and engaging in policy dialogue with relevant government agencies.

## Areas for further research

- i) Further research should explore the effectiveness of specific NGO interventions in household economic empowerment in Wakiso District, such as the impact of micro-loans and financial literacy programs on increasing household income.

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I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the completion of this project. Your support and dedication have been invaluable, and I could not have achieved such success without you.

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## List of acronyms

ARUWE: Action for Rural Women Empowerment  
NGOs: Non-governmental Organisation  
CSOs Civil Society Organisation  
CED Community Economic Development  
AID Action Aid  
MFPED Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development.

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## Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest

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## Author contribution

NS was the principal investigator

HN supervised the study process

## Data Availability

Data is available on request.

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