

Global Health Initiative: The Role of Photovoice Techniques

In Engaging Resettling Refugees in Immunization

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ABSTRACT

Refugee immunization activities performed through the University of Louisville Global Health Initiative have resulted in provision of more than 12,000 doses of vaccine to more than 2,500 adult and pediatric refugees since 2012. Understanding the cultural and ethnic diversity that may influence acceptance of immunization may be useful in continuing to provide and improve those services. Photovoice involves the use of photographs to look at an issue through an individual's own perspective. These techniques have been used to better understand some refugee population issues and may be useful in gaining insight into perceptions regarding immunization. The UL Global Health Initiative team collaborated with the UofL College of Business to use a modified photovoice technique that could capture the immunization process through the eyes of refugees, then use the results to engage any refugee in that immunization process, regardless of their language. Using guidance from groups of refugees, photos were taken then arranged so the process was adequately depicted. Following feedback, additional aspects of the process were added, including provision of vaccines and school physicals for children. Photos were used to develop videos that enable the addition of audible interpretation so videos are useful for a variety of refugee groups. Spanish and Arabic languages were selected for first efforts as they represent the largest refugee groups currently involved in the immunization process. Evaluation will continue to guide improvements to the process as new languages are added.

INTRODUCTION

- More than 12,000 doses of vaccine have been provided to more than 2,500 adult and children refugees resettled in the Louisville area over the past twenty months through Global Health Initiative activities. Individuals from more than 33 countries speaking more than 20 different languages have been vaccinated .
- Photovoice involves the use of photographs to look at an issue through the individual's perspective. In this case, the photographs look at the immunization process through the eyes of the refugees receiving those vaccines.¹
- Photovoice techniques have been used to better understand some refugee populations and may be useful in gaining insight into perceptions regarding immunization.²
- Information guided by the refugee population themselves may help understand the vast ethnic and cultural diversity that is present and influences knowledge regarding immunization.
- Increased insight, captured through the eyes of the participants may be beneficial in engaging the refugee population in immunization and other healthcare activities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this initiative included:

- 1) Development of a modified photovoice approach for information sharing regarding the UofL Refugee Immunization Clinic processes.
- 2) Compilation of the photovoice results so they can be used to educate and engage any refugee group.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Work began with the UofL College of Business to develop a process of capturing the immunization program processes using input from refugees receiving immunization from the UofL Refugee Immunization Clinic. College of Business faculty and students approached refugee groups to conceptualize a process for engagement. The goals were to capture distinct cultural representation for groups of refugees using a modified photovoice approach. The photos involved each of the steps in the immunization process recognized as important to the refugee groups (**Image 1**).

Photos were shared with a sample group of refugees to gain their assistance in selecting the ones that they felt told the story of the UofL Refugee Immunization Clinic activities. Additional photos were taken to capture activities involving pediatric immunization and performance of school physicals based upon their feedback (**Image 2**).



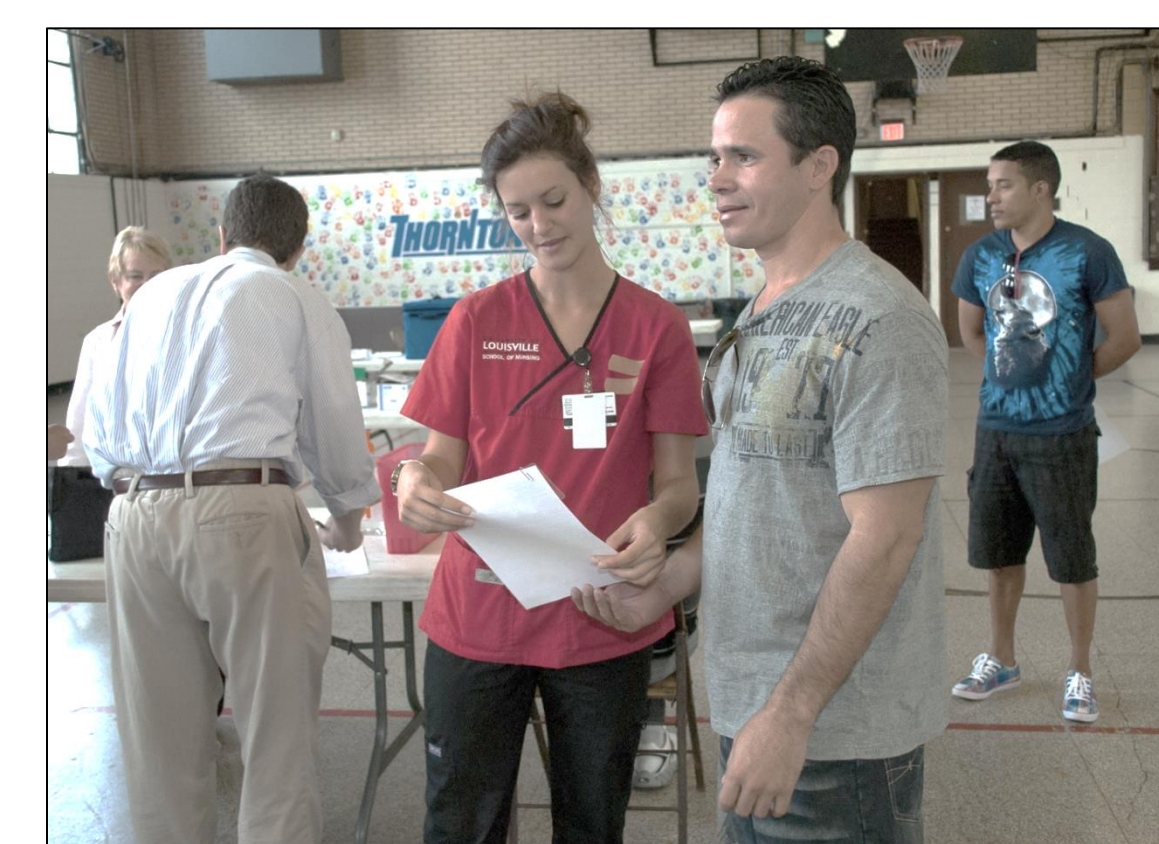
Image 1 Capturing the process



Image 2 Input in selecting photos

RESULTS

Following review and input by refugee groups and UofL Refugee Immunization Clinic personnel, photos were arranged to demonstrate the process. College of Business personnel used photos to develop a video that allows voice to be added so the process can be described in multiple languages. A sample of the photos selected by refugees that depict the immunization process is noted below:



RESULTS



Images 3-11. Interprofessional preparation of immunizing healthcare personnel, check-in, interpretation area, vaccine station, immunization, post-immunization education, school physical preparation, children finished with process, and check-out.

CONCLUSIONS

Videos and scripts have been developed to allow multiple languages to be added. This will enable the process to be relevant to nearly any refugee group. Impact of the process will be evaluated following multiple language voice additions.

REFERENCES

1. Stevens, CA. Lessons From the Field: Using Photovoice With an Ethnically Diverse Population in a HOPE VI Evaluation. Family & Community Health. 2010; 33(4):275-284.
2. Refugees tell their story through BYU Photovoice project. <http://www.rescue.org/us-program/us-salt-lake-city-ut/refugees-tell-their-stories-through-byu-photovoice-project>