

TB Photovoice Project

Goal

- **Increase awareness of the global burden of TB and assist in the eradication of TB and TB Meningitis**

Objectives

- **Support and mobilize TB patients to address policy makers**
- **Conduct formative research that can inform communication strategies and program development**
- **Disseminate formative research rooted in local people's perspectives**

Presentation Objectives

- Describe the TB Photovoice Efforts
- Reflect personal and community strengths and concerns
- Examine principles in photovoice common to all CBPR

Photovoice Defined

- Photovoice involves community people taking pictures of their own health realities followed by small group conscious-raising discussions and presentations to policymakers
- Photovoice method was initially developed by Caroline Wang and Mary Ann Burris

Photovoice Steps

1. Form a Guidance Committee
2. Recruit participants
3. Conduct participant orientation and ethics training
4. Have participants take photos
5. Convene participant meetings to discuss photos
6. Repeat steps 4-5 several times
7. Prepare presentations to policy-makers

Managing the Process

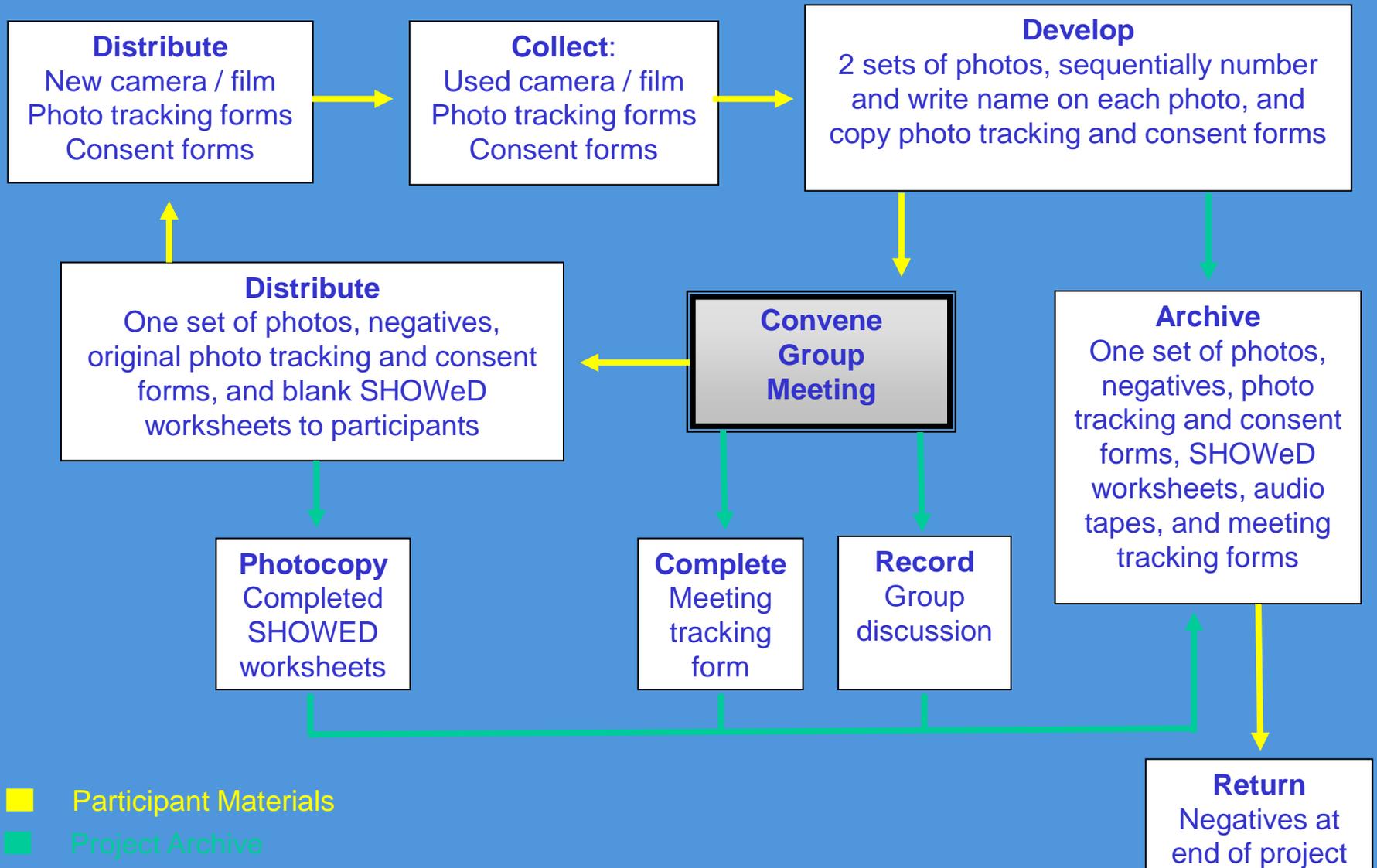


Photo Examples



Photograph by Art

Community Presentation



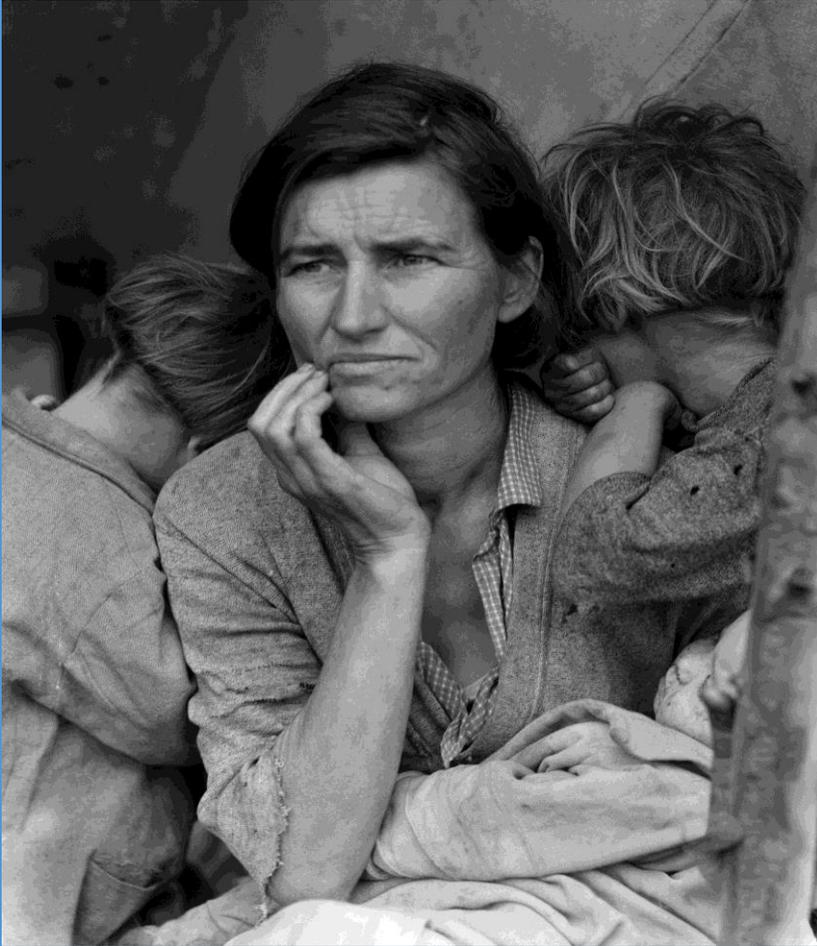
Photograph by Yang Ke Lin

Community Presentation



Photograph by Yang Ke Lin

Ethics and Power

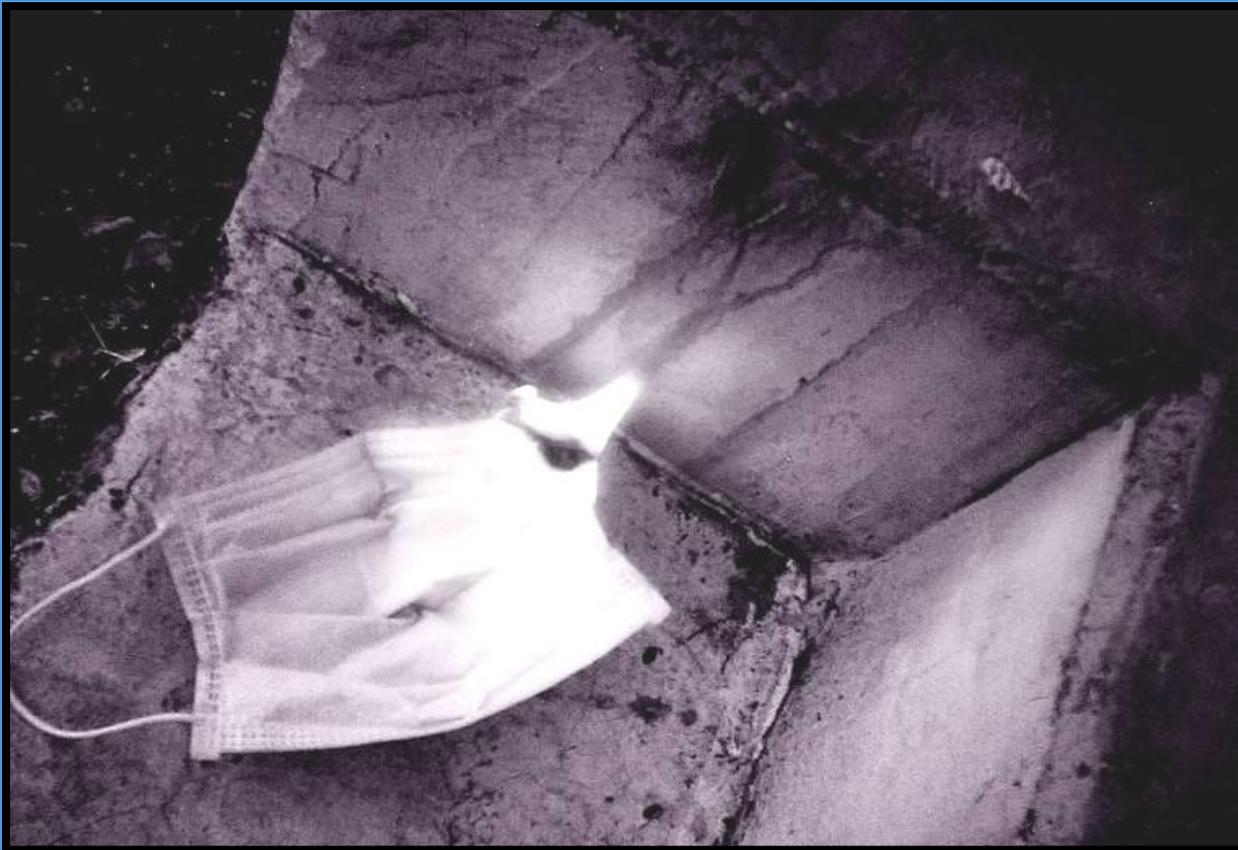


- Migrant Mother
- Photographer: Dorothy Lange
- Subject: Florence Owens Thompson
- 1936 / Depression
- New Deal Photography Project

Photovoice Methodology Training Guachochi, Chihuahua



“Freedom”



“Burning this mask was very important to me. I wore it for several months and it was very painful. My peers didn’t know what my face and smile looked like. When I burned the mask, it was like getting rid of the stigma, I felt free.”

- Rachel

Photo project provides voice for TB victims

Daniel Collins
Staff Reporter

Tuberculosis (TB) isn't a disease that gets much media attention; neither is it a disease that many people in the United States probably fear they have much chance of contracting. However, over one third of the world's population, including the United States, have a latent form of TB and incidents of TB cases in border cities are major sources of concern for health professionals. The U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association, through their Border TB Photovoice Project, hopes to bring more attention to the disease and promote a better understanding of the people affected by it.

"There isn't a single support group in El Paso for people who have been affected," said Project Coordinator Eva Moya, who is a doctoral student and graduate research associate in UTEP's Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Doctoral Program. "There has never been one and the participants are

asking why not - it's about time we organize and we have support systems for the people who are affected by the disease."

TB is a disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which usually attacks the lungs but can also attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine and brain. The bacteria attacks and destroys living tissue and can cause symptoms that include a bad cough accompanied by coughing up blood or deep lung phlegm, chest pain, weakness and fatigue, chills, fever and loss of appetite. If not treated properly, TB can be fatal.

TB is spread through the air from one person to another when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. However, not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick but may develop a latent TB infection. These people may never feel sick and cannot spread the disease to others as people with active TB can.

See TB Photo page 5



Special to The Recorder

a Border TB Photovoice participant from Juárez. Of her photo "Of her photo que echarle ganas, lo único que no tiene solución es la muerte" effort, the only thing that has no solution is death).

Border residents' photos give TB a voice

Daniel Collins
Staff Reporter

More than one-third of the world's population has a latent form of tuberculosis (TB) and active TB is responsible for the deaths of nearly two million people every year, or 5,000 people across the globe every day. These incidents of TB are particularly troubling for border cities, as they are major centers for the spread of the disease. Despite this, TB remains a medical topic that does not get the attention its global presence merits, leaving patients isolated or, worse yet, undiagnosed and untreated.

The U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association (USMBHA), with their Photovoice project, hope to more effectively combat this often overlooked disease through a display of infected people's images and stories from battling the disease.

"It's global enough. Between TB, HIV and malaria, you have the leading causes of death globally but so often people think of these as being diseases of the third world, of another country," said Eva Moya, graduate student in UTEP's Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program and USMBHA TB divi-

sion director. "The reality is that the United States and Mexico do share the burden of tuberculosis."

Photovoice participants come from groups representing both sides of the El Paso-Juárez border, with seven El Pasoans and 10 people from Ciudad Juárez. Participants documented their lives in pictures, looking at how the disease affected them each day and how conditions could be changed to better accommodate those living with TB.

Photovoice began collecting photos and testimonials in September, amassing over 100 stories and accompanying images. These were then used to create a display of 44 enlarged and framed images, with stories organized into four topics. One topic looks at what tuberculosis is, one examines the emotional effect the disease has on its patients and families and another looks at social stigma that can be taken by friends and family to assist TB patients. Another is a call to action for health and political policy makers to fund programs that better deal with TB and encourage attention to the disease.

See TB page 4

Stop the stigma, discrimination, and neglect
Año de estigma, discriminacion y negligencia



"We need to get on with it, stigma, discrimination, neglect, and indifference. We have the science, the medication, and everything that it takes to stop tuberculosis. What is keeping us from doing this?"

"Esencia que para no sólo (tú) y el estigma, la discriminación, la negligencia y la indiferencia. Contamos con la ciencia, los medicamentos y todo que necesitamos para frenar la tuberculosis. ¿Que nos detiene para poder lograrlo?"

Trends

Special to The Recorder

A sample of the artwork displayed at the Photovoice project.

“No more wires and borders. We need to invest in Tuberculosis”



“We need to put an end to ignorance and educate the public about the disease. We need to stop building more fences and walls. Remember that the disease does not recognize borders and it goes back and forth.”

- Brenda

World TB Day Commemoration in Mexico City In Conjunction with the Mexican Secretariat of Health



Photovoice Principles Common to CBPR

- Enables people to record and reflect upon their personal and community strengths and challenges
- Promotes critical dialogue and knowledge about personal and community issues through group discussion
- Reaches policy makers to create positive change in partnership with communities

Photovoice Principles Common to CBPR

- Community self reflection and discussion to examine root causes of community conditions.
- Participatory approach recognizes and honors community members' subjective experience as researchers, advocates, not only participants.
- Used as a mechanism for social reform.